



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1882.

AT the Court at *Osborne House, Isle of Wight*, the 18th day of *August*, 1882.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the 37th year of Her Majesty's reign, chapter 88, intituled "The Slave Trade Act, 1873," it was, amongst other things, provided that "Where any Treaty in relation to the Slave Trade is made after the passing of that Act, by or on behalf of Her Majesty with any Foreign State, Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, direct that as from such date, not being earlier than the date of the Treaty, as may be specified in the Order, such Treaty shall be deemed" to be an existing Slave Trade Treaty within the meaning of the Act, and it was further provided that thereupon (as from the said date, or if no date is specified as from the date of such Order) all the provisions of the Act shall apply and be construed accordingly.

And whereas on the 2nd day of March in the year 1882 a Treaty or Convention was concluded between Her Majesty and His Majesty the Shah of Persia for the suppression of the Slave Trade, in the following terms, that is to say:—

"In the Name of God, the Almighty, all Merciful.

"Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, and His Majesty the Shah of Persia, being mutually animated by a sincere desire to co-operate for the extinction of the barbarous Traffic in Slaves, have resolved to conclude a Convention for the purpose of attaining this object, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, Ronald Ferguson Thomson, Esquire, Her Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Persia;

And His Majesty the Shah of Persia, his Excellency Mirza Saeed Khan, his Minister for Foreign Affairs;

Who, after having communicated to each other their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles:—

"ARTICLE I.

"In order to prevent the chance of negro slaves, male and female, being imported into Persia, British cruisers shall be permitted to visit and detain merchant-vessels under the Persian flag,

or belonging to Persian subjects, which may be engaged in, or which there may be reasonable grounds for suspecting to be or to have been engaged during the voyage on which they are met, in carrying slaves; and if any such slaves are found on board such merchant-vessels, the vessel, with all on board, shall be taken before the nearest Persian authorities for trial. But no person whatsoever who, being furnished with a Government passport, countersigned by a British Resident or Consul, may have gone from Persia to visit the places of pilgrimage, shall, when returning, be interfered with, provided such person be not accompanied by more negroes, either male or female, than the number mentioned in his original pass. The presence of any such additional negro or negroes shall be *prima facie* evidence of an attempted Traffic in Slaves.

"ARTICLE II.

"If any merchant-vessel under the Persian flag be captured by a British cruiser and taken into a Persian port for adjudication, it shall be the officer of the British cruiser making the capture, or some duly authorized officer of the British Government who shall be present at such adjudication.

In the event of the captured merchant-vessel being condemned and sold the proceeds of such sale shall go to the Persian Government, and all slaves found on board such vessel shall be handed over to the British authorities.

"ARTICLE III.

"His Majesty the Shah of Persia agrees to punish severely all Persian subjects or foreigners amenable to Persian jurisdiction who may be found engaging in Slave Traffic by sea, and to manumit and guarantee the safety and proper treatment of all slaves illegally imported, that is to say, imported by sea into His Majesty's dominions after the signature of the present Convention.

"ARTICLE IV.

"The present Convention shall come into operation on the first of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two. After the Convention shall so have been brought into operation, Article XIII of the Treaty between Great Britain and Persia, signed at Paris on the fourth of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, by which the agreement entered into by Great Britain and Persia in August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, was renewed, shall be considered as cancelled except as to any proceeding that may have already been taken or commenced in virtue thereof.