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PAPERS

RELATIVE TO

SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVERY

IN

ZANZIBAR.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1892.*

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Papers relative to Slave Trade and Slavery in Zanzibar.

No. 1.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received September 23.)

Sir, *Admiralty, September 21, 1891.*
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the accompanying extent of a communication, dated the 26th ultimo, from the Commander-in-chief, East Indies, with inclosures, relative to the Slave Trade in the Zanzibar Division.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Rear-Admiral Nicholson to Admiralty.

"Raleigh," in Simon's Bay, August 26, 1891.

THE inclosed Report is submitted for information.

The deterrent effect of a blockade is difficult to estimate, but, judging from the present Report, the results obtained are insignificant; either slave-smuggling from the mainland has ceased, or its votaries evade the present system of boat patrol.

(Signed) H. F. NICHOLSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Captain Henderson to Rear-Admiral Nicholson.

Sir, *"Conquest," at Pemba, July 22, 1891.*
I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of the entries in the "Slave Journal" for the half-year ending 30th June last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Slave Report for the Half-year ending 30th June, 1891.

January 1891.

HER Majesty's ship "Cossack" was depôt-ship at Pemba during this month.
The blockade was arranged as follows, viz:—

Nos. 1 and 10 Stations patrolled by steam-pinnace No. 77, manned by
"Marathon."

- No. 2 Station.—“Marathon’s” whaler.
 „ 3 „ —Steam-pinnace No. 16, manned by “Marathon.”
 „ 4 „ —“Olga,” sailing-launch, manned by “Cossack.”
 „ 5 „ —Looked out for by an interpreter.
 „ 6 „ —Looked out for by an interpreter, with an occasional visit by one of “Cossack’s” boats.
 „ 7 „ —“Shamrock,” manned by “Cossack.”
 „ 8 „ —“Thistle,” manned by “Cossack.”
 „ 9 „ —“Cossack’s” cutter, with a Lieutenant in one of “Cossack’s” boats in charge of Nos. 6, 7, 8, and 9 Stations.
- No slaves were captured during this month.

February 1891.

- 13th.—Her Majesty’s ship “Marathon” relieved her boats’ crews at Pemba.
 16th.—Her Majesty’s ship “Mariner” relieved Her Majesty’s ship “Cossack” at Pemba, and took charge of the blockade.
 14th.—The Sultan’s guards captured nineteen raw slaves on south coast of Zanzibar; they were delivered over to Her Majesty’s Agent and Consul-General, and released.
 The Island of Zanzibar is now apparently well watched by the Sultan’s guards; he has not yet placed any guards on Pemba Island.
 20th.—A man named Akitale waded off to No. 77 steam-pinnace whilst watering off Jonjoni, Pemba; he had been severely flogged by his master, and had run away. He was taken to Zanzibar and delivered over to Consul-General, and released.

March 1891.

- The blockade arranged as follows:—
 The “Mariner” being dépôt-ship at Pemba.
 No. 1 Station.—Steam-pinnace No. 16, manned by “Marathon.”
 „ 2 „ —A cutter, manned by “Marathon.”
 „ 3 „ —Steam-pinnace No. 77, manned by “Marathon.”
 „ 4 „ —Cutter, manned by “Mariner.”
 „ 10 „ —“Olga,” manned by “Mariner.”
 „ 7 „ —“Thistle,” manned by “Mariner.”
 „ 8 „ —“Shamrock,” manned by “Mariner.”
 “Mariner’s” whaler supervising Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10 Stations.
 29th.—Her Majesty’s ship “Conquest” relieved the “Marathon” as Senior Naval officer, the latter ship proceeding to Trincomalee.

April 1891.

