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IV.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO

THE SLAVE TRADE:

VIZ.

COPIES OF PAPERS

Relative to the Capture of the French Ship SYLPHE,
by His Majesty's Sloop REDWING.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14 June 1822.

SCHEDULE OF

Documents and Correspondence relative to the Capture of the French Ship *Sylphe*,
by His Majesty's Sloop *Redwing*.

- N^o 1.—Extract of a Letter from Commodore Sir Geo. R. Collier, dated the 22d February 1819 and addressed to J. W. Croker, esq. - - - - - p. 3
- N^o 2.—Copy of a Letter from Mr. Goulburn, dated the 5th June 1819, to J. W. Croker, esq. with two Inclosures from Lieut. Colonel M'Carthy - - - - - ibid.
- N^o 3.—Copy of a Letter from John Barrow, esq. to Wm. Hamilton, esq. with two Inclosures therein referred to - - - - - p. 4
- N^o 4.—Copy of a Letter from Viscount Castlereagh, dated the 12th July 1822, and addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with one Inclosure - p. 5
- N^o 5.—Copy of a Letter from John Barrow, esq. to William Hamilton, esq. dated the 17th July 1819, with two Inclosures therein referred to - - - - - p. 6
- N^o 6.—Copy of a Letter from Rear Admiral Plampin, dated 2d October 1819, and addressed to J. W. Croker, esq. - - - - - p. 7
- N^o 7.—Copy of a Letter from John Barrow, esq. to Wm. Hamilton, esq. dated the 6th January 1820, with three Inclosures - - - - - ibid.
- N^o 8.—Copy of a Letter from Joseph Planta, jun. esq. to John Barrow, esq. dated the 11th January 1820 - - - - - p. 10
- N^o 9.—Copy of a Letter from J. W. Croker, esq. to Joseph Planta, jun. esq. dated the 14th January 1820 - - - - - ibid.
- N^o 10.—Copy of a Letter from Commodore Sir George R. Collier, to J. W. Croker, esq. dated 24th January 1820 - - - - - ibid.
- N^o 11.—Copy of a Letter from the Navy Board to J. W. Croker, esq. dated the 25th February 1820 - - - - - ibid.
- N^o 12.—Copy of a Letter from John Barrow, esq. to the Navy Board, dated the 26th February 1820 - - - - - p. 11
- N^o 13.—Copy of a Letter from John Barrow, esq. to William Hamilton, esq. dated the 26th February 1820 - - - - - ibid.
- N^o 14.—Copy of a Letter^f from Rear Admiral Plampin to J. W. Croker, esq. dated the 1st March 1820 - - - - - ibid.
- N^o 15.—Copy of a Letter from John Barrow, esq. to Joseph Planta, jun. esq. dated the 9th May 1820 - - - - - ibid.

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FURTHER PAPERS

Relating to the Slave Trade; viz. Capture of the French
Ship SYLPHE, by His Majesty's Sloop REDWING.

—N° 1.—

Extract of a Letter from Commodore Sir George R. Collier, dated on board His Majesty's ship Tartar, Sierra Leone, 22d February 1819, and addressed to J. W. Croker, Esq.

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"DURING my absence, the only vessel of war which had arrived, was His Majesty's sloop Redwing, Captain Hunn, she came in for the purpose of landing the slaves taken on board a schooner, north of the line, and of obtaining the condemnation of the vessel; but under existing circumstances, the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court, of this colony, did not feel himself authorized to take cognizance of the circumstance, and Captain Hunn sailed with the schooner in company, after landing the slaves (three hundred) four days previous to my arrival."

—N° 2.—

(With 2 Inclosures.)

SIR,

Downing Street, 5th June 1819.

I AM directed by Lord Bathurst to transmit to you, for the information and consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a letter from Governor M'Carthy, with its inclosure, relative to the capture by H. M. S. Redwing, of a French schooner, named the Sylphe, with a cargo of 368 slaves, bound for Guadaloupe.

