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*Foreign Office, February 28, 1863.*

**E**ARL RUSSELL has received a letter and its inclosures from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of which the following are copies, containing a report by Lieutenant Lefroy, Commanding Her Majesty's ship "Investigator," of his recent ascent of the River Niger to communicate with Dr. Baikie :

*The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.*

SIR, *Admiralty, January 14, 1863.*  
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Lieutenant B. L. Lefroy, of Her Majesty's ship "Investigator," dated the 26th of October last, reporting his proceedings relative to the Niger Expedition.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) C. PAGET.

Inclosure 1.

*Lieutenant Lefroy to the Secretary to the Admiralty.*

*"Investigator," Sierra Leone, December 21, 1862.*

SIR,  
I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch concerning the Niger Expedition, for their Lordships' information, as I know it will not be possible for the Commodore to forward those I sent him by this mail.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) B. L. LEFROY.

Inclosure 2.

*Lieutenant Lefroy to Commodore Edmonstone.*

*"Investigator," Lagos Roads, October 26, 1862.*

SIR,  
IN compliance with orders received from you, relative to the Niger Expedition, dated 4th August, which orders I received from the senior officer on the 26th August, on the following day, being manned, coaled, and provisioned by Her Majesty's ship "Brisk," I started for Fernando Po, to pick up the remainder of Dr. Baikie's goods, and fill up with coals. Arrived off the Nun river on the evening of the 31st, and communicated with Her Majesty's

ship "Brisk." On the following morning received provisions and took Mr. McCoskry's large boat in tow with coals. On the afternoon of the same day, having Captain Luce, R.N., on board, I proceeded over the Nun Bar, and found it very heavy. Anchored for the night off the Rev. Mr. Crowther's Missionary Establishment, which gentleman came on board, and begged a passage for himself and thirty-six of his followers, as far as the Confluence, which request I considered judicious to grant. On the 2nd September I commenced the ascent of the Niger. When about two miles up, stopped, and Captain Luce left for the Brass River. Proceeded at full speed. Found this part of the river low, swampy, and lined by the mangrove as far as Sunday Sound. Passed a few small, wretched villages, the water washing round them. At 6.30 P.M. anchored a mile above Akedo, having made twenty-eight miles, current about two and a-half knots.

*Wednesday, September 3.*—Got under weigh at 5.30 A.M. General aspect of country same as day previous. Ground gradually becoming more elevated. Passed the hostile villages, Kpetema, which we found temporarily deserted, the inhabitants having retired into the bush at our approach. After passing, observed numbers of men returning to the town with muskets, and shortly after heard report, and saw smoke of, I think, a 6-pounder. Passed the villages of Opoporoma; they saluted with three guns, and seemed glad to see us, the Chief pulling after us to Angiama, which place I stopped at for a few minutes, as a Treaty had been made by "Bloodhound" in November 1860. They seemed anxious to communicate, and appeared disappointed we were not a trade ship. The factory is still standing, and they hope for trade again. They told me they were very angry with the traders from Brass, as they consider they were the means of the factory being broken up, for which cause they will not trade with them. At all the other villages we observed canoes from Brass laden with palm oil. Aetween Asasi and Tuesday Sound, where the "Espoir" got aground, we had 3½ fathoms. Most of the villages hoisted a white flag, and the natives of all stood on the banks as we passed. At 6 P.M. anchored about two miles above Sabogrega. Made forty-four miles; strong current against us all day.

*September 4.*—Started at 5.30 A.M. Passed the hostile villages of Oloberi, also those of Imblamah, which had white flags up, and the natives stood fearlessly on the river bank. The village of Agberi, which fired on "Rainbow," had a white