

COLL.

NORTH AMERICA. No. 6. (1865.)

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

CESSATION OF CIVIL WAR

IN

NORTH AMERICA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1865.

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Correspondence respecting the Cessation of Civil War in North America.

No. 1.

*Earl Russell to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.**

My Lords,

Foreign Office, June 2, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordships that since the date of my letter of the 11th ultimo intelligence has reached this country that the late President of the so-called Confederate States has been captured by the military forces of the United States, and has been transported as a prisoner to Fort Monroe, and that the armies hitherto kept in the field by the Confederate States have for the most part surrendered or dispersed.

In this posture of affairs Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that neutral nations cannot but consider the civil war in North America as at an end.

In conformity with this opinion Her Majesty's Government recognize that peace has been restored within the whole territory of which the United States of North America before the commencement of the civil war were in undisturbed possession.

As a necessary consequence of such recognition on the part of Her Majesty's Government, Her Majesty's several authorities in all ports, harbours, and waters belonging to Her Majesty, whether in the United Kingdom or beyond the seas, must henceforth refuse permission to any vessel of war carrying a Confederate flag to enter any such ports, harbours, and waters; and must require any Confederate vessels of war which, at the time when these orders reach Her Majesty's authorities in such ports, harbours, and waters may have already entered therein on the faith of Proclamations heretofore issued by Her Majesty, and which, having complied with the provisions of such Proclamations, may be actually within such ports, harbours, and waters, forthwith to depart from them.

But Her Majesty's Government consider that a due regard for national good faith and honour requires that Her Majesty's authorities should be instructed, as regards any such Confederate vessels so departing, that they should have the benefit of the prohibition heretofore enforced against pursuit of them within twenty-four hours by a cruiser of the United States lying at the time within any such ports, harbours, and waters, and that such prohibition should be then and for the last time maintained in their favour.

If, however, the Commander of any Confederate vessel of war which may be found in any port, harbour, or waters of Her Majesty's dominions at the time these new orders are received by Her Majesty's authorities, or may enter such port, harbour, or waters, within a month after these new orders are received, should wish to divest his vessel of her warlike character, and, after disarming her, to remain without a Confederate flag within British waters, Her Majesty's authorities may allow the Commander of such vessel to do so at his own risk in all respects, in which case he should be distinctly apprised that he is to expect no further protection from Her Majesty's Government, except such as he may be entitled to in the ordinary course of the administration of the law in time of peace.

The rule as to twenty-four hours would of course not be applicable to the case of such vessel.

I have addressed a similar letter to the Secretaries of State for the Home, Colonial, India, and War Offices, and also to the Lords Commissioners of Her

* Similar letters were addressed to the Home Office, Colonial Office, War Office, Treasury, and India Office.

Majesty's Treasury, requesting them, as I do your Lordships, to issue instructions in conformity with the decision of Her Majesty's Government to the several British authorities at home or abroad who may be called upon to act in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 2.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received June 10.)

My Lord,

Madrid, June 6, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, informing your Lordship that I had communicated to the Spanish Government the decision of Her Majesty's Government to consider the war in North America at an end, I have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Madrid Gazette," with translation, containing a Royal Decree abrogating the Royal Decree of the 17th of June, 1861, by which the Confederate States of America were recognized as belligerents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Extract from the "Gaceta de Madrid" of June 6, 1865.

MINISTERIO DE ESTADO.

Real Decreto.

HABIENDO terminado la guerra entre los Estados del Norte y los del Sur, en la República de los Estados Unidos; y habiendo cesado en consecuencia, por el restablecimiento de la paz, las circunstancias que motivaron las disposiciones contenidas en mi Real Decreto de 17 de Junio de 1861, referente á la neutralidad de España en la expresada guerra, vengo en decretar lo siguiente:

Artículo único. Queda derogado mi Real Decreto de 17 de Junio de 1861.

Dado en Aranjuez, á cuatro de Junio de mil ochocientos sesenta y cinco.

(Esta rubricado de la Real Mano.)

El Ministro de Estado,
(Firmado) ANTONIO BENAVIDES.

(Translation.)

MINISTRY OF STATE.

Royal Decree.

THE war between the States of the North and those of the South in the Republic of the United States having terminated, and the circumstances having, consequently on the establishment of peace, ceased to exist, which suggested the measures contained in my Royal Decree of the 17th of June, 1861, referring to the neutrality of Spain in the aforesaid war, I have decreed as follows:

Single Article. My Royal Decree of the 17th of June, 1861, is abrogated.