J. W. Croker, Esq.

I am, &c.

Henry Goulburn.

(1. Inclosure in N° 2.)

My Lord,

Government House, Sierra Leone, 25th February 1819.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, that Captain Hunn, of the R. N. commanding H. M. S. Redwing, having fallen in with a French schooner, the Sylphe, near Cape de Verd Island, deemed himself authorized to detain her and bring her here for trial; I herewith inclose a copy of his letter to me, and beg leave to acquaint you, that under the particular circumstances of the case, I deemed it my duty to comply with Captain Hunn's application, and the unfortunate beings were accordingly landed, and placed in the negro captured towns in the interior of the country; Captain Hunn sailed for St. Helena, on the 14th instant.

I avail myself of the present opportunity to solicit your Lordship's instructions on the subject; it has been reported here that a commission, under the late treaty, had been formed at home, but that the malicious and unfounded reports so industriously circulated in England, as to the insalubrity of this climate, had prevented the person appointed to sail for Africa; should that be the case, I beg leave to submit to your Lordship's consideration the propriety of nominating to that commission, either the present Chief Justice, or the acting King's Advocate, or any of the civil officers on the establishment. On a reference to the treaty, I am led to suppose, that your Lordship will concur in my opinion, that it is scarcely possible for any officer who may be appointed to such an office, to commit an error, the regulations are so very clear and pointed. A small addition to the salary of any of the officers, now on the coast, would be adequate to this increased duty, and save public expenditure.

I cannot

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I cannot but add, that it is highly expedient to the welfare of Africa, that something should be done soon, for the traffic in slaves is increasing. Sir George Collier returned here on the 18th instant, from the island of Ascension, after a passage of ten days only; he intends to resume his cruize in a few days, but the want of an established court cramps all exertion in that great cause; and in defiance of the laws of their own country the traffic in slaves is carried on under all colours, but those of Great Britain.

I have, &c. (signed) *C. M'Carthy.*

The Right honourable Earl Bathurst, K. G.

(2. Inclosure in N° 2.)

Sir, His Majesty's Sloop Redwing, Sierra Leone, 10th February 1819.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency, that whilst proceeding in the execution of orders from my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, on the 8th instant, being then in latitude 7° 56' N. and longitude 16° 30' W. I fell in with the French schooner Sylphe, being fifty-one days from Bombay, with a cargo of 368 slaves, bound to Guadaloupe, 20 of whom have died on the passage.

I have, from the decisions of the Congress lately assembled at Aix-la-Chapelle, captured the above schooner and brought her to this anchorage, in preference to the Cape of Good Hope, the more speedily to set these unfortunate victims of unfeeling and brutal avarice at liberty, to effect which, and the speedy proceeding of His Majesty's sloop under my command, I have to request your Excellency will be pleased to direct their immediate removal.

I have, &c. (signed) *Frederick Hunn, Commander.*

His Excellency Lieut. Colonel M'Carthy.

—N° 3.—

(With 2 Inclosures.)

Sir, Admiralty Office, 8th June 1819.

REAR Admiral Plampin having transmitted to this office a letter from Captain Hunn, of His Majesty's sloop Redwing, giving an account of his having captured the French schooner La Sylphe, bound from Bonna to Guadaloupe with a cargo of slaves, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you a copy of the said letter, and of the one, which by their Lordships direction I have written to the Admiral on this occasion, and to request you will lay the same before Lord Castlereagh, for his Lordship's information.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

William Hamilton, Esq.
Foreign Office.

(signed) *John Barrow.*

(1. Inclosure in N° 3.)

Sir, His Majesty's sloop Redwing, St. Helena Roads, 17th March 1819.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that on the 9th ultimo, being in latitude 7° 17' N. and longitude 17° 16' W. H. M. sloop under my command fell in with the French schooner La Sylphe from Bonna, bound to Guadaloupe, having on board a cargo of 368 slaves which I captured and carried into Sierra Leone, where I delivered the slaves into his Excellency the Governor's order, and sent the schooner on to the Cape of Good Hope for trial.

