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SLAVE TRADE (ZANZIBAR).

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 22 February 1859;—for,

“COPIES or EXTRACTS of the LETTERS of the Government of *Bombay* to Her Majesty’s Secretary of State for *India*, or the Court of Directors, forwarding Letters written in August and September 1858, by Captain *Rigby*, the Company’s Agent at *Zanzibar*, on the subject of the SLAVE TRADE at *Zanzibar* and along the *Mozambique Coast*.”

India Office, }
3 March 1859. }

J. W. KAYE,
Secretary in Political and Secret Department.

(Mr. Kinnaird.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
7 March 1859.

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COPIES or EXTRACTS of the LETTERS of the Government of *Bombay* to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for *India*, or the Court of Directors, forwarding Letters written in August and September 1858 by Captain *Rigby*, the Company's Agent at *Zanzibar*, on the subject of the SLAVE TRADE at *Zanzibar* and along the *Mozambique Coast*.

EXTRACT Secret Letter from the Government of *Bombay* to the Honourable the Court of Directors, dated 24th September (No. 115) 1858.

WITH reference to the instructions received from the Honourable the Secret Committee, and alluded to in our despatch, dated the 7th instant, No. 112, we have the honour to forward to your Honourable Court copy of a letter from Captain C. P. Rigby, Honourable Company's agent at *Zanzibar*, dated the 15th August last, reporting circumstances connected with the slave trade on the East Coast of Africa.

EXTRACT Letter in the Secret Department from the Government of *Bombay* to the Honourable the Court of Directors, dated 9th October (No. 125) 1858.

1. IN continuation of the first and second paragraphs of our despatch of the 24th September last, No. 115, we have the honour to forward copy of a letter with enclosures from Captain C. P. Rigby, agent at *Zanzibar*, dated the 20th August last, reporting circumstances connected with the slave trade on the East Coast of Africa.

3. We have also the honour to forward copy of a letter from Captain Rigby, dated the 24th August last, reporting on the present state of affairs at *Zanzibar*.

EXTRACT Secret Letter from the Government of *Bombay* to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for *India*, dated 9th November (No. 2) 1858.

Para. 1. Our last letter relative to the slave trade on the East Coast of Africa was addressed to the Honourable the Court of Directors, and bore date the 9th October last, No. 125.

2. We have now the honour, with reference to our letter No. 115, dated the 24th September last, to submit copies of two communications from Captain Rigby, our agent at *Zanzibar*, dated the 13th and 21st of the same month, and to solicit the earnest attention of your Lordship to the commerce in slaves which has recently been created on the East Coast of Africa by French influence.

(No. 10 of 1858.—Secret Department.)

From Captain *C. P. Rigby*, Honourable Company's Agent, *Zanzibar*, to
H. L. Anderson, Esq., Secretary to Government, *Bombay*.

Sir,

Zanzibar, 15 August 1858.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, the following circumstances relative to the slave trade on the East Coast of Africa.

2. In consequence of some recent orders of the French Government, permitting the importation of negroes into the Island of Bourbon, the slave trade

all

all along the East Coast of Africa is being carried on to a far greater extent than has hitherto been known. Vessels are being sent out from France on purpose to be employed in conveying negroes from this coast. I am informed by the merchants here that one person in Marseilles has contracted to land 25,000 negroes in the Island of Bourbon within the next two years. These negroes are purchased by native agents all along the Mozambique coast, and taken on board French ships; they then go through the form of asking them if they are willing to engage themselves to serve for 10 years; the slaves, not understanding a word that is spoken, are previously ordered by their masters to nod their heads when spoken to, and this is considered sufficient assent. They are then registered and numbered, and forwarded in ship loads to Bourbon.

3. There is at present a large French ship of this description at anchor in this harbour; she is full of negroes, who wear a number on a piece of wood round their necks. I have been privately informed that she has been shipping negroes at night here by stealth: she is anchored outside all the other vessels in the harbour, and is said to be waiting the arrival of a French man-of-war, daily expected.

4. The sudden development of this trade on a scale of such magnitude has caused a great sensation amongst the inhabitants of this place, and his Highness the Sultan, Said Majid, is about to dispatch his frigate "Artemis" to cruise off the Island of Monfia and the southern part of his dominions on the coast of Africa to prevent slaves being shipped from those places.

