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**E**XTRACT of a Despatch which has been addressed to the Earl of Clarendon by Sir John Crampton, Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, dated the 16th of June :—

I did not omit to urge upon the Spanish Government the expediency of making public, with the least possible delay, the decisions which may be come to by the Spanish Central and Local Boards of Health, as to the ports of Great Britain which they consider to be "foul" or "suspected," in consequence of its being supposed that cases of cholera morbus have occurred at them, or in their neighbourhood.

According to the present practice, these decisions, if taken by the Central Board at Madrid, are communicated to the Local Boards by instructions, and if taken by the Local Boards, are reported to the Central Board, at Madrid, for approval.

They appear to be sometimes made public in the local newspapers or official bulletins, or else to become known only by their application to the cases of vessels arriving in Spain from the ports to which they refer.

It was for this reason that it appeared to me that it would be some mitigation of the inconveniences and losses to which British shipping is exposed in Spain in regard to quarantine, if as little time as possible should be lost in making known to British subjects the nature of the quarantine to which they would have to submit on arriving in this country from ports considered by the Spanish Authorities to be infected with contagious diseases, and that the best way of effecting this would be the publication in the Gazette of Madrid of all such decisions.

In this the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs agreed with me, and promised that he would move the Minister of the Interior to adopt the suggestion.

It appears to me, however, that the most effectual way of informing British shipowners, so far as it can be done beforehand, of the quarantines likely to be imposed upon their vessels in Spain, would be, that Her Majesty's Consuls at the Spanish ports should keep themselves in communication with the Local Authorities upon the subject, and immediately communicate to Her Majesty's Government the decisions of the Spanish Authorities, whether emanating from the Central

Board of Health at Madrid, or from the Local Board at the port at which they reside.

Although this would not, under the provisions of the present law of health, in all cases ensure to a British ship-master a knowledge of the nature and amount of quarantine which he would have to undergo on his arrival in Spain, it would often apprise him of it.

The suggestion which recommends a notification by the Spanish Government of its resolution to regard all arrivals from British ports, even if bearers of clean bills of health as subject to quarantine, has already been complied with by the issue of the Circular No. 151, published in the Official Bulletin of the Province of Pontevedra, because by the decision therein notified, that "all the ports near Liverpool are to be considered foul, and all the ports of Great Britain notoriously compromised," vessels from Great Britain are, according to the 30th Article of the sanitary law, subjected to quarantine whether they bear clean bills of health or not; and the species and degree of quarantine to be applied to them is regulated by the other provisions of the same law.

The suggestion which recommends that "Ports should be specified on the Spanish sea-board at which vessels arriving from non-infected ports with clean bills of health may perform quarantine," could have no application under the operation of the present law, because by it such vessels would either be at once admitted to pratique, or else, in case of an official decision in Spain having declared the ports they came from infected, and thereby rendered their clean bills of health of no avail, they would be subject to quarantine either at a foul lazaretto or at a lazaretto of observation, as the case might be, under the provisions of the law.

The misapprehension under which most of those who have complained of the manner in which quarantine has been imposed in Spain, is that the enforcement of it by the authorities upon a vessel bearing a clean bill of health is in every case "illegal." This is, however, not so.

The Spanish Boards of Health, it is true, establish quarantines often extremely vexatious and detrimental to commerce, as well as of unnecessary severity, but generally speaking the letter of the law is observed.

The 30th Article of the sanitary laws of 1855, which is generally appealed to as enabling vessels