I have, &c. (signed) *Frederick Hunn, Commander.*

Rear Admiral Plampin, Commander in Chief,
St. Helena.

(2. Inclosure in N° 3.)

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 8th June 1819.

HAVING laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 26th of March, N° 18, inclosing a copy of a letter from Captain Hunn of the Redwing, giving an account of his having captured the French schooner La Sylphe, bound

bound from Bonna to Guadaloupe with a cargo of slaves, I am commanded by their Lordships to express to you their surprize that Captain Hunn should, without orders and of his own authority, have violated the flag of a friendly power, and have captured a vessel sailing under the flag of his Majesty's ally the Most Christian King; and I am to signify their Lordships direction to you to call upon the Captain to explain and account for his conduct on this occasion, for which his letter above alluded to affords no excuse.

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I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,
(signed) *John Barrow.*
To Rear Admiral Plampin,
St. Helena.

—N° 4.—

(With 1 Inclosure.)

My Lords,

Foreign Office, 12th July 1819.

IN reference to your Secretary's letter of the 8th ultimo, transmitting copy of Captain Hunn's report of your Lordships, dated the 17th March, of his having detained and carried into Sierra Leone the French schooner *La Sylphe*, bound from Bonna to Guadaloupe, with a cargo of 368 slaves on board, which ship Captain Hunn states, in the same letter, that he had sent to the Cape of Good Hope for adjudication, I am to signify to your Lordships the commands of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent that you do give instructions by the earliest opportunity to the commanding officers of H. M. naval force at Sierra Leone and at the Cape of Good Hope, or elsewhere if necessary, to take immediate steps for conveying the said French schooner *Sylphe* from any port at which she may be found, together with her crew and such effects as she may have on board, to the nearest French port, in order that on her arrival there she may be delivered over to the French authorities, together with such proofs as may be necessary to enable them to proceed against the parties who may be found guilty of having violated the laws of their country.

I have forwarded a copy of this letter to the Colonial Department, in order that Earl Bathurst may give such directions to the civil officers at the Cape of Good Hope and at Sierra Leone as may be necessary to facilitate the execution of H. R. Highness's commands; and I request that your Lordships will have the goodness to communicate to me a copy of your orders, in order that the same may be transmitted to His Majesty's ambassador at Paris, for the information of the Government of his Most Christian Majesty.

I have the honour to remain, &c.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

(signed) *Castlereagh.*

P. S.—Copy of the answer of the Marquis de Dessolles to the communication made to him by Sir C. Stuart, is herewith inclosed for your Lordships information.

(Inclosure in N° 4.)

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 29 Juin 1819.

J'AI reçu avec la lettre que V. E. m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 15 de ce mois, une copie de la dépêche par laquelle le Capitaine Hunn, commandant le bâtiment Anglais le *Redwing*, annonçait à M. le Gouverneur de Sierra Leone la capture du navire Français le *Sylphe*, lequel paraît avoir tenté de transporter des nègres de la côte d'Afrique à la Guadaloupe.

Les assurances et les offres dont V. E. a été chargé d'accompagner cette communication sont, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, de nature à satisfaire le Gouvernement de S. M. T. C. qui ne désire pas avec moins d'ardeur le Gouvernement Britannique l'entière abolition du commerce des noirs. Les mesures qu'il a prises pour arriver à ce but paraissent avoir eu d'heureux résultats, et dernièrement encore il lui a été annoncé qu'un bâtiment armé à l'Isle de France et faisant, sous pavillon Anglais, la contrebande des noirs, a été arrêté par l'ordre du Commandant de l'Isle de Bourbon et remis au Capitaine de la frégate Anglaise la *Magicienne*. Comme il est probable que M. le Gouverneur de Sierra Leone aura jugé convenable de

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remettre à la disposition des autorités de l'établissement Français le plus voisin, le navire saisi par M. le Capitaine Hunn, V. E. ne soit pas douter que l'armateur et l'équipage de ce navire ne soient jugés et punis suivant la rigueur des lois.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c. (signé) *Le Marquis Dessolles.*

—N° 5.—

(With 2 Inclosures.)

