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PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

OCCUPATION OF LAGOS.

Presented to the House of Lords by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

LONDON :
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

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Papers relating to the Occupation of Lagos.

No. 1.

Treaty with the King and Chiefs of Lagos, signed January 1, 1852.

COMMODORE HENRY WILLIAM BRUCE, Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's ships and vessels on the West Coast of Africa, and John Beecroft, Esquire, Her Majesty's Consul in the Bights of Benin and Biafra, on the part of Her Majesty the Queen of England, and the King and Chief of Lagos and of the neighbourhood, on the part of themselves and of their country, have agreed upon the following Articles and Conditions :—

ARTICLE I.

The export of slaves to foreign countries is for ever abolished in the territories of the King and Chiefs of Lagos; and the King and Chiefs of Lagos engage to make and to proclaim a law prohibiting any of their subjects, or any person within their jurisdiction, from selling or assisting in the sale of any slave for transportation to a foreign country; and the King and Chiefs of Lagos promise to inflict a severe punishment on any person who shall break this law.

ARTICLE II.

No European or other person whatever shall be permitted to reside within the territory of the King and Chiefs of Lagos for the purpose of carrying on in any way the Traffic in Slaves; and no houses, or stores, or buildings of any kind whatever shall be erected for the purpose of Slave Trade within the territory of the King and Chiefs of Lagos; and if any such houses, stores, or buildings shall at any future time be erected, and the King and Chiefs of Lagos shall fail or be unable to destroy them, they may be destroyed by any British officers employed for the suppression of Slave Trade.

ARTICLE III.

If at any time it shall appear that Slave Trade has been carried on through or from the territory of the King and Chiefs of Lagos, the Slave Trade may be put down by Great Britain by force upon that territory, and British officers may seize the boats of Lagos found anywhere carrying on the Slave Trade; and the King and Chiefs of Lagos will be subject to a severe act of displeasure on the part of the Queen of England.

ARTICLE IV.

The slaves now held for exportation shall be delivered to any British officer duly authorized to receive them, for the purpose of being carried to a British Colony, and there liberated; and all the implements of Slave Trade, and the barracoons or buildings exclusively used in the Slave Trade, shall be forthwith destroyed.

ARTICLE V.

Europeans or other persons now engaged in the Slave Trade are to be expelled the country; the houses, stores, or buildings hitherto employed as slave-factories, if not converted to lawful purposes within three months of the conclusion of this Engagement, are to be destroyed.

ARTICLE VI.

The subjects of the Queen of England may always trade freely with the people of Lagos in every article they wish to buy and sell in all the places, and ports, and rivers

within the territories of the King and Chiefs of Lagos, and throughout the whole of their dominions; and the King and Chiefs of Lagos pledge themselves to show no favour and give no privilege to the ships and traders of other countries which they do not show to those of England.

ARTICLE VII.

The King and Chiefs of Lagos declare that no human beings shall at any time be sacrificed within their territories on account of religious or other ceremonies; and that they will prevent the barbarous practice of murdering prisoners captured in war.

ARTICLE VIII.

Complete protection shall be afforded to Missionaries or Ministers of the Gospel, of whatever nation or country, following their vocation of spreading the knowledge and doctrines of Christianity, and extending the benefits of civilization within the territory of the King and Chiefs of Lagos.

Encouragement shall be given to such Missionaries or Ministers in the pursuits of industry, in building houses for their residence, and schools and chapels. They shall not be hindered or molested in their endeavours to teach the doctrines of Christianity to all persons willing and desirous to be taught; nor shall any subjects of the King and Chiefs of Lagos who may embrace the Christian faith, be, on that account, or on account of the teaching or exercise thereof, molested or troubled in any manner whatsoever.

The King and Chiefs of Lagos further agree to set apart a piece of land, within a convenient distance of the principal towns, to be used as a burial-ground for Christian persons. And the funerals and the sepulchres of the dead shall not be disturbed in any way or upon any account.

ARTICLE IX.

Power is hereby expressly reserved to the Government of France to become a party to this Treaty, if it shall think fit, agreeably with the provisions contained in Article V of the Convention between Her Majesty and the King of the French for the suppression of the Traffic in Slaves, signed at London, May 22, 1845.

In faith of which we have hereunto set our hands and seals, at Lagos, on board Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Penelope," 1st January, 1852.

(L.S.)	H. W. BRUCE.
(L.S.)	JOHN BEECROFT.
(L.S.)	KING AKITOYE.
(L.S.)	ATCHOBOO.
(L.S.)	KOSAE.

No. 2.

Agreement with the King and Chiefs of Lagos, signed February 28, 1852.

Engagement between King Akitoye and his Chiefs, and British and other European Merchants trading at Lagos.

WHEREAS, at a conference held between Akitoye, King of Lagos, and his Chiefs, and the merchants and supercargoes of all the ships in the roads, it was deemed expedient, for the effectual protection of trade, to form a mutual agreement, and the following Articles were considered by all parties to be equitable:—

ARTICLE I.

That the King and Chiefs of Lagos pledge themselves that no trader shall be detained on shore, or maltreated in any way, under any pretence whatever.

ARTICLE II.

The custom to be established is to consist of a tax of 3 per cent. on imports and 2 per cent. on exports.

ARTICLE III.

That the King shall allow the traders to erect cask and store-houses on the eastern point entering the river, and as far as the passage which divides Lagos from it; and that

he shall also establish a Custom-house on the point, in a convenient situation, and appoint an officer to superintend the landing and shipping of any goods, and that he shall enact a law against any houses, &c., being erected by the natives near the before-mentioned store-houses, to prevent the possibility of fire or theft.

ARTICLE IV.

That in the event of the King or any of the Chiefs making any agreement to take goods from a ship at a certain rate, such agreement shall be binding to all parties.

ARTICLE V.

That any ship having paid, or tendered for payment, the usual custom to the person authorized to receive it, and being obliged to collect her cargo on different parts of the coast, she is, should she be absent more than three months, to pay a new custom.

ARTICLE VI.

That any vessel arriving for the purpose of trade, the supercargo, master, or consignee, on payment or tendering for payment the usual custom to the person authorized to receive it, and paying his respects to the King, provided he is not prevented by sickness from complying with the latter part of this Article, shall be allowed to commence trade and proceed without molestation.

ARTICLE VII.

That after the established tax has been paid, no person shall be allowed to impose any other tax or custom, but the party to trade in his own name, with any person or persons.

ARTICLE VIII.

That if at any time the person collecting the cargo can prove that his trade has been stopped, the King shall be held responsible for such stoppage, and pay 120 gallons of oil for every 100 tons register of the ship, for each day of the stoppage, to the ships for demurrage; the said oil to be paid within seven days after such stoppage, and to continue as long as the trade shall be stopped.

ARTICLE IX.

Should any native take any trust from traders and be unable to pay the debt, his house and property to be sold by the King, the proceeds of the sale to go towards the liquidation of the debt, and he shall no longer be allowed to trade; any persons trading with him after his name has been published, shall be liable to a fine of 1,000 gallons of oil. After the debtor has paid the debt, he can again trade.

ARTICLE X.

That the merchants settling at Lagos shall be allowed to choose their place of residence.

ARTICLE XI.

That a breach of any Article of this Agreement shall be decided upon by a Committee, as explained in the following Article, and a fine inflicted according to their judgment; the fine to be paid to the injured person.

ARTICLE XII.

That in case of any misunderstanding between the King and Chiefs and traders, it is to be settled by the party appearing before the King, and that two disinterested parties on each side shall decide upon the matter; and if a majority cannot be obtained, the King is to give a casting vote; but should the King be an interested party, a person shall be elected by the other four to give the casting vote, and their decision shall be final.

ARTICLE XIII.

It is to be understood that packs of shakes are not to be subjected to per-centage, unless landed for the purpose of sale.

ARTICLE XIV.

That a copy of this Agreement shall be delivered to the person having charge of the Custom-house, and he shall be instructed to show it to all persons entering the river for the purpose of trade.

Dated at Lagos, 28th February, 1852.

Upon further consideration the two following Articles were added :—

ARTICLE I.

That no person arriving for the purpose of trade shall be compelled to receive or provide for any persons they may consider as unnecessary to their trade.

ARTICLE II.

That the whole of this Agreement shall be publicly made known to the inhabitants of Lagos, by the proper person.

Dated at Lagos, February 28, 1862.

