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P A P E R S

RELATING TO THE

CONVENTION

BETWEEN

GREAT BRITAIN AND BRAZIL

ON

SLAVE TRADE.

*Presented to the House of Commons by Command of Her Majesty.
July 23, 1845.*

LONDON:
PRINTED BY T. R. HARRISON.

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Papers relating to the Convention between Great Britain
and Brazil on the Slave Trade.

No. 1.

Mr. Hamilton to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 8.)

*British Legation,
Rio de Janeiro, March 22, 1845.*

(Extract.)

ON the 12th instant a notification was addressed to me by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that under the stipulations for the Slave Trade Conventions between Great Britain and Brazil, the Convention of July 28, 1817, would cease to have force and effect from the day following, and that consequently from that date, namely, the 13th of the month, would cease and determine the right of visit and search provided for by the said Convention of July 28, 1817, as well as all other provisions comprehended therein, or in the Additional Articles, the Instructions, &c., &c., annexed thereto. And the notification also explained that the Brazilian Government had agreed that the British and Brazilian Courts of Mixed Commission established in this capital and at Sierra Leone, should continue in the exercise of their authority for six months longer,—that is, until the 13th of September next, in order to a final arrangement of all cases and questions yet undetermined, and of any others to be brought into Court, that might have occurred previously to the said 13th of March.

On the 15th instant also a notification of the cessation of the Right of Visit and Search was made by the Minister of Justice to the supreme legal tribunals of the capital, and to the Presidents of maritime provinces; but accompanied by an injunction that, until some specific regulation should be organized for the adjudication of vessels captured on account of illicit trade in Slaves, the ordinary courts of law of the empire should be competent to take cognizance of such acts.

We have yet to see how far these new measures contemplated by the Brazilian Government for putting down the contraband may be successful. But thus far it cannot be denied, that although they have been pledged by Treaty to abolish it within a stated period of time, that abolition has not been accomplished; that, on the contrary, it has flourished, and continues to flourish, under the connivance of the authorities, in the face of all engagements, however solemn; and it seems an admissible question whether, looking to this abandonment of their engagements, the Conventions on Slave Trade between the British and Brazilian Crowns ought not to be considered as remaining in full vigour.

Of the two documents mentioned above I have the honour to inclose copies. My answer to the first contained simply an acknowledgment of receipt, and an assurance that it should be laid before Her Majesty's Government without delay.

No. 1.
Senhor Franca to
Mr. Hamilton,
March 12.

No. 2.
Senhor Galvao to
Senhor Figueirido,
March 18.

Inclosure 1 in No. I.

*Senhor França to Mr. Hamilton.**Palaccio do Rio de Janeiro, de 12 Março, 1845.*

COMPLETANDO se amanhaa 13 do corrente mez de Março de 1845, os quinze annos durante os quaes segundo as Convenções entre o Brazil e a Gram Bretanha, sobre a abolição do Trafico da Escravatura, continuava ainda em vigor a Convenção de 28 de Julho de 1817: cessando por consequente desde esse dia o direito de visita e de busca, e todas as outras estipulações contidas na referida Convenção de 28 de Julho, 1817, Artigos Addicionaes, Instruções, e Regulamentos annexos: o abaixo assignado, do Conselho de Sua Magestade o Imperador, Ministro e Secretario d'Estado dos Negocios Estrangeiros, recebem ordem do mismo Augusto Senhor para comunicar ao Snr. Hamilton Hamilton, Enviado Extraordinario e Ministro Plenipotenciario de Sua Magestade Britannica, que attendendose a que por intelligencia das duas Altas Partes Contractantes, concordou se em dar o espaço de seis mezes aos navios Brazileiros empregados no trafico para se ricolherem livremente aos portos do Imperio, uma vez qui tivessem deixado as Costas d'Africa ate o dia 13 de Março de 1830, em que segundo a Convenção de 23 de Novembro de 1826, cessava completamente esse trafico; o Governo Imperial nao duvidará concordar que as Comissoes Mixtas Brazileiras i Inglezas estabelecidas n'esta Corte e em Serra Leoa, continuem ainda por seis mezes qui acabaraõ em 31 de Setembro d'este anno, para o unico fim de concluerim os julgamentos dos cazos pendentes, e d'aquelles que por ventura tenham occorrido ate o referido dia 13 de Março do corrente anno.