5. I understand that his Excellency the Governor-General of the Mozambique has taken very decided steps to put a stop to this traffic within the limits of the Portuguese settlements. A French ship recently captured has been condemned by the Portuguese courts at Mozambique, and the commander sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

6. In addition to the traffic carried on by the French, I am informed that a vessel under Spanish colours shipped 500 slaves from the vicinity of Lamoo on the African coast to the north of Pemba, for conveyance to Cuba; and another large American ship, also under Spanish colours, shipped 1,200 slaves for conveyance to Cuba from the ports of the Mozambique.

Zanzibar,
15 August 1858.

I have, &c.
(signed) C. P. Rigby, Captain,
Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

(True copy.)
H. L. Anderson, Secretary to Government.

(No. 15 of 1858.—Secret Department.)

From Captain C. P. Rigby, Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar,
to H. L. Anderson, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,

Zanzibar, 20 August 1858.

I HAVE the honour to report the following circumstances for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council.

On the evening of the 17th instant the schooner "L'Eglée," belonging to the French Imperial Navy, arrived in this harbour, and on the following morning the brig "Génie," also belonging to the French Imperial Navy, arrived here, and the commander immediately sent a message to his Highness the Sultan, Said Majid, requesting to have an audience at 10 o'clock the following morning. In the evening his Highness sent his private secretary to me to inform me of the French commander's request for an interview, and to state that this same vessel arrived here some months ago, when the commander urged his Highness to permit the export of negroes from his Highness' territories, to be conveyed to the island of La Réunion as engaged labourers, and that upon that occasion his Highness gave a decided refusal to this request, and his secretary informed me that his Highness feared that the present visit of the brig "Génie" was to
renew

renew this demand, and that he therefore wished for my advice as to the nature of the reply he should make to the commander of the "Génie," should his visit relate to this subject. I told the secretary that, as there are no free labourers here, and no class of persons who of their own free-will would engage themselves to embark for La Réunion or any other French colony, any compliance on the part of his Highness to the shipment of negroes, under any name or any pretence, would certainly lead to a slave trade on an extensive scale, such as it is notorious the French are actively engaged in along the east coast of Africa to the south of his Highness' territories, and that my advice therefore was that his Highness should inform the commander of the "Génie" that there are no free labourers here, and that his treaty engagements with the British Government forbid his sanctioning any direct or indirect sale of slaves within his dominions to Europeans of any nation.

2. His Highness' secretary then alluded to the suspicious conduct of several French vessels which have visited this port, and, pointing to a large French ship, now in the harbour, said that she had been lying here for a considerable time, and never held any communication with the shore, and no one knew the object of her visit, although it is known that she has a considerable number of negroes on board, said to have been purchased at the island of Johanna. I told him that I had been informed that this vessel was secretly embarking negroes at night; that after dark native boats get under weigh, as if to go across to the coast of Africa; and that, after standing some distance out to sea, they return and go alongside this French ship. He replied, that it very probably was so; for so long as purchasers are ready to pay a good price, some evil-disposed persons will find an opportunity of selling their slaves, in spite of all orders to the contrary.

3. The following morning his Highness' secretary again called on me, and said that the visit of the commander of the "Génie" was to urge upon his Highness the advantages which he would derive from complying with his demand to transport negroes to the island of La Réunion; and that he at the same time presented his Highness with a letter from his Excellency the Governor of La Réunion, urging compliance with this request. This letter the secretary brought for my perusal, together with a rough copy, in Arabic, of the answer his Highness proposed to send to the Governor of La Réunion. After perusing both these letters, I told the secretary that if his Highness did not object, I should like to take a copy of both letters, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, and to-day the secretary brought me both the letters; and a copy of the letter from his Excellency the Governor of La Réunion, and a translation of the answer sent to it by his Highness, are herewith forwarded.

4. Immediately after his Highness' answer was delivered to the commander of the brig "Génie," the schooner "L'Eglée" left the harbour; and I am informed that she has gone to La Réunion, to convey his Highness' answer to the Governor's letter.

