

United States will materially assist Her Majesty in those endeavours which Great Britain has long been engaged in making to put an end to the perpetration of that most disgraceful crime.

Her Majesty has assented with satisfaction to many other measures of public usefulness, the result of your labours during the present Session.

It has been gratifying to Her Majesty to observe that, notwithstanding many adverse circumstances, the general prosperity of Her Empire continues unimpaired. Though great local distress has been suffered in Great Britain from the effects of the civil war in America, and in Ireland from the results of three unfavourable seasons, the financial resources of the United Kingdom have been fully maintained, and its general commerce with the world at large has not been materially impaired.

It has been a source of great satisfaction to Her Majesty to find that Her East Indian Possessions, rapidly recovering from the disasters which lately overspread them, are entering upon a course of improvement, social, financial, and commercial, which holds out good promise for the growing prosperity of those extensive regions.

On returning to your several counties you will still have important duties to perform; and Her Majesty fervently prays that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your efforts to promote the welfare and happiness of Her subjects,—the object of Her constant and earnest solicitude.

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read; after which the Lord Chancellor said:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

By virtue of Her Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in Her Majesty's name, and in obedience to Her commands, prorogue this Parliament to Wednesday the fourteenth day of October next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Wednesday the fourteenth day of October next.

FOREIGN OFFICE, July 30, 1863.

THE following Correspondence between Mr Edwardes, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid, and the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been received by Earl Russell, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

No. 1.

Mr Edwardes to the Marquis de Miraflores.
(Extract.) Madrid, July 2, 1863.

THE information required by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, and which was set forth in the note which I had the honour to address to your Excellency on the 25th of May is, Whether the Spanish Government, as a neutral in the present war in North America, with the view of diminishing as far as possible the vexations and the injuries to which neutral commerce is exposed, has adopted or is prepared to adopt with regard to merchant vessels departing from Spanish Ports, a rule which is allowed, if not directly sanctioned by International Law in the case of belligerent cruisers, according to which the vessel of war of one belligerent is not entitled to put to sea until the expiration of twenty-four hours from the time when the last preceding vessel of war or commerce of the other belligerent shall have left the same port or roadstead.

No. 2.

(Translation.)

The Marquis de Miraflores to Mr. Edwardes.

SIR, Palace, July 4, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 2d instant, in reply to mine of the 25th ultimo, from which I perceive that what Her Britannic Majesty's Government wishes to know is, Whether Spain, as a Neutral Power in the war which afflicts the United States, has adopted or is disposed to adopt in her ports, with respect to North American merchant vessels, the rule admitted if not sanctioned by International Law in regard to belligerent cruisers, according to which no vessel of war of one belligerent can put to sea until twenty-four hours have elapsed from the sailing from the same port of the vessel of war or merchant vessel of the enemy?

In reply I have to state to you that the Government of the Queen, my Sovereign, not only recognizes the rule admitted by the Law of Nations, but has applied it on several occasions, and whenever its (application) has been claimed by the parties interested.

I avail, &c.,

(Signed) EL MARQ. DE MIRAFLORES.

FOREIGN OFFICE, July 29, 1863.

The Queen has been pleased to approve of Don Juan Antonio Arguch as Consul at Gibraltar for Her Majesty the Queen of Spain.

DOWNING STREET, July 27, 1863.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Wilberforce Wilson, Esq., to be Assistant Surveyor-General for the Colony of Hong-Kong.

(905.)

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
July 25, 1863.*

The Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade have received, from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a translation of a Royal Portuguese Decree forwarded by Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon, establishing the regulations to be adopted in order to obtain Portuguese nationality for merchant vessels, and of which the following are the most important provisions:—

TITLE THE FIRST.—Of the Nationality of Ships and its conditions.

ARTICLE 1ST. The conditions of the nationality of Portuguese merchant vessels have in view—

- Firstly. The construction, or origin of a vessel.
- Secondly. The owners or fitters.
- Thirdly. The captain and officers in command.
- Fourthly. The crew or ship's company.

CHAPTER THE FIRST.—Of the Origin of a Vessel.

ARTICLE 2D. In order that a merchant vessel should be considered Portuguese, its construction must have been Portuguese.