O abaixo, &c,

(Assignado)

ERNESTO FERREIRA FRANCA.

(Translation.)

Palace of Rio de Janeiro, March 12, 1845.

AS from to-morrow, the 13th of the current month of March, 1845, the fifteen years will be completed, during which, according to the Conventions between Brazil and Great Britain, in regard to the abolition of the Traffic in Slaves, the Convention of the 28th of July, 1817, still continued in force; and as from that day the right of visit and search consequently ceases, as well as all the other stipulations contained in the above-mentioned Convention of the 28th of July, 1817, the Additional Articles, Instructions, and Regulations annexed thereto; the Undersigned, Councillor of His Majesty the Emperor, &c., has received an order from His August Majesty, to communicate to Mr. Hamilton Hamilton, &c., that attending to the fact, that by an understanding between the two High Contracting Parties it was agreed to allow the period of six months for Brazilian vessels employed in the traffic, to return unmolested to the ports of the empire, provided they had left the Coast of Africa before the 13th of March, 1830, on which day, according to the Convention of the 23rd of November, 1826, this traffic was to cease entirely, the Imperial Government will not hesitate to agree, that the Brazilian and English Mixed Commissions established in this capital and in Sierra Leone, continue for six months longer, which period will expire on the 13th of September of this year, for the sole purpose of concluding the adjudication of the cases pending, and of those which may perchance have occurred before the above-mentioned 13th day of March of the current year.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed)

ERNESTO FERRIERA FRANCA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Extract from the "Jornal do Commercio" of the 18th March, 1845.

*Ministerio da Justiça,
Paço, em 15 de Março de 1845.*

Illm. e Exm. Sr.—Tendo-se completado, segundo me acaba de participar o Sr. Ministro dos Negocios Estrangeiros, a 13 do corrente mez, os quinze annos durante os quaes, pelas Convenções entre o Brazil e a Grão Bretanha sobre a abolição Trafico de Escravatura, continuava ainda em vigor a Convenção de 28 de Julho de 1817; e cessando por conseguinte desde aquelle dia o direito de visita e de busca, e todas as outras estipulações contidas na referida Convenção, Artigos Addiciones, Instrucções e Regulamentos annexos, o communico a V. Ex. para seu conhecimento, e para o fazer presente ao supremo tribunal de justiça; e bem assim que, emquanto se não organisa um regulamento proprio para os processos dos apresamentos feitos por occasião do commercio illicito de escravos, ficão competindo as justizas ordinarias do paiz taes processos.

Deos guarde a V. Ex. &c.

(Assignado) MANOEL ANTONIO GALVAO.

Sr. José Bernardo de Figueiredo.

Na mesma conformidade ao Presidente interino da Relação da Corte, e circular aos Presidentes das provincias maritimas.

(Translation.)

*Department of Justice,
Palace, March 15, 1845.*

Most illustrious and excellent Sir,

THE period of fifteen years, during which, as I have just been informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, according to the Conventions between Brazil and Great Britain, in regard to the Abolition of the Traffic in Slaves, the Convention of the 28th of July, 1817, still remained in force, having expired on the 13th instant; and, as the right of visit and of search ceased, in consequence thereof, after that day, as also all the other stipulations, instructions, and regulations thereto annexed, I communicate the same to your Excellency for your information and for that of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice; as also that until a fit regulation in regard to the adjudication of captures made on account of the illicit Commerce in Slaves be adopted, such processes are of the competence of the ordinary tribunals of the country.

God preserve, &c.,

(Signed) MANOEL ANTONIO GALVAO.

To Señor Joze Bernardo de Figueiredo.

A communication in conformity with the above is made to the President *ad interim* of the "Relação" of the capital, and by circular to the Presidents of the maritime provinces.

No. 2.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Hamilton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 4, 1845.

THE attentive consideration of Her Majesty's Government has been given to the subject of your despatch Slave Trade, of the 22nd March last, inclosing copy and translation of a notification made to you on the 12th of that month, by Senhor Ernesto Ferreira França, that under the Conventions between Great Britain and Brazil, for the abolition of the Traffic in Slaves, the several stipulations contained in the Convention of the 28th July, 1817,

its Additional Articles, Instructions and Regulations, would cease on the 13th of March last, that is, on the day following the date of that notification; but that the Brazilian Government would willingly agree that the Brazilian and British Mixed Commissions established at Rio de Janeiro, and Sierra Leone, shall continue for six months longer, for the sole purpose of concluding the adjudication of cases pending and of those which have occurred before the above-mentioned 13th day of March.

