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PAPERS,
SHEWING THE PRESENT STATE OF THE
SLAVE TRADE.

PRESENTED TO
BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT,
BY COMMAND OF
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT,
APRIL, 1815.

LONDON
Printed by E. G. Clarke, Cannon-Row, Westminster.

- No. 26. Viscount Castlereagh to Sir Henry Wellesley, Foreign Office, July 15, 1814.
 27. Ditto to Ditto Ditto 30.
 28. Mr. Hamilton to Ditto Ditto August 4.
 29. Sir H. Wellesley to Viscount Castlereagh: Madrid, August 25.
 30. Ditto to Ditto Ditto Ditto 25.
 One Inclosure.
 31. Ditto to Ditto Ditto Ditto 31.
 32. Earl Bathurst to Sir H. Wellesley, Foreign Office, September 9.
 33. Sir H. Wellesley to Viscount Castlereagh. Ditto Madrid, Sept. 20.
 One Inclosure.
 34. Ditto to Ditto Ditto October 23.
 One Inclosure.
 35. Earl Bathurst to Sir H. Wellesley. Foreign Office, November 11.
 36. Sir H. Wellesley to Viscount Castlereagh, Madrid, January 26, 1815.
 One Inclosure

PORTUGAL.

37. Substance of a Convention between Great Britain and Portugal, signed at Vienna, January 21, 1815.
 38. Substance of a Treaty between Great Britain and Portugal, signed at Vienna, January 22nd, 1815.

CONGRESS.

39. Viscount Castlereagh to Earl Bathurst. Vienna, October 9, 1814.
 One Inclosure.
 40. Ditto to Ditto Ditto November 11.
 One Inclosure.
 41. Ditto to Ditto Ditto January 2, 1815.
 Three Inclosures.
 42. Ditto to Ditto Ditto January 8.
 43. Ditto to Ditto Ditto January 22.
 44. Ditto to Ditto Ditto January 26.
 One Inclosure.
 45. Ditto to Ditto Ditto February 13.
 Six Inclosures.
 46. Ditto to Ditto Ditto February 14.
 Two Inclosures.

P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO

THE SLAVE TRADE.

SWEDEN.

No. 1.

EXTRACT from the TREATY between GREAT BRITAIN and SWEDEN, signed
at Stockholm the 3rd day of March 1813.

Separate Article.

AS a consequence of the cession made by His Britannic Majesty in the fifth article of the Treaty signed this day, of the island of Guadaloupe, His Majesty the King of Sweden engages;

To forbid and prohibit, at the period of the cession, the introduction of slaves, from Africa into the said island, and the other possessions in the West Indies of His Swedish Majesty, and not to permit Swedish subjects to engage in the Slave Trade; an engagement which His Swedish Majesty is the more willing to contract, as this traffic has never been authorised by Him.

DENMARK.

No. 2.

EXTRACT of a Treaty between Great Britain and Denmark, signed at Kiel,
14th January, 1814.

Article 8th.—His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the British Nation, being extremely desirous of totally abolishing the Slave Trade, the King of Denmark engages to co-operate with His said Majesty for the completion of so beneficent a work, and to prohibit all His subjects, in the most effectual manner, and by the most solemn laws, from taking any share in such trade.

RUSSIA, AUSTRIA, AND PRUSSIA.

No. 3.

Paris, May 20, 1814.

(Circular.)

The undersigned, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, has the honour to transmit to his Excellency N. N. by the Prince Regent's commands, the enclosed Additional Article* on the subject of the Slave Trade, which has been signed between His Majesty and the King of France, and which His Royal Highness the Prince Regent is desirous should, without delay, be communicated to the N. N. &c. &c. &c.

The Prince Regent trusts, that an object so interesting to humanity, will at once attract the attention and call forth the early exertions of His Majesty in its behalf.

His Royal Highness persuades Himself that the Powers of Europe, when restoring peace to Europe, with one common interest, will crown this great work by interposing their benign offices in favour of those regions of the globe, which yet continue to be desolated by this unnatural and inhuman traffic.

The undersigned, &c.

(Signed) CASTLEREAGH.

*To the Ministers of Russia, Austria,
and Prussia, &c. &c. &c.*

* See No. 8.

No. 4.

Paris, $\frac{21 \text{ Mai,}}{2 \text{ Juin,}}$ } 1814.

Le Soussigné Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies a mis sous les yeux de son Auguste Maître, l'Office que S. E. Lord Castlereagh, Secrétaire d'Etat de S. M. B. pour les Affaires Etrangères lui a passé sous la date du jour, une pièce motivée par tout ce qui doit intéresser la liberté, le droit des gens, les lumières, la justice et l'humanité ne pouvait pas être étrangère au Cœur de l'Empereur. Depuis long tems Ses vœux s'étaient accordés avec ceux de tous les bons citoyens en Angleterre pour l'abolition du trafic connu sous le nom de *traite de Nègres*. C'est avec une vive satisfaction que S. M. I. a appris que S. M. Très Chrétienne étoit d'accord sur les mêmes principes, et l'Empereur s'engage d'abondance de faire seconder et soutenir de concert avec le Gouvernement Britannique au Congrès qui va fixer les rapports définitifs entre toutes les puissances, la proposition de l'Abolition générale de la traite des Nègres.

Le soussigné en s'acquittant des ordres qu'il a reçus remplissoit une tâche trop intéressante pour qu'il n'y mit point le même empressement qu'à renouveler, &c.

(Signé)

LE COMTE DE NESSELRODE.

*A Son Excellence milord Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.*

No. 4.—*Translation.*Paris, $\frac{21 \text{ May}}{2 \text{ June,}}$ } 1814.

The undersigned Secretary of State of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, has laid before his august Master the note which his Excellency Lord Castlereagh, His Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has transmitted to him, under date of this day. A proposal, founded upon all the motives of liberty, the law of nations, enlightened reason, justice and humanity, could not but greatly interest the heart of the Emperor. His wishes have, for a long time, been in unison with those of every good citizen in England, respecting the abolition of the traffic known by the name of the *Slave Trade*. His Imperial Majesty learns, with a lively satisfaction, that His Most Christian Majesty likewise concurs in these principles, and the Emperor engages, moreover, to take such steps, as that the proposal concerning the general Abolition of the Slave Trade may be agreed to and supported at the Congress, which is to settle the final relations between all the Powers, so as to second the views of the British Government.

The undersigned, in complying with the order which he has received, considers the above subject as a matter of too great importance not to feel most anxious about it, and repeats, &c. &c.

(Signed)

COUNT DE NESSELRODE.

*His Excellency Lord Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.*

No. 5.

AN ANSWER to the above effect was also received from the Austrian Secretary of State, the Prince METTERNICH.

No. 6.

Paris ce 2 Juin, 1814.

Rien de ce qui interesse la cause de l'humanité en général ne pouvant être étranger à celle que les hautes Puissances alliées, se sont fait gloire de défendre, le Soussigné Chancelier d'Etat de Sa Majesté le Roi de Prusse, a dû accueillir avec empressement la proposition contenue dans la Note de Son Excellence Lord Castlereagh Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique pour les Affaires Etrangères, relative à la traite des négres. Il n'a pas manqué d'en rendre compte à son Auguste Souverain, et il est autorisé de déclarer au nom de Sa Majesté que la Prusse secondera, de tous ses efforts au Congrès qui doit se réunir à Vienne, toutes les démarches que fera le Gouvernement Britannique dans l'intention de l'abolition générale d'un commerce odieux, également contraire à la morale et aux principes magnanimes, qui caracterisent les Souverains alliés.

Le Soussigné profite, &c. &c.

(Signe)

HARDENBERG.

*Son Excellence Lord Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.*

No. 6.—*Translation.*

Paris, June 2, 1814.

As nothing that interests the cause of humanity in general, can be foreign to that which the high Allied Powers have taken a pride in defending, the undersigned, Chancellor of State of His Majesty the King of Prussia, could not but with the utmost alacrity embrace the proposal contained in the note of his Excellency Lord Castlereagh, His Britannic Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, respecting the Slave Trade. He has not failed to inform his august Master of it, and is authorised to declare, in His Majesty's name, that at the Congress which is to assemble at Vienna, Prussia will support all the steps which the British Government shall take, in order to the general abolition of so hateful a traffic, which is equally at variance with morality and the magnanimous principles that characterise the Allied Sovereigns.

The undersigned avails himself, &c.

(Signed)

HARDENBERG.

*His Excellency Lord Cathcart,
&c. &c. &c.*

HOLLAND.

No. 7.

MY LORD,

The Hague, 17th June, 1814.

I herewith have the honour of transmitting to your Lordship, for the information of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, the copy of his Excellency M. de Nagell's note of this date, this moment received, covering a translated copy also of the Decree issued by the Prince of Orange in Council, respecting the abolition of the Slave Trade.

I should hope that the line taken by the Dutch Government upon this important and interesting subject will prove satisfactorily to coincide with the anxious views so strongly expressed by the orders I had received, and with the wishes of the British nation in Parliament assembled.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

CLANCARTY.

Viscount Castlereagh, K. G.
&c. &c. &c.

(First Inclosure in No. 7.)

La Haye, ce 17 Juin, 1814.

Le Soussigné, Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères, s'empresse de donner connaissance à S. E. Lord Clancarty, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plenipotentiaire de S. M. Britannique, que S. A. R. le Prince Souverain, ayant pris Connaissance de la note de S. E. en date du 7 du Courant, tendante à faire adopter à S. A. R. les mesures prohibitives pour le Commerce des Esclaves, a pris avant hier d'arrêt dont il a l'honneur de joindre ici une traduction, par lequel en conformité des désirs de S. A. R. Monseigneur le Prince Regent; 1. La traite des Nègres sur la Côte d'Afrique est entièrement défendu, et 2. S. A. R. exprime le vœu que dans la convention éventuelle pour la restitution des Colonies Hollandaises il y ait un article d'inséré qui statue la prohibition du Commerce des Esclaves dans ces Colonies à perpétuité.

Le Soussigné saisit, &c.

(Signé)

A. W. C. DE NAGELL.

A. S. E. Milord Clancarty.
&c. &c. &c.

*(First Inclosure in No. 7.—Translation.)**The Hague, 17th June, 1814.*

The undersigned, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, is anxious to acquaint his Excellency Lord Clancarty, His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, that His Royal Highness the Prince Sovereign, after perusing his Excellency's note of the 7th instant, the object of which is to engage His Royal Highness to adopt prohibitive measures with respect to the Slave Trade, has already issued a decree, of which the undersigned has the honour of inclosing a translation, and by which, in conformity with the wishes of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, 1. He prohibits the Slave Trade entirely on the coast of Africa. 2. His Royal Highness agrees that in the eventual Convention for the restoration of the Dutch Colonies, an article shall be inserted declaring the perpetual prohibition of the Slave Trade in these colonies.

The undersigned avails himself, &c. &c.

(Signed)

A. W. C. DE NAGELL.

His Excellency Lord Clancarty,
&c. &c. &c.

(Second Inclosure in No. 7.)

WE, William, by the Grace of God, Prince of Orange Nassau, Sovereign Prince of the united Netherlands, &c. &c. &c.

Having heard the report of our Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs relative to the contents of a note received by him from the Ambassador of Great Britain, bearing date the 7th instant, and requesting to obtain our prompt and effectual assistance in the measures which Great Britain has already adopted for herself, and earnestly recommended to other European powers with regard to the Slave Trade;

And being desirous to embrace every opportunity of affording to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Great Britain, proofs of our amicable sentiments, and of our readiness to contribute, as much as possible, to the attainment of His views;

Have decreed and do decree;

Article 1.—Henceforward no ships or vessels destined to convey Negroes from the coast of Africa, or from any islands belonging to that quarter of the globe, to the Continent or to the islands of America, shall be cleared out or expedited from any of the harbours or roads within the territory of the United Netherlands, the Financial Department being specially ordered to take such precautions that our intentions in this respect be complied with, and that no ship or vessel be cleared out, which, from its equipment or from other circumstances may lead to a supposition of its being destined to the aforesaid purpose, or of being any way connected with the Slave Trade.

Article 2.—It shall be signified to the general Government of the coast of Guinea, that in none of the forts, offices, or possessions within the limits of that command, any ships or vessels destined or equipped for the Slave Trade

shall be admitted; and also that no inhabitants of that country, or any other persons in the vicinity of those ports or offices shall be sold or exported as slaves; and to such ships or vessels, in case they navigate under foreign colours, notice shall be given of the existing prohibition, and they shall forthwith be ordered to put back to sea; whilst such vessels belonging to the inhabitants of the Netherlands shall be seized, and a report thereof made to the Commercial and Colonial Department.

Article 3.—Copies of this present Decree shall be sent to the Financial and to the Commercial and Colonial Departments, that they may respectively attend to the execution of the same; and also to our Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who is ordered to communicate the contents of these presents.

“ 1. To the Ambassador of Great Britain, in answer to his aforesaid note, adding, that at the eventual negotiations relative to the restitution of the Dutch Colonies, we shall not be averse to having inserted in the Treaty such an article as shall continue to bind the Government of this State to the perpetual observance of the aforesaid measures, and to the effectual prohibition of the Slave Trade.

“ 2. To the Boards of Trade for the information of the trading parts of the inhabitants.”

Given at the Hague the 15th June in the year 1814, and of Our reign the First.

(Signed)

WILLIAM.

By order of His Royal Highness the Secretary General of State.

(Signed)

A. R. FALCK.

FRANCE.

No. 8.

EXTRACT from the Definitive Treaty of Peace between GREAT BRITAIN and France, signed at Paris the 30th of May, 1814.

Additional Article.

Article 1.—His Most Christian Majesty, concurring without reserve in the sentiments of His Britannic Majesty, with respect to a description of traffic repugnant to the principles of natural justice and of the enlightened age in which we live, engages to unite all His efforts to those of His Britannic Majesty, at the approaching Congress, to induce all the powers of Christendom to decree the abolition of the Slave Trade, so that the said trade shall cease universally, as it shall cease definitively, under any circumstances, on the part of the French Government, in the course of five years; and that during the said period no slave merchant shall import or sell slaves, except in the colonies of the state of which he is a subject.

No. 9.

MY LORD,

Foreign-Office, August 4, 1814.

I am directed by Viscount Castlereagh to forward to your Grace the enclosed map of Africa, containing certain memoranda illustrative of the state of the Slave Trade, as abandoned by other powers, and as now carried on by the Portuguese.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

W. HAMILTON.

*His Grace the Duke of Wellington, K. G.**&c. &a. &c.*

No. 10.

MY LORD,

Foreign-Office, August 6, 1814.

I am to signify to your Grace the commands of the Prince Regent, that you do take the earliest opportunity, after your arrival at Paris, to call the attention of the French Government to the important question of the Slave Trade.

That your Grace may be fully possessed of the present state of the discussions with the French Government on this point, I send your Grace a variety of documents according to the annexed schedule.

It having been my duty to press the immediate abolition to the utmost, in repeated conferences with the Prince de Benevent, you will find the topics only cursorily alluded to in the notes and letters which passed between that Minister and myself. This correspondence will serve however to prove to your Grace, that the British Government has every reason to expect the cordial co-operation of the Government of France, in gradually circumscribing, and, at the latest at the end of five years, absolutely abolishing this offensive traffic.

That your Grace may enter upon the discussion of this subject with the weight and solemnity with which the Prince Regent, the Parliament, and the British nation regard it, you will solicit a particular audience from His Most Christian Majesty, for the purpose of presenting the accompanying letter. You will support the earnest representations therein contained, with such arguments and facts as your Grace's knowledge of the public feeling, and of the state of the trade, may warrant you in laying before His Majesty; and you will feel yourself enabled to press the measure with the more earnestness from the sacrifices made in negotiating the peace, by the British Government, to what the King of France considered to be due to His own situation, under the extent of prejudice amongst His subjects against an immediate abolition.

Upon the subject of immediate abolition, the voice of the nation will not permit me to omit instructing your Grace to make another effort. Your Grace will again urge all the arguments resulting from the experience of this country in respect to the safety of the measure of abolition.

You may represent, that it will be easier to prevent the revival, than to terminate it when once recommenced; and above all, you will suggest, that as one of the strong objections brought forward by the Government of France, namely, their repugnance to have a stipulation of this nature in appearance forced upon them, is now wholly at an end; France having made its peace, can, at the present moment, with the highest character and with true glory, yield that to a principle of humanity which she would not concede as the condition of peace, and of the restoration of her colonies.

Should your Grace fail in this attempt, you will try what can be effectuated in reduction of the import into the French Colonies. If the French Government can be prevailed on to confine the import of Slaves, to the making good the deficiencies in the gangs required for the existing plantations,

much would be gained. This might be regulated by licences, to the exclusion of import for breaking up and cultivating fresh grounds.

I send your Grace an Order in Council for the Registration of Slaves in the Island of Trinidad; it is intended, without delay, to extend this measure to the colonies lately ceded by France to Great Britain. You will see the importance of some regulation of this nature, to check the illicit introduction of fresh Slaves into the French colonies, where this traffic may either be prohibited or limited.

But the measure to which, in failure of absolute abolition, I am, above all others, to direct your attention, is the preventing the revival of the trade on the coast of Africa north of the Line. With the exception of some very slight attempts made by the Portuguese near Whiddaw, on the Gold Coast, I believe I am warranted in stating, that, during the war, the whole north-western coast of Africa has been freed from this traffic, and has in consequence made a certain progress towards a social and civilizing system of commerce.

Your Grace will press the importance of an early decree on this subject on the part of the French Government. If the traffic is once suffered to revive on this coast, even for the shortest time, it may estrange the nations from their industrious habits, and renew their taste for those crimes which the Slave Trade generates. The nearer you can carry the point of demarkation to Cape Lopez the better. It must not be further to the westward than Cape Formoso, else the current of supply from the interior will only take another direction, and vent itself between Cape Palma and Cape Formoso.

To guard against illicit trading, vessels found with Slaves on board, within a certain distance of the coast, to the northward of the point named, should be seizable. Without this precaution they will run down the coast from Senegal and Goree, and receive the Slaves on board by boats from the shore, without the necessity of entering a port. Such a regulation is in fact no hardship, as the course to the West Indies, for the vessels having taken Slaves on board in the ports to the southward of the Line, is large to the westward, and does not require them to recross the Line, till far advanced on their voyage.

A second regulation, highly important to prevail on France to accede to, is, a reciprocal permission to our respective cruizers, within certain latitudes, to visit the merchant ships of the other power, and, if found with Slaves on board, in contravention of the law of their particular State, to carry or send them in for adjudication. To soften the exercise of this power, perhaps it might be expedient to require the sentence of condemnation to be passed in the Courts of Admiralty of the country to which the ship detained belongs; the proceeds, if condemned, being divided between the captors and the State. Some power of this nature, within the track of the Slave Trade is of the first importance.

Your Grace will urge the French Minister to take a decisive measure, at least for the North Western Coast, before he leaves Paris for the Congress. The season for vessels fitting out for this traffic approaches. It is besides important that the voice of His Most Christian Majesty should make itself publicly heard on this question without loss of time. Such a demonstration of sentiment is of great moment, as well to give weight to the mediation of the French Negotiator at Vienna, as to create a public sentiment in France upon a subject, to which their Sovereign has solemnly vowed his unremitting protection.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH.

The Duke of Wellington,
 &c. &c. &c.

(First Inclosure in No. 10.)

Schedule.

Address of the House of Commons to the Prince Regent, 3d May, 1814,
and His Royal Highness's Answer.

Address of the House of Peers to the Prince Regent, 9th May,

Address of the House of Commons to the Prince Regent, 27th June.

Address of the House of Lords to the Prince Regent, 1st July.

(Second Inclosure in No. 10.)

Carlton House, August 5, 1814.

SIR, MY BROTHER, AND COUSIN.

Your Majesty's long residence in this country has enabled You to appreciate the sentiments of the British nation on the subject of the Slave Trade. The King's Ambassador at Your Majesty's Court will lay before Your Majesty the successive and solemn appeals made to Me by both Houses of Parliament, and the assurances I have given them of unremitting endeavours to deliver Africa from the long train of sufferings inseparable from this inhuman traffic. However long rooted in the system of the world, Your Majesty's benevolent heart, I well know, recoils from the continuance of a trade which checks all prospect of civilization and improvement in one great continent on the globe, and I entreat Your Majesty to employ Your powerful endeavours to accelerate the moment of its universal extinction. The voice and example of Your Majesty will in itself be productive of the most decisive and happy consequences in behalf of these suffering people.

Anxious in all matters to concert My measures with Your Majesty for the common peace and happiness of mankind, I own it would afford Me the highest of all possible gratifications were We enabled together to efface this painful and disgusting stain, not only from the practice of our Own, but of all the other states with whom We are in friendly relations.

Entreating Your Majesty's favourable reception of the representations which the Duke of Wellington is instructed to lay before You on this, to Me, and to the nation, most interesting subject,

I am, &c.
my good Brother and Cousin,
your Majesty's
good Brother and Cousin,
(Signed) G. P. R.

His Most Christian Majesty.

No. 11.

Secret and Confidential.

MY LORD,

Foreign-Office, August 6, 1814.

As we must be prepared for a reluctance on the part of certain powers to adopt even the limited measure to which France has given her concurrence, I mean the abolition at the end of five years, it becomes necessary to consider how the interest of these powers may be made to operate in support of their duties, or in other words, how they can be deprived of the unjust ad-

vantage of profiting by the sacrifices and forbearance of other states, who, from a sense of moral duty, forsake this species of commerce.

Nothing seems more likely to have this effect than for the powers acting in concert for effectuating this great object to prohibit the importation into their respective dominions of colonial produce grown within the territories of powers refusing to enter into the proposed concert.

This measure will leave them in possession of their own market, whilst it takes from them an unjust motive for augmenting their cultivation in counteracting the general system.

I should wish your Grace to sound the sentiments of the Prince of Benevent upon this subject. The impression here is very strong in favour of its efficacy and perfect justice.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CASTLEREAGH.

His Grace the Duke of Wellington.

No. 12.

MY LORD,

Paris, August 25, 1814.

Having spoken to the Prince de Benevent, on the subject of the Slave Trade, in a conversation which I had with him on the night of the 23d instant, and having expressed a desire that His Majesty should give me a private audience in order that I might deliver to His Majesty a letter from the Prince Regent, and lay before Him the papers entrusted to me for that purpose, and make those representations on that subject which your Lordship directed me to make, I was appointed to wait upon His Majesty last night.

His Majesty received me with His usual complacency, and having perused the Prince Regent's letter on the subject of the Slave Trade, He expressed His determination to perform the stipulations of the Treaty, and all that He had promised upon that subject.

I then laid before His Majesty the Addresses of both Houses of Parliament, and apprized His Majesty of the earnestness with which the Prince Regent and His Government, the Parliament and the nation, wished that His Majesty would concur in immediately abolishing this traffic by his subjects, and would co-operate with the British Government in inducing the powers of Europe to put an end to it entirely, and I urged all those arguments suggested in your Lordship's Dispatch, and such others as occurred to me.

His Majesty said, that He should be happy to be able to do any thing to gratify the Prince Regent and the British nation, and that He would undoubtedly perform His engagements; but that He must attend to the opinions and wishes of His own people.—That the opinions in France were by no means what they were in England upon this subject: that many years had elapsed, and much discussion had taken place, and great pains had been taken by many individuals and by societies, before the opinions in England had been brought to that state of unanimity upon this subject in which they were at present, and it could not be expected that opinions in France should immediately agree upon it.

I then urged His Majesty to adopt measures to restrict the trade as much as possible, as directed by your Lordship, and particularly to prevent its revival on that part of the coast of Africa, in which it has been put an end to during the war; and His Majesty said, that these were points of detail which he wished that I should bring under His consideration in the official form by note to His Minister, and that He was perfectly disposed to adopt any measure which he could adopt, consistently with the due attention to the opinions of His people; to co-operate with the Prince Regent in Con-

gress, as well as elsewhere, to restrict the trade as much as possible, and finally to put an end to it at the period specified.

In the conversations which I had had with the Prince de Benevent, both previous to and since my seeing the King, His Highness told me there would be no objection to adopt measures to prevent the revival of the trade in those parts in which it had been put a stop to during the war; and, he said last night, that orders had already been given to the Minister of Marine on the subject, which he promised to communicate to me.

In the mean time, I propose to present a note, in which I shall detail all the measures suggested by your Lordship, so as to bring them all to a decision before the Prince de Benevent will go to the Congress.

From what I learn here I have reason to believe that the opinions in the Legislative Body, and particularly in the House of Peers, are very much against the Abolition of the Slave Trade, and that several ships are now fitting out in Nantes and Bourdeaux, with the aid of British capital, to carry on the trade on the coast of Africa.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

The Viscount Castlereagh,
 &c. &c. &c.

No. 13.

MY LORD,

Paris, September 1, 1814.

I have the honour of inclosing a copy of the note which I sent to the French Minister on the subject of the Slave Trade.

I have not yet received an answer to this note: but the Prince de Benevent told me, the day before yesterday, that the King was determined to restrain the trade of his subjects on the coast of Africa north of the Line; and that the measures which I had proposed were under the consideration of the Marine Department.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

The Viscount Castlereagh, K. G.
 &c. &c. &c.

(Inclosure in No. 13.)

Paris, August 26, 1814.

The undersigned Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary has been instructed by the Ministers of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to draw the attention of His Highness the Prince de Benevent, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the existing state of the Slave Trade, and to request His Highness to urge His Most Christian Majesty to take some steps to restrict that commerce by His subjects, previous to the assembly of the Congress at Vienna.

His Majesty has concurred with the Prince Regent in declaring the Slave Trade to be repugnant to the principles of national justice, and of the enlightened age in which we live; and further, that it shall cease definitively, on the part of France, in five years.

Adverting to the Powers in Europe by whom the traffic in Slaves is still carried on, there can be no doubt that the influence of His Majesty, as well as that of the Prince Regent, on this question, in the approaching Congress;

will be much increased, by His Majesty's adopting some practical measures, which shall limit the commerce by His own subjects entirely to supplying the necessities, the existence of which alone justifies its continuance, even for a day, after His Majesty's declaration of the injustice of the trade.

The undersigned has therefore been instructed to urge the Prince of Benevent to the adoption of the following measures :

First—To prevent altogether the Trade in Slaves on the Coast of Africa between Cape Blanco and Cape Formoso.

Since the abolition law, passed in England in the year 1807, and more particularly since the French colonies of Senegal and Goree fell by the events of the war, into the hands of the British Government, and the commercial treaty with Portugal, the trade in Slaves on the coast of Africa, between the points above stated, has been virtually annihilated; and has been supplanted by a legitimate commerce with the parties in the productions of the country. Great pains have been taken and some progress has been made, in educating and civilizing the natives; and it would be quite inconsistent with His Majesty's declaration in the Treaty of Peace, and with the benevolent intentions which His Majesty has manifested upon every other occasion, if the evils and vices attendant upon the Slave Trade were again to be introduced into this partly reclaimed portion of the continent of Africa.

The undersigned likewise begs the Prince de Benevent to observe, that under the commercial treaty between Great Britain and Portugal, the latter power is restrained from trading in slaves on any part of the coast of Africa, only when other powers refrain from trading to the same; and it would be a total dereliction of the principle on which His Majesty acts, if He were to open the trade to his subjects on a part of the coast on which it has for some years entirely ceased, and thus were besides to open it to the unrestrained commerce of the Portuguese.

This measure, if also a consequence of the Prince of Benevent's note to Lord Castlereagh, of the 27th of May last, inasmuch as to admit it would renew all the horrors of the Slave Trade, on points in which they have virtually ceased for some years; and as the great supply of slaves has always been drawn from the coast south of the equator, the inconvenience to the traders cannot be of very great importance.

In order to avoid illicit trading on this part of the coast, it would be desirable, that all vessels should be liable to be seized found with slaves on board at a certain distance from the coast to the north of Cape Formoso. Such a regulation will not be attended by any hardship to the traders for slaves, on the coast south of the Line, as the course of their vessels to the West Indies or the coast of America, is large to the westward; and does not require them to recross the Line, till far advanced upon their voyage.

Secondly, That the ships of war of both nations should, within the northern tropick, and as far to the westward as longitude twenty-five from Greenwich, have the permission to visit the merchant ships of both, and to carry, or send in for adjudication, those found with slaves on board, in contravention of the law of the state to which they should belong. It would be expedient to arrange that the adjudication should take place in the Courts of Admiralty of the country to which the vessels seized should belong, and that the proceeds, if the vessel should be condemned, should be divided between the captors and the state.

Thirdly, The undersigned would likewise beg leave to suggest to his Highness the adoption of some measures to restrict the importation of slaves into the colonies, to the numbers strictly necessary for the cultivation of the existing plantations.

This measure may be effected by licences; and the undersigned begs his Highness to observe, that it is inconsistent with the principles which His Majesty has declared in His Treaty, to allow of the importation into His colonies of more slaves than are strictly necessary for their cultivation; and

that to limit the trade at the present moment, to what is absolutely necessary for cultivation, will enable His Majesty to put a definitive stop to it at the end of five years, with more ease and less loss and inconvenience to His subjects than they would feel if they were now to extend their trade in slaves to the whole number that they could procure on the coast of Africa.

These are the measures which the undersigned has received the directions of his Court to submit to the consideration of the Prince de Benevent, as those which at the same time that they will give His Most Christian Majesty's subjects the advantages they are supposed to require for the cultivation of the colonies, will direct the course of their trade in the manner least hurtful to the interests of humanity, will limit it to the supply of their necessities, and will prove to the world His Majesty's desire to co-operate with the Prince Regent in putting an end to this condemned traffic; and will give to His Majesty's interference great weight upon this question in the approaching Congress.

In the hope that they will meet His Majesty's approbation, the undersigned has the honour of assuring his Highness the Prince de Benevent of his high consideration.

*The Prince Benevent,
&c. &c. &c.*

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

No. 14.

EXTRACT.

Geneva, September, 3, 1814.

I shall not enter in this dispatch into the details of my discussion at Paris on the Slave Trade, which your Lordship may be assured I urged with every possible earnestness, as the Duke of Wellington has written fully on this subject, the prosecution of which cannot rest in better hands. I shall only observe, that I opened to the Prince of Benevent the idea of a concurrent system for repressing illicit Slave Trade; and a league against the import of colonial produce grown by states dissentient from the general policy; to neither of which measures he expressed any objection; but as this was the first time his mind had been drawn to either subject, I do not consider this as conclusive as to the official reception they may meet with from him hereafter.

*The Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.*

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH.

No. 15.

MY LORD,

Paris, September 4, 1814.

I have the honour of inclosing a Letter from His Most Christian Majesty to the Prince Regent, on the subject of the Slave Trade, with a Copy of it, which I received last night from the Prince de Benevent.

I have the honour, &c.

*Viscount Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.*

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

(*Inclosure in No. 15.*)

MONSIEUR, MON FRÈRE,

Paris, ce 2^{de} Septembre, 1814.

Le Duc Wellington m'a remis la Lettre par laquelle vous m'engagez à joindre Mes efforts aux Vôtres pour hâter le moment de l'abolition totale de la traite des Nègres. J'ai pris aussi connoissance des différentes pièces qui se rapportent au même objet, et qu'il était chargé de Me communiquer. Vous rendez justice aux sentimens de Mon cœur en Me croyant disposé à adopter toutes les mesures propres à assurer le repos et le bonheur de l'espèce humaine, et en particulier à concourir à l'extinction d'un commerce qui la flétrit; et c'est surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de Me concerter avec Vous pour atteindre un but aussi salutaire que Vous Me trouverez toujours empressé de Vous seconder, assuré comme Vous l'êtes déjà, que d'accord avec Vous sur le principe, Je n'ai du mettre un délai à l'abolition finale et absolue de la Traite des noirs en ce qui concerne la France, que pour prévenir l'effet de cette mesure comme subite, Vous pouvez l'être encore que pendant ce délai même la Traite n'aura lieu que sous des restrictions graduelles: que soit dans Nos colonies, soit dans cette partie de la côte d'Afrique où l'on est déjà parvenu à y substituer un commerce d'une autre et meilleure nature, je porterai Mes soins à la décourager; et que les moyens dont je M'occupe pour parvenir à la fin que Nous Nous proposons, Vous en offriront sous peu la preuve la plus convaincante. Enfin regardant comme celui de l'humanité entière l'honorable intérêt que Vous et Votre nation prenez à l'accomplissement de cette noble entreprise Je me trouverais heureux de, pouvoir dans cette occasion Vous donner un nouveau témoignage de l'inalterable amitié et de la parfaite estime avec lesquelles Je suis.

Monsieur mon Frère,
Votre bon Frère,
(Signé).

LOUIS.

*A Monsieur, Mon Frère,
le Prince Regent d'Angleterre.*

(*Inclosure in No. 15.*)—*Translation.*

SIR, MY BROTHER.

Paris, September 2, 1814.