5. I transmit herewith for the information of Government, copies of a correspondence on this subject between Her Majesty's Consul at this port, the late Lieutenant-Colonel Hamerton, and Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by which it appears that the French authorities at the island of La Réunion made a similar demand about three years ago, during the life of the late Imaum, Sayyid Said, and only desisted in their attempts to force a slave trade in his Highness' dominions upon the repeated remonstrances of the British Government. But the pertinacity with which their agents repeat their demands in spite of positive refusals to sanction such an export, and the appearance of so many ships of war, as if for the purpose of giving weight to these demands, alarms his Highness and the inhabitants of his territories as to their ultimate designs.

6. As I have not yet received any commission from the Foreign Office, I do not feel authorised to address Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on this subject, and therefore now submit the whole of the former correspondence on this subject for the consideration of his Lordship in Council.

7. I believe

7. I believe that his Highness the Sultan, Said Majid, is sincerely desirous of acting up to his engagements with the British Government to put a stop to the slave trade within his dominions. His immediately sending me the letter of the Governor of La Réunion was a mark that he wished to be guided by the advice of the British Government, and his Highness' frigate "Artemise" has also sailed for the south part of his dominions on the coast of Africa to prevent the shipment of negroes.

Zanzibar, 20 August 1858.

I have, &c.
(signed) C. P. Rigby, Captain,
Hon. Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

(Ile de la Réunion, Cabinet du Gouverneur.)

À Sa Hautesse le très puissant Sultan de Zanzibar.

Hautesse,

Saint Denis, le 29 Juin 1858.

SA Majesté l'Empereur des Français est un prince juste, et ne saurait rien demander qui ne soit suivant les lois de la morale et de l'équité; c'est dans ces sentiments que je vous adresse ces lignes.

Il vous demande d'autoriser les travailleurs engagés pour La Réunion à sortir librement de vos états.

Les terres de La Réunion sont riches et fécondes, mais la chaleur du soleil interdit aux hommes blancs d'y travailler. C'est pour cela que nous adressons aux hommes noir que Dieu a fait pour ces climats.

Le sol de La Réunion, comme tout sol Français, est un sol de liberté; tout travailleur qui le touche devient libre. Si on lui demande son travail, c'est à la condition de le nourrir, de le vêtir, de le loger, de le soigner s'il est malade, et enfin de le payer. Est-il permis de dire que l'homme que l'on met dans de pareilles conditions est esclave, et ceux que tiennent un pareil langage ne sont-ils pas calomniateurs de la pensée de notre grand Empereur, et ne tiennent-ils pas un engage mensonger?

Ce n'est que pour un temps très court et pour peu d'années que nous demandons le travail aux hommes qui nous viendront de vos états; ils seront autorisés ensuite à rentrer dans votre territoire; ils auront appris la culture du sucre; ils auront connu nos coutumes; ils vous apporteront donc une population de gens propres à travailler vos terres et à augmenter la source des richesses de vos états.

Ces conditions ne sont-elles pas justes? Ne sont-elles pas dignes des bienfaits que veut repandre sur tout le globe une grande nation? Ce n'est pas tout, Hautesse! Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français comprend que si vous vous privez pour un certain temps d'un certain nombre de vos sujets, cette privation demande une compensation. C'est pour recevoir nos offres et nos conditions que je vous envoie le Commandant du brick le Génie que vous connaissez. Il est chargé de vous dire que vos bons procédés et votre bon vouloir pour la France seront payés par l'amitié et la protection de l'Empereur. Ces assurances vous avez déjà dû les recevoir de la part de notre Consul accrédité près de vous.

Quant aux conditions de détail (je ne les traite point dans cette lettre, qui n'a pour but que de vous faire connaître les bonnes et loyales intentions dont notre Gouvernement est animé), elles vous seront transmises par Monsieur le Commandant Méquet et par notre Consul. Sur le je prie votre Hautesse de recevoir l'expression des sentiments que font naître en moi l'idée de sa grandeur et de son pouvoir.

Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur Le Gouverneur de l'Ile de La Réunion, Commandant la Station de Réunion et Madagascar, Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur, Commandeur du très sublime Ordre du Medjidié, Compagnon de l'Ordre du Bain d'Angleterre, &c. &c. &c.

(signé) B^m Darricm.

(True copy.)

(signed) C. P. Rigby, Captain,
Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

Zanzibar, 21 August 1858.

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(Translation.)