You will immediately on the receipt of this despatch, present to the Brazilian Government a note of which the draft is inclosed; and you will inform me of the day on which it is presented.

You will see by the draft in question, that Her Majesty's Government admit that the Convention of 1817, with all its annexes, are at an end from the above-mentioned date; that they agree to the continuance of the Mixed Commissions until the 13th of September next, for the purpose proposed by the Brazilian Government, and that a declaration is made to the effect that Her Majesty's Government, reverting to the rights and obligations which attach to Her Majesty in virtue of the 1st Article of the Convention of 1826, are prepared to exercise those rights, and will without delay propose to Parliament the necessary legislative enactments, to enable Her Majesty to carry the provisions of that Article into full effect.

I have addressed to Her Majesty's Commissioners, an instruction which I send to you under flying seal, acquainting them with the approaching termination of their powers.

The commanders of Her Majesty's cruizers will receive immediate instructions from the Lords of the Admiralty, as to the termination of the Convention of 1817, and the cessation of their right to seach and detain vessels under that Convention.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Note to be presented by Mr. Hamilton to the Brazilian Minister.

THE Undersigned, &c., has submitted to the Government of the Queen his Sovereign, the note which the Senhor Ernesto Ferreira França, &c., addressed to him on the 12th of March last, in which that Minister declares on the part of the Imperial Government of Brazil, that they consider that from the 13th of that month, the fifteen years will have been completed during which, according to the Conventions between Great Britain and Brazil, in regard to the abolition of the Traffic in Slaves, the Convention of the 28th of July, 1817, was to continue in force; and that consequently from that day all the stipulations contained in the above-mentioned Convention of the 28th July, 1817, the Additional Articles, Instructions, and Regulations annexed thereto, would cease. Senhor França adds that, "as by an understanding between the High Contracting Parties, which was entered into at the time, it was agreed that a period of six months should be allowed to Brazilian vessels employed in the Slave Trade to return unmolested to the ports of the empire, provided they had left the coast of Africa before the 13th of March 1830, on which day, according to the Convention of the 23rd of November, 1826, this traffic was to cease entirely, the Imperial Government will not hesitate now to agree that the British and Brazilian Mixed Commissions established at Rio de Janeiro and at Sierra Leone, shall continue to act for six months longer, namely until the 13th of September next, for the sole purpose of concluding the adjudication of the cases pending, and of those which may have occurred before the 13th day March, in the current year."

The note of Senhor E. F. França has received the attentive consideration of Her Majesty's Government. The several provisions of the Conventions of the 28th July, 1817, and of the 23rd of November, 1826, and the correspondence which has since taken place between the Governments of Brazil and of Great Britain, respecting the execution of

those engagements have been carefully examined by them; and the Undersigned has been directed to call the recollection of the Brazilian Government to the following facts.

On the 26th August, 1828, the Viscount d'Itabayana, the Brazilian Envoy at the Court of London, proposed in a note to the Earl of Aberdeen, then His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the term which was fixed by the Convention of the 23rd November, 1826, for the final cessation of the trade, should be extended.

The British Government declined at that time to accede to this suggestion; and in the subsequent year the Brazilian Government, by a note of the 13th February, 1829, from the Marquis d'Aracaty to Lord Ponsonby (then His Majesty's Envoy at Rio de Janeiro), declared that in making the above-mentioned proposal, the Imperial Legation in London has mistaken the orders conveyed to them, and that the Brazilian Government limited themselves to a desire that His Majesty's Government would give them a guarantee that British cruisers should not capture Brazilian vessels engaged in Slave Trade adventures which had commenced within the term when that trade was still legal.

Lord Aberdeen, in a note which he addressed to the Chevalier de Mattos on the 16th of September following, signified the assent of His Majesty's Government to that request; and the Brazilian Government, adopting the expression in which the assent was conveyed, issued on the 4th of November following a portaria, declaring that they had received from the British Minister "the assurance that those Brazilian vessels employed in the Traffic in Slaves, which could prove that they had finally left the coast of Africa on or before the 13th March, 1830, should prosecute and finish their *bond fide* voyages, direct from Africa to any port in Brazil, without incurring the liability of being treated as pirates according to the Convention."

