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P A P E R S

RELATING TO ENGAGEMENTS ENTERED INTO

BY

KING PEPPLE AND THE CHIEFS OF
THE BONNY

WITH

HER MAJESTY'S NAVAL OFFICERS,

ON THE SUBJECT

OF

THE SUPPRESSION

OF

THE SLAVE TRADE.

*Presented to the House of Commons by Command of Her Majesty.
July 11, 1848.*

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No. 1.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Hon. W. Fox Strangways.

Sir,

Admiralty, June 12, 1839.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, the inclosed copy of a letter dated the 13th of March last, which Commander Craigie, of Her Majesty's ship "Scout," has addressed to the Commander-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope and African station, proposing certain Additional Articles to the Treaty entered into on the 9th of April, 1837*, with the King and Chiefs of Bonny, with a view to prevent the exportation of slaves from that river and its dependencies.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JNO. BARROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Commander Craigie to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Scout," at Sea, March 13, 1839.

IN obedience to Lord Palmerston's letter of the 14th April, 1838, directing "that his Lordship might be made acquainted with any steps which might be taken by Her Majesty's naval officers to dispose the native chiefs on the coast of Africa to enter into Treaties with Great Britain for the abolition of the Slave Trade," I beg to forward herewith the duplicate of my despatch to the Commander-in-chief in reference thereto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. CRAIGIE,
Commander and Senior Officer.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Commander Craigie to Rear-Admiral Elliot.

(Extract.)

"Scout," at Sea, March 13, 1839.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that in obedience to your order of the 10th ultimo, directing me to present the Treaty ratified by you on that day to the King of Bonny, I proceeded up the river in Her Majesty's brigantine "Bonetta" on the 10th instant; anchored off Grand Bonny at 7 P. M.; and at 8 summoned all the merchant captains on board.

I expressed to the captains my gratification at learning from them that King Pepple, Anna Pepple, and the other chiefs of Bonny, seemed desirous to

* A Treaty of Amity and Commerce.

keep up an amicable feeling with the English, and had adhered to the existing Treaties; upon which the captains declared that they had no complaints, and that the Articles of the original Treaty (9th April, 1837) had been faithfully fulfilled.

The same evening I sent an invitation to King Pepple and the other chiefs of the Bonny to breakfast with me on the following morning, and I herewith inclose notes of my conference on presenting the gifts from the British Government on the exchange of treaties, and also with respect to the steps I adopted in attempting to follow out Lord Palmerston's instructions, as conveyed in his Lordship's despatch of the 14th of April, 1838, directing Her Majesty's naval officers to endeavour to dispose the native African chiefs to enter into treaties with Great Britain for the abolition of the Slave Trade.

I also forward two Articles I drew up on the occasion, and which I endeavoured to simplify and condense, in order the more easily to make them intelligible to the native chiefs.

I regret that I felt myself compelled to limit them to a prohibition of slave exportation: any stipulations as to a total abolition within the King of Bonny's dominions would not have been listened to for an instant; nor do I think even those proposed would have been tolerated, but for a hope of compensation. And as a precedent had been established in Madagascar, which is by far the most important of the Treaties alluded to by Lord Palmerston, and being convinced of the utter hopelessness of negotiating with effect upon any other basis, I ventured to state that I would lay the case for the consideration of the British Government.

I beg to forward a Table relative to the Slave and Palm-oil Trade in the River Bonny, drawn up from the opinions of the five most intelligent and experienced of the captains now in the river; by which I think it will be apparent that, leaving out of view the higher and infinitely more important consideration which has influenced the British Government in lessening the evils and extent of this iniquitous traffic, that as a mere question of finance it would be of advantage to her interests did Great Britain grant a compensation for a limited period, or until the industry of those now engaged in the Slave Trade diverted to more legitimate pursuits.

I left Bonny River yesterday.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Conference on board Her Majesty's ship "Bonetta."

*"Bonetta," at anchor off Grand Bonny,
March 11, 1839.*

KING PEPPLE, of Bonny, accompanied by Anna Pepple, by his Jujuman or high priest, and Hee Chee, Anna Pepple's secretary, for the first time went on board a man-of-war, for the purpose of paying a visit to Captain Craigie, where he was received with the usual salutes.

The King, in going round the decks, expressed his surprise and delight at everything he saw; but the astonishment of the whole party knew no bounds when the great guns were exercised in firing at the target, and was strongly expressed at each discharge of round and grape-shot.

When the King and suite had finished breakfast, Captain Craigie presented to His Majesty a box containing presents from the English Government, which the King desired might be opened. As the bales of scarlet and green broad cloth were being lifted out of the case, the King and Anna Pepple especially were struck with the magnificence of the gifts, and Captain Craigie, anxious to show Anna Pepple how much he approved of his late conduct towards the English, and proper respect for the King, made a request of His Majesty to allow Anna Pepple to have one piece of the cloth and a shawl, which the King at once complied with.

Captain Craigie then proceeded to read to King Pepple and suite the despatch of Lord Palmerston dated 14th April, 1838, relative to Slave abolition, and strongly impressed upon His Majesty that part which states that treaties had already been made between England and other African Princes for

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the purpose of putting an end to the Slave Trade, and that in those cases the Articles of Treaty had been faithfully maintained.

Captain Craigie assured the King that England ever dispensed justice, and would encourage the lawful commerce of the Bonny in every way; that she would send out ships in abundance for their palm-oil and other products; and if the Bonny men directed their attention properly to these, he was certain they could easily get rich without exporting slaves.

Captain Craigie further told His Majesty that the Queen of England wished to make a friendly agreement with the King of Bonny to put an end to Slave exportation; and moreover added that his mistress was determined to put a stop to it at all hazards.

The King, Anna Pepple, and the Juju man for some time remained silent; their countenances, however, were indicative of their consternation; the idea of making such a proposal seemed to them to be incomprehensible. At length Anna Pepple said—

“If we cease to sell slaves to foreign ships, our principal source of wealth will be gone; the English were our first customers, and the trade has since been our chief means of support.”

Captain Craigie. “How much would you lose if you gave up selling slaves for exportation?”

Anna Pepple. “Too much—very much—we gain more by one slave-ship than by five palm-oil ships.”

Hee Chee, Anna Pepple's Secretary. “We depend entirely on selling slaves and palm-oil for our subsistence; suppose then the Slave Trade done away with, the consumption of palm-oil in England to stop, the crop to fail, or that the English ships did not come to the Bonny, what are we to do? we must starve, as it is contrary to our religion to cultivate the ground.”

Captain Craigie. “There need be no apprehension of the demand for palm-oil in England ceasing, or of English ships not coming out to the Bonny to take from you your products in exchange for British merchandize; but if you can show clearly that your losses will be so great by giving up slave exportation, I think it possible that the Queen of England may in some measure remunerate you for such loss. I have no authority whatever to make any agreement with you with regard to such compensation, I only wish to know if you are disposed to treat for the abolition of the Slave Trade, to enable me to represent your views and demands thereon to my own Government.”

Juju Man. “Suppose a Spanish ship's coming to Bonny with goods to exchange for slaves; are we to send her away? This morning you made a breakfast for me, and as I was hungry it would have been foolish not to have eaten; in like manner, if the Spanish ship had things which we stood in need of, it would be equally foolish not to take them.”

Captain Craigie. “How would the abolition of the slave exportation so materially affect you?”

King Pepple. “It would affect myself and chiefs thus—

“First, by stopping the revenues arising from slaves being exported.

“Secondly. Our own profit on slaves, and that arising from piloting slave-ships up and out of Bonny would be lost.”

Captain Craigie. “I again assure you that the Slave Trade must be stopped. Not one vessel can escape from the Bonny, as you will know from ‘Scout's’ blockade of the river in 1836 and 1839. If it becomes necessary, I shall anchor a vessel off Juju Point, and to pass her you are aware will be impossible; but as the English Government always adopt the principle of putting an end to evils by friendly agreements than by compulsion, and as it is that they may be disposed, if your requests are within reasonable limits, to make you an annual ‘dash,’ or remuneration, for a term of years (perhaps five years), how much would you consider to be sufficient?”

After some consultation among themselves, Hee Chee, Anna Pepple's Secretary, said, “The King will take 4000 dollars yearly.”

Captain Craigie. “As I said before, I am not authorized to treat for any sum, but I am certain that 4000 dollars would be considered too much; indeed I would not venture to propose more than 2000 dollars. If you will say that this sum (for the time above specified) will be sufficient, I shall lay the matter before the English Government.”

The King, Anna Pepple, the Juju man, and Hee Chee, had a discussion

for some time. They for a long while insisted on not naming less than 3000 dollars, till they at last came down to 2000 ; and when Captain Craigie proposed that it should be named to the other chiefs on shore, they said that it was not necessary, as the King's party could carry any measure they thought proper.

Captain Craigie then read to them distinctly the Articles he proposed to be added to the Treaty of the 9th April, 1837, and gave them to understand that in the event of the English Government determining to grant the King of Bonny any compensation for his alleged losses consequent on the abolition of slave exportation from his kingdom and dependencies, that the amount of such compensation would most likely be paid in such articles of British merchandize as he (the King of Bonny) should point out as most useful to himself; moreover, that the British Government would require annually a document in the form of a certificate from the captains of British merchant-ships in the Bonny, declaring that no slaves had to their knowledge been exported from that river, or from the dominions of King Pepple of Bonny; and farther, that the slightest infringement of the Treaty would be followed, not only by the immediate stoppage of the compensation, but by a severe example of the displeasure of the Government of Great Britain.

King Pepple and suite then returned to the shore under the same salute as that with which they were received.

(Signed) ROBT. CRAIGIE,
Commander and Senior Officer.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Articles proposed to be added to the Treaty with the King and Chiefs of the Bonny, of April 9, 1837.

THE King and chiefs of the Bonny being anxious to comply with the earnest desire of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, for abolishing the export of slaves from their dominions, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles to be added to the Treaty of the 9th April, 1837 :

ARTICLE I.

The export of slaves from the River Bonny and its dependencies is hereby declared henceforward, totally and finally abolished.

ARTICLE II.

The King and chiefs of Bonny hereby engage that they will take the most effectual measures for preventing any of the natives of Bonny, or others their subjects, from being concerned in the export of slaves ; and that they will inflict a severe punishment on all who shall, under any pretext whatsoever, take any part in the export of slaves.

(Signed) R. CRAIGIE,
Commander and Senior Officer.

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

Tables relative to the Slave and Palm-Oil Trade in the River Bonny.

I.