From Majid bin Said, Sultan of *Zanzibar* and *Sowahil*, to His Excellency the Governor of *Bourbon*, dated the 9th day of Mohurram, 1275 Hijra, corresponding to 19 August 1858.

To His Excellency Baron Darrican, Governor of Bourbon, and its Dependencies.

After salutation.

WE have received your exalted letter, and have understood the friendly expressions it contained, and Commander Méquet arrived here, and we have been much pleased at his safe journey; and we have understood that which he related to us verbally, and we have been honoured with the wishes which he expressed on behalf of the French Government relating to these countries. We will comply with every wish of the French Government except in what relates to slaves; for we cannot act in violation of the treaties which have for many years existed between us and the British Government; for any infringement of those treaties would be very hurtful to us, and we feel certain that the Emperor of the French does not wish us to depart from our written engagements; we do not forbid any free persons who wish to embark from going wheresoever they please; and we, if not please God, will make the French Emperor acquainted with this, and make us acquainted with everything else that you may require (*lit.* the sign is with you for anything you require here).

(signed) *Majid bin Said.*

(True translated purport.)

Zanzibar,
21 August 1858.

(signed) *C. P. Rigby*, Captain,
Honourable Company's Agent.

No. 4 of 1854.

(No. 4.—Slave Trade.)

To the Right Honourable the Earl of *Clarendon*, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

My Lord,

Zanzibar, 13 April 1854.

I HAVE the honour to submit for your Lordship's information, that a question of difficulty has arisen between the French Government and his Highness the Imaum of Muscat, relative to procuring slaves from the territories of the Imaum, to be carried to Bourbon and other French colonies; but which slaves, after they have been furnished by French dealers, are to be designated free labourers or "engagées," and to be procured in the following manner, viz.: the French dealer says to the slave broker or other proprietor of slaves, "I wish to engage this slave or these slaves; for how much will you consent to make him or them over to me as a freeman or freemen?" The price being agreed on, the slave is to be taken before the cazee or judge, when the proprietor says, "I make this man or these men free, therefore I want you to give a certificate of his or their freedom;" which being granted, the slave or slaves are made over to the French dealer to be taken away as a free labourer or labourers, to be sent to Bourbon or elsewhere, to labour for the space of five years, or whatever term the dealer stipulates for; at the end of which term he is to be a freeman to do as he pleases, and during the time of his servitude he is to be paid two dollars per month, and to receive rations.

His Highness the Imaum agrees to allow all free men to go to Bourbon on such terms, but his Highness says he cannot allow the French dealers to buy the slave just imported from Africa, and who has no idea of his position even on being made a free man, on being purchased from the slave broker or other proprietor, to be taken in this manner by the French dealers. Such is contrary to the Mahommedan law, and the Imaum considers such a way of procuring slaves under the name of free labourers to be at variance with the spirit of the treaty between his Highness and Great Britain of the 10th of September 1822, concluded by Captain Moresby, of Her Majesty's ship "Menai," for the prevention of the sale of slaves to European nations by the subjects of the Imaum of Muscat.

The French Admiral, L'Amiral la Guerre, Commandant-en-chef la Division Navale de la Réunion, et de l'Indo-Chine, came here in the frigate "Jeanne d'Arc," 44 guns, on the 4th of last December, and sailed on the 4th of January last; and during his stay here he had, along with the French Consul, Monsieur de Beligny, several interviews with the Imaum on this subject, and threatened the Imaum that if he would not consent to the French dealers obtaining labourers as they wished to do by paying the price of the slave to the broker or slave dealer, that the French Government would force him to comply; to which his Highness answered, that he was of course unable to resist the force of France, but that the Government with which he had a treaty for the prevention of the sale of slaves to Europeans would perhaps prevent France buying slaves in his territories. The admiral told the Imaum if they could not procure the labourers as they wished at Zanzibar, that French ships would go to the coast of Africa within his (the Imaum's) dominions to procure them, supported by French ships of war. The Imaum replied, "I have told you if you threaten to use force I cannot resist; but I do not consent."