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 17 July 1819.

IN return to the letter addressed by Lord Castlereagh to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the 12th instant, respecting the French schooner *La Sylphe*, captured with a cargo of slaves on board, by H. M. sloop *Redwing*, I am commanded by their Lordships to transmit to you, for Lord Castlereagh's information, copies of the letters which I have written by their direction to the officers commanding on the Cape and African stations, for carrying into effect the pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in regard to that vessel.

Wm. Hamilton, Esq.
Foreign Office.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,
(signed) *John Barrow.*

(1. Inclosure in N° 5.)

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 17th July 1819.

IN further reference to your letter of the 26th of March, N° 18, transmitting a copy of a letter from Captain Hunn, of His Majesty's sloop *Redwing*, stating, that he had captured the French schooner *La Sylphe*, bound from Bonna to Guadaloupe, with a cargo of slaves, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to send you a copy of letter which their Lordships have received from Lord Castlereagh, signifying the pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that the schooner should be conveyed from any place at which she may be, with her crew, and such effects as she may have on board, to the nearest French ports, to be delivered on her arrival there to the French authorities, with such proofs as may be necessary, to enable them to proceed against the parties who may be found guilty of having violated the laws of their country; and I am to signify their Lordships directions to you, to take the necessary measures, without loss of time, for carrying His Royal Highness's intentions into effect, if the schooner in question should be at any place within the limits of your command: observing that she should be sent either to the Isle of Bourbon, or to the nearest French settlement on the west coast of Africa, as the master of the vessel may prefer.

To Rear Admiral Plampin,
St. Helena.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,
(signed) *John Barrow.*

(1. Inclosure in N° 5.)

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 17th July 1819.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to transmit to you a copy of a letter which their Lordships have received from Lord Castlereagh, signifying the pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that the French schooner *La Sylphe*, which was captured in the month of February last, by His Majesty's sloop *Redwing*, on her way from Bonna to Guadaloupe with a cargo of slaves, should be conveyed from any place at which she may be with her crew, and such effects as she may have on board, to the nearest French port; to be delivered on her arrival there to the French authorities, with such proofs as may be necessary to enable them to proceed against the parties who may be found guilty of having violated the laws of their country; and I am to signify their Lordships direction to you, to take the necessary measures, without loss of time, for carrying His Royal Highness's intentions into effect, if the schooner in question should be at any place within the limits of the African station.

To the Senior Officer of His Majesty's ships,
on the coast of Africa.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,
(signed) *John Barrow.*

Inclosure, see N° 4.

Inclosure, see N° 4.

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—N° 6.—

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Sir, H. M. S. Conqueror, St. Helena Roads, 2d Oct. 1819.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of their Lordships letters, dated from the 22d of April to the 24th July last, and numbered from 15 to 26; number 25 inclosing a copy of a letter from Lord Castlereagh to their Lordships, relating to La Sylphe French schooner, captured and sent to the Cape of Good Hope, by Captain Hunn, of His Majesty's sloop Redwing, for adjudication.

I have directed Captain Moresby of the Menai, who sailed for the Cape on the morning of the 30th ultimo, to put in execution their Lordships instructions to me on this head, by fitting La Sylphe for sea, and when ready, to send an officer and a sufficient number of men on board to navigate her, either to the Isle of Bourbon, or to the nearest French port on the west coast of Africa (as circumstances may render necessary) under charge of Lieutenant Kent of the Hardy, tender, who will be in Simon's Bay on the arrival there of Captain Moresby.

I have the honour, &c. (signed) Robert Plampin,

J. W. Croker, Esq.

Rear Admiral and Commander in Chief.

—N° 7.—

(With 3 Inclosures.)