Average number of slaves exported from the River Bonny.	Number of Slaves actually captured in and off the River Bonny between September 1, 1836, and January 15, 1837.	Bounty given by Government for Slaves captured in and off the Bonny between September 1, 1836, and January 15, 1837.	Annual expense of a cruiser off the River Bonny.	Queries answered by the Bonny Merchant Captains.
Previous to the blow given to the Slave Trade by Her Majesty's sloop Scout's blockade of the river in 1836 and 1837, according to the best authorities, the average number exported amounted to 20,000 annually.	By H.M.S. Forester— Esperanza 437 By H.M.S. Curlew— Esperanza 437 By H.M.S. Pylades— Esperanza 477 By H.M.S. Scout— Gala 111 Paquets de Cabo de Verde 576 2,038	By H.M.S. Scout— Esperanza 110 By H.M.S. Bonetta— Temerario 352 By H.M.S. Thalia— Felix 604 By H.M.S. Buzzard— Atalaya 119 First column 2,038 3,222 * Succeeded in landing 500 slaves before Scout's boats reached her.	About £3000 sterling.	Have the supplies of Palm-Oil increased since the end of 1836 and beginning of 1837, and to what extent? The supplies have much increased since the attention of the natives has been diverted from the Slave Trade to procuring Palm-Oil, more particularly since the end of the year 1836.
		Total number captured. 3,222 Loss by death. 400 2,892 At £5 sterling a-head, £14,110 sterling.		Have the supplies of Palm-Oil been in the increase ratio of Slave exportation during the last three years? Decidedly this fact has been fully established within the last three years. Several nations who were extensive and influential Slave dealers, and in former times never paid the slightest attention to Palm-Oil, are supplying some of the ships now in the river with that article.

II.

Annual amount of British tonnage entering the River Bonny.	Annual amount of Palm-Oil imported into England from the Bonny.	Probable annual increase of Palm-Oil by abolition of Slave exportation in the Bonny.	Present amount of duties derived from Palm-Oil imported into England from the Bonny.	Augmentation of revenue in consequence of importation of Palm-Oil from the Bonny.	Annual amount of British merchandize imported into the Bonny.	Probable increase of imports of British merchandize into the Bonny by the abolition of Slave exportation.	Average period of detention in the Bonny for cargo.	Probable expense incurred by demurrage.	Probable annual loss of life by detention in the Bonny.	Signatures of the Merchant Captains.	Summary of financial benefit likely to be derived from the abolition of Slave Exportation in the Bonny.
Tons. 10,500	£ sterling. 17,500	Tons. 2,000	£ sterling. 2,500	£ sterling. 2,500	£ sterling. 200,000	£ sterling. 25,000	4 months	at the rate of £16 per ton	30	Ralph Dawson, ship Mary, 11 years in the trade.	Augmentation of revenue in England £2,656 0 0 Increase of British merchandize exported to Bonny 27,500 0 0 Three months being sufficient to load a vessel by a ready supply, 2 months 6 days' expenses would be saved to each, say 25 ships, averaging 380 tons, at £16 17,020 0 0
7,500	13,750	2,000	2,500	2,500	150,000	25,000	5 months	"	60	W. Owens, s. Huddersfield, 16 years in the trade.	
7,200	13,250	Doubtful.	Doubtful.	Doubtful.	140,000	Doubtful.	5 months	"	40	Thos. Foster, Bounty Hall.	
8,500	21,250	2,000	2,500	2,500	400,000	30,000	6 months	"	40	John Wigley, ship John Campbell, 10 years in the trade.	
14,000	25,000	2,506	3,125	3,125	300,000	30,000	6 months	"	40	J. R. Parke, ship Charlotte.	Exclusive of bounty on Slaves captured and expense of cruiser, for which see 3rd and 4th columns of Table No. 1.
9,540	16,150	2,125	2,656 5	2,656 5	238,000	27,500	5 months 6 days	£16 per ton	42	The average.	

(Signed) ROBT. CRAIGIE, Commander.

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No. 2.

The Hon. W. Fox Strangways to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 17, 1839.

I AM directed by Viscount Palmerston to transmit to you the accompanying copies of papers which have been received at this office from the Admiralty, containing an account of a negotiation entered into by Captain Craigie of Her Majesty's ship "Scout," with the King and chiefs of Bonny, for a stipulation that the export trade in slaves of that country shall be totally and finally abolished by the King and chiefs, upon condition that Great Britain shall pay to them the value of 2000 dollars in goods annually for five years.

I am to request that you will lay these papers before the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, expressing at the same time the recommendation of Lord Palmerston, that their Lordships should sanction the proposed condition upon which the King and chiefs of Bonny are willing to abolish the export trade in slaves.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. FOX STRANGWAYS.

Inclosure in No. 2.

[See No. 1, page 1.]

No. 3.

The Hon. W. Fox Strangways to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 17, 1839.

I HAVE laid before Viscount Palmerston the communication which you addressed to me on the 12th instant, containing an account of a negotiation entered into by Captain Craigie, of Her Majesty's ship "Scout," with the King and chiefs of the Bonny, for the abolition of the Slave Trade in the Bonny country; and I am directed by Lord Palmerston to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that his Lordship has recommended to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury to sanction the condition by which this country would have to pay yearly, for five years, the value of 2000 dollars in goods, in exchange for the total and final abolition of the export trade in slaves throughout the Bonny country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. F. STRANGWAYS.

No. 4.

The Secretary to the Treasury to the Hon. W. Fox Strangways.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, July 4, 1839.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having had under their consideration the several papers transmitted with your letter of the 17th ultimo, signifying the recommendation of Viscount Palmerston that their Lordships' sanction should be accorded to the Treaty for the entire abolition of the export trade in slaves, entered into by Captain Craigie, of Her Majesty's ship "Scout," with the King and chiefs of Bonny, I have received their commands to request you will acquaint his Lordship that, upon the understanding that the condition respecting the non-exportation of slaves from any part of the territories under the controul of the King and the chiefs of Bonny, specified in the proposed Additional Articles to the Treaty of the 9th of April, 1837, will be observed, and that the export of slaves from or through any part of that territory is actually and *bonâ fide* prohibited, their Lordships will not object to make provision to an amount not exceeding 2000 dollars per annum, for the purchase of such articles as Her Majesty's Secretary of State may recommend

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for presents to the King and chiefs. But they conceive it would be inexpedient that any stipulations for these presents should be inserted in the Treaty, and that the continuance of them should be left entirely at the option of the British Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. T. PENNINGTON,
Pro Sec.

No. 5.

The Hon. W. Fox Strangways to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 11, 1839.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the negotiation entered into by Captain Craigie of Her Majesty's ship "Scout," with the King and chiefs of Bonny, for the abolition of the Slave Trade throughout the Bonny country, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Secretary of Her Majesty's Treasury, in reply to a letter which, by Lord Palmerston's directions, I had addressed to him, and of which I gave the substance in my letter to you of June 17, 1839, upon this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. F. STRANGWAYS.

Inclosure in No. 5.

[See No. 4, page 6.]

No. 6.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Leveson.—(Received October 2.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 1, 1840.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral the Honourable George Elliot, late Commander-in-chief at the Cape of Good Hope, relative to the treaty between Commander Craigie and the King and chiefs of the Bonny for the entire abolition of the export Traffic in Slaves.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Rear-Admiral Elliot to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Melville," Simon's Bay, November 5, 1839.

IN return to your letter of the 15th of July last, with its inclosure from the Treasury, relative to the treaty entered into by Commander Craigie with the King and Chiefs of the Bonny for the entire abolition of the export Traffic in Slaves, I beg you will acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that in the hope that the goods alluded to may be sent out, I have directed the senior officer on the west coast of Africa to take an early opportunity of acquainting the King and chiefs of the Bonny with the intentions of Her Majesty's Government; at the same time it appears right to consider what real value ought to be sent out, or whether they might not be sent without any allusion to the value. It is probable that the fine usually put on English goods in the Bonny is very high, so that sending out two thousand dollars' worth of goods, and stating them to be of that value, might create great difficulties with the traders.

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

No. 7.

Mr. Backhouse to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 6, 1840.

WITH reference to your letter of the 4th of July, 1839, and to further correspondence with this office respecting a Treaty concluded by Captain Craigie, of Her Majesty's ship "Scout," with the King and chiefs of Bonny, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, the accompanying copy of a communication which has recently been received upon that subject from the Admiralty. I am at the same time to acquaint you, for the information of their Lordships, that a copy of your letter above mentioned of the 4th of July, 1839, was communicated to the Admiralty, shortly after its receipt at this office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BACKHOUSE.

Inclosure in No. 7.

[See No. 6, p. 7.]

No. 8.

The Secretary to the Treasury to Mr. Backhouse.—(Received October 31.)

Sir,

Treasury, October 30, 1840.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you for the information of Viscount Palmerston, with reference to your letter of the 6th instant and to the previous communication from his Lordship's department, of 7th June last, on the subject of the Treaty with the King and chiefs of Bonny, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, that on being apprized what articles Lord Palmerston may consider it proper to transmit for presentation to the King and chiefs, my Lords will give directions for the preparation of them for transmission, in such manner as his Lordship, on communication with the Lords of the Admiralty, may arrange.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 9.

Lord Leveson to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 23, 1840.

WITH reference to Mr. Strangways' letter to you of the 11th of July, 1839, relative to the proposed agreement with the King and chiefs of the Bonny for the prevention of the Slave Trade, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to acquaint you that your letter of the 1st ultimo upon that subject was sent in copy to the Treasury; and I am to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords of the Admiralty, the accompanying copy of a letter since received from the Treasury relative to the articles which it will be proper to send out to the Bonny for presentation to the King and chiefs of that river.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LEVESON.

Inclosure in No. 9.

[See No. 8.]

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No. 10.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Leveson.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, November 26, 1840.

IN return to your Lordship's letter of the 23rd instant, with the copy of one from the Secretary of the Treasury, relative to the articles to be sent out to the River Bonny for presentation to the King and chiefs of that river, in connection with the treaty to be entered into with them for the suppression of Slave Trade, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, that my Lords will take an early opportunity of forwarding the said articles whenever they are provided.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

No. 11.

Mr. Backhouse to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 7, 1841.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of a negotiation between Captain Craigie, R.N., and chiefs of the Bonny, for the suppression of Slave Trade, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to be pleased to take such steps as may be necessary for selecting, providing, and sending out such articles as, in their Lordships' opinion, it may be proper to present to the King and chiefs of the Bonny, under the stipulation to be concluded with the King and chiefs of that river, for the suppression of Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

No. 12.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Backhouse.—(Received January 11.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 8, 1841.

WITH reference to your letter of the 7th instant, relative to the selection and sending out presents to the King and chiefs of the Bonny, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Commander Tucker, of the "Wolverine," dated the 14th of September last, suggesting that no presents should be sent out to the King of the Bonny until the export of slaves from his dominions is finally stopped.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JNO. BARROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Commander Tucker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Wolverine," off the River Brass, September 14, 1840.

WITH reference to my letter of the 4th June ultimo, I have the honour to send, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the following extract from Lieutenant Levinge's, commanding Her Majesty's brigantine "Buzzard," letter of proceedings of the 23rd ultimo, and the following copy of a letter from Lieutenant Burslem, commanding Her Majesty's brigantine "Viper;" both relating to the Slave Trade carried on in the Rivers Bonny, Nun, and Brass; and in consequence, to request that no presents may be sent out for the King of the Bonny until the export of slaves from his dominions be finally stopped; and to inform you that should Her Majesty's Government

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have already sent out a present for the King, and it be sent to me to deliver, I shall feel it my duty to withhold it until I receive further instructions, and which I trust will be approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) **WILLIAM TUCKER,**
Commander and Senior Officer.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Lieutenant Levinge to Commander Tucker.

