

Foreign Office, March 30, 1863.

THE following Despatch has been received by Earl Russell from Mr. Christie, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Brazil:

*Rio de Janeiro,
February 15, 1863.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to enclose a copy of an Address which I received in the beginning of this month from a number of British Merchants and Residents in Rio, who say that they came forward to express their opinion in favour of my recent action in the questions of the "Prince of Wales" and the "Forte," because it has been represented that the English were generally opposed to the late proceedings. All those who have signed the address are persons of known respectability; and forty being, I am informed, the whole number of houses in Rio, eighteen of these are represented among the signatures. I am told that several persons have refused to sign because they did not think it becoming or desirable for them to offer an opinion.

I inclose a copy of my reply to the address.

Many of the English in Rio are Brazilians by birth in the country or by naturalization.

I mentioned in my first report to your Lordship that I had been much pleased with the general attitude and demeanour of the British community. I have good reason to believe that the publication of the correspondence and the conduct of the Brazilian Government, with reference to the arrangement made with me, have greatly strengthened the general feeling of satisfaction among the English with what has happened.

I have no doubt that a few dissentients among the English, and that Brazilian Agents will have done everything in their power to cause it to be represented in England that the English community generally have disapproved of what has happened; and if so, your Lordship may be glad to have the inclosed address, the respectability of all the signers of which will be known to any one who knows Rio.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. D. CHRISTIE.

(Copy.)

*Rio de Janeiro,
February 3, 1863.*

SIR,

WE, the undersigned, British merchants and residents in this city, having been informed of certain rumours purporting to imply that the British subjects here have almost unanimously disapproved of, and censured the proceedings of your Excellency in, the late diplomatic difficulties with the Brazilian Government, it behoves us to take the liberty of addressing your Excellency, in order to disavow any opinions that may have been expressed to that effect.

Without venturing to emit any opinion upon the merits of the questions discussed between your Excellency and the Brazilian Government, our present object is merely to state, that however lamentable such difficulties must always be, and however detrimental to the interests of those engaged in the commerce of the countries involved, we feel satisfied that, in conducting the late negotiations, your Excellency not only followed the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, but that you did not lose sight of the interests of British subjects in this city.

Having, as residents here, a deep interest in the welfare of this country, and fostering a desire

to maintain friendly relations with its native inhabitants, whose national feelings we cannot wish to see wounded, we venture to express to your Excellency our sincere thanks for the conciliatory spirit with which, for the sake of peace and amity, you agreed to submit to Her Majesty's Government the option of a settlement of the pending questions in a different form from that previously proposed by your Excellency, thus giving an incontestable proof of your prudence and moderation.

In expressing these sentiments, and recognizing the service which, in our humble opinion, your Excellency has rendered to both countries, we consider that we are simply doing justice to Her Majesty's representative.

We would have thought it unnecessary to offer our opinions on this subject, or rather to disclaim any censure of your Excellency's proceedings, but for the circumstances above referred to, which may have given rise to misconceptions on your part, and if so, we think it our duty to endeavour to dispel them.

We have, &c.,

(Signed)

Albert Whittle (Chief Partner of Perry, Shaw and Hawkes' house).

William Morrissy (Chief Partner of Bradshaw and Wauklyn).

Henry Roberts (Partner of Janvin, Mc Gunther, and Co.)

Chas. Carrington (Partner of Janvin, Mc Gunther, and Co.)

Joseph T. Fry (Partner of Fry and Co.)

Sydney W. Best (Partner of Fry and Co.)

Charles Neate (Civil Engineer in the employment of the Brazilian Government).

W. G. Baird (Partner of Baird, Le Cocq).

Alfred Kinnul (Partner of Wane, Schmidt, and Co.)

Jas. N. Spence (Partner of Spence Brothers).

George Nelder (Broker).

William Knight (Ditto).

Peter Nicolson (Partner of Collings, Sharp, and Co.)

William A. Campbell (Partner of Moreira Brothers, and Campbell).

Citr. Le Page (Broker).

Jacob Walker (Partner of A. Moss and Co.)

Joseph N. Naylor (Partner of Durham, Perrin, and Co.)

John Bell (Partner of Ashworth, Priestly, and Co.)

Walter Levi (Partner of A. Moss and Co.)

Robert Sharp (Partner of Collings, Sharp, and Co.)

F. H. O. Tross (Tross and Co.)

Henry Scott, jun. (Merchant).

Thomas H. Verran (Ditto).

Edward Low.

C. Pennell (M.D.)

J. H. Smith (Partner of Smith and Co., Merchants).

His Excellency

William Dougal Christie,

H.M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and

Minister Plenipotentiary,

&c., &c., &c.

(Copy.)

Petropolis,

February 7, 1863.

GENTLEMEN,

I BEG to thank you for your address to me of the 3rd instant, expressing your approval of the