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FOREIGN OFFICE, October 10, 1865.

THE following correspondence has passed between Mr Adams, the United States Minister at this Court, and Earl Russell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

No. 1.

Mr Adams to Earl Russell.—(Received April 8.)

Legation of the United States, London,  
MY LORD, April 7, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of State at Washington by the Consul of the United States at Rio Janeiro, Mr Munroe, making a report of the depredations committed upon the commerce of the United States by the vessel known in the port of London as the "Sea King," but since transformed into the "Shenandoah" by a process already fully explained in a note which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 18th November last.

I regret to be obliged to add that this same vessel has been, since the date of Mr Munroe's letter, heard of at Melbourne, from which place further details of similar outrages have been received. The particulars have been communicated to my Government, but there has not yet been sufficient time for me to obtain its instructions in regard to them. I cannot doubt, however, that they will be the same in substance as those embraced in the last despatch.

Were there any reasons to believe that the operations carried on in the ports of Her Majesty's Kingdom and its dependencies to maintain and extend this systematic depredation upon the commerce of a friendly people had been materially relaxed or prevented, I should not be under the painful necessity of announcing to your Lordship the fact that my Government cannot avoid entailing upon the Government of Great Britain the responsibility for this damage. It is impossible to be insensible to the injury that may yet be impending from the part which the British steamer "City of Richmond" has had in being suffered to transport with impunity from the port of London men and supplies, to place them on

board of the French-built steam-ram "Olinthe," alias "Stoerkodder," alias "Stonewall," which has through a continually fraudulent process succeeded in deluding several Governments of Europe, and in escaping from this hemisphere on its errand of mischief in the other.

I am by no means insensible to the efforts which have already been made, and are yet making, by Her Majesty's Government to put a stop to such outrages in this kingdom and its dependencies. Neither can I permit myself to doubt the favourable disposition of her Ministers to maintain amicable relations with the Government which I represent.

Whilst perfectly ready to bear testimony to the promptness with which all the numerous remonstrances and representations which it has been my painful duty heretofore to submit have been met and attended to by your Lordship, it is, at the same time impossible for me to dispute the fact that the hostile policy which it is the object of all this labour to prevent has not only not been checked, but is even now going into execution with more and more complete success.

That policy, I trust I need not point out to your Lordship, is substantially the destruction of the whole mercantile navigation belonging to the people of the United States. The nature of the process by which this is coming about may readily be appreciated by a brief examination of the Returns of the registered tonnage of Her Majesty's Kingdom for the last six years. I have the honour to append to this note a tabular statement of the number of merchant ships built, and of the tonnage owned in the United States, which have been transferred to British owners in the successive years beginning with 1858, and ending in 1864, so far as the materials at hand from the official reports of the two Governments can supply the information.

I trust that it will be needless for me to do more than to point out to your Lordship the inference deducible from this statement, to wit:—That the United States' commerce is rapidly vanishing from the face of the ocean, and that that of Great Britain is multiplying in nearly the same ratio. Furthermore, it is my painful duty to suggest that this process is going on by reason of the actions of British subjects in co-operation with

