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FOREIGN-OFFICE, July 12, 1854.

IT is hereby notified that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been informed by Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Napier, K. C. B., Commanding Her Majesty's Naval Forces in the Baltic, that on and from the 26th of June last, a strict and effective Blockade was actually established by the Combined Fleets of Her Majesty and of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French, of the various ports in the Gulf of Finland, as hereafter specified; that is to say:—The whole of the ports in the Gulf of Finland to the eastward of Helsingfors and Sweaborg, on the Finland shore, including Borgo, Lovisa, Pythis, Frederikshamn, Werolax Bay, Viborg, Björkö Sound, and all intermediate ports, roads, havens, and creeks, to Cape Lubovki, in lat. 60° 5' north, and long. 29° 56' east.

From Cape Lubovki the line of Blockade crosses to Tolboukin Light, immediately off Cronstadt, then across southward, to off the town of Borki, in the province of Saint Petersburg, in lat. 59° 57' north, long. 29° 28' east.

That a complete Blockade of Cronstadt and Saint Petersburg has been effected by the Combined Fleets, which anchored off Cronstadt on the 26th instant.

Proceeding westward, the line of Blockade extends from Borki to Karavaldä Island, thence to Dolgoi Ness, and from Dolgoi Ness to Kolgenpia Point, which includes the Bight of Koporia, from thence to Kourgoulo Point, which includes Louga Bay, then the River Narva, and the whole Coast of Esthonia and adjacent Islands to Ekholm Light, situated in lat. 59° 43' north, long. 25° 48' east.

And it is hereby further notified, that all the measures authorized by the Laws of Nations, and the respective Treaties between Her Majesty and the different Neutral Powers, will be adopted and executed with respect to all vessels which may attempt to violate the said Blockade.

ADMIRALTY, July 11, 1854.

A Letter, of which the following is a copy, has been received from Commander Rice, of Her Majesty's steam-sloop *Prometheus*.

No. 6. *Her Majesty's steam-sloop Prometheus*,
SIR, *Gibraltar, June 28, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the

Admiralty, that, in pursuance of their Lordships' orders, I left Lisbon on the evening of the 22d instant, and proceeded towards Gibraltar.

On the afternoon of the following day, when about six miles S.W. of Cape St Vincent, I fell in with Her Majesty's steamer *Medina*. On learning from her commander that she had despatches for Admiral Dundas, and that her coal would not be sufficient to take her either to Gibraltar or Cadiz, I kept company with her until the next morning, when, as it blew hard from the eastward, with a heavy sea, I was unable to take her in tow until the afternoon, when it moderated.

I left her at Cadiz, at 6 A.M., the 25th instant, and proceeded to Gibraltar, where I arrived at 6 o'clock the same evening.

Having immediately communicated with Captain the Hon. George Grey (delivering to him their Lordships' letter), I was informed by him that on the night of Tuesday last, the 20th instant, an English brig, called the "*Cuthbert Young*," of South Shields, had been captured and plundered by piratical boats, about 10 miles to the N.W. of Cape Tres Forcas, but that the master and crew,* 12 in number, had escaped, and arrived at Gibraltar. Captain Grey sent the master, Mr Marshall, on board, as also a pilot for the Riff Coast, and at 8 o'clock the same evening I proceeded to sea.

On the following morning I anchored for a short time near the Spanish Fort of Albucema, which is on the coast of the district of Beni Oriaga (mentioned in the extract of a despatch enclosed in their Lordships' letter), and communicated with the Governor. I learnt from him that the boy referred to by their Lordships' letter had been given up and sent to Tangier, unhurt, in charge of two soldiers of the Emperor of Morocco, four days previously, having been confined five weeks in the neighbourhood of Albucema.

The Spanish vessel captured by the Moors was laden with water, oil, and Spanish Government stores for the Fort of Albucema. She was taken at night, and subsequently destroyed on the shore of Beni Oriaga, in sight of the Spanish garrison, just out of gun shot.

The Moors sent to offer to sell her, the cargo, and the boy, to the Governor of Albucema, for

* I have since learnt that only six arrived here; the other six went away from the brig in a boat, but have not been heard of, they left half-an-hour before the master and other five escaped.