Such, therefore, was the understanding between the two High Contracting Parties, as to the circumstances under which Brazilian subjects and vessels should be exempt from penalty, although found to be engaged in the Slave Trade subsequently to the 13th of March, 1830. And Senhor França will perceive that there was not, as supposed by him, any mention of a specific term of six months, during which such liberty should be continued to Brazilian vessels.

It further appears from an examination of the correspondence between the two Governments, that on the 4th October, 1830, the Chevalier Mattos declared to His Majesty's Secretary of State, that the Slave Trade being totally forbidden to Brazilian subjects, from the 13th March, 1830, and those who should thereafter engage in it being liable to punishment under the Convention of 1826, by the ordinary tribunals of the Contracting Parties, he was directed by the Imperial Government to concert with His Majesty's Government the dissolution of the Mixed Commissions established at Sierra Leone and Rio de Janeiro, as having become entirely superfluous: the functions of the latter to cease in December, 1830, and those of the former in June, 1831.

The Chevalier de Mattos was answered on the 10th December, 1830, that the dissolution of the Mixed Commission Courts at the periods suggested, would be productive of much inconvenience, because some time must elapse before tribunals could be finally constituted for exercising criminal jurisdiction in cases of piracy under the provisions of the Convention.

On the 30th March, 1831, the Chevalier Mattos replied "that the Mixed Commissions were instituted with the view of judging of the legality of the detention of vessels employed in Slave Trade, but that at the present period it is impossible any longer to dispute the legality of such a detention, as all Traffic in Slaves is illicit."

On these grounds M. de Mattos suggested that "the necessary remedies must be had recourse to," but that the illegal protraction of the Mixed Tribunals ought not to be sanctioned.

In answer to this, Viscount Palmerston, at that time Secretary of State, stated to M. de Mattos, that His Majesty's Government could come to no other decision than that, under the Separate Article of the 11th Sep-

tember, 1817, the Mixed Commissions might continue to exercise their functions until fifteen years after the 13th March, 1830, or until the two Governments should have agreed upon and completed the alterations contemplated by that Article, for adapting the stipulations of the Convention of 1817 to the *status* of the total abolition of the Slave Trade. Lord Palmerston at the same time expressed the readiness of His Majesty's Government to enter into negotiations for such alterations.

Negotiations followed; and on the part of His Majesty's Government, with an earnest desire to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, and one that should accord with the honour and interests of both Parties, and secure the accomplishment of their common object.

Repeated representations were made to the Brazilian Government on the continuance of the Slave Trade of that country, and the necessity of more active and powerful measures for suppressing it; and in the year 1835 Articles additional to the Convention were actually signed by Plenipotentiaries on the part of the Contracting Parties. Unfortunately these Articles were never ratified by the Crown of Brazil.

Again, on the 23rd August, 1840, new propositions were made on the part of Great Britain, framed on memoranda drawn up by the Brazilian Government; but when proposed by Great Britain, the Brazilian Government declined to accept them.

On the 26th August, 1841, the Brazilian Government on their part proposed certain terms; and in April, 1842, the Undersigned submitted to the Imperial Government proposals for modifying those terms, so as to carry out effectually the intentions of the Parties to the Convention of 1826; but on the 17th October in that year, the Brazilian Government thought proper not only entirely to reject those modifications, but to declare, by a note under that date, from Senhor Aureliano to the Undersigned, that "the Imperial Government not only consider that other dispositions besides those which already exist are now unnecessary, in order to the total extinction of the traffic, but that they regard it as prudent not to adopt any others."

Accordingly, Senhor Aureliano returned to the Undersigned the Draft of Convention, refusing peremptorily even to enter into negotiation on it.

This occurred at a time in respect to which the British Commissioners had observed to Her Majesty's Government, that "at no period has the Brazilian Slave Trade been so extensively carried on as it is at the present moment in Rio de Janeiro itself."