(Signed)

AMADIE, *Austrian Merchant.*

W. DUGGAN, *English Merchant.*

FURRA, *Portuguese Merchant.*

W. SILLIS, *English Merchant.*

G. F. OITZMANN, *Supercargo and Captain of the Hambro ship "Tombola."*

KING AKITOYE.

AHGENIA.

APPELLU.

AXOBOM.

SUENAN.

Signed in my presence, at the King's House, at Lagos, February 28, 1852.

(Signed)

NORMAN B. BEDINGFELD, *Lieut.-Com., H.M.S. "Jackal."*

No. 3.

Consul Brand to Lord J. Russell.—(Received May 14.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, April 9, 1860.

THERE is a measure which, if adopted, would tend to put an end to the Slave Trade, and increase the legal commerce and industrial prosperity of this line of coast to an unlimited extent, the occupation of Lagos, either as a Possession, or by way of Protectorate.

Lagos, from being a haunt of piratical slave-dealers in 1851, has, from its geographical position, and the great resources of the countries adjoining, of which it is the natural outlet, become the seat of a most important and increasing legal trade. The value of the exports, even during the past year, by no means a favourable one, is nearly 250,000l. sterling, as seen by the Report which I have had the honour to transmit to your Lordship.

This place is the natural entrepôt of an immense country abounding in unlimited resources; and it is also the natural basis of operations for extending the blessings of industry, commerce, and Christian civilization to this portion of Central Africa, but it can never fully serve these great purposes under the Native Government. The increase of trade, of civilized ideas, and European interests and habits, demand that there should be such an administration of government as to give an efficient protection to property.

The progress of the place in importance must be arrested unless some provision be made for this purpose. Every increase of European civilization, in fact, every increase of the elements of prosperity, only at present makes matters worse by rendering the Government of the King and Chiefs, who are averse to all progress, and dislike whatever is different from what prevailed among their ancestors, more contemptible and intolerable; whilst in the civilized portion of the community the jealousy of sections is so great, that no practical system of administration could be framed unless presided over by a governing

head, possessed of sufficient authority to keep the discordant elements of society together. Lagos, at present, may be said to have no Government; there is no effective protection to property, no mode of enforcing the payment of debts applicable to Europeans; and the wonder is that in such a state of things there are so few disturbances.

The presence of the "Brune," inefficiently manned as she is by twenty-five kroomen, if not a source of security, is at least the symbol of protection; and I believe the removal of that vessel would, at present, be viewed as an invitation to internal disorder and external assault.

Fortifications have been spoken of, and such works could easily be raised, and at little expense, but they would be of no use unless placed under civilized command. The Native Government could turn them to no account, and would only allow them to fall into ruin, whilst, from the cause already stated, no armed force could be raised through the aid of the civilized portion of the community, without an independent governing authority whom the various jealous sections might respect.

Again, this Consulate exercises at present a feeble, irregular, and irresponsible jurisdiction over a variety of judicial, police, and even administrative matters, which have gradually been pressed within the range of its action, which occupy nearly the whole of the Consular Officer's time, but which have no relation whatever to a Consul's ordinary duties.

This jurisdiction has been acquiesced in by the various sections as matter of necessity, knowing that the Consulate is the only place where their cases will be heard with impartiality; but, in a large and increasing commercial community, there are questions of great importance affecting trade and property frequently arising, which the Consul has not the means, even if he had the authority, of dealing with in a satisfactory manner.

To do justice to this place, therefore, and to put it in a position to become what it seems by Nature intended to be in relation to this portion of Central Africa, it appears to me requisite that something should be done without delay in the way I have indicated; and I believe such a measure would be hailed with delight by the people here; and, by ensuring protection to property, and a regular administration of justice, it would give a great impulse to the prosperity of Lagos and the adjoining country.

No. 4.

Lord J. Russell to Consul Foote.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, June 22, 1861.

IN a former despatch I informed you that the question as to whether the Island of Lagos should be taken possession of as a British Dependency was still under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and I have now to inform you that this question has been decided in the affirmative.

It is not without some reluctance that Her Majesty's Government have determined, by the occupation of Lagos, to extend the number of British Dependencies on the African coast; but they have been induced to come to this determination because they are convinced that the permanent occupation of this important point in the Bight of Benin is indispensable to the complete suppression of the Slave Trade in the Bight, whilst it will give great aid and support to the development of lawful commerce, and will check the aggressive spirit of the King of Dahomey, whose barbarous wars, and encouragement to slave-trading, are the chief cause of disorder in that part of Africa.

But in carrying this determination into effect, there are several questions of importance which require consideration.

Her Majesty's Government would be most unwilling that the establishment of British sovereignty at Lagos should be attended with any injustice to Docemo, the present Chief of the island; but they conceive that as his tenure of the island in point of fact depends entirely upon the continuance of the protection which has been afforded to him and his predecessor by the British naval authorities since the expulsion of Kosoko, no injustice will be inflicted upon him by changing this anomalous protectorate into an avowed occupation, provided his material interests are secured.

It will be right, therefore, to assign him an adequate pension to be paid out of the revenue of the island, unless it should be advisable to continue him in some situation or employment under the British officer who may be appointed to administer the affairs of the island, in which case the remuneration for his services may be a sufficient provision for him without a special compensation.

If you should think it advisable at once to take temporary possession of Lagos pending

the final arrangements, you are authorized to do so; but you will carefully explain to King Docemo the motives that have induced Her Majesty's Government to take this step. You will inform him that Her Majesty's Government are not actuated by any dissatisfaction with his conduct, but that, on the contrary, they have every wish to deal with him in a liberal and friendly spirit; and that their object in taking this step is to secure for ever the free population of Lagos from the slave-traders and kidnappers who formerly oppressed them; to protect and develop the important trade of which their town is the seat, and to exercise an influence on the surrounding tribes which may, it is to be hoped, be permanently beneficial to the African race.

You will not take any steps for establishing British sovereignty until you have concerted with the Commodore in command of Her Majesty's naval forces on the African station, or with the senior officer of the Bights Division, as to the measures which may be necessary on the occasion, and it will be well that, previously to taking possession, you should obtain from King Docemo and his head men, a Treaty of Cession, duly signed and executed.

But whether you deem it advisable at once to take possession of Lagos, or to defer this step until after you have communicated further with Her Majesty's Government on the subject, you will in either case report to me fully your opinion as to the amount and nature of the compensation to be awarded to Docemo, which you will not positively fix until you have obtained the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, the arrangements which you would propose for administering the government of the island, the probable expenditure, and the amount of revenue which may be raised to meet that expenditure, and, generally, as to the effect which the change of Sovereignty may be expected to produce on the state of affairs in the island.

You will, moreover, report, after consultation with the senior naval officer on the station, as to the amount of force which will be required for the maintenance of British authority on the island, and for the protection of the place from attacks on the part of the neighbouring Chiefs.

You will bear in mind, however, that it will be the policy of Her Majesty's Government strictly to avoid all aggression upon the surrounding Chiefs, and that it is on every account desirable to keep the expedition for this purpose within the narrowest limits compatible with the safety of the place.

I have requested the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to whom I have transmitted copy of this despatch, to issue instructions in conformity therewith to the officer commanding Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa.

No. 5.

Acting Consul Mc Coskry to Lord J. Russell.—(Received July 11.)

My Lord,

Lagos, June 7, 1861.

I DEEM the establishment of a Consular guard here of so much importance that I take the liberty of calling your Lordship's attention to the subject.

The progress of Lagos in civilization is much too fast to please the Native Chiefs who pay allegiance to Docemo; they cannot compete either in mercantile or agricultural pursuits with the emigrants from Sierra Leone, Brazil, and Cuba, and the consequence is they go back to their old predatory habits, and the King is unable to control them. At present a native accused of theft, robbery, or any other offence, seeks the protection of one of the Chiefs, and refuses to face his accusers, and were the King to send men to arrest him they would be sure to commit excesses either by maltreating the person or plundering his house, and this would lead to serious disturbances, perhaps to civil war. On the other hand, were a few men of a Consular Guard accompanied by a messenger from the King and Consul sent to arrest any man, even a Chief, I am certain he would submit quietly; they already know that at least they will be treated fairly at the Consulate, and if acquitted they are free, and incur no expense. Any one, however, who renders necessary the services of the King's people, if even for his own arrest, has to pay dearly for them. With such a state of things the numerous applications at the Consulate by all classes of the population for the settlement of differences and disputes of all kinds are to be expected, and it is only when we have to call upon the King to carry out the decisions that any difficulty is experienced: this a Consular guard would obviate.