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 6th January 1820.

IN reference to the letter from Lord Castlereagh to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of the 12th of July last, respecting the French schooner La Sylphe, captured by Captain Hunn of His Majesty's sloop Redwing, with a cargo of slaves on board, I am commanded by my Lords to transmit to you, for his Lordship's information, copies of a letter and its inclosures, received from Rear Admiral Plampin on the subject of that vessel.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(signed) John Barrow.

Wm. Hamilton, Esq.
Foreign Office.

(1. Inclosure in N° 7.)

Sir,

H. M. S. Conqueror, St. Helena Roads, 7th Nov. 1819.

I HAVE to acquaint you, for their Lordships information, that by a letter from Captain Moresby, dated the 21st ultimo, he arrived the preceding evening at Simon's Bay, where he found the Redwing; that the Nautilus was then at Algoa Bay, but he should send my orders by land to Captain Chapman, to return immediately to Simon's Bay and take in stock for the squadron, so that I expect to see him in the course of a week or ten days. Captain Moresby informs me that the French schooner La Sylphe had been purchased by the Colonial Government; that she was lying in Simon's Bay when he arrived there, and that he had put his orders in execution by taking possession of her; that he had written to his Excellency Lord Charles Somerset, inclosing to his Lordship, for his information on the subject, Lord Castlereagh's letter, of the 12th of July last, to their Lordships, and requested his (Lord Charles') assistance in procuring him the necessary documents from the civil authorities at the Cape; that he should endeavour to find the master or any other of the crew, if still in the colony; and as soon as his Excellency had directed the person commanding La Sylphe to deliver her up, with all her effects, he should proceed to equip her, and in compliance with my directions send her forthwith to the Isle of Bourbon, under the directions of Lieutenant Kent of the Hardy tender, who will deliver her to the proper authorities there, and bring back such men as Captain Moresby may find it requisite to put on board her; as I do not suppose at this distance of time any of her original crew will be found at the Cape.

Pursuant to their Lordships directions, in your letter of 8th June 1819, N° 20, I have called on Captain Hunn to assign his reasons for having taken possession of the French schooner La Sylphe, and herewith inclose to you, for their Lordships information, a copy of Captain Hunn's reply, and its inclosures.

I have the honour, &c. (signed) Robert Plampin,

J. W. Croker, Esq.

Rear-admiral and Commander in Chief.

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(2. Inclosure in N° 7.)

Sir,

H. M. Sloop Redwing, St. Helena, 5th Nov. 1819.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, calling upon me to explain and account for my conduct in capturing the French slave schooner La Sylphe, which I shall endeavour to do as circumstantially and briefly as the subject will admit.

Having learnt, whilst at St. Jago's, from Stewart Blacker, Esq. commanding His Majesty's ship Lee, that there were several piratical schooners in the neighbourhood, and on the SW. coast of Africa, who had committed many depredations upon mercantile vessels they had met, and had very recently landed upon some of the Cape de Verd Islands, whose inhabitants they had plundered, and upon whose property they had levied contributions to a large amount, I deemed it my duty to watch for any of these marauders during the time I should be running in the track above stated. Accordingly, on the 9th of February at 1 h. A. M. a sail was seen in SW. which was almost immediately tacked, and made sail for His Majesty's sloop under my command, as if with an intention to make her out, upon which I took in top-gallant steering sails and hauled up to meet him; in a very short time, being broad moonlight, he made us out and hauled his wind, which encouraged me to hope I had met one of those lawless plunderers, and consequently made every exertion to bring him to, which he as earnestly wished apparently to avoid.

Towards daylight he hoisted a flag at his fore-top-gallant mast head, which from the haze I could not make out distinctly, but took it for that of the American nation, and of which I have now no doubt, having found that flag on board of him afterwards.

Shortly after daylight, having hauled down the flag from forward, he hoisted that of his Most Christian Majesty at his main gaff, and shortened sail at 6 h. 45 m. or thereabouts; the colours and pendant of His Majesty's sloop under my command being up during the whole chase.