(Extract.) "Buzzard," August 30, 1840.

DOLLARS and doubloons are plentiful in Bonny, which is always the case after the arrival of a slaver in the Nun or Brass, as most of the slaves shipped off from there are purchased at Bonny.

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

Lieutenant Burslem to Commander Tucker.

Sir, "Viper," at Sea, September 10, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that from information I received in the River Bonny, a constant supply of slaves are sent by canoes through the creeks to the Rivers Brass and Nun for shipment, 360 having been taken by a Spaniard previous to my arrival in the river.

I also beg leave to state that having had an interview with the King relating to the above, he told me that it was impossible for him to put a stop to his subjects trading in slaves.

(Signed) **G. J. BURSLEM,**
Lieutenant Commanding.

No. 13.

Lord Leveson to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir, Foreign Office, January 20, 1841.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting presents to be given to the King and chiefs of the Bonny, I herewith transmit to you, by Viscount Palmerston's direction, to be laid before the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, a copy of a communication from the Admiralty, suggesting that no presents should be sent out to the King of the Bonny until the export of slaves from His Majesty's dominions be finally stopped.

I am, &c.
(Signed) **LEVESON.**

Inclosure in No. 13.

[See No. 12, p. 9.]

No. 14.

The Secretary to the Treasury to Lord Leveson.—(Received January 28.)

My Lord, Treasury, January 26, 1841.

HAVING laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury your letter dated the 20th instant with its inclosures, relative to the presents proposed to be made to the King and chiefs of Bonny, I am commanded to acquaint your Lordship, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, that as the King of Bonny has declared his inability to execute the treaty binding him to suppress the Slave Trade within his dominions, my Lords are of opinion that the transmission of the presents stipulated on our part ought to be suspended.

I am, &c.
(Signed) **C. E. TREVELYAN.**

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No. 15.

Lord Leveson to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 3, 1841.

YOUR letter of the 8th ultimo, respecting presents to be made to the King and chiefs of Bonny, has been referred to Her Majesty's Treasury, and I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to request you will acquaint the Lords of the Admiralty, that the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury concur in the opinion expressed in your communication of the 8th ultimo, that under the circumstances stated, the transmission of the presents stipulated on the part of Great Britain ought to be suspended.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LEVESON.

No. 16.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Backhouse.—(Received February 22.)

Sir,

Admiralty, February 19, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Commander Tucker, of Her Majesty's sloop "Wolverine," dated the 5th of November last, respecting the Slave Trade carried on in the Rivers Bonny and Cameroons.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Commander Tucker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

*"Wolverine," at Sea, 2° 34' N., 9° 37' E.,
November 5, 1840.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my letters of the 4th of June and 14th September, I beg to report for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on my visiting the River Bonny on the 25th to the 28th ultimo, to arrange the payments of the debts due to the house of Hamilton, Jackson and Co., of Liverpool, I clearly ascertained that a great quantity of slaves had been sent during this and last year by the King and chiefs of Bonny to the Rivers Brass and Nun, which they had sold to Spanish and Portuguese slave-dealers, which the King (Pepple) freely admitted to me, and stated he had sent 2000 slaves in the last two years; 1000 in 1839, and 1000 this year. That the King has the power to suppress the Slave Trade, but will not, it being too lucrative; that if he were to promise to abolish it in his dominions for the payment of an annual sum by the British Government, he would break his promise and still carry on the Slave Trade which he could do by the numerous creeks intersecting the country, without its being known to the English traders; that the King promised me he would suppress the Slave Trade if the British Government would send him annually goods to the amount of 6000 dollars, which he declared was his profit and revenue on the Slave Trade; and that it is the general opinion of the English masters and myself, that if the British Government were to enter into treaties for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and to send an annual amount of goods to King Pepple of the Bonny, and Kings Acqua and Bell of the Cameroons, which river I visited on the 1st to the 4th instant for the same purposes, the Slave Trade will still be carried on by them, and to a greater extent, by the means afforded them by the Government goods, and so long as it remains possible for slaves to be exported.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM TUCKER,
Commander and Senior Officer.

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No. 17.

Lord Leveson to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 6, 1841.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting Treaties with the chiefs of the River Bonny, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the accompanying copy of a communication from the Admiralty containing a letter from Captain Tucker, of Her Majesty's sloop "Wolverine," on the Slave Trade in the Rivers Bonny and Cameroons.

(Signed) LEVESON.

 Inclosure in No. 17.

[See No. 16, p. 11.]

 No. 18.
The Secretary to the Treasury to Lord Leveson.

My Lord,

Treasury, March 13, 1841.

HAVING laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury your letter dated 6th instant, inclosing copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Admiralty with one from Captain Tucker, of Her Majesty's sloop "Wolverine," relative to the Slave Trade carried on in the Rivers Bonny and Cameroons, I am commanded to request that your Lordship will convey to Viscount Palmerston their Lordships' acknowledgments for this communication, which, my Lords observe, strongly confirms the propriety of the decision which has been already come to for withholding the annual presents stipulated to be made to the King and chiefs of Bonny, on condition of their suppressing the Slave Trade within their district.

My Lords observe that it is alleged that not only the King of Bonny, but also the Kings of the neighbouring district of the Cameroons, so far from their being likely to be induced to abolish the Slave Trade in their dominions by presents made to them on that condition, will, if such presents are made to them, carry on the Slave Trade to a greater extent than before by the means afforded them by the goods received as presents, and their view of the subject receives much confirmation from unblushing avowals made by the King of Bonny of his being at present engaged in carrying on the Slave Trade, notwithstanding his having pledged himself by Treaty to the British Government to abolish it.

I am at the same time to request that your Lordship will move Lord Palmerston to favour my Lords with his opinion, whether under these circumstances it would be proper to make the payment stipulated in the Treaty lately formed with the Kings of the Cameroons, without obtaining some better security than we possess at present that the Slave Trade will be really abolished in the district subject to the jurisdiction of those chiefs, and that the presents given with a view to effect the abolition of the Slave Trade will not be turned into a means of extending that infamous Traffic.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

 No. 19.
Lord Leveson to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 31, 1841.

I HAVE laid before Viscount Palmerston your letter of the 13th instant, requesting the opinion of his Lordship whether it would be proper to make the payment stipulated in the Treaty lately formed with the Kings of the Cameroons, without obtaining some better security than we possess at present, that the Slave Trade will be really abolished in the district subject to the jurisdiction of

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those chiefs, and that the presents given with a view to effect the abolition of the Slave Trade will not be turned into a means of extending that infamous traffic; and I am in answer to request that you will state to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury the opinion of Viscount Palmerston, that the presents in question ought to be sent according to stipulation, and should be discontinued in future, if the African chiefs do not keep their engagements.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LEVESON.

No. 20.

Mr. Backhouse to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 8, 1841.

WITH reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, respecting the agreement which has been proposed to be made with the chiefs of Bonny, for suppressing the Slave Trade in their country, and the agreement which has been actually concluded with the chiefs of the Cameroons, for suppressing the Slave Trade in theirs; I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to request you will state to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, Lord Palmerston's opinion, that it will be expedient that an agreement with the chiefs of Bonny should be concluded according to the terms proposed in the communication from Captain Craigie, inclosed in Lord Leveson's letter of the 17th of June, 1839; and that presents of goods should be made in the first instance according to stipulation; and should be discontinued in future, if the native chiefs do not keep their engagements. And I am to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, the accompanying copy of a letter which, in conformity with Lord Palmerston's directions, I have addressed upon this subject to the Secretary to the Admiralty. And I am to add, for the information of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, that copies of this correspondence have been transmitted to the Colonial Department.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

No. 21.

Mr. Backhouse to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 8, 1841.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting agreements with African chiefs for the suppression of Slave Trade, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of correspondence which has recently passed between this office and Her Majesty's Treasury upon the subject of agreements with the chiefs of Bonny and of the Cameroons; and I am to request that you will state to the Lords of the Admiralty the opinion of Lord Palmerston, that in the agreement proposed to be concluded with the King and chiefs of Bonny, it will be better to specify the conditions to be entered into by both parties; and that those conditions should be,—that the Slave Trade shall be totally put an end to within the dominions of the King of Bonny; that Great Britain will make for five years an annual gift to the King and chiefs of Bonny of goods to the value of 2000 dollars; that the first gift shall be made on the ratification of the agreement, on condition that from that time and for ever Slave Trade shall be totally put a stop to in the said dominions, and that no slaves shall be passed through or exported from those dominions; and that at each future time of making the gift there shall be furnished to Great Britain a document from the merchants frequenting the Bonny, certifying the fact that no Slave Trade has to their knowledge existed there during the preceding year; and if at any time whatever, either from the want of that document or from any other cir-

cumstance, it shall appear that Slave Trade has been carried on through or from the Bonny, the presents will be discontinued, the Slave Trade will be put down by Great Britain by force, and the Chiefs of the Bonny will subject themselves to a severe act of displeasure on the part of Great Britain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

Inclosures in No. 21.

[See Nos. 17, 18, 19, and 20.]

No. 22.

The Secretary to the Treasury to Mr. Backhouse.

Sir,

Treasury, April 19, 1841.

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th instant and its inclosure, relative to the agreement which it has been proposed to make with the King and chiefs of the Bonny, for the suppression of the Slave Trade in their country, and to the gifts to be presented to them annually for five years, I have it in command from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request you will state to Viscount Palmerston that my Lords concur in the propriety of the course which his Lordship proposes should be adopted in respect to the formation of an engagement with the chiefs of Bonny, for the abolition of the Slave Trade in their dominions; and that my Lords will take the necessary measures for the preparation and transmission of the articles required for presents, as soon as they shall receive the intimation that the Treaty has been ratified on the terms proposed by his Lordship.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 23.

Mr. Backhouse to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 22, 1846.

WITH reference to my letter of the 8th instant, upon the subject of the proposed agreement with the chiefs of Bonny for the suppression of the Slave Trade, I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from Her Majesty's Treasury, stating that their Lordships concur in the propriety of the course which Lord Palmerston proposed should be adopted with respect to the agreement in question.

I am to request that you will be pleased to lay this communication before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and that you will move their Lordships to issue the necessary instructions for the conclusion of an agreement with the chiefs of Bonny under the conditions stated in my letter to you of the 8th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

Inclosure in No. 23.

[See No. 22.]

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Leveson.

(Extract.)

Admiralty, July 30, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter of the 25th May last, from Captain Tucker, of Her Majesty's sloop "Wolverine," and of its inclosure, on the subject of Treaties with the native Kings generally for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

 Inclosure in No. 24.
Captain Tucker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Wolverine," May 25, 1841.