On many occasions when the Consul is absent on duty, the "Brune" may also be absent; such a time is the most likely to be seized upon for any attack on Lagos, and then

a guard at the Consulate would be most useful: they would serve to give confidence to the inhabitants and maintain order.

In all circumstances that may occur to occasion any extraordinary risk to life and property, the Consulate is the place where the best protection is expected, and which a guard can only enable it effectually to give.

I do not say that there are at present any prospects of danger in Lagos, but there are, and will be for years to come, the elements of strife between the emigrants and the aboriginal population, and it will take good management to prevent any outbreak till the fusion be complete.

The guard need not be numerous, but they ought to be good men; 30 men would be sufficient: they could be readily increased, if thought necessary, by enlisting some of the numerous runaway slaves from Whydah and neighbourhood, many of them well formed and intelligent men, who would be satisfied with less than the usual pay.

There will be no objections on the part of the King here to the establishment of the guard; on the contrary, he will be well pleased, and so will all the mercantile and industrious community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. Mc COSKRY.

No. 6.

Acting Consul Mc Coskry to Lord J. Russell.—(Received September 10.)

My Lord,

Lagos, August 7, 1861.

REFERRING to your despatch of the 22nd of June last, informing me that Her Majesty's Government had decided upon taking possession of the Island of Lagos, having, on the first opportunity, communicated the purport of your despatch to Commander N. B. Bedingfeld, Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," the Senior Officer of the Bights Division, that officer, with great promptness, brought his vessel into the river.

At a conference held on board the "Prometheus," on the 30th ultimo, we opened the subject to King Docemo, explaining to him fully the intentions of the Government in changing the anomalous protectorate into an avowed occupation; he had no arguments of any weight to urge against the proposition, and as his Chiefs were not admitted, he promised to lay the matter before them, and give his answer on the 1st August.

In the meantime we sounded the European residents and the Sierra Leone emigrants, and, with a few exceptions amongst the last, found them favourable to our views; most of them have had reason to complain of the want of protection to property under the rule of Docemo, and every year things are becoming worse instead of better. No redress of grievances could be got without bribing the people about the King's person, and no natives were admitted to his presence without paying, unless with the Consular messenger.

On the 1st of August Commander Bedingfeld and I went to the King to hear his answer; but we saw at once, on entering, that the party opposing the cession had succeeded in getting the King to refuse, which he did, on the ground that as the Treaty of Cession had been drawn up here, he did not believe Her Majesty's Government had issued the instruction upon which we were acting. Having endeavoured to satisfy him on this point we took our leave.

They then tried to intimidate us by threats, but as Commander Bedingfeld had taken measures to put down any disturbances, none occurred. We, however, thought it right, considering the aspect the affair had assumed, to inform Docemo that if before the 6th instant he had not made up his mind, we should take formal possession of the island in the name of Her Majesty, and await further instructions. There were at first threats of opposing this by force, but the precaution that had been taken, and, above all, the presence of an imposing vessel like the "Prometheus" in the river, kept all quiet. Docemo, seeing how matters went, and having himself ascertained the feeling of the European residents, called another meeting at his house, at which he requested all the Europeans and immigrants to be present to hear the proposals of the Government explained. At this time there was great excitement, but owing to the admirable arrangements that had been made, no disturbance took place, and the meeting ended satisfactorily, the second and third Articles having been added to the Treaty to satisfy the King. It was then arranged that he and his Chiefs should, next day, come to the Consulate and sign the Treaty, and be present at the ceremony of taking possession.

Yesterday an immense crowd had collected about the Consulate to witness the proceedings, and at 1 P.M. the King landed under a salute of seven guns from the

"Prometheus," anchored close by. After signing the Treaty, with four of his principal Chiefs, they were conducted to the flag-staff that had been erected outside; the Proclamation inclosed was read, and the British flag unfurled, and saluted with twenty-one guns; the National Anthem sung by a band of children from the Missionary Schools, led by Revs. Messrs. Maser, Macauley, and Sharpe; and concluded with dinner on board the "Prometheus," to which Docemo, some of his principal men, and nearly all the Europeans in the place, were invited.

I herewith transmit the Treaty of Cession, and I hope your Lordship will approve of what has been done.

The benefit to the country, and its influence on this part of Africa, will be immense; but it would not have been effected without some demonstration, as there are many about the King's person to whom the change is hateful. I am greatly indebted to the Senior Officer for his tact and judgment in assisting me in this matter; and I do not believe we should have succeeded so easily but for the presence in the river of the "Prometheus," or some similar vessel.

Your Lordship will observe that if the matter has been carried apparently somewhat against the will of Docemo, this was forced upon us by the conduct of his people; as, had we receded, they would have been convinced I was acting without authority, and would have conducted themselves accordingly; and this would not only have affected me, but nearly all the European community, they having supported me throughout. Considering this, and also the ultimate result to which we may reasonably look forward, I await with some confidence your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. Mc COSKRY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Treaty between Norman B. Bedingfeld, Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," and Senior Officer of the Bights Division, and William McCoskry, Esquire, Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul, on the part of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, and Docemo, King of Lagos, on the part of himself and Chiefs.

ARTICLE I.

IN order that the Queen of England may be the better enabled to assist, defend, and protect the inhabitants of Lagos, and to put an end to the Slave Trade in this and the neighbouring countries, and to prevent the destructive wars so frequently undertaken by Dahomey and others for the capture of slaves, I, Docemo, do, with the consent and advice of my Council, give, transfer, and by these presents grant and confirm unto the Queen of Great Britain, her heirs and successors for ever, the port and Island of Lagos, with all the rights, profits, territories, and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging, and as well the profits and revenue as the direct, full, and absolute dominion and sovereignty of the said port, island, and premises, with all the royalties thereof, freely, fully, entirely, and absolutely. I do also covenant and grant that the quiet and peaceable possession thereof shall, with all possible speed, be freely and effectually delivered to the Queen of Great Britain, or such person as Her Majesty shall thereunto appoint for her use in the performance of this grant; the inhabitants of the said island and territories, as the Queen's subjects, and under her sovereignty, Crown, jurisdiction, and government, being still suffered to live there.

ARTICLE II.

Docemo will be allowed the use of the title of King in its usual African signification, and will be permitted to decide disputes between natives of Lagos with their consent, subject to appeal to British laws.

ARTICLE III.

In the transfer of lands, the stamp of Docemo affixed to the document will be proofs that there are no other native claims upon it, and for this purpose he will be permitted to use it as hitherto.

In consideration of the cession as before-mentioned of the port and island and territories of Lagos, the Representatives of the Queen of Great Britain do promise, subject to the approval of Her Majesty, that Docemo shall receive an annual pension from the

Queen of Great Britain equal to the net revenue hitherto annually received by him ; such pension to be paid at such periods and in such mode as may hereafter be determined.
Lagos, August 6, 1861.

(Signed) DOCEMO ^{his} X.
 mark.
 TELAKE ^{his} X.
 mark.
 ROCAMENA ^{his} X.
 mark.
 OBALEKOW ^{his} X.
 mark.
 ACHEBONG ^{his} X.
 mark.
 NORMAN B. BEDINGFELD, *Her Majesty's ship*
"Prometheus," Senior Officer, Bights Division.
 W. Mc COSKRY, *Acting Consul.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Proclamation.

DOCEMO, King of Lagos, having ceded the sovereignty of Lagos to the Queen of Great Britain, her heirs and successors for ever, we, Norman B. Bedingfeld, Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," and senior officer of the Bights Division; and William Mc Coskry, Esquire, Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul, do this day formally take possession in the name of Her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

God save the Queen!

British Consulate, Lagos, August 6, 1861.

No. 7.

The Rev. H. Venn to Earl Russell.—(Received September 20.)

Church Missionary House, Salisbury Square,
September 20, 1861.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship three envelopes, which bear the seal of the King of Lagos, in West Africa, and have been sent to me, to be laid before your Lordship.

They have been sent by one of the native merchants of Lagos, Mr. J. P. L. Davies, who was employed by the King to negotiate with Commander Bedingfeld, and the Acting Consul, respecting the cession of Lagos to Her Majesty.