The Duke of Wellington has delivered to me the letter in which You wish Me to join My efforts to Yours for hastening the moment of the total abolition of the Slave Trade. I have also taken into consideration the various documents which have reference to the same subject, and which he was charged to communicate to me. You do justice to My sentiments in believing Me disposed to adopt all the measures calculated to ensure the repose and happiness of the human race; and, particularly, to agree to the extinction of a traffic that tends to the destruction of mankind. When I am called upon to concur with You in accomplishing so salutary an object, You may depend upon always finding Me most solicitous in seconding You. Since You are convinced that, being agreed with You as to the principle, I should not delay the final and absolute Abolition of the Slave Trade, as far as France is concerned, further than is necessary to prevent the effect of any precipitation of this measure; You may, still more firmly, be assured, that, during this procrastination, the Trade shall be carried on only under gradual restrictions; that, not only in our colonies, but in that part of the coast of Africa where

they have already succeeded in substituting a traffic of another and a better description, I shall endeavour to discourage the former; and that the means now under consideration for attaining the object that We propose to Ourselves will, very speedily, afford to You the most convincing proof of it. Finally, considering the honourable interest, which You and Your nation take in accomplishing this noble undertaking, to be that of the whole human species, I shall think Myself happy to be able, on this occasion, to give You a fresh testimony of the unalterable friendship and the perfect esteem with which I am,

Sir, my Brother,
Your good Brother,
(Signed)

LOUIS.

*To my Brother the Prince Regent
of England.*

No. 16.

Paris, September 29, 1814.

MY LORD

I have the honour to inclose the copy of a note which I sent to M. Le Comte de Jaucourt on the 26th instant, requesting an answer to my note of the 26th August regarding the Slave Trade, and the copy of the answer from that Minister.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

*The Viscount Castlereagh, K. G.
&c. &c. &c.*

(First Inclosure in No. 16.)

SIR,

Paris, September 26, 1814.

I beg leave to remind your Excellency that a month has now elapsed since I sent to Prince Talleyrand a note on the subject of the Trade in Slaves on the coast of Africa.

This note proposed certain arrangements for His Most Christian Majesty's consideration, which I have understood had generally met with His approbation; but it is very desirable that I should be enabled to announce it officially to my Court, and I shall be much obliged to you if you will let me have an answer to the note of the 26th of August.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

*His Excellency the Comte De Jaucourt.
&c. &c. &c.*

(Second Inclosure in No. 16.)

MY LORD,

Paris, Septembre 27, 1814.

J'ai reçu la lettre que V. E. m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en-dâte d'hier pour rappeler la note relative à la Traite des Nègres, qu'elle avoit passé le 26 Août à M. le Prince de Talleyrand.

Avant de repondre officiellement à V. E.—M. le Prince de Talleyrand,

avoit crû devoir demander au ministre de la marine quelques renseignemens sur les moyens d'exécuter les mesures qu'elle proposoit dans cette note, et que le Roi s'est montré disposé à adopter.

Ces renseignemens n'ont point encore été donnés par le département de la marine.

Je viens de les demander de nouveau et dès qu'ils me seront parvenus j'aurai soin d'adresser à V. E. la réponse qu'elle m'a fait l'honneur de me demander.

J'ai, &c. &c. &c.

(Signé)

J. JAUCOURT.

S. E. le Duc de Wellington, K. G.
&c. &c. &c.

(Second Inclosure in No. 16.)—Translation.

MY LORD,

Paris, Sept. 27, 1814.

I have received the letter which your Excellency has done me the honour to address to me, under date of yesterday, in order to call to my recollection the note relative to the Slave Trade, which you had transmitted, on the 26th of August, to the Prince de Talleyrand.

The Prince de Talleyrand, previous to returning to your Excellency an official answer, judged it incumbent upon him to apply to the Minister of the Marine for some information concerning the means of executing the measures which you propose in that note, and which the King has shewn Himself disposed to adopt.

That information the Department of the Marine has not yet furnished.

I have demanded it again; and the moment I shall have received it, I shall not fail sending your Excellency the answer which you do me the honour to ask of me.

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

J. JAUCOURT.

To the Duke of Wellington.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 17.

Paris, October 4, 1814.

Extract.

In pursuance of the Prince Regent's commands, to offer to the French Government the cession either of a sum of money or an island in the West Indies, in order to obtain from them the immediate Abolition of the Slave Trade, I took the earliest opportunity of speaking to Monsieur de Talleyrand on the subject on the night of the 12th ultimo. I told him that the idea of making this offer had originated in a notion which prevailed generally, that the French Government were disposed to abolish the trade entirely if some concession were made to obtain that object.—Monsieur de Talleyrand replied, that no such disposition existed, that both the King and he had explained themselves fully to your Lordship and to me on the subject. That the King was determined to perform His engagements; and in the mean time to restrict the

trade of His subjects as far as was possible, on those parts of the coast of Africa which we had pointed out, and to co-operate with the British Government by every means in His power, at Congress and elsewhere, to put an end to the trade altogether.

Finding in the course of the conversation that no disposition existed to abolish the trade immediately, on any ground, I did not think it necessary, or proper to describe what concession the British Government were disposed to make, any further than as one to compensate to the persons interested in carrying on the Slave Trade, for the losses they might be supposed to incur by the immediate abolition.

I reported this conversation to Lord Liverpool, who has expressed to me a desire that the offer of a cession to the French Government should be recorded in a more formal manner, either at Paris or at Vienna, as might appear most expedient to your Lordship.

It appears to me most expedient that it should be done at Vienna, Monsieur de Talleyrand being there, in whose conversations in society at Paris the idea is supposed to have originated. I had spoken to him alone on the subject, and I was quite certain that he had reported to the King the offer which I had made of a cession to obtain the immediate abolition. I was certain that the King would neither accept nor refuse the offer, without referring to His Minister at Vienna; and I conceived that time would be saved, and other advantages would be gained, by leaving the matter to be settled by your Lordship with Monsieur de Talleyrand.

I therefore mentioned on the 29th to M. de Jaucourt, what had passed between M. de Talleyrand and me on the night of the 12th September, and explained the reasons for wishing that the offer and the answer to it should be recorded; and in order to save time, begged him to prevail upon the King to send orders to M. de Talleyrand either to decline or accept the offer, as His Majesty might think proper.

In the course of this conversation Monsieur de Jaucourt, who was decidedly of opinion that the business ought to be settled at Vienna, stated, that he thought that the offer of a sum of money to obtain this, or any other political object, ought not to be taken into consideration; and that the cession of a West India Island would not be considered by those carrying on the Slave Trade, as a compensation for the loss they would sustain by its immediate abolition; and that they would contend that the State would gain nothing by the cession, as the continuance of the trade would bring as much new land into cultivation and produce in the old colonies, as would be acquired in the newly ceded colony. M. de Jaucourt promised me to report to His Majesty what I had stated, and to make me acquainted with the result, but I have not been able to see him till this day.

Having called upon him this day he told me that he had mentioned to the King what I had desired him, and that His Majesty had directed him to report it to Monsieur de Talleyrand, and to leave it to Monsieur de Talleyrand to come to an agreement with your Lordship, informing Monsieur de Talleyrand at the same time, that His Majesty's sentiments and intentions, as last communicated to him, were not altered. I asked Monsieur de Jaucourt whether I was to understand that His Majesty accepted or declined the offer which had been made; and he said that he knew no more than he had told me, and I must form my own opinion from what I knew of His Majesty's sentiments; that he, Monsieur de Jaucourt, was not acquainted with the instructions which the King had given Monsieur de Talleyrand, and that he was only directed to refer to those instructions, and to report the conversation with me.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

The Viscount Castlereagh, K. G.

&c. &c. &c.

19

No. 18.

*(Extract.)**Paris, October 10, 1814.*

In further pursuance of the instructions I have received, to make a fresh effort to induce the King to adopt the measures immediately to prevent the Trade in Slaves on the north coast of the continent of Africa, suggested in the note which I gave to Monsieur de Talleyrand, on the 26th of August, I immediately waited upon M. de Blacas, and requested him to lay that report before the King, and to point out to His Majesty the evil consequences which must result from any further delay in the adoption of the measures to prevent the traffick in Slaves on that coast, the principle of which had been already agreed to, and their early execution promised.

M. de Blacas promised me to lay the paper before the King, and to inform His Majesty what I had said.

I could not see M. de Jaucourt till this day, and I urged him in the most earnest manner to let us have a decided answer upon this subject. I am sorry to have to report, however, that the matter rests exactly where it did, in the department of the marine, and that although M. de Jaucourt promised me that he would make every exertion in his power to obtain a report from that department, it is impossible for me to feel sanguine that I shall have the decision of Government as soon as I wish.

Your Lordship may rely upon it, that I will not lose any opportunity which may offer of urging the King's ministers to bring the business to a conclusion.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

*Viscount Castlereagh,**&c. &c. &c.*

No. 19.

MY LORD,

Paris, Oct. 13, 1814.

I waited upon M. de Jaucourt yesterday, to inquire what steps had been taken since I had last seen him, in order to restrict the Trade in Slaves on the north coast of Africa, and he communicated to me a letter which he had written to the Marine Department, to point out the engagements into which the King and Monsieur de Talleyrand had entered on that subject, and to urge the early adoption of measures to carry them into execution.

Your Lordship may depend upon it that I will not fail to call the attention of the Government to this subject, and urge every argument to induce them to perform what has been promised.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

*The Viscount Castlereagh, K. G.**&c. &c. &c.*

No. 20.

*(Extract.)**Paris, Oct. 20, 1814.*

" I have as yet received no answer regarding the restriction of the Slave Trade, on the north coast of Africa, notwithstanding that I have twice urged Monsieur de Jaucourt on the subject since he shewed me the copy of his letter to Monsieur Ferrand.

"Your Lordship will observe in the publications of the day, the degree to which the public mind is agitated upon this subject. It has been discussed with a considerable degree of violence, and prejudice against the British Government in the Chamber of Deputies."

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

*Viscount Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.*

No. 21.

(Extract.)

Paris, November 3, 1814.

I have the honour of inclosing the copy of a letter and its inclosures from Mons. le Comte de Jaucourt, in the latter of which you will find the orders given by the Minister of Marine for confining the French Slave Trade to the coast of Africa, to the southward of Cape Formoso.

Your Lordship will observe that much remains to be done to secure that the orders which have been given shall be strictly carried into execution; and to provide for the condemnation of slave vessels taken in the act of disobeying these orders, and for the care of the captured slaves, and I will immediately enter upon discussions with the French Government on the subject.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

*The Lord Viscount Castlereagh, K. G.
&c. &c. &c.*

(First Inclosure in No. 21.)

MI LORD,

Paris, 2 Novembre, 1814.

J'ai eu l'honneur de prévenir votre Excellence que je demandais au Ministre de la Marine les renseignements sur les mesures qui il avoit prises pour remplir les intentions du Roi relativement à la Traite.

Il vient de m'adresser l'extrait de la correspondance qu'il a eu l'occasion d'entretenir à ce sujet, et dans laquelle se trouvent consignés les principes du Gouvernement, et les ordres qu'il donne en conséquence.

J'ai l'honneur de transmettre cet extrait à votre Excellence; elle y trouvera sans doute la preuve de la franchise de nos intentions sur ce qui tient à l'exécution des clauses convenues.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.

(Signé)

JAUCOURT.

*Mi Lord Duc de Wellington,
&c. &c. &c.*

(First Inclosure in No. 21.)—Translation.

MY LORD,

Paris, Nov. 2, 1814.

I have already had the honour of acquainting your Excellency that I had applied to the Minister of the Marine for information respecting the measures which he had taken for fulfilling the intentions of the King, relative to the Slave Trade.

I have just received from him an extract of the correspondence which he has had occasion to hold on this subject, and in which are laid down the principles of the Government, together with the orders it has issued in consequence.

I do myself the honour to transmit this extract to your Excellency. It will prove to you, no doubt, the frankness of our intentions upon what relates to the execution of the clauses agreed upon,

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed)

JAUCOURT.

The Duke of Wellington,
&c. &c. &c.

(Second Inclosure in No. 21.)

Marine Direction des Colonies.

Paris, Septembre 22, 1814.

Chargé, Monsieur, du Ministère de la Marine, par interim, durant la maladie de M. de Malouet, et depuis sa mort, je me suis occupé des affaires de ce Ministère qui exigent une expédition journalière. Tout ce qui concernoit le départ de Batimens pour les colonies orientales et occidentales dont, la France reprend possession, a particulièrement attiré mon attention, et je n'ai pu en donner beaucoup à ce qui a rapport à la Côte d'Afrique; je ne puis donc vous dire encore ce qui sera réglé relativement aux pointes de cette côte ou la Traite des Negres pourra se faire, mais je sais que l'intention de Sa Majesté est qu'elle ait lieu plutôt au dessous du Cap Formose qu'au dessus, et particulièrement à la Côte de Guinée, et à celle d'Angole.

(Signé)

LE COMPTE FERRAND.

A M. Genevois,
Armateur à Nantes.

(Second Inclosure in No. 23.)—Translation.

Marine Colonial Department.

SIR,

Paris, Sept. 22, 1814.

The Department of the Marine having been placed under my direction, ad interim, both during the illness of M. de Malouet and since his death, the duties of that department, in which every day produces much official correspondence, have constantly engaged my attention. Whatever relates to the departure of ships for the Colonies in the East and West Indies, of which France recovers possession, has been an object of my particular care, but I have not been able to attend much to what concerns the coast of Africa. It is therefore not as yet in my power to inform you of the particular points on

that coast which it is in contemplation to set apart for the Slave Trade; but I know His Majesty's intention to be that it should be carried on below Cape Formosa, rather than above it, and particularly on the Coast of Guinea and of Angola.

(Signed) COUNT DE FERRAND.

*To M. Genevois,
Ship Owner at Nantes.*

(Third Inclosure in No. 21.)

Circulaire.

Marine Direction des Colonies.

MONSIEUR,

Paris, October 8, 1814.

Il m' a été adressé plusieurs demandes en autorisation d'armemens pour la Traite des Noirs. Le Roi ne m'a point encore fait connaître Ses intentions définitives à ce sujet. S. M. m'a seulement manifesté le desir que ces sortes d'expéditions ne se portassent pas en deça du sud du Cap Formose. En conséquence, vous voudrez bien vous borner quant à présent à permettre dès qu'ils seront prêts à prendre la mer, le départ des Navires qui seraient destinés à aller traiter que sur les pointes de la Côte de l'Afrique, qui se trouvent au sud du Cap dont il s'agit. Je vous prie aussi de donner avis aux armateurs de votre arrondissement, des dispositions que je viens de vous notifier.

Recevez,
(Signé)

COMTE FERRAND.

*A M. M. les Prefets Maritimes
et Commissaires chargés du
Service dans les Ports.*

(Third Inclosure in No. 23.)—Translation.

Circular.

Marine Colonial Department.

SIR,

Paris, October 8, 1814.

Several applications have been made to me to permit the fitting out of ships for the Slave Trade. The King has not yet communicated to me His final determination on the subject. His Majesty has only manifested to me the desire, that such voyages should not be made northward of Cape Formosa. Accordingly, you will have the goodness to confine yourself only, for the present, to permit, as soon as they shall be ready for sailing, the departure of vessels intended for the Slave Trade, to those points of the Coast of Africa which are to the Southward of the Cape in question; I also entreat you to inform, the ship-owners of your district, of the dispositions that I have notified to you.

Recevez, &c. &c. &c.
(Signed)

COUNT FERRAND.

*To Messrs. the Maritime Prefects
and Commissaries, appointed in
the Ports.*

(Fourth Inclosure in No. 21.)

MONSIEUR,

Paris, Octobre 19, 1814,

Ma circulaire, du 8 de ce mois vous chargeoit de faire connaître aux armateurs de votre arrondissement, qu'ils pouvaient des ce moment expédier leurs navires pour la Traite des Noirs, pourvu qu'en conformité des intentions du Roi, ils n'exercassent ce commerce que sur les pointes de la cote d'Afrique, située au Sud du Cap Formose.

Cette partie du Continent presente assez de ressources pour leur laisser la faculté de pourvoir aux besoins indispensables de nos Colonies, en même tems qu'elle offre un débouché pour le produits de nos manufactures.

Enfin la disposition rappelée plus haut ne nuira point à la Traite de la Gomme et du Morfil du Sénégal, puisque dans les habitudes de commerce, ces derniers opérations sont toujours distinctes de celles qui ont pour bût la Traite des Noirs.

Quant à celle-ci, le Roi, comme je vous l'ai annoncé veut qu'elles soient restreintes dans les limites indiquées; et comme il importe de ne point fournir l'occasion du plus légère doute sur l'entière et fidele exécution des intentions de Sa Majesté à cet égard, les capitaines de nos batimens devront soigneusement éviter, à leur retour de la Traite du Sud du Cap Formose, de se tenir plus rapprochés de la portion du continent d'Afrique, au nord du dit Cap, que ne le rendra nécessaire, d'après leur pointe de départ, leur route directe vers nos colonies d'Amerique.

Je vous recommande de ne laisser partir aucune batiment Francois pour la Traite, sans lui donner, à titre d'instruction obligatoire, une copie de la presente circulaire, dont vous voudrez bien m'accuser reception.

Le Ministre et Secrétaire d'Etat de
la Marine, par interim.

(Signé)

FERRAND.

A. M. M. Les Prefets Maritimes
et Administrateurs des Ports.

(Fourth Inclosure in No. 21.)—Translation.

Marine Colonial Department.

Circular.

Paris, October 19, 1814.

SIR,

By my circular of the 8th instant, you were directed to notify to the ship-owners of your district, that, from that moment; they had permission to dispatch vessels for the Slave Trade, provided that, conformably to the King's intentions, they should carry it on only on such points of the African coast as are situated south of Cape Formosa.

This portion of the Continent presents sufficient resources for enabling them to supply the necessities of our colonics, at the same time that it offers a vent for our manufactures.

Neither will the above regulations interfere with the gum and ivory trade on the coast of Senegal, these branches of commerce having hitherto always been kept separate from speculations in the traffick of negroes.

With respect to the latter, as I have already informed you, it is His Majesty's pleasure that they shall be restricted to the limits stated. And as it is of importance not to afford any occasion for the least doubt on the entire and faithful execution of His Majesty's intentions in this respect, the masters of our vessels must be careful, on their return from the trade to the southward of Cape Formosa, to avoid approaching nearer to that portion of the African Continent which is situated north of the said Cape, than their direct

course from the particular point of their departure towards our American Colonies shall render necessary.

You will not suffer any French vessel to put to sea with a view of carrying on the Slave Trade, without furnishing her, by way of obligatory instruction, with a copy of the present circular, the receipt of which from me you will have the goodness to acknowledge.

The Minister and Secretary of State for the Marine, ad interim,
(Signed) FERRAND.

*To the Maritime Prefects, and
Administrators of Ports.*

(Fifth Inclosure in No. 21.)

Marine Direction des Colonies.

Paris, 19 Octobre, 1814.

J'ai reçu, et mis sous les yeux du Roi, Messieurs, votre adresse en date du 3 de ce mois, relative à la Traite des Nègres.

L'intention de Sa Majesté est; que la Traite n'ait lieu que vers les parties de la côte d'Afrique situées au Sud du Cap Formose.

Cette partie du Continent presente, Messieurs, assez de ressources pour vous laisser la faculté de pourvoir aux besoins indispensables de nos colonies, et offre, en même tems, un moyen de débouché pour nos manufactures.

La disposition que je vous annonce ne nuira point à la Traite de la Gomme et du morfil du Sénégal, puisque, dans les habitudes du commerce, ces opérations sont toujours distinctes de celles qui ont pour bût la Traite des noirs. Le départ de l'Expedition du Roi pour le Sénégal reglera celui des batimens particuliers qui auroient la même destination, mais rien ne s'oppose à ce que vous vous livriez dès-a-present à la Traite des Esclaves, poüvu qu'elle se fasse dans les limites prescrites, c'est-a dire, au Sud du Cap Formose.

Agrèez, &c.

(Signé)

COMTE FERRAND.

*A M. M. Les Armateurs et Marins
de la Ville du Havre.*

(Fifth Inclosure in No. 21.)—Translation.

Marine Colonial Department.

GENTLEMEN,

Paris, October 19, 1814.

I have received and laid before the King your application, dated the 3d instant, relative to the Slave Trade.

It is His Majesty's intention that the Slave Trade shall be carried on only on those points of the African coast situated south of Cape Formosa.

That portion of the continent presents sufficient resources for enabling you to supply the most urgent wants of our colonies, and offers, at the same time, a market for our manufactures.

This regulation will not affect the Gum and Ivory Trade in Senegal, inasmuch as, according to the practice hitherto pursued, these commercial transactions are carried on distinct from the Negro Trade. The departure of the King's squadron for Senegal, is to be considered as the signal for the

sailing of the private shipping which may be bound to that part of the world. You may, however, without any hesitation, enter immediately on the Slave Trade, provided that it be restricted to its present limits, that is, to the coast south of Cape Formosa.

Accept, &c. &c.

(Signed)

COUNT FERRAND.

*Messrs. the Ship Owners and Mariners
of the town of Havre.*

No. 22.

MY LORD,

Paris, November 5, 1814.

Having had an opportunity of talking with the Minister of Marine last night, regarding the measures to be adopted to carry into execution the King's orders for preventing the Slave Trade on the north west coast of Africa, I discovered that that proposed in my note of the 26th of August, addressed to the Prince of Benevente, viz. "The reciprocal search by ships of war of both nations, of vessels trading on the coasts," was so disagreeable to the Government, and I had seen in different publications, that it was likely to be so much so to the nation, that there was no chance of succeeding in getting it adopted, and therefore I prepared the memorandum, of which I inclose the copy, to be submitted to the Minister, at a meeting which I was to have with him this day.

I found there the Comte de Jaucourt, Monsieur Reinhard, Monsieur Ferrand, and the Director of Marine; and upon reading this memorandum, but few, if any objections, were made to what I proposed.

Their principle objection was to the Fourth Article. They contended that, if they had confined their prohibition to the coast north of Cape Palmas, there would have been no objection to consider as illegal traders, vessels, with Slaves found on board, at a certain distance from the prohibited coast; but that vessels might be forced by weather from the coast south of Cape Formosa, to the coast between Cape Formosa and Cape Palmas, and that the detention of those vessels, even to have their cases considered by a Court of Admiralty, would be highly injurious to the owners, and might be so to the interests of humanity.

I explained that my memorandum contained only a general proposal for regulations, which they were to draw out in detail; and as they consented to discuss them with me afterwards, I would then point out what objections I conceived existed to the details they should propose; bearing always in mind the King's instruction to prevent the Trade in Slaves, on the coast as far south as Cape Formosa, and the necessity of providing for putting these intentions into execution.

They also stated some objections to the sixth Article. They said that the King had neither the establishments, nor the facilities, nor the means, at His settlements, that we had at Sierra Leone; and they begged for information on this proposition. I shall be obliged to your Lordship, if you will let me have as much detailed information as can be given regarding Sierra Leone.

It might also be deserving of consideration, whether some of the means of the African Society might not be directed with advantage, to the formation of establishments, for the benefit of the negroes in the French settlements, of the same description with those at Sierra Leone.

Any information upon Sierra Leone, or any extension to the French settlements, of the advantages which the Negroes enjoy there, from the Funds of the African Society, would tend more than any thing else, to prove to the people of this country, that those of ours have taken up this subject, from motives of humanity only.

I beg to have your Lordship's opinion at an early period, regarding what I have proposed to the Minister of Marine, and such detailed instructions, on the different points proposed, as your Lordship may think it proper to give me.

I have, &c.
(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

Viscount Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.

(Inclosure in No. 22.)

Mem. pour Son Excellence Monsieur le Ministre de la Marine, ce 5
Nov. 1814.

Sa Majesté ayant déterminé par ses ordres dans le département de la marine, que la Traite des Nègres ne se feroit pas sur la côte d'Afrique, au nord du Cap Formose il reste à adopter les mesures pour assurer l'exécution de Ses vues bienfaisantes.

Les mesures ci-après sont soumis à Monsieur le ministre de la marine :

1. D'Instruire les Gouverneurs des Etablissements François sur la côte d'Afrique ci-dessus nommée des intentions de Sa Majesté, et les ordonner de veiller à leur exécution.

2. Envoyer un ou plus de batimens de guerre sur la côte à-fin d'y veiller par mer.

3. Ordonner que tout vaisseau &c. qui seroit pris faisant la Traite de Nègres dans les parages prohibés, seroit condamné avec sa cargaison comme bonne prise au vaisseau de Sa Majesté, aux troupes, ou à l'autorité qu'il auroient pris.

4. Ordonner que tout vaisseau pris dans les parages où la Traite seroit prohibée, ayant à-bord des esclaves soit considéré comme ayant fait la Traite des Nègres dans ces parages, et soit condamné avec sa cargaison comme prise.

5. Etablir dans la colonie de Sénégal, où à Gorée une cour de prises pour prendre connaissance des infractions des ordres de Sa Majesté sur ce sujet.

6. Fixer les moyens d'établir, et de faire vivre les Nègres qui seroient pris dans les vaisseaux dans les parages où la Traite des Nègres est prohibée à l'instar de l'établissement Anglois à Sierra Leone.

(Signé) WELLINGTON.

(Inclosure in No. 22.)—Translation.

Memorandum for his Excellency the Minister of the Marine, Nov. 5, 1814.

His Majesty having determined, by His orders issued to the Department of the Marine, that the Slave Trade shall not be carried on, on that portion of the Coast of Africa which lies to the northward of Cape Formosa, it becomes necessary to take measures for ensuring the execution of His benevolent views.

The following measures are submitted to the Minister of Marine:—

1. To inform the Governors of the French Settlements on the above-mentioned Coast of Africa respecting the intention of His Majesty, and to order them to watch over their execution.

2. To dispatch one or more men of war to that Coast, with a view of guarding by sea against any infringement of the same.

3. To order that any vessel, &c. detected in carrying on the Slave Trade in the prohibited latitudes, and captured in the same, shall, together with her cargo, be condemned as a good prize to any of His Majesty's ships, to the troops, or to any authority that may have taken her.

4. To order that any vessels, taken in those latitudes where the trade shall be prohibited, and having slaves on board; shall be considered as having carried on the Slave Trade in those latitudes, and shall be considered, with her cargo, as a good prize.

5. To establish in the Colony of Senegal, or at Goree, a Prize-court, for taking cognizance of any infraction of His Majesty's orders on this subject.

6. To determine on the means of establishing and subsisting such negroes as may be taken on board ships in the latitudes where the Slave Trade is prohibited, after the manner practised in the English settlement at Sierra Leone.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

No. 23.

MY LORD,

Paris, Jan. 23d, 1815.

I inclose a copy of the regulations by which the French Government propose to carry into execution their prohibition of the Slave Trade on the N. W. Coast of Africa.

After receiving the paper, I had a meeting with the Minister of Marine and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which I pointed out the difference between what was contained in the inclosed *règlement*, and what was proposed in the paper transmitted to your Lordship in my dispatch of the 3d November, and I stated that what was now proposed to be done did not perform the King's engagement, nor carry into execution his intentions, as stated in the different notes, letters, and conversations, which had passed between His Majesty or His Ministers, and your Lordship or myself.

After a long discussion, in which the Minister of Marine offered to extend the prohibitive system as far as Cape Three Points, and I contended that it should be carried as first proposed to Cape Formosa, as the only mode of preventing the revival of the horrors of the Slave Trade in countries in which they had been effectually put an end to by Great Britain during the war, it was agreed that I should propose such alterations of the *règlement* as would make it suit the views of my Government, and that we should have another meeting to take those alterations into consideration, and that in the mean time the prohibitive system should be continued, as contained in the papers inclosed to your Lordship on the 3d November.

I accordingly gave to M. de Jaucourt the memoranda of which the inclosed are copies.

I have since had no meeting upon the subject, but I have had two or three conversations upon it with M. de Jaucourt and M. Beugnot, the Minister of Marine, in each of which I observed an increasing disposition in the French Government to act more entirely in our views of this subject, and of colonial policy connected with it.

I attribute this measure, in a great degree, to their increasing knowledge of the state of St. Domingo.

It is evident, however, that nothing will be brought forward on the subject till M. de Talleyrand returns; and as the prohibitive system still exists along the coast to Cape Formosa, I have thought it best not to press them farther at present upon the *règlement*.

M. de Beugnot, the Minister of Marine, has, by the King's commands, publicly disclaimed M. Lavaysse. I believe this person was sent to Ja-

Jamaica to ascertain the state of St. Domingo, but he could not have been authorised to write the letters which have been published as his.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

To Viscount Castlereagh, K. G.
&c. &c. &c.

(First Inclosure in No. 23.)

MONSIEUR LE DUC,

Paris le 3 Decembre, 1814.

V. E. m'ayant témoigné dans la conférence que nous avons eu relativement à la Traite des Nègres, le désir de connoître les mesures adoptées par le Gouvernement François en conséquence de la déclaration du Roi, du 27 Mai dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer en communication le projet de règlement que j'ai l'intention de soumettre à l'approbation de S. M. Ce règlement est (quant à la mesure dans laquelle le Commerce, de la Traite sera dorénavant permis, à les limites et aux restrictions qui lui sont imposées) parfaitement conforme aux bases adoptées dans notre conférence; et V. E. reconnoitra j'espère, par les précautions prises pour faire exécuter ponctuellement les ordres du Roi et ôbvier à la fraude, que le Gouvernement François remplit avec fidélité et dans toute son étendue l'engagement pris de décourager la Traite des Negres dans certains parages.

Agrééz, Monsieur, &c.

(Signé)

FERRAND.

M. le Duc de Wellington.

(First Inclosure in No. 23.)—Translation.

MY LORD,

Paris, December 3, 1814.

In the conference which we had respecting the Slave Trade, your Grace having expressed a desire to be informed of the measures adopted by the French Government, in consequence of His Majesty's Declaration of the 27th of May last, I have the honour herewith to communicate the projet of the regulation, which it is my intention to submit to His Majesty's approbation;—This regulation (as far as relates to the modes in which the commerce in Negroes will hereafter be permitted, and to the limits and restrictions to be imposed thereon) is in perfect conformity with the bases adopted in our conference, and your Excellency will, I hope, perceive from the precautions taken, punctually to execute the King's orders, and to prevent fraud, that the French Government fulfils with fidelity, and to the utmost extent, her engagement to discourage the traffick in negroes, within certain latitudes.

Accept, Sir, &c.

(Signed)

FERRAND.

His Excellency the Duke of Wellington.

(Second Inclosure in No. 23.)

Réglement sur la Traite des Nègres.

Le Ministre et Secrétaire d'Etat ayant le Département de la Marine et des Colonies.

Considérant que le Roi, dans des vues d'humanité, et d'un commun accord avec plusieurs puissances de l'Europe, s'est proposé de mettre bientôt un terme à la Traite des Nègres ;

Que Sa Majesté qui a déjà manifesté la volonté de restreindre cette Traite dans les limites que les circonstances semblent Lui avoir assignées, a reconnu toute fois qu'elle était nécessaire pendant quelque tems encore à des établissemens importans pour leur métropole, afin de préparer successivement un nouvel ordre de choses et de rendre moins sensibles les sacrifices qu'il doit entraîner ;

Que la continuation temporaire de la Traite est utile dans l'intérêt même de la classe d'hommes actuellement employés aux cultures de nos colonies ;

Que les sujets du Roi contrarieraient les intentions formellement exprimés par Sa Majesté s'ils renouvellaient la Traite sur des points de la côte d'Afrique, où elle a effectivement cessé d'être faite depuis plusieurs années où des établissemens ont été fondés dans le dessein de civiliser les habitans de ces contrées et de remplacer le trafic des esclaves par le commerce des productions du pays.

Considérant que Sa Majesté a ordonné que la traite des Nègres cesserait dès à présent dans la partie de l'Afrique située au Nord du Cap de Palme.

Arrête.

Article 1.—Les capitaines et armateurs des bâtimens destinés à la traite des Nègres continueront à s'abstenir de faire ce commerce sur la partie des côtes d'Afrique située entre le Cap Blanc et le Cap de Palme.

Article 2.—Le même commerce est interdit à tout individu faisant partie des établissemens Français à la côte d'Afrique ; et si des Nègres avoient été achetés par quelques uns de ces individus, le commandant du Sénégal s'en emparera, et il fera pour ces Nègres ce qui sera fait pour ceux trouvés sur des navires particuliers, en contravention au présent règlement.

Article 3.—Les navires destinés à la traite des Nègres pourront en se rendant aux lieux où elle est permise, ranger les côtes d'Afrique depuis le Cap Blanc jusqu' au Cap des Palmes, sur lesquelles ce commerce est prohibé, mais à leur retour ils devront s'en éloigner, ainsi tout navire qui on trouve à moins de quarante lieues au large des côtes situées entre le Cap Blanc et le Cap des Palmes, ayant des Nègres à bord qui ne seroient pas portés sur le rôle d'équipage, sera considéré comme ayant fait la Traite dans ces parages ; en conséquence il sera saisi et conduit au Sénégal.

Article 4.—Les évènemens de la mer tel qu'un tems forcé, qui obligerait un navire chargé des Nègres à se rapprocher malgré lui des côtes où la traite est prohibée, seront constatés à-bord par un procès verbal qui sera signé du capitaine, des officiers et du premier maitre. Il sera également dressé un procès verbal dans le cas où une voie d'eau ou tout autre accident qui empêcherait un navire de continuer sa route l'obligerait à venir sur ces mêmes côtes, soit pour sauver son équipage, soit pour y faire les réparations dont il aurait besoin pour se rendre à sa destination. Si l'avarie justifie la nécessité d'être venu dans un parage prohibée, les commandans des batimens de Sa Majesté sont autorisés à relâcher ce navire ; ils l'aideront de tout leur pouvoir afin qu'il puisse s'en écarter sous le plus bref délai.