I BEG to state that I have found by experience, and am convinced no faith can be placed in any treaties or promises made by the native Kings and chiefs for the suppression of the export Slave Trade; some of them readily promise to do so, in hope of receiving presents from Her Majesty's Government, as in the case of King Pepple of Bonny and the Kings in the Cameroons; but the export Slave Trade is so much to their interest, and no persons study self-interest more, they will never voluntarily suppress it. As proofs for my firm belief in the correctness of the above opinion, I beg to state that when I went into the River Bonny in October 1840, to arrange the payment of the debts due to the house of Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson, and Co., in obedience to their Lordships' order of the 15th of June, 1840, I ascertained that King Pepple, who had previously promised to suppress the export Slave Trade, had sold a great number of slaves to the Spaniards and Portuguese in the Rivers Nun and Brass, which he sent to them through the connecting creeks of the Delta. I asked the King why he continued to sell slaves to the Spaniards; he said he made plenty of money by it, and had sold 1000 slaves that year. And on my visiting him again in April this year, to ascertain if the above debts had been paid according to the arrangement made, he told me what I had previously learnt, he had sold a great number of slaves that year to Don Pablo, the Spanish slave-factor residing on the River Brass.

King Pepple is in the receipt of an income of about 4000*l.* per annum, arising from the tonnage duty levied upon British merchant-vessels trading in the river; and though, on both my visits, I told him he should suppress the Slave Trade in his dominions, in consideration of the income he received every year from England, and asked him to enter into a Treaty for the total suppression of the export Slave Trade, and to state what he would expect to be given him in lieu of the income he might lose by it, he refused, and told me he would not leave off the Slave Trade; and asked me what he was to do with his bad subjects, if he did not sell them.

Whilst on the subject, it may not be deemed irrelevant to inform their Lordships, that they may have a correct idea of the character of the Kings of this part of Africa, that the day previous to my last visit to the Bonny on the 27th ultimo—although the English merchants have been trading so many years in palm-oil in the River Bonny, and Captain Craigie in 1837 firmly established King Pepple on his throne, which had been previously usurped by one of his slaves, since which he had received from the English the income above stated (about 4000*l.* per annum),—I found he had permitted seven slaves to be sacrificed in the town, their flesh to be openly cooked and eaten by the native Fetish people, and their heads and bones of their limbs to be publicly exposed opposite the Fetish house; a thing I could not believe, though told by two or three masters of English merchant-vessels who witnessed the inhuman and disgusting ceremony, until I saw one of the heads (the other heads had been just removed when they heard I intended to land) and the bones of all the limbs and other parts of human bodies, with some of the flesh on, exposed, with all the signs of the sacrifice fresh on the ground.

No. 25.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Viscount Canning.

My Lord,

Admiralty, November 25, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Earl of Aberdeen, copies of a letter from Captain Tucker, of Her Majesty's ship "Iris," dated the 22nd August last, and of a Convention between that officer and King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny dominions, for the abolition of the Slave Trade.

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

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Captain Tucker to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Iris," off the River Bonny, August 22, 1841.

WITH reference to your letters of the 12th and 22nd April, 1841, and their inclosures from the Foreign Office and Treasury, I beg to report that on the 18th instant I anchored Her Majesty's ship under my command on the outside of the bar off the mouth of the River Bonny, and proceeded in the river in Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Pluto," to arrange if possible a Convention for the total abolition of the Slave Trade for ever in the dominions subject to the jurisdiction of King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny, as per instructions contained in those letters and their inclosures, which, after a great deal of trouble I arranged and procured the signature of the King and of the greater part of the chiefs, a copy of which I beg to transmit for the information of their Lordships, and to report that the King and chiefs proposed, and for a long time insisted upon several Articles being inserted which I considered totally inadmissible, as they would have been used as so many loop-holes for evading the Convention, strongly confirming me in my opinion, so often expressed in my letters, that the King and chiefs of the Bonny will never abolish the Slave Trade, so long as slave-vessels have opportunities of taking the mouths of the Delta, even to the Beven.

And if I needed stronger confirmation in my opinion, the Kings and chiefs insisted that the Convention was not to interfere in any way with their laws and customs respecting domestic slavery in their dominions, their general method of their getting rid of their bad subjects, and slaves, and their principal means of purchasing canoes and yams from the Eboe country being with slaves they possess, and as the instructions I received did not direct me to interfere with their national laws and customs respecting their domestic slavery, and it would have frustrated the wishes of the British Government for the abolition of the export or foreign Slave Trade, I did not insist upon it, though I feel convinced it may and will be used for the sale of slaves to the natives of other parts of the Delta to be resold or transferred by them to European slave-dealers, whenever an opportunity offers.

I beg to call their Lordships' attention to the alteration of their instructions in Article III, which states "the man-of-war bringing the annual gift shall furnish the document," instead of "King Pepple shall furnish the document," because the King stated, and it appeared very clear to me, that he had no power to force the captains of the merchant-vessels to sign the document, and some of them from ill-feeling to him might report falsely that the Slave Trade had been carried on during the preceding year, and he not have the power of making the said captains prove the correctness of their reports, whilst others, from fear of having their trade stopped by the King and chiefs, a common plan with them when they are offended, and of being detained in the river, would not give the information if they saw it carried on openly; whereas the commander of the man-of-war bringing the annual money, can obtain the signatures and investigate the truth of any reports which may be made of the

Slave Trade having been carried on in the Bonny since the ratification of the Treaty.

I have also to call the attention of their Lordships to Article VI, which makes the gift payable in dollars instead of goods, because the King made a particular point of it, as he will have to divide it among his chiefs, and also because the sending out the goods would injure the trade of the British merchants here, who might not then be able to dispose of their goods of the same kind.

Also to Article VIII, which the King insisted upon, being, and which I agreed to as of no moment.

I beg also to inform their Lordships that the King considers the Treaty ratified, and expects the full payment will be sent to him immediately on the receipt of this.

I beg also to transmit the annexed copy of a letter from Mr. Jackson, commanding the barque "Hesperus," of Liverpool, one of the most influential, prudent, and correct men in the trade, and to state that the other masters trading here have generally expressed their opinions that the Slave Trade will not be abolished by the Kings and chiefs of the Bonny.

Besides I feel it my duty to state for their Lordships' information, that the document to be required to be signed by the captains of the merchant-ships will not afford any proof that the Slave Trade had not existed during the preceding year; because they generally return to bed early, no watches are strictly kept in their vessels at night, and the native canoes often cross the river and go up the creeks during the night, and can convey, unknown to the English, as many slaves as they please, as shown in Mr. Jackson's letter, who has been trading in the Bonny three years, and has not seen an instance of it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. TUCKER,
Captain and Senior Officer in Command.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Engagement with the King and Chiefs of the Bonny, of August 21, 1841.

CONVENTION for the total suppression of the Slave Trade, agreed upon by William Tucker, Esquire, captain of Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Iris," and senior officer in command of Her Britannic Majesty's ships and vessels on the west coast of Africa, and King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny dominions.

It is agreed, and the two Contracting Parties hereby covenant and agree:

1st. That the Slave Trade shall totally and for ever be abolished in the dominions subject to the jurisdiction of King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny; and that no slaves shall be passed through or exported from those dominions, from the date of the ratification of the Agreement.

2nd. That in consideration of the total abolition of the Slave Trade forever, and that no slaves shall ever be permitted to pass through or be exported from the said dominions, Great Britain engages to pay to King Pepple, on the ratification of this Agreement, goods to the amount of 10,000 dollars per annum for five years.

3rd. That on each future time of making the annual gift, the man-of-war bringing the annual gift shall furnish Great Britain with a document from the merchants frequenting the Bonny, certifying the fact that no Slave Trade has to their knowledge existed there, and that no slaves have been passed through the dominions subject to the jurisdiction of King Pepple and the chiefs of Bonny during the preceding year.

4th. That if at any time whatever, either from want of that document, or from any other circumstance, it shall appear that the Slave Trade has been carried on in, from, or through the dominions subject to the jurisdiction of King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny, the gifts mentioned in the preceding Article will be discontinued; the Slave Trade put down by Great Britain by force, and King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny will subject themselves to severe acts of displeasure on the part of Great Britain.

5th. That King Pepple shall make a proclamation and a law prohibiting all

his subjects or persons depending on him from selling any slaves to be transported from the dominions subject to his jurisdiction, or to aid or abet or assist in any way such sale, under penalty of severe punishment.

6th. That at the particular request of King Pepple, the said gift shall be paid to him in dollars, viz. 10,000 dollars per annum, year by year, for five years, upon the document required being received as proof of his having fulfilled the above Articles.

7th. That this Agreement shall be considered binding, and be continued in full force by and to the heirs and successors of King Pepple.

8th. And that should Great Britain at any future time permit the Slave Trade to be carried on, the King and chiefs of the Bonny shall be at liberty to carry on the Slave Trade also.

Done at Parliament House, Bonny Town, this 20th day of August, 1841.
(Signed) KING PEPPLE. (Signed) WM. TUCKER.

In the presence of—

(Signed)	(Signed)	
W. L. Blount, Lieutenant Com- mander H. M's ship "Pluto."	his Jew ✕ Jew Peter.	his Tom ✕ Tom.
Wm. Webster, 2nd Lieutenant H. M's ship "Iris."	mark his King ✕ Halliday.	mark his Dapper ✕ Pepple.
Thos. E. Symonds, Additional Lieutenant, H. M's "Iris."	mark his Parliament ✕ Gentleman.	mark his Captain ✕ Hart.
Robt. Graham, Assistant Sur- geon, H. M's "Iris."	his Jew ✕ Jew Guana.	his Jno. ✕ Africa.
Christ. Jackson, ship "Hespé- rus."	mark his Old Indian ✕ Queen.	mark his JewAnna ✕ Pepple.
his Jack ✕ Brown.	mark his Hodge ✕ Africa.	mark his Bustol ✕
mark his Manilla ✕ Pepple.	mark his Alison ✕	mark his Black ✕ Tomba.
his Anna ✕ Pepple.	mark his Junga ✕	mark his Grand ✕ Bonny.
mark	his Fine ✕ Bonny.	mark
	mark	

Inclosure 3 in No. 25.

Mr. Jackson to Captain Tucker.

Sir,

"Hesperus," Rio Bonny, August 21, 1841.

HAVING expressed a desire to obtain my sentiments relative to the working of the Treaty relative to the Suppression of the Slave Trade about to be entered into with Her Britannic Majesty and King Pepple of Bonny, I beg leave to submit to you my opinions of it.

It is certain that innumerable resources present to the natives a ready medium for carrying on the Slave Trade through other ports, without the possibility of detection or even suspicion on the part of the merchants here.

From a close observation of the negro character during a long intercourse with them, I am impressed with the conviction that they are entirely devoid of gratitude, or any nobler sentiment than the aggrandisement of the passing hour. This universal trait of the negro race bears me out in the firm belief that they will no longer keep inviolate the tenets of any treaty than it is to them a source of present gain. I will be bold to affirm it will not be kept through any principles of moral rectitude; it is with them a mere mercantile transaction.

You have just heard, Sir, their vehement opposition to the suppression of domestic slavery; their ideas thereon are less exalted and refined than those that

echo through the British nation. The glorious achievement of the West India Slavery could not be obtained here; for in their present condition, depending as they almost, yea entirely do, upon the labour of their slaves, an indiscriminate suppression of the present system would be annihilation of their country.

I have spoken of the Niger Expedition to several of the most intellectual amongst them; they all consider it a visionary and impracticable scheme, and hold it quite in derision.

