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SLAVE TRADE.

Return to an Address of the Honourable House of Commons,
dated 24 February 1826;—*for*,

COPIES OR EXTRACTS OF ALL

Correspondence touching the Slave Trade, received
from the Governors of *Sierra Leone*, and other
British Possessions on the Coast of *Africa*, and
from the Governors of the *Mauritius* and the *Cape
of Good Hope*, since 1st January 1825, and not
already before the House.

(MAURITIUS.)

Colonial Department, }
Downing-street, }
26 April 1826. }

R. J. WILMOT HORTON.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
2 May 1826.

MAURITIUS.

- N° 1.—Extract of a Dispatch from Lt. General the Hon. Sir G. L. Cole, G. C. B.
to R. J. Wilmot Horton, Esq. dated Mauritius, 29 January 1825, (one
Enclosure) - - - - - p. 3.
- N° 2.—Copy of a Letter from Lt. General the Hon. Sir G. L. Cole, G. C. B.
to R. J. Wilmot Horton, Esq. dated Mauritius, 22 June 1825. - - - - - ibid.
- N° 3.—Extract of a Dispatch from Lt. General the Hon. Sir G. L. Cole, G. C. B.
to Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 20 August 1825 (one Enclosure) - - - - - p. 4.

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— N° 1. —

EXTRACT of a Letter from His Excellency Sir G. L. Cole, G. C. B. to
R. J. Wilmot Horton, Esq. dated Mauritius, 29th January 1825.

—“ I TAKE the first opportunity of sending you the copy of a letter which I have received within these few days from Captain Chapman of H. M. S. Ariadne, and by which you will learn, that that officer has saved 149 Slaves from the schooner Walter Farquhar, driven on shore by him near St. Luce, on the Madagascar coast.

“ I understand that Captain Chapman is gone to the Seychelles for the hurricane months, and I do not expect him here till April, so that at present I cannot afford you any other information than what is contained in the enclosed letter.

“ The Walter Farquhar at one time belonged to this Island, but (as stated in Captain Moorsom's letter of November 17th, which accompanied mine to you of December 17th, 1823) I am glad to think that she was some time ago sold to a person at Bourbon, and I have no reason whatever to imagine that the people of this Island were in any way concerned or interested in her last adventure.”

H. M. Ship Ariadne,
Tamatave, 4th January 1825.

Enclosure.

Sir,

I HAVE much pleasure in stating to Your Excellency, that after leaving Fort Dauphin on the 24th ultimo, being on the morning of the 26th off St. Luce, observed and chased a schooner into that place. I sent two boats to examine her, she having no colours hoisted, and a short time afterwards she made sail to the southward, and immediately ran on shore on the main. I sent the master to assist, if possible, in getting her off; that officer returned, and reported the schooner full of Slaves, no colours hoisted, nor white men on board; that several Slaves were drowned, laying on the beach, and had picked up one white man and several of the Slaves in the water. I immediately anchored under the Island of St. Luce, and sent all boats away to save the Slaves. The schooner filled, and was totally lost. Received from the schooner 149 Slaves, and one white man (French) named René Brasquah.

A brig sailing at this moment does not allow me to give Your Excellency a more perfect detail, which I hope you will excuse.

I have the honour, &c.

(signed) J. F. Chapman, Captain.

His Excellency Lieutenant General
The Honourable Sir G. Lowry Cole, G. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

— N° 2. —

COPY of a Letter from Lieut. General the Hon. Sir G. L. Cole, G. C. B.
to R. J. Wilmot Horton, Esq. dated Mauritius, 22d June 1825.

Mauritius, 22d June 1825.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of Earl Bathurst, that Captain Owen, of His Majesty's ship Leven, has brought into this port a vessel called “ Le Soleil,” otherwise “ Le Tigre,” which he captured on the 31st ult. at St. Augustin's Bay, on the west coast of Madagascar, with a cargo of from 150 to 160 new Blacks, from the Mozambique shore.

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The "Soleil," it appears, was under false colours at the time of her capture, and her crew consisted of foreigners (French, Portuguese, &c.) As Captain Owen will, I conclude, report officially to the Admiralty on this subject, I have only to add, that the Blacks will be prosecuted in the Vice Admiralty Court of this colony, according to the usual forms; and I will take the opportunity of observing, in reference to my letter to you of the 29th of January last, that the Blacks saved from the wreck of the schooner *Walter Farquhar*, and brought here by Captain Chapman, of His Majesty's ship *Ariadne*, have been condemned to His Majesty by the sentence of the same Court.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
G. Lowry Cole.