Les dits commandans seront tenus d'adresser au ministre de la marine et des colonies un rapport détaillé sur les circonstances de force majeure qui auraient contraint le navire à se diriger sur la côte prohibée; ils joindront à leur rapport une copie de toutes les pièces justificatives.

Article 5.—Tout armateur et capitaine qui fera la traite dans les parties de la côte où elle est autorisée, sera tenu, au moment où il quittera la côte pour se rendre dans les colonies Françaises de l'Amérique, de dresser un procès verbal constatant le nombre, le sexe, et l'âge des noirs qu'il aura à bord, et les parages dans lesquels la dite traite aura été faite, ce procès verbal sera signé par les capitaines subreçueurs et premiers maîtres.

Article 6.—Deux bâtimens de Sa Majesté croiseront sur les côtes d'Afrique afin d'assurer l'exécution des ordres du Roi.

Article 7.—Tous les navires qui seront rencontrés par les bâtimens de Sa Majesté faisant la traite des Nègres dans les limites défendues seront arrêtés et conduits au Sénégal.

Les commandans de ces bâtimens procéderont à l'égard de ces navires suivant les réglemens usités en tems de guerre à l'égard des prises maritimes.

Article 8.—Les Nègres qui se trouveroient à bord des bâtimens capturés seront immédiatement débarqués et le commandant du Sénégal pourvoira à leur logement, subsistance, et entretien.

Article 9.—Il sera procédé à l'instruction de la procédure et au jugement de la prise, par une commission qui sera formée au Sénégal. Cette commission procédera conformément aux réglemens observés en tems de guerre à l'égard des prises maritimes. Elle sera composée du commandant pour le Roi au Sénégal et de deux fonctionnaires supérieurs. Un commis principal remplira les fonctions de secrétaire.

Article 10.—Les navires capturés seront aussitôt après la décision de la commission du Sénégal renvoyés dans un port Français en Europe avec toutes les pièces de la procédure; les marchandises et effets resteront à bord, sauf ceux dont la conservation exigerait le débarquement.

Le Commandant du Sénégal et le Commandant du Bâtiment capteur se concerteront pour nommer un conducteur de prise.

Le dit navire sera remis à l'Administration de la Marine dans le Port où il sera amené.

Article 11.—Il sera formé à Paris une Commission supérieure que prononcera en dernier ressort dans le cas d'appel sur les prises faites d'après les Articles 4 et 5, sur la côte d'Afrique.

Elle sera composée, de deux Conseillers d'état deux Maîtres des requêtes, deux Officiers généraux ou supérieurs de la marine, quatre Officiers d'Administration de la Marine, dont un fera les fonctions de Procureur du Roi, et un autre celle de Secrétaire.

Article 12.—Les parties intéressées pourront rappeler à cette Commission supérieure des décisions rendues par celle du Sénégal.

Article 13.—Les navires définitivement condamnés, ainsi que les marchandises et effets trouvés à bord, seront vendus par les soins de l'Administration de la marine, dans le Port où ils auront été amenés, et le produit en sera versé à la caisse des invalides de la Marine sauf la déduction des dépenses qui résulteront de l'arrestation et de la garde des dits navires, de la nourriture et de l'entretien des nègres.

Article 14.—Lorsque, par suite des décisions de la Commission du Sénégal, et de la Commission supérieure, les nègres trouvés sur les Navires capturés ne devront pas être restitués aux armateurs, le Commandant du Sénégal les emploiera comme cultivateurs et ouvriers libres, à moins qu'ils ne préférassent retourner dans leurs pays.

Article 15.—Il est particulièrement recommandé aux armateurs et capitaines des bâtimens négriers de traiter les nègres avec douceur, de leur procurer une nourriture saine et abondante, de donner à leur conservation tous les soins qu'exige l'humanité et surtout de n'embarquer sur chaque bâtiment que le nombre d'esclaves qu'il pourra contenir sans nuire à leur santé.

Les Gouverneurs et Intendants de nos établissemens d'Amérique feront visiter les batimens négriers à leur arrivée dans nos colonies, et feraient connaître au Ministre et Secrétaire d'Etat, ayant le Department de la Marine, les Armateurs qui n'auraient pas ponctuellement suivi les intentions bienfaisantes du Roi.

(Signé)

FERRAND.

(Second Inclosure in No. 23.)—Translation.

REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE SLAVE TRADE.

The Minister and Secretary of State for the Department of the Marine and of the Colonies,

Considering that the King, from motives of humanity, and in concert with several Powers of Europe, has resolved speedily to put an end to the Slave Trade;

That His Majesty, who has already manifested the desire of confining this trade within those bounds which circumstances seem to have assigned to it, has nevertheless found that it was still for some time necessary to settlements, which are of importance to their mother country, with a view of gradually preparing a new order of things, and of rendering less painful the sacrifices which it must carry along with it;

That as all the persons actually employed in cultivating our colonies, have an interest in the temporary continuation of this trade, it is also useful:

That the subjects of the King would defeat the intentions formally expressed by His Majesty if they were to renew the trade on those points of the coast of Africa where it has effectually ceased to be carried on for several years, and where settlements have been established for the purpose of civilizing the inhabitants of those countries, and of replacing the traffic in slaves by that in the produce of the country; and

Considering that His Majesty has ordered the Slave Trade to cease immediately, in that portion of Africa which is situated north of Cape Palmas;

It is Decreed:

Article 1.—The masters and owners of slave ships shall in future, forbear carrying on this trade on that part of the coast of Africa which is situated between Cape Blanc and Cape Palma.

Article 2.—This trade is also prohibited to every individual inhabiting any of the French settlements on the coast of Africa, and should any Negroes have been bought by any of them, the Governor of Senegal shall seize those Negroes, and dispose of them in the manner of those found on board private vessels, in contravention of the present regulation.

Article 3.—Slave ships, in sailing to those places where the Slave Trade is permitted, may sail along that part of the coast of Africa which extends from Cape Blanc to Cape Palma, on which this trade is prohibited, but, on their return, they must not approach it. Hence every vessel found within less than forty leagues of the coast situated between Cape Blanc and Cape Palma, and having negroes on board that form no part of her crew, shall be considered as having carried on the Slave Trade in those quarters, and shall therefore be seized and carried to Senegal.

Article 4.—Accidents at sea, such as stress of weather, which might force a slave-ship, against her inclination, to go near that portion of the coast where the trade is prohibited, shall be verified on board by a written account, signed by the Captain, the officers, and the master. A similar account shall be drawn up in case a leak, or any other accident, calculated

to prevent a ship from prosecuting her voyage, should oblige her to touch at that coast, either for the purpose of saving her crew, or of making such repairs as may be necessary to enable her to proceed to her place of destination. If the damage sustained justifies the necessity of her having entered a prohibited course, the Commanders of His Majesty's ships are authorised to succour her and afford her every assistance in their power, in order that she may leave the coast as speedily as possible.

The said Commanders shall transmit to the Minister of the Marine and of the Colonies a detailed report, concerning the circumstances of absolute necessity that may have compelled a ship to make for a prohibited coast; and they shall annex to such report copies of the vouchers.

Article 5.—Every owner and Captain engaged in this trade, on such tracts of the coast where it is allowed, shall, at the moment of leaving the coast, in order to proceed to the French colonies in America, draw up an account, stating the number, the sex, and the age of the negroes on board his vessel, and the latitude in which the said trade shall have been carried on. Such papers to be signed by the Captains, Supercargoes and Masters.

Article 6.—Two of His Majesty's ships shall cruise on the coast of Africa, in order to ensure the execution of the King's directions.

Article 7.—All vessels carrying on the Slave Trade within the prohibited limits, on being met by His Majesty's ships, shall be detained and carried into Senegal.

The Commanders of these ships shall, with regard to such vessels, proceed according to the regulations which are acted upon respecting prizes in time of war.

Article 8.—Such negroes as may be found on board the captured vessels shall immediately be landed, and the Governor of Senegal shall provide for their being lodged, subsisted, and furnished with necessaries.

Article 9.—The formal proceedings, respecting the prize and its adjudication, shall be under the direction of a Commission formed at Senegal, and which shall govern itself by the regulations observed in time of war relative to maritime prizes; it shall be composed of the King's Governor of Senegal and of two superior civil officers; and one of the principal clerks shall act as Secretary.

Article 10.—Immediately after the decision of the Commission, the captured vessels shall be sent back to some French port in Europe, carrying with them all the documents of their adjudication; the merchandizes and effects shall remain on board, except those whose preservation may require them to be landed.

The Governor of Senegal and the Commander of the capturing vessel, shall, in concert, appoint a Conductor of the prize.

The said prize shall be given in charge to the Administration of the Marine in the port to which she shall have been carried.

Article 11.—There shall be formed at Paris a superior Commission for the purpose of pronouncing judgment, in the last resort, in case of appeal, upon prizes made, according to the 4th and 5th Articles, on the coast of Africa. It shall be composed of two Councillors of State, two Maitres-des-Reqûtes, two General or superior Officers of the Marine, and of four Officers of the Administration of the Marine, one of whom shall act as the King's Attorney, and another as Secretary.

Article 12.—It shall be lawful for the parties concerned to appeal to this superior Commission from the adjudications made by that at Senegal.

Article 13.—The vessels definitively condemned, as well as the merchandizes and effects found on board, shall be sold through the agency of the Administration of the Marine, established in the port into which they shall have been carried, and the proceeds of them shall be paid over to the fund of invalid sailors of the marine, deducting therefrom the expences caused by

the detention and the guarding of those vessels, as well as by the subsistence of the negroes and by supplying them with necessaries.

Article 14.—In case, pursuant to the decisions of the Commission in Senegal and of the superior Commission, the negroes found on board the captured vessels are not to be restored to the owners; the Governor of Senegal shall employ them as cultivators and free labourers, unless they should prefer returning to their country.

Article 15.—It is particularly recommended to the owners and captains of slave-ships to treat the negroes with lenity, to procure for them wholesome and abundant food, and to employ in their preservation all the care prescribed by humanity; but, above all, to embark on board each vessel only such a number of Slaves as she can hold without prejudice to their health.

The Governors and Intendants of Our settlements in America shall cause the negro vessels, on their arrival in Our colonies, to be inspected, and shall report to the Minister and Secretary of State for the Marine the names of such owners as shall not have punctually fulfilled the benevolent intentions of the King.

(Signed)

FERRAND.

(Third Inclosure in No. 23.)

Memoir des Amendemens proposés au Règlement sur la Traite des Nègres.

Dans l'article premier changez les mots *des Palmes à Formoso* : dans l'article trois changez les mots *des Palmes* dans la quatrième ligne à *Formoso*, et après les mots *des Palmes* dans la dixième ligne, ajoutez les mots *ou à dix lieux au large des Côtes situées entre le cap des Palmes et le Cap Formosa* ayant des Nègres à bord.

Paris, Décembre 15, 1814.

(Third Inclosure, No. 23.)—Translation.

Minute of the Amendments proposed in the Regulation upon the Slave Trade.

In the first Article change the word *Palma* to *Formosa*. In the third Article change the words *Palma*, in the fourth line, to *Formosa*; and after the word *Palma*, in the tenth line, add the words, *or to ten leagues on the high seas from the coast lying between Cape Palma and Cape Formosa*, having Negroes on board.

Paris, December 15, 1815.

(Fourth Inclosure in No. 23.)

Memoir sur les Amendemens proposés à S. E. le Ministre de la Marine à faire au règlement sur la Traite des Nègres.

Le règlement a pour objet de mettre en exécution les ordres déjà donnés par Sa Majesté pour décourager la Traite des Nègres et la prohiber dans les parages où elle a effectivement cessé.

Si l'amendement proposé n'est pas fait à l'Art. premier il y aura un changement dans les ordres de Sa Majesté, et S. M. permettra la traite dans les pa-

ragss où elle a cessé. D'ailleurs s'avantage de la prohibition de faire la traite entre le Cap Blanc et le Cap des Palmes seroit infiniment diminuée par la facilité que trouveroient les commerçans en esclaves d'acheter sur la côte entre le Cap des Palmes et le Cap Formoso, les nègres qui seroient pris dans les pays entre le Cap des Palmes et le Cap Blanc. Le changement proposé à l'Art. trois donnera la securité qui est désiré à l'exécution des ordres de S. M. et en même tems facilitera la navigation et le commerce de Ses sujets sur les côtes à l'Est et au Sud de Cap Formoso.

Paris, Decembre 15th, 1814.

(Fourth Inclosure in No. 23.)—Translation.

Minute of the Amendments proposed to His Excellency the Minister of Marine respecting the regulation on the Slave Trade.

The object of the regulation is to carry into effect the orders already issued by His Majesty to discourage the Trade in Negroes, and to prohibit it in those limits where it has actually ceased.

If the proposed amendment is not made in the first Article, there will be an alteration in His Majesty's orders, and His Majesty will allow the trade in districts where it has ceased. Besides, the advantage arising from the prohibition to carry on the trade between Cape Blanc and Cape Palma would be infinitely lessened, by the facility which the dealers in slaves would find to make purchases along the coast between Cape Palma and Cape Formosa of negroes, taken in the country between Cape Palma and Cape Blanc.

The alteration proposed in the third Article would give the desired security for executing His Majesty's orders, and at the same time would afford facilities to the navigation and commerce of His subjects on the coasts to the East and South of Cape Formosa.

Paris, December 15th, 1814.

SPAIN

No. 24.

Extract.

Madrid, June 17, 1814.

I have thought that your Lordship would approve of the insertion of the inclosed Article, for prohibiting His Catholic Majesty's subjects from engaging in the Slave Trade. I cannot, however, flatter myself that this Article will be agreed to, for none of the considerations which have determined other nations to abandon the Slave Trade have sufficient weight with the Spanish Government to induce them to relinquish a traffic, which they consider to be essential to the very existence of their colonies.

(Signed)

HENRY WELLESLEY.

*Viscount Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.*

(Inclosure in No. 24.)

Projet of an Article to be introduced into the Treaty between Great Britain and Spain, inclosed in Sir H. Wellesley's Dispatch to Lord Castlereagh, dated June 17, 1814.

His Catholic Majesty engages to prohibit the importation of slaves into His colonies, and to take effectual means, in order to prevent His subjects from engaging in the traffic of Negroes.

No. 25.

MY LORD,

Madrid, July 6, 1814.

In my Dispatch of the 17th ult. I stated my apprehension that it would not be possible to prevail upon the Spanish Government to consent to the Article for the abolition of the Slave Trade as it stands in the projet transmitted to your Lordship. During the progress of the negotiation, I read in the English newspapers the observations which were made in Parliament upon the Article relative to the Slave Trade, contained in the Treaty of Peace with France; and although I had before failed in my efforts to prevail upon the Duke of San Carlos to admit the Article, as it stood in the projet, I again pointed out to him the little hope there was, that any Treaty would be viewed with satisfaction in England, which did not provide for the abolition of a traffic which was held in such detestation by the British nation.

These representations however produced little or no effect upon the Spanish Government. The Duke of San Carlos lamented that there should be any impediment to the King's taking an active part in a measure which was viewed with so much interest in England; he observed, however, that in the British colonies at the time of the abolition, and for a number of years preceding it, there was a proportion of twenty Negroes to one European, that our colonies therefore were not exposed to any immediate inconvenience, by being compelled to relinquish this traffic, but that even with these advantages, which were possessed by no other state, the British legislature had been twenty years employed in effecting the abolition; and that Spain, with a proportion of not more than one Negro to one European, as appeared by the last returns from the West Indies, was required, without a moment's deliberation, to sign away what constituted the very existence of her colonies.

Finding that the objections entertained by the Spanish Government to pledging themselves to the abolition, were not to be overcome, I endeavoured to frame an Article which should express the King's participation in the sentiments of the British Government, with respect to the injustice and inhumanity of this traffic; and which should bind His Catholic Majesty not to allow His subjects to engage in it, for the purpose of supplying any other islands or possessions than those appertaining to Spain, nor to suffer the protection of the Spanish flag to be given to foreigners engaged in it.

The acquiescence of the Spanish Government to the Article was obtained with great difficulty, after it had undergone some alteration, but thinking it advisable that it should be submitted to the consideration of His Majesty's Government, previously to being inserted in the Treaty, I agreed with the Duke of San Carlos, that this and the Article for preventing His Majesty's subjects from supplying the Revolted in America with warlike stores, should be transmitted to your Lordship, and if approved, should be added to the Treaty as separate Articles.

Should the inclosed Article relative to the Slave Trade be deemed unsatisfactory, I trust that the other advantages of the Treaty will not on that

account be viewed in a less favourable light by his Majesty's Government. The opinion that the abolition of this traffic would endanger the existence of the Spanish colonies is not confined to the Government. It is true that a motion was made in the Cortes by M. Arguelles, in favour of its relinquishment, but upon the representation of the deputies from the Havannah, of the serious consequences with which it would be attended, the subject appears to have been dropped, at least it was never revived in that assembly.

(Signed)

HENRY WELLESLEY.

*Viscount Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.*

(Inclosure in No. 25.)

Extract from the Treaty between Great Britain and Spain, signed at Madrid July 5, 1814.

First Separate Article.

His Catholic Majesty, concurring in the fullest manner in the sentiments of His Britannic Majesty, with respect to the injustice and inhumanity of the traffic in slaves, will take into consideration, with the deliberation which the state of his possessions in America demands, the means of acting in conformity with those sentiments.

His Catholic Majesty promises, moreover, to prohibit His subjects from engaging in the Slave Trade, for the purpose of supplying any islands or possessions, excepting those appertaining to Spain, and to prevent likewise, by effectual measures and regulations, the protection of the Spanish flag being given to foreigners who may engage in this traffic, whether subjects of His Britannic Majesty or of any other state or power.

No. 26.

SIR,

Foreign Office, July 15, 1814.

I herewith transmit to you, by the express commands of the Prince Regent, a Copy of the Official Note which I addressed, when at Paris, to the respective Ministers of the Emperors of Austria, Russia, and of the King of Prussia,* urging the expediency of those Sovereigns employing their best endeavours at the ensuing Congress towards effecting a complete abolition of the traffic in slaves.

His Royal Highness will never consider the great work of the restoration of Peace, as completely and satisfactorily accomplished, until this object also shall have been brought about.

The return of the two great families of the House of Bourbon to their legitimate thrones, and the approaching return of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal to His European dominions, appear to His Royal Highness to present the most favourable concurrence of circumstances for securing from the hands of regenerated Europe the blessings of personal freedom and exemption from exile, for the unfortunate inhabitants of Africa: and His Royal Highness confidently hopes that His Catholic Majesty will willingly lend the influence of His name and character, in aid of an arrangement which will reflect the most distinguished honour on all who shall assist in accomplishing this work, and even on the age in which we live.

The experience of eight years which have elapsed since the total abolition of the Slave Trade, as far as British interests are concerned, by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, has afforded ample conviction that the cultiva-

* See No. 3.

tion of the West India settlements has not suffered from the cessation of the usual supplies of African labour. These colonies continue in a flourishing condition, and since there have been no new importations of slaves, the treatment of those already possessed has been ameliorated, and the lights of religion and civilization have been spread amongst them.

I am therefore commanded by the Prince Regent to instruct your Excellency to lay these observations immediately before the Government of His Catholic Majesty, and that you will urge them to lose no time in taking this important subject into their serious consideration, and to give forthwith, to the Spanish Plenipotentiary to the Congress, directions to concert with his Majesty's Plenipotentiary the most eligible mode of bringing forward and carrying into effect such prompt and decisive regulations as may be best calculated to attain this beneficent purpose.

I inclose to your Excellency, for your guidance in the execution of these instructions, copies of the several Addresses of the Houses of Lords and Commons to the Prince Regent,—(See 1st Inclosure in No. 12)—and of His Royal Highness's most gracious answer: you will gather from these documents how warmly the British nation feels upon the subject, and how unanimous all ranks and parties are become, in pressing the Executive Government to urge upon the other States of Europe the adoption of some early and decisive measure of abolition.

I add also copies of the replies—(See Nos. 4, 5, and 6)—which I have received from the Austrian, Russian, and Prussian Ministers, to the Note mentioned in the early part of this dispatch, from which you will learn how readily those Sovereigns have acceded to His Royal Highness's proposition, and how convinced they feel of the impolicy and inhumanity of the Slave Trade.

Of the horrors attendant on the details of this trade, and of the disgusting cruelties which mark every stage of the traffic, even in its most improved form, I need say nothing. Enough has already been written and said upon that subject to furnish your Excellency with sufficient data to bring the question home to the conscience and to the heart of His Catholic Majesty and the whole Spanish nation.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH.

*His Excellency Sir Henry Wellesley,
&c. &c. &c.*

No. 27.

SIR,

Foreign Office, July 30th, 1814.

The questions treated of in your Excellency's dispatches are so intimately blended in the view of the British Government, that I consider they can best be treated of together.

And first, as to the principle of any loan to be contracted for, under the guarantee of the British Parliament, for the service of Spain, your Excellency well knows, that since the period of the Austrian loan, all such transactions are viewed, in this country, in no other light than as a subsidy, granted under a less generous name. You must also be aware that such advances to Foreign Powers, after the return of peace, would meet with the greatest resistance; but I am bound to declare to your Excellency, that in the present temper of Parliament and of the nation on the subject of the Slave Trade, any attempt on the part of the Prince Regent's Ministers to pro-

vail on Parliament to raise a loan, for a State continuing to carry on a traffic in slaves, would be utterly vain and hopeless. I am bound also to represent to your Excellency, that the same considerations impose on Ministers the utmost reserve, in making any extraordinary pecuniary advances, without having some substantial acts, on the part of Spain, in furtherance of the humane and disinterested policy which the British nation has prescribed to itself upon this subject, to bring forward as their justification. Your Excellency's dispatch, does not specify the proportion of the subsidy for the current year that remains unissued. You will order an account of this nature to be prepared, including the 100,000*l.* and, in framing the same, you will give Spain credit for two months subsidy from the signature of the peace, viz. from the 30th of May, a similar advance having been assigned to Austria and Prussia for the return of their troops.

Beyond this extent of advance I cannot authorise your Excellency to go, unless you can bring the Spanish Government more nearly to a common system of policy, on the important subject of the Slave Trade. His Majesty's Ministers do not object to your Excellency's executing the two additional Articles; as they are willing to accept from a Foreign Power the smallest concession to the principle they have in view. I inclose the article on the subject of the Slave Trade, as agreed upon with France.—(See No. 8.)—As our discussions on these subjects were principally conducted in the repeated conferences held with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, your Excellency will find the topics very generally noticed in the notes which passed. You will perceive, however, that we are entitled to expect that the French Government, in fixing five years for the extreme period of the endurance of this commerce, will, in the mean time, adopt a restrictive system in the mode of carrying it on, and I have every reason to hope that they will consent to prohibit their subjects from purchasing slaves in any African ports northward of the Line.

To preserve the north-western coast of Africa from a renewal of this evil, is an object which the British Government has most deeply at heart, and to which your Excellency will direct your utmost exertions. The arguments for this concession are obvious and unanswerable; and as the coast in question has, during the war, been nearly exempt from the visits of the trader in slaves, your Excellency will have the means of satisfying the Spanish Government, that in adopting this regulation they sacrifice little, or rather nothing, whilst they render a great service to the cause of humanity, by preserving, at least to a portion of Africa, the prospects of civilization. In order, however, to prevent evasion, and to render such a provision effectual, it will be necessary to render ships, found with slaves to the north of Cape Lopez, liable to confiscation, if found within a certain distance of the shore. Without this check the traders in slaves will illicitly receive them on board along the whole line of the coast; whereas a ship, that has received a cargo to the southward of the Line, when navigating to the West Indies or South America, need not, and cannot if she would, return to the northward, at least not till she has proceeded considerably to the westward.

The other point to which it is the Prince Regent's pleasure that your Excellency's utmost exertions should be directed, is, to induce the Government of Spain to name some fixed period for absolute abolition. Should your Excellency prevail on them immediately to prohibit the trade on the African coast, north of the Line, and to adopt the same engagement France has taken for the final abolition at the end of five years, you will, in that case, consider yourself as authorized to engage that the full subsidy for the remainder of the year shall be advanced, the payments on account of which, if not anticipated, will amount to above 800,000*l.*, viz. from the 1st of August to the 1st of January. In the event of Spain adopting thus far the principle of abolition, although a measure of this limited nature would not justify an application to Parliament to guarantee the proposed loan of ten millions of

dollars, yet so far as the British Government could, without such guarantee, countenance a loan in this country upon such security as Spain may have to offer, they would be prepared to do so; but it is fair to apprise your Excellency, that it is the opinion of those most conversant with such subjects, that an attempt of this nature would prove abortive.

The result of the above reasoning is, that your Excellency is authorized, 1st, To complete the payments on account of the subsidy to the 1st of August, at the rate of 2,000,000l. for the year, from the 1st of January last, To assist in calculating the same, you will receive an account of the value of stores, cloathing, arms, &c. supplied from hence for the service of Spain within the said period. 2dly, You may promise the further instalments of subsidy for the remainder of the year, upon condition that Spain will engage to abolish the trade at the end of five years, confining it in the mean time to the coast to the south of the Line, and agreeing to a common system for reciprocally enforcing the same. 3dly, In the event of Spain forthwith abolishing altogether this trade, you may assure the Court of Madrid, that the Government will, in return, feel themselves justified in proposing to Parliament to raise the proposed loan of ten millions of dollars, upon the joint credit of the two States, for the service of His Catholic Majesty. I have only further to represent to your Excellency, the extreme importance, I might add, the necessity of Spain adopting a liberal system of Government, both at home and abroad, if she wishes to strengthen sufficiently the hands of Ministers here, to enable them to afford her the aid above pointed out. A continuation of the present internal system in Spain, or the adoption of measures, restrictive of commercial intercourse, would inevitably disqualify the Prince Regent's confidential servants from fulfilling the wishes of the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH

His Excellency Sir Henry Wellesley,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 28.

SIR,

Foreign Office, August 4, 1814.

I am directed, by Viscount Castlereagh, to forward to your Excellency the inclosed Map of Africa, containing certain *Memoranda*, illustrative of the Slave Trade, as abandoned by other Powers, and as now carried on by the Portuguese.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

WM. HAMILTON.

H. E. Sir Henry Wellesley, K. B.

No. 29.

MY LORD,

Madrid, August 25, 1814.

Your Lordship's Dispatches were delivered to me by Mr. Dawkins on the 17th instant.

After an attentive perusal of them, I took an early opportunity of seeing the Duke of San Carlos, and I pointed out to him the hopelessness in the present temper of Parliament, and of the nation on the subject of the Slave Trade, of any attempt on the part of the Prince Regent's Ministers, to prevail on Parliament to raise a loan for a State continuing to carry on a traffic in slaves. I likewise represented to the Duke of San Carlos, that the same considerations would impose upon His Majesty's Government the necessity of abstaining from any extraordinary pecuniary advances, unless the Spanish Government could be brought more nearly to a common system with Great Britain upon this subject.

I then stated that His Majesty's Government would be willing to continue to Spain the subsidy for the remainder of the present year, and to propose to Parliament to raise a loan of ten millions of dollars, upon the joint credit of the two States, for the service of his Catholic Majesty, upon the following conditions:

1st. That Spain should immediately abolish the Slave Trade.

2dly, That the commercial intercourse between the two nations should be placed upon a liberal footing; and that, until a treaty of commerce could be arranged, Great Britain should be admitted to trade with Spain upon the footing of the most favoured nation, and that an Article to this effect should be inserted in the Treaty signed at Madrid on the 6th of July.

I added, that in order to enable Ministers to afford Spain the aid which she required, the adoption of a more liberal system of government both at home and abroad was absolutely necessary.

In the course of our conversation upon this subject, I made use of the arguments stated in your Lordship's dispatches, in favour of the abolition of the traffic in slaves, I assured the Duke of San Carlos, that the efforts of nearly all the Powers whose interests would be discussed at the approaching Congress, would be exerted in order to put an end to this trade.

I have the honour, to be, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY WELLESLEY.

Viscount Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 30.

MY LORD,

Madrid, August 25, 1814.

Inclosed is the copy of a note, which I have addressed to the Duke of San Carlos, in which I have stated to him the conditions upon which the Ministers of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent would feel themselves justified in proposing to Parliament to raise a loan for the service of Spain, and in completing the payments of the subsidy for the remainder of the year 1814.

(Signed)

HENRY WELLESLEY.

Viscount Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.

(Inclosure in No. 30.)

Madrid, August 21, 1814

The undersigned; His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, having forwarded to His Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, a copy of the Duke of San Carlos's note to him of the 6th July, has been directed to make the following reply to it:

The undersigned has, in the first place, to remind the Duke of San Carlos, of his having repeatedly stated to him, that the raising a loan in England for the service of Spain, would be attended with the greatest difficulties. Such advances to Foreign Powers after the return of peace would meet with the greatest resistance; but in the present temper of Parliament and of the Nation on the subject of the Slave Trade, any attempt on the part of the Prince Regent's Ministers to prevail on Parliament to raise a loan for a State continuing to carry on a traffic in slaves would be utterly vain and hopeless.

The same considerations would impose on His Majesty's Government the utmost reserve in making any extraordinary pecuniary advances without some substantial acts on the part of Spain, in furtherance of the humane and disinterested policy which the British nation has prescribed to itself upon this subject, to bring forward as its justification.

The undersigned is, therefore, directed to state to the Duke of San Carlos, that, in the event of Spain forthwith abolishing this trade, His Majesty's Government will feel itself justified in completing the payment of the subsidy for the remainder of the year; and in proposing to Parliament to raise a loan of ten millions of dollars upon the joint credit of the two States for the service of his Catholic Majesty.

Should the Spanish Government object to the measure of immediate abolition, it will be impossible for the Prince Regent's Ministers to make any application to Parliament with a view to the proposed loan of ten millions of dollars. But the British Government would still be willing to grant the subsidy for the remainder of the year, upon condition that Spain will engage to abolish the trade at the end of five years, confining it in the mean time to the coast of Africa to the south of the Line, and agreeing to a common system for reciprocally enforcing this restriction.

It appears upon the most accurate inquiry that the Spanish Slave Trade labours under all the disadvantages of being a smuggling trade. The vessels bearing the Spanish flag are found to be Americans or British in disguise, chiefly the former. They have been seized whenever met with, and they have in no instance been successfully reclaimed. Before the abolition by Great Britain there was literally no Spanish Slave Trade; no Spanish ship had been seen on the coast of Africa for a century, excepting one in 1797 or 1798, fitted out by the Prince of Peace. By the stipulation already agreed upon with Great Britain, the Spanish Government is bound to prevent, by effectual regulations, the protection of the Spanish flag from being given to foreigners engaged in this traffic; and as the coast to the northward of the Line has, during the war, been nearly exempt from the visits of the traders in slaves, the Spanish Government, in agreeing to confine the trade to the southward of the Line, would sacrifice little, while it would render a service to the cause of humanity, by preserving, at least to a portion of Africa, the prospects of civilization.

In order, however, to prevent evasion, and to render such a provision effectual, it will be necessary to render ships, found with slaves on board to the north of Cape Lopez, liable to confiscation, if found within a certain distance of the shore. Without this check the traders in slaves will illicitly receive them on board along the whole line of the coast, whereas a ship that

has received a cargo to the southward of the Line, when navigating to the West Indies or South America, need not, and cannot if she would, return to the northward, at least until she has proceeded considerably to the westward.

The official communications which passed between Lord Castlereagh and the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, entitle the British Government to expect that the Government of France, in fixing five years as the extreme period for the continuance of this commerce, will, in the mean time, adopt a restrictive system in the mode of carrying it on : and there is every reason to hope that His Most Christian Majesty will consent to prohibit His subjects from purchasing slaves in any of the African ports to the northward of the Line.

In treating of this subject, the undersigned has not made any appeal to the feelings of humanity which could naturally influence the decision of His Catholic Majesty.

The return of the two great families of Bourbon to their legitimate Thrones, and the approaching return of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal to His European dominions, seem to present the most favourable circumstances for securing, from the Powers of Europe, the blessings of personal freedom and exemption from exile, for the unfortunate inhabitants of Africa: and His Royal Highness the Prince Regent confidently hopes that His Catholic Majesty will lend the influence of His name and character in aid of a measure which will reflect the most distinguished honour on all who shall assist in accomplishing it.

The Emperors of Austria and of Russia, and the King of Prussia, concur in the fullest manner in the sentiments of the Prince Regent, with respect to the impolicy and inhumanity of the Slave Trade; and have promised to unite their influence to that of His Royal Highness in order to obtain its complete abolition at the approaching Congress.

(Signed)

H. WELLESLEY.

*His Excellency the Duke of San Carlos,
&c. &c. &c.*

No. 31.

Extract.

Madrid, August 31, 1814.

I am concerned to state, that it has not been possible to obtain from the Spanish Government, any further concession with a view to the abolition of the Slave Trade. In the present distressed state of the finances of the kingdom, the motives must have been very powerful which could have determined the Government to reject the liberal pecuniary offers which I was authorized to make to them upon condition of their abandoning this Trade.

The abolition is vehemently opposed by all those who have any connection with South America, or with the Spanish West India Islands; and the Government is apprehensive of the effect which it would produce in the colonies, particularly at the Havannah, where public opinion is in a very unsettled state.

Independently of the value attached to the Island of Cuba by the Spaniards, it is considered to be of the utmost importance to maintain the King's authority at the Havannah, on account of its vicinity to Mexico, and its being the principal point of communication between that valuable possession and the Mother Country.

