



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 1848.

Foreign-Office, June 26, 1848.

VISCOUNT PALMERSTON, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has received from Mr. Belford Wilson, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Caracas, a dispatch, dated the 19th of May last, reporting, that the Venezuelan Government had declared and established a blockade of the port (plaza) of Maracaibo and its adjacent coasts, including in this latter term the whole of the coast bordering the Gulf of Maracaibo, from Capé San Roman, on the Peninsula of Paraguaná, to Point Espada, on that of La Goajira. Mr. Wilson transmits copies of the decree imposing the blockade, and of an explanatory resolution issued by the Venezuelan Secretary of War and Marine, which were communicated to him by the Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs. The decree and resolution are of the following tenor :

(Translation.)

Blockade of Maracaibo.

Republic of Venezuela.

James Baptist Urbaneja, Vice President of the Republic, charged with the Executive Government, &c. &c. &c. considering,

1st, That by the first attribution of the 117th article of the Constitution, the Executive Government is specially charged with the maintenance of the internal order and tranquillity of the State;

2d, That, by withdrawing from their allegiance to the National Government the (plaza) city and port of Maracaibo have become identified with the rebellion headed by General José Antonio Páez, for the purpose of overturning the institutions of the country and of changing its form of government;

3d, That the said city and port of Maracaibo are not only placed in a state of defence, but troops have been sent from thence to invade the provinces of Coro, Merida, and Trujillo, which forces have been destroyed by the loyal and brave defenders of the national institutions; And

4thly, That in such a state of things the Government is under the absolute necessity of taking all such steps as are within the sphere of its attributions to bring back to their duty those who have abandoned it, and converted themselves into enemies and rebels;

Decrees,

Article 1. The city and port of Maracaibo and their adjacent coasts are hereby declared to be in a state of blockade.