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SOODAN BLACKS.

RETURN to an ADDRESS of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 29 January 1838;—for,

COPIES of, or EXTRACTS from, any CORRESPONDENCE received by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, respecting the Annual Incursions against the Blacks of Soodan by the Troops of Mahomed Ali, Pacha of Egypt, and respecting the Mode in which the Prisoners taken on such Incursions are disposed of.

LIST OF PAPERS.

- No. 1.—Colonel Campbell to Viscount Palmerston, dated Cairo, 1 December 1837 - - p. 1
Enclosure.—Artin Bey to Colonel Campbell, Cairo, 1 December 1837 - - p. 3
Sub-enclosure.—The Viceroy of Egypt to the Governor of Sennaar, 1 December 1837 - - - - - p. 3
No. 2.—Viscount Palmerston to Colonel Campbell, dated Foreign-Office, 17 January 1838 - p. 4

— No. 1. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell to Viscount Palmerston; dated Cairo, 1st December 1837.—Received 7th January 1838.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that having learned that the Pacha's troops in the interior of Africa, Nubia, Dongola, &c., had been employed in collecting slaves, and that they had even received their pay from the proceeds of the sale of those slaves, I deemed it my imperative duty to lose no time in bringing the subject under the serious notice of his Highness the Viceroy.

Dr. Bowring had in the meantime seen Dr. Holroyd, who had lately come from the above countries, and who had communicated the above facts to him, and not a doubt therefore existed of the authenticity of these facts.

Dr. Bowring, who had been extremely active in collecting details on the subject, and which he had communicated to me, agreed to accompany me to the Pacha, in order to support my arguments and wishes on this occasion.

On the evening of yesterday Dr. Bowring and myself waited on the Pacha; and, after some general conversation, I proceeded to state that I had to make a communication to his Highness, but not in my official capacity, and to which I begged to call his very serious attention, as involving a subject on which the people of England were peculiarly susceptible; that I had long heard rumours on the subject, but had not been willing to mention it until I had obtained such evidence and details as convinced me; that, unless I took the occasion in this friendly and unofficial way to introduce the topic, I would ere long be compelled to do it officially, and which I earnestly desired to avoid.

That statements had gone home to the Government and the people of England, from eye-witnesses, that slave-hunts (gazoua) had been carried on by the officers and the troops of the Pacha; that large numbers of negroes had been taken, and had been distributed among the soldiers, in liquidation of the arrears of their pay; that on one occasion the gazoua had collected 2,700 slaves, of whom 250 had been forced among the ranks of his army, and the remainder had been divided among the officers and soldiery at fixed prices, according to the state of their arrears.

2 INCURSIONS AGAINST THE BLACKS OF SOODAN

His Highness listened with great attention to the statement. He said that he was aware that his officers had carried on the slave-trade for their own account, a conduct of which he by no means approved, but he had not heard, and could not believe, that his army had been employed in slave-hunts for the purpose of discharging the arrears of pay, and, inasmuch as to no one soldier was the value of a slave due in arrears, he did not see how the division could take place among the soldiers. He was very willing to have the whole matter investigated; and, if I liked to nominate any individual, even the individual who had given the information, his Highness would nominate another, would pay all the expenses of the journey; and, if matters were found as stated, the grievance should be remedied.

Dr. Bowring and I answered, that, as to the existence of the grievance, there could be no doubt whatever, as we had obtained the most detailed statements; that it was true the value of a slave was more than was due to any one soldier, but that certain numbers of slaves were given to a certain body of soldiers, who made the distribution among themselves of the proceeds of the sales.

That, as the statement of these facts had already gone to England, it was of the highest importance that some document should be immediately issued by his Highness, ordering peremptorily that these proceedings should be discontinued; and I expressed my hope, that I should be enabled to send such a document to Lord Palmerston by the present packet, in order to enable his Lordship, should the question be brought before Parliament, to state the kind and benevolent view which his Highness had taken of the question.

The Viceroy said that the order should be prepared that very evening, and the translation sent to me the next day.

In the course of the conversation his Highness said, that he was unfavourable to slavery itself, and desired its abolition, little by little, but that the usages and prejudices of the people were great obstacles in his way.

Dr. Bowring assured him, that nothing would be more likely to interest the Government and the people of England than any steps he might take towards advancing this great end. That his neighbour, the Imaum of Muscat, a Mussulman prince, had, at a large annual sacrifice, put an end to the slave-trade in his dominions.

His Highness said he had a great regard for the Imaum of Muscat; he was an excellent and a clever man, and he more than once repeated the high estimation in which he held him.

I then mentioned that I had ascertained that several Frenchmen, among whom were Messrs. Visière and Thibaud, had been carrying on the slave trade for their own account, and that I should think it my duty to report them to their own consul-general. * * * * *

His Highness stated that he had never sanctioned, nor allowed foreigners to be concerned in the slave-trade. * * * * *

His Highness said, that he was obliged to us for having brought the subject before him, and was glad on this, as on every occasion, to do anything that would be satisfactory to the British Government, whose good opinion he valued. * * * * *

I shall bring the case of Monsieur Visière and Monsieur Thibaud without loss of time before Monsieur Cochelet, the consul-general of France, who is now on his way from Alexandria to this place.

I have also heard that some foreigners of other nations are engaged in the same traffic, and, as soon as I can ascertain their names and more conclusive facts, I shall submit them to their respective consuls-general in Egypt. I am however happy to say, that not one British subject is known to be engaged in this nefarious commerce.

Artin Bey, the interpreter of the Pacha, has just sent to me a letter, a copy of which I have the honour to forward to your Lordship, wherein he transmits to me the order of the Viceroy to Kourchid Pacha, the governor of Sennaar, and to the last paragraph of which I request to call your Lordship's attention, as the Pacha there says, that, even if the abolition of the slave-trade should require sacrifices on his part, he will be ready to make them.