From all the information which has reached me, I am induced to believe, that the number of negroes imported into the Spanish Settlements, for many

years back, have not exceeded two thousand annually; and these supplies have been furnished by foreigners trading in Spanish bottoms. If this statement be correct, little more would be required than that the stipulations in the article as it now stands should be strictly enforced.

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY.

*Viscount Castlereagh,
 &c. &c. &c.*

No. 32.

SIR,

Foreign Office, September 9, 1814.

Your Excellency's dispatches of the 25th ultimo have been received and laid before the Prince Regent.

From the tenor of your communication of that date, respecting the spirit in which the Spanish Government is likely to accept your proposals for the immediate abolition of the Slave Trade, in return for certain pecuniary advantages which we might be able to afford them, I am led, with regret, to believe they are not likely to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

The claim which they may possibly bring forward, in reply to your note of the 20th of August, namely, that we should continue the subsidy for the current year, and guarantee the loan of ten millions, in consideration of the eventual abolition of the Slave Trade after five years, and the immediate abolition of it north of the Line, is totally inadmissible on our part, and you need not hesitate to give them a positive declaration to that effect.

You will, at the same time, inform the Spanish Government, that you are still ready to agree to an arrangement upon the principle stated in Lord Castlereagh's dispatch No. 27, and you will urge the advantage of their acceding to this arrangement, before the question shall have been brought under the consideration of the Congress at Vienna.

Although the Austrian, Russian, and Prussian Governments, are not in possession of any colonies, yet they are not without the means of materially influencing this question, by an agreement that they will admit of the importation of colonial produce into their dominions from such countries only as have consented to the abolition of the Slave Trade.

Such a stipulation could not justly give offence to any independent Power, and it might operate more prejudicially to the colonial and commercial interests of Spain than the abolition of the Slave Trade.

(Signed)

BATHURST.

Sir H. Wellesley, K. B.

No. 33.

MY LORD,

Madrid, September 20, 1814.

I have the honour to inclose a translation of a note which I have received from the Duke of San Carlos, and which I believe is intended as a reply to mine of the 20th of August, inclosed in my Dispatch of the 25th of August, of this year, relative to the Slave Trade.

The Duke of San Carlos states, that His Catholic Majesty has given unequivocal proofs of His desire to strengthen His relations of amity with Great Britain, but that a compliance with the proposal of the British Government for the abolition of the traffic in slaves would give additional cause for discontent in Spanish America; at a moment when His Majesty is using His

utmost endeavours to re-establish the tranquillity of His possessions in that quarter. These considerations had compelled the King to decline the pecuniary succours offered by Great Britain, although so much required at the present moment, but that His Majesty trusted that the article of the Treaty, which relates to the Slave Trade will convince the British Government of His disposition to put an end to that traffic as soon as circumstances would admit of it.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

H. WELLESLEY.

To Lord Viscount Castlereagh, K. G.
&c. &c. &c.

(Inclosure in No. 33.)

SIR,

Madrid, August 31, 1814.

His Britannic Majesty has already had fresh proofs of the desire of the King, my Master, to draw closer, by every possible means, His relations of friendship with Great Britain, but the measure which your Excellency proposes, relative to the Slave Trade, would produce a bad effect in Spanish America, and would augment the discontent which prevails there, at a moment when we are about to employ all possible means for the re-establishment of tranquillity in that country. This consideration has so much weight with His Majesty, that He has thought it impossible to come to any resolution upon the subject at present, notwithstanding the pecuniary aid offered by Great Britain, and depending upon this question, and under circumstances even which renders that aid very opportune. His Britannic Majesty cannot doubt, however, of the dispositions of His Catholic Majesty, expressed in the article of the Treaty which relates to this matter, and about which His Majesty will occupy Himself with due reflection, as soon as ever circumstances will admit of it.

England, on her part, cannot do less than give to Spain equal proofs of frankness and friendship. No proof can be more proper, at this moment, than the advance of the subsidy for the remainder of the year; for, moreover, that this request is not extraordinary, when all circumstances are taken into consideration, the subsidy having been authorised, it will certainly be an additional motive for increased confidence on the part of the nation, in England, and therefore most satisfactory.

I am, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

DUKE OF SAN CARLOS.

To his Excellency the British
Ambassador, &c. &c. &c.

No. 34.

MY LORD,

Madrid, October 23, 1814.

Having failed in my endeavours to prevail upon the Spanish Government to consent to either of the propositions which I was instructed to make to them relative to the Slave Trade, I begged of the Duke of San Carlos to ascertain whether His Catholic Majesty could be induced to make any further concessions, with a view to the abolition of this traffic, than those contained in the Treaty, and I have now the honour to inclose a note which I received from him, just as I was about to dispatch the messenger. The note, how-

ever, requires some explanation. I understand the Duke of San Carlos to mean, that the trade shall instantly be abolished upon the coast to the southward of the Line, and upon the coast to the northward of the 10th degree north of the Line, and shall be confined exclusively to the coast of Guinea, where it is finally to be abolished at the end of eight years.

The period which the Spanish Government first had fixed for the final abolition was ten years, and although I used every endeavour to prevail upon them to reduce it to five years, they would only be brought to consent that the traffic should cease entirely at the end of eight years.

I have taken care not to hold out any expectations that the concessions now proffered by the Spanish Government, in addition to those contained in the treaty, would be considered by His Majesty's Government of sufficient importance to justify the grant of the subsidy for the remainder of the year.

I take the liberty of requesting that I may be favoured with the determination of Government without delay.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

H. WELLESLEY.

Lord Viscount Castlereagh, K.G.

&c. &c. &c.

(Inclosure in No. 34.)

Sir,

Palace, 22d October, 1814.

In the second Additional Article of the Treaty of Friendship and Alliance with His Britannic Majesty, the King, my master, promises to take into consideration, with the deliberation which is necessary, the means of putting an end to the Slave Trade, consistently with the necessities of His possessions in America. Faithful to His promises, as He has always been, and moreover induced by that desire inseparable from his own principles, to accede to those of His Britannic Majesty, as far as His duty permits, His Majesty chooses to give an illustrious proof of this truth; a proof which must convince every body that the King, my Master, if He is great by His virtues, is not less so by the manner in which He exercises them with respect to His friend and ally, Great Britain.

As soon, therefore, as the discussion relative to the abolition of the Slave Trade began, which your Excellency urged by repeated solicitations, he employed Himself in the examination of this business, listening to the opinion of learned and zealous persons, that He might proceed with the wisdom it required.

I should not do justice to your Excellency's penetration, if I detained you at present by pointing out that the nature of the subject is in itself so delicate, that it required a deliberate and careful examination. Your Excellency's good faith cannot do less than to acknowledge this; and to confess at the same time, that the offer of His Majesty is the greatest which He can make.

It is reduced to this; that the Slave Trade shall continue for eight years, after which it shall cease entirely, and that during this period it shall be confined strictly from the Line to the tenth degree north of it.

This promise on the part of His Majesty, whilst it does honour to his generous and noble manner of proceeding, will excite the praise of Great Britain to which without doubt it has a claim.

As in your Excellency's note on this subject, you also mentioned the favourable disposition of the Government of His Britannic Majesty towards continuing the subsidy, and facilitating the pecuniary assistance of which Spain is at present in need, it appears beyond all doubt that She may reckon upon it immediately. His Majesty having acceded to the desire of His Britannic

Majesty on a point of so much interest, I trust, therefore, that your Excellency will think proper to give me a decisive answer to the one and the other proposal.

I avail myself, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) DUKE OF SAN CARLOS.

The English Ambassador.

No. 35.

SIR,

Foreign-Office, November 11, 1814.

Your Excellency's dispatches to the 25th ultimo inclusive have been received, and laid before His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

In reference to the note received by your Excellency from the Duke of San Carlos, transmitted in your dispatch of the 23d of October, proposing to abolish the Slave Trade entirely, at the end of eight years, and in the mean time to confine the traffic from the line to the tenth degree north of it, I have to inform your Excellency that such a limitation would be in no way satisfactory to this Government, or to the British nation, as such a line of demarkation would include that part of the coast of Africa on which the Slave Trade has ceased for several years, and on which it is the earnest desire of His Majesty's Government that it should be immediately and entirely abolished; I cannot, therefore, in any way authorise your Excellency to hold out to the Government of His Catholic Majesty any expectation whatever that a regulation of the traffic in Slaves, in the manner proposed, will entitle them to receive from His Majesty's Government any further assistance than what you are already instructed to furnish. I am, &c.

(Signed)

BATHURST.

Sir Henry Wellesley, K. B.

No. 36.

MY LORD,

Madrid, January 26, 1815.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's dispatch, dated Vienna, January 2, and inclosing a copy of a note addressed by your Lordship to the Chevalier de Labrador, on the subject of the Slave Trade.* Your Lordship desires likewise to be informed of the situation of my negotiations and engagements with the Spanish Government on the subject.

The last proposal of the Spanish Government, relative to the abolition of the Slave Trade, is contained in a note from the Duke de San Carlos to me, under date of the 22d of October.—In this note the Spanish Government proposes to confine the trade to the coast of Guinea, and immediately to abolish it north and south of that coast, and to abolish it entirely at the expiration of eight years.

I transmitted a copy of this note for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, and upon the receipt of Lord Bathurst's reply, declining the proposal contained in it, I renewed my discussions with the Duke of San Carlos, who soon afterwards resigned his office, and was succeeded by M. de Cevallos.

Since the appointment of M. de Cevallos I have had frequent conversations with him upon the subject of the Slave Trade; but I cannot flatter myself that there is any disposition in the Spanish Government to do more than is proposed in the Duke of San Carlos's note. They urge, that His Catholic Majesty, anxious to conform Himself to the wishes of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, has already made great concessions, and that He cannot go beyond His last proposition, without endangering the safety of the Island of Cuba; for that to abolish the trade upon the coast of Guinea would probably occasion an insurrection in that island.

* See 2d and 3d Inclosures in No. 41.

Immediately upon receipt of your Lordship's dispatch I addressed a note to the Minister of State, of which a copy is inclosed, transmitting to him likewise a copy of your Lordship's note to the Chevalier de Labrador.—I have likewise had a conference with him, in which I used my best endeavours to prevail upon him to send instructions to the Chevalier de Labrador, conformable to your Lordship's suggestions. I urged the example of the King of France, Who, since the Treaty of Paris, had consented to the immediate abolition of the Slave Trade between Cape Formosa and Cape Blanco. I likewise adverted to the promises of the Court of Portugal, as noticed in your Lordship's note to M. Labrador.

M. de Cevallos said, that the example of the French Government ought not to be urged on the present occasion, for that the situation of the French and Spanish colonies would not bear any comparison.

That France, at the conclusion of the war, had received her colonies from Great Britain in a state of the highest prosperity, when the Slave Trade had been abolished in them for several years, and when a new system had grown up which rendered any further importation of negroes unnecessary.—But this was by no means the case with Spain. The attention of her Government had been entirely occupied by the arduous war in which the nation had been engaged, in defence of its independence, and they had neither had time to attend to the wants of their colonies, nor the means of supplying them.—That accordingly representations were perpetually received from the West Indies, particularly from the Havannah, of the injury sustained in consequence of the great scarcity of negroes: that he trusted these considerations would have their due weight with the British Government, and that they would do justice to the sincere desire of His Catholic Majesty to abolish this traffic as soon as it could be done with safety to His colonies. He concluded by saying, that he would submit your Lordship's note to M. Labrador to the King in Council, and that he would appoint an early day for seeing me again.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY WELLESLEY.

To Viscount Castlereagh, K. G.

&c. &c. &c.

(Inclosure in No. 36.)

Madrid, January 20, 1815.

The undersigned Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Britannic Majesty, has the honour to inclose to his Excellency Don Pedro de Cevallos a copy of a note, addressed by Lord Castlereagh to the Chevalier de Labrador, on the subject of the Slave Trade.

His Excellency Don Pedro de Cevallos will perceive, from this note, that since the Treaty of Paris the Government of France has altogether prohibited the trade in Slaves to the north of Cape Formosa, and that with the same beneficent view Portugal has declared her intention of entering into an arrangement for its immediate abolition north of the Line.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent persuades himself that His Catholic Majesty will not refuse to join himself to the other Powers, for the benevolent purpose of protecting this portion of Africa from the revival of the horrors of a traffic which has for some years entirely ceased, and which has been succeeded by a legitimate commerce with the natives in the production of the country. His Royal Highness has the less hesitation in urging His Catholic Majesty to the adoption of this measure, because, as is stated by Lord Castlereagh, "the coasts south of the Equator, are more than equal to meet any demands the subjects of the Crown of Spain have been in the habit of making upon the population of Africa."

The Prince Regent has therefore commanded the undersigned to renew, in the most urgent manner, his representations to the Spanish Government

upon this subject, in the anxious hope that His Catholic Majesty will be induced to send immediate instructions to his Plenipotentiary at the Congress, conformably to the principles laid down in the inclosed note.

The undersigned avails himself, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

H. WELLESLEY.

His Excellency Don Pedro Cevallos,

&c. &c. &c.

PORTUGAL.

No. 37.

Substance of a Convention between Great Britain and Portugal, signed at Vienna the 21st of January, 1815.

Whereas His Majesty and The Prince Regent of Portugal, are equally desirous to terminate amicably all the doubts which have arisen relative to the parts of the Coast of Africa with which the subjects of the Crown of Portugal, under the laws of that kingdom and the Treaty subsisting with His Britannic Majesty, may lawfully carry on a trade in slaves; and whereas several ships, the property of the said subjects of Portugal, have been detained and condemned, upon the alledged ground of being engaged in an illicit traffic in slaves; and whereas His Britannic Majesty, in order to give to His intimate and faithful Ally the Prince Regent of Portugal, the most unequivocal proof of His friendship and of the regard He pays to His Royal Highness's reclamations, and in consideration of regulations to be made by the Prince Regent of Portugal for avoiding hereafter such doubts, is desirous to adopt the most speedy and effectual measures, and without the delays incident to the ordinary forms of law, to provide a liberal indemnity for the parties whose property may have been so detained under the doubts as aforesaid.

It is therefore agreed that the sum of three hundred thousand pounds be paid in London, to such person as the Prince Regent of Portugal may appoint to receive the same; which sum shall constitute a fund to be employed, under such regulations, and in such manner as the said Prince Regent of Portugal may direct, in discharge of claims for Portuguese ships detained by British cruizers previous to the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, upon the alledged ground of carrying on an illicit traffic in slaves; and that the said sum shall be considered to be in full discharge of all claims arising out of captures made previous to the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen.

No. 38.

Substance of a Treaty between Great Britain and Portugal, signed at Vienna the 22d of January, 1815.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal having, by the Tenth Article of the Treaty of Alliance, concluded at Rio de Janeiro, on the 19th February 1810, declared His determination to co-operate with His Britannic Majesty in the cause of humanity and justice, by adopting the most efficacious means for bringing about a gradual Abolition of the Slave Trade, and His Royal Highness, in pursuance of His said Declaration, and desiring to effectuate, in concert with His Britannic Majesty and the other Powers of Europe, who have been induced to assist in this benevolent object, an immediate Abolition of the said Traffic upon the parts of the Coast of Africa which are situated to the northward of the Line; His Britannic Majesty and His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal, equally animated by a sincere desire to accelerate the moment when the blessings of peaceful industry and an innocent commerce may be encouraged through-

out this extensive portion of the Continent of Africa, by its being delivered from the evils of the Slave Trade, have agreed to enter into a Treaty for the said purpose.

It is therefore agreed, that from and after the Ratification of the present Treaty, and the publication thereof, it shall not be lawful for any of the subjects of the Crown of Portugal to purchase Slaves, or to carry on the Slave Trade on any part of the coast of Africa, to the northward of the Equator, upon any pretext, or in any manner whatsoever. Provided, nevertheless, that the said provision shall not extend to any ship or ships having cleared out from the ports of Brazil, previous to the publication of such ratification: And provided the voyage, in which such ship or ships are engaged, shall not be protracted beyond six months after such publication as aforesaid.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal further agrees by this instrument, and binds Himself to adopt, in concert with His Britannic Majesty, such measures as may best conduce to the effectual execution of the preceding engagement, according to its true intent and meaning, and His Majesty engages, in concert with His Royal Highness, to give such orders as may effectually prevent any interruption being given to Portuguese ships resorting to the actual Dominions of the Crown of Portugal, or to the territories which are claimed in the said Treaty of Alliance; as belonging to the said Crown of Portugal, to the southward of the Line, for the purposes of trading in Slaves, as aforesaid, during such further period as the same may be permitted to be carried on by the Laws of Portugal, and under the Treaties subsisting between the two Crowns.

The Treaty of Alliance concluded at Rio de Janeiro, on the 19th February 1810, being founded on circumstances of a temporary nature, which have happily ceased to exist, is by this instrument declared to be void in all its parts, and of no effect; without prejudice, however, to the ancient Treaties of Alliance, Friendship and Guarantee, which have so long and so happily subsisted between the two Crowns, and which are hereby renewed by the High Contracting Parties, and acknowledged to be of full force and effect. The High Contracting Parties reserve also to themselves by the same instrument, and engage to determine by a separate Treaty, the period at which the trade in Slaves shall universally cease, and be prohibited throughout the entire Dominions of Portugal; the Prince Regent of Portugal hereby renewing his former declaration and engagement, that, during the interval which is to elapse before such general and final abolition shall take effect, it shall not be lawful for the subjects of Portugal to purchase or trade in Slaves, upon any parts of the Coast of Africa, except to the southward of the Line, as specified in the second Article of this Treaty; nor to engage in the same, or to permit their Flag to be used, except for the purpose of supplying the Transatlantic possessions belonging to the Crown of Portugal.

His Britannic Majesty agrees at the same time to remit, from the date at which the ratification mentioned in the First Article shall be promulgated, such further payments as may then remain due and payable upon the Loan of Six Hundred Thousand Pounds made in London for the service of Portugal, in the Year 1809, in consequence of a Convention signed on the 21st of April of the same year, which Convention, under the conditions specified as aforesaid, is declared to be void and of no effect.

The present Treaty shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Rio de Janeiro in the space of five months, or sooner if possible.

It is further agreed, that in the event of any of the Portuguese settlers being desirous of retiring from the settlements of the Crown of Portugal on the coast of Africa, to the northward of the Equator, with the Negroes *bona fide* their domestics, to some other of the possessions of the Crown of Portugal, the same shall not be deemed unlawful, provided it does not take place on board a Slave-trading vessel, and provided they be furnished with proper passports and certificates, according to a form to be agreed on between the two Governments.

CONGRESS.

No. 39.

MY LORD,

Vienna, October 9. 1814.

In pursuance of the Prince Regent's commands, I addressed to Prince Talleyrand the official note of which the inclosed is a copy.

I thought it material to employ our utmost means to bring France to adopt the measure of immediate abolition, before the discussions in Congress were entered upon.

I have lost no occasion of favourably preparing the minds of the several Plenipotentiaries for the approaching discussions, and have taken measures for supplying them with the necessary information to enable them fully to understand the question. I am sorry however to find that, as yet, neither the Ministers of Spain nor Portugal have received any authority from their respective Courts to enter upon the discussion with the Plenipotentiaries assembled here.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) CASTLEREAGH.

(Inclosure in No. 39.)

Vienna, October 8, 1814.

It having been represented to the British Government, that some expressions had lately dropped from His Highness the Prince de Talleyrand, His Most Christian Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the effect—"That the French Government would not object to the immediate abolition of the Slave Trade, provided they were enabled to justify such a sacrifice as that measure might be supposed to involve, by some acquisition procured for the nation, or some compensation secured for their planters:"

Though nothing which passed in the course of the discussions in May last at Paris, on the subject of the Slave Trade, was in the smallest degree calculated to give countenance to such an idea, His Royal Highness the Prince Regent; always eager to seize upon every suggestion which can afford him a prospect of terminating, or even of narrowing, this great social evil, has commanded the undersigned, Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to invite the French Government to negotiate for the absolute and immediate abolition of the Slave Trade, upon the following basis, viz. the cession by Great Britain, in full sovereignty, to France, of an island in the West Indies, or, if more acceptable, the advance by Great Britain of a sum of money, to be applied by His Most Christian Majesty's Government to the benefit of the French colonists, in compensation for any loss they might be supposed to experience in consequence of the trade in slaves being forthwith abolished, instead of at the end of five years, as stipulated by the first additional article of the Peace of Paris.

It will afford to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent the truest satisfaction to make this further sacrifice, on the part of the British nation, to the interests of humanity, and to the progress of a cause which He deems it not less his pride than his duty to sustain; and his Royal Highness will experience an increased gratification, if He can thus enable His Most Christian Majesty to carry into immediate execution His own benevolent intentions, without making, what His Majesty might otherwise consider, an undue sacrifice of interest on the part of His subjects.

The undersigned requests His Highness, &c.

The Prince Talleyrand,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) CASTLEREAGH.

No. 40.

Extract.

Vienna, Nov. 11, 1814.

I have the honour to transmit the answer which I have received from the Prince de Talleyrand to my proposition for an immediate abolition of the Slave Trade.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH.

Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

(Inclosure in No. 40.)

A-Vienne, ce 5 Novembre, 1814.

Le Soussigné Ministre de S. M. T. C. et Sou Secrétaire d'Etat au Département des Affaires Etrangères a reçu la note que S. E. Lord Viscount Castlereagh lui a fait l'honneur de lui adresser, et par laquelle il propose de s'entendre pour une abolition actuelle et immédiate de la traite de la part de France.

Les sentimens du Roi par rapport à ce genre de trafic Lui font sincèrement desirer que son abolition immédiate puisse être trouvée compatible avec un intérêt auquel il doit subordonner Ses déterminations avec l'intérêt de Son royaume et des Ses colonies. Mais l'état de celles ci ne Lui est point encore connu. Il y en a même une partie dans la possession desquelles la France n'est point encore rentrée. Ainsi, des éléments sans les quels il est impossible de se former une opinion dans une matière aussi grave, les uns manquant totalement, les autres doivent être recueillis dans les portes et les villes de commerce, un nombre d'expéditions ont été déjà faites ou préparés sur la foi du traité du 30 Mai. Il faut avant tout pouvoir les réunir tous, ensuite les comparer et les discuter, ce qui exige nécessairement du temps. Il en faut d'ailleurs pour préparer l'opinion et surmonter des préjugés contre les quels on n'a point en France comme en Angleterre le secours de l'expérience.

C'est pourquoi S. M. T. C. qui s'est engagée et qui est prête à unir tous Ses efforts à ceux de S. M. Britannique pour faire prononcer l'abolition générale de la traite par toutes les Puissances de la Chrétienté, pense qu'il est nécessaire de se borner pour le moment à cet objet, en se réservant de s'entendre sur la proposition contenue dans la note de S. E. Lord Viscount Castlereagh lorsque les opérations du Congrès étant terminées et la France ayant obtenu les renseignements qui lui manquent, la question pourra être traitée avec toute la maturité qu'elle requiert.

Le soussigné se plaît à espérer qu'elle pourra l'être alors à la satisfaction réciproque des deux puissances.

Le soussigné, &c. &c.

(Signed)

LE PRINCE DE TALLEYRAND.

*A Son Excellence Vicomte Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.*

(Inclosure in No. 40.)—Translation.

Vienna, Novembre 5, 1814.

The undersigned, His Most Christian Majesty's Minister and Secretary of State for the department of Foreign Affairs, has received the note which

his Excellency Lord Viscount Castlereagh did him the honour to address to him, in which he proposes to confer respecting the actual and immediate abolition on the part of France of the traffic in slaves.

The sentiments of the King, respecting this species of traffic, make Him sincerely desirous that its immediate abolition may be found compatible with the interests which ought to direct His determinations respecting the welfare of His kingdom and of His colonies. But the state of these last is not yet sufficiently known to Him. There are some of which France has not yet taken possession. Therefore, of the necessary information, without which it is impossible to form an opinion on a measure of such deep interest, part is totally wanting, and part must be gathered from the commercial ports and cities from whence many expeditions have already sailed, or are preparing to do so, under the faith of the treaty of the 30th of May. It is first necessary to bring all the information together, and then to compare and discuss it; this will necessarily take up time. Besides, it is necessary to prepare the opinion and to surmount the prejudices, against which there is not in France, as in England, the aid of experience.

For these reasons His Most Christian Majesty, who has engaged, and is ready, to unite His efforts to those of His Britannic Majesty, to persuade all the Powers of Christendom to declare the general abolition of the traffic, conceives that it is necessary to confine Himself for the moment, for this object, in reserving to Himself to treat of the proposition contained in the note of his Excellency Lord Viscount Castlereagh, when the operations of the Congress shall be finished, and France shall have obtained the information wanting, at which period the question will be discussed with all the deliberation it requires.

The undersigned flatters himself with the hope that it will then be discussed to the reciprocal satisfaction of the two Powers.

The undersigned, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

LE PRINCE DE TALLEYRAND.

To His Excellency Viscount Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 41.

MY LORD,

Vicna, January 2, 1815.

I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that I have addressed the enclosed letter to the Austrian, Russian and Prussian Ministers, requesting to be admitted to an audience of their respective Sovereigns.

The Emperor of Russia received me the following evening, and I had an opportunity of explaining to His Imperial Majesty, at considerable length, the objects with which I was charged, the importance attached to them by the Prince Regent, and the mode in which His Imperial Majesty could most contribute to their successful accomplishment.

I began by satisfying the Emperor that Great Britain had left no means untried which depended on her to effect a complete and total abolition of this odious and criminal traffic. That the British Parliament had now, for some years, in opposition to every prejudice and suggestion of national interest, abolished absolutely the traffic throughout the whole extent of the British dominions. That they had further made it an invariable object in all their negotiations to promote this measure; that, in consequence, engagements had been entered into by Sweden, Denmark, and Holland, immediately to abolish, and by France at the end of five years; that France had, since the Treaty of Paris, consented to abolish forthwith, to the north of Cape For-

mosa, and that we were in negotiation with Spain and Portugal, for the purpose of delivering, without further delay, this portion of Africa at least, from the evils of the Slave Trade.

That our endeavours had not been confined to mere representations; but that offers of direct and considerable value had been held out by the Prince Regent's commands to France, Spain, and Portugal, in order to reconcile them, if possible, to the measure of immediate abolition.

Having explained the nature and extent of the exertions which Great Britain had made to effectuate this object, I represented to the Emperor that our means of being of use were, in a great measure, exhausted, and that it depended much more upon His Imperial Majesty and the other Sovereigns who had no colonies, now to act, than it did upon Great Britain.

The Emperor listened with much attention to every part of my statement, and particularly to this, in which I endeavoured to shew that, upon reasonable notice, the Great Powers of Europe would not only be justified, but bound in morality and sincerity, to exclude from their ports colonial produce grown within the dominion of states who, within a reasonable period, refused to adopt the principle of abolition. That to do so must at once be effectual, and to do less was to make themselves parties, in breach of their promises to the crimes and scandal to which their demand for colonial produce gave occasion, and which they ought preferably to supply from those countries where the culture was not carried on by newly imported slaves.

The Emperor gave me every assurance of support, and directed Count Nesselrode to consult with me, on the measures to be adopted.

With respect to the period of abolition to be urged, His Imperial Majesty declared His desire, if possible, to prevail upon France to reduce the period of five years, and that Spain and Portugal should be urged to conform to whatever period France might be prevailed on to adopt.

The Emperor expressed satisfaction at the idea of constituting a standing commission in London and Paris, composed of the Ministers of Powers friendly to this object, whose duty it should be to follow it up with the undivided weight of their respective Governments, till finally effected.

His Imperial Majesty received my representation throughout in the most gracious manner, and authorised me to assure the Prince Regent, that His Royal Highness might rest satisfied He should do His utmost to second His exertions on this interesting subject.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH.

Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

P. S. I inclose to your Lordship a copy of a dispatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir Henry Wellesley on the same subject, together with the inclosure therein referred to.

(1st Inclosure in No. 41.)

Vienna, December 25, 1814.

Lord Castlereagh, His Britannic Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, having received the commands of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent to solicit a special audience of His Majesty the
for the purpose of making a representation in His Royal
Highness's name to His Majesty the
on the subject of the Slave Trade, begs His Excellency
to submit this request to His Majesty, the
that he may be honoured with an audience for this purpose.

Lord Castlereagh takes this opportunity, &c.

*To Count Nesselrode, Prince Metternich,
and Prince Hardenberg.*

(2d Inclosure in No. 41.)

SIR,

Vienna, January 2, 1815.

I have the honour to enclose copy of a note which I have addressed to the Chevalier Labrador on the subject of the Slave Trade. I have to signify to your Excellency, the Prince Regent's pleasure, that you do use your utmost exertions to prevail upon the Spanish Government to send immediate instructions to their Plenipotentiary at Congress, conformably to the principles therein laid down.

I should wish also to receive from your Excellency, by the return of the messenger, a precise statement of the situation of your negociations and engagements with the Spanish Government on this subject, under any late instructions you may have received from home in reply to your Excellency's Dispatches.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CASTLEREAGH.

To His Excellency Sir Henry Wellesley, K. B.

&c. &c. &c.

(3d Inclosure in No. 41.)

Vienna, 27th December, 1814.

The undersigned, His Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, having understood from His Catholic Majesty's Plenipotentiary to the Congress of Vienna, that the instructions of his Court authorise him to agree to an immediate abolition of the Slave Trade on all parts of the coast of Africa, except between the Equator and the tenth degree of latitude north; within which limits it is intended to permit its being carried on for the space of eight years, when this traffic is wholly and universally to be prohibited by the laws of Spain, feels it necessary to solicit His Excellency's immediate attention to the nature of this arrangement.

The undersigned forbears on the present occasion to enter into the considerations which have influenced the decision of the Spanish Government in assigning so extended a period as eight years for the discontinuance generally of this traffic. He is desirous at present merely to point his Excellency's attention to the particular limits within which Spanish subjects will be permitted, under the proposed regulation, to carry on the trade. If the restriction had assigned for this purpose the coast of Africa to the southward of the Line, the undersigned would have had nothing to object, as this coast, so long as other nations permit the traffic, must be exposed for some time longer to its desolating influence; but the regulation, as announced, the undersigned presumes to represent, will altogether disappoint the benificent views with which His Catholic Majesty has been induced to place the trade under restrictions.

The coast of Africa north of the Line, by a variety of concurring circumstances, and by the persevering efforts of Great Britain, has very nearly been delivered from this calamity, and a considerable and growing commerce, of an innocent nature, has been substituted in its room. To preserve and cherish this amended system of society on the northern coast, must be the object of all Nations. France, since the Treaty of Paris, has in this benevolent view, as will appear from the correspondence, altogether prohibited the trade to the north of Cape Formosa, and Portugal has declared her intention of entering into an arrangement for the immediate abolition north of the Line; this will render more than the half of Africa a sanctuary against

the traders in slaves, if His Catholic Majesty, by an alteration of the proposed regulation, will join himself to the other Powers, who, though differing upon the question of immediate abolition, all concur in the benevolent policy of protecting this portion of Africa against the revival of a trade, which must at once arrest its population in their progress towards industry and civilization.

The undersigned persuades himself that His Catholic Majesty can have the less hesitation in confining the traffic to the southward of the Line, as the field is there more than ample for any demands the subjects of the Crown of Spain have been in the practice of making upon the population of Africa.

The undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH.

To His Excellency the Chevalier Labrador,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 42.

MY LORD,

Vienna, January 8, 1815.

Since I had the honour of detailing to your Lordship the nature and result of my interview with His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, in consequence of the circular note which I addressed to the three Plenipotentiaries on the 25th ultimo, I have been honoured with audiences of His Imperial and Apostolic Majesty, and of His Majesty the King of Prussia, in which I did not fail to represent in the strongest manner the great interest felt by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and by the British nation in general, upon the subject of the Slave Trade; and I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship, that Their Majesties were pleased to repeat the assurances which had already been conveyed through Their Ministers, of Their sincere determination to use Their utmost influence with the different Powers concerned, in assisting Great Britain to bring about as early an abolition as possible of the traffic in question.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH.

Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

No. 43.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Treaty, this day signed by me with the Portuguese Plenipotentiaries, for the final and immediate abolition of the Slave Trade to the north of the Equator.

I also inclose a convention signed with the same parties, for terminating, in connection with the former arrangement, the disputes subsisting; for some time past, with the Court of Portugal, relative to their ships detained on the coast of Africa.

I request your Lordship will submit these instruments for the Prince Regent's gracious approbation and ratification.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH.

Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(Inclosures in No. 43.)

See substance of Treaties, Nos. 37 and 38.

No. 44.

MY LORD,

Vienna, January 26, 1815.

In pursuance of the intention announced to your Lordship, I renewed, in a general conference of the eight Powers, on the 16th instant, my proposition for the consideration of the Slave Trade, in special sittings, to be dedicated to this object by all the Powers conjointly.

Your Lordship will observe, from the accompanying protocol, that the attempt to have it discussed, not as a general but as a colonial question, was renewed. The importance of resisting this, and upholding the authority of the Continental Powers, was obvious, and the result was satisfactory.

Our first sitting was held on the 20th instant, of which the protocol is inclosed*. Although tolerably full, it cannot, of course, convey more than the heads of what passed. I beg your Lordship will, however, be assured, that no effort was neglected to promote the object, and I hope enough will appear before the Prince Regent, on the face of our proceedings, to satisfy His Royal Highness that His servants have endeavoured to obey His commands.