I have been long acquainted with Mr. Davies, and he has visited this country. He has furnished me with various documents from the King of Lagos to himself, which sufficiently prove that he has been authorized by the King of Lagos to forward these letters to Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) HENRY VENN,
Secretary to the Church Missionary Society.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

*The Chiefs of Lagos to Her Majesty Queen Victoria.**

Madam,

Onikoye Street, Lagos, August 8, 1861.

WE, the undersigned Chiefs of the Island of Lagos, in mercy beg to write this as a compliment to Her Majesty's Queen of Great Britain.

* This and the following Inclosures are printed *literatim*.

We have heard and have been eye-witnesses of many undertakens, and by that do prove that the Queen of Great Britain is such a merciful Queen, not to be compared to any Queen or Kings of the earth, save to the Supreme Being.

In this one great undertaken we fully observ'd, first by not knowing we poor black Africans, we that savagely caught ourselves, and dispose to the slave-dealers. But through the compassion of Great Britain Queen, steam ships of war are send throughout the seas, to seize such vessels that should be found taken away slaves from Africa. The seizure of such slave-vessels many times have been made, and the slaves of which we have heard taken to British Colony, kept for some times there, only to learn wisdom; and after this they are brought to their native lands through the Queen's expenses, and here they welcome their long-lost families with joy and great mirth.

This we observe, and we all do pray that the blessing of the Almighty God may pour down abundantly upon Great Britain Queen.

The good actions of Her Majesty's Queen our late King Akitoye observe, and which led him then to cry unto the Queen for assistance when he was expelled from Lagos.

Our late King's complaint have been in the ears of Her Majesty's Queen, and after deep search into the matter have been made, it is reported that our late King have been found in the right, and that he has been driven out by the exiled Prince Kosoko.

Seeing that our late King Akitoye's case have been found to be perfect before Her Britannic Majesty's Queen, and through the compassion of Her Majesty our late King was brought to his native land, and the throne was taken from Prince Kosoko, and on the same our late King was placed by the command of the Queen, from the mouth of Her Majesty's Representative, the late Consul, J. Becroft.

The whole town of Lagos was delivered to our late King, together with the Laws and Reggulations of Her Majesty, and to this we his Cheifs have been witnesses. Till his death not one of this laws is transgressed.

After his death the late Consul, B. Campbell, who is then the Queen's Representative, took the late King's son, Prince Docemo, and set him on the throne of his father, with the command to take possession of his father's properties. Moreover, B. Campbell delivered to the new King the Laws and Reggulations which his father in his lifetime had signed with the Queen of Great Britain.

We humble beg to state that our present King Docemo have not offended against one of the least Laws or Reggulations of Her Majesty's Queen of Great Britain.

But we sympathize to say that we saw Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus" unexpectedly run in the Lagoon, and anchored, on the 25th of July. But on the 28th instant the Commander, Norman B. Bedingfeld, accompanied by William Mc Coskry, Acting Consul, came to our King, and desired his presence on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus" the day following. We also learn from our King that he is commanded by the said Commander that we not to come with us on board; but to this the King disagree.

The next day arrive: our King went on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," and a secret was revealed to him by the Commander, which secret was that our King should give up the Island of Lagos, with all its rights, territories, &c.

To this our King would not agree. His reply was, that he will not give up the Island of Lagos; so there was no decision on the matter till the return of the King.

On the 3rd August the said Commander, N. B. Bedingfeld, accompanied by William Mc Coskry, Esq., with two brass-gun boats, and lots of well-armed marines, came over to our King, and commanded him to sign the paper, in which was drawn the following words—To give up the Island of Lagos, &c.

This paper our King would not sign, and moreover asked for permission for some time for to inform Her Majesty's Government; and this the Commander would not allow; so the King inform the Commander thus—If the white merchants or emigrants has any affairs between themselves, I do agree that it should be settled by themselves.

To this replied the Commander, If our King will be able to sign what he has before said of the merchants, he may show his presence at the British Consulate to-morrow, the 4th instant, at the hour of 11.

Such being the case, that our King went over to the Consulate the next day. But instead of what our King has told the Commander previous that he would sign, there is more words drawn together with it, and to that our King do not give consent. But Commander Bedingfeld impose on the King to sign it. So the King replied that he will not sign a paper to which he is not agreed with the contents. Then said Commander Bedingfeld to the King, if you do not sign this paper, I will brake down Lagos.

Previous to this, men, women, and children are getting into canoes, fleeing away for their lives. To prevent the Commander from firing into the town, our King sign the paper,

and inform'd that he will write to inform Her Britannic Majesty's Queen of the whole matter, how that it was through compulsion he was made to sign the Treaty.

We, as the Cheifs of Lagos under King Docemo, take this upon ourselves to cry unto Great Britain Queen for our King Docemo. Seeing that we are enemies to all the interior Kings and Cheifs from the date that the late King Akitoye has fallen into covenant with the Queen of Great Britain, and from the time that the Treaty of the suppression of the Slave Trade is signed. This the interior Cheifs greatly abhor, and for that purpose will not agree with the people of Lagos, seeing that have no more place to dispose their slaves. But we the people of Lagos cares nothing about them so long as Britain is our backstay.

But as the English have turned their backs towards us, we are shamefully fallen down before our enemies the slave-dealers. This induces us to cry so humbly unto Her Majesty's Queen that we are fallen down before our enemies, together with our King and people.

We therefore, in the name of the Almighty the Supreme Being, Ruler of the Universe, beg Her Britannic Majesty's Queen to raise us up, and let Her Majesty's praises be heard throughout the whole African lands.

We the Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) ONIKOYI ^{his} ✕ _{mark.}
(And 24 others.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

King Docemo to Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Madam,

King's Palace, Lagos, August 8, 1861.

THE King Docemo, of Lagos, do send this, a sort of compliment to Her Majesty Queen of Great Britain.

The Queen of Great Britain, as I observe, have done, and are still doing, much for we poor black Africans, the thanks of which we are not able to return to the Queen of Great Britain.

Moreover, the goodness that the Queen has shown to my father is an unexpressable one.

That by bringing him home, and replace him on his father's throne, and gave him back his former lands, with all the rights thereof, &c.

The rule, reggulations, of the Queen of England were delievered to him, in which part was found that "the successions to be secured to his heirs males." In obedience to which I have been placed on the Throne, after my father's death, by the late Consul B. Campbell.

The rules, reggulations, between Her Majesty's Queen and my late father Akitoye were delievered to me, and I am still guided by them.

But unexpectedly Commander N. B. Beddingfeld, Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," ran down in the lagoon on the 25th July.

But on the 28th instant, the said Commander, accompanied by Wm. Mc Coskry, Esq., the Acting Consul, to my Palace, and requested me to call on him the next day on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," on a very strict command that I am not to come on board with my Cheifs, neither captains. I rejected this advice of the Commander, and at last both of us come to a term that, that if I should come with them at all, I must leave them behind me; the Commander speaks, moreover, that it is because he has a secret to tell me.

Such being the case, that I made ready myself on the 29th, with my Cheifs, and went on board the said "Prometheus," where I was informed, by the said Commander Norman B. Beddingfeld, to sign a Treaty, the which I have not heard nothing of previous, neither seen; but all at once I am commanded to sign it. I inquired of the contents, and am informed that the Treaty contains "the given up of Lagos to Her Majesty's Queen, with all its rights, territories," &c. This I reject the signing off.

Seeing I have a strong faith on Her Majesty's Queen, that had Lagos being wanted the Queen might not have taken it, and given it to my father. This induces me to reject the signing of the paper.

As men, women, children, and youths, were in great disturbances of the annoyances that Commander Beddingfeld is preparing to fire in the town, simply because I refuse to sign the paper he brought me.

This annoyances on the town leads me to sent to Commander Bedingfeld to require his presence at my palace.

The answer was returned that as he is coming over to my palace, he is coming with troops; that he has heard of my preparations to fight. I send again the bearer to inform Bedingfeld, the Commander, that, that there is no danger within my intentions, and that I only wanted to see him. On the 3rd August, at the space of some hours after this message was gone, Bedingfeld, accompanied by Wm. Mc Coskry, with two brass-gun boats, armed Marines, as if they were ready for to rush into a battle. Commander Bedingfeld come to me in such a warlike way that I inquired of the reason; his reply was that I have heard that you are prepared to fight me, therefore come I forth with my troops.