In referring once more to the shipment of slaves, I may observe that I have heard from the officers of Her Majesty's cruizers alone any information of the transmigration of slaves to or from the Bonny to the Brass or other places; if their information was always correct, it only argues further that they have facilities for a secret slave trade to foreign places; for I can assure you, Sir, I have not the slightest suspicion from any observations I have made, or any intimation save that of Her Majesty's officers, of any slaves for the foreign markets coming to or leaving the Bonny since 1838.

I beg leave again to call your attention, Sir, to the horrid condition of the white slave-dealers and their sailors now upon the beach of Bonny, in the hope you may be instrumental in suppressing a practice far more inhuman than the Slave Trade: when a vessel is taken anywhere near here, they are often brought here and landed without food or covering upon the beach. True it is, some few among them have been landed at Brass and come down here, but the great portion were landed here in a sad condition; and though in some way provided with food and clothing from the merchants here, whose means were circumscribed, it was but prolonging a horrible existence: to have brained them with a pistol, or to have hung them on the moment, would have been mercy to their wretched sufferings and end. At the landing-place there are now three dead bodies in a condition too revolting to describe.

I have stated my motive for alluding to this sad detail, and though it is not for me to suggest any course, I do most sincerely hope you will remove this strain upon the acknowledged humanity of England. If not, if the crew of slave-vessels are thus thrown helpless and hopeless to a slow but certain torture and death, I must, and must not the barbarian who witnesses it, distrust the extolled philanthropy that with such princely munificence unfetters the shackles of the slave, that with one eye weeps over the sable captive, and with the other marks unmoved his captors' lingering anguish and dying throes.

I hope I have not occupied too great a portion of my letter in this appeal to your humane consideration, for however justly they merit punishment theirs is inhumanly severe.

With my very best wishes for the moral and intellectual improvement of the natives of Africa, a consummation that may be the work of ages,

I remain, &c.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHER JACKSON.

P. S.—With reference to the 6th paragraph I may add that King Pepple has admitted in my presence his connection with the Slave Trade to a considerable extent, and also the loss he would sustain by its total suppression; this has invariably been when questioned by yourself or any of Her Majesty's officers.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHER JACKSON.

No. 26.

The Secretary of the Treasury to Viscount Canning.

My Lord,

Treasury Chambers, December 24, 1841.

I HAVE it in command from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint your Lordship, for the information of the Earl of Aberdeen, that my Lords have had before them a letter from Messrs. Cunliffe and Co. of Lombard Street, dated the 20th instant, inclosing an order for 10,000

dollars on Her Majesty's Treasury, drawn by King Pepple of Bonny in Africa, and requesting to be informed when they might call for the money, and at what rate of exchange it was to be paid, this being left entirely to their Lordships.

My Lords have also had under their consideration the above-mentioned order from King Pepple, stating that on the 20th August last he had entered into a Treaty with Her Britannic Majesty's Government, through William Tucker, Esq., captain of Her Majesty's ship "Iris," and senior officer in the command of the Queen's ships and vessels on the west coast of Africa, under the terms of which Treaty he is to be paid the sum of 10,000 dollars annually for five years, and he requests, in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty, which he stated it to be his intention to observe in all and every Article, that the sum of 10,000 dollars may be paid (when the first year's instalment is due) to Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson and Co. of Liverpool, for value received from them.

In transmitting copies of these documents to be laid before the Earl of Aberdeen, I have to request that you will move his Lordship to favour my Lords with his opinion as to the course which it will be proper to pursue in respect to the order in question, as my Lords have not received any intimation of the Treaty stated by King Pepple to have been concluded between him and Captain Tucker.

I have at the same time to request you will call the attention of the Earl of Aberdeen to the letters addressed to this Board by Mr. F. Strangways on the 17th June, 1839, and its inclosures, by Mr. Backhouse, on the 6th October, 1840; by Lord Leveson on the 20th of January, and 6th March, 1841; and by Mr. Backhouse on the 8th of April last, of which the following is the substance.

In March 1839, Captain Craigie of Her Majesty's ship "Scout," entered into a negotiation with King Pepple, the chief of Bonny, with a view to induce him to abolish the export of slaves from his dominions. The annual loss likely to be incurred by that chief from the abolition of the Slave Trade in his dominions was at that time estimated by himself and his advisers at 4000 dollars*; but the Treaty actually concluded provided for the payment of an annual sum of only 2000 dollars for five years.

In September 1840, in consequence of a report made to Captain Tucker by Lieutenant Levinge, commanding Her Majesty's brig "Buzzard," and Lieutenant Burslem, commanding Her Majesty's brig "Viper," to the effect that a constant supply of slaves was sent from the River Bonny by canoes, through the creeks to the Rivers Brass and Nun, which rivers are embouchures of the Niger, where they were disposed of to the Spanish and Portuguese slave-dealers, and that the King of Bonny, on being charged with conniving at this breach of the Treaty, replied that it was impossible for him to put a stop to his subjects trading in slaves, their Lordships' predecessors suggested to the Secretary of State that the payment of the sum stipulated by the Treaty should be suspended.

In July 1841 a further report was received from Captain Tucker, of Her Majesty's ship "Wolverine," stating that the Slave Trade continued to be carried on in the most unblushing manner by King Pepple and his chiefs; that owing to the numerous creeks with which their country is intersected, it is in their power to carry on this trade unknown to the English merchants; and that any sum of money which might be given to them with a view to induce them to abolish the Slave Trade, would certainly be employed by them in carrying on that traffic to a greater extent than before.

In consequence of these representations, Lord Palmerston, on the 8th of April last, intimated to this Board that he had requested the Lords of the Admiralty to cause a renewed negotiation to be entered into with the Chief of Bonny upon the following conditions:—"That the Slave Trade should be totally put an end to within the dominions of the King of Bonny; that Great Britain will make for five years an annual gift to the King and chiefs of Bonny of goods to the value of 2000 dollars; that the first gift shall be made on the ratification of the Agreement, on condition that from that time and for ever the Slave Trade shall be totally put a stop to in the said dominions, and that no slaves shall be

* Conference on board the "Bonetta," March 11, 1839.

passed through or exported from those dominions ; and that at each future time of making the gift, there shall be furnished to Great Britain a document from the merchants frequenting the Bonny, certifying the fact that no Slave Trade has to their knowledge existed there during the preceding year ; and if, at any time whatever, either from the want of that document, or from any other circumstance, it shall appear that the Slave Trade has been carried on through or from the Bonny, the presents will be discontinued, the Slave Trade will be put down by Great Britain by force, and the chiefs of the Bonny will subject themselves to a severe act of displeasure on the part of Great Britain.”

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Messrs. Cunliffe & Co. to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

My Lords,

Lombard Street, December 20, 1841.

WE beg leave to hand your Lordships an order on Her Majesty's Treasury for 10,000 dollars, drawn by King Pepple as agreed, and shall feel obliged by your Lordships informing us when we may call for the money, and at what rate of exchange, this being left entirely to your Lordships. We wait your Lordship's commands, and are, &c.

(Signed) CUNLIFFE & CO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

King Pepple to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

My Lords,

King's House, Bonny, September 14, 1841.

ON the 20th of August, 1841, I made a Treaty with Her Britannic Majesty's Government, through William Tucker, Esquire, captain of Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Iris," and senior officer on the west coast of Africa, that in consideration of my abolishing slavery (or the traffic or exportation of slaves from all parts and places under my jurisdiction), I am to be paid annually for five years, the sum of 10,000 dollars per annum for that period.

In accordance with the spirit of this Treaty, which it is my intention to observe in all and every Article, I request that you will (when the first payment is due) pay the whole of it (say 10,000 dollars) into the hands of Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson, & Co., of Liverpool, merchants, on account of goods to that amount which I have received from one of their agents and consignees, trading in the ship "Garrow," of Liverpool, in this river, which goods were received by me on trust (as is the custom and practice of trading here), and which it was my intention to pay for in palm-oil, but finding I cannot do so without detaining the vessel, I proposed this method of liquidating my debt to Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson, & Co's. agent from whom I received the goods, and he has agreed to take the inclosed order upon Her Britannic Majesty's Treasury, which I hope will be duly honoured.

I have requested the undersigned agents and consignees now trading here, to witness this document, that in case of any dispute or delay arising they can be called upon, if requisite, to give evidence before your Lordships.

(Signed) KING PEPPLE.

Witnesses:

(Signed) Peter Douglass.
F. Grant.
W. H. L. Cowan.

No. 27.

Viscount Canning to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 31, 1841.

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Aberdeen your communication of the 25th ultimo, on the subject of an Agreement which Captain Tucker, of Her Majesty's Navy, had signed on the 25th of August last, with the King and chiefs of the Bonny, respecting the Slave Trade of the Bonny.

I am directed by the Earl of Aberdeen to request you will call the attention of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to the correspondence which has previously passed upon this subject between the Admiralty and this office, and in particular to the communication of the 12th June, 1839, from the Admiralty, containing the proposal of Captain Craigie, of Her Majesty's ship "Scout," and to the letter of the 8th of April, 1841, from this office, containing the opinion of Viscount Palmerston upon this subject.

I am to request that you will state to their Lordships, that it appears to Lord Aberdeen that the terms to which Captain Tucker has agreed with the chiefs of the Bonny, for the abolition of the Slave Trade of the Bonny, differ widely from those proposed in Lord Palmerston's letter of April 8th, and are not such as should meet with the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government.

For in the first place the amount of the value of the annual gifts proposed to be made to the chiefs of the Bonny, was 2000 dollars for five years, and Commander Tucker has agreed to give them the value of 10,000 dollars for five years.

Secondly, the gift was to be made in goods, and not in money, and by Captain Tucker's Agreement it is to be made in money instead of goods.

Thirdly, the first gift was to be made only on the ratification of the Agreement, and Captain Tucker led the chiefs to expect that it was to be made instantly, and indeed a bill has already been drawn upon Her Majesty's Treasury for the 10,000 dollars in question.

Fourthly, whereas the Slave Trade was to be totally put an end to within the dominions of the chiefs of the Bonny, it would appear from the statement of Captain Tucker, that he led the chiefs to believe that they might sell slaves to the chiefs of Eboe, in exchange for the canoes and goods they wanted.

Fifthly, Captain Tucker has inserted in this Agreement a provision, implying a doubt as to the final determination of Her Majesty and Her Majesty's Government to put down the Slave Trade for ever.

In this Agreement there appear other minor deviations from those instructions with which Captain Tucker states that he was furnished; upon these, however, Lord Aberdeen does not think it necessary to make any remark, conceiving that upon the details already referred to in this letter, it would be right that their Lordships should lose no time in acquainting the commander of Her Majesty's naval forces on the African station, that Her Majesty's Government cannot consent to the Agreement referred to, and in instructing that officer, or such other officer as their Lordships shall think fit to entrust with this commission, to make this known to the chiefs of the Bonny.

And Lord Aberdeen is of opinion that the officer should be instructed to propose an Agreement for the abolition of the Slave Trade of Bonny, upon the terms signified in the communication from this office to the Admiralty of the 8th of April, 1841, and to use his best endeavours to obtain the acquiescence of these chiefs on those terms, but in case of their refusal, to abstain from agreeing to any other.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CANNING.

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No. 28.