- 1st.—“Marathon” sailed for Trincomalee, picking up her boats at Pemba *en route*, and the blockade was arranged as follows, viz.:—
 No. 1 Station.—Steam-pinnace No. 16, manned by “Mariner.”
 „ 2 „ —Steam-cutter, manned by “Conquest.”
 „ 3 „ —Steam-pinnace No. 77, manned by “Mariner.”
 „ 6 „ —Whaler “Thistle,” manned by “Conquest.”
 „ 7 „ —Cutter, manned by “Conquest.”
 „ 8 „ —“Shamrock,” manned by Conquest.”
 „ 9 „ —Cutter, manned by “Mariner.”
 „ 10 „ —Whaler, manned by “Mariner.”
 “Conquest” arrived at Pemba on the 7th, leaving again on the 9th; while there inspected the Funzi dépôt, the steam-pinnaces Nos. 16 and 77, and visited the Wali.
 The latter returned my visit on the 9th, the first occasion of his visiting a man-of-war.

As the number of ships now on the East African Division is reduced to four, one of whom, the gun-boat, is more or less always required for service in connection with the stern-wheelers on the Zambesi, the number of boats available for the blockade is reduced, and some of the stations cannot be manned.

Thinking it was time a beginning was made to get His Highness the Sultan to assist in carrying out his own Decrees for the suppression of the Slave Trade, I in December last, through Her Majesty’s Agent and Consul-General, requested that he would place local guards at certain places in Zanzibar and Pemba. They have been posted at the

former, but not at the latter place, although a promise was made that it should be done. Until such is the case I have placed interpreters at Nos. 4 and 5 Stations to report any information they may gain concerning the Slave Trade, the Wali having furnished them with letters to the Headman of the district.

9th.—“Brisk” arrived at Pemba and relieved the “Mariner’s” boats and the permanent ones she was manning.

As Her Majesty’s Agent and Consul-General had reported to me that at this season large number of dhows were leaving for Arabia, and there were reports of slaves being shipped from Zanzibar, the “Olga” was stationed off the north end of Zanzibar to overhaul everything leaving the island. I have also had out several boats at night in Zanzibar Harbour, and boarded several dhows when on passage to Mombasa, but no sign of slaves in them was seen.

The “Marathon’s” cutter when at Pemba took six slaves out of a dhow. They were brought into Court by the “Mariner,” and as it appeared it was a premeditated case, I have sent the “Mariner” to Pemba to try and discover the dhow and the owner of the slaves.

From careful inquiries made at Tanga, I believe no slaves are smuggled from that port of the German coast.

17th.—“Mariner” brought back and into Court the dhow that had carried the slaves. Dhow condemned, and slaves liberated.

22nd.—Received orders to send “Brisk” and “Pigeon” to Mozambique to await orders. “Mariner,” which had proceeded to Pemba with mails, &c., on 21st, was immediately dispatched to recall her.

The blockade was reconstituted as follows:—

No. 1 Station.—Steam-pinnace No. 16, manned by “Conquest.”

” 2 ” —Steam-cutter, manned by “Conquest.”

” 3 ” —Steam-pinnace No. 77, manned by “Mariner.”

Nos. 4, 5, and 6 Stations.—Watched by interpreters on shore.

Nos. 7 and 8 Stations.—Whaler “Thistle,” manned by “Conquest.”

No. 9 Station.—Interpreter on shore.

Kokotoni Bay.—“Olga.”

May 1891.

4th.—“Mariner,” having to proceed to Mozambique on 10th, was dispatched to Pemba, and the “Conquest” being the only ship left for manning the boats, the blockade was arranged as follows:—

North-western Divisions. Stations Nos. 2 and 3.—“Conquest’s” steam-cutter.

South-western Division. Stations Nos. 1, 9, and 10.—Steam-pinnace No. 16.

Southern Division. Stations Nos. 7 and 8.—Whaler “Thistle.”

Interpreters being stationed on shore on Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 8 Stations.

The “Olga,” manned by “Conquest,” in Kokotoni Bay.

Relief boats’ crews were sent up, and the blockade placed under the charge of Lieutenant A. T. Hunt.

