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*Foreign-Office, July 5, 1836.*

**M**R. VILLIERS, His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Spain, has transmitted to Viscount Palmerston, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, an official letter, of which the following is a translation, which has been addressed to Mr. Villiers by Señor Xavier de Isturiz, Minister of State of Her Catholick Majesty :

(Translation.)

SIR, *Madrid, June 9, 1836.*

IN answer to the Note which you were pleased to address to my Predecessor on the 10th of December last, requesting that, in order to prevent the repetition of what had occurred with the British vessel *Vibilia*, on the occasion of her passing by night off the Castle of Tarifa, this point may be definitively settled, and that the conditions required by the Spanish Government from vessels passing at night off the above-mentioned Castle may be communicated to you, with the view of due and full notice thereof being given to the merchants of Great Britain, I have the honour to acquaint you, that Her Majesty the august Queen Regent has been pleased to command, that the Governor of that fortress be informed that, notwithstanding the extreme vigilance to be employed by the commanders or military chiefs of the fortifications on the Spanish coast, whenever any vessel may pass by night within cannon shot of the castle of the said fortress, if a

light is hoisted in any visible part of her hull or rigging, she is not to be molested, unless her manœuvres should give occasion for suspicion; that if she should come within cannon shot without having made a signal in the manner pointed out, or in some similar manner, she shall be required to do so by means of three gun flashes, fired at regular intervals; but that if, in spite of all this, she should visibly approach the shore without corresponding by some signal, or without shortening sail, or if she should make any other suspicious manœuvre, she will be considered suspicious, and force will be employed to repel and oblige her to go away.

Her Majesty has been pleased, at the same time, to command me to represent to you the necessity of His Britannic Majesty's Government recommending to British navigators, the expediency of their not coming at night within cannon reach of the batteries on the Spanish shore; and that should they be compelled by hydrographical circumstances to pass close to those batteries, especially to those of Tarifa, they ought to hoist a light, or some other equivalent signal, in the top or in any other visible part of the vessels, in order to avoid being considered as suspicious and molested accordingly.

In making, by order of Her Majesty the august Queen Regent, this communication to you, I have the honour to repeat, &c.

(Signed) XAVIER DE ISTURIZ.

*To the British Minister.*