Viscount Canning to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 31, 1841.

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Aberdeen your letter of the 24th instant, relative to an Agreement with the chiefs of the Bonny for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and I am directed by his Lordship to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Admiralty, inclosing copy of the Agreement made, together with a copy of the answer which his Lordship has directed to be returned to that communication.

And I am to request that you will lay these papers before the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, for their Lordships' information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CANNING.

Inclosures in No. 28.

[See Nos. 25 and 27.]

No. 29.

Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co. to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 25.)

My Lord,

Tokenhouse Yard, January 22, 1842.

WE have the honour to inclose copies of a bill for 10,000 dollars, drawn by King Pepple of Bonny, in Africa, upon the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in favour of our correspondents, Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson, & Co., of Liverpool.

King Pepple's letter of advice to the Treasury, stating the circumstances of the bills being drawn.

Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson, and Co's. letter to us, which is the immediate occasion of our addressing your Lordship.

The reason assigned by the Treasury for the refusal of the bill is, that the Convention concluded by Captain Tucker in Her Majesty's name has not received the sanction of Her Majesty's Government. We cannot point out more forcibly than Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson, & Co. have done, the inconveniences that are likely to follow in Africa from the refusal; neither do we call in question the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the Convention itself, respecting which we have no materials for judging; but we would earnestly represent to your Lordship the hardship of British subjects being told that a security is valueless, which they have taken under the authority of a Convention which upon the spot and at the time was considered to be of perfect validity; and we hope it may seem fit to your Lordship to make such a communication to the Lords of the Treasury as may lead them to review their answers to the bill of exchange.

We have, &c.
(Signed) REID, IRVING, & Co.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Bill Drawn by King Pepple on the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for 10,000 dollars.

Bonny Town, September 14, 1841.

AS soon as the first annual sum to be received by me for and in consideration of my fulfilling the terms of the Treaty (a copy of which is inclosed to your Lordships with this), please pay this my first of exchange, second and third of

the same tenor and date unpaid, to Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson, & Co., of Liverpool, merchants, the sum of 10,000 dollars, value received by me in sundries from one of their accredited agents here, in the ship "Garrow."
 (Signed) KING PEPPLE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

King Pepple to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, September 14, 1841.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 26, p. 21.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 29.

Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson, & Co. to Messrs. Reid, Irving, & Co.

Gentlemen,

Liverpool, January 20, 1842.

WE take the liberty of requesting the favour of your friendly interference for us with the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in the following matter.

On the 28th ultimo we presented to them, through Messrs. Cunliffe and Co., of your city, the agents of our bankers here, the inclosed draft for 10,000 dollars, drawn by King Pepple of the Bonny, accompanied by his letter of advice, being the amount of their first annual payment to him for abolishing his Traffic in Slaves, agreeable to treaty. To our surprise and disappointment we received for them on the 14th instant the reply which is inclosed, which, with the duplicate letter of advice and a copy of the treaty herewith, will fully explain to you the nature of the affair.

In pressing them to honour this draft, drawn on the faith that the Treaty with King Pepple was entered into by the express directions and sanction of Her Majesty's Government, and taken by us for a valuable consideration, in the fullest reliance that it was *bond fide* in its nature, we beg that you will pointedly represent to them how deeply and irretrievably the Government will suffer in the eyes of the African, by any hesitation in this country fulfilling its engagements to them, which engagements they have accepted in exchange for their highly lucrative traffic of slave-dealing; and how essentially necessary it is just now to gain their confidence, when the French Government are negotiating with them for the purchase of land to form a settlement at the mouth of Bonny River, not overlooking the fact that if the draft has to be returned to Bonny for payment, it will be the signal for the immediate recommencement of the Slave Trade in its full force, or even with still greater aggravation, and which no friendly negotiations will ever again put a stop to, since from our intimacy with their characters, we feel sure that their confidence once destroyed can never be regained. We are the more urgent on this business, as we not only know if we demand payment from King Pepple, he will tell us he has been deluded by our Government, and having lost the profits of his slave-dealing in the interim, we must look to them for the amount; but we feel convinced that the palm-oil trade, hitherto almost exclusively enjoyed by this country, will suffer considerably by inducing King Pepple to forward the interests of the French traders, who have lately made great efforts to establish a footing in the Bonny, where they had the unusual number of three vessels and a French man-of-war to support them, when our last ship left. If Her Majesty's Government would adopt one step to thwart their efforts for the suppression of the Slave Trade, more decided than another, it will be by refusing to honour this first draft of King Pepple, the most potent chief on the coast of Africa; while nothing would go so far in securing his hearty co-operation in its extinction, than by letting him feel the immediate benefit of a Treaty which he has been induced to agree to out of respect to Great Britain.

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In the event of the draft being dishonoured, be so kind as to have it noted.

The threatened loss of this money must plead as our apology for troubling you, and we esteem ourselves fortunate in having the acquaintance of so influential a house to whom we can apply.

We remain, &c.
(Signed) HAMILTON, JACKSON, & Co.

No. 30.

Viscount Canning to Messrs. Reid, Irving, & Co.

Gentleman,

Foreign Office, March 11, 1842.

I AM directed by the Earl of Aberdeen to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd of January last, requesting his Lordship's intervention with Her Majesty's Treasury on the subject of a bill for 10,000 dollars drawn by King Pepple of the River Bonny, in favour of Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson, and Co., of Liverpool; and I am to state to you in reply, that his Lordship cannot, under the circumstances, recommend to Her Majesty's Treasury to review their decision on the subject of this bill.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CANNING.

No. 31.

The Secretary to the Treasury to Viscount Canning.—(Received September 12.)

(Extract.)

Treasury, September 10, 1842.

I AM to request that you will recall the attention of the Earl of Aberdeen to the letter addressed to your Lordship on the 24th of last December, respecting a bill for 10,000 dollars which had been drawn upon the Treasury by King Pepple of the Bonny, and will observe to his Lordship that the practice which has lately arisen, of bills upon Her Majesty's Treasury being drawn by the African chiefs with whom Treaties are formed for the suppression of the Slave Trade, in satisfaction of the claims which they acquire under those Treaties, is, in their Lordships' opinion, open to many and serious objections; and their Lordships desire me to suggest that it be laid down as an invariable rule, that the payments to the African chiefs with whom such Treaties may be formed, should be in goods and not in money, and that the goods should be delivered to the chiefs themselves by the commander of one of Her Majesty's cruizers, who may be annually deputed for that purpose, under the orders of the admiral commanding on the station, after full proof shall have been afforded that the stipulations of the Treaty have been faithfully executed.

No. 32.

Viscount Canning to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, September 23, 1842.

I AM directed by the Earl of Aberdeen to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a communication which has been received from the Treasury; and I am to request that in laying this paper before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty you will inform their Lordships that Lord Aberdeen entirely

concurr in the observations therein made; and that it may be expedient to draw the attention of the senior officer on the west coast of Africa to the necessity of adhering strictly to the directions already given for the conclusion of agreements with native chiefs for the suppression of the Slave Trade, as summed up in the inclosed letter from the Treasury.

Inclosure in No. 32.

[See No. 31, p. 25.]

No. 33.

Viscount Canning to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 23, 1843.

WITH reference to your letter of the 10th instant relative to bills drawn on the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury by African chiefs for the value of the annual gifts promised them by Her Majesty's Government in consideration of their putting down the Slave Trade, I am directed by the Earl of Aberdeen to transmit to you, to be laid before their Lordships, the accompanying copy of a communication which by order of Lord Aberdeen I have this day addressed to the Admiralty upon the subject in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 33.

[See No. 32, p. 25.]

No. 34.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Viscount Canning.—(Received November 21.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, November 18, 1842.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Earl of Aberdeen, copies of a letter from Captain Foote, of Her Majesty's ship "Madagascar," dated the 1st of August last, and its inclosures, reporting the failure of the attempt to induce the King and chiefs of the Bonny to enter into an amended Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JNO. BARROW

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Captain Foote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

*"Madagascar," off the River Congo,
August 1, 1842.*

REFERRING to my letter of the 10th March last, I beg you will acquaint their Lordships that my immediate attendance being required on this part of my station, I did not visit the Bonny for the purpose therein mentioned, relative to the Treaty with its King and chiefs, for the suppression of the Slave

Trade in their dominions, but entrusted that service to Commander Eden, of Her Majesty's ship "Persian;" and I have now the honour to forward a copy of my orders to that officer, also of my official instruction to King Pepple of the non-ratification of the Treaty, and Commander Eden's report of the result of his endeavours to obtain his acquiescence to another Treaty, which he failed in accomplishing.

It will no doubt appear to their Lordships that it was not at all probable that the King and chiefs of the Bonny would sign a Treaty giving them only 2000 dollars a-year for five years in goods, when the King had already drawn a bill for 10,000 dollars, which sum makes the total of the money that he would have received for the whole space of the said five years; but the more I see of these Kings and chiefs, the more I am convinced of the utter uselessness of entering into Treaties with them, for they will take all they can grasp from England, and only carry on the Slave Trade to a greater extent with it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN FOOTE, *Captain.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Captain Foote to Commander Eden.

By John Foote, Esquire, Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Madagascar," and senior officer commanding Her Majesty's ships and vessels on the west coast of Africa.

HER Majesty's Government having been pleased to disapprove of the Treaty which Captain Tucker, of the "Iris," had signed on the 20th August last, with the King and chiefs of the Bonny, respecting the Slave Trade in that river, you are hereby required and directed to proceed, immediately on the receipt of this, to the River Bonny, to deliver the accompanying letter to King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny, making known to them the determination of Her Majesty's Government not to ratify the said Treaty; and to use your utmost endeavour to obtain their acquiescence to the terms of the Treaty annexed, according to the instructions contained in the accompanying copies of letters from the Admiralty, dated 12th April, 1841, and 4th January, 1842, and their inclosures, from the Foreign Office; but in case of their refusal you will abstain from agreeing to any other.

Your attention is particularly called to the necessity of making the King and chiefs clearly understand that the Treaty must not be considered by them to be ratified until it has received the sanction of Her Majesty's Government; and you will endeavour to obtain every information relative to a bill which has been drawn on the Government for the annual gift of 10,000 dollars, agreed upon by Captain Tucker; and whether it was done by the sole desire of King Pepple, or by the advice and instigation of the British merchants then in the river.

Having completed which service, you will use all dispatch in joining me to the southward, as far as Cape St. Beas, in latitude 10° south, calling off Cabenda and St. Paul de Loanda in your way, and remaining off these places two days in search of me.

Given on board the "Madagascar," at sea, off Princes' Island, this 22nd day of April, 1842.

(Signed) JOHN FOOTE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 34.

Captain Foote to King Pepple.

"Madagascar,"

West Bay, Princes' Island, April 22, 1842.

THE Undersigned, Captain of Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Madagascar," and senior officer commanding Her Britannic Majesty's squadron on the west coast of Africa, has the honour to make known to His Majesty King Pepple,

and the chiefs of the Bonny dominions, that the Treaty concluded with them by Captain William Tucker, of Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Iris," on the 20th August last, cannot be ratified by Her Majesty's Government, in consequence of its being so contrary in its principles to the instructions given to that officer. And the Undersigned is instructed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government to offer the inclosed Treaty in lieu thereof, for which he has selected an officer, Commander Eden, of Her Britannic Majesty's sloop "Persian," in whom he places the greatest confidence, to wait upon His Majesty, who has his directions thereon, and will attend to any wishes His Majesty may be pleased to express in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty.