To-morrow we resume our sittings.—As we are all agreed upon the principle; and the Plenipotentiaries of France, Spain, and Portugal are limited by their instructions upon the point of modification, I conceive two more deliberations will terminate our labours.

I hope we shall have brought every question so completely into view, as to lay the best ground for the commissions, hereafter to be permanently constituted, to follow up the negotiations.

I hope essential progress has been made, at least upon one branch of this question, I mean the liberation of the northern parts of Africa from the miseries of this trade. The foundation has also been laid for an entire cessation of the evil at a definite period, with a prospect that the auspicious epoch may be accelerated by future exertion; and what I consider of great importance is, that the attention of the Ministers here has been awakened to this important subject, in a degree much beyond what I could have hoped for, considering the multiplicity of their avocations, and their former ignorance of the question.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH.

Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(Inclosure in No. 44.)

Extrait du Protocole de la Conférence, du 16 Janvier, 1815.

Lord Castlereagh a renouvelé sa proposition de s'occuper des moyens de faire cesser universellement la traite des noirs. Son avis a été, qu'il ne falloit pas nommer pour cet effet une commission proprement dite, mais traiter la ques-

* See Protocol, as amended, 1st Inclosure in No. 44.

tion dans l'Assemblée des huit puissances en les invitant à nommer chacun un de leurs P. P's pour former des séances particulières, exclusivement consacrées à cet objet, sauf à rendre compte du résultat des délibérations à l'Assemblée générale.

M. le Comte de Palmella a combattu cette proposition en déclarant qu'il ne concevoit pas pourquoi la marche généralement observée jusqu'ici de ne faire intervenir dans les discussions que les puissances plus ou moins intéressées aux objets qui se traitoient, ne s'appliqueroit pas de même à la question de l'abolition de la traite des noirs ; question qui ne regardoit absolument que les puissances possédant des colonies. M. le P. s'est opposé au projet de délibérer sur cette question dans un Comité composé des P. P.s des huit puissances, en ajoutant que les puissances sans Colonies, ayant une fois embrassés le principe de l'abolition, et n'étant arrêtées dans l'exécution de ce principe par aucun intérêt particulier, ne pouvoient pas être considérées comme entièrement impartielles dans une affaire dont, par un zèle louable en lui même, elles précipitéroient peut-être la Marche aux dépens des états que leur position particulière obligeroit aux plus grands ménagemens.

M. le Chevalier Labrador se réunissant d'avis à M. le Comte de Palmella a observé : Que toutes les puissances, se trouvant d'accord sur le principe général de l'abolition de la traite, il serait inutile, d'en faire un objet de discussion ; que la seule question à examiner étoit celle des moyens d'exécution, et surtout du terme à choisir pour faire cesser ce commerce ; que cette question, se réduisant entièrement à des détails et à des considérations locales, ne pouvoit être traitée que par les puissances qui possèdent des Colonies, et qu'il serait, si non injuste au moins inutile, d'y admettre les autres ; qu'il étoit facile de condamner la traite par des assertions générales, mais, que les puissances, dont le système colonial avoit été fondé jusqu'ici sur l'importation des nègres se trouvoient pour ainsi dire, placées entre deux injustices, l'une envers les habitans de l'Afrique, l'autre envers leur propres sujets, propriétaires dans les colonies, dont les intérêts seroient grièvement compromis par un changement trop brusque dans le régime actuel ; que cette dernière considération étoit d'une importance particulière pour l'Espagne, puisque l'état d'agitation où se trouvoient les colonies Espagnoles de terre ferme, imposoit au Gouvernement le devoir de redoubler de soins pour la conservation et la prospérité des Isles de Cube et de Porto Rico ; enfin que S. M. C. ne pouvoit pas, avec la meilleure volonté, s'engager pour l'abolition de la traite à une terme plus rapproché que celle de huit années.

M. M. le P. P. de Russie, d'Autriche, de Prusse, et de Suède ont soutenu, que comme question de morale publique et d'humanité, l'abolition de la traite intéresseoit indubitablement toutes les puissances : que celles qui n'ont point des colonies ne prétendoient point diriger les détails d'une mesure pareille, mais que les opinions sur ces détails, et notamment sur le terme de l'abolition, se trouvant partagé parmi les puissances directement intéressées dans cet affaire, l'intervention des autres serait toujours utile pour concilier les opinions, et pour amener un résultat conforme au vœu de l'humanité entière.

Lord Castlereagh a déclaré que l'Angleterre, quoiqu'en attachant à l'abolition de la Traite un intérêt bien prononcé, étoit cependant loin de vouloir donner la loi à cet égard à aucune autre puissance ; que le tems de la durée, et le mode de préparer graduellement la suppression de ce trafic, étoient sans doute des questions sur lesquelles chaque puissance possédant des colonies, pouvoit avoir opinion particulière, mais qu'une commission exclusivement composée, de ces puissances ne repondroit pas au bût qu'il avoit en vû, en provoquant la discussion de cette affaire ; qu'il s'agissoit de connoître authentiquement les sentimens et la manière de voir des principales puissances relativement à une affaire d'un intérêt aussi général, et qu'il regardoit la forme de délibération proposée par lui comme le seule propre à fournir à cet égard les éclaircissemens satisfaisants.

A la suite de cette discussion, M. le Prince de Metternich a établi la question préalable, sur la quelle on avoit à prononcer, dans les termes suivans :

“ L'affaire de l'abolition de la Traite des nègres doit-elle être remis en premier lieu à une commission composée de P. Ps. des puissances possédants des colonies, ou traitée d'abord par les P. Ps. réunis des huit puissances ? ”

M. M. les P. Ps. de Portugal et d'Espagne ont persisté dans leurs avis de n'admettre à la discussion, que les Ministres des puissances possédants des colonies. M. le Comte de Palmella a demandé en outre que dans le cas que l'opinion contraire prévaloit, il fut inséré aux protocoles, que les P. Ps. de Portugal, sans se soustraire à la délibération commune, ne regardoient pas la question dont on alloit s'occuper, comme une question de droit public : De l'autre côté, M. M. les P. Ps. d'Angleterre, de Russie, d'Autriche, de Prusse de Suède et de France ont voté contre la commission particulière, et pour l'intervention des huit puissances dans cette question.

Lord Castlereagh en resumant sa première proposition, a dit alors qu'il n'insistoit pas à n'admettre dans ces délibérations qu'un P. de chaque Puissance ; que le nombre de ceux qui y assisteroient étoit indifférent ; que son intention avoit seulement été de faire consacrer à cet objet quelque séances particulière pour le traiter avec suite, et pour ménager le tems que d'autres affaires pourroient réclamer.

Il s'est réservé d'inviter M. M. les Plenipotentiaires à se réunir en conférence sur cette question, aussitôt qu'il sera préparé à l'entamer.

Sur quoi, la séance a été levée.

(*Inclosure in No. 44.*)—*Translation.*

Protocol of the Conference of the 16th January, 1815.

Lord Castlereagh renewed his proposal of considering the means whereby the universal abolition of the Slave Trade might be effected. His opinion was, not to appoint for that purpose a commission properly so called; but to treat the question in an assembly of the eight powers, by inviting them severally to name each, one of their Plenipotentiaires to form the particular sittings, to be exclusively confined to that object, and to render an account of their deliberations to the general assembly.

Count Palmella combatted this proposal, declaring that he did not see why the course of the proceedings hitherto generally adopted, of confining the discussions to those powers more or less interested in the subjects discussed, should not equally apply to the question of the abolition of the Slave Trade; a question which alone concerned the Powers possessing colonies. That Plenipotentiairy opposed the plan of deliberating this question in a Committee composed of the Plenipotentiaires of the eight Powers, adding, that the powers without colonies having once embraced the principle of abolition, and not being restrained from carrying it into effect by any private interest, they could not be considered as entirely impartial in a matter of which they might, by a zeal in itself praiseworthy, possibly precipitate the proceedings at the expense of other States, who, from their particular situation, must act with the utmost caution.

The Chevalier de Labrador joined in opinion with Count Palmella, and observed:—That as all the powers agreed upon the general principle of the abolition of the trade, it would be unnecessary to make it an object of discussion; that the sole question to examine was, the means of carrying it into effect, and especially the time to be fixed upon for its termination; that the question being reduced entirely to considerations and details of a local nature, could alone be treated upon by the powers possessing colonies, and

that it would be at least useless, if not unjust, to admit others to the discussions; that it would be easy to condemn the trade by general assertions, but that the powers, whose colonial system had hitherto been founded upon the importation of negroes, found themselves placed, as it might be said, between two acts of injustice, one towards the inhabitants of Africa, the other towards their own subjects, being colonial proprietors, whose interests would be sorely affected by too sudden a change in the present system; that the last consideration was one of particular importance for Spain, since the present agitated state of the Spanish colonies on the terra firma made it the duty of the Government to redouble its attention for the preservation of the prosperity of the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico; in a word, that His Catholic Majesty could not, with the best inclination, pledge Himself for the abolition of the Trade within a shorter space than eight years.

The Plenipotentiaries of Russia, Austria, Prussia, and Sweden, maintained that, considered as a question of public morality and humanity, the abolition of the Slave Trade unquestionably interested all the Powers; that those not possessing colonies by no means pretended to direct the details of such a measure, but that as the opinions of the powers directly interested in this question might be at variance on the details, and especially as to the period of the abolition, the interposition of the other powers would always be useful to conciliate the opinions, and to produce a result in conformity to the wishes of humanity at large.

Lord Castlereagh said, that although England attached a most decided interest to the abolition of the trade, she nevertheless was far from wishing to dictate on the subject to any other Power; that the duration of this traffic, and the mode of preparing for its gradual suppression, were, without doubt, questions upon which every Power possessing colonies might have particular opinions, but that a Commission, composed exclusively of those Powers, could not answer the purpose for which the discussion of this measure was instituted; that the question was, to ascertain correctly the sentiments of the principal Powers, and their view of a subject of such general interest, and that he considered the form of the deliberation proposed by him as the only one which could produce satisfactory elucidation on this head.

This discussion being ended the Prince Metternich established the preliminary question upon which a decision was to be taken, in the following terms:

“ Shall the measure of the abolition of the Slave Trade be referred, in the first instance, to a commission composed of the Plenipotentiaries possessing colonies, or be immediately treated upon in a general meeting of the Plenipotentiaries of the eight powers?”

The Plenipotentiaries of Portugal and Spain persisted in their opinion, of admitting to the discussion the Ministers of the Powers possessing colonies exclusively.

Count Palmella required, moreover, that in case the contrary opinion should prevail, an entry should be made in the Protocol, stating, that the Plenipotentiaries of Portugal, without withdrawing themselves from the general deliberation, did not consider the question about to be canvassed, as a question of public right. On the other hand, the Plenipotentiaries of England, Russia, Austria, Prussia, Sweden and France, voted against the particular commission, and for the interposition of the eight powers in this question.

Lord Castlereagh, in resuming his first proposition, said, that he did not insist upon admitting only one Plenipotentiary of each power to these deliberations; that the number present was a matter of indifference; that his intention had been purely to set apart for this object some particular sittings, in order that the discussion might be conducted without interruption from the pressure of other affairs.

The Plenipotentiaries will be invited to a general conference upon this question as soon as the necessary preparations are made for that purpose.

Upon which the sittings broke up.

No. 45.

My Lord,

Vienna, February 13, 1815.

I transmit herewith to your Lordship an amended copy of the Protocol of the 20th ult. on the question of the Slave Trade, together with the subsequent proceedings on the same subject.

It did not appear to me that any useful purpose could be answered by protracting the discussions here, conceiving that any further attempts to accelerate the epoch of abolition, will be made with a better chance of success after these discussions in Congress are promulgated, for which endeavour the proposed commissions in London and Paris will afford the necessary facilities.

I have the honour to be, with great truth, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH.

Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(Inclosure in No. 45.)

Protocole de la Séance particulière du 20 Janvier 1815, consacrée à délibérer sur l'abolition de la Traite des Nègres.

Présentes,—Lord Castlereagh, Premier Plénipotentiaire de S. M. Britannique.

Lord Stewart, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. Britannique.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand, Premier Plénipotentiaire de S. M. très Chrétienne.

M. le Chevalier de Labrador, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. le Roi d'Espagne.

M. le Comte Palmella ; M. le Comte de Saldanha ; M. le Chevalier de Lobo, Plénipotentiaires de S. A. R. le Prince Regent de Portugal.

M. le Comte de Nesselrode, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. l'Empereur de toutes les Russies.

M. le Comte de Lowenhielm, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. le Roi de Suède.

M. le Baron de Humboldt, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. le Roi de Prusse.

M. le Baron de Bender, remplaçant, M. le Prince de Metternich, Premier Plénipotentiaire de S. M. l'Empereur d'Autriche.

Les Plénipotentiaires des puissances qui ont signé le Traité de Paris, ayant arrêté dans leur assemblée générale du 16 Janvier, et consigné dans le procès verbal de ce Jour, que pour s'occuper des moyens de faire cesser universellement le traite des Nègres, chaque puissance nommeroit un ou plusieurs plénipotentiaires, qui se réuniroient dans des conférences particulières, exclusivement consacrées à cet objet, sauf à rendre compte du résultat de leurs délibérations à l'assemblée générale, la première de ces conférences à eu lieu aujourd' hui dans un des Bureaux de la Chancellerie de cour d'état de S. M. Impériale et Royale Apostolique.

Lord Castlereagh a fait l'ouverture de cette conférence par un discours, dans le quel il a rappelé ce que l'Angleterre, a fait depuis un certain nombre d'années pour proscrire dans tous les pays soumis à ses loix, et pour parvenir par des négociations avec d'autres puissances à faire généralement abolir un commerce incompatible avec les principes de la religion Chrétienne, de la morale universelle et de l'humanité. Il a observé, que s'il fallait encore des preuves pour convaincre l'Europe que l'Angleterre n'a été guidée dans toutes ces démarches que par les motifs les plus purs et les plus désintéressés, on les trouveroit suffisamment dans les différentes communications qui avoient eu lieu à ce sujet, entre le Gouvernement Britannique et les autres puissances maritimes, et surtout dans les sacrifices importants que l'Angleterre avoit faits ou proposé de faire pour atteindre le but auquel elle tendoit. Il a développé ensuite les raisons, qui avoient déterminé son gouvernement

a soumettre cette question importante aux délibérations du Congrès, et la marche qu'il comptoit suivre dans ces délibérations.

Après cette introduction Lord Castlereagh a fait lecture de l'Article I. additionnel au Traité de Paix signé à Paris le 30 Mai 1814, entre la Grande Bretagne et la France, Article conçu en ces termes : " Sa Majesté très Chrétienne partageant sans réserve tous les sentimens de Sa M. Britannique, relativement à un genre de commerce que repoussent et les principes de la justice naturelle et les lumières des tems où nous vivons, s'engage à unir, au futur Congrès, tous Ses efforts à ceux de Sa Majesté Britannique, pour faire prononcer par toutes les puissances de la Chrétienté, l'abolition de la traite des noirs, de telle sorte que la dite traite cesse universellement, comme elle cessera définitivement et dans tous les Cas, de la part de la France, dans un delai de cinq années, et qu'en outre, pendant la durée de ce delai, aucun trafiquant d'esclaves n'en puisse importer ni vendre ailleurs que dans les colonies de l'état dont il est sujet."

Lord Castlereagh a observé que cet article admettoit et exprimoit un objet commun à toutes les puissances en établissant la nécessité de travailler à l'abolition universelle de la traite, et que toutes ayant reconnu le principe général, elles étoient également liées à chercher les moyens de la mettre en pratique aux époques les plus rapprochées compatibles avec la situation particulière de leurs états.

Conformément à ces bases, Lord Castlereagh a annoncé, qu'il proposeroit en premier lieu une declaration des puissances réunies, proclamant leur adhésion au principe général de l'abolition de la Traite des Nègres, et leur voeu de réaliser cette mesure dans le plus court delai possible ; qu'il procederoit ensuite à recueillir les opinions de M. M. les Plénipotentiaires présens sur la possibilité d'une abolition immédiate ou d'un rapprochement du terme que chaque puissance pouvoit avoir fixé pour l'abolition définitive ; Et qu'il entreroit enfin dans l'examen des moyens d'obtenir immédiatement l'abolition partielle de ce trafic.

Avant d'entamer ces différentes questions, Lord Castlereagh a communiqué des renseignemens authentiques pour prouver que l'abolition de la traite, opérant d'un côté un bien réel et inappréciable, en delivrant les habitans de l'Afrique d'un des plus terribles fleaux, n'étoit pas de l'autre côté, comme on l'a cru pendant long-tems, contraire aux intérêts des puissances possédant des colonies ou aux intérêts bien entendus des propriétaires dans ces colonies, attendu que dans tous les établissemens coloniaux où l'importation des nègres étoit défendue, leur augmentation par les voies naturelles et légitimes avoit été plus que proportionnée à la diminution du nombre causée par la cessation de la traite ; que là même, où de nouveaux défrichemens n'avoient pas eu lieu, la culture n'avoit aucunement rétrogradé, et que la tranquillité et la prospérité générale de ces établissemens y avoit essentiellement et considérablement gagné. Ces mêmes documens tendent à établir que les dangers qui menacent les colonies Européennes dans les Indes occidentales et dans l'Amérique méridionale, ne peuvent qu'augmenter sensiblement par l'importation sans cesse renouvelée des nègres, et que cette seule considération suffit pour convaincre les puissances de l'Europe comme il est exprimé dans l'une de ces piéces " que dans cette affaire leur intérêt se trouve du même côté que leur devoir, et que la loi de leur propre conservation autant que celle de l'humanité leur prescrit de s'occuper à tems des moyens d'arrêter un torrent prêt à les engloutir."

A la suite de ces explications préalables, Lord Castlereagh en est venue à sa première proposition relative à une declaration par laquelle les puissances agissant au nom du Congrès, énonceroient leur voeu commun pour l'abolition universelle de la traite.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand a appuyé cette proposition, en ajoutant que d'après l'engagement que la France avoit contracté par le traité de Paris, il se croyoit appelé à secondér la marche que Lord Castlereagh avoit adoptée pour la discussion de cet objet, et qu'il approuvoit entièrement. Il a dit

qu'il ne pouvoit y avoir, et qu'il n'y avait en effet qu'une voix parmi les Souverains de l'Europe sur la nécessité et le devoir de faire cesser un trafic aussi odieux d'autant plus que le principe de l'abolition étoit hautement avoué par ceux mêmes qui par des considérations particulières se croyent obligés d'en suspendre l'exécution illimitée. La déclaration proposée par Lord Castlereagh, produira selon M. le Prince de Talleyrand, l'effet le plus salutaire, en avertissant les sujets de toutes les puissances et les propriétaires dans toutes les colonies de l'intention sérieuse de leurs gouvernemens de ne plus perdre de vue l'abolition de la traite, et en les empêchant de se livrer à des illusions sur la durée indéfinie de ce commerce.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand est persuadé en outre qu'une pareille déclaration sera bien accueillie par la partie saine et éclairée du public de tous les pays, et qu'elle fera honneur au Congrès.

M. de Comte de Nesselrode a annoncé que S. M. l'Empereur son maître étoit absolument d'accord avec le principe de l'abolition de la traite, et porté pour tout ce qui pouvoit assurer et accélérer l'exécution de cette mesure; que dans ces vues, l'Empereur l'avoit chargé de seconder en tout les démarches que Lord Castlereagh jugeroit nécessaires pour l'accomplissement d'un aussi noble objet. Il a appuyé sans réserve la première proposition de Lord Castlereagh.

M. M. les Plénipotentiaires d'Autriche, de Suède, et de Prusse se sont expliqués dans le même sens.

M. le Chevalier de Labrador, Plénipotentiaire d'Espagne, a dit que son intention n'étoit pas de voter contre la proposition, mais que dans l'état où plusieurs puissances se trouvoient relativement à leurs colonies, il lui paroissoit indispensable de faire entrer dans la déclaration générale une clause, réservant à chaque gouvernement la liberté de déterminer l'époque où l'abolition de la Traite des Nègres pourroit passer en loi dans ces états, sans blesser des intérêts qui méritoient les plus grands ménagemens.

M. le Comte de Palmella, Plénipotentiaire de Portugal, a observé, que la nécessité de mettre un terme à la Traite des Nègres étant pleinement reconnue par son gouvernement, il ne pouvoit pas avoir d'objection contre la déclaration proposée par Lord Castlereagh, bien entendu qu'elle seroit conçue de manière à ne pas préjuger la question du terme définitif, question sur laquelle chaque puissance devoit avoir le droit de consulter ses propres intérêts.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand a dit, que la restriction réclamée par M. M. les Plénipotentiaires d'Espagne et de Portugal seroit certainement admise par toutes les autres puissances, et que la déclaration générale n'en seroit pas moins utile; et Lord Castlereagh a ajouté à cette observation que son désir étoit, que la pièce en question fut rédigée dans des termes propres à embrasser les opinions de tous les gouvernemens, et de ceux-mêmes, que des considérations particulières avoient le plus empêchés jusqu'ici de concourir efficacement à cette mesure bienfaisante.

A la suite de cette discussion, tous les Plénipotentiaires présens, étant d'accord avec la proposition de Lord Castlereagh, le rédacteur du procès-verbal de la conférence a été chargé de rédiger un projet de déclaration conforme aux bases convenues, et de le présenter dans une séance prochaine.

Lord Castlereagh a procédé ensuite à la question du terme à fixer pour la cessation entière de la Traite des Nègres; et il a déclaré que ses principes, ses devoirs, et les vœux de son gouvernement et de la Nation Britannique l'engageoit à ouvrir cette discussion par une tentative de déterminer toutes les puissances à l'abolition immédiate d'un commerce que tout le monde regardoit enfin comme immoral, inhumain, et dangereux à la longue pour la conservation même des colonies. Il a invité M. le Prince de Talleyrand à l'appuyer dans cette tentative, en observant, que les motifs que la France pouvoit avoir eus pour s'opposer à l'abolition immédiate, lors de la signature

du Traité de Paris, avoient cessés d'exister ou perdu une grande partie de leur poids ; que le terme de cinq ans étant une fois articulé dans le traité, le Gouvernement Français ne seroit plus taxé d'avoir suivi une impulsion étrangère, pouvoit sans compromettre sa dignité satisfaire aux principes de justice et d'humanité, auxquels M. de Talleyrand venoit de rendre hommage ; que d'ailleurs l'état des colonies Françaises restituées par la paix, et la difficulté de se remettre en possession de l'Isle de St. Domingue, ne pouvoit qu'affaiblir l'intérêt de la France à maintenir l'ancien système colonial ; qu'il paroïssoit en outre que les préventions qui subsistoient en France contre la suppression de ce commerce commençoit à s'éteindre graduellement, et diminuoient de jour en jour par les éclaircissements répandus dans le public ; que ces considérations réunies ne lui permettoient pas de renoncer à l'espoir que cette puissance se joindroit à l'Angleterre, pour faire cesser des-à-présent l'importation des nègres dans ses colonies, et la traite, qui, dès lors deviendroit inutile.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand a répondu, que la France étoit bien prononcée sur le principe de l'abolition de la traite, qu'elle rempliroit exactement l'engagement pris par le Traité de Paris, que le gouvernement auroit soin de tout préparer, pour que l'exécution de la mesure ne rencontrât aucun obstacle à l'époque prévue, et qu'il tâcheroit même des-à-présent de décourager ses sujets du commerce des Nègres, par la marche qu'il suivroit, et par les réglemens qu'il adopteroit à cet égard ; mais que l'abolition directe et immédiate paroïssoit avoir des difficultés insurmontables.

Après de nouvelles instances de la part de Lord Castlereagh, M. le Prince de Talleyrand a fini par déclarer que la France s'engageroit à l'abolition certaine au terme convenu, au découragement effectif de la traite dans l'intervalle, mais que pour le moment elle ne pouvoit aller plus loin.

Lord Castlereagh est entré alors en explication avec M. le Prince de Talleyrand sur la possibilité d'avancer le terme de l'abolition définitive de la traite, et il a allégué différens argumens pour engager la France, à substituer au moins le terme de trois ans pour la durée de la traite, à celui de cinq, stipulé dans le Traité de Paris.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand a répondu, que cette question tenoit à des circonstances particulières qu'on ne pouvoit pas calculer d'avance avec précision, qu'elle tenoit surtout à l'effet que produiroient les mesures du gouvernement Français pour décourager ses sujets de la traite, que si cet effet étoit tel que les personnes intéressées à ce commerce se disposoient à l'abandonner plutôt, le Gouvernement n'auroit aucune objection à admettre ou à proposer lui-même une époque plus rapprochée pour l'abolition finale ; que sans pouvoir se prêter aujourd'hui à un engagement positif sur cet Article, la France, étoit décidée à tout faire pour avancer le terme de la cessation entière de ce trafic.

Lord Castlereagh s'est adressé alors à M. le Chevalier de Labrador, pour savoir s'il y avoit lieu à espérer que l'Espagne se décideroit à une abolition immédiate de la traite, ou à fixer au moins un terme modéré pour cette mesure.

M. le Chevalier de Labrador a répondu.—Que S. M. le Roi d'Espagne s'étant engagé envers la Grande Bretagne à prendre en considération les moyens de concilier son vœu pour l'abolition de la Traite avec les devoirs que Lui imposoit la conservation de Ses possessions en Amérique, Il Se croiroit toujours lié par cet engagement, que cependant le Roi, après avoir consulté sur cet objet les propriétaires dans plusieurs colonies et surtout ceux des Isles de Cuba et de Porto-Rico, S'étoit convaincu de l'impossibilité de prononcer l'abolition immédiate, ou de fixer seulement un terme trop approché pour faire cesser l'importation des nègres dans ces Isles, que d'après le résultat de toutes les démarches faites jusqu'ici il seroit bien difficile de s'astreindre pour l'abolition définitive à un terme plus rapproché que celui de huit ans ; que quant à lui, il n'étoit pas autorisé à aller plus loin, mais, que d'un autre côté il croyoit

pouvoir garantir que le Gouvernement Espagnol ne permettroit dans aucun cas que des bâtimens Espagnols fissent le commerce des nègres pour des colonies étrangères, ou prêtassent leur pavillon à des expéditions contraires aux loix des autres puissances.

Lord Castlereagh a répliqué à cette déclaration. Il a dit que, quoique loin de répondre à ses vœux, elle renfermoit au moins l'assurance que l'Espagne vouloit fixer un terme pour l'abolition définitive du trafic des nègres ; il s'est réservé d'employer tous les moyens de négociation pour engager l'Espagne à restreindre ce terme, et pour la disposer à entrer dans des nouvelles explications avec ses colonies ; il a en même tems appelé aux Plénipotentiaires des autres puissances pour faire cause commune avec l'Angleterre dans ces négociations.

M. le Comte de Nesselrode Plénipotentiaire de Russie a pris la parole, pour seconder cette proposition et pour engager tous les Plénipotentiaires présens à réunir leurs efforts afin d'obtenir de M. le Plénipotentiaire d'Espagne une déclaration plus conforme à leurs vœux communs.

M. le Chevalier de Labrador a observé qu'une démarche pareille seroit inutile, puisqu'il ne pouvoit passer outre ses instructions, et que d'ailleurs il s'agissoit ici d'une affaire dans laquelle le Roi son maître ne pouvoit pas suivre sans réserve ses propres impulsions, que cependant il ne se refuseroit pas à informer sa cour des dispositions et des vœux des autres puissances à cet égard.

Lord Castlereagh s'adressant de nouveau à M. de Labrador a discuté la question sous différens rapports.—Il a surtout observé que la réunion des puissances pour un objet aussi respectable fourniroit aux Souverains des colonies des moyens vis-à-vis de leurs propres sujets pour les engager à abandonner la Traite, et pour disposer les habitans des colonies à se soumettre à un système plus conforme au bien de l'humanité et en même tems beaucoup plus favorable à leur intérêt réel et permanent que celui de l'importation toujours renouvelée des nègres.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand a fortement appuyé ce raisonnement. Il a dit que c'étoit sans doute un avantage pour les puissances possédant des colonies, que toutes les autres puissances se chargeoient vis-à-vis des propriétaires dans les colonies d'une partie de l'odieux que la mesure de l'abolition pouvoit avoir d'après leur manière de voir, ou d'après leurs préventions actuelles. Il a ajouté que d'après son opinion, la déclaration solennelle sur laquelle on venoit de se réunir, ne maneroit pas d'offrir aux Puissances coloniales des moyens efficaces pour restreindre la durée de la Traite, en manifestant leurs intentions à cet égard d'une manière irrévocable.

Lord Castlereagh a déclaré alors qu'avant épuisé tous les argumens qui pourroient déterminer le Gouvernement Espagnol, soit à abolir la Traite immédiatement, soit à avancer au moins le terme qu'il paroïssoit avoir fixé pour cette mesure, il insistoit sur sa proposition de faire intervenir les autres puissances dans cette tentative, et il a invité M. M. les Plénipotentiaires présens à seconder ses démarches.

Sur cela M. le Comte de Nesselrode a prié M. le Chevalier de Labrador de porter à la connoissance de sa Cour, le vœu énoncé par M. le Plénipotentiaire de S. M. Britannique et partagé par S. M. l'Empereur son maître que le terme fixé par S. M. le Roi d'Espagne pour l'abolition de la Traite des nègres dans ses États soit raccourci autant que possible et en tout cas suffisamment pour coïncider avec celui que la France avait admis dans le Traité de Paris.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand s'est engagé à employer ses bons offices pour le même effet.

M. le Baron de Binder, parlant au nom de M. le Prince Metternich, en déclarant que le vœu de Sa Majesté l'Empereur son Maître s'accordait absolument avec celui du Gouvernement Britannique, a réuni ses instances à celles de Lord Castlereagh, et de M. le Comte de Nesselrode. Il ajouta que l'on avoit d'autant plus d'espoir de réussir auprès de l'Espagne que la France

venoit de engager d'une manière si peu équivoque à concourir de tous ses moyens au plus prompt succès de cette grand mesure.

M. le Baron de Humboldt, Plénipotentiaire de Prusse a parlé dans le même sens, en annonçant que S. M. le Roi son maître contribueroit bien volontiers, et autant qu'il seroit en Lui à tout ce qui pouvoit accélérer l'abolition finale de la Traite. Il a observé qu' on pouvoit se flatter que l'inégalité même des termes adoptés par les différentes Puissances possédant des colonies, les unes étant engagées à abolir dans cinq ans les autres en demandant huit pour cet effet, deviendroit un motif pour les déterminer toutes à restreindre la durée de ce commerce.

M. le Comte de Lowenheilm Plénipotentiaire de Suède, a déclaré avoir les mêmes instructions de son Gouvernement et s'est joint aux autres Plénipotentiaires pour demander l'abolition dans le plus court délai possible.

La question relativement à l'Espagne se trouvant ainsi terminée, Lord Castlereagh s'est adressé à M. M. les Plénipotentiaires de Portugal pour apprendre qu'elles étoient les intentions du Gouvernement Portugais à ce même sujet.

M. le Comte de Palmella a répondu que S. A. R. le Prince Régent de Portugal avoit adhéré depuis long tems au principe de l'abolition de la Traite ; qu'il l'avoit formellement déclaré dans un Traité conclu en 1810 avec le Gouvernement Britannique et que depuis cette époque Il avoit pris plus d'une mesure tant pour restreindre ce genre de commerce que pour en détourner Ses sujets ; que cependant la situation du Gouvernement Portugais étoit sous ce rapport particulièrement délicate, que le Brésil étoit un pays immense, qui n'avoit pas, à beaucoup près, les bras qu'il lui falloit pour sa culture, qu'un changement brusque dans le régime de ce pays et l'interruption subite de l'importation des Nègres lui feroit un mal incalculable ; qu'une mesure pareille seroit également pernicieuse pour les établissemens Portugais sur la côte de l'Afrique, vû qu'il falloit un certain nombre d'années pour faire changer entièrement le système intérieur de ces colonies ; que d'ailleurs les Portugais transportant les Nègres de leurs colonies sur la côte d'Afrique à leurs colonies Americaines avoient des moyens qui manquoient aux autres nations pour adoucir le traitement de ces Esclaves tant au lieu du départ que pendant la traversée, qu'enfin il étoit de notoriété publique que les loix de police intérieure relativement aux Esclaves avoit toujours été extrêmement humaines dans le Brésil ; que toutes ces considerations méritoient d'être mûrement pesées et seroient probablement jugés suffisantes pour justifier en faveur du Portugal une exception de la règle générale ; que dans tous les cas il ne seroit pas juste d'en vouloir au Gouvernement Portugais s'il procédoit dans cette affaire avec mesure et circonspection en se rappelant que l'Angleterre elle-même avoit mis un très long intervalle entre les premières propositions pour abolir la Traite et l'exécution finale de cette mesure.

M. le Comte de Palmella a fini par déclarer, que le Portugal ne pouvoit pas se décider à l'abolition immédiate de la Traite, mais qu'il se flattoit de pouvoir y mettre un terme au bût de huit ans, sauf à adopter les modifications que les circonstances pouvoient indiquer pendant cet intervalle.

