



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 23rd of OCTOBER.

Published by Authority.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1874.

Correspondence respecting the Conference at Brussels on the
Rules of Military Warfare.

No. 1.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Horsford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 25, 1874.

THE Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint you to be the Delegate to attend, on the part of Great Britain, at the Conference about to be held at Brussels on the Rules of Military Warfare, I have to instruct you to proceed forthwith to that city and to place yourself in communication with Her Majesty's Minister, who has received instructions to present you on your arrival to the Belgian Government as the British Delegate.

I transmit to you herewith, for your information and guidance, a copy of the papers which have been presented to Parliament on the subject of the Conference.

You will observe that Her Majesty's Government have stated to the Russian Government, by whom the proposals for the Conference was made, that they are firmly determined not to enter into any discussion of the rules of international law by which the relations of belligerents are guided, or to undertake any new obligations or engagements of any kind in regard to general principles. They have further requested, before agreeing to send a Delegate to the Conference, the most positive and distinct assurance from the Government of Russia, as well as from the Governments of all the Powers invited to take part in the Conference, that their Delegates shall be instructed to confine themselves to the consideration of details of military operations of the nature of those dealt with in the project of the Russian Government, and shall not entertain in any shape, directly or indirectly, anything relating to maritime operations or naval warfare.

The Russian Government has replied in a note addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg:—

“Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique fait observer avec une entière justesse que pour aboutir à un résultat utile, la Conférence ne doit poursuivre que des buts réalisables, sans aborder des principes nouveaux ou qui ne serait pas de nature à rencontrer l'assentiment de tous.

“Ce point de vue est tout à fait le nôtre. Aussi n'entre-t-il nullement dans nos