The Undersigned sincerely regrets that, owing to the cause before mentioned, the British Government does not think proper to ratify the Treaty signed on the 20th August last, but trusts that it will not disturb the harmony and friendly feelings which have so long existed between His Majesty King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny and Her Majesty the Queen of England.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN FOOTE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 34.

Commander Eden to Captain Foote.

Sir,

"Persian," off the River Bonny, May 13, 1842.

HAVING, in compliance with the instructions contained in your order of the 22nd of last month, anchored off the Bonny in the afternoon of the 10th instant, and having failed in procuring a pilot for the "Persian," I next morning proceeded up that river in the pinnace (accompanied by the master and purser of this sloop), where I was fortunate enough to meet Mr. Jackson, master of the barque "Hesperus," of Liverpool, who, having been employed by Captain Tucker last year in the late Treaty with the King and chiefs of Bonny, was of the greatest assistance in explaining to them the whole circumstances of the case.

On the 12th I waited on the King, and delivered to him your letter which had been entrusted to my charge.

I explained to him that the British Government could not ratify the Treaty entered into between himself, the chiefs of the Bonny, and Captain Tucker, in August last year; that I had brought the terms of a new Treaty to be agreed upon between Her Majesty's Government and the King and the chiefs of Bonny, to which I requested his attentive perusal and consideration.

Finding that King Pepple was unable to read the Treaty himself, I read it to him in a slow manner, explaining each passage as I went through it (in the peculiar palaver of the country, with the assistance of Mr. Jackson), but I had no sooner finished reading Article II, where the stipulated sum to be paid is 2000 dollars in goods, when the King said "better let it all be cancelled." I then explained to him that it was by a mistake that the sum of 10,000 dollars was inserted in the last Treaty, that 2000 dollars a-year for five years was originally intended, and that that was to be paid in goods and not in money; he replied that he had no objection to the old Treaty remaining in force, and that instead of money he would take goods to the amount of 2000 dollars per annum; but that he would not sign any new treaty; that he knew England was a rich country, and could well afford to pay him that sum. I replied that I had no power to change the terms of the Treaty I held in my hand, and that the British Government were sincere in their offers to him, which if he did not accept he would get nothing, and that the Slave Trade would be put down by Great Britain by force.

I particularly called his attention to that part of the Earl of Aberdeen's letter to the Secretary to the Admiralty of the 31st December last, namely his Lordship's fourth objection to the terms of Captain Tucker's Treaty, where his Lordship expresses that "it would appear from the statement of Captain Tucker, that he led the chiefs to believe that they might sell slaves to the chiefs of Eboe, in exchange for the canoes and goods they wanted."

I presume there must be some mistake in this, as it is King Pepple who buys slaves from the chiefs of Eboe, in exchange for goods, &c.; and indeed

one in ten are slaves at this place, the whole or nearly so of the men employed in working at the canoes, collecting the palm-oil for the merchant-vessels, being Eboe men.

Bonny itself is a most unhealthy spot; there are no old men, and the children seldom reach the age of puberty; this I was informed of by Mr. Jackson, who from his intelligence and the length of time he has traded in this river, is entitled to much credit.

King Pepple replied "What, not have slaves in my house? who work my canoe? or who is to collect the palm-oil for me? and if any of them die, I am not to purchase others." He seemed to ridicule the idea of domestic slavery being done away with, and could not be brought to understand a better state of things; and from Mr. Jackson's account, the matter appears so foreign to the constitution of the country, that they would never be induced to listen to the subject.

With respect to the bill which has been drawn in advance on the Government for the annual gift of 10,000 dollars agreed upon by Captain Tucker, it appears that a Mr. Henry Lingham, master of the ship "Garrow," of Liverpool, had goods out on trust to King Pepple to that amount; that the King not being able to furnish him with palm-oil to that value, offered him the bill on the Government, which was accepted by him in lieu, and the King acknowledged to me that for this purpose it was given.

Before leaving King Pepple I repeatedly requested him to think seriously of this Treaty, and endeavoured to prevail on them to sign it, which I am sorry to say I failed in accomplishing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS RODNEY EDEN,
Commander.

No. 35.

Mr. Lingham to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 20.)

My Lord,

Liverpool, January 18, 1843.

WITH due respect I beg to lay the following statement before your Lordship.

On the 12th December, 1840, I sailed in the barque "Garrow," of Liverpool, a ship chartered by Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson, & Co., of Liverpool, bound on a trading voyage to the River Bonny, on the west coast of Africa, where I arrived on the 4th of February, 1841, and commenced my trading operations, according to the custom pursued there, and made binding by different Treaties entered into and confirmed by the senior officer commanding on the west African station.

The black chief King Pepple requires a portion of cargo on "trust" or "credit." From the "Garrow" he received 151 puncheons of trust or credit, a part of which he paid in oil.

In the month of April or May Captain Tucker, the senior officer on the West African station, late of Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Iris," arrived in the River Bonny in Her Britannic Majesty's steamer "Pluto," Lieutenant Blount, commander; made arrangements with King Pepple, left the river and again arrived in the month of July; negotiated and concluded a Treaty on behalf of the British Government with King Pepple for abolishing for ever the export of slaves from his dominions. Then left the river.

After the senior officer, Captain Tucker, had left the River Bonny about six weeks, King Pepple sent for and informed me that he intended to give me an order on the British Government for the first year's instalment, according to the terms of the Treaty he had made with Captain Tucker. This I refused to accede to, as it was against the tenor of the instructions from my merchants, and I further required the consent of Captain Tucker, the senior officer who had negotiated the Treaty. Upon this remonstrance King Pepple said as he intended to observe his part of the Treaty, I was a British subject, and that I should take an order on the British Government, and that he would not pay in African produce. Ultimately I was obliged to take an order for the first

instalment according to the inclosed printed copy of the Treaty, which I respectfully submit to your Lordship's consideration.

The order is in the possession of Messrs. Hamilton, Jackson, & Co., of Liverpool.

Awaiting respectfully your Lordship's answer, I am, &c.

(Signed) HENRY LINGHAM,
Supercargo of the barque "Garrow," in the River Bonny.

Inclosure in No. 35.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 25, p. 17.]

No. 36.

Viscount Canning to Mr. Lingham.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 22, 1843.

I AM directed by the Earl of Aberdeen to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo, on the subject of an order which you state to have been given to you by King Pepple of the Bonny, upon Her Majesty's Government, for payment said to be due to that chief.

And I am to refer you, upon this subject, to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, to whom your letter has been transmitted accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CANNING.

No. 37.

Viscount Canning to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 22, 1843.

WITH reference to my letter of the 31st December, 1841, on the subject of an Agreement signed by Captain Tucker of Her Majesty's Navy with King Pepple of the Bonny, I am directed by the Earl of Aberdeen to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from Mr. Lingham, and of the answer which, under Lord Aberdeen's direction, I have returned thereto.

I am also to send to you, for the information of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, the accompanying copy of a correspondence with Messrs. Reid, Irving, and Co. upon this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CANNING.

Inclosures in No. 39.

[See Nos. 29, 30, 35, and 36.]

No. 38.

Viscount Sandon to Viscount Canning.—(Received June 21.)

LORD SANDON presents his compliments to Viscount Canning, and requests that his Lordship will have the goodness to supply him with the means of answering the inclosed letter from Messrs. Stockley and Thompson of Liverpool, expressive of a wish:

First. That Her Majesty's Government may think proper to address a

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letter to King Pepple, explanatory of the grounds upon which the non-ratification of the Treaty concluded between Captain Tucker of the Royal Navy, and King Pepple, was decided upon.

Second. That instructions may be given to the officer in command of the naval force stationed at the mouth of the River Bonny, to protect the British merchant ship "Lady Paget," in the possible event of the emergency apprehended by Mr. R. Hemmingway, the owner of that vessel.

20, *Fludyer Street*, June 20, 1843.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Messrs. Stockley & Thompson to Mr. William Wainwright.

Dear Sir,

Liverpool, June 17, 1843.

OUR client Mr. Hemmingway has again requested us to apply to Lord Sandon and Sir Howard Douglas to assist him in procuring an official letter from Her Majesty's Government directed to King Pepple, stating why they refuse to ratify the Treaty of which we sent you a copy some time since. Mr. Hemmingway's vessel, the "Lady Paget," Captain Charles Calvert, arrived here from Bonny on the 10th of June instant, bringing a message from King Pepple, saying he should seize the first vessel of Mr. Hemmingway's that entered the Bonny River for the bills which he has given on Government, and Mr. Hemmingway has every reason to believe he will carry out the threat unless Government will protect him. Captain Forshaw, of the "Bounty Hall," arrived here this day, and has brought a similar message from King Pepple. Mr. Hemmingway's vessel, the "Lady Paget," is going to Bonny on the 1st July, and the Mayor of Liverpool has recommended Mr. Hemmingway to apply to Lord Sandon and Sir Howard Douglas to obtain for him a letter commanding the British vessels of war lying near the River Bonny to protect the "Lady Paget" in case King Pepple should carry out his threat. On the other half sheet I send you a copy of a letter sent by Captain Calvert to the Commander of Her Majesty's ship the "Kite." Should Lord Sandon and Sir Howard Douglas think it advisable that Mr. Hemmingway should go up to London, he will at once do so, and take Captain Calvert with him. We must beg to apologize for again troubling you, and remain, &c.

(Signed) STOCKLEY & THOMPSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

The Master of the "Lady Paget" to the Commander of H.M.s ship "Kite."

Sir,

*"Lady Paget," West Bay, Princes Island,
March 28, 1843.*

ON the 17th instant I left the River Bonny, after a stay of ten weeks, during which time, and for many months previously, no British vessel of war visited the river. For some years that I have been trading to that place, I have never known so great an interval to elapse without a visit from one of Her Majesty's vessels; and I now address you, knowing that the interest of all British merchants connected with the trade will suffer materially should such be the case much longer, in the hope that you may take such measures as will lead to a renewal of the former system of a vessel occasionally going to Bonny, in order to see that property is efficiently protected, and trade carried on according to the terms of the treaty entered into by the British Government with the King and chiefs of Bonny.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. CALVERT.

No. 39.

Viscount Canning to Lord Sandon.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 8, 1843.

I LAID before the Earl of Aberdeen your note of the 29th ultimo, inclosing a letter from Messrs. Stockley and Thompson, of Liverpool, requesting that an official letter may be sent by Her Majesty's Government to King Pepple of the Bonny, stating why Her Majesty's Government refuse to ratify the Treaty for the abolition of the Slave Trade, concluded with him by Captain Tucker; and that instructions should be given to the British vessels of war lying near the River Bonny to protect the British ship "Lady Paget" from a threat said to have been made by King Pepple with regard to her.