A brig from Bourbon, the "Panther," arrived on the 21st of last December, and sailed on the 21st of January, with 170 (one hundred and seventy) labourers, all slaves bought and made free during her stay here; and there is a bark here at present, which arrived from Bourbon on the 27th ultimo. She requires 400 slaves to be made over to her as free men, after the manner of those taken by the "Panther," the brig from Bourbon, which sailed hence on the 21st of January last with the 170. The opinion of the people here is, that she will not obtain what she requires. The Arabs of Zanzibar are very averse to slaves being sold and taken away in this way by the French.

A Monsieur Bellman, an agent from Bourbon, who arrived here on the 27th ultimo, to procure labourers, told me they require 50,000 at present, and 10,000 every year to keep up the supply; and I have heard the French intend, if they find it difficult to procure the numbers of slaves they require, to make free labourers at Zanzibar, to establish agencies on the coast of Africa within the Imaum's territories for the purchase of the numbers required.

His Highness the Imaum has requested me to submit all these circumstances for your Lordship's consideration, and to request the favour of your advice and instructions as to how his Highness had best act, and to inform your Lordship that he considers himself and his dominions in every way at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government; and I beg respectfully to state that as it is desirable that your Lordship's reply to this letter may be received as soon as possible, if one copy was sent *viâ* the Cape of Good Hope to the Commodore with instructions to forward it to Zanzibar with dispatch, and another copy overland to the Government of Bombay, to be quickly forwarded, much serious evil to his Highness the Imaum may be prevented, for I see plainly the French are seeking a cause of quarrel with the Imaum; and they will seize upon some of the ports on the coast of Africa within his dominions, saying they have been forced to do so to protect French interests; and I most respectfully beg leave to assure your Lordship that something of this kind is most positively in contemplation by the French, and expected by the Imaum.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Atkins Hamerton*,
Major, H. M. Consul, and H. C. Agent in the
Territories of the Imaum of Muscat.

(True copy.)

(signed) *C. P. Rigby*, Captain,
Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

Zanzibar,
20 August 1858.

(Slave Trade.—No. 1.)

To Major *Atkins Hamerton*, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 13 July 1854.

I HAVE received your despatch, Slave Trade, No. 4, of the 13th of April, by which it appears that a direct trade in slaves is being carried on by French agents between the territories of Muscat and the Island of La Réunion, and that this traffic is intended to be continued upon an extensive scale.

I have

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I have also received a letter relative to this matter from the Imaum, dated the 18th of April, and I have to instruct you to inform his Highness in reply that Her Majesty's Government are in communication with the French Government thereupon, and they trust that instructions may be sent to the Governor of La Réunion, and to the Commander-in-chief of the French naval forces on the East Coast of Africa, directing them to put a stop to the purchase of slaves in the territories of the Imaum.

Her Majesty's Government can only regard this mode of obtaining labourers for the island of Réunion in the light of a traffic in slaves, which the Imaum is, by his treaty engagements with Great Britain, bound to suppress.

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

(True copy.)

(signed) *C. P. Rigby, Captain,*
Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

20 August 1858.

M. le Ministre,

Paris, 31 July 1855.

I HAVE been desired by the Earl of Clarendon to bring the enclosed papers under your Excellency's notice. You will perceive that they state that an indirect trade in slaves is carried on under the French flag from ports on the East Coast of Africa to Bourbon.

I had occasion to address to your Excellency's predecessor, both verbally and in writing, more than once upon this subject, and I have now to express the hopes of Her Majesty's Government that your Excellency will have the whole matter carefully inquired into; and, if the facts are found to be as represented, their confident expectation that stringent orders will be issued for putting an end to a state of things which the Government of the Emperor cannot fail to disapprove.

À S. E. M. le Comte Walewski,
&c. &c. &c.

I avail, &c.
(signed) *Cowley.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *C. P. Rigby, Captain,*
Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 4 Octobre 1855.

J'AVAIS appelé l'attention de M. l'Amiral Hamelin sur les détails que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser au sujet d'opérations de traite indirecte de noirs, accomplies sous pavillon Français à la Côte Oueste de Madagascar. J'ai la satisfaction de vous annoncer que le Département de la Marine avait déjà, avant la réception de ma lettre, envoyé des instructions sévères aux Gouverneurs de nos colonies, et que ces instructions ont été elles-mêmes prévenus par les mesures qu'avait prises à cet égard M. le Gouverneur de La Réunion. Cette initiative de M. Hubert Delisle est un sûr garant de la fermeté avec laquelle il saura faire observer les instructions qui lui ont été données par M. le Ministre de la Marine, pour faire cesser toute opération qui aurait pour but la traite indirecte de nègres.