30th.—“Mariner,” having returned from Mozambique, was again dispatched with relief boats’ crews, towing up steam-pinnace No. 77 and bringing down the “Quest” (No. 16), the former having been towed down on the 7th May for a thorough overhaul and refit. The “Mariner” left her gig in place of the “Thistle,” the latter requiring repair.

June 1891.

3rd.—“Mariner” proceeded to Mozambique.

Lieutenant Hunt reported on his return that he had detained a dhow on suspicion of her having run a cargo of fifty-eight slaves from Zanzibar on to the reef between Ras Upembe and M’tangani, the owner being one Captain (Nakoda) Hassan, of Michiniani. I have sent orders to Lieutenant Millar to procure evidence.

Three raw slaves were, in the latter part of April or early part of May, captured by the Sultan’s Askaris, having been landed close to the barracks just outside the town of Zanzibar.

22nd.—On the 15th instant four slaves, and on the 16th one slave and two prisoners, the brothers Bakaro, were sent down from Pemba by Lieutenant Millar, together with the captain and one of the crew of the dhow detained by Lieutenant Hunt. The cases were put into Court, when it appeared that the dhow detained by Lieutenant Hunt had left the town of Zanzibar with many slaves on board, which she had run over the outer

reef between Ras Upembe and M'tangani about 10th May. A hole was knocked in her bottom, but as the springs were going off she was repaired on the reef, and, as the next springs came on, was brought round to Michinzani, where she was detained by Lieutenant Hunt.

Another dhow, belonging to one Salamene, living at Zanzibar, had left Pongwi, on the east coast of Zanzibar, on 23rd May, calling at Muembe the night of the eclipse of the moon, and had run a cargo of fifty-three slaves on to Pemba a few nights afterwards.

The evidence in the latter case was given by a man named Jabu, who had taken a passage in the dhow as far as Muembe, when, being overcrowded, he had left her; he recognized the owner, and the three slaves who were taken by the interpreter Sallie recognized Jabu; the owner was also recognized by the slaves, and he having admitted his dhow had returned to Zanzibar, she was recognized by Jabu and detained and put into Court.

Two slaves, named Hassan and Marbuske, were brought up in dhow No. 1. They both recognized the Nakoda, and stated they were run over the reef on the east coast.

It appears that the slaves in both dhows were consigned to the brothers Bakari and Roberé (or Robiera), the man who was captured by Lieutenant Hunt last year; they are all noted slave-dealers. The brothers Bakari were arrested by the Wali of Chaki Chaki, and were sentenced, together with the Nakoda of No. 1 dhow and the owner of No. 2, to thirty cuts and the chain-gang. The slaves were condemned and liberated. Dhow No. 1 was condemned and destroyed; dhow No. 2 stands over on account of the doctrine of "continuous voyage."

The cases took a fortnight's patient work to unravel, and the fact of its being done is entirely due to having interpreters located on shore.

I was informed by Captain Frohawk, of the British India steam-ship "Ethiopia," that on his passage to Aden, when leaving Zanzibar on the 25th April, he relieved several dhows short of water, and making long passages on account of the lateness of the monsoon, and among them one having thirty-five slaves from Waisu, bound to Muscat.

During May and June the cruising steam-pinnaces Nos. 16 and 77 were brought down to Zanzibar and thoroughly overhauled.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, there has been no direct heavy importation of raw slaves into Pemba or Zanzibar during the half-year, but a certain amount of smuggling has been going on.

(Signed) W. H. HENDERSON,
Captain and Senior Naval Officer.

No. 2.

Mr. Portal to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(Extract.)

Zanzibar, September 12, 1891.

THERE is hardly any question before us, in connection with this country, of more pressing importance than that of the supply of labour for carrying on the ordinary work of the port, the custom-houses, the town, and the plantations.

The various Decrees and Treaties which have been enacted here since 1873 have greatly diminished the number of slaves, more especially during the last few years, since the attraction of European attention to these countries has caused an increased activity in enforcing the observance of international engagements.