Lord Castlereagh a observé que l'intérêt bien entendu du Brésil ne s'opposeroit certainement pas à l'abolition de la traite, et que S. A. R. le Prince Régent de Portugal étoit convenu lui-même de cette vérité en reconnoissant par l'article 10 du traité de Rio Janeiro du 19 Fevrier 1810—“ les grands desavantages qui resultoient de la nécessité d'introduire et de renouveler “ continuellement une population étrangère et factice pour cultiver les terres “ et soutenir l'industrie dans les colonies Americaines.”

Quant aux établissemens sur la Cote d'Afrique, Lord Castlereagh a été d'avis qu'ils ne méritoient pas d'entrer pour beaucoup dans la discussion ; ces établissemens n'étant fondés que sur le système inhumain de la traite des nègres, il étoit naturel qu'ils tombassent avec ce système. Relativement au terme de huit années que le Portugal sembloit indiquer pour procéder à l'abolition définitive, Lord Castlereagh a déclaré qu'après l'article susmentionné du traité de 1810,

par lequel S. A. R. le Prince Regent de Portugal s'étoit engagé "à prendre les mesures les plus efficaces pour abolir graduellement le commerce des nègres dans toute l'étendue de ses possessions," l'Angleterre n'avoit pas pu s'attendre à ce que cinq ans plus tard l'accomplissement de cette promesse ne se trouveroit pas assez avancé pour dispenser le gouvernement Portugais d'un nouveau délai aussi considérable que celui qu'il paroissoit avoir en vue.

M. le Comte de Palmella a répliqué, que quant aux établissemens de la côte d'Afrique c'étoit précisément pour empêcher qu'ils ne tombassent tout-à-fait avec l'abolition de la traite, comme Lord Castlereagh l'avoit annoncé, que le Portugal demandoit du tems afin de pouvoir changer le système agricole et commercial de ces établissemens ; et que par rapport aux engagemens contenus dans l'article 10, du traité de 1810, le Portugal avoit déjà pris des mesures efficaces pour les remplir en diminuant sensiblement l'intérêt que les marchands d'esclaves et les propriétaires de vaisseaux trouvoit dans ce trafic ; que l'abolition graduelle stipulée par le dit article, n'y étoit énoncée que d'une manière vague et générale, sans que rien ne fut statué sur le terme définitif ; que néanmoins S. A. R. le Prince Regent fidèle aux principes qu'elle avoit une fois adoptés, ne se refuseroit pas à préférer le terme de huit ans pour la cessation finale de la traite, que cependant la question se trouvant étroitement liée à tout le système commercial du Portugal, et l'abolition de la traite devant nécessairement altérer ce système, les mesures ultérieures à prendre pour cet objet ne pouvoient que dépendre du résultat des discussions commerciales que se trouvoient entre le gouvernement Portugais et celui de la Grande Bretagne.

Après cette explication Lord Castlereagh a prié M. M. les Plénipotentiaires présens d'adresser à M. le Plénipotentiaire de Portugal les mêmes propositions accompagnées des mêmes instances qui avoient eu lieu vis-à-vis de M. le Plénipotentiaire d'Espagne ; et M. M. les Plénipotentiaires de Russie, de France, d'Autriche, de Prusse, et de Suède ont renouvelé vis-à-vis M. le Comte de Palmella leurs déclarations précédentes.

Sur quoi la Séance a été levée.

Lecture faite du précédent protocole à la Séance de samedi 28 Janvier M. le Chevalier de Labrador, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. le Roi d'Espagne, en se référant à des développemens ultérieurs donnés à son opinion sur le terme de l'abolition de la traite dans la Séance du 20, a demandé d'insérer au protocole les explications additionnelles dont la teneur suit :—

" Si les colonies Espagnoles d'Amérique étoient pour ce qui concerne les nègres dans le même état que les colonies Anglaises S. M. C. ne balanceroit pas un seul moment à prononcer l'abolition immédiate de la traite, mais les questions de l'abolition ayant été agitées dans le Parlement Anglais depuis 1788 jusqu'à 1807, les propriétaires Anglais ont eu tout le tems de faire des achats extraordinaires d'esclaves, et en effet ils les ont fait de façon que dans la Jamaïque où il n'y avoit en 1787, que deux cents cinquante mille esclaves, il y en avoit à l'époque de l'abolition en 1807 quatre cents mille. Au contraire les propriétaires Espagnols ont été pendant les derniers vingt ans privés presque entièrement de se procurer des esclaves, car l'état de guerre dans lequel l'Espagne s'est trouvée engagée avec l'Angleterre pendant la plupart de ce tems rendoit presque impossibles les expéditions des bâtimens négriers, et le reste de la même époque toute l'attention et tous les moyens de la Péninsule et de ses colonies ont été dirigés contre l'aggrégation du Tyran du Continent. En conséquence de cette position extraordinaire dans laquelle l'Espagne s'est trouvée, les propriétaires des colonies Espagnoles n'ont pas pu remplacer les esclaves que la mort a enlevés ou l'âge a rendu inutiles depuis vingt ans ; ils possèdent des établissemens où ils ont employé des sommes immenses et qu'ils ont entretenus à grands frais, avec l'espoir de pouvoir un jour se procurer les esclaves nécessaires et l'abolition immédiate de la traite les ruineroit pour toujours. Ils ont réclamé la protection et la justice que leur Souverain leur doit, et Sa Majesté leur a promis

de permettre la continuation de la traite pendant huit ans, tems fort inférieur à celui qu'ils demandoient, et dont ils avoient besoin pour se rembourser des capitaux employés dans leurs plantations. Si quelqu'un peut encore douter de la nécessité de cette mesure, il suffira de lui faire observer, qu'à la Jamaïque il y a dix esclaves pour chaque blanc, le nombre de ceux-ci n'étant que de quarante milles et celui des nègres de quatre cent milles, et qu'à l'Isle de Cuba, le mieux fourni d'esclaves de toutes les colonies Espagnoles, il y a deux cents soixante quatorze mille blancs et deux cent douze mille esclaves seulement.

Vû et approuvé.

(Signés)

NESSELRODE.
 STEWART, L. Gen.
 CASTLEREAGH.
 TALLEYRAND.
 PALMELLA.
 SALDANHA.
 LOBO.
 LOWENHIELM.
 GOMEZ LABRADOR.
 LE BARON DE BINDER.
 HUMBOLDT.

(First Inclosure in No. 45.)—Translation.

Protocol of the Extraordinary Sitting of the 20th of January, appointed to deliberate upon the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

Present—Lord Castlereagh, Principal Plenipotentiary of His Britannic Majesty.

Lord Stewart, Plenipotentiary of His Britannic Majesty.

The Prince de Talleyrand, Principal Plenipotentiary of His Most Christian Majesty.

The Chevalier de Labrador, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Spain.

The Count Palmella, the Comte de Saldanha, the Chevalier de Lobo, Plenipotentiaries of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal.

The Count de Nesselrode, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias.

The Count de Lowenhielm, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Sweden.

The Baron de Humbolt, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Prussia.

The Baron de Binder, in room of the Prince de Metternich, Principal Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Austria.

The Plenipotentiaries of the Powers, who signed the Treaty of Paris, having decreed in their general meeting of the 16th of January, and enacted in the procès-verbal of this day, that, in order to employ measures for the entire cessation of the Slave Trade, each Power should name One or more Plenipotentiaries, who should meet in separate conferences, exclusively appointed for this purpose, in order to give an account of the result of their deliberations to the general assembly; the first of these Conferences was held yesterday in one of the offices of the Chancery of Court and State His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty.

Lord Castlereagh opened this Conference by a discourse, in which he stated what England had done for a certain number of years, to prohibit in

every country subject to her laws, and to attain by negotiations with other Powers the universal abolition of a commerce incompatible with the principles of the Christian religion, with every species of morality, and with humanity.

He observed that, if proofs were still wanting to convince Europe that England had been guided in all these proceedings, only by the purest and most disinterested motives, they would be found abundantly in the different communications which had taken place upon this subject between the British Government and the other maritime Powers, and above all, in the important sacrifices which England had made, or proposed to make, to attain the end in view. He explained afterwards the reasons which had determined his Government to submit this important question to the deliberations of Congress, and the measures which he should endeavour to follow in these deliberations.

After this introduction, Lord Castlereagh read the first additional article of the Treaty of Peace signed at Paris on the 30th of May 1814, between Great Britain and France. The article ran in these terms: "His Most Christian Majesty concurring without reserve in all the sentiments of His Britannic Majesty respecting a species of commerce, which is repugnant to the natural principles of justice, and to the enlightened sentiments of the times we live in, engages to unite at the ensuing Congress, His utmost efforts to those of His Britannic Majesty, for inducing all the Powers of Christendom to pronounce the abolition of the traffic in slaves, so as that the said traffic should universally cease, as it will definitively cease, in all events, on the part of France, at the expiration of five years;—and that, moreover during the interval, no trader in slaves shall import, nor sell any where, but in the colonies of the state whereof he is a subject."

Lord Castlereagh observed that this Article admitted and expressed an object common to all the powers, by determining the necessity of labouring towards an universal abolition of the trade; and that they all, having recognised the general principle, were equally bound to seek out the means for putting it in practice, at the earliest periods compatible with the particular state of their possessions.

In conformity with these bases, Lord Castlereagh announced, that he should propose in the first place, a declaration of the Powers assembled, proclaiming their adherence to the general principle of the abolition of the traffic in slaves, and their desire to carry this measure into effect with the least possible delay. That he should then proceed to collect the opinions of the Plenipotentiaries present, on the possibility of an immediate abolition, or of an abridgement of the term which each Power might have fixed on for the definitive abolition; and that he would, lastly, enter on the examination of the means for attaining immediately a partial abolition of this traffic.

Before the discussion of these several questions, Lord Castlereagh communicated authentic accounts to prove, that the abolition of the traffic operating on the one hand, a real and inestimable good, by delivering the inhabitants of Africa from a most terrible scourge, was not, on the other hand, as had for a long time been believed, contrary to the interests of the Powers possessing colonies, or to the interests, well understood, of the proprietors in those colonies, since in all the colonial establishments, where the importation of negroes is forbidden, their augmentation by natural and legitimate means had been more than proportioned to the diminution of the number caused by the cessation of the traffic; that where fresh lands had not been laid down to cultivation, the agriculture had not, in any degree, gone backward, and the general tranquillity and prosperity of these establishments had essentially and considerably improved. These documents go likewise to establish, that the perils which menace the European colonies in the West Indies and South America, must sensibly increase, by the incessantly renewed importation of negroes, and that this single consideration is sufficient to convince the Powers of Europe, according to the expressions

in one of these papers, "that in this matter their interest is on the same side with their duty, and that the law of self-preservation, no less than that of humanity, prescribes to them, that they should seek timely means of stemming a torrent, which might otherwise overwhelm them."

Following up these prefatory observations, Lord Castlereagh came to his first proposition, relative to a declaration by which the Powers acting in the name of the Congress, should proclaim their common desire for the universal abolition of the traffic.

The Prince de Talleyrand supported this proposition, adding, that according to the engagement contracted by France in the Treaty of Peace, he felt himself called upon to second the step which Lord Castlereagh had adopted, in order to the discussion of this subject, and which he entirely approved of. He said that there could be, and that there was in fact, but one voice among the Sovereigns of Europe, on the necessity, and the duty of putting an end to so odious a traffic, more particularly since the principle of abolition had been openly acknowledged by those even, who, moved by particular considerations, conceive themselves obliged to suspend the entire execution of the same. The declaration proposed by Lord Castlereagh, would produce, according to M. de Talleyrand, the most salutary effect, by giving warning to the subjects of all the powers, and to the proprietors in every colony, of the serious intention of their Governments, never to lose sight of the abolition of the traffic, and would thus prevent their giving way to illusive ideas, as to the indefinite duration of this commerce.

The Prince de Talleyrand is moreover persuaded, that such a declaration would be well received by the sound and enlightened part of the public of every country, and that it would do honour to the Congress.

M. le Comte de Nesselrode announced, that His Majesty the Emperor his master, perfectly concurred in the principle of the abolition of the traffic, and inclined towards every thing which could insure and accelerate the execution of this measure; that with this view, the Emperor had charged him to second in every thing the steps which Lord Castlereagh might judge necessary for the accomplishment of so noble an object. He supported without reservation the first proposition of Lord Castlereagh.

The Plenipotentiaries of Austria, of Sweden, and of Prussia, expressed themselves to the same purport.

M. le Chevalier de Labrador, Plenipotentiary of Spain, said, that it was not his intention to vote against the proposition; but that, bearing in view the situation of several powers with respect to their colonies, it appeared to him indispensable, to insert in the general declaration a clause, reserving to each Government the liberty of determining the epoch, when the abolition of the traffic in slaves could be decreed within their possessions, without prejudice to interests which were deserving of the greatest consideration.

M. le Comte de Palmella, Plenipotentiary of Portugal, observed, that the necessity of putting an end to the traffic in slaves being fully acknowledged by his Government, he could have no objection to the declaration proposed by Lord Castlereagh, provided it were so expressed as not to pre-judge the question of the definitive cessation, this being a question on which each power had a right to consult its own interests.

The Prince de Talleyrand said, that the restrictions claimed by the Plenipotentiaries of Spain and Portugal would doubtless be admitted by all the other Powers, and that the general declaration would not thereby be of less use; and Lord Castlereagh added to this observation, that it was his wish that the document in question should be drawn up in such terms, as to embrace the opinions of all the Governments, including those who had hitherto been prevented by special considerations from concurring efficaciously towards this beneficent measure.

When this discussion had ended, all the Plenipotentiaries present agreeing in the proposition of Lord Castlereagh, the Clerk of the Conferences was

directed to draw up a project of a declaration in conformity with the basis agreed upon, and to present the same at the ensuing Sitting.

Lord Castlereagh then proceeded to the question of the term to be fixed upon for the complete cessation of the traffic in slaves; and he declared that his principles, his duty, and the wishes of his Government and of the British nation, urged him to open this discussion by a renewed attempt to obtain the determination of all the Powers for the immediate abolition of a commerce which the whole World looked upon at length as immoral, inhuman, and in the end dangerous even to the preservation of the colonies. He invited the Prince de Talleyrand to support him in this attempt, and observed, that the motives which France might have had for opposing an immediate abolition, at the time of the signature of the Treaty of Paris, had ceased to exist, or had lost a great portion of their weight; that the term of five years being once stipulated for by treaty, the French Government could not now be charged with having been led by foreign influence, and might, without compromising its dignity, render full satisfaction to those principles of justice and humanity, to which the Prince de Talleyrand had just paid homage; that moreover, the state of the French Colonies which had been restored upon the peace, and the difficulty of recovering possession of the island of St. Domingo, must diminish the object France had to keep up the ancient colonial system; that it appeared besides, that the prejudices which subsisted in France against the suppression of this commerce were beginning gradually to subside, and were daily lessening from the information diffused abroad; that these united considerations would not permit him to renounce a hope that this Power would join England for prohibiting henceforward the importation of negroes into her colonies.

The Prince de Talleyrand answered, that France was quite decided upon the principle of the abolition of the traffic; that she would scrupulously fulfil the engagement contracted by the Treaty of Paris; that the Government would take care to prepare every thing, so that no obstacle should occur to the execution of the measure at the stipulated period, and that they would endeavour, even from this time forward, to discourage the subjects of France from the trade in negroes, by the course they should follow, and by the regulations they should adopt in this respect, but that there appeared insurmountable obstacles to adopting an immediate abolition.

After renewed entreaties on the part of Lord Castlereagh, the Prince de Talleyrand ended by declaring that France would bind herself to the absolute abolition at the period agreed upon, and to the effectual discouragement of the traffic during the interval, but that for the moment she could go no further.

Lord Castlereagh then entered into explanations with the Prince de Talleyrand, on the possibility of abridging the period of the definitive abolition of the traffic, and alledged various arguments for engaging France to substitute at least the term of three years, for the duration of the traffic, instead of the five stipulated in the Treaty of Paris.

The Prince de Talleyrand answered, that this question had relation to particular circumstances, which could not be calculated with precision beforehand; that it was connected particularly with the effect which might be produced by the measures of the French Government, for discouraging its subjects from the traffic; that if this effect should be such as that the persons interested in the commerce should be disposed to abandon the same sooner, the Government would have no objection to admit, or to propose an epoch nearer to the present for the final abolition; that without being able to lend herself at this present moment to a positive engagement upon this Article, France was decided on doing every thing to shorten the period for the entire cessation of this traffic.

Lord Castlereagh then addressed himself to the Chevalier Labrador, to learn whether there was reason to hope that Spain would decide on an immediate abolition of the traffic, or on fixing at least a moderated period for this measure.

M. le Chevalier de Labrador answered, that His Majesty the King of Spain having engaged Himself with Great Britain to take into consideration the means of conciliating His desire for the abolition of the traffic, with the duties imposed upon Him for the preservation of His possessions in America, He considered Himself always bound by this engagement; that nevertheless the King having consulted upon this subject the proprietors in several colonies, and particularly those in the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico, was convinced of the impossibility of adopting the measure of an immediate abolition, or even of fixing upon too early a period for causing the importation of Negroes into those islands to cease; that according to the result of all the steps hitherto taken, it would be very difficult to engage for the definitive abolition at an earlier period than eight years; that, in respect to himself, he was not authorised to go farther, but that on the other side the Spanish Government had engaged, not in any case, to permit Spanish vessels to carry on the trade in Negroes for foreign colonies, nor lend their flag for expeditions contrary to the laws of other Powers.

Lord Castlereagh replied to this declaration; he said, that, although far from corresponding to his wishes, it contained at least the assurance, that Spain would fix a period for the definitive abolition of the traffic in Negroes. He reserved to himself the employment of all means of negociation for engaging Spain to reduce this period, and for disposing her to enter anew upon explanations with her colonies: he appealed at the same time to the Plenipotentiaries of the other Powers for making common cause with England in her negociations.

M. le Comte de Nesselrode, Plenipotentiary of Russia, took up the conversation to second this proposition, and to engage all the Plenipotentiaries present to unite their efforts, in order to obtain from the Plenipotentiary of Spain a declaration more in conformity with their common desire.

M. le Chevalier de Labrador observed, that such a step would be useless, since he could not go beyond his instructions, and the affair in question was one on which the King his master could not follow, unreservedly the impulse of His own feelings; but, nevertheless, that he would not refuse to acquaint His Court with the dispositions and wishes of the other Powers in this respect.

Lord Castlereagh, again addressing himself to M. de Labrador, discussed the question on various grounds. He particularly observed that the union of the Powers for such an honourable object, would give to those Sovereigns who possessed colonies, the most persuasive arguments to prevail upon their subjects to abandon the trade, and to dispose the inhabitants of the colonies to submit to a system more conformable to the welfare of humanity, and at the same time more favourable to their own real and permanent interests, than that of the renewing their population by successive importations of Negroes.

The Prince de Talleyrand warmly supported this reasoning. He observed it was doubtless an advantage for the Powers who possessed colonies, that all the other Powers should bear, in the eyes of the colonial proprietors, a share of the odium which in their way, or according to their prejudices, of viewing the subject, would fall on the proposed measure of abolition. He added, that in his opinion, the solemn declaration which had been agreed upon, would not fail to present to the colonial Powers, effectual means for restricting the duration of the trade, in manifesting their intentions on this subject in an irrevocable manner.

Lord Castlereagh then declared, that having exhausted every argument which could induce the Spanish Government either to abolish immediately the trade, or to hasten, at least, the period that it appeared to have fixed for that measure, he could only urge his proposition that the other Powers should lend their assistance to this effort, and he invited the Plenipotentiaries, then present, to second his undertakings.

Upon that, the Count de Nesselrode begged the Chevalier de Labrador to

acquaint his Court of the wish expressed by the Plenipotentiaries of His Britannic Majesty, and concurred in by His Majesty the Emperor his master, that the period fixed upon by His Majesty the King of Spain, for the abolition of the Slave Trade in His states, should be shortened as much as possible, and, at all events, sufficiently so to coincide with that period which France had admitted in the Treaty of Paris.

The Prince de Talleyrand engaged to employ every effort in his power to the same effect.

The Baron de Binder, in the name of the Prince de Metternich, in declaring that the wish of His Majesty the Emperor his Master, perfectly accorded with that of the British Government, united his solicitations to those of Lord Castlereagh and the Count de Nesselrode. He added, that they had much greater hopes of effecting it in conjunction with Spain, inasmuch as France had just engaged, in so unequivocal a manner, to afford every means of which she was possessed for the most speedy accomplishment of this great object.

The Baron de Humbolt, the Prussian Plenipotentiary, concurred in the same sentiments, and declared that His Majesty the King his Master, would contribute most willingly, and to the utmost of his power in accelerating the final abolition of the trade. He observed, that they might hope that even the inequality of the periods adopted by the different Powers who possessed colonies, some having engaged to abolish it in five years, others requiring eight for that purpose, would offer an inducement for them all to determine upon restricting the duration of this commerce.

The Count de Lowenheim, the Swedish Plenipotentiary, declared that he had similar instructions from his Government, and joined the other Plenipotentiaries in demanding the abolition with the least possible delay.

The question relative to Spain being thus terminated, Lord Castlereagh addressed the Plenipotentiaries of Portugal, to learn what were the intentions of the Portuguese Government on the same subject.

The Count de Palmella replied, that His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal had adhered, for a length of time, to the principle of the abolition of the trade; that he had formally declared it, in a Treaty concluded in 1810, with the British Government; and that since that epoch He had taken more than one measure, as well to restrict this species of commerce, as to dissuade His subjects from it; that the Portuguese Government was, however, peculiarly situated with regard to this delicate subject; that the Brazils was a large country, which had not within itself near the quantity of hands which were sufficient for its cultivation; that it would experience an incalculable evil from an over hasty change of its regime, and from the sudden interruption to the importation of slaves; that a similar measure would be equally injurious to the Portuguese establishments on the coast of Africa, as it must require a certain number of years to work an entire change in the anterior system of those colonies; that, besides, the Portuguese who transported slaves from their colonies on the coast of Africa to their American colonies, had means which other Nations did not possess of ameliorating the condition of those slaves, as much prior to the period of their departure as during their voyage; that, finally, it was notorious that the laws of the interior police relative to slaves, had always been extremely humane in the Brazils; that all those considerations ought to be maturely weighed, and would probably be deemed sufficient to justify, in favour of Portugal, an exception to the general rule; that under all these circumstances it would not be just to reproach the Portuguese Government if it proceeded in this affair gradually and with circumspection. He stated that England herself had allowed a very long time to elapse between the first propositions for the abolition of the trade and the final execution of that measure.

The Count de Palmella concluded by declaring, that Portugal could not decide upon the immediate abolition of the trade, but that he hoped to be

able to put an end to it; at the expiration of eight years, and in the interval to adopt any modifications which circumstances might point out.

Lord Castlereagh observed, that the real interest of the Brazils was certainly not to oppose the abolition of the trade, and that His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal was Himself aware of this truth, in acknowledging, by the 10th article of the Treaty of Rio Janeiro of the 19th of February, 1810, "the great disadvantages which arise from the necessity of introducing and continually renewing a foreign and factitious population, for the purpose of labour and industry within His South-American dominions."

With regard to the establishments upon the coast of Africa, Lord Castlereagh was of opinion that they were not deserving of much consideration in the discussion; these establishments being dependent upon the inhuman system of the Slave Trade alone, it was natural that they should fall with that system.—As to the period of eight years, which Portugal seemed to appoint for the definitive abolition, Lord Castlereagh declared, that, after the above-mentioned article of the Treaty of 1810, by which His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal had engaged "to take the most effectual measures for gradually abolishing the Slave Trade throughout the whole extent of His possessions,"—England could not have expected, that, five years later, the fulfilment of this promise should not be sufficiently advanced to enable the Portuguese Government to dispense with a fresh delay so considerable as that which it seemed to have in view.

Count de Palmella replied, that as to the settlements on the coast of Africa, it was precisely with intent to prevent their being entirely ruined by the abolition of the Slave Trade, as Lord Castlereagh had announced, that Portugal required time to enable her to change the agricultural and commercial system of those settlements; and that, in reference to the engagements contained in the 10th article of the Treaty of 1810, Portugal had already taken effectual measures for executing them, by considerably diminishing the advantages derived by the slave-merchants and owners of slave ships from this traffic; that the gradual abolition, stipulated by the said article, was only mentioned there in a vague and general way, without specifying, in any manner, the ultimate period; that, nevertheless, His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, faithful to the principles which He had once adopted, would not refuse to adopt the term of eight years for the final cessation of the trade; that, however, the question being closely connected with the commercial system of Portugal, and the abolition of the trade having the necessary consequence of altering that system, the ulterior measures to be taken on this subject, must depend on the issue of the commercial discussions set on foot between the Governments of Portugal and of Great Britain.

After this explanation Lord Castlereagh requested the Plenipotentiaries assisting at the conference to make to the Plenipotentiary of Portugal the same proposals, accompanied by the same entreaties that had been addressed to the Plenipotentiary of Spain; and the Plenipotentiaries of Russia, of France, of Austria, of Prussia, and of Sweden, repeated to the Count de Palmella their preceding declarations.

The conference was then adjourned.

On the above protocole being read in the conference of Saturday, January 28, the Chevalier de Labrador, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Spain, referring to the construction which had been subsequently put upon his opinion respecting the period of the abolition of this trade, in the conference of the 20th, requested to have inserted in the protocole, some further explanations to the following purport:—

"Were the Spanish colonies in America, with regard to the negroes, in the same situation as the English colonies, His Catholic Majesty would not hesitate a moment to declare the immediate abolition of the trade; but the question concerning the abolition having been agitated in the English Parlia-

ment from 1788 to 1807, the English planters had ample time allowed them to make additional purchases of slaves, and this they had done to such an extent, that in Jamaica, where in 1787 there were only two hundred and fifty thousand slaves, there were, at the epoch of the abolition, in 1807, four hundred thousand: whereas the Spanish planters have, during the last twenty years, been almost entirely prevented from procuring slaves; the warfare in which Spain has been engaged with England, during the greater part of that time, having rendered the voyages of slave ships nearly impracticable, and during the remainder of that period all the attention and all the means of the Peninsula and of its colonies, having been directed against the aggression of the tyrant of the Continent. In consequence of this extraordinary situation, in which Spain was placed, the planters of the Spanish colonies have found it impossible to replace the slaves whom either death has carried off, or age has rendered useless, for twenty years past; they have settlements where they have laid out immense sums, and which they have kept up at a great expence, in the hope of being able, one day, to procure the requisite slaves, and an immediate abolition would ruin them for ever. They have claimed the protection and justice which their Sovereign owes them, and His Majesty has promised them to allow the continuance of the trade for eight years; a term far short of that which they demanded and wanted for clearing the capitals employed in their plantations. Should any one still entertain doubts about the necessity of this measure, it will be sufficient to direct his attention to the fact, that in Jamaica there are ten slaves for every white person, whose number amounts only to forty thousand, while that of the negroes is computed at four hundred thousand, and that in the Isle of Cuba, which of all the Spanish colonies is best provided with slaves, there are two hundred and seventy two thousand whites, and only two hundred and twelve thousand slaves.

Seen and approved.

(Signed)

NESSELRODE.
 STEWART, L. Gen.
 CASTLEREAGH.
 TALLEYRAND.
 PALMELLA.
 SALDANHA.
 LOBO.
 LOWENHIELM.
 GOMEZ LABRADOR.
 LE BARON DE BINDER.
 HUMBOLDT.

(Second Inclosure in No. 45.)

Protocole de la second conférence particulière relative à l'Abolition de la
 Traite des Nègres, le samedi, 28 Janvier, 1815.

Presentes—Lord Castlereagh, Premier Plénipotentiaire de S. M. Bri-
 tannique.

Lord Stewart, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. Britannique.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand, Premier Plénipotentiaire de S. M. Très Chré-
 tienne.

M. le Chevalier de Labrador, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. le Roi d'Espagne.

M. le Comte de Palmella, M. le Comte de Saldanha, M. le Chevalier de
 Lobo, Plénipotentiaires de S. A. R. le Prince Régent de Portugal.

M. le Comte de Nesselrode, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. l'Empereur de toutes les Russies.

M. le Comte de Lowenhjelm, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. le Roi de Suède.

M. le Baron de Humboldt, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. le Roi de Prusse.

M. le Prince de Metternich, Premier Plénipotentiaire de S. M. l'Empereur d'Autriche.

M. le Baron de Binder.

Il a été fait lecture du procès verbal de la séance précédente, lequel y compris l'article additionnel inséré sur la demande de M. le Plénipotentiaire d'Espagne, a été approuvé et signé.

M. le Prince de Metternich, Premier Plénipotentiaire de S. M. l'Empereur d'Autriche, n'ayant pas pu être présent en personne à la première conférence a confirmé tout ce que M. le Baron de Binder y auroit dit, et déclaré son adhésion aux différentes résolutions qui y ont été prises. Il a désiré qu'il en fut fait mention expresse au protocole.

Ou a lu ensuite le projet de déclaration rédigé à la suite de la première séance, et en est convenu que ce projet seroit mis en circulation, et discuté dans une séance prochaine.

Lord Castlereagh reprenant le fil de la délibération, a observé, que, puisque le résultat de la première conférence ne permettoit pas d'espérer la cessation générale et immédiate de la Traite des Nègres, il croyoit au moins nécessaire de s'occuper sans délai de l'abolition partielle de ce commerce, et d'en assurer surtout le bienfait à cette partie de l'Afrique, que, graces aux mesures du gouvernement Anglois, se trouvoit aujourd'hui presque entièrement délivré du fléau de la traite. Il a dit, que l'Angleterre, s'étant trouvée en possession pendant le dernière guerre de tous les établissemens Européens sur les côtes de l'Afrique au nord de la Ligne, à l'exception de ceux de Portugal, avoit eu le tems de mettre à profit le bien que la cessation seule de la traite a fait à ce pays, pour leur préparer une existence plus heureuse ; que les mesures adoptées à cet effet n'avoient pas été infructueuses, que sur plusieurs points de ces côtes l'économie intérieure, la culture et l'industrie, à en juger d'après l'augmentation du commerce en marchandises indigènes, paroisoient avoir fait des progrès sensibles, et que la valeur annuelle de leurs productions exportées, ne montant avant l'époque de l'abolition qu'à environ 80,000l. st. avoit excédé en dernier lieu la somme de 1,000,000l. st. Lord Castlereagh a ajouté qu'il seroit infiniment à désirer, que ce germe d'amélioration ne fut pas étouffé dans sa naissance par la réintroduction de tous les désordres, et de tous les malheurs inséparables du commerce des nègres ; et que ces pays, après avoir goûté les premiers avantages d'un meilleur ordre de choses, ne fussent pas livrés de nouveau aux calamités et aux dévastations de la traite.

S'adressant enfin à M. le Prince de Talleyrand, Lord Castlereagh a rendu hommage aux dispositions bienveillantes et salutaires par lesquelles S. M. le Roi de France et Ses Ministres, en restreignant la sphère du commerce des nègres sur les côtes d'Afrique au nord de la Ligne, avoient essentiellement concouru au soulagement actuel et à la prospérité future de cette partie de l'Afrique.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand a répondu par la déclaration suivante :—

S. M. Très Chrétienne ne S'est point bornée à préparer l'exécution du Traité de Paris par une déclaration spéciale et antérieure à ce traité, par laquelle elle S'étoit engagée à décourager les tentations que Ses sujets pouvoient faire pour renouveler la traite des noirs sur toute l'étendue des côtes d'Afrique comprise entre le Cap Blanc, et le Cap des Palmes. Dès qu'il a été reconnu que l'on pouvoit se dispenser de la faire sur ces côtes, S. M. le Roi de France, au lieu de décourager simplement les tentations de Ses sujets, leur a positivement défendu d'en faire coutume sous peine de confiscations des bâtimens que seroient trouvés avoir contrevenus à Ses ordres. Enfin le Roi de France, ayant cru que dès-à-présent la traite pourroit être plus restreinte en-

core, a étendu la rigueur de la prohibition à cent lieues environ au delà du Cap des Palmes.

Lord Castlereagh, après avoir exprimé de nouveau la satisfaction que ces mesures du Gouvernement Français feroient éprouver à tous les amis de l'humanité, a dit, qu'il y avoit cependant deux observations qu'il ne pouvoit pas s'empêcher de présenter à M. le Prince de Talleyrand. Premièrement, que d'après une communication faite par le Ministre de France le 8 du mois d'Octobre, 1814, la prohibition de la traite devoit s'étendre jusqu'au Cap Formose, par conséquent beaucoup plus loin que M. le Prince de Talleyrand venoit de l'annoncer. Lord Castlereagh a dit que la différence étoit d'autant plus intéressante qu'en bornant cette mesure à cent lieues au delà du Cap des Palmes, non seulement toute le côte méridionale de la Guinée, objet particulier des sollicitudes de l'Angleterre, seroit menacée de nouveau des ravages de la traite, mais les parties même de l'intérieur de l'Afrique qu'on en avoit cru délivrés par la cessation de ce commerce sur les côtes occidentales, s'y trouveroient de nouveau exposées par les débouchés, que la côte méridionale offriroit aux vendeurs d'esclaves. L'autre observation de Lord Castlereagh a été qu'il seroit digne des principes sages et humains manifestés déjà à cet égard par S. M. le Roi de France, de défendre dès-à-présent la traite à Ses sujets sur toutes les côtes au nord de l'Equateur, et de rassurer par là la grand moitié de l'Afrique contre le retour de ses anciennes calamités.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand a répliqué, que, quant à l'objet de la première observation, il en consulteroit avec le Ministre de la Marine de France; et quant à la seconde il ne manqueroit pas de la soumettre à son Gouvernement.