À S. E. Lord Cowley,
&c. &c. &c.

Agréez, &c.
(signé) *A. Walewski.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *C. P. Rigby, Captain,*
Hon. Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

Zanzibar,
20 August 1858.

CORRESPONDENCE ON THE SUBJECT OF

(Slave Trade.—No. 3.)

To the Earl of *Clarendon*, K. G., &c. &c. &c.

My Lord,

Paris, 8 October 1855.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith copies of the correspondence which has passed between myself and Count Walewski relative to the trade in slaves carried on under the French flag between the Island of Bourbon (Réunion) and the East Coast of Africa, and referred to in your Lordship's despatch (S. T., No. 5), of the 29th July.

Count Walewski's note is satisfactory, inasmuch as it admits that the complaints of Her Majesty's Government were well founded. It remains to be seen whether, in consequence of measures taken by the French Government, such complaints will be unnecessary for the future.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Cowley*.

(True copy.)

20 August 1858.

(signed) *C. P. Rigby*, Captain,
Hon. Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

(Slave Trade.—No. 1.)

To Major *Atkins Hamerton*, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 17 October 1855.

WITH reference to my despatch to you (Slave Trade, No. 1, of the 13th of July 1854), I transmit herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch, and of its enclosures, which I have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, by which you will learn that the Governor of the Island of Bourbon has been instructed by the French Government to put a stop to every undertaking having for its object the indirect trade in negroes.

You will communicate the substance of the enclosed despatch to the Imam of Muskat.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Clarendon*.

(True copy.)

Zanzibar,
20 August 1858.

(signed) *C. P. Rigby*, Captain,
Hon. Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

(True copies.)

(signed) *H. L. Anderson*,
Secretary to Government.

(No. 19 of 1858.—Secret Department.)

From Captain *C. P. Rigby*, Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar, to
H. L. Anderson, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,

Zanzibar, 24 August 1858.

As there has been no British consul or agent in the dominions of his Highness the Sultan of Zanzibar since the death of the late Lieutenant-colonel Hamerton on the 5th of July 1857, I beg to report as follows, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, regarding the present state of affairs, and the political results which have ensued consequent

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upon the death of his late Highness the Imaum Sayyid Said, when his dominions were divided between his two sons, the present Sultans of Oman and Zanzibar.

2. On my arrival here on the 27th ultimo, I called on his Highness the Sultan Said Majid, in company with Commander Worsley, commanding the H. C. Corvette "Falkland:" his Highness was residing on board his flag ship the "Shah Alum"; he repeatedly expressed to me the great satisfaction he felt at again having a British resident here, and desired me to write to Government to this effect. Both Commander Worsley and myself were much struck with the expression of anxiety and suffering in his Highness's countenance, and I have since been informed that the intrigues of his next brother Syud Burghash have for some time caused him considerable uneasiness, and that he has latterly been low spirited, and frequently expressed the greatest anxiety for the arrival of an English consul, sending privately to the merchants, on the arrival of any vessel from India or Aden, to ascertain if one was coming, and pointing to the bare flag staff at the English Consulate: he would remark to those near him, "Ah! when shall I again see a flag hoisted there?" Some months ago, when out riding, his Highness was accidentally wounded by one of his attendants discharging his matchlock close to his side; the wadding entered his foot, and has caused him a considerable degree of suffering, and brought on fever.

3. Three or four days after the arrival of the "Falkland," his Highness left his flag ship and returned to his palace on shore; and at a Durbar the following day, when he received the officers of the "Falkland," we were immediately struck with the marked improvement in his Highness's appearance; so pleased and free from anxiety did he appear, that we could scarce recognise him as the same individual. I took the opportunity on this occasion to present to his Highness a letter from Her Majesty, and also one from the Earl of Clareadon, which had arrived some time previous, *via* Aden. The receipt of these letters, the first which he had received from Her Majesty's Government since his accession, caused him great satisfaction, and, added to the arrival of a ship of war from the Indian Government, have caused a feeling of stability and security amongst the inhabitants generally.