Then said I unto him, what strength have I to stretch my hands against the Power that set me on the Throne? He then desired me to sign the paper which have been previous refused to be signed by me. Being he is so much imposed upon me, I was oblige to tell him that if any merchant or emigrants has affairs between themselves, that it should be settled by themselves. To this replied the said Commander, if the King will sign what he has now spoken, let him call on the British Consulate to-morrow, the 4th instant, at the hour of 11.

The next day arrive, I went over to the British Consulate, but instead of the Commander give me to sign what I have before mention'd to him in my palace, he brought before me a paper in which was written the things that are not to my consent, and the which I refuse to sign.

But the Commander imposed on me to sign it, and if I do not he is ready to fire on the Island of Lagos; and to destroy it in the twinkling of an eye.

To prevent this destruction induces me to sign the said paper, and in order to keep my people from running away; for I in the mean time have a thought to appeal to Her Britannic Majesty's Queen afterwards, and the which I herewith have done.

I, King Docemo, of Lagos, deeply sorry to bring this complaint before Her Majesty's Queen of Great Britain, seeing there is no other King upon earth on whom I rely safe Great Britain Queen, and by her command I am set on my father's throne. But Commander Norman B. Bedingfeld and Wm. Mc Coskry, in their wishes that I should be dethroned by compelling me to sign a Treaty, which was not to my consent, and the duplicate of which I herewith inclosed to your Majesty.

By this I stretch forth my hands to Her Britannic Majesty's Queen. O! save me! Let not mine enemies pull me down.

I pray for the blessing of God to rest abundantly upon Great Britain Queen. May God make her powers stretch forth even to the four corners of the earth, and then may her enemies fall down before her.

So then may her reign be prosperous, and long may she live to see the prosperity of African race; yea, the sons and daughters of Africa shall triumph in the glory of Great Britain Queen.

With this, I beg, &c.

(Docemo's Seal.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 7.

Treaty between Commander Bedingfeld, R.N., and Acting Consul Mc Coskry, and Docemo, King of Lagos, signed at Lagos, August 6, 1861.

[See Inclosure 1 in No. 15.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 7.

Petition from certain Natives of the Island of Lagos.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

Madam,

Lagos, August 8, 1861.

WE, the Undersigned, common people of the Island of Lagos, in mercy beg to write this as a compliment to Her Majesty's Queen of Great Britain.

We have heard, and have been eye-witnesses of many undertakens, and by that do prove that the Queen of Great Britain is such a merciful Queen not to be compared to any Queens or Kings of the earth, safe to the Supreme Being.

In this one great undertaken we fully observe, first by not knowing we poor black Africans, we that savagely caught ourselves, and dispose to the slave-dealers. But through

the compassion of Great Britain Queen, steam-ships of war are sent out throughout the seas to seize such vessels that should be found taken away slaves from Africa. The seizure of such slave-vessels many times have been made, and the slaves of which we have heard taken to British colony, kept for some times there, only to learn wisdom; and after this they are brought to their native lands, through the Queen's expenses, and here they welcome their long-lost families with joy and great mirth. This we observe, and we all do pray that the blessing of the Almighty God may pour down abundantly upon Great Britain Queen.

The good actions of Her Majesty's Queen our late King Akitoye observe, and which leads him to cry unto the Queen for assistance, when he was expell'd from Lagos.

Our King's complaint have been in the ears of Her Majesty's Queen, and after deep search into the matter have been made, it is reported that our King have been found in the right, and that he has been driven out by the exiled Prince Kosoko.

Seeing that our late King Akitoye have been found to be perfect before Her Britannic Majesty's Queen, and through the compassion of Her Majesty's Queen our late King Akitoye was brought to his native land, and the Throne was taken from Prince Kosoko, and on which our late King was placed by the command of the Representative of Her Majesty's Queen (Consul J. Becroft).

The whole town of Lagos was delievered to him, together with the laws and reggulations of Her Britannic Majesty's Queen; and to this we have been witnesses, that our late King did not transgress till his death.

After his death the late Consul B. Campbell, who is then the Queen's Representative here, took the late King's son, Prince Docemo, and set him on the Throne of his father, with the command to take possession of his father's properties; moreover, B. Campbell delievered to the new King the laws and reggulations which his father in his life-time had signed with the Queen of Great Britain.

We humble beg to state that our present King Docemo have not offended against one of the least laws or reggulations of Her Majesty's Queen.

But we sympathize to say that we saw Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus" unexpectedly run in the Lagoon, and after she had lain there three days previous, the Commander, Norman B. Bedingfeld, accompanied by Wm. McCrosky, Acting Consul, came to our King on the 28th July, and desired his presence on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus" the next day; our King is also requested by them to come without the Cheifs and captains. To this the King would not agree, and it was at last decided that if he should come with them, he, the King, may leave them behind, for the Commander says he has a secret to tell the King.

The next day arrive; our King went on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," and the secret was revealed to the King by the Commander, and which secret was that the King may give up the Island of Lagos, with all its rights, territories, &c.

To this our King would not agree; his reply was that he will not give up the Island of Lagos; so there was no decision of the matter till the return of the King.

On the 3rd instant the said Commander, N. B. Bedingfeld, accompanied by Wm. McCoskry, with two brass-gun boats and lots of well-armed marines, came over to the King's, and commanded him to sign the paper in which was drawn the following words—"To give up the Island of Lagos," &c. This, again, the King would not sign, and, moreover, asked for permission for some times first to inform Her Britannic Majesty's Queen. This the Commander would not allow; so the King inform the Commander thus—if the white merchants or emigrants has any affair, let them settle it between themselves. So the Commander replied, if the King would sign what he has now said, he may show his presence at the British Consulate to-morrow, the 4th instant. Such being the case, that the King went to the Consulate the next day, instead of what the King has told the Commander previous that he would sign, there is drawn in the paper more words that the King knows nothing of, and Commander N. B. Bedingfeld impose on the King to sign it. But the King replied that he will not sign a paper to which he is not agree with the contents; so Commander Bedingfeld replied if the King will not sign the paper, he will brake down Lagos.

Previous to this, men, women, and children, are getting into canoes, fleeing away for their lives.

To prevent the fight between the Commander and the King, the paper was signed by our King, who informs us that he will write to inform Her Britannic Majesty's Queen about the whole matter; how that it was through compulsion he, the King, was made to sign the paper.

We, as the common people in the King's dominion, take it upon ourselves to cry unto Great Britain Queen for our King Docemo. Seeing that we are enimies to all the

interior Chiefs, from the date that the late King Akitoye has fallen into a covenant with the Queen of Great Britain, and from since the time of the signing of the Treaty that contains the suppression of the Slave Trade; this the interior Chiefs greatly abhor, and for that purpose will not agree with the people of Lagos, seeing they have no more places to dispose their slaves. But we, the people of Lagos, cares nothing about them so long as Britain is our backstay.

But as the English have turned their backs towards us, we are shamefully fallen down before our enemies the slave-dealers.

This induces us to cry so humble unto Her Britannic Majesty's Queen, that we are fallen before our enemies, together with our Chiefs and King.

We, therefore, in the name of the Almighty the Supreme Being, Ruler of the Universe, beg Her Britannic Majesty's Queen to raise us up, and let Her Majesty's praise be heard throughout the whole African lands.

We, the Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

EDON ^{his} X. _{mark.}
(And 81 others.)

No. 8.

Earl Russell to Acting Consul Mc Coskry.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 23, 1861.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 7th ultimo, reporting the steps which you took, in conjunction with Commander Bedingfeld, of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," to effect the occupation of Lagos, and inclosing a Treaty signed by the King and Chiefs of Lagos, ceding that island and its dependencies to Her Majesty; and I have to convey to you my approval of your proceedings, and of your having adopted the title of Acting Governor of Lagos.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 9.

Acting Consul Mc Coskry to Lord J. Russell.— (Received October 12.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, September 3, 1861.

I AM happy to report that since the cession of this place everything has gone on quietly, and our relations with the surrounding Chiefs are satisfactory. We are, however, much in need of a person in Abbeokuta to look after our commercial interests; there are numerous complaints against subjects of Abbeokuta, and it is most difficult, by letters or messengers, to put the matter in such a light before the Alake that offenders are brought to justice. The country being at war is the excuse given for many irregularities complained of, and it may be so to some extent; but I have great hopes that when the British Government have an accredited Agent resident in Abbeokuta, we might succeed in stopping both the war and the evils to which it gives rise.

