

of His Highness the Khedive of Egypt, in the following terms, that is to say:—

“The Government of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Government of His Highness the Khedive of Egypt, being mutually animated by a sincere desire to co-operate for the extinction of the traffic in slaves, and having resolved to conclude a Convention for the purpose of attaining this object, the undersigned, duly authorized for this purpose, have agreed upon the following Articles:—

“ARTICLE I.

“The Government of His Highness the Khedive having already promulgated a law forbidding the trade in slaves (negroes or Abyssinians) within the countries under His Highness' authority, engages to prohibit absolutely from henceforward the importation of any slaves (negroes or Abyssinians) into any part of the territory of Egypt or her dependencies, or their transit through her territories whether by land or sea; and to punish severely, in the manner provided by existing Egyptian law, or in such manner as may hereafter be determined, any person who may be found engaged, directly or indirectly, in the traffic in slaves, (negroes or Abyssinians). The Government of His Highness the Khedive further engages to prohibit absolutely any negroes or Abyssinians from leaving the territory of Egypt or her dependencies, unless it be proved indubitably that such negroes or Abyssinians are free or manumitted.

“It shall be stated in the certificates of manumission or passports which shall be delivered to them by the Egyptian Authorities before their departure that they may dispose of themselves without restriction or reserve.

“ARTICLE II.

“Any person who, either in Egypt or on the confines of Egypt and her dependencies towards the centre of Africa, may be found engaged in the traffic in slaves (negroes or Abyssinians) either directly or indirectly, shall, together with his accomplices, be considered by the Government of the Khedive as guilty of ‘stealing with murder’ (‘vol avec meurtre’); if subject to Egyptian jurisdiction he shall be handed over for trial to a court-martial, if not he shall immediately be handed over for trial according to the laws of his country to the competent tribunals, with the depositions (procès verbaux) drawn up by the Egyptian superior authority of the place where the traffic has been proved, and all other documents or evidence (‘éléments de conviction’) handed over by the said authority, and destined to serve as proofs at the trial of the traders so far as those laws may admit of such proof.

“All slaves (negroes or Abyssinians) found in the possession of a dealer in slaves shall be liberated and dealt with in conformity with the provisions of Article III, and of Annex (A) to the present Convention.

“ARTICLE III.

“Taking into consideration the impossibility of sending back to their homes slaves (negroes or Abyssinians) who may be captured from slave dealers and liberated, without exposing them to the risk of perishing from fatigue or want, or of falling again into slavery, the Egyptian Government will continue to take and apply in their favour such measures as they have already adopted, and which are hereinafter enumerated in Annex (A) to the present Convention.

“ARTICLE IV.

“The Egyptian Government will exert all the influence it may possess among the tribes of Central Africa, with the view of preventing the wars which are carried on for the purpose of procuring and selling slaves.

“It engages to pursue as murderers all persons who may be found engaged in the mutilation of or traffic in children, if such persons are amenable to Egyptian jurisdiction they will be brought before a court-martial; if not they will be handed over to the competent tribunals to be dealt with according as the law of their country directs, together with the depositions (procès verbaux) and other documents or evidence (‘éléments de conviction’) as laid down in Article II.

“ARTICLE V.

“The Egyptian Government engages to publish a special Ordinance, the text of which shall be annexed to the present Convention, prohibiting altogether all traffic in slaves within Egyptian territories after a date to be specified in the Ordinance, and providing also for the punishment of persons guilty of violating the provisions of the Ordinance.

“ARTICLE VI.

“With the view to the more effectual suppression of the traffic in slaves (negroes or Abyssinians) in the Red Sea, the Egyptian Government agrees that British cruisers may visit, search, and, if necessary, detain, in order to hand over to the nearest or most convenient Egyptian authority for trial, any Egyptian vessel which may be found engaged in the traffic in slaves (negroes or Abyssinians) as well as any Egyptian vessel which may fairly be suspected of being intended for that traffic, or which may have been engaged in it on the voyage during which she has been met with.

“This right of visit and detention may be exercised in the Red Sea, in the Gulf of Aden, on the coast of Arabia, and on the East Coast of Africa, and in the maritime waters of Egypt and her dependencies.

“All slaves (negroes or Abyssinians) captured by a British cruiser on board an Egyptian vessel shall be at the disposal of the British Government, who undertakes to adopt efficient measures for securing to them their freedom.

“The vessel and her cargo as well as the crew shall be handed over for trial to the nearest or most convenient Egyptian authority.

“Nevertheless, in all cases where it may not be possible for the commander of the cruiser making the capture to forward the captured slaves to a British dépôt, or where from any other circumstances it may appear desirable and in the interest of the captured slaves (negroes or Abyssinians) that they should be handed over to the Egyptian authorities, the Egyptian Government engages, on an application being made to them by the commander of the British cruiser, or by an officer deputed by him for that purpose, to take over charge of the captured negroes or Abyssinians, and to secure to them their freedom with all the other privileges stipulated for on behalf of negroes or Abyssinians captured by the Egyptian authorities.

“The British Government, on its part, agrees that all vessels navigating under the British flag in the Red Sea, in the Gulf of Aden, along the coast of Arabia, and the East Coast of Africa, or in the inland waters of Egypt and her dependencies, which may be found engaged in the traffic in slaves (negroes or Abyssinians), may be visited, seized, and detained by the Egyptian authorities,