At seven I sent a boat with a commissioned officer to examine him, and if at all suspicious of being the vessel I had hoped, he was to send the master with his papers on board for my examination.

On going on board, the officer found the master with his crew, amounting to about thirty-eight persons, with their clothes and bedding packed up, the master surrendering the vessel and cargo, of which no further notice was taken than by sending him and his papers on board this vessel.

Upon examination of the latter, I found he was a French schooner cleared out from Guadaloupe for St. Thomas; but instead of going to St. Thomas, he had been to Bonny and other places on the continent of Africa, and had on board a cargo originally of near 400 slaves, in direct violation of the ordonnance of his Most Christian Majesty, endorsed by the French authorities upon his rôle d'équipage, by which he was most strictly and positively forbidden to take on board a native African black, either as passenger or crew, upon any pretence whatever, upon pain of forfeiting vessel and cargo, and such other punishment as should be decreed by law in any of the courts of justice of his Most Christian Majesty.

Under these circumstances I had no hesitation in taking them to Sierra Leone, where I believed a French commissioner was resident to take cognizance of this breach of the laws of their country.

Upon finding there was no commissioner yet arrived, the slaves were landed by order of the governor; and from information I had of there being proper authorities at the Cape of Good Hope, whither I was myself bound, I sent an officer with an order (a copy of which I have the honour to inclose) in the schooner to that port, as I should thereby recover my officers and men much sooner than by sending her to Brest or any other port in Europe.

I cannot close this account without stating that the court of vice admiralty at the Cape of Good Hope issued a special decree for the sale, and the condemnation of the schooner (a copy of which I have the honour to inclose) followed in the month of August, for a violation of that humane ordonnance of his Most Christian Majesty, upon which, and the above stated pleas, I took her into Sierra Leone, in the hope that by thus arresting the progress of this merciless trafficker, and thereby forwarding the benevolent designs of his Most Christian Majesty's ordonnance, I should ensure the approbation of both governments.

I have the honour, &c. (signed) *Fred. Hunn*, Commander.

Robert Plampin, Esq. Rear Admiral of the Blue,
and Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c. St. Helena.

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Memorandum by Frederick Hunn, Esquire, commanding His Majesty's sloop Redwing.

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You are hereby directed to take charge of the French schooner La Sylphe, and proceed in her with all dispatch to Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope, and then give her up, with all her papers (herewith inclosed and sealed) to the judge (*or some other proper authority* by him directed) of the Vice Admiralty Court, remaining by her yourself until every article of tackle, furniture, &c. &c. be safely and securely lodged in the hold, and the hatches sealed down, yourself taking duplicate inventories.

You will of course report yourself to the commanding officer, upon your arrival, who will most probably receive on board the petty officers and seamen, until some good opportunity of rejoining this sloop on her arrival; should neither of these expectations be realized, you will keep them close on board, as circumstances will admit, observing, that the less communication they have with the shore the better.

During your stay on board the schooner, you will prevent any of her remaining provisions being consumed, until the period to which you are victualled shall arrive.

In stretching across to the Cape, should you make St. Helena *to leeward*, you will make for that anchorage, and should I have not yet arrived, await that event, or if I have sailed, proceed with all dispatch, *without anchoring* unless you wish to replenish your victualling, or any other impervious necessity should require your delay.

Given this sixteenth day of February, at sea, on board the Redwing.

To Lieutenant C. Croker, R. N. (signed) Frederick Hunn,
H. M. Sloop, Redwing. Commander.

At a Court of Vice Admiralty, held on Saturday, the twenty-eighth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, before George Kekewich, Esq. Judge and Commissary, &c.

Present, George Cadogan, Notary Public.

La Sylphe, Jean Julien Pagne, Master;

His Majesty's sloop of war Redwing, Frederick Hunn, Esq. Captain, against the above schooner, called La Sylphe, J. J. Pagne, Master, and against all persons in general, in a case of seizure and detention.