I have been given to understand that Docemo, by the advice of some emigrants from Sierra Leone, has taken some steps to induce the British Government not to take possession of Lagos. I have little fear that any argument he or his friends can use will have the effect of altering your determination, but it is my duty to inform you that Docemo himself is not the mover in the matter.

It is needless for me to recapitulate the arguments in favour of having Lagos under British rule; all my predecessors have found that due protection to property, life, and liberty could not be secured under native rule, and the native laws and customs in reference to slaves are quite incompatible with any great progress towards civilization.

*The Chiefs of Lagos to Her Majesty Queen Victoria.—(Communicated to Earl Russell by the Rev. H. Venn, October 28.)**

Madam,

Lagos, September 10, 1861.

WE, the Undersigned, Chiefs of Lagos, send this as a compliment again to Her Majesty. We have heard, and observe in several instances, that the Queen of Great Britain is such a merciful Queen as not to be compared to any in the earth.

We observed one particular undertakens of Her Majesty: that having known we poor black African, we that often raises war against ourselves, fight, kill, and the remnant we dispose to the slave-dealers. But through Her Majesty's good actions, the slaves are taken from their purchasers and carried to British Colony, and are there set at liberty. They were in the meantime made to observe wisdom and instruction. After this they were brought to their native lands by the expencise of Her Majesty.

The emancipated reached their homes, meet their parents in sound health, and they all began to be merry. This we observe, moreover, several other instances which induces us all to join our voices in one solemn prayer that the blessing of God may rest on Great Britain Queen.

Be it known to Her Majesty that her good undertakens our late King Akitoye observe; and when he is in a troubled state, induces him to appeal to Her Majesty for assistance. The whole complaint of our late King has been heard, and it was proved to be, in fact, he was the right heir of the Throne, and that he was driven from it by the exiled Prince Kosoko.

Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain observ'd that our late King has been perfect in all his complaint; induced her to send him with a full command to be replaced on his former Throne. His former villages or places belonging to him were given up to him; moreover, the laws of Great Britain were placed in his hands by Her Majesty's Representative, the late Consul J. Becroft; the said law of which we do prove that till his death never transgress.

After his death, the late Consul B. Campbell, by the command of Her Majesty, took his son, Docemo by name, and set him on the throne, and gave him the afore-mention'd laws of Great Britain which his father had left, the least of which our present King do not set apart.

But unexpectedly, the 28th July last, we saw Commander Norman B. Bedingfeld, of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," and Wm. McCoskry, Acting Consul, came to our King. We afterwards learn that his presence is wanted on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus" the following day. He is requested to call on board the said steamer without his Chiefs and Captains; but his reply is, he will not come alone. Notwithstanding this, the Commander replied, that if the King chooses to call over, he may left the said Chiefs and Captains behind.

Seeing that he, Commander Bedingfeld, have a secreet word to inform the King, the next day, being the 29th, our King went on board the said steamer, and the secreet word was discovered to him, *i. e.*, our King must give up the Island of Lagos, with all "the rights, profits, territories," &c. This was drawn in a paper, and Commander Bedingfeld requested our King to sign it, but he rejected. There is no decision made that day previous to our King's return.

On the 3rd August last the said Commander and Wm. McCoskry call on the King, with two brass-gun boats, well armed marines, and commanded the King to sign the said paper or Treaty he has refused to sign on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus;" this the King would not consent to do. For some time previous the King has asked the Commander for permission to write to Her Majesty respecting the said Treaty, but it was disregarded. Seeing that the Commander impose so much on the King to sign the said Treaty, he was obliged to tell him that he agree to one thing, *i. e.*, if any white gentleman or emigrant in the island has any affairs, that it should be settled by themselves. After this the Commander requested the King to call on him at the British Consulate the following day, as to sign what he consented to. Such being the case that the King went there the next day; but instead of what he was call'd for, the Commander brought before him the one he had previous refused to sign, and bade him sign it, or else he will instantly discharge fire on the island.

To prevent the Commander from firing to the land, and to keep back those that intent to leave the island on account of the confusion, induces him to sign the Treaty.

We afterwards learn from him that he was obliged the more to sign the Treaty in order to be permitted to write to Her Majesty.

* This and the two following letters are printed *literatim*.

Dear Madam,—We are very sorry to bring to Her Majesty's notice that all the interior Chiefs were enemy to us; the particular reason is, because our late King Akitoye had fallen into a covenant with the Queen of Great Britain, and he had signed the Treaty for the Suppression of the Slave Trade, which the interior Chiefs dislike. The fact is, they have no more convenient place or port as that of the Island of Lagos to dispose their slaves.

But as we are now receiving such hard treatment as that from Commander Norman B. Bedingfeld, of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," we say Great Britain now turned her back towards us. And, yea! we are falling down before our enemies the slave-dealers.

This induces us to cry unto Her Majesty that we are dropping down before our enemies, together with our King and people.

Therefore we, in the name of God, beseech Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain to raise us up, and let not our adversaries triumph over us. Yea! Her Majesty's praises shall be heard throughout the whole African lands.

With this, we beg, &c.

(Signed) his
ONIKOYI ✕.
mark.
(And 23 others.)

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Petition from certain Natives of the Island of Lagos.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.
Madam,

Lagos, September 10, 1861.

WE, the undersigned common men of the Island of Lagos, do send this again, as a compliment to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain.

We have heard, and observe in several instances, that Her Majesty is a merciful Queen, not to be compared to the rest Queens or Kings of the earth, save to the Supreme Being.

Her Majesty's actions we observed first was, by not knowing we poor black Africans, we that often raise war against ourselves, fight, kill, and the remnant we sold to the slave-dealers. But through Her Majesty's good actions the slaves are taken from the slave-dealers, and are carried to British Settlement, where they were made free; moreover, they were made there to observe wisdom and instruction. After this they were brought to their native lands by the expence of Her Majesty.

The emancipated reached their homes, met their parents, in sound health, and they all began to be merry. This we observe, moreover, several others of the sort, which induces us all to join our voices in one solemn prayer, that the blessing of God may rest on Great Britain Queen.

N.B.—That such good actions of Her Majesty our late King Akitoye observe, and when he is in trouble do beseech Her Majesty for assistance, and the which has been granted.

Her Majesty have heard the whole complaint of our late King, and have deeply search into the matter, and it was found to be in fact he was the right heir of the Throne, and that he was driven out by the exiled Prince Kosoko. Her Majesty Queen of Great Britain observ'd that our late King has been perfect in his complaint. This leads Her Majesty's good wishes to bring our late King Akitoye to his home, and replaced him on his former Throne. Moreover, the laws of Great Britain is placed in his hands, which we do prove that till his death never transgress.

Previous to this, by the command of Her Majesty, the whole town or villages of our late King were delivered to him by the hand of the Queen's Representative, namely, the late Consul J. Beecroft.

After our King's death, the late Consul B. Campbell, by the command of Her Majesty, took his son Docemo and place him on the Throne of his father; also he gave him the laws of Great Britain, which his father had left. We humble beg to state that we have not heard that our present King brake any of the laws of Great Britain, Britain Queen.

But on the 28th July last we saw unexpectedly Commander Norman B. Bedingfeld, of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus;" and Wm. Mc Coskry, Acting Consul, came to our King. We afterwards learn that our King's presence is wanted on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus" the following day. He is requested to call on board the said steamer without his Chiefs and Captains; but his reply is that he will not come alone. Notwithstanding this, the Commander replied that if the King choose to come he may left the said

Cheifs and Captains behind him, seeing that he, Commander Bedingfeld, has a secret word to tell the King.

On the next day, the 29th, our King went on board the said steamer, and the secret word was discovered to him by Commander Bedingfeld; that is, our King must give up the Island of Lagos, with all the "rights, profits, and territories," &c. This was drawn in a paper, and our King is requested to sign the same; and we were witnesses to the same that our King refuses to sign the said paper or Treaty. There is no decision made till our King's return.

On the 3rd of August last, the said Commander and Wm. Mc Coskry came over to our King with two brass-gun boats, well-armed Marines, and commanded the King to sign the said Treaty that he has refused to sign on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus;" but our King would not. Previous to this, the King asked the Commander for permission to write to Her Majesty respecting the same, but it was disregarded.

Seeing that the Commander impose so much on the King to sign the said Treaty, he was obliged to tell him that what he agree to is this: that if the white gentlemen and emigrants in the town has any affairs between themselves, let it be settled by themselves.