Given at Aranjuez, June 4, 1865.

(Signed Regia Manu.)
(Countersigned) ANTONIO BENAVIDES, *Minister of State.*

No. 3.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received June 14.)

My Lord,

Paris, June 13, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, extracted from the "Moniteur" of this day, a circular addressed by the Minister of Marine to the Maritime Préfets, &c., stating that the Imperial Government will no longer recognize belligerents in North America, and that Confederate ships cannot be allowed in French ports.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Extract from the "Moniteur" of June 13, 1865.

LE Ministre de la Marine et des Colonies a adressée, à la date du 5 de ce mois, la circulaire suivante aux Préfets Maritimes, aux Commandants à la mer, et aux Gouverneurs des Colonies :—

"Messieurs,

"Paris, le 5 Juin, 1865.

"En proclamant, par sa Déclaration du 10 Juin, 1861, les règles de neutralité qu'il entendait observer entre les belligérants des divers Etats de l'Amérique du Nord, le Gouvernement de l'Empereur a reconnu un fait préexistant, c'est-à-dire, la lutte établie entre deux parties du territoire des Etats-Unis, lutte dans laquelle on observait de part et d'autre les lois de la guerre, soit pour le traitement et l'échange des prisonniers, soit pour les droits à exercer quant aux pavillons neutres.

"Aujourd'hui, après les événements qui se sont accomplis, la situation est tout autre. Le Ministre des Etats-Unis près le Gouvernement de l'Empereur a fait savoir que le Cabinet de Washington considérait la guerre comme ayant cessé et qu'il abandonnait toute prétention au droit de visite sur les neutres, tel qu'il a été exercé pendant la guerre.

"Dans cet état de choses, le Gouvernement de l'Empereur ne croit pas devoir plus longtemps reconnaître de belligérants dans les Etats de l'Amérique du Nord.

En conséquence, les bâtiments qui se présenteraient comme bâtiments Confédérés ne pourront plus être reçus dans les ports du Continent ou des Colonies, non plus que dans les eaux territoriales de l'Empire, et le pavillon Confédéré ne pourra plus être arboré dans nos ports.

Quant à ceux de ces navires qui se trouveraient dans nos ports au moment où vous parviendra la présente dépêche, ils devront en sortir ; mais vous ferez observer, pour la dernière fois, à leur égard, la règle rappelée dans ma circulaire du 5 Février, 1864, et aux termes de laquelle il doit y avoir un intervalle d'au moins vingt-quatre heures entre le départ de tout bâtiment de guerre de l'un des belligérants et le départ subséquent de tout navire de guerre de l'autre belligérant.

"Recevez, &c.

"Le Ministre Secrétaire d'Etat de la Marine et des Colonies,
(Signé) "P. DE CHASSELOUP-LAUBAT."

(Translation.)

THE Minister for Marine and the Colonies has addressed the following Circular, dated the 5th of this month, to the Maritime Prefects, Naval Commanders, and Governors of the Colonies :—

"Gentlemen,

"Paris, June 5, 1865.

"In proclaiming by their Declaration of the 10th of June, 1861, the rules of neutrality which they intended to observe between the belligerents of the different States of North America, the Emperor's Government recognized a pre-existing fact, that is to say, the conflict established between two portions of the territory of the United States, a conflict in which the laws of war were observed on one side as well as on the other, both as regards the treatment and exchange of prisoners, as well as the rights to be put in force as regards neutral flags.

“ At present, after the events which have taken place, the situation of affairs is completely altered. The Minister for the United States at the Emperor’s Court has announced that the Cabinet of Washington considered the war as having ceased, and that it abandoned all pretention to the exercise of the right of search against neutrals, as it has been employed during the war.

“ In this state of affairs the Emperor’s Government do not consider that they ought any longer to recognize the States of North America as belligerent.

“ In consequence, vessels presenting themselves as Confederate vessels can no longer be received in the ports of the Continent nor of the Colonies, nor in the territorial waters of the Empire, and the Confederate flag cannot be any longer displayed in our ports.

“ As regards those vessels which may be in our ports when the present despatch reaches you, they must depart ; but you will cause to be observed, for the last time in their behalf, the rule laid down in my Circular of the 5th of February, 1864, and by the terms of which an interval of at least twenty-four hours must be observed between the departure of any vessel of war of one of the belligerents and the subsequent departure of any vessel of war of the other belligerent.

“ Accept, &c.

“ The Minister Secretary of State for the Navy and Colonies,
(Signed) “ P. DE CHASSELOUP-LAUBAT.”

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