The freed slave, when he first receives his liberty, is extremely averse to work of any kind; so long as he can get hold of a few plantains and bananas, he generally prefers to assert his independence by commencing a life of semi-somnolent inertia, from which he declines to be tempted even by the offer of high wages. He has very few wants, and the acquisition of money is no object to him.

This would, in itself, be sufficient to cause grave embarrassment to the land-owners of these islands, whose plantations of cloves, cocoa-nuts, betel-nuts, and plantains have hitherto been worked entirely by slave labour.

But, unfortunately, the difficulties caused by the anti-slavery movement do not represent more than a small fraction of the whole misfortune with which the land-owners and employers of labour in Zanzibar now find themselves threatened.

For many years past the Island of Zanzibar has been the recruiting-ground, as well as the starting-point, of every African traveller, whether he be explorer, botanist, merchant, soldier, freebooter, slave-trader, or missionary. Not a caravan goes into the

interior of Africa without a considerable number of Zanzibari porters recruited either by persuasion or by force.

From what is generally known of the usual history of African caravans and travellers, it will be readily believed that a very large percentage of these men never return at all.

The following facts will give some idea as to the extent to which this goes on:—

On the 1st June last the Imperial British East Africa Company alone had, in different parts of the interior of Africa, about 800 Zanzibari porters.

Since that date their agents in Zanzibar have collected and sent to them 500 more men from here, and have also collected and sent away 222 Zanzibaris as porters for Captain Stairs' caravan, to go east of Lake Nyassa.

The agents of the Church Missionary Society have collected for Mission caravans in the last two months about 350 Zanzibar porters.

This alone accounts for nearly 1,900 men in the last few months, and takes no account whatever of the far larger numbers who have gone up with Arab or German caravans, or who have been enlisted as soldiers in the German sphere.

Besides all this, the Congo Free State has apparently begun to look upon Zanzibar as an inexhaustible recruiting-ground for coolies, and has carried off many hundreds of men from here to the West Coast.

This being known, it is not surprising that a commission has come here even from Natal for the collection of a quantity of coolies for work in that country.

In fact, it appears that the authorities of the German sphere, the English sphere, the Congo Free State, and Natal, and all the innumerable Arab and European traders and travellers in the interior of Africa, have looked upon Zanzibar as a sort of milch cow, from which to draw unfailling streams of willing or unwilling labour.

To such an extent has this been carried on unchecked that not only are the plantations in this island suffering severely, but the whole of Zanzibar is in danger of being depopulated unless a complete stop be put to the system.

Moreover, it tends to vitiate our efforts to suppress the Slave Trade, as the Arab land-owners are put to such straits for labour that they are willing, not only to give high prices, but also to run considerable risks, in order to obtain new slaves.

Under these circumstances it appears to me that there is but one course to pursue if we would save these islands from ruin, that is, to stop all recruitment and enlistment altogether.

I therefore ventured to trouble your Lordship with my telegram of the 7th instant, and I have the honour to report that on the receipt of your reply the Sultan issued a Decree notifying that, the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government having been obtained, all recruitment or enlistment of soldiers, coolies, or porters for service beyond the limits of his dominions is henceforth strictly forbidden.

At His Highness' request I have caused a Notice to be posted alongside of his Decree, to the same effect. Copy of this Notice is inclosed herewith.

This enactment has been received with the greatest satisfaction by all classes at Zanzibar, and as it will be the duty of Her Majesty's officers here to see that it is thoroughly carried out, there are grounds for hoping that its effects may before long be felt in a steady improvement in the supply of labour.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Notice.

To all whom it may concern,

NOTICE is hereby given that by a Decree of His Highness the Sultan, issued this day with the consent and concurrence of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, all recruitment or enlistment of soldiers, coolies, and porters for service beyond His Highness' dominions is and remains strictly forbidden.

(Signed)

GERALD H. PORTAL,

*Her Britannic Majesty's Diplomatic Agent and
Consul-General.*

Zanzibar, September 11, 1891.

No. 3.

British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

My Lord,

55, New Broad Street, London, February 16, 1892.