After this the King was called to the British Consulate to sign what he agree to; but instead of that, the Commander brought before him the rejected Treaty, and told him then that, whether he wish to sign or not, he is ready to take the Island of Lagos by compulsion.

To prevent the Commander from firing in the town, and to keep his people from running away for specified time, induces him to sign the said Treaty. We after this learn from the King that he was obliged the more to sign the Treaty in order to be permitted to write to London to Her Majesty.

Dear Madam, we are extremely sorry to state that all the interior Cheifs were our enemies. The reason is, because our late King Akitoye had, as it were, fallen into a covenant with the Queen of Great Britain, and had signed the Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade, which the interior Cheifs dislike, seeing they have no more convenient places to dispose of their slaves.

But as we are now receiving such hard treatment as that from Commander N. B. Bedingfeld, of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," we say, Great Britain now turned her back towards us; and yea! we are falling down before our enemies the slave-dealers.

This induces us to cry unto Her Majesty that we are dropping down before our enemies, together with our King, Cheifs, and Captains. Therefore we, in the name of God, beseech Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain to raise us up, and let not our enemies triumph over us. Yea! Her Majesty's praises shall be heard throughout the whole African lands.

We beg, &c.

(Signed) EDON ^{his} ~~X~~
mark.
(And 79 others.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

The Chiefs of Lagos to Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Madam,

Lagos, September 10, 1861.

WE, the Undersigned, Cheifs of Lagos, send this as a compliment to Her Majesty.

We herewith beg to state, that since we have written last to Her Majesty, till this present, the island is not at ease. There is much disquietness in the land. The King, as it were, informing the people in the town to be quiet, for that he has written to Her Majesty, and in short expecting to receive a satisfactory reply.

Let us beg to inform Her Majesty that a merchant here, by name Wm. Mc Coskry, Esq., whom the late Consul G. Foote made a Vice-Consul, is rather a hard man for us.

His actions towards us is very savage.

We do not witness such bad treatments from the late succeeding Consuls or Acting Consuls as these at Coskry's time. Of this gentleman we beg to say he knows nothing about the management of the town; and we, in our common sense, judge that he is not a fit man for the office he is placed.

We beg to say (not of command) that we do not want this gentleman Mc Coskry to hold the office of a Vice-Consul any longer in this island. Why so? Our King, in the time of the late Consul B. Campbell, made some rules, which, if any disregard, a penalty of certain sum is to be laid on him. Notwithstanding this Mr. Coskry went against the

rules, and the said penalty was laid on him. We see from since that time he was seeking the destruction of our King.

All his endeavours is to be an office-bearer to Her Majesty, in order to get the more chance to revenge himself on the King. This we foresee in his movements.

Properly speaking, this gentleman is our real enemy; and if he continue bearing the office of a Vice-Consul in this island he will totally destroy it—not by his power, but by making many false reports concerning things that we knows nothing of. This induces us to write, as to inform Her Majesty previous.

We hope this few lines will meet Her Majesty, as well as the Royal families, in a good health.

In this we pray that Her Majesty may long live to see the civilization of Africa, by the hand of her good Representatives.

With this, we beg, &c.

(Signed)

ONIKOYI ^{his} ✕
mark.
(And 23 others.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 10.

King Docemo to Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Madam,

King's Palace, Lagos, September 10, 1861.

I, KING DOCEMO, of the Island of Lagos, compliments to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain.

By this I return thanks to Her Majesty, and do wish her prosperity and good health.

Let me beg to say that the Queen of Great Britain has done, and still doing, much good for we Africans, the thanks of which we were unable to return.

May I not say the Africans? for what Her Majesty has done for my late father Akitoye were more than what I could express. The goodness, I say, which has been done to my late father, that by bringing him to his home, and replaced him on his former throne. Moreover, he has been authorized to govern all the neighbouring villages by the Representative of Her Majesty, the late Consul J. Becroft.

The laws of Great Britain also have been placed in his hands, and in the which we found written, that the successions to be secured to his heirs males. In obedience to which, after my father's death, I was set on the Throne by the late Consul B. Campbell.

Dear Madam,

My father's Treaty with Great Britain Queen were placed in my hands: I had also signed some Treaties with Her Majesty's Representative. These, as well as that of my father, I have in hand, and I am guided by the same.

But unexpectedly, Commander Norman B. Bedingsfeld, of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," come in the river. On the 28th July last, which is the third day after her arrival, the said Commander, accompanied by Wm. McCoskry, Acting Consul, over to my place, and requested me to show my presence on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus" the following day; moreover I was informed to do without my Cheifs and Captains on my coming. This I rejected, but seeing that I could not be persuaded to do so, the Commander told me to left them behind me, because he has a secreet word to inform me.

The following day, being the 29th, I went on board the said steamer; the Commander then revealed to me the secreet word, which is a Treaty, that I may give up the Island of Lagos, with all the "rights, profits, territories," &c. He requested me to sign it, but I would not, for it looks very strange in my appearance. I took a deep consideration on the same, and call to mind that had the Queen of Great Britain in want of the Island of Lagos for her uses, it might not have been given to my late father.

On the 3rd Agst. last I send for the Commander that I wanted to see him; he also send to inform me that he has heard of my preparations to fight him, and that on his coming I must expect to see him with troops. I immediately sent back the very bearer to inform the Commander that there is nothing of the sort he mentioned in my heart. Notwithstanding this, the Commander, accompanied by Wm. McCoskry, with two brass-gun-boats, and lots of well-armed Marines, over to my palace. I inquired from the Commander the reason of his calling on me in such manner; he replied that he has heard of my preparations to fight him, which induces him to call on me in this way. I asked him again that do not I send back your messenger to inform you that there is no danger in

my part? For that I am set on the throne by Her Majesty's command, and shall it be in my mind to fight against the British subjects? Oh no! such intention is beyond my power. After this, the Commander requested me to sign the Treaty that I had refused to sign on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus." This again I would not sign; but he impose on me so hardly that I was obliged to tell him that what I could do is, that if any gentleman, white or black, has any affair betwixt them, I agree that they should have it settled by themselves.

Such being the case, that the Commander requested me to call on him at the British Consulate the following day, in order to sign the Agreement made.

On the following day I went over to the Consulate, but instead of the one I consented to, the Commander brought before me the afore-mentioned Treaty, and requested me to sign it. Seeing I am not pleased with the contents, I again refused to sign it. But he impose on me so much the more, with a strict command that if I would not, he will presently discharge his cannons on the island, and that he will brake it down in few seconds.

To prevent the Commander from discharging his cannons on the land, and to keep the people in the town quiet for specified time, and moreover to be permitted to write Her Majesty on the same account as I herewith have done, induces me to sign the said Treaty.

Dear Madam,

I deeply sorry to lay this complaint before your Majesty, seeing there is no other King or Queen on the earth on whom I rely, but Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, seeing that by Her Majesty's command I was set on the throne of my ancestor.

But Commander N. B. Bedingfeld and Wm. McCoskry's determination is to dethrone me; so by this I stretch forth my hands to Her Majesty. Oh, save me! lest I be plucked down.

Herewith I inclose Her Majesty again the duplicate of the Treaty that Commander Bedingfeld and Wm. McCoskry compelled me to sign.

With this I sincerely pray that the blessing of God most gracious might rest on Great Britain Queen. May God make her enemies fall down before her; and yea! the sons and daughters of Africa shall triumph in the elevation of Britannier.

With this, I beg, &c.

(Docemo's Seal.)

No. 11.

Acting Consul Mc Coskry to Earl Russell.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Lagos, November 8, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here, on the 16th ultimo, of Commodore Edmonstone in Her Majesty's ship "Arrogant." At my request Commodore Edmonstone had an interview with King Docemo on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," and explained to him the objects of the Government in wishing to put Lagos under British jurisdiction; he pointed out the advantages that would accrue to the whole population, and urged him to assist in executing the laws as they would henceforth be administered.

I am glad to say that since this interview with the Commodore, Docemo and his people have been much more docile, and he has on several occasions used his influence to cause the natives to submit to our jurisdiction.

The "Brune" gun-boat has been condemned as unserviceable, and the "Prometheus" will remain in the river till a vessel arrives to take her place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. Mc COSKRY.

No. 12.

King Docemo to Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Madam,

King's Palace, Lagos, January 10, 1862.

THE King of Lagos' compliments to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain:

And herewith beg to forward Her Majesty with some past events, as well as the present.