Lord Castlereagh ayant dit dans le cours de ces explications, que l'abolition de la traite sur toutes les côtes au Nord de l'Equateur, étoit surtout désirable, comme fournissant les moyens les plus simples et les plus surs pour mettre un terme à tout trafic illegal et frauduleux, et pour exercer la police contre les batimens qui se prêteroient à un pareil trafic, M. le Prince Talleyrand a prié Lord Castlereagh de déterminer le sens de cette dernière expression. Lord Castlereagh a répondu, qu'il entendoit par cette police celle que tout Gouvernement exerçoit en vertu de sa propre souveraineté ou de ses traités particuliers avec d'autres puissances.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand et M. le Comte Palmella ont dit, qu'ils n'admittoient en fait de police maritime que celle que chaque puissance exerce sur ses propres batimens. S'adressant ensuite à M. le Chevalier de Labrador, Lord Castlereagh s'est expliqué sur l'intention de S. M. le Roi d'Espagne de défendre dès à présent à Ses sujets le commerce des noirs sur toutes les parties des côtes d'Afrique, excepté celles qui sont comprises entre l'Equateur et le 10 degré de latitude septentrionale; intention dont M. de Labrador lui avoit donné connoissance. Il a représenté à M. le Plénipotentiaire d'Espagne, qu'une mesure pareille seroit non seulement de peu d'utilité, mais directement opposée au but auquel on visoit et à celui même que l'on devoit attribuer, à S. M. le Roi d'Espagne, attendu que cette partie des côtes d'Afrique qu'elle excluroit des bienfaits de l'abolition étoit précisément celle qui en avoit joui jusqu'à présent par les Lois et les soins du Gouvernement Britannique, celle où l'amélioration du système social avoit fait des progrès réels à la suite de l'abolition de la traite, et à laquelle on pouvoit espérer de continuer ces avantages, par les réglemens que d'autres Gouvernemens avoient faits ou étoient à la veille de faire, pour y empêcher le retour de ce commerce.

Lord Castlereagh a fait lecture de la note qu'il avoit adressée à M. le Plénipotentiaire d'Espagne le 27 de Decembre, 1814; et il a prié M. de Labrador de demander des éclaircissemens à sa cour sur le mesure projetée, et de l'engager à concourir immédiatement à l'abolition pure et simple sur toutes les côtes au nord de la ligne.

M. le Chevalier Labrador a dit qu'il ne contestoit pas les observations de Lord Castlereagh; que sans être suffisamment instruit pour rendre compte de

ce qui pouvoit avoir donné lieu à la restriction en question il croyoit pouvoir assurer que son Gouvernement, en proposant cette mesure, avoit voulu faire une chose agréable au Gouvernement Britannique, qu'il pouvoit y avoir en quelque malentendu de part ou d'autre, dans les explications Ministerielles à Madrid, et qu'ayant déjà informé sa cour des observations contenues dans la note de Lord Castlereagh, il eseroit d'obtenir des éclaircissements ultérieurs sur cet objet. Lord Castlereagh, en invitant alors M. M. les Plénipotentiaires de Portugal à s'expliquer sur la question, a dit qu'il leur adressoit cette invitation avec une satisfaction particulière, après l'arrangement qui venoit d'avoir lieu à cet égard entre le Portugal et l'Angleterre.

M. le Comte Palmella a déclaré, que le Portugal avoit en effet signé un Traité avec l'Angleterre, moyennant laquelle il s'engageoit à abolir immédiatement la Traite sur toutes les côtes de l'Afrique au Nord de l'Equateur. Convention qui n'exigeoit plus que la Ratification formelle des deux Gouvernemens sans dépendre d'aucune autre condition préalable.

La discussion de cette question se trouvant ainsi terminée, Lord Castlereagh a annoncé, que pour donner suite aux délibérations entamées ici sur les moyens d'arriver le plutôt possible à l'abolition générale et définitive de la Traite, il proposeroit dans la séance prochaine une mesure tendante à concilier les vœux de l'humanité avec les égards dus aux intérêts et aux droits des puissances indépendantes. Il a ajouté, que sa proposition auroit pour bût d'établir à Londres et à Paris des Conférences Ministerielles et des communications permanentes, consacrées à cet objet.

Plusieurs de M. M. les Plénipotentiaires présens ont fait des observations préalables sur ce projet ; mais on en a ajourné la discussion à la prochaine Séance ; et celle d'aujourd'hui a été levée.

Vu et approuvé

(Signés)

}	METTERNICH.
	LOBO.
	SALDANHA.
	PALMELLA.
	TALLEYRAND.
	CASTLEREAGH.
	WELLINGTON.
	STEWART.
	GOMEZ LABRADOR.
	LOWENHIELM.
HUMBOLDT.	
NESSELRODE.	

GENTZ, Rédacteur du Protocole.

(Second Inclosure in No. 45.)—Translation.

Protocol of the second special Conference relative to the abolition of the Slave Trade.—Saturday 28th of January, 1815.

Present, Lord Castlereagh, First Plenipotentiary of His Britannic Majesty.

Lord Stewart, Plenipotentiary of His Britannic Majesty.

Prince de Talleyrand, First Plenipotentiary of His Most Christian Majesty.

The Chevalier de Labrador, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Spain.

Count Palmella, Count Saldanha, the Chevalier de Lobo, Plenipotentiaries of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal.

Count Nesselrode, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias.

Count Lowenhielm, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Sweden.

Prince Metternich, First Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Austria.

Baron Humboldt, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Prussia.

Read Minutes (procès verbal) of the preceding Sittings, which, together with the additional article inserted at the desire of the Spanish Plenipotentiary, were signed and approved.

Prince Metternich, First Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, not having been able to be present at the first Conference, confirmed every thing that was said by Baron de Binder, and declared his assent to the several resolutions therein passed. He desired that special mention thereof should be made in the Protocol.

The project of the Declaration drawn up at the close of the first Sittings was read, and it was agreed that it should be put in circulation and discussed at an approaching Sitting.

Lord Castlereagh, resuming the thread of his deliberations, observed, that as the result of the first conference did not afford a hope of the general and immediate termination of the Slave Trade, he thought it at least necessary to take steps for the partial abolition of that traffic without delay, and especially to secure that blessing to that portion of Africa which found itself at this moment, (thanks to the measures of the British Government,) almost entirely liberated from its scourge.

He said, that England being in possession, during the last war, of all the European establishments on the coast of Africa, north of the Line, with the exception of those of Portugal, had had time to take advantage of the good which the mere cessation of the trade had produced to that country, by preparing for them a more happy existence; that the measures adopted for that purpose had not been fruitless; that in many parts of those coasts, interior economy, cultivation, and industry, appeared to have made sensible progress, if one can judge from the increase of indigenous merchandize; and that the value of their produce exported annually, which only amounted, before the period of the abolition, to about eighty thousand pounds sterling, had latterly exceeded one million. Lord Castlereagh added, that it was greatly to be wished that this germ of amelioration should not be stifled in its birth, by introducing anew all the disorder and all the miseries inseparable from the commerce in Negroes, and that these countries, after having tasted the first fruits of a better order of things, ought not to be given up again to the calamities and the devastations of that traffic.

Then addressing himself to Prince Talleyrand, Lord Castlereagh acknowledged the benevolent and salutary dispositions of His Majesty the King of France, and his Ministers, in restricting the limits of the Negro trade on the coast of Africa to the north of the Line, which had essentially conduced to the present relief and to the future prosperity of that portion of Africa.

Prince Talleyrand replied in the following manner:

His Most Christian Majesty did not confine Himself to prepare for the execution of the Treaty of Paris by a special and anterior declaration, by which He engaged to discourage the attempts that His subjects might make to renew the trade in Slaves, along the whole coast of Africa which lays between Cape Blanc and Cape Palma.

As soon as it was ascertained that the trade could be dispensed with on those coasts, His Majesty the King of France, instead of simply discouraging the attempts of His subjects, positively forbid the commerce, under penalty of confiscating the vessels employed in disobedience of His orders. In short, the King of France, believing that still further restraints might be put upon the trade immediately, has extended the rigour of the prohibition to about one hundred leagues beyond Cape Palma.

Lord Castlereagh, after having again expressed the satisfaction that all

friends of humanity must experience from these measures of the French Government, said, that there were however two observations which he must beg leave to make to Prince Talleyrand: first, that according to a communication made by the Minister of France on the 8th of October 1814, the prohibition of the trade was to extend as far as Cape Formosa, consequently much farther than Prince Talleyrand had just mentioned. Lord Castlereagh said that the difference was the more interesting, because, by fixing the restriction to one hundred leagues beyond Cape Palma, not only the whole southern coast of Guinea, a particular object of British solicitude, would be threatened again with the ravages of the trade, but the very parts of the interior of Africa which were considered to be freed from it by the cessation of the traffic on the western coasts, would find themselves again exposed to it, by the opening which the southern coast would offer to the dealers in slaves. The other observation of Lord Castlereagh was, that it would be worthy of the wise and humane principles which His Majesty the King of France has manifested on this head, to forbid immediately His subjects from carrying on the traffic on any of the coasts north of the Equator, and thereby to secure the larger portion of Africa from the recurrence of its former calamities.

Prince Talleyrand replied, that as to the object of the first observation, he would consult with the Minister of the Marine of France upon it. That for the second, he would not fail to submit it to his Government.

Lord Castlereagh having said in the course of these explanations that the abolition of the trade on all the coasts to the north of the Equator was especially desirable, as furnishing the most sure and simple means of putting an end to all fraudulent and illegal traffic, and for exercising regulations of police on vessels engaged in such traffic, Prince Talleyrand requested Lord Castlereagh to determine the meaning of this last expression. Lord Castlereagh answered, that he meant by regulations of police, that which every Government exercised in right of its own Sovereignty, or of particular treaties with other Powers.

Prince Talleyrand and Count Palmella said that in point of fact they could admit no other maritime police than that which every Power exercised over its own vessels.

Lord Castlereagh then, addressing the Chevalier de Labrador, entered into explanations respecting the intention of His Majesty the King of Spain, to forbid immediately His subjects from trading in Slaves upon any part of the coast of Africa, excepting such as lay between the Equator and the 10th degree of north latitude; of which intention M. de Labrador had apprized him. He represented to the Spanish Plenipotentiary, that such a measure would be not only of little service, but directly contrary to the object in view, and even to what His Majesty the King of Spain was supposed to aim at, since that part of the coast of Africa which would thereby be excluded from the advantages of the abolition, was precisely the spot which had hitherto reaped the benefit of that blessing, under the laws and fostering care of Great Britain, where the amelioration of the social system had made real progress in consequence of the abolition of the trade, and where it might be hoped that these advantages would be continued in consequence of the regulations which other Governments had made or were on the point of making, to prevent the resumption of the Slave Trade.

Lord Castlereagh read a note which he had written to the Spanish Plenipotentiary on the 27th December 1814, and he requested M. de Labrador to ask explanations from his Court upon the proposed measure, and to induce the Government of Spain to concur forthwith, in the pure and simple abolition along the whole coast to the north of the Line.

M. de Labrador said, that he did not dispute the observations of Lord Castlereagh; that without being sufficiently instructed to give an account of what might have produced the restriction in question, he thought he might

declare that his Government, in proposing this measure, wished to do what was agreeable to the British Government; that there might have been some misunderstanding on one side or the other in the ministerial explanations at Madrid, and that having already informed his Court of the observations contained in the note of Lord Castlereagh, he was in hopes of obtaining further information upon the subject. Lord Castlereagh then inviting the Plenipotentiaries of Portugal to explain themselves upon the question, said, that he made this request with particular satisfaction after the arrangement which had just taken place on that point, between Portugal and Great Britain.

Count Palmella stated, that Portugal had actually signed a Treaty with England by which she engaged to abolish immediately the Slave Trade, along the whole coast of Africa to the north of the Equator, and that this Convention only required the formal ratification of the two Governments, without depending upon any previous condition.

The discussion of this question being thus finished, Lord Castlereagh announced, that in order to follow up the deliberations entered into here, respecting the means of obtaining as soon as possible the general and definitive abolition of the trade, he should propose in the next sitting a measure tending to reconcile the wishes of humanity with the attentions due to the interests and the rights of independent Powers. He added, that his proposal had in view the establishing ministerial conferences at London and Paris, and permanent communications dedicated to this object.

Several of the Plenipotentiaries present made some observations on this projet, but the discussion of it was adjourned to the ensuing sittings, and the present one broke up.

Seen and approved.

(Signed)

METTERNICH.
 LOBO.
 SALDANHA.
 PALMELLA.
 TALLEYRAND.
 CASTLEREAGH.
 WELLINGTON.
 STEWART.
 GOMEZ LABRADOR.
 LOWENHELM.
 HUMBOLDT.
 NESSELRODE.

GENTZ, Compiler of the Protocol.

(Third Inclosure in No. 45.)

Protocole de la Conférence du 4 Fevrier sur les mesures à adopter pour l'Abolition de la Traite des Nègres.

Après la lecture du procès verbal de la séance du 28 Janvier qui a été approuvé et signé par tous les P. P. présens, Lord Castlereagh a repris la discussion des mesures qu'il restoit à prendre pour assurer le grand objet des délibérations actuelles.

Il a fait le résumé de ce qui avoit été conclu dans les deux premières séances consacrées à cette question de ses efforts dans la première, pour engager la France, l'Espagne et le Portugal à abolir immédiatement ou au moins le plutôt possible le commerce des nègres d'après le vœu exprimé par toutes les autres puissances; du succès qu'il avoit obtenu dans la seconde.

relativement à la cessation du commerce sur les côtes d'Afrique au nord de l'Équateur. Il a dit que, tout en se félicitant, et en félicitant l'humanité, d'avoir remporté dans ces discussions quelques avantages réels, il sentoit cependant que sa propre conviction, les instructions de sa cour, et les vœux de la nation Britannique ne lui permettoient pas de se contenter de ces résultats.

Malgré tout ce qui avoit été mis en avant de la part de quelques puissances sur la nécessité de prolonger la Traite des Nègres jusqu'à telle ou telle époque, le Gouvernement Britannique ne renonceroit point à l'espérance de voir rapprocher ou pour le moins généralement égaliser le terme de l'abolition définitive, et ne discontinueroit pas ses efforts pour amener un changement aussi heureux. Quant à l'abolition partielle au nord du Ligne, il y avoit encore quelques incertitudes à fixer, et quelques difficultés à applanir. La France paroissoit vouloir donner à cette mesure une étendue moins grande, que celle que le Portugal venoit de lui assigner, et il n'étoit pas assez clair dans quelles limites elle seroit réalisée par l'Espagne.

Toutes les questions exigeoient des explications et des négociations ultérieures, qu'il étoit impossible d'entamer pendant le Congrès, vu la distance de quelques uns des Gouvernemens dont les P. P. seroient obligés de demander de nouvelles instructions. La forme qu'il alloit proposer pour donner suite à ces délibérations, conviendrait également à l'examen des mesures communes à adopter pour maintenir l'exécution de ce qui avoit été une fois décidé et arrêté dans les différentes branches de cette question ; mesures sans lesquelles les déterminations les plus positives, les résolutions les plus généreuses prises à cet égard, seroit évidemment vaines et illusoire. Lord Castlereagh a ajouté à ces observations, que le sort des malheureux habitans de l'Afrique, et les bienfaits que l'Europe leur conféroit en s'abstenant d'un commerce qui ne pouvoit que perpétuer leur misère, étoient de ces objets qui, quoique du plus grand intérêt pour l'humanité, ne s'oublioient que trop facilement au milieu de tant d'autres intérêts affectant les gouvernemens Européens d'une manière plus directe et qu'à moins de quelque concert permanent, fixant l'attention générale sur ces questions et prolongeant les discussions actuelles au delà les bornes du Congrès, il étoit à craindre qu'on ne les perdât absolument de vue. Ce concert lui a paru d'autant plus utile, qu'outre qu'il serviroit à lever beaucoup de doute, et à prévenir beaucoup de désagrémens, il contribueroit selon lui à faciliter aux puissances, dont le régime colonial étoit fondé encore sur l'importation des nègres, les moyens de conduire leurs propres sujets à un ordre de choses plus désirable, et de vaincre les difficultés qui s'opposoient à l'abolition de la traite. Après ces observations, Lord Castlereagh a dit qu'il croyoit avoir adopté dans la rédaction du projet qu'il alloit présenter à l'assemblée, les formes les plus conciliantes et le plus amicales, telles qu'elles convénoient à un gouvernement, qui, quoique bien décidé à ne pas se relâcher sur cet objet, jusqu'à ce qu'il soit finalement accompli, n'en observeroit pas moins soigneusement les égards dûs à toute autre puissance indépendante.

Il a lu après cela son projet, conçu en ces termes :

Afin de mettre les puissances en état de réaliser plus efficacement et plus complètement par des négociations amicales leurs intentions bienfaisantes par rapport à l'abolition finale de la traite des nègres, telle qu'elles se trouvent exprimées dans leur déclaration commune, d'établir entr'elles, et avec d'autres Gouvernemens un concert propre à prévenir d'un côté un trafic d'esclaves illégal sur les côtes d'Afrique, et à empêcher de l'autre côté toute infraction aux droits d'un état indépendant, auquel les vaisseaux armés d'un autre, pourroient se porter, on proposera d'autoriser les Ministres accrédités à Londres et à Paris par les cours maintenant réunies, et par d'autres puissances qui voudroient concourir à ces mesures, à traiter conjointement les objets importants ci dessus mentionnés, et de leur enjoindre de rédiger à la fin de chaque année, pour l'information de leurs cours respectives, un rapport commun sur l'état

du commerce des nègres d'Afrique d'après les renseignements les plus récents, et sur les progrès de la diminution, ou de l'abolition de ce commerce.

M. le Plénipotentiaire d'Espagne a fait sur ce projet la déclaration suivante.

Le Plénipotentiaire de S. M. Catholique au Congrès a eu l'honneur de faire observer plus d'une fois que tout ce qui concerne la traite des nègres, est une affaire particulière de chaque état, et nullement du ressort du Congrès, qui n'a pas été formé pour régler la législation des nations, non plus que pour décider des questions de morale. Par conséquent que c'est par un effet de pure condescendance des puissances qui ont des colonies, que l'on s'est occupé de la traite des nègres. D'après cette déclaration, que le Plénipotentiaire Espagnol a reçu ordre de répéter, il ne croit pas sa cour disposée à se prêter à la formation d'un comité, soit à Londres, soit à Paris, ou ailleurs, pour continuer la discussion sur la traite des nègres, d'autant plus que cette discussion, si l'on doit s'occuper dans le comité, du terme à établir pour l'abolition, seroit pour ce qui regarde l'Espagne, complètement inutile, S. M. C. ayant promis aux députés de Ses provinces d'Amérique de leur permettre l'introduction d'esclaves pendant le terme de huit ans. Elle ne sauroit point être d'une plus grande utilité, si l'on se propose d'aviser dans le comité aux moyens à prendre pour surveiller l'exécution de ce qui doit rester convenu concernant la partie de la côte d'Afrique, dans laquelle la commerce des nègres doit cesser immédiatement; car S. M. Catholique, en même tems qu'elle déclare sa résolution d'empêcher les contraventions, de la part de Ses sujets, déclare aussi qu' Elle n'entend pas accorder à une ni à plusieurs puissances, le droit d'exercer sur eux, aucun acte de surveillance sous le prétexte d'infraction de ce qui sera fixé. Néanmoins le Plénipotentiaire Espagnol fera part à son Gouvernement de la proposition d'établir le comité, et il se fera un devoir d'en communiquer le résultat au Congrès.

M. le Prince de Talleyrand a reconnu que la proposition de Lord Castlereagh pourroit être de la plus grande utilité. Il a promis de l'appuyer auprès de son gouvernement; mais il a déclaré en même tems, que se trouvant sans instruction pour aller plus loin, il devoit prendre *ad referendum* la proposition actuelle, et toute proposition ultérieure.

M. Comte de Palmella a dit, que M. M. les P. P. de Portugal ne pourroient s'expliquer sur cette proposition sans avoir demandé les instructions de leurs Cours, et qu'ils le prenoient *ad referendum*.

M. le Prince de Metternich a été d'avis, que le projet proposé par Lord Castlereagh, étoit non seulement exécutable et salutaire, mais nécessaire même pour suivre, et soutenir le question discutée jusqu' à présent et pour empêcher, qu'elle ne fut abandonnée de nouveau, et ensevelie dans l'oubli après le Congrès. Il croit, que pour mettre chaque Gouvernement dans le cas de concourir à l'exécution et au développement des mesures jusqu' ici adoptées, et de connoître l'état des choses dans chaque époque donnée, il faut qu'il y ait un point central, où chacun puisse s'instruire. Il approuva par cette même raison les rapports annuels sur les progrès et les obstacles de l'abolition. M. le Prince de Metternich regarde d'ailleurs les réunions proposées par Lord Castlereagh, comme éminemment utiles sous un point de vue qui ne sauroit qu' intéresser toutes les puissances. Sans un arrangement pareil il est à prévoir, que le Gouvernement Britannique, pressé par le Parlement et les vœux de sa nation, seroit obligé de tems en tems de renouveler ses instances auprès des autres cours, pour les engager à accélérer et à compléter l'abolition de la Traite, ce qui pourroit bien plus facilement conduire à des explications, et à des collisions désagréables, que la marche régulière et conciliatoire, assurée par l'établissement de ces réunions.

M. le Plénipotentiaire de Russie, a parlé dans le même sens, et a adopté sans réserve le projet de Lord Castlereagh.

M. le Plénipotentiaire de Prusse, a dit que, ne pouvant entrevoir aucune espèce d'inconvénient à ces réunions permanentes, et étant persuadé plutôt qu'elles offreroient toutes sortes d'avantages, et de facilités, il appuyoit de même ce projet.

M. le Plénipotentiaire de Suède a déclaré qu'il se joignoit à l'avis de M. M. les Plénipotentiaires d'Autriche, de Russie et de Prusse, que ne pouvant pas adhérer de suite à la proposition de Lord Castlereagh, sans connoître intentions de Sa cour, il en feroit son rapport, mais qu'il ne prévoyoit aucune difficulté.

Lord Castlereagh a procédé ensuite à une seconde proposition relativement aux mesures à prendre dans le cas que l'une ou l'autre Puissance retardât l'abolition définitive au delà d'un terme justifiée par des motifs de nécessité réelle. Avant de la faire connoître, il a observé, que quoiqu'aimant à croire, que le cas prévu dans cette proposition ne se réaliseroit pas, il lui paroissoit toutefois juste et prudent de s'occuper de quelque moyen éventuel, soit pour le prévenir, soit pour en affoiblir les mauvais effets, et pour mettre à l'abri des chances à l'avenir le succès d'une cause aussi intéressante, en faveur de laquelle l'Angleterre s'étoit si hautement prononcée, et que tant d'autres grandes Puissances venoient de placer sous leur sauvegarde ; que la mesure qu'il proposoit ici comme dernière ressource, contre la prolongation gratuite d'un commerce, sur le caractère duquel tout le monde étoit d'accord ; ne portoit que sur l'exercice d'un droit incontestable et de plus sur une obligation morale, inséparable du principe solennellement avoué par toutes les Puissances ; qu'il croyoit d'ailleurs avoir conçu sa proposition avec tous les ménagemens possibles, et dans les termes les plus mesurées qu'il eut pu choisir.

Après ces observations préalables, Lord Castlereagh a lu la proposition suivante :—

En terminant les délibérations actuelles sur les moyens de faire entièrement cesser la traite des nègres, les puissances aujourd'hui réunies pour cet objet sont invitées à prononcer (indépendamment de leur déclaration générale) leur adhésion pleine et entière à l'article additionnel au Traité conclu à Paris entre le Grande Bretagne et la France, comme indiquant, d'après leur avis, l'époque la plus réculée que l'on puisse raisonnablement exiger ou admettre pour la durée ultérieure de la traite ; et à déclarer que tout en reconnoissant le devoir de respecter scrupuleusement les droits d'autres états indépendans, et en nourrissant l'espoir de s'entendre amicalement avec eux sur cette branche importante de la question les puissances croient avoir, dans le cas que leur attente fut trompée, une obligation morale à remplir celle de ne pas souffrir que la consommation de denrées coloniales dans leur pays devienne le moyen d'encourager et de prolonger gratuitement un trafic aussi pernicieux ; de déclarer en outre, que sous ce point de vue d'obligation morale, elles se réservent dans le cas que la traite des nègres seroit continué par l'un ou l'autre état au delà du terme justifié par des motifs de nécessité réelle, de prendre des mesures convenables pour obtenir les dites denrées coloniales, ou des colonies appartenant à des états que ne toléreroient point la prolongation gratuite de ce trafic, ou bien de ces vastes régions du globe fournissant les mêmes productions par le travail de leurs propres habitans.

M. le Comte Palmella a dit, que ce projet impliquoit l'intention de forcer les puissances aux quelles des considérations particulières ne permettoient pas d'abolir la traite avant un certain nombre d'années, à se soumettre au système de celles, qui croyoient pouvoir rapprocher le terme, intention qui ne s'accordoit point avec les principes admis dans les conférences, et reconnus même dans la déclaration.

Lord Castlereagh a répondu, que pour opérer même le plus grand bien, il ne faudroit jamais forcer une puissance indépendante dans le sens que M. le Plénipotentiaire de Portugal paroissoit attacher à ce mot ; mais que si, dans une affaire qui, par un principe fondamental intéressoit l'humanité toute entière, un Gouvernement persistoit à contrarier le vœu connu de tous les autres, ceux ci étoient indubitablement autorisés à songer de leur côté aux moyens d'atteindre leur bût commun, puisqu'en adméttant même le droit d'une puissance de maintenir chez elle un système généralement regardé comme immoral et pernicieux, ce droit ne pouvoit pas déroger à celui des autres puissances de refuser toute protection directe ou indirecte à ce système ; que d'ailleurs

les Gouvernemens avoient souvent exercé le droit d'exclure des marchandises étrangères de leur pays par des considérations simplement administratives, sans avoir été taxé d'aucune intention hostile.

M. le Plenipotentiaire d'Espagne a déclaré sur cela, que si une mesure pareille étoit adoptée par une puissance quel-conque, S. M. le Roi d'Espagne, sans disputer à cette puissance le droit d'agir d'après ses propres principes, auroit recours à de justes représailles, en portant dans Ses États des loix prohibitives contre la branche la plus utile du commerce du pays dont le Gouvernement auroit provoqué cet acte de réciprocité.

M. M. le P. P. de Portugal, ont adhéré à cette déclaration.

M. le Prince de Metternich a dit, que le droit d'une puissance d'exclure de ses États telle branche de commerce étranger qui ne lui convenoit pas, ne pouvant être mis en doute en aucun cas, on ne sauroit lui contester non plus celui de répondre par des représailles à un acte d'humanité dont elle se croyoit blessée;—mais qu'il dépendoit également de toute autre puissance de se soumettre pour quelque années à un inconvénient ou à une privation réelle; plutôt que de renoncer à une mesure justifiée par des motifs de bienveillance générale, et tenant à un système solennellement reconnu et adopté par elle.

M. le Comte de Nesselrode a déclaré qu'il croyoit être assez instruit des intentions de l'Empereur son maître, pour ne pas douter, que S. M. n'hésiteroit point à faire aux principes qu'elle avoit une fois embrassés le sacrifice même de quelque intérêts temporaires, et que par conséquent il partageoit l'avis de M. le Prince de Metternich, espérant toutefois que le cas que l'on supposoit ici ne se réaliseroit jamais, et que la proposition même de Lord Castlereagh et les déclarations conformes des autres puissances contribueroient à les dispenser d'une mesure pareille.

M. le Plenipotentiaire de Prusse s'est expliqué dans le même sens.

M. le Plenipotentiaire de Suède a dit qu'il ne pouvoit pas adhérer à la proposition de Lord Castlereagh; sans en avoir référé à sa cour; qu'il avoit cependant tout lieu de croire que son Gouvernement, d'après ses dispositions connues, et son désir de seconder, dans tout ce qui regardoit cette question la marche de l'Angleterre, l'adopteroit sans difficulté; que la mesure éventuellement proposée, n'avoit selon lui aucun caractère hostile, et ne sortoit aucunement de la ligne des droits que chaque Gouvernement pouvoit exercer dans son pays; qu'il espéroit d'ailleurs avec Lord Castlereagh, que les puissances réunies pour l'abolition de la Traité, ne se verroient pas dans la nécessité d'en venir à l'exécution de cette mesure.

Après quelques autres observations de la part de M. M. les P. P. qui avoient adopté le projet de Lord Castlereagh, la discussion de ce projet a été terminée, et la séance a été levée.

(Signés)

Vû et approuvé.

METTERNICH.
 LOBO.
 SALDANHA.
 PALMELLA.
 TALLEYRAND.
 CASTLEREAGH.
 WELLINGTON.
 STEWART.
 GOMEZ LABRADOR.
 LOWENHIELM.
 HUMBOLDT.
 NESSELRODE.

GENTZ, Redacteur du Protocole.

(Third Inclosure in No. 45.)—Translation.

Protocol of the Conference of the 4th of February, upon the measures to be adopted for the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

After reading the Procès Verbal of the Sittings of the 28th of January, which were approved and signed by all the Plenipotentiaries present, Lord Castlereagh resumed the discussion of the measures which remained to be adopted to secure the grand object of the present deliberations.

He gave an epitome of what had been settled in the two first Sittings set apart to this question; of his efforts in the first, to induce France, Spain, and Portugal to abolish immediately, or at least as soon as possible, the trade in Negroes, in pursuance of the wishes expressed by all the other Powers:—of his success in the second, with regard to the cessation of this traffic on the coast of Africa to the north of the Equator, he said, at the same time that he congratulated himself and the cause of humanity on the real advantages he had obtained in those discussions, he still felt from his own conviction, from the instructions of his Court, and from the wishes of the British nation, that he must not rest satisfied with those results.

Notwithstanding all that had been urged, on the part of some Powers, of the necessity of prolonging the Slave Trade to such or such a period, the British Government would not relinquish the hope of seeing the term of its definitive abolition at least approximated to that agreed upon by France, if not shortened, and that he should not relax his endeavours to obtain so desirable a change.

With respect to the abolition to the north of the Line, there still remained some uncertainty to clear away and some difficulties to remove. France appeared desirous of giving a less extensive scope to this measure than that which Portugal had assented to, and it was by no means clear what were the precise limits to which Spain would extend it.

All these questions required further explanations and negociation, which it was impossible to enter upon effectually during the Congress, on account of the distance which some of the Plenipotentiaries would have to refer, in order to receive instructions from their respective Governments.

The plan which he was about to propose for the purpose of giving effect to these deliberations, would equally promote the examination of the general measures to be adopted for carrying into execution what had already been decided upon and fixed, in the several branches of this question; measures, without which the most positive determinations and the most generous resolutions on the subject, would be vain and illusive. Lord Castlereagh added to these observations; that the lot of the unhappy inhabitants of Africa, and the blessings which Europe conferred on them by abstaining from a traffic which could only perpetuate their misery, were objects which, although of the highest interest for humanity, were but too readily forgotten in the midst of so many other interests affecting the European Governments in a more direct manner; and that without some permanent concert, which should fix the general attention to these questions, and prolong the present discussions beyond the close of the Congress, it was to be apprehended that they would be lost sight of altogether. This concert appeared to him the more useful, as, besides serving to remove much doubt and to prevent much unpleasant controversy, it would, in his mind, contribute to facilitate to the Powers, whose colonial system still remained grounded on the importation of negroes the means of leading their subjects to a more desirable order of things, and to surmount the difficulties which opposed themselves to the abolition of the trade. After these observations, Lord Castlereagh said, that in the framing of the project which he was about to lay before

the meeting, he had adopted the most conciliatory and the most friendly Forms, such as became a Government which, although perfectly determined not to relinquish the object until it was finally accomplished, would not the less scrupulously observe the attentions due to every other independent Power.

He then read his projet, couched in the following terms :—

In order to enable the Powers to realize, more effectually and completely, by amicable negociations, their benevolent intentions, with respect to the final abolition of the trade in Negroes; in the manner set forth in their common Declaration, and to establish amongst them, and with other Governments, a concert, calculated to prevent, on one hand, an illegal traffic in slaves upon the coast of Africa, and, on the other hand, to prevent any infraction of the rights of independent States, which might be attempted by the armed vessels of other Powers, it is proposed to authorise the Ministers of the Courts now assembled, and of other Powers who may wish to concur in these measures, who shall be accredited at London and Paris to treat conjointly on the important objects herein-before mentioned, and to enjoin them to prepare, at the end of each year, for the information of their respective Courts, a general report on the state of the trade in African Negroes, according to the most recent information, and on the progress of the diminution or of the abolition of that trade.

