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SLAVE TRADE. No. 5 (1883).

CONVENTION

BETWEEN

HER MAJESTY

AND

THE SULTAN OF MOHILLA

FOR THE

SUPPRESSION OF SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

Signed at Doani, October 24, 1882.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1883.

LONDON:

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CONVENTION between Her Majesty and the Sultan of Mohilla
for the Suppression of Slavery and the Slave Trade.

Signed at Doani, October 24, 1882.

[*Ratified by Her Majesty, February 28, 1883.*]

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and Sultan Abder Rhaman bin Saeed, Sultan of Mohilla, being desirous to co-operate for the extinction of all Traffic in Slaves and the eventual abolition of slavery, have resolved to conclude a Convention for the purpose of attaining these objects, and with this view have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Frederic Holmwood, Esquire, Her Majesty's Consul for the dominions of the Sultan of Zanzibar, and Acting Consul for the Comoro Islands;

And the Sultan of Mohilla, Abood bin Sivandin al Moali;

Who, having communicated to each other their respective powers and full authority to negotiate, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

The Sultan of Mohilla engages to forbid the bringing or importing of slaves into Mohilla, and undertakes to uphold this prohibition by law with the strictest vigilance. All persons coming or being brought into his dominions from henceforward are and shall be absolutely free.

ARTICLE II.

The Sultan of Mohilla authorizes British cruisers to seize all vessels belonging to his subjects, wherever found, with any slave or with slave fittings on board, or in event of there being reason to suspect that any vessel has recently carried slaves; all such seizures, including vessel, slaves, cargo, and any persons implicated in the violation of this Treaty, may be dealt with by the nearest or most convenient British authority having Admiralty jurisdiction, in accordance with the rules and instructions of his Government.

ARTICLE III.

The Sultan of Mohilla engages to prohibit from henceforward the sale, purchase, or transfer of slaves in his dominions (the transfer of slaves of deceased persons to their *bond fide* inheritors alone excepted).

ARTICLE IV.

The Sultan of Mohilla undertakes to appoint a Registrar who shall keep a register of all slaves in his dominions, together with the names of their masters, and of such transfers as may take place in accordance with Article III of this Convention. All slaves not so registered within six months from the date of this Convention shall be entitled to freedom.

ARTICLE V.

The Sultan of Mohilla engages to appoint special times for hearing any complaints which slaves may desire to bring before him, and to allow any slave who may suffer injustice or ill-treatment from, or with the connivance of, his master, to appeal personally to him, and in event of any complaint of ill-treatment or gross injustice being proved, such slave shall be freed forthwith.

ARTICLE VI.

The Sultan of Mohilla accords to the British Consul, or to any Consular officer who may be authorized by him to visit his dominions, the right to visit all places in the country, and to inspect all plantations therein; also to have free access to the register of slaves, with liberty to hear all complaints of slaves, and to call before him the complainants or any other slaves he may desire to examine, together with their masters and such witnesses as he may require, the Sultan deputing a disinterested and competent person, with authority to assist him in such inquiries, and, in event of the Consul or such Consular officer finding sufficient proof that any slave is by the terms of this Convention entitled to manumission he may free him forthwith.

ARTICLE VII.

And, furthermore, the Sultan of Mohilla engages, after a fixed period, namely, from the 4th day of August, 1889, totally to abolish slavery throughout his dominions, and he undertakes to promulgate a Law, the text of which shall be annexed to this Treaty, ordaining that the institution of slavery shall cease to exist within his dominions on the said 4th day of August, 1889, from which date all persons in the country shall be absolutely free.

ARTICLE VIII.

And Abder Rhaman bin Saeed, Sultan of Mohilla, hereby engages and declares that this Convention is and shall be binding upon himself and upon his heirs and successors.

ARTICLE IX.

The present Treaty shall be ratified and shall come into operation when notification is made to the Sultan of Mohilla of its ratification by Her Majesty the Queen.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries, have signed the same, and have affixed thereto their seals.

Done at Doani, Mohilla Island, this twenty-fourth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two.

(L.S.)

FRED^c. HOLMWOOD.

(L.S.)

[Signature of Abood bin Sivandin
al Moali in Arabic.]

This Treaty is ratified.

(L.S.)

[Signature of the Sultan of Mohilla
in Arabic.]

Annex (A).

(Translation.)

I, Abder Rhaman bin Saeed, Sultan of Mohilla, in accordance with the terms of a Treaty entered into this day between Her Majesty the Queen of England and myself, do ordain as follows:—

1. That the importation or bringing of slaves into my country is henceforward prohibited, and any person violating this Law shall be liable to penal servitude and forfeiture of property.

2. That the sale, purchase, or transfer of slaves within my dominions is from this day wholly forbidden (except only the transfer of the slaves of deceased persons to their legal inheritors). Henceforward any slave sold or transferred, with the above exception, shall thereby become entitled to freedom.

2. Every owner of slaves shall, without delay, come to my Registrar, and shall register every slave he may possess. Any slaves not so registered by their owners within six months from the date of this Decree shall be entitled to freedom. And every slave transferred by virtue of the 2nd clause of this Decree shall be registered within one month of such transfer.

(L.S.)

ABDER RHAMAN BIN SAEED.

Dated 24th October, 1882.

Annex (B).

(Translation.)

I, Abder Rhaman bin Saeed, Sultan of Mohilla, in conformity with a Convention I have entered into with Her Majesty the Queen of England, have ordained and do ordain as follows:—

1. That after a period of seven years from this time, namely, on the 4th day of August, 1889—the corresponding Mahommedan date will be hereafter promulgated—slavery shall cease to exist within my dominions, and all persons, old and young, of every degree, age, and nationality therein, shall become and be absolutely free.

(L.S.) ABDER RHAMAN BIN SAEED.

CONVENTION between Her Majesty and the King of
Morilla for the Suppression of Slavery and the
Slave Trade.

Signed at Doornik, October 24, 1882.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. 1888.*

LONDON :

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SON'S.