R. J. Wilmot Horton, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

— N^o 3. —

EXTRACT of a Dispatch from His Excellency Sir G. L. Cole to the Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K. G. dated Mauritius, 20th of August 1825.

— "I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a communication I have received from Captain Owen, of His Majesty's ship *Leven*, on the subject of the Slave Trade, which still exists on the East coast of Africa.

"Captain Owen having so long been employed in these seas, I thought it would be satisfactory to your Lordship to be in possession of his opinions with respect to the Slave Trade; and I am happy to think, that the latter part of Captain Owen's letter confirms what I have already stated to your Lordship, on the subject of the extinction of the traffic in Slaves, as far as the Mauritius and its dependencies are concerned.

"It is, however, very desirable, as I have before had the honour of mentioning to your Lordship, that two small armed vessels should be employed on this station; one here, and the other at Seychelles. From the situation of the latter Islands, peculiar facilities are afforded for trafficking in Slaves; and unless they were occasionally visited by vessels of war, some adventurers might possibly be hereafter tempted to renew this disgusting commerce."

Enclosure.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Captain W. Owen, of His Majesty's ship *Leven*, to His Excellency the Honourable Sir G. L. Cole, G. C. B. dated Port Louis, 4th August 1825.

— "I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 2d inst. in which you are pleased to call on me for some information relating to the Slave Trade in general, and in as far as that Trade may at this time affect the Islands under your Excellency's government, and also requesting me to suggest any measures which to me might seem calculated to effect the suppression of the said Trade.

"The ports on the coast of Africa from whence Slaves are exported, are Zanzibar, Keelwa or Quiloa, Kessooharra, Lindy, Moughon or Mongaloo, Mikindamy, Mizimbarly, and Stamboseyzy. The two first named are under the authority of the Imaun of Muskat; the others were formerly dependencies on Keelwa, but at this time affecting independence.

"All these ports are to the northward of Cape Delgado, which is assumed in the treaties as the northern limit of Portuguese dominion, and is in 10° 42' south. Southward of that limit, at Zoughy, which is the bay formed by the said Cape Delgado, the native chiefs also affect independence, but accept from the Portuguese nominations to confirm their authority; at least, so I have been informed by the Portuguese

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Portuguese of Mozambique; and in this bay the Trade of Slaves is also carried on. The next port to the southward of Zoughy or Delgado, is Oibo or Ibo, which is a Portuguese settlement; between Ibo and Mozambique there is not at this time a place to which there is any resort for Slaves, nor between Mozambique and the river Angoxa or Angozha, which is also independent. To the southward of Angoxa, Quillimane, Sofala, Inhamban, and Delgado Bay, are the only places where the traffic for Slaves are known.

“ The Imaun’s authority is acknowledged for Zanzibar and Keelwa, and with him we have a treaty which should prevent any Slaves being sent southward from those places, or being sold to Christians.

“ With the Portuguese, their treaty with England is not attended to at all. Not only do their traders visit the places northward of Delgado, to search for Slaves, but they permit, without reserve, foreign vessels to trade for Slaves, and to collect them at Zoughy, Ibo, and Mozambique.

“ The vessels employed at this time in that infamous traffic usually wear a French flag, and carry their Slaves to Bourbon, where, by the laxity of its government, no obstacles appear to be opposed to them.

“ To the northward of Delgado, it may be presumed that the only persons now engaged in that traffic are French adventurers, except only the Arabs, who carry it on to the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, or assist the said adventurers by collecting cargoes for them.

“ The simplest method of putting an entire stop to the traffic for Slaves, now carried on northward of Delgado, would be for both nations, British and French, to admit of mutual right of search and seizure, modifying that right as may be judged prudent; so that, whilst the independent sovereignty of each is maintained, the object in question may be effected.

“ Southward of Cape Delgado, the Portuguese may be called on to fulfil their treaty, an account to be rendered to His Majesty’s government of every infraction of it, for which purpose we should have consular residents at Mozambique and Ibo.

“ We require also a consular agent or one of His Majesty’s subjects resident at Zanzibar, to observe that the treaty with the Imaun be fulfilled. These agents should none of them be considered stationary, but as having the surveillance or watch over a certain extent of the coast.