The Spanish Plenipotentiary made the following declaration upon this projet:—

The Plenipotentiary of His Catholic Majesty at the Congress has had the honour of observing, more than once, that every thing which relates to the trade in Negroes is a particular affair of each State, and in nowise of the cognizance of Congress, which was not formed to regulate the legislation of Nations, no more than to decide upon questions of morality: consequently it is the effect of pure condescension on the part of the Powers possessing colonies, that they have occupied themselves about the Slave Trade. In consequence of this declaration, which the Spanish Plenipotentiary has received orders to repeat, he does not think his Court will be inclined to listen to the formation of a committee, either at London or Paris, or elsewhere, to continue the discussions on the trade in Negroes, more especially because this discussion, if the period at which the abolition should take place is to be considered, would be wholly useless, His Catholic Majesty having promised to the deputies from His American provinces, to continue to them the permission to import slaves for eight years; nor could it be of greater utility if it should be proposed to consult upon the means of securing the execution of the measures agreed upon, relative to that part of the coast of Africa in which the Slave Trade is to cease immediately; for His Catholic Majesty, while He declares His determination to prevent any contravention on the part of His subjects, declares, at the same time, that he does not intend granting to one, or to several Powers, the right of exercising over His subjects any act of superintendance, under the pretext of infraction of what has been settled. The Spanish Plenipotentiary will, nevertheless, communicate to his Government, the proposal to establish the committee, and he will consider it a duty to communicate the result to the Congress.

Prince Talleyrand admitted that the proposal of Lord Castlereagh might be of the greatest service. He promised to support it with his Government; but he declared, at the same time, that being without instructions to proceed farther, he must take the present, and any future proposal, *ad referendum*.

The Count Palmella said, that the Plenipotentiaries of Portugal could not enter into explanation on this point, without asking instructions from their Court, and that they took it *ad referendum*.

The Prince Metternich was of opinion, that the projet proposed by Lord Castlereagh was not only feasible and salutary, but even necessary, for the

purpose of following up and supporting the question discussed to the present moment, and to prevent it from being again abandoned and buried in oblivion after the Congress. He thought that in order to enable every Government to concur in the execution and developement of the measures hitherto adopted, and to know the state of the business as existing, from time to time, there should be a central point, where each might obtain information. He approved, for the same reason, the annual reports on the progress and on the obstacles standing in the way of the abolition. Prince Metternich, moreover, considered the meetings proposed by Lord Castlereagh as eminently useful in a point of view which cannot but interest all the Powers. Without a similar arrangement, it is to be apprehended that the British Government, pressed by Parliament and the wishes of the Nation, would be compelled, from time to time, to renew its representations to other Courts to accelerate and complete the abolition of the traffic, which would be much more calculated to lead to explanation and disagreeable collision, than the regular and conciliatory proceeding secured by establishing the meetings above-mentioned.

The Plenipotentiary of Russia expressed the same sentiments, and adopted without reserve the projet of Lord Castlereagh.

The Plenipotentiary of Prussia said, that not foreseeing any sort of inconvenience from these meetings being established, and being of opinion that they would be productive of many advantages and facilities, he also should support the projet.

The Plenipotentiary of Sweden declared that he united in opinion with the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, Russia, and Prussia, but not being able immediately to subscribe to Lord Castlereagh's proposal without being in possession of the sentiments of his Court, he would make his report upon it, but he did not foresee the smallest objection.

Lord Castlereagh then proceeded to a second proposal, respecting the measures to be adopted in case one or other of the Powers should retard the definitive abolition beyond the period which motives of real necessity could justify. Before making it known, he observed, that although he would fain believe that the case anticipated in this proposal would not arise, it nevertheless appeared to him to be just and prudent to concert some eventual means either of preventing it or of weakening its bad effects, and to protect from any future chances the success of a cause so interesting in its nature, in favour of which England had so decidedly declared herself, and which so many great Powers had now taken under their protection; that the measure he was about to propose as a last resource against the gratuitous prolongation of a commerce, upon the character of which the whole world had but one opinion, rested upon the exercise of an incontestible right, and was enjoined by a moral obligation inseparable from the principle solemnly avowed by all the Powers; that he also trusted that he had framed his proposal in the most conciliatory manner and in the most measured terms possible.

After these introductory observations, Lord Castlereagh read the following proposal: In closing the present deliberations, as to the means of totally suppressing the trade in Negroes, the Powers this day assembled with that view, are invited to pronounce (independently of their general declaration) their full and entire concurrence in the additional Article concluded at Paris between Great Britain and France, as pointing out, in their opinion, the most distant period that may be reasonably required or allowed for the ulterior duration of the Treaty; and to declare, that at the same time that the most scrupulous respect for the rights of other independant States is admitted, and the hope of coming to an amicable understanding with them upon this important part of the question is cherished, the Powers, in case their expectations should fail, consider they have a moral obligation to fulfil; viz. that of not permitting the consumption of colonial produce within their

dominions, to become the means of encouraging and prolonging gratuitously so pernicious a traffic; to declare besides, that in point of moral obligation they reserve to themselves, in case the Slave Trade should be continued by any other State beyond the period justified by real necessity, to adopt proper measures to obtain the said colonial produce, either from the colonies of Powers who do not tolerate the gratuitous prolongation of this traffic, or else from those vast regions of the globe which supply the same produce by the labour of their own inhabitants.

The Count Palmella said, that this projet implied an intention of forcing the Powers, who from particular motives could not abolish the trade before a certain number of years, to submit themselves to the system of those who deemed it practicable to shorten the term of abolition; an intention which by no means accorded with the principles admitted in the Conferences, nor acknowledged in the Declaration.

Lord Castlereagh answered, that even to produce the greatest good, he would never force an independent Power, in the sense that the Plenipotentiary of Portugal appeared to attach to that word, but that if in a question which by a fundamental principle interested humanity at large, a Government persisted in running counter to the general wish of all the others, the latter had on their side an undoubted right to consider of the means of attaining their common object; for even admitting the right of a Power to uphold within its territories a System generally considered as immoral and pernicious, this right cannot invalidate that of the other Powers to refuse all protection, direct or indirect, to such a System. That, besides, Governments had frequently exercised the right of excluding foreign merchandize from their Dominions, simply from municipal considerations, without having had any hostile intention imputed to them.

Upon this the Plenipotentiary of Spain declared, that were such a measure adopted by any Power whatever, His Majesty the King of Spain, without disputing with such Power the right of acting according to its own principles, would have recourse to just reprisals by enacting in his States prohibitory laws against the most useful branch of the commerce of the Country, whose Government should have provoked this act of retaliation.

The Plenipotentiaries of Portugal declared the same sentiments.

Prince Metternich said that the right of a Power to exclude from its States whatever branch of foreign commerce it thought proper, could not in any case be called in question; nor could it be denied that it possessed the right to reply by reprisals, to an act, however dictated by considerations of humanity, by which it might consider itself injured: but that it was equally within the competency of any other Power to submit for years to inconvenience or absolute privation, rather than to renounce a measure justified by motives of general benevolence, and connected with a system solemnly acknowledged and adopted by it.

Count Nesselrode said, that he thought himself sufficiently informed of the Emperor's intentions to be convinced that His Imperial Russian Majesty would not hesitate to submit to some temporary inconveniences to support the principles he had once embraced; and consequently that he agreed in opinion with Prince Metternich, hoping however that the case put hypothetically would never be realized, and that the proposal itself of Lord Castlereagh, and the deliberations of the other Powers in conformity thereto, would tend to prevent the necessity of such a measure.

The Plenipotentiary of Prussia held the same language.

The Plenipotentiary of Sweden said that he could not support the proposal of Lord Castlereagh without reference to his Court, that however he had every reason to believe, from the known disposition of his Government, and its desire to act in unison with England in every thing which related to this question, that it would adopt it without difficulty. That the measure eventually proposed, in his opinion had no hostile character, and departed in

no respect from the just rights which every Government might exercise within its own Territory.

That besides, he hoped with Lord Castlereagh, that the Powers united for the abolition of the trade would not see themselves under the necessity of putting the measure into force.

After some other observations on the part of the Plenipotentiaries who had adopted the projet of Lord Castlereagh, the discussion of the projet closed, and the Sittings broke up.

Seen and approved.

(Signed)

METTERNICH.
 LOBO.
 SALDANHA.
 PALMELLA.
 TALLEYRAND.
 CASTLEREAGH.
 WELLINGTON.
 STEWART.
 GOMEZ LABRADOR.
 LOWENHIELM.
 HUMBOLDT.
 NESSELRODE.

GENTZ, Compiler of the Protocol.

(Fourth Inclosure in No. 45.)

Protocole de la quatrième et dernière Conférence particulière, consacré à l'Abolition de la Traite des Nègres. Le 8 Fevrier, 1815.

Présentes—Lord Castlereagh, Lord Stewart, Lord Wellington, Plénipotentiaires de S. M. Britannique.

M. de Prince de Talleyrand, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. Chrétienne.

M. le Chevalier de Labrador, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. Catholique.

M. le Comte de Palmella, M. de Saldanha, M. de Lobo, Plénipotentiaires de S. A. R. le Prince Regent de Portugal.

M. le Comte de Lowenhielm, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. le Roi de Suède.

M. le Baron de Humboldt, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. le Roi de Prusse.

M. le Comte de Nesselrode, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. l'Empereur de Russie.

M. le Prince de Metternich, Plénipotentiaire de S. M. l'Empereur d'Autriche.

Lecture ayant été faite du protocole de la séance du 4 Fevrier, Messrs. les Plénipotentiaires présens l'ont approuvé et signé.—Relativement à la seconde proposition de Lord Castlereagh consignée dans ce protocole, M. M. les P. P. de Portugal ont lû une déclaration, dont ils ont demandé l'insertion au protocole. On est convenu de la joindre au procès verbal de la séance d'aujourd'hui.

On est revenu ensuite au projet de déclaration lû pour la première fois à la Séance du 28 Janvier, et dont la rédaction définitive avoit été ajournée. Ce projet après avoir éprouvé plusieurs modifications, a été adopté et signé par M. M. les P. P. tel qu'il se trouve joint au present procès-verbal. Lord Castlereagh a proposé de communiquer cette déclaration et copie des protocoles des quatre conférences au Gouvernement Danois, et à celui des Pays bas, vu l'intérêt particulier avec lequel ces deux gouvernemens se sont prononcés sur la mesure de l'abolition.

Cette proposition étant adoptée, Lord Castlereagh a déclaré, que les différentes questions qui étoient l'objet de ces conférences, ayant été traitées, l'une après l'autre, et les puissances ayant donné leur avis sur chacune de ces questions, il ne croyoit pas, que les délibérations actuelles pouvoient être poussées plus loin; il ne lui restoit donc qu'exprimer à M. M. les P. P. présens, combien il étoit sensible à l'intérêt qu'ils avoient accordé à ces propositions, et la bienveillance avec laquelle ils l'avoient secondé dans sa marche; qu'il avoit des remerciemens particuliers à faire à M. le Prince de Talleyrand, appelé conjointement avec lui à l'exécution de l'article du Traité de Paris, qui avoit formé la base de ces délibérations; qu'il y avoit eu, à la vérité, quelques explications décourageantes, pour les amis de cette cause, de la part de M. M. les P. P. d'Espagne et de Portugal, mais qu'il persistoit à croire, que les circonstances dont il étoit parti dans ces explications, se trouveroient déjà sensiblement changées aujourd'hui, et changeroient de plus en faveur de l'abolition de la Traite;—qu'il étoit persuadé que la nouvelle suite de ces conférences, et de la manière dont les puissances de l'Europe réunies au Congrès avoient envisagé cette question, produiroit un grand effet dans les colonies, pour concilier les esprits avec une mesure, sur l'exécution finale de laquelle il ne resteroit plus de doutes à élever: qu'il regardoit en outre comme un avantage précieux, d'avoir pu diriger l'attention de tant d'illustres hommes d'Etat sur un objet, qui sembloit ne pas avoir été encore assez exactement connu dans plusieurs pays du Continent; et, à en juger par les premiers effets des discussions actuelles, y exciteroit dorénavant un intérêt beaucoup plus vif:—qu'enfin la déclaration générale, un des principaux résultats de ces discussions, lui offroit la prospective la plus rassurante, et le meilleur augure d'un succès définitif.

A l'appui de ces observations de Lord Castlereagh, M. le Prince de Metternich a dit, que, quoique l'abolition de la Traite des nègres ne touchât pas aux intérêts directs des puissances qui ne possèdent pas des colonies, elle ne leur étoit cependant point étrangère par ses rapports avec le bien de l'humanité;—que les Puissances qui se trouvoient dans cette catégorie regretteroient d'autant moins d'avoir pris part à l'examen de cette question, que, dans le cours même des discussions actuelles une manière de voir différente, non pas sur le principe fondamental, mais sur les détails et l'époque de son exécution s'étant manifestée parmi les Puissances possédant des colonies, l'introduction des autres qui étoient absolument impartiales dans cette branche particulière de la question, n'auroit pas été sans utilité; que sous ce même point de vue, il approuvoit entièrement les communications ministérielles après le Congrès, telles que Lord Castlereagh les avoit proposées:—et que si jamais des collisions désagréables pouvoient avoir lieu entre les Puissances maritimes sur un objet, pour lequel la plus grande harmonie étoit si fort à désirer, les cabinets placés et pensans comme celui d'Autriche, s'empresseroient certainement d'employer leurs bons offices pour les mettre d'accord, et pour applanir tous les obstacles qui s'opposeroient au succès final de cette cause.

Sur quoi le Protocole de ces conférences a été conclu et signé.

(4th Inclosure in No. 45.)—Translation.

Protocol of the fourth and last Private Conference dedicated to the abolition of the Slave Trade, the 8th of Feb. 1815.

Present.—Lord Castlereagh, Lord Stewart, Lord Wellington, His Britannick Majesty's Plenipotentiaries.

Prince Talleyrand, His Most Christian Majesty's Plenipotentiary.

Chevalier de Labrador, His Catholick Majesty's Plenipotentiary.

Count de Palmella, M. de Saldanha, and M. de Lobo, Plenipotentiaries of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal.

Count de Lowenhielm, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Sweden.

Baron de Humboldt, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Prussia.

Count Nesselrode, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Russia.

Prince Metternich, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Austria.

The Protocol of the Sitting of the 4th of February having been read, the Plenipotentiaries present approved and signed it. The Portuguese Plenipotentiaries having demanded the insertion in that Protocol of a Declaration, respecting the second proposition brought forward by Lord Castlereagh in that Conference, it was agreed to annex it to the *procès verbal* of this day's Sitting.

The consideration of the projet of the Declaration, read a first time at the sitting of the 28th of January, and of which the definitive correction had been deferred, was then resumed. This projet, after having undergone several modifications, was adopted and signed by the Plenipotentiaries, such as it now appears annexed to the present *procès verbal*.

Lord Castlereagh proposed to communicate this Declaration, together with copies of the Four Conferences, to the Danish Government, and to that of the Low Countries, in consideration of the particular interest these two Governments had evinced for the abolition.

This proposition having been adopted, Lord Castlereagh declared, that, as the different questions which had been the object of these Conferences had been separately discussed, and the Powers had given their opinion upon each of those questions, he did not think that the present deliberations could be carried further; it therefore only remained for him to express to the Plenipotentiaries present how sensible he was of the interest which they had taken in those propositions, and of the good will with which they had seconded his proceedings; that he had to express his particular thanks to Prince Talleyrand, who had been called conjointly with himself, to execute the Article of the Treaty of Paris, which formed the basis of these deliberations; that it was true, he had experienced, on the part of the Spanish and Portuguese Plenipotentiaries, some discouraging explanations for the friends of this cause, but that he persisted in believing that the circumstances on which those explanations rested, were already sensibly changed, and would change more and more in favour of the abolition of the traffic; that he was persuaded the nature of these conferences, and the manner in which the Powers of Europe assembled in Congress had taken up this question, would produce a great effect in the Colonies towards conciliating their minds to a measure, for the final execution of which no doubt remained to be removed; that he besides looked upon it as a great advantage to have been enabled to draw the attention of so many illustrious Statesmen to a subject which did not appear to have been sufficiently understood in several countries of the Continent, and to judge from the first effects of the present discussions, would excite in them a more lively interest in future; that, in short, the general Declaration, one of the principal results of these discussions, offered him the most encouraging prospect and the best omen of ultimate success.

To these observations of Lord Castlereagh, Prince Metternich added, that, although the abolition of the Slave Trade would not affect the direct interests of those Powers who did not possess colonies, still, by its connection with humanity, it was not altogether indifferent to them; that the Powers who found themselves in this situation would the less regret having taken part in the examination of this question, as a difference of opinion having existed, in the course of these discussions, amongst the Powers possessing Colonies, (not upon the fundamental principle, but upon the details and the period of its execution,) the interference of the others, who were on this particular point absolutely impartial, had not been entirely useless; that

under this point of view, he entirely approved of the Ministerial Conferences after the Congress, such as Lord Castlereagh had proposed; and that if ever unpleasant collisions should arise between the maritime Powers upon an object on which it was so desirous to preserve harmony, the Cabinets situated, and thinking like that of Austria, should hasten to employ their good offices to settle such differences, and to do away the obstacles which might oppose themselves to the final success of this cause.

Upon which the protocol of these Conferences was concluded and signed.

(Fifth Inclosure in No. 45.)

Declaration.

Les Plénipotentiaires des Puissances qui ont signé le Traité de Paris du 30 Mai 1814, réunis en Conférence:—Ayant pris en Consideration que le commerce connu sous le nom de *Traite des Nègres d'Afrique* a été envisagé par les hommes justes et éclairés de tous les tems, comme repugnant aux principes d'humanité et de la morale universelle; Que les circonstances particulières auxquelles ce commerce a dû sa naissance, et la difficulté d'en interrompre brusquement le cours, ont pû couvrir jusqu' à un certain point ce qu'il y avoit d'odieux dans sa conservation; mais qu'enfin la voix publique s'est élevée dans tous les pays civilisés pour demander qu'il soit supprimé le plutôt possible; que depuis que le caractère et les détails de ce commerce ont été mieux connus, et les maux de toute espèce qui l'accompagnent, complètement dévoilés, plusieurs des Gouvernemens Européens ont pris en effet la Résolution de la faire cesser, et que successivement toutes les Puissances possédant des colonies dans les différentes parties du monde ont reconnues soit par des Actes Legislatifs, soit par des Traités et autres Engagemens formels, l'obligation et la nécessité de l'abolir; que par un article séparé du dernier Traité de Paris, la Grande Bretagne et la France se sont engagées à réunir leurs efforts au Congrès de Vienne pour faire prononcer par toutes les Puissances de la Chréienté l'abolition universelle et definitive de la traite des nègres; Que les Plénipotentiaires rassemblés dans ce Congrès ne sauroient mieux honorer leur mission, remplir leur devoir, et manifester les principes qui guident leurs augustes Souverains, qu'en travaillant à réaliser cet engagement, et en proclamant au nom de leurs Souverains, le vœu de mettre un terme à un fléau qui a si long tems désolé l'Afrique, dégradé l'Europe, et affligé l'humanité; les dits Plénipotentiaires sont convenus d'ouvrir leurs délibérations sur les moyens d'accomplir un objet aussi salutaire par une Déclaration solennelle des principes qui les ont dirigé dans ce travail. En consequence, et dûment autorisés à cet acte par l'adhésion unanime de leurs Cours respectives au principe énoncé dans le dit article séparé du Traité de Paris, ils déclarent à la face de l'Europe, que, regardant l'abolition universelle de la traite des Nègres comme une mesure particulièrement digne de leur attention, conforme à l'esprit du Siècle, et aux principes généreux de leurs augustes Souverains, ils sont animés du désir sincère de concourir à l'exécution la plus prompte et la plus efficace de cette mesure, par tous les moyens à leur disposition, et d'agir dans l'emploi de ces moyens avec tout le zèle et toute la persévérance qu'ils doivent à une aussi grande et belle cause.

Trop instruits toutefois des sentimens de leurs Souverains, pour ne pas prévoir, que quelqu' honorable que soit leur bût, ils ne le poursuivront pas sans de justes ménagemens pour les intérêts, les habitudes et les préventions mêmes de leurs sujets, les dits Plénipotentiaires reconnoissent en même tems que cette Déclaration générale ne sauroit préjuger le terme que chaque Puissance en particulier pourroit envisager comme le plus convenable pour l'abolition definitive du commerce des Nègres:—Par conséquent la détermi-

nation de l'époque où ce commerce doit universellement cesser sera un objet de négociation entre les Puissances; bien entendu que l'on ne négligera aucun moyen propre à en assurer et à en accélérer la marche; et que l'engagement réciproque contracté par la présente Déclaration entre les Souverains qui y ont pris part, ne sera considéré comme rempli qu'au moment où un succès complet aura couronné leurs efforts réunis. En portant cette Déclaration à la connoissance de l'Europe, et de toutes les nations civilisées de la terre, les dits Plenipotentiaires se flattent d'engager tous les autres Gouvernemens, et notamment, ceux qui en abolissant la traite des Nègres ont manifesté déjà les mêmes sentimens, à les appuyer de leur suffrage dans une cause dont le triomphe final sera un des plus beaux monumens du siècle qui l'a embrassé et qui l'aura glorieusement terminée.

Vienne, le 8 Fevrier 1815.

(*Fifth Inclosure in No. 45.—Translation.*)

Declaration.

The Plenipotentiaries of the Powers who signed the Treaty of Paris, the 30th May 1814, assembled in Congress:

Having taken into consideration;—that the traffic known under the name of the *African Slave Trade*, has been regarded, by just and enlightened men of all ages, as repugnant to the principles of humanity and of universal morality; that the particular circumstances to which this traffic owes its origin, and the difficulty of abruptly interrupting its progress, have to a certain degree lessened the odium of continuing it; but that at last the public voice in all civilized countries has demanded that it should be suppressed as soon as possible; that since the character and the details of this traffic have been better known, and the evils of every sort which accompanied it completely unveiled, several European Governments have resolved to suppress it, and that successively all Powers possessing colonies in different parts of the world, have acknowledged, either by legislative Acts or by Treaties and other formal Engagements, the obligation and necessity of abolishing it; that by a separate article of the last Treaty of Paris, Great Britain and France engaged to unite their efforts at the Congress at Vienna, to engage all the Powers of Christendom to pronounce the universal and definitive abolition of the Slave Trade: that the Plenipotentiaries assembled at this Congress cannot better honour their mission, fulfil their duty, and manifest the principles which guide their august Sovereigns, than by labouring to realize this engagement, and by proclaiming in the name of their Sovereigns the desire to put an end to a scourge which has so long desolated Africa, degraded Europe, and afflicted humanity:—

The said Plenipotentiaries have agreed to open their deliberations as to the means of accomplishing so salutary an object, by a solemn Declaration of the principles which have guided them in this work.

Fully authorised to such an Act by the unanimous adherence of their respective Courts to the principle announced in the said separate article of the Treaty of Paris, they in consequence declare in the face of Europe, that, looking upon the universal abolition of the Slave Trade as a measure particularly worthy of their attention, conformable to the spirit of the age, and to the generous principles of their august Sovereigns, they are animated with a sincere desire to concur, by every means in their power, in the most prompt and effectual execution of this measure, and to act in the employment of those means with all the zeal and all the perseverance which so great and good a cause merits.

Too well informed of the sentiments of their Sovereigns not to foresee, that, however honourable may be their object, they would not pursue it

without a just regard to the interests, the habits, and even the prejudices of their Subjects; the said Plenipotentiaries at the same time acknowledge, that this general Declaration should not prejudice the period which each particular Power should look upon as the most expedient for the definitive abolition of the Traffic in Slaves. Consequently the determination of the period when this traffic ought universally to cease, will be an object of negotiation between the different Powers; it being however well understood that no means proper to ensure and accelerate its progress should be neglected—and that the reciprocal engagement contracted by the present Declaration between the Sovereigns who have taken part in it, should not be considered as fulfilled until the moment when complete success shall have crowned their united efforts.

In making this Declaration known to Europe, and to all the civilised Nations of the earth, the said Plenipotentiaries flatter themselves they shall engage all other Governments, and particularly those who, in abolishing the Traffic in Slaves, have already manifested the same sentiments, to support them with their suffrage in a cause, of which the final triumph will be one of the greatest monuments of the age which undertook it, and which shall have gloriously carried it into complete effect.

Vienna, February 8, 1815.

(Sixth Inclosure in No. 45.)

Vienne, le 6 Fevrier, 1815

Les Soussignés Plénipotentiaires de S. A. R. le Prince Regent de Portugal au Congrès, se conformant aux vues bienfaisantes et libérales de leur auguste Maître, n'ont pas hésité à se joindre à M. M. les Plénipotentiaires des autres Cours signataires du Traité de Paris pour attester publiquement par une déclaration solennelle leur désir d'accélérer l'époque où la cessation générale et absolue de la Traite des Nègres pourra avoir lieu.

D'après le même principe ils ont eu déjà l'honneur d'annoncer dans la conférence du 28 Janvier l'engagement qu'ils venaient de prendre au nom de S. A. R. dans un Traité avec Sa Majesté Britannique de défendre immédiatement aux navires Portugais ce commerce sur toutes les Cotes de l'Afrique situées au Nord de l'Equateur; engagement beaucoup plus étendu que celui qui a été pris par les autres puissances qui continuent encore la Traite. Les Soussignés se flattent d'avoir dans le cours de la discussion qui a eu lieu à ce sujet entre M. M. les Plénipotentiaires, démontré jusqu'à l'évidence les obstacles qui empêchent S. A. R. le Prince Regent de Portugal de suivre pour l'extinction du système de la Traite une marche trop précipitée, qui détruirait la prospérité naissante de Ses Etats d'Amérique et causerait la ruine d'un grand nombre de Ses Sujets. Ils ont cependant déclaré dans la Conférence du 20 Janvier que le Portugal s'engageroit ainsi que l'a fait l'Espagne à abolir définitivement la Traite des Esclaves au bout de huit ans, mais qu'ils étoient forcés d'exiger toutefois comme une condition indispensable pour cette abolition finale que Sa Majesté Britannique se prêtât de Son côté aux changemens qu'ils ont proposés dans le système commercial entre le Portugal et la Grande Bretagne, attendu que la prohibition que l'on a en vue doit nécessairement causer des variations dans tout le système commercial des Etats Portugais.

Après toutes ces explications aussi franches que précises les Soussignés esperoient avoir convaincu M. M. les Plénipotentiaires des hautes puissances signataires du Traité de Paris, de l'impossibilité où se trouve S. A. R. le Prince Regent de Portugal d'outré-passer, sans blesser les intérêts de Ses Sujets, les mesures qu'ils ont annoncées. C'est donc avec peine qu'ils ont entendu dans la conférence du 4 de ce mois une proposition de S. Excellence Milord Castlereagh tendante à faire entrevoir qu'on se reservoit d'employer d'autres moyens que ceux de la négociation pour engager les Puissances qui

continueront le Traité au delà de cinq ans, à adopter forcément une mesure qui ne peut jamais être demandée que comme un acte volontaire de toute Puissance indépendante.

Ils croient de leur devoir de déclarer en cette occasion que S. A. R. le Prince Regent de Portugal se réserve (quelques soient ses engagements précédens avec les autres Puissances qui défendroient chez elles l'introduction des denrées coloniales Portugaises) d'exercer une retaliation bien justifiée, en prohibant dans ses États de son côté l'importation des produits commerciaux des nations qui auroient adopté à son égard une mesure aussi inusitée.

Les Soussignés en profitant de cette occasion pour assurer L. S. E. B. M. M. les Plenipotentiaires des Puissances signataires du Traité de Paris de leur plus haute considération, demandent que la présente déclaration soit transcrite par entier dans le protocole des conférences de la commission.

(Signés)

{ LE COMTE DE PALMELLA.
 { A DE SALDANHA GAMA.
 { JOAQUIM LOBO DA SILVEIRA.

(Sixth Inclosure in No. 45.)—Translation.

Vienna, February 6, 1815.

The Undersigned Plenipotentiaries of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal at the Congress, in conformity with the benevolent and liberal views of their august Master, have not hesitated to join the Plenipotentiaries of the other Courts, signing parties to the Treaty of Paris, in publicly attesting, by a solemn declaration, their desire to accelerate the period when the general and absolute cessation of the traffic in slaves shall take place.

According to the same principles, they have already had the honour to announce, in the Conference of the 28th of January, the engagement which they had just made, in the name of His Royal Highness, by a Treaty with His Britannic Majesty, immediately to prohibit Portuguese vessels carrying on this commerce on the coast of Africa to the north of the Equator: An engagement much more extensive than that entered into by other Powers who still continue the traffic. The undersigned flatter themselves that, in the course of the discussions which have taken place on this subject between the Plenipotentiaries, they have demonstrated to conviction the obstacles which hinder His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal from following too precipitate a course in abolishing the system of this traffic, which would destroy the growing prosperity of His American States, and cause the ruin of a great number of His Subjects. They have, nevertheless, declared, in the conference of the 20th of January, that Portugal engages, as Spain has done, to abolish definitively the traffic in slaves at the end of eight years, but that they are forced to exact, as an indispensable condition of this final abolition, that His Britannic Majesty should, on His part, comply with the alterations which they have proposed in the commercial system between Portugal and Great Britain, since the prohibition in contemplation must necessarily cause alterations in the whole commercial system of the Portuguese States.

After all these explanations, as frank as they are precise, the undersigned hoped to have convinced the Plenipotentiaries of the high Powers, signing parties to the Treaty of Paris, of the impossibility of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal to go beyond the measures which they have announced, without hurting the interests of His Subjects. It was therefore with pain that they heard, in the Conference of the 4th of this month, a proposi-

tion of his Excellency Lord Castlereagh, tending to establish a reservation to employ other means than those of negotiation to engage those Powers who should continue the traffic beyond five years, forcibly to adopt a measure which never can be demanded of an independent State but as a voluntary act.

They think it their duty on this occasion, to declare, that His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal reserves to Himself (whatever may be His former engagements with any other Powers who shall prohibit the introduction of Portuguese colonial productions into their States) to exercise a just retaliation, by prohibiting, on His side, the importation into His Dominions of the commercial productions of those nations which shall have adopted, with respect to Him, so unusual a measure.

The undersigned, in profiting by this occasion to assure their Excellencies the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers, signing parties to the Treaty of Paris, of their highest consideration, demand that the present declaration should be transcribed at length in the protocol of the Conferences of the commission.

(Signed)

{ LE COMTE DE PALMELLA.
ADE SALDANHA GAMA.
JOAQUIM LOBO DA SILVEIRA.

No. 46.

MY LORD,

Vienna, February 14, 1815.

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a note addressed to me by the Portuguese Plenipotentiaries on the 11th instant, and of my answer to the same.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CASTLEREAGH.

*The Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.*

(First Inclosure in No. 46.)

Vienne, ce 11 Fevrier, 1815.

Les Soussignés Plenipotentiaries de S. A. R. le Prince Regent de Portugal, ayant par plusieurs declarations officielles admis le principe de l'abolition totale de la Traite pour le Portugal en huit ans, sous la condition expresse que S. M. Britannique Se preteroit de Son côté à abolir le Traité de commerce du 19 Fevrier 1810, espèrent de la franchise avec laquelle S. Excellence Milord Castlereagh a conduit jusqu'à présent cette negociation qu'il voudra bien avant son depart leur laisser un document que couvre leur responsabilité, en repondant par écrit à cette note qu'il n'aura pas de difficulté à poursuivre la negociation sur ces deux bases avec les Ministres que S. A. R. le Prince Regent de Portugal autorisera pour cet effet.

Les Soussignés saisissent avec empressement encore cette occasion pour prier S. E. Milord Castlereagh d'agréer les assurances de leur considération la plus distinguée.

(Signé)

{ LE COMTE DE PALMELLA.
A DE SALDANHA DE GAMA.
JOAQUIM LOBO DA SILVEIRA.

*S. E. Milord Castlereagh,
&c. &c. &c.*

(First Inclosure in No. 46.)—Translation.

Vienna, February 11, 1815.

The undersigned Plenipotentiaries from His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal, having, in several official declarations, admitted the principle of the total abolition of the Slave Trade on the part of Portugal in eight years, under the express condition that His Britannic Majesty would consent, on His part, to annul the Treaty of Commerce of the 19th of February 1810, hope, from the sincerity with which his Excellency Lord Castlereagh has shewn throughout this negociation, that he will be good enough, before his departure, to leave them a Document which might cover their responsibility, by giving a written answer to this note, that there will be no objection to pursue the negociations upon these two bases, with the Ministers whom His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal shall authorize for this purpose.

(Signed) The undersigned, &c.
 { LE COMTE DE PALMELLA.
 A DE SALDANIA DE GAMA.
 JOAQUIM LOBO DA SILVEIRA.

Viscount Castlereagh.
 &c. &c. &c.

(Second Inclosure in No. 46.)

Vienna, February 13, 1815.

The undersigned, His Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and His Plenipotentiary at the Congress at Vienna, has the honour to acknowledge the note of the 11th instant, signed by the Ministers of the Prince Regent of Portugal.

The undersigned feels it necessary to preserve the course which his Court may deem it necessary to pursue, for accelerating the abolition of the Slave Trade, wholly unfettered by any conditions; but he can have no difficulty in assuring the Plenipotentiaries of His Royal Highness that he is not only willing, but desirous of entering, on the part of his Government, without delay, into the negociation of a new commercial Treaty, in the hope that an arrangement may be framed more acceptable to the views of both nations.

The undersigned will experience the utmost satisfaction, should he have the good fortune to conclude, with the Plenipotentiaries of the Prince Regent of Portugal, an arrangement which may induce the Portuguese Government to accelerate the final abolition of the Trade in Slaves.

The undersigned, &c. &c. CASTLEREAGH.

The Portuguese Plenipotentiaries,
 &c. &c. &c.