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*Foreign Office, October 9, 1882.*

THE following Note is the translation of the answer of the Spanish Government to the representations on the subject of the commercial relations between Great Britain and Spain, made by Her Majesty's Envoy at Madrid on the 4th of August last. It was not received at this office till after the presentation to Parliament of the Correspondence No. 38, Commercial, 1882 :—

(Translation.)

*Ministry of State, San Ildefonso,  
August 12, 1882.*

[Received at the Foreign Office August 22.]

EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE had the honour to receive the note addressed to me by your Excellency, dated the 4th instant, expressing the grief of Her Britannic Majesty's Government not only for the non-acceptance by the Government of His Majesty the King of the proposals which you had been instructed to offer with reference to the commercial relations of both countries, but for the form in which these proposals have been rejected, proving that the Madrid Cabinet have not duly valued the cordial and friendly spirit with which the London Cabinet desired to discuss this very important question.

On becoming, in my turn, informed of the impression caused in the mind of Her Britannic Majesty's Government by my Note of the 22nd of last June, I again carefully read it, and I find nothing in it which justifies the appreciation made of its contents by the Government which your Excellency so worthily represents.

It is not that the Madrid Cabinet, which is ever happy to maintain the most friendly relations with the London Cabinet, are not ready to do whatever is in their power in order to ameliorate the present state of the commercial relations of Spain and Great Britain for the welfare of both nations, but, however strong these wishes may be, and His Majesty's Government are the first to acknowledge the importance of such wishes, His Majesty's Government find themselves in the impossibility, for the reasons given to your Excellency in my above-mentioned note of the 22nd of June, of granting most favoured nation treatment to Great Britain without signing a Commercial Treaty.

On stating this to your Excellency, I at the same time informed you that during the negotiation of that agreement the alterations in the

alcoholic scale and the reductions of duties upon wine might be examined in conjunction with the question relating to the smuggling carried on from Gibraltar, but without in any way meaning to say that the arrangements come to upon this point between the two Governments were to form a part of the stipulations of the Convention which might be signed. I, thus, do not understand on what basis your Excellency establishes the rectification made in your note of the 4th instant to an indication which does not exist in the note which I had the honour of addressing you on the 22nd of last June.

Anyhow His Majesty's Government are also extremely grieved to see that Her Britannic Majesty's Government impute to a want of complaisance (*buen desco*) what is merely the result of the disproportion which, in their judgment, exists between what they claim and what they in their turn pretend, and they hope that, taking this disparity into due consideration, these negotiations, which are to bring about the ever-increasing development of the commercial transactions of both countries, will soon be re-opened.

I avail, &c.,

EL MARQUIS DE LA VEGA DE ARMIJO,  
Her Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary,  
&c., &c., &c.

Elementary Education Acts, 1870 and 1873.  
Order Modifying the General Orders Regulating the Triennial Election of School Boards in Boroughs and Parishes.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACTS,  
1870, 1873.

AT the Council Chamber, Whitehall, the 4th day of October, 1882.

By the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education.

THEIR Lordships read from the second paragraph of Regulation 3 of the Order, dated the 3rd day of October, 1873, with respect to the Triennial Election of School Boards in boroughs and parishes, the words following :—

“Provided that such day of election shall be not more than fourteen clear days and not less than four clear days before the day hereinbefore fixed for such retirement.”

For the more convenient conduct of such elections in certain cases, their Lordships hereby