A LETTER addressed to me by a missionary stationed near Lake Tanganyika, under date the 31st August last, has reached me, and I am directed to forward the following extract, which bears upon the question of the hiring of slaves, and is considered by my Committee to be important at the present moment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. H. ALLEN, *Secretary.*

 Inclosure in No. 3.

Extract of Letter addressed to Mr. Allen, dated August 31, 1891.

 HIRING OF SLAVE LABOUR.

The Hiring of Slave Labour for Congo River Station, &c.

YOU are here, I am glad to say, on the right tack. I have had considerable experience of this sort of polite winking at domestic slavery.

In 1882 I was an officer in a caravan of over 900 Wangwana, hired from Zanzibar, and again in 1888 commanded a party of 250 from Zanzibar to Ujiji. These men, and even the Headmen, were all slaves, or with very few exceptions. They are collected by agents from the town, paid two months' advance, 10 dollars, and shut up until the dhow is ready to ferry them over. Their masters receive a portion, and in most cases all this advance. As Missionary Societies as well as travellers were always demanding porters for the interior, it created a splendid market. Arabs would engage their slaves, get the advance, allow them to travel a few days into the interior, and desert, only to rejoin another caravan at Zanzibar, and so on.

I have had great numbers of men who went to the Congo, and for any one to say they were not slaves is simply gross ignorance of Zanzibar life.

As a member of a Missionary Society, I plead guilty to encouraging this evil by providing work for them. However, since 1888 our Society have dismissed every Zanzibar man from their stations on Tanganyika, and by using the Nyassa route have destroyed what was a great evil in Central African work.

If you can get this hiring of slaves from Zanzibar stopped, it will, I am sure, eradicate a great evil, and although some one may tell you the term "mgwāna" means a "free man," it is in reality quite the opposite in daily life. Slavery is doomed, and dying fast. Where, a few years ago, thousands of slaves passed my door every year, *en route* for the coast, now they are reduced to hundreds, and fast becoming a non-paying article of trade. By education and trade the natives here are fast getting to that stage when men look around and claim freedom as a birthright, and this, after all, is the only cure for slavery.

I trust you will excuse the liberty of detaining you so long, but as I have long since given my life to the snapping of the cruel chain which binds my fellows in slavery, I could not refrain from writing.

In conclusion, let me say, if you would turn your attention to the rich Hindis at Zanzibar, who *advance* thousands to the Arabs to carry on their work here, you would perhaps strike a more vital part of this horrid system than you imagine, and bring to account subjects of our Queen who disgrace our name.

 No. 4.

*Foreign Office to Mr. Portal.**

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 23, 1892.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit herewith, for your information, copy of a letter from the Anti-Slavery Society,† inclosing an extract from one from a missionary on Lake Tanganyika in regard to the hiring of slaves at Zanzibar.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

 * Also to Commissioner Johnston.

† No. 2.

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No. 5.

Mr. Portal to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Zanzibar, March 24, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing extract from a letter addressed to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, in which that gentleman inveighs against the system of hiring porters for caravans from Zanzibar, on the ground that such porters are all slaves. In forwarding this letter to your Lordship, Mr. Allen adds that this question is "considered by the Committee to be important at the present moment."

In reply, I have the honour to point out that I have already taken active steps in this matter, and that the evil complained of has been thoroughly met by the Decree and Proclamation issued simultaneously by the Sultan and myself on the 11th September last, reported in my despatch of the 12th of that month, under which all enlistment of porters, soldiers, &c., in Zanzibar or Pemba for service outside these islands is strictly prohibited.

As regards the suggestion made at the end of the letter, that the Indian merchants of Zanzibar should be restrained from advancing money to the leaders of up-country caravans, I am afraid that the plan would hardly be practicable without putting an entire stop to all commerce with the interior of Africa. Almost every caravan which leaves for the interior is equipped with money, cloth, and other barter goods by Indian merchants, who thus hold a lien on the caravan, and recoup themselves for their outlay on its return with ivory, gum, or other African produce.