The Government of Brazil having thus, notwithstanding the necessity shown for the adoption of new and more decisive measures of suppression, openly rejected all overtures for rendering the Compact of 1817 thoroughly and permanently effectual, Her Majesty's Government commanded the Undersigned to make the declaration contained in his note of the 1st September, 1843, that "if the Brazilian Government still decline to enter with Great Britain into formal engagements calculated to give full effect to the declared intentions of the Parties to the Convention of 1826, for the total and final abolition of the Slave Trade of Brazil, it will remain for Her Majesty to take, alone and by her own means, the steps which she may feel called upon to adopt for carrying into full and complete effect the humane object of the obligation imposed upon Her Majesty by the First Article of that Convention." It is true that by a subsequent instruction from Her Majesty's Government, the Undersigned was empowered to take advantage of any disposition which the Brazilian Government might evince, even at that late hour, for entering into the formal arrangements referred to. But the Undersigned regrets to say that he failed to perceive any indication of a disposition which would enable him to act upon that instruction with effect.

The next communication of importance that passed between the two Governments upon the subject of their relations regarding the Slave Trade, is the note of Senhor França of the 12th of March last, which Her Majesty's Government have recently had under their consideration, and in which the Government of Brazil require that the Convention of 1817 shall be considered as ceasing from the 13th of March last; proposing at the same time, that the Mixed Commissions shall continue their functions to the

13th of September, for disposing of the cases pending, and of those which may have occurred before the 13th of March last.

Senhor França contends that Brazil having abolished the Slave Trade from the 13th of March, 1830, the fifteen years referred to in the Separate Article to the Convention of 1817, have now expired, and that consequently all the stipulations of that Convention to which the Additional Article refers are at an end.

It does not appear however that there is any decree or law of Brazil abolishing the Slave Trade generally from the 13th of March, 1830.

The first law on the subject, so far as Her Majesty's Government are informed, is on the 7th of November, 1831, and the next in April, 1832, in neither of which is any reference made to the 13th of March, 1830.

The Brazilian Government, therefore, must rest entirely on the First Article of the Convention of 1826, ratified on the 13th of March, 1827, and contend, that inasmuch as between them and the British Government the Slave Trade by their subjects has been piracy, since the 13th of March, 1830, the stipulations of 1817 are no longer applicable thereto.

The Undersigned has been commanded to state to the Imperial Government of Brazil, that upon a full consideration of the case, Her Majesty's Government are disposed to think that the view thus taken of it by the Senhor França is correct, as between the two countries; and they therefore feel themselves bound to admit to the Brazilian Government, that the Convention of 1817, with all its annexes, are, and must be considered as at an end from the 13th March, 1845.

This being the case, the Undersigned is directed to observe, that Her Majesty's Government have no longer any course open to them, under the Convention of the 23rd November, 1826, than that of giving full effect to the stipulations of the First Article of that Convention, under which Her Majesty has acquired the right to order the seizure of all Brazilian subjects found upon the high seas engaged in the Slave Trade, of punishing them as pirates, and of disposing of the vessels in which they may be captured, together with the goods belonging to them, as *bona piratarum*.

Her Majesty's Government had hoped, up to the very latest moment, that the Brazilian Government would, by a renewal and extension of the engagements between the two countries, have offered to Great Britain some other means of giving effect by joint operations to the Convention of 1826. Unfortunately, this has not been the case; and the vigour and success with which the Slave Trade is now carried on under the Brazilian flag leaves the British Government no choice but to appeal to the rights and obligations which attach to Her Majesty under the First Article of the above-mentioned Convention.

The Undersigned is accordingly directed to declare, that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to exercise those rights, and that it is their intention immediately to propose to Parliament to pass the legislative enactments necessary for enabling Her Majesty to carry the provisions of that Article into complete execution.

With respect to the proposal of Senhor França for the continuance of the functions of the Mixed Commissions, although the example by which he supports his proposal has been shown, in the early part of this note, to be inaccurate, Her Majesty's Government are willing that the British and Brazilian Mixed Commissions established at Rio de Janeiro and at Sierra Leone, shall sit until the 13th September next, for the sole purpose of concluding the adjudication of the cases pending, and of those which may perchance have occurred before the 13th of March last.

Her Majesty's Commissioners will accordingly receive an instruction to that effect; and the commanders of Her Majesty's cruizers will receive instructions as to the termination of the Convention of 1817, and the cessation of their right to capture under the same.

The Undersigned, &c.,

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Her Majesty's Commissioners at Rio de Janeiro.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, June 4, 1845.

