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SLAVE TRADE. No. 4 (1878).

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN THE EAST INDIES

ON THE

SLAVE TRADE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1878.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS

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Annual Report of the Commander-in-chief in the East Indies on the Slave Trade.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received July 24.)

Sir, *Admiralty, July 23, 1878.*
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Annual Report of the Commander-in-chief in the East Indies on the Slave Trade on that Station.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure 1.

Rear-Admiral Corbett to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *“Undaunted,” at Aden, June 28, 1878.*
I HAVE the honour to request you will lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the following Report on the Slave Trade on the East Indies Station during the year ended 28th May, 1878.

2. The following table of comparison of the number of vessels captured and condemned, and the number of slaves released this year, with the results of last year's work, will show a manifest diminution in the Slave Traffic on the East Coast of Africa :—

Year ended—	No. of Vessels Condemned.	Gross Tonnage of Condemned Vessels.	No. of Slaves liberated.	No. of Fugitive Slaves afforded Protection.
May 28, 1877	27	2,760·28	438	9
May 28, 1878	15	1,719·94	60	6
Decrease in 12 months ..	12	1,041·34	378	3

3. Her Majesty's ships have been employed on the East Coast as follows :—

Ship.	From—	To—	
London	May 28, 1877 ..	May 28, 1878 ..	Stationary at Zanzibar.
Diamond	“ 28, “ ..	August 18, 1877 ..	
Flying Fish	“ 28, “ ..	November 4, 1877 ..	
Lynx	“ 28, “ ..	April 15, 1878 ..	
Vulture	“ 28, “ ..	May 28, 1878 ..	
Vestal	October 28, 1877 ..	“ 28, “ ..	Surveying vessel.
Spartan	August 11, 1877 ..	March 25, 1878 ..	
Fawn	May 28, 1877 ..	February 21, 1878 ..	

4. These vessels have been constantly on the watch for suspicious dhows cruising up and down the coast-line and between the mainland of Africa and the Island of Madagascar,
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and their efforts have met with so much success in paralyzing the sea-traffic in slaves, that I have been able to reduce the number of vessels employed on that coast to two, besides the "London" and her boats.

5. I am indebted to Captain Sullivan, of Her Majesty's ship "London," the Senior Naval Officer on the East Coast of Africa, for the following Report on the state of the Slave Traffic in the neighbourhood of Zanzibar during the half-year ended 31st December last. He says :—

"I have great pleasure in informing you that there is a very sensible decrease in the number of slaves conveyed by sea in contravention of existing Treaties. During the last six months only 19 slaves have been captured and freed in the Vice-Admiralty Court at this port, while in the previous half-year the number liberated was 263. In the half of last year corresponding with this, 118 slaves were emancipated.

"From information obtained from the officers in charge of the blockading boats at Pemba and other sources, it appears to me that the transport of slaves by sea is being rapidly crushed out; for where, a couple of years since, the computed average number of slaves introduced into Pemba amounted to 1,000 a month, I cannot now account for more than 800 having been landed during the last six months.

"In the fourth paragraph of my last Report on the Slave Trade, I stated my opinion that the number of slaves brought to the coast during the period embraced in the Report was the result of orders given previous to the issue of the Sultan's Proclamations. This seems to be confirmed; and there now appears little doubt but that the issue of these Proclamations, and the action taken by the Sultan in this neighbourhood, combined with the blockade of Pemba by the boats of this ship, have resulted in the stoppage of the Slave Trade to an extent little anticipated in such a short time.

"About 240 slaves have been seized by the Sultan's soldiers during the last six months, the slaves freed, and the Arab owners punished. From inquiries made by Dr. Kirk, Her Majesty's Consul-General, of these Arabs, caravans of about twenty to forty each, amounting in all to about 250 slaves, only could be heard of as being brought to the coast. On the other hand, information was obtained that slaves which had been sent down by one of the Nyassa Chiefs were being taken back, no market being found for them. Reliable information of the Slave Traffic on this route has been obtained from Mr. Beardall, a member of the Universities' Mission, who a short time ago visited M'taka, one of the Nyassa Chiefs. In his journey there and back he only heard of two or three small caravans; the numbers in all, he does not consider, exceeded 200. I think it is not improbable that some of the slaves captured by the Sultan's people formed a part of the caravans seen by Mr. Beardall.

"For a long time it has been the habit of the Dewans of Kilwa to levy black-mail on ivory and other articles for trade sent down by inland Chiefs. This black-mail, which, in some instances, amounted to 50 per cent., the Sultan has put a stop to, imposing a tax of only 5 per cent., and warning the Chiefs against slaves being sent down for sale, as they would be freed and all ivory or any other article brought down by them would be confiscated."

6. I am glad to be able to supplement Captain Sullivan's remarks on the beneficial influence exerted by the Sultan of Zanzibar over the slave-dealers in his territory, by the fact that between the 1st January and 30th May last only four dhows have been found guilty of Slave Traffic in the neighbourhood of the Sultan's dominions.