So far as I can form an opinion from careful examination and inquiries made both here and on the mainland coast, I do not think that the Indian merchants at Zanzibar alluded to at all deserve, as a class, his sweeping accusation or insinuation that they are actively interested in the Slave Trade, and thereby "disgrace our name." I will not fail to continue to give the subject my closest attention, and it would be of the greatest assistance to me if I could be furnished with any of the proofs or evidence on which the accusation is founded.

I need hardly assure your Lordship that if at any time any British subject, within the limits of my jurisdiction, can be convicted of being concerned in the Slave Trade, he will at once be rigorously and severely punished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. PORTAL.

No. 6.

Foreign Office to British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 22, 1892.

WITH reference to your letter of the 16th February, drawing attention to accusations of slave-hiring against Indian traders at Zanzibar, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit herewith, for the information of your Society, copy of a despatch from Mr. Portal,* reporting the steps taken by him to check this evil, and of the Proclamation issued simultaneously by the Sultan and by himself in September last with this object.

Lord Salisbury will be happy to forward to Mr. Portal any evidence which may be produced in support of the statements.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

* No. 5.

No. 7.

Mr. Portal to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 25.)

My Lord,

Zanzibar, April 5, 1892.

A FEW days after I had forwarded to your Lordship my despatch of the 24th ultimo, a mail from Europe arrived, bringing the "Times" of the 1st March, in which was published the letter to your Lordship from the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society, containing an inclosure in which was formulated a grave accusation against the whole Indian community at Zanzibar. In this letter the Indians are accused of being actively concerned in the Slave Trade, and are said to be "subjects of the Queen who disgrace our name."

The publication of this letter has produced here no little excitement, especially among the leading members of the community and the Heads of the different castes, who are especially alluded to by the writer of the letter. These gentlemen have been accused of an offence which, if proved, would entail upon them heavy penalties and long terms of imprisonment, and they have asked me to help them to obtain an opportunity of clearing their names from this accusation, either before a Court of Law or in some other public manner.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a Petition which has been addressed to me on the subject, which is signed by the titular Heads of every caste of Indian residing in this town. In this Petition I am asked to say whether "this slur thus sought to be cast on the good name of a loyal and law-abiding community like theirs is at all merited or called for." In compliance with this request, I have great pleasure in stating that although ever since my arrival here I have taken great pains to learn as much as possible concerning East African trade, I have never seen the smallest sign of Indians being concerned in the Slave Trade. But if the Anti-Slavery Society will kindly furnish me with the evidence or proofs on which this serious accusation is founded, I will at once institute a searching inquiry, and will do my utmost to bring the offenders to justice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. H. PORTAL.

Inclosure in No. 7.

British Indian Residents and Merchants of Zanzibar to Mr. Portal.

Sir,

Zanzibar, April , 1892.

WE, the undersigned British-Indian residents and merchants of Zanzibar, have had our attention called to the following paragraph of an extract of a letter purporting to have been received from a member of a Missionary Society by the Secretary of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and published in the "Times" of the 1st March, 1892:—

"In conclusion, let me say, if you would turn your attention to the rich Hindoos at Zanzibar, who advance thousands to the Arabs to carry on their work here, you would perhaps strike a more vital part of this horrid system than you imagine, and bring to account the subjects of our Queen who disgrace our name."

We cannot allow this astounding and reckless libel to be published to the world through the columns of the "Times" against us without an indignant protest. We do not know who this member of a Missionary Society may be, but we emphatically deny the truth of his assertion, and appeal to you, Sir, who are on the spot and take pains to keep yourself informed as to every detail of the system of our trade with Arabs, to say if this slur thus sought to be cast on the good name of a loyal and law-abiding community like ours is at all merited or called for, and we beg you to take such measures as you may consider necessary on our behalf to refute this calumny.

We have, &c.

(Signatures follow.)

PAPERS relative to Slave Trade and Slavery in
Zanzibar.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. June 1892.*