I HEREWITH transmit to you a translation of a note which was addressed, on the 12th of March last, to Her Majesty's Envoy at Rio de Janeiro by the Senhor E. F. França, declaring, on the part of the Brazilian Government, that they consider that the Convention of 1817, between Great Britain and Portugal, as adopted by Brazil, with all its annexes, would cease on the 13th of March last, and proposing that the Mixed Commissions at Rio de Janeiro and Sierra Leone should sit to the 13th of September next, for the sole purpose of adjudging the cases which may have occurred previously to the above-mentioned 13th of March.

I have now to acquaint you, for your information and guidance, that Her Majesty's Government admit the view taken by the Brazilian Government, of the termination of the Convention of the 18th July, 1817, on the 13th of March last, and agree to the proposal that the Mixed Commissions at Rio de Janeiro and Sierra Leone shall sit until the 13th of September next, for the purposes described by M. França in his note.

You will therefore be guided in your conduct by this information.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 3.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Hamilton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 2, 1845.

IT is with regret that Her Majesty's Government have found themselves compelled to appeal to the rights and obligations attaching to Her Majesty under the 1st Article of the Convention of 1826, between Great Britain and Brazil, upon Slave Trade; but the notification made to you on the 12th of March last, by the Senhor E. F. França on the part of the Brazilian Government, that they consider that the Convention of July, 1817, as adopted by Brazil, must cease on the 13th of that month; and the apparent absence of all intention to join in any definite and practical measures for the performance of the engagement by which they continue bound, has left to Her Majesty's Government no other course than to provide for themselves the means of carrying those rights into effective execution.

For it is unhappily notorious, that vessels intended for Slave Trade are fitted out almost daily in the ports of Brazil; that of the slave ships met with in the African seas, three-fourths are under the Imperial flag, or are prosecuting the Trade on account of Brazilian subjects; that along the southern coast of the empire, there is scarcely a creek where a landing is practicable, which has not become known as a resort and a refuge to slave dealers; that the importation of human beings as slaves into Brazil, far from being discountenanced as a violation of law and treaty, is favoured by the local authorities; and that even in the legislative Assemblies the Trade is avowed as one in respect to which it is not necessary or even becoming that the Government should keep the faith of their treaties with Great Britain.

When therefore that Government declared its determination to relinquish the means hitherto adopted, in concert between the High Contracting Parties, for fulfilling the Convention of 1826, Her Majesty's Government found themselves called upon to choose between leaving the Slave Trade to flourish and increase, in spite of the obligations imposed, and the rights conferred upon them by that Convention, or recurring to such other means as are open to Great Britain for carrying its avowed object into effect.

Her Majesty's Government have felt it their duty to choose the latter course, and accordingly they have prepared and are about to submit to Parliament a Bill giving to Her Majesty's Courts of Admiralty the power to take cognizance of, and to adjudicate upon, all vessels captured for carrying on the Slave Trade contrary to the Convention of 1826; a power from which those Courts have hitherto been specially debarred by the Act of Parliament originally passed for carrying that Convention into execution, in consideration that provisions were therein adopted for the maintenance of those Mixed Tribunals which the Brazilian Government have now determined to dissolve.

Her Majesty's Government, however, are far from wishing this mode of adjudicating those vessels to be permanent.

They will be ready so soon as any measures of the Brazilian Government shall enable them to do so, to recommend to Parliament to repeal the Bill now about to be brought forward. But whilst the present state of things continues, and until either the Slave Trade of Brazil shall have entirely ceased, or the Brazilian Government shall have entered into an engagement with Great Britain, jointly to carry into execution the declared intentions of the Parties to the Convention of 1826, that course will not be open to them.

You are already aware that the measure by which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the Government of Brazil would best evince their determination to carry out the intention which they have so solemnly recorded, would be the negotiation of a Treaty similar either to that concluded between Great Britain and Spain in 1835, or to that between Great Britain and Portugal of 1842.

Should the Brazilian Government show any willingness to entertain the question of such a Treaty, you will frankly declare that nothing would give Her Majesty's Government more sincere pleasure than to find themselves relieved, by the conclusion of it, from enforcing the operation of the Bill which they are now about to propose to Parliament; and you will assure the Brazilian Ministers, that it will be a source of real satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government, to return to a good understanding both on this and on other subjects, with a nation in whose welfare and independence they have from the earliest times taken a lively interest, and whose growing prosperity and power they have witnessed with the greatest gratification.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

SLAVE TRADE.

Papers relating to the Convention between Great
Britain and Brazil on the Slave Trade.

*Presented to the House of Commons by Her
Majesty's Command. 1845.*