That some years since the usurper, Prince Kosoko, had possession of the Throne of

Lagos, without right, but with power and mischief, and would not submit to the request of Her Majesty. He was expelled from the Island of Lagos, and the late King Akitoye, my father, through the assistance of your Majesty's Representative, reinstated to his Throne.

As soon as he was reinstated, forgiveness was offered to the followers of Kosoko, on condition that they surrender, and acknowledge allegiance to the King, thereby claiming his clemency. In reliance on this many returned to Lagos and surrendered themselves; the principal of them were Chief Possa and Ajeniya, who, in like manner, submitted themselves with their people.

As the late King was a Prince of known clemency he did not deny them the promised forgiveness; but notwithstanding all these kindness the two mentioned Chiefs (through the instigation of Kosoko, who is living at some distance) raised their arms against the late King, with the intention of taking his life, if possible, that Kosoko might claim the Throne.

But Providence did not suffer it to happen; the late King has been promptly assisted by Her Majesty's naval force, and these rebels were again driven away; and Kosoko, who have been sent for by the said Chiefs prior to their rebellion, having arrived during the time of the fighting, with his war-people, was also repulsed with his troops.

This led the late King to make a solemn Declaration, that so long as Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain is on his behalf, as well as on behalf of his successors, these rebels will no more step on the Island of Lagos.

After the late King's death, I, Docemo, as the rightful heir to the Throne, has been enabled, through Her Majesty's Representative, to possess the same.

On my accession I ratified the Declaration aforesaid. The Representative of Her Majesty then proceeded to Epé, where Kosoko resides, and get Kosoko, with his principal Chiefs, to sign a Treaty, to the effect that they will not, for the future, return to Lagos. But on December 9, 1861, Commander Bedingfeld wrote to inform me that his old friend, Tappa by name, who is Prime Minister to Kosoko, is about to pay him a friendly visit on board Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," and that he will be under Commander Bedingfeld's protection during his stay on the Island of Lagos.

The King have not given Commander Bedingfeld a reply to this ere Tappa's arrival to the town was announced, which was on the 14th instant.

During Tappa's visit and interviews with the King it became evident that Commander Bedingfeld has invited Tappa to come to Lagos, previous to his informing the King, in violation of the aforementioned Treaty.

Notwithstanding this, the King entertained Tappa and his followers, as becometh so high a personage, when Commander Bedingfeld accompanied Tappa over to the Palace on the 16th instant.

Previous to the dismissal Commander Bedingfeld told the King that they will call on him the following day, on particular matter.

On the 18th of the same month they called, when Commander Bedingfeld told the King that they wish to have Tappa at Lagos, as the Consul for the people at Epé, and that whether the King is pleased to it. He agreed to the same, and spoke to Tappa personally, that he will be glad to receive him if he is willing to reside on the Island of Lagos. The King further spoke to Commander Bedingfeld that his wishes is that peace and prosperity might flourish throughout his territories.

When, to the King's astonishment, Tappa stood up, and said that he will not come to Lagos without Kosoko.

That when he (Tappa) was invited to come to Lagos it was publicly at Epé, by Commander Bedingfeld, as follows:

We (that is, the British) have now taken Lagos; you may come whenever you like (it may be well to remark that Commander Bedingfeld has visited Epé in ——— last, 1861). To which Commander Bedingfeld replied, that they will not bring Kosoko to Lagos at present.

This speech make the dealings of Commander Bedingfeld with the King appear suspicious.

This Kosoko, who would not submit to the request nor take the advice of Her Majesty's Representatives when he was on the Throne, but always ready to show his power and treat Her Majesty's Representatives with contempt, was, on that account, expelled from the Island of Lagos and banished to Epé, where he is at present, with a strict order not to be seen on the Island of Lagos any more.

That your Majesty is very anxious to uphold the observance of Treaty stipulations, the King of Lagos rely on a full confidence that Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain will not suffer permit Kosoko to return to the Island of Lagos.

For this Kosoko's dreadful actions and cruel treatment are observed in many instances: During the time of the civil war with the late King Akitoye, as soon as the late King left the island Kosoko cruelly murdered the parents of many children who are now grown up into age, and will avail the first opportunity to revenge, if possible; he cut asunder many infants, and throw into the river many alive persons; butchered many Prince and Princess of the late King.

These and many other cruel deeds, which would tingle the ears and make the blood run cold to describe.

The King wants nothing but peace and tranquillity to reign throughout his lands.

But Commander Bedingfeld daily occasions dissatisfaction, which does not become one that seeks the interest of the country, and a Representative of your Majesty's Government.

The King hopes this few statements will meet Her Majesty and Royal family in a pleasant health. May Heaven grant Her Majesty's heart's desire, the civilization of Africa, and continue to be the African's guide and protector, is the prayer of your Majesty's obedient and faithful friend.

(Docemo's Seal.)

No: 13.

Acting Consul Mc Coskry to Earl Russell.—(Received February 10.)

My Lord,

Lagos, January 7, 1862

I HAVE the honour to inclose the Return of produce, as far as I have been able to obtain them, of the exports from the several ports in the Bight of Benin.

The Return from Lagos, Palma, and Badagry can only be regarded as correct, the means of communication between here and the other ports not enabling me to get more than an approximation to the truth.

Whydah alone is now to be looked upon as the slave-exporting station. Shipments may occasionally be made at other places, but the slaves will in most cases be found to have collected there.

At Aghwey and Popoe a civil war interrupts legitimate commerce, but I have heard of no slaves being shipped there of late.

There is a decrease of the exports of produce, owing to the general disturbed state of the countries in the Bight of Benin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. Mc COSKRY.

Inclosure in No. 13.

RETURN of the Exports from Lagos, from July 1 to December 31, 1861; and January 1 to June 30, 1861.

Month.	Number of casks.	Old wine gallons.	Weight of Ivory.	Number of bales, Cotton.	Weight.
July	1,030	130,405	lbs. 1,525		
August	591	88,378			
September	1,267	151,286			
October	907	122,738	196		
November	404	52,945	15		
December	787	117,328			
January	456	56,479			
February	831	100,026	882		
March	632	89,394			
April	720	89,025			
May	859	115,363			
June	352	46,460			
	8,836	1,159,627 3,865 tuns.	2,618	1,303	118 lbs. each bale.

Palma, 1,200 tuns oil; no cotton.
Badagry, 1,600 tuns oil; no cotton.

(Signed) W. Mc COSKRY.

Consul Freeman to Earl Russell.—(Received April 12.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, March 8, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, after several lengthened discussions with Docemo and his Chiefs, I have terminated to their satisfaction all the questions arising out of the Treaty of Cession signed on the 6th of August last.

I should have settled everything immediately on my arrival but I encountered a strong opposition from Docemo and his Chiefs, who even went so far as to declare that they were forced into signing the Treaty of Cession without understanding its contents. Knowing this to be false, as at the formal signing of the Treaty there were present many people perfectly conversant with both the English and Yoruba languages, I endeavoured to ascertain the source of these new difficulties, and I soon discovered that they were caused by the White-capped Chiefs. These Chiefs are the rightful possessors of the land upon which they depend for their subsistence. Whenever war breaks out, and the King is attacked, they retire into the bush, to return again when peace is re-established, and are then acknowledged by the victors as the legal owners of the soil. Thus the King and war-men hold no lands unless by grant from the White-capped chiefs.

These Chiefs had been persuaded by certain parties, whether maliciously or through ignorance it is difficult to ascertain, that the cession of Lagos to the British Crown involved the abrogation of all private rights of property, and they, therefore, protested that the King could not give away their lands, and that they did not understand such to be the meaning of the Treaty when it was signed. Hence the origin of their holding back from a final settlement.

On the 11th ultimo I received the King and his Chiefs at my house, and detailed to them the reasons which induced Her Majesty's Government to obtain the cession of this island; pointed out the changes which will result therefrom, and explained to them that far from depriving them of their private property, the cession will render it more valuable to them.

They declared they had never viewed the question in that light before, and they left my house quite satisfied. Two days after the King came again in the evening, and signed an additional paragraph to the Treaty, by which he agrees to receive in compensation for the revenue he gives up, an annual pension of 1,200 bags of cowries, equal, at the present rate of exchange, to 1,030*l.* sterling.

LAGOS.

PAPERS relating to the Occupation of Lagos.

*Presented to the House of Lords by Command of
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