I shall not fail to avail myself of this declaration of his Highness, when a future occasion shall require it.

(signed) *Patrick Campbell.*

BY THE TROOPS OF THE PACHA OF EGYPT.

3

(Enclosure in No. 1.)

Artin Bey to Colonel Campbell.

Monsieur le Colonel,

Caire, le 1^{er} Decembre 1837.

J'ai l'honneur de vous adresser ci-inclus la traduction de la lettre de son Altesse mon maître, adressée au Gouverneur de Sennaar, pour mettre fin au système du payement de ses troupes avec des esclaves.

Son Altesse me charge, en vous transmettant la traduction de sa lettre, de vous témoigner toute sa satisfaction, ainsi qu'à M. le Docteur Bowring, pour la bonté que vous avez eue de contribuer à un fait qui montre votre amitié pour elle.

Je saisis cette circonstance, &c.

(signé) *Artin Bey,*
Secrétaire Interprète de S. A.

(Translation.)

Monsieur le Colonel,

Cairo, 1 December 1837.

I have the honour to enclose to you herewith the translation of a letter which his Highness my master has addressed to the Governor of Sennaar, in order to put an end to the system of paying his troops with slaves.

His Highness charges me, in transmitting the translation of his letter, to testify to you and to Dr. Bowring his satisfaction at the goodness with which you have contributed to an act which shows your friendship towards his Highness.

I seize the occasion, &c.

(signed) *Artin Bey,*
Interpreter to H. H.

(Sub-Enclosure in No. 1.)

TRADUCTION de la Lettre de S. A. R. le Viceroy d'Egypte et Dépendances, adressée au Gouverneur de Sennaar, Kourchid Pacha, en date du 1^{er} Decembre 1837.

Le Consul-général et Agent de Sa Majesté Britannique, le Colonel Campbell, et l'honorable Monsieur le Docteur Bowring, m'ont entretenu d'un récit qu'un voyageur leur a fait, que les troupes sous votre commandement reçoivent pour leur solde des esclaves.

Je savais que des esclaves n'auraient pas dû être distribués aux soldats, cependant que les officiers pourraient les acheter et les envoyer au Caire pour leur profit; et c'est cela que j'aurais cru naturellement le sujet de leur conversation s'ils ne m'eurent pas assuré d'une manière positive, que non seulement les officiers achetaient des esclaves à leur compte, mais que leurs appointemens ainsi que la solde des soldats se donnaient en esclaves.

Si c'est ainsi, il faut savoir qu'il est contraire à mes vues, et qu'il m'est très déshonorant près toutes les personnes civilisées, et surtout près le Gouvernement Anglais, entre lequel et le mien il existe une relation amicale. Par conséquent je vous ordonne, que vous absteniez dorénavant de solder avec des esclaves mes officiers, soldats, et autres employés. Sachez, que je ne veux pas tirer profit d'un commerce qui ne me fait point d'honneur; et quand même son abolition exigerait de ma part quelques sacrifices, je serai prêt à les essayer. Et faites-moi connaître les circonstances détaillées de motifs qui ont donné lieu au récit du dit voyageur Anglais.

(Translation.)

TRANSLATION of the Letter of his Highness the Viceroy of Egypt and its Dependencies, addressed to the Governor of Sennaar, Kourchid Pacha, under date of the 1st of December 1837.

Colonel Campbell, Agent and Consul-general of Her Britannic Majesty, and the honourable gentleman Dr. Bowring, have spoken to me of a report made to them

4 INCURSIONS AGAINST THE BLACKS OF SOODAN.

them by an English traveller, to the effect that the troops under your command receive slaves for their pay.

I knew that slaves should not have been distributed to the soldiers, but that the officers could buy them, and send them to Cairo for their own profit; and it was of this latter fact that I should naturally have believed that these gentlemen spoke, had they not assured me positively, that not only did the officers buy slaves for their own profit, but that their appointments and the wages of the soldiers were paid in slaves.

If this be so, be it known that it is contrary to my wishes, and that it tends to dishonour me in the sight of all civilized people, and above all with the English Government, between which and my own friendly relations exist.

I accordingly command you to abstain for the future from paying my officers, soldiers, and other employés with slaves. Know, that I do not wish to derive profit from a traffic which does me no honour; and that even if its abolition shall require some sacrifices on my part, I am ready to make them. Let me also be informed in detail of the motives which have given occasion for the report of the above-mentioned English traveller.

— No. 2. —

Viscount *Palmerston* to Colonel *Campbell*.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 17 January 1838.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch of the 1st ultimo, upon the subject of a traffic in slaves, carried on by the Pacha's troops in the interior of Africa; and I have to acquaint you, that I fully approve of your having brought this question before the Pacha.

With respect to the instructions which, in consequence of your representations, were issued to the governor of Sennaar, to abstain in future from paying the officers, soldiers, and others with slaves, I have to instruct you to assure the Pacha that Her Majesty's Government fully appreciates the humane and generous feelings which have prompted, on his part, an order which does him so much honour.

I however observe, that this order apparently still permits the officers of the Pacha's army to levy or seize slaves, and to send them to Cairo for sale.

You will therefore take the same occasion to submit to his Highness, that it would tend to raise the character of his army in the estimation of other countries, and to render the presence of his troops less oppressive and irksome to the population of the districts in which they may happen to be stationed, if he was absolutely to forbid any officer in his service from dealing in any way whatever in the trade in slaves.

I have communicated to the French Ambassador the statements contained in your despatch, as to the traffic in slaves which is alleged to be carried on in eastern Africa, by subjects of France, resident at Cairo.

Colonel *Campbell*, Cairo.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Palmerston*.