“ For the ports between Keelwa and Zoughy, another and more determinate line of policy may be adopted, by separate conventions with the chiefs at the respective ports; and if some encouragement were given to merchants to trade with them for other objects of commerce, they would soon find exchanges for the coarse cottons for India, which is their principal demand; for very much of their demand for arms and ammunition, now much bartered with them for Slaves, is for the purpose of obtaining and securing such Slaves.

“ One moveable agent would be sufficient from Keelwa to Zoughy, to see that the conventions were not broken; that is, that no Slaves were sold.

“ For the disposition of such Slaves or vessels as may be seized by the Imaun’s authority, some arrangement should be entered into with him, as also with the independent powers of Kissooharra, Lindy, Moughoo, and Stambosezy.

“ But the most material arrangement would be, that every port named, as well as that of Mombass, should be visited by a vessel of war, at least once every two months, with specific instructions as to their line of conduct; and for such Arab or African vessels as pass southward of Cape Delgado, a passport in English and Arabic should be adopted, to prevent those from being molested that trade on acknowledged principles; at present, a vessel of war cannot know whether such be the case or not, because the seamen of the country vessels are all Slaves. I had adopted such a measure, which might have been rendered effectual and permanent, and unless such a method be adopted, an Arabic interpreter will be necessary to every ship of war that goes on that coast to stop the traffic in Slaves.

“ I have said nothing of Mombass, because Your Excellency is acquainted already, that the people of that place are under engagement with me not to permit any traffic

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traffic whatever in Slaves ; and that several ships have already been seized by the officers commanding there, for a breach of that engagement, and the Slaves disposed of by my orders.

“ A similar engagement has been entered into by the Sultan of Ozy and the Chief of Brava ; but the latter place is to the northward of the equinoctial line, and therefore not within the limits of this station for the ships of war, but included in the India command.

“ For the smaller powers, between the Keelwa and Zoughy, there will be no necessity for having so high a political consideration, and such vessels as may be seized there, might be disposed of in your Vice Admiralty Court.

“ I am not aware that I could suggest any other modes of procedure to effect the extirpation of the Slave traffic under present circumstances ; but if His Majesty's Ministers should hereafter be disposed to take a decided part in the politics of East Africa, some more decisive measures might then be adopted to annihilate the said traffic.

“ In answer to that part of your letter relating to the Islands comprised in Your Excellency's Government, Mauritius and the Seychelles ;—

“ In all my relations with the coasts in question, I have never understood that there has recently existed any traffic for Slaves either with the Mauritius or the Seychelles Islands ; and the timidity of the French population induces me to believe that they fear to be, and will not be engaged therein under the existing laws ; but neglected as the Seychelles and Amaranthes are and have been, (and indeed even the coast of Mauritius itself, not immediately in the vicinity of Port Louis), even since my arrival in these seas, I must observe, that the business of landing Slaves on any of these points, might be effected even without risk to the vessels which might transport them.

“ In Mauritius, and even in Mahé, the internal regulations would soon (it is probable) render the fact notorious, and the prosecutions of Government would perhaps render such a moral either no worldly benefit to the parties who might engage in it, but neither the information nor the remedy are at all certain ; within reasonable time, should any of her Islands be chosen for an enterprize, and some there are adapted for depôts for Slaves, and well situated to become so for those intended for Bourbon or other parts. For this, I can suggest no other remedy, than, that one vessel of war at least, be always to visit the Islands to northward of Madagascar, including the Seychelles, as well as the ports on the coast before-named ; indeed there would be full and constant occupation for two ten-gun brigs on such a service, but whilst executing that duty, they might obtain perfect plans of every Island and danger, and bank of soundings within the said limits.

“ After the observations I have made, Your Excellency will see, that in my opinion the Wizard would be extremely useful on such a service ; and that she ought never to remain longer in one spot than might be sufficient to procure the supplies and information necessary to her.

“ My occupations have left me no time to give the subject all the consideration it merits ; but perhaps, much as this letter may fall short of Your Excellency's wish, yet the Commodore may be desirous to have a copy of it, since he will probably not have derived even so much information as this contains, from any other source. May I therefore request, you will be pleased to direct a copy of it to be furnished to the senior naval officer, who may succeed Captain Chapman in this port, for Commodore Christian.

“ As I shall quit this station in a few days, I beg Your Excellency will accept my best thanks for all the polite attentions with which you have been pleased to honour me, and my best wishes for the prosperity of your Government, as well as for the health and safe return to our country, of yourself and family.”

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CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

THE SLAVE TRADE

AT

MAURITIUS.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
2 May 1826.