The certificate of the warrant is continued.

The judge, at the petition of Rowles, His Majesty's Procurator General, assigned the cause for sentence on the third and fourth defaults.

Rowles then brought in an affidavit of Jean Julien Pagne, the master, and affidavit of Mark Brough, late seaman of said schooner; he also brought in an extract from the log book of His Majesty's sloop of war Redwing, Frederick Hunn, Esquire, captain.

Rowles also brought in his libel, which the judge having heard read, admitted the same.

In pain of parties cited, Rowles alledged the above schooner to have been seized by His Majesty's sloop of war Redwing, Frederick Hunn, Esq. captain, as having on board three hundred and sixty-five persons, treated, dealt with, carried, kept and detained as slaves, in direct violation and contravention of the ordonnance of his Most Christian Majesty the King of France, dated the eighth day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, as also contrary to the existing laws of Great Britain, and prayed the Court would be pleased to condemn the said schooner, her tackle, apparel, furniture and stores.

The judge having heard informations thereon, and having duly deliberated, pronounced the above schooner to have had on board, at the time of the seizure thereof by His Majesty's sloop of war Redwing, Frederick Hunn, Esq. captain, three hundred and sixty-five persons, natives of the coast or countries of Africa, treated, dealt with, carried, kept and detained as slaves, in direct violation and contravention of the aforesaid ordonnance of his Most Christian Majesty the King of France, as also contrary to the existing laws of Great Britain, and as such liable and subject to confiscation; and by interlocutory decree condemned the said schooner, her tackle, apparel, furniture and stores, as having been taken and seized by His Majesty's afore said sloop of war, Redwing, Frederick Hunn, Esq. captain

(signed)

Geo. Cadogan, Registrar.

—N° 8.—

IV.
Capture of the
French ship
"Sylphe."

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 11th, 1820.

I HAVE laid before Viscount Castlereagh your letter of the 6th instant, on the subject of the French slave ship *Sylphe*, captured by Captain Hunn, of His Majesty's sloop *Redwing*, and condemned at the Cape of Good Hope, and inclosing the copy of a letter from Admiral Plampin, stating the measures which he has taken for having that vessel sent to the Isle of Bourbon for adjudication; together with the copy of a letter from Captain Hunn, explanatory of his conduct in having detained her in consequence of her having had a cargo of 360 slaves on board contrary to the ordonnance of his Most Christian Majesty, and I am to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Lord Castlereagh deems Captain Hunn's conduct, in this instance, to have been reprehensible, in having visited and detained in time of peace, a ship belonging to a friendly and independent state, for acts, however criminal, in breach of the laws, not of Great Britain, but of that particular state.

J. Barrow, Esq.

I am, &c. (signed) *Joseph Planta, jun.*

—N° 9.—

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 14th January 1820.

HAVING laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 11th instant, respecting the conduct of Captain Hunn, of His Majesty's sloop *Redwing*, in visiting and detaining the French slave schooner *La Sylphe*, I am commanded by their Lordships to request you will state to Lord Castlereagh, that on receiving from Rear Admiral Plampin, in the month of June last, a report of the detention of the vessel in question, my Lords expressed to the Admiral their surprize that Captain Hunn should, without orders and of his own authority, have violated the flag of a friendly power, and have captured a vessel sailing under the flag of His Majesty's ally the Most Christian King.

Joseph Planta, jun. Esq.
Foreign Office.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,
(signed) *J. W. Croker.*

—N° 10.—

Sir,

H. M. Ship *Tartar*, Sierra Leone, January 24th, 1820.

IN acknowledgment of your letter in duplicate, of the 17th July last, desiring me to send, "without loss of time, the French schooner *Sylphe*, captured by His Majesty's sloop *Redwing*, with a cargo of slaves, to the nearest French port, in order that on her arrival there, she may be delivered over to the French authorities, together with such proofs as may be necessary to enable them to proceed against the parties who may be found guilty of having violated the laws of their country."