4. I have not seen Syud Burghash since my arrival. He has not called or sent me any message of welcome, as the other brothers of his Highness have done. He never attends the Durbar of his Highness, and is spoken of as a morose, discontented man, inimical to Europeans. He has no party in his favour here, but is said to be at the head of a party in Muskat, who hope to dispossess his brother Said Majid, with the aid of the Sooree Arabs, who visit this place in considerable numbers during the north-west monsoon.

5. I am happy to state that all classes here, the European and American merchants, the Indian traders and the Arabs, all bear testimony to the kind and amiable disposition of the present Sultan, his justice and liberal policy; they all consider him a worthy successor to his father. Although he succeeded to the Government so young, he has conciliated all classes, and at present all his dominions enjoy peace and prosperity; and as this port is rapidly becoming the chief emporium of the trade of the east coast of Africa, it is satisfactory that the Government has devolved on so promising a prince.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. P. Rigby, Captain,
Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

Zanzibar,
24 August 1858.

(True copies.)

(signed) H. L. Anderson, Secretary to Government.

(No. 21 of 1858.—Secret Department.)

From Captain *C. P. Rigby*, Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar,
to *H. L. Anderson*, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,

Zanzibar, 13 September 1858.

IN connexion with the slave trade, which is being actively carried on by French vessels along the east coast of Africa, as reported by me in my letter to your address, No. 10 of 1858, dated 15th ultimo, I have the honour to report the following circumstances for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council.

2. About three weeks ago the commander and several of the crew of the French merchant ship "Anna" arrived here in a native boat from the Comoro isles, and reported that they had left the island of Comoro with 400 engaged negroes on board the "Anna;" and that about 18 hours afterwards the negroes armed themselves with billets of firewood and attacked the crew, some of whom were very severely beaten, but no lives were taken. The crew were permitted to lower the boats and escape in them. They state that shortly afterwards a heavy squall came on, and they lost sight of the vessel. The boats succeeded in reaching the Comoro isles, when some of them came here to report the circumstances.

3. Information has since been received by his Highness the Sultan Said Majid that the vessel was run aground near the River Lindy, situated in about 10 degrees south latitude, and the slaves on board all made their escape into the country. The governor, on the part of his Highness at Lindy, has taken charge of the vessel, and persons have been sent from here to navigate it to this port for delivery to the former commander.

4. So great a demand for slaves has been created by the French all along the coast to the south of the island of Zanzibar, that the price of them has lately almost doubled; and from conversations with Arabs here, I have ascertained that slaves are now taken long distances by land from the opposite main land of Africa to the ports situated to the south of the island of Monfea, in order to supply the French demand; also, that very few able-bodied slaves of either sex are now brought to Zanzibar for sale, as they are all taken south to supply this new market.

5. From information I have received here on this subject, I beg respectfully to express my conviction that unless a speedy stop be put to this new demand for slaves for exportation to the French colonies, it will completely ruin all legitimate trade on the east coast of Africa; the tribes will find slave-hunting so profitable, that all other trade will be neglected. I have no doubt that already the news has travelled far over the interior that the white man is now the best customer to the slave dealer; that he pays a good price in ready money, and that, in consequence, many tribes which have hitherto brought ivory, guns, hides, &c., to the coast for sale, are now engaged in hunting and kidnapping their neighbours to sell to French ships, or to their native agents.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. P. Rigby*, Captain,
Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

Zanzibar, 13 September 1858.

(True copies.)

(signed) *H. L. Anderson*,
Secretary to Government.

THE SLAVE TRADE AT ZANZIBAR.

13

(No. 25 of 1858.—Secret Department.)

From Captain *C. P. Rigby*, Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar, to
H. L. Anderson, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,

Zanzibar, 21 September 1858.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, the accompanying translation of an Arabic letter, addressed by one of the principal merchants of the island of La Réunion to his Highness the Sultan Said Majid, in the month of April last year, as it affords a further proof of the undisguised slave trade the French inhabitants of that island are pursuing on the east coast of Africa.

2. The writer of the letter (Monsieur Runtoné or Rantonay) was for some time agent for his late Highness the Imam of Muscat, at the island of La Réunion.