With reference to the first request, I am directed by his Lordship to state to you that on the 12th of May, 1842, a formal declaration dated the 22nd of April, 1842, and signed by Captain Foote, senior officer of Her Majesty's ships on the West African station, was delivered to King Pepple by Commander Eden, of Her Majesty's ship "Persian," explaining why Her Majesty's Government could not consent to ratify the Treaty in question.

I transmit to your Lordship, for your information, a copy of that declaration; and I am to state to you that Her Majesty's Government see no reason to alter the determination come to on this subject, as stated therein.

With reference to the second request, I am to state to you that copy of the letter of Messrs. Thompson and Stockley has been forwarded to the Admiralty, with a request that such protection as is necessary and proper, and compatible with the other duties of the squadron, may be given to the "Lady Paget" while engaged in lawful pursuits.

I return to your Lordship the letter of Messrs. Thompson and Stockley and its inclosures, as it appears that they are original papers and may be required by your Lordship.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 39.

[See Inclosure 3 in No. 34.]

No. 40.

Viscount Canning to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 8, 1843.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade, concluded by the late Captain Tucker with King Pepple of the River Bonny, I am directed by the Earl of Aberdeen to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a note and of its inclosures addressed to me by Lord Sandon, and a copy of the reply which by his Lordship's directions I have returned thereto.

It appears from the papers forwarded by Lord Sandon, that King Pepple is said to have threatened to seize the British ship "Lady Paget," about to proceed to the Bonny, in order to compensate himself for the non-payment of the bill for 10,000 dollars, drawn by him on Her Majesty's Government in virtue of Article II of the Treaty in question, from which Treaty Her Majesty's Government, for the reasons stated in my letter of the 31st December, 1841, were compelled to withhold their sanction.

I am to request that in laying these papers before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, you will move their Lordships to draw the attention of senior officers of Her Majesty's ships on the west coast of African station to these

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circumstances, and to direct him to give to the ship "Lady Paget," while engaged in lawful pursuits, such protection as may properly be called, under the circumstances of the case, and such as may be compatible with the fulfilment of other duties entrusted to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CANNING

Inclosures in No. 40.

[See Nos. 38 and 39, pages 30 and 32.]

No. 41.

Lord Sandon to Viscount Canning.

Dear Canning,

July 11, 1843.

MAY I trouble you to lay the inclosed before Lord Aberdeen. It is addressed to a constituent, who is one of the most considerable and respectable African merchants especially engaged in the palm-oil trade.

Yours truly,
(Signed) SANDON.

Inclosure in No. 41.

King Pepple to Messrs. Horsfall & Son.

Gentlemen,

Bonny River, April 13, 1843.

A FAVOUR I request. Captain William Tucker of Her Majesty's Navy entered into a Treaty with me to abolish slavery. He came three times; two first I would not agree, the third time he threatened if I should not come to his terms he would remain in the river and stop all trade. I look my head better. I do all the same he want. Palm-oil trade be big trade. I send letter for England to Queen's Government, and the no will pay me. Gentlemen, suppose you make agreement with one man and them man no do all the same as agreement, then palaver be too worse; suppose Slave Trade live now plenty of profit, I make all them profit lose. Captain Tucker make all them palaver. I no savey which way England no will pay me. I be too hungry for them money. I want England for pay me, suppose England no me I can't well.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) KING PEPPLE.

No. 42.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Viscount Canning.

My Lord,

Admiralty, March 4, 1844.

WITH reference to your Lordship's letter of the 18th of July last and its inclosures, relative to a threat made by King Pepple of the River Bonny, to seize the ship "Lady Paget," in order to compensate himself for the non-payment of a bill for 10,000 dollars drawn by him on Her Majesty's Government, in virtue of Article II of the Treaty concluded by himself and the late Captain Tucker, for the suppression of the Slave Trade; I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the information of the Earl of Aberdeen, a copy of a letter from Captain Foote, dated the 31st of December last, stating that he had ordered the "Spy" to proceed to that river to inquire into the circumstances and to report thereon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BARROW

Inclosure in No. 42.

Captain Foote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Madagascar," Ascension, December 31, 1843.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 22nd June and 11th July last, transmitting the copy of a note from Viscount Sandon to their Lordships, and other correspondence, respecting the threat of King Pepple of the River Bonny, to seize the ship "Lady Paget;" and in reply, I have to acquaint you, for their Lordships' information, that I have ordered the "Spy" to proceed to that river to inquire into the circumstances and report thereon to me; but I am of opinion that King Pepple is too well aware of the protection given to British commercial interests by the squadron under my command to put any such threat into execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN FOOTE,
Captain and Senior Officer Commanding.

No. 43.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, February 24, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter dated the 22nd January, from Commodore Sir Charles Hotham, reporting the satisfactory state of trade in the River Bonny.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Commodore Sir Charles Hotham to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Penelope," Sierra Leone, January 22, 1848.

I REQUEST you will inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that by a despatch from Commodore Hope, the senior officer in the Bights; I am informed that trade is going on in the Bonny quiet and safely, with no complaints from the traders; and that the system of giving out goods on trust has been totally abolished by mutual agreement of all parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. HOTHAM, *Commodore.*

No. 44.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Right Hon. E. J. Stanley.

Sir,

Admiralty, February 28, 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith a copy of a letter from Commodore Sir Charles Hotham, dated the 22nd ultimo, transmitting a copy of a Treaty concluded in 1841 between Captain Tucker of the "Iris" and King Pepple and the chiefs of the River Bonny, and I am to request that you will move Viscount Palmerston to favour their Lordships with his instructions thereon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. G. WARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Commodore Sir Charles Hotham to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Penelope," Sierra Leone, January 22, 1848.

I REQUEST you to lay before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the accompanying copy of a Treaty said to have been concluded in 1841, between Captain Tucker, of Her Majesty's ship "Iris," and King Pepple of the River Bonny.

As there is no duplicate copy or reference to it in this office, I shall deem it prudent to allow King Pepple's claim to remain dormant, until I receive their Lordships' instructions; and as some apprehension exists on the matter, I request to be furnished with a copy of a Treaty which has been accepted by Her Majesty's Government.

And should that Treaty be based upon the promise of an annual present in the event of the Slave Trade having been discontinued, I do myself the honour to suggest that it should be fulfilled, as all parties concur in an assurance that the chiefs of the Bonny are confining themselves to the legitimate produce of their country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. HOTHAM, *Commodore.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Agreement between Captain Tucker and King Pepple.

CONVENTION for the total suppression of the Slave Trade, agreed upon by William Tucker, Esq., captain of Her Majesty's ship "Iris," and senior officer of Her Britannic Majesty's ships and vessels on the west coast of Africa, and King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny dominions.

It is agreed, and the two Contracting Parties hereby covenant and agree:—

1. That the Slave Trade shall be totally and for ever abolished in the dominions subject to the jurisdiction of King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny, and that no slaves shall be passed through, or exported from, those dominions, from the date of the ratification of the Agreement.

2. That in consideration of the total abolition of the Slave Trade for ever; and that no slaves shall be permitted to be passed through or be exported from the said dominions, Great Britain engages to pay to King Pepple, on the ratification of this Agreement, goods to the amount of 10,000 dollars per annum for five years.

3. That on each future time of making the annual gifts, the man-of-war bringing the annual present, King Pepple shall furnish Great Britain with a demand from the merchants frequenting the Bonny, certifying the fact that no Slave Trade has to their knowledge existed there, and that no slaves have been passed through the dominions subject to the jurisdiction of King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny of the preceding year.

4. That if at any time whatever, either from want of that document or from any other circumstance, it shall appear that the Slave Trade has been carried on in, from, or through the dominions of King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny, the gifts mentioned in the preceding Article will be discontinued, and the Slave Trade will be put down by Great Britain by force, and King Pepple and the chiefs of the Bonny will expose themselves to severe acts of displeasure on the part of Great Britain.

5. That King Pepple shall make a proclamation and a law prohibiting all his subjects, or persons depending on him, from selling any slaves to be transported from the dominions subject to his jurisdiction, or to aid, abet, or assist in any such sale, under penalty of severe punishment.

6. That at the particular request of King Pepple, the said gifts shall be paid in dollars, viz., 10,000 dollars per annum year by year for five years, upon the document required being received as proof of his having fulfilled the said Articles.

7. And this Agreement shall be considered binding, and be continued in full force by and to the heirs and successors of King Pepple.

8. That should Great Britain at any time permit the Slave Trade to be carried on again, the Chiefs of the Bonny shall be at liberty to carry on the Slave Trade also.

(Signed) WM. TUCKER.

(Signed) KING PEPPLÉ.

In the presence of—

(Signed)

W. Blount, Lt.-Commander, "Pluto."

W. Webster, 2nd Lieutenant "Iris."

Thos. E. Seymour, Lieutenant.

R. Graham, Assistant Surgeon.

Chris. Jackson, "Hesperus."

his

Jack X Brown.

mark

(Signed)

his

Manilla X Pepple.

mark

Anna X Pepple.

Jew Jew X Peter.

King X Holiday.

Parliament X Gentleman.

Old Indian X Queen.

Terryon X.

Grand X Bonny.

King X George.

Black X Fontre.

Tom X Tom.

Dapper X.

John X Africa.

This is to certify that King Pepple has given me the original Convention or Treaty made between W. Tucker, Esq., captain of Her Majesty's ship "Iris," and King Pepple, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, to be sent to England in the brig "May," for the purpose of having that document legally stamped in England, and undertake to return the same back again to King Pepple when properly executed.

(Signed)

R. HEMMINGWAY.

Brig "William Rathbone," June 5, 1844, Bonny River.

Witness.

I have seen the original document between William Tucker and King Pepple and the Chiefs of the Bonny, in Mr. R. Hemmingway's house.

June 6, 1844.

(Signed)

C. JACKSON.

No. 45.

Lord Eddisbury to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 27, 1848.

I LAID before Viscount Palmerston your letter of the 28th of February last, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Commodore Hotham, requesting instructions on the subject of a Treaty for the Suppression of the Slave Trade, signed in the year 1841, between Captain Tucker, then senior officer of Her Majesty's Squadron on the West Coast of Africa, and the King and chiefs of the Bonny.

I am, in reply, to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the accompanying printed copy of all the papers extant in this office on this subject, from which their Lordships will perceive that Her Majesty's Government felt compelled to reject the treaty signed by Captain Tucker; and that King Pepple has refused to conclude the Treaty proposed to him by Captain Foote in lieu thereof.

Her Majesty's Government, however, taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration, would still be willing to conclude with King Pepple a treaty, according to Form No. 2, with which Commodore Hotham is furnished for proposal to native chiefs of Africa; adding thereto an Article granting to King Pepple an annual present, for five years, of goods of British manufacture, to the value of 2000 dollars each year, such goods to be delivered to King Pepple only upon the production of a certificate, signed by the master of the British merchant vessels frequenting the river, to the effect that the stipulations of the treaty have been fulfilled with good faith by the King and chiefs.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

EDDISBURY.

Slave Trade.

PAPERS relating to Engagements entered into by King Pepple and the Chiefs of the Bonny with Her Majesty's Naval Officers, on the subject of the Suppression of the Slave Trade.

*Presented to the House of Commons by Command
of Her Majesty. July 11, 1848.*