7. The traffic in slaves between Mozambique and Madagascar still continues, though the Emancipation Edict of the Queen of Madagascar has to a large extent diminished the numbers introduced into that island. It is reported that purchasers could not be found for a cargo of slaves who had been landed on the coast of Madagascar. If the Hova Government had only power to enforce its will over the whole island, the Slave Trade in that region would doubtless disappear. The Hova Government appears to be acting with an honest intention to put a stop to the Traffic, and deserves every encouragement.

8. The efforts of Her Majesty's ships to check the transit of slaves across the Mozambique Channel have resulted in some captures, but the cordial and active co-operation with them of the Portuguese authorities on the one side and the French on the other would be a valuable assistance.

9. It is true that numerous dhows bearing the French flag pass between the Island of Nossi Bé and the mainland of Africa, and extend their cruising to many places both on the mainland and in Madagascar, where they are under no supervision. Without imputing to these dhows any participation in the conveyance of slaves between intermediate ports, it is to be regretted that French vessels of war only occasionally visit that part of the station, where one ship might be constantly employed in overhauling dhows and boats carrying the French flag.

10. On the 18th of last month I had the pleasure of meeting the Captain of the French man-of-war "Fabert" (Senior Officer on the East India Station) at Aden, bound to Réunion and Nossi Bé. He was kind enough to assure me of the earnest desire of his Government to put a stop to the Slave Trade in the neighbourhood of their possessions, and I trust that his appearance off the coast of Madagascar may not be without effect in overhauling some of the coasting dhows.

11. With regard to the Slave Trade in the Red Sea, I may inform their Lordships that Her Majesty's ships "Diamond" and "Wild Swan" have been actively employed since the 1st January last in watching the Egyptian coasts, with the success, on the part of the "Wild Swan," of securing a buggalow containing 78 slaves (boys and girls). This capture has had a good effect generally, and the frequent presence of the two ships off the districts whence slaves have been usually shipped has had a deterrent influence on the Traffic. As I have only recently reported, in my letter dated the 20th April last, on this subject, I beg leave to refer their Lordships to that letter, and previous interesting reports from the officers commanding the "Diamond" and "Wild Swan."

12. The Persian Gulf has been peculiarly free from sea Traffic in Slaves, so far as can be ascertained.

13. I inclose a tabulated statement of the dhows captured during the year now ended, including those condemned.

14. Before concluding my Report, I desire to bring to their Lordships' notice the very praiseworthy zeal and watchfulness displayed by the captains, officers, and crews of Her Majesty's ships who have been employed in the suppression of the Slave Trade on this station.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN CORBETT.

Inclosure 2.

VESSELS Captured or Detained on the ground of being engaged in the Slave Trade by Her Majesty's Ships on the East India Station, under the command of Rear-Admiral John Corbett, C.B., Commander-in-chief.

Table with columns: Name and Description of Captured Vessel, Flag under which Captured Vessel was Sailing, Names of Masters and Owners of Captured Vessel, No. of Crew, Date of Seizure, Where Captured, Name, Rank, and Ship of Capturing Officer, No. of Slaves (Captured, Died before Adjudication, Emancipated), Tonnage of Captured Vessel, Before what Court Adjudicated, and on what Charge, Decretal part of Sentence, How Captured Vessel was Disposed of, Remarks.

Vessels Captured or Detained on ground of being engaged in Slave Trade, &c.—continued.

Name and Description of Captured Vessel.	Flag under which Captured Vessel was Sailing.	Names of Masters and Owners of Captured Vessel.	No. of Crew.	Date of Seizure.	Where Captured.	Name, Rank, and Ship of Capturing Officer.	No. of Slaves			Tonnage of Captured Vessel.	Before what Court Adjudicated, and on what Charge.	Deceitful part of Sentence.	How Captured Vessel was Disposed of.	Remarks.
							Captured.	Died before Adjudication.	Emancipated.					
Dhow, "Fath-el-Kair" ...	Arab	Joummah; Fakah ...	11	1878 Feb. 19	Willamatza, Madagascar	Commander Selby, H.M.S. "Vestal,"	2	...	97 7/24	Zanzibar. Slave Trade.	Restitution	Destroyed...	Slaves escaped.	
Dhow, "Mambo - kwa - Munga."	English	Madiariva; Abdallah-Sali-Jeffari.	...	Apr. 8	Pemba	Captain Sullivan, H.M.S. "London,"	...	...	68	Ditto	Ditto	Released.	...
Slaves	...	...	...	Mar. 28	Ditto	Ditto	15	11	74	Zanzibar. Slave Trade.	Condemned	Destroyed.	Four not condemned.
Dhow, "Mambo - kwa - Munga."	English	Ama; Nasur Dosa ...	...	Apr. 18	Ditto	Ditto	4	4	...	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	...
Dhow, "Mabrak"	Ditto	Rhamis; Ghelah Rhenunel	...	" 16	Ditto	Ditto	1	1	126	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	...	

JOHN CORBETT, Rear-Admiral, Commander-in-chief.

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