I have to state that the French schooner *Sylphe* was taken on by Captain Hunn, to the Cape of Good Hope, but that should she return to this part of Africa, I shall afford every facility to the fulfilment of their Lordships wishes.

J. W. Croker, Esq.

I have the honour, &c. (signed) *George R. Collier,*
Commodore.

—N° 11.—

Sir,

Navy Office, 25th February 1820.

WE desire you will be pleased to represent to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the Commissioner at the Cape of Good Hope has by letter of the 23d of November, informed us that some months before His Majesty's ship *Redwing* had brought in the French schooner *Sylphe*, captured on the coast of Africa with a cargo of slaves on board, that the schooner was condemned at the Admiralty Court of the Colony, and subsequently sold to the Colonial Government, when orders were brought out by His Majesty's ship *Menai* from His Majesty's Secretary of State, for her immediate restitution to the French authorities at the Isle of Bourbon.

The Commissioner has further stated, that as she was heaving down at the time the orders were received, it was necessary to supply her with articles to equip her
for

THE SLAVE TRADE.

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for sea, an account of which has been sent home by him ; under these circumstances, we request to receive their Lordships directions, whether any claim is to be made against the French Government for the expenses of the stores, &c. so supplied.

We are, &c. (signed) *J. Tucker,*
P. Fraser,
G. A. Chetwynd Stapylton.

IV.
Capture of the
French ship
"Sylphe."

—N° 12.—

Gentlemen, Admiralty Office, 26th February 1820.

HAVING laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of yesterday's date, stating a communication which you had received from Commissioner Sir Jahleel Brenton, respecting a French vessel, called La Sylphe, detained by the Redwing and ordered to be restored, and requesting to be informed whether any claim is to be made against the French Government for the expenses of the stores, &c. supplied to that vessel, I have their Lordships commands, to acquaint you, that no claim is to be made against that Government upon that account.

I am, Gentlemen, your very humble servant,

Navy Board.

John Barrow.

—N° 13.—

Sir, Admiralty Office, 26th February 1820.

IN reference to former letters respecting the French schooner La Sylphe, detained by the Redwing, and ordered to be restored, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to request you will acquaint Lord Castlereagh that the Navy Board having reported that this vessel had been supplied from H. M. Dock Yard at the Cape of Good Hope, with some articles necessary to equip her for sea, and requested to be informed whether any claim is to be made against the French Government for the expense of these stores, my Lords have signified to the said Board, that no claim is to be made against that Government upon this account.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

William Hamilton, esq.
Foreign Office.

John Barrow.

—N° 14.—

Sir, H. M. S. Conqueror, St. Helena Roads, 1st March 1820.

I BEG leave to acquaint you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the Hardy, schooner, returned to this anchorage from the Isle of Bourbon on the 24th ultimo, having delivered up the French schooner La Sylphe, to the French authorities at that place, agreeably to their Lordships directions.

I herewith have the honour to forward to you two receipts for the said vessel and furniture, and different documents relating to her.

I have the honour, &c. (signed) *Robert Plampin,*

J. W. Croker, Esq.

Rear Admiral and Commander in Chief.

—N° 15.—

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 9th May 1820.

IN reference to the letter of Lord Castlereagh to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of the 12th of July 1819, relative to the Sylphe, a French schooner, detained as a slaving vessel by H. M. sloop Redwing, I am commanded by my Lords to transmit to you for his Lordship's information, a copy of a letter from Rear Admiral Plampin, with the original receipts therein referred to, stating the delivery of the schooner to the French authorities at the Isle of Bourbon.

Joseph Planta, jun. esq.
Foreign Office.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

John Barrow.

IV.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO

THE SLAVE TRADE:

VIZ.

Copies of Papers relative to the Capture of the French
Ship SYLPHÉ, by His Majesty's Sloop REDWING.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed
14 June 1822.

432.