3. A few days ago, whilst conversing with his Highness the Sultan Said Majid, regarding this slave trade, he alluded to the letters he had received on the subject from La Réunion, and sent me this letter as an example of what the French wished him to comply with.

Zanzibar,
21 September 1858.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. P. Rigby*, Captain,
Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

(Translation.)

To his Highness Said Majid, Sultan of Zanzibar. After compliments.

I WAS much grieved to hear of the death of your Highness' father, the Imam of Muscat, which took place on the passage from Muscat to Zanzibar, after having arranged the affairs of Muscat and its neighbourhood, and giving tranquillity to those countries. I was anxiously awaiting his arrival in Zanzibar, for I was desirous of writing to him on various subjects. I wished to advise him to be supreme in his own territories, and give permission for the shipment of slaves, so that they might labour for wages in any country, and that if the English Consul should oppose this, that his Highness should insist. And after the death of his Highness I was unable to write this; and now if I were certain that permission is granted, I should wish that you would send me some slaves, young and strong, to labour in our colonies; and if this can be arranged, send the answer in the ship which conveys this letter to you, viz., the ship named * , and inform me whether I shall send my ship to your country to convey slaves or not. I will sell them, or they shall remain with me; and I have a ship named the "Paikur," a fast sailer, which can always perform the passage quickly between this and your Highness' country, and we shall make a profit, as it will perform voyages with speed; and this profit shall be divided equally between me and your Highness; the profit and the loss we will share equally; this is what I desired for your Highness' father; and the price of the slaves which you send me we will divide equally, after reckoning for the expenses of shipping, passage, &c.; the profit shall be equally divided between us; and let the slaves which you send be young, strong, and let it be a stipulation that for every 90 male slaves, there shall be 10 female slaves, small, of ages from 14 to 16 years. And I am confident that all slaves which your Highness conveys to me in your name, the Governor of Bourbon will permit to land, and will be pleased at it, for the Governor wrote to your Highness' father, and made him acquainted (with his wishes), and I did so also.

* Illegible in the Arabic letter.

And do not pay attention to the words of the English consul in all what he says to you; do all that you see is good for your country and condition; for the English consul is dwelling in your country solely for his own affairs; he has by no means anything to do with your affairs; for the English would wish to manufacture sugar in their colonies, in Europe and in India, and sell it to foreign countries, and would desire that other countries should not manufacture any sugar. And the French Government has given permission to all the Governors of their colonies to purchase slaves and to set them free; for the

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Government of France desires the happiness of all mankind, so that people should convey slaves to Bourbon to be taught labour, in order that they may become wise and clever.

And you will receive an account for 1,025 Spanish dollars and 83 centimes for the expenses of the ship named "The Sooliman." I received charge of the ship from Monsieur Bella and Monsieur Desbussé; they have caused a great loss with this ship; and as Mahommed bin Hamees had no money, I paid all the expenses, and have provided the ship with all necessaries requisite until she reaches you; and I wish you to give me a bill of exchange for the above, at the rate of 11 German crowns for 10 Spanish dollars, and send it to me by the captain of this ship; and I wish the same friendship to continue between your Highness and myself as existed between your Highness' father and myself. And I wish to send my ships to your Highness' ports, and that your Highness should load them with sesamum seeds, which I will convey to Marseilles, for I have a house of business in Marseilles, and I wish that we should share the profits; and I tell you this to induce your Highness not to send your ships to other ports or countries as your father used to do. Pray write to me, in order that I may know you entertain for me the same friendly sentiments your father did.

Written from Monsieur Runtoné, dated the 8th of Shahban, 1273 Hijra, corresponding to 4th April 1857, A. D.

(True translation.)

(signed) *C. P. Rigby*, Captain,
Honourable Company's Agent, Zanzibar.

Zanzibar, 21 September 1858.

(True copies.)

(signed) *H. L. Anderson*,
Secretary to Government.

SLAVE TRADE (ZANZIBAR).

COPIES OF EXTRACTS OF THE LETTERS OF THE Government of Bombay to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, or the Court of Directors, forwarding Letters written in August and September 1858, by Captain *Rigby*, the Company's Agent at Zanzibar, on the subject of the SLAVE TRADE at Zanzibar and along the *Mozambique Coast*.

(*Mr. Kinward.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
7 March 1859.

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Under 3 os.