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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1863.

Whitehall, December 14, 1863.

THE following Address of Congratulation to the Queen, on the Marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, having been transmitted to the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Bart., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, for Presentation, has accordingly been presented by him to Her Majesty, who has been pleased to receive the same very graciously :

To the QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please your Majesty,

WE, your most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Members of the Council of the city of Christchurch, in your Majesty's Colony of New Zealand, desire humbly to approach your Majesty with assurances of our most devoted attachment to your Royal Throne and person.

We humbly offer our heartfelt congratulations upon the happy union of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark—an alliance which has afforded to your Majesty's loyal subjects in this most distant portion of your Majesty's dominions not less satisfaction than it has done to those who more immediately surround your Royal person, and one which we trust will ensure the true happiness of the illustrious Prince and Princess and the continued peace and prosperity of the empire.

We fervently pray that the Great King of Kings may long bless and preserve your Majesty to reign over your free and loyal people, and that your bright and noble example of public and private virtues may be followed by the illustrious Prince and Princess, showing forth a pattern to all nations and to the admiration of your Majesty's grateful and affectionate subjects.

J. Ollivier, Chairman.

John Hall.

H. E. Alport.

W. D. Barnard.

Edwd. B. Bishop.

Geo. H. Tribe.

Wade Luch.

Foreign Office, December 15, 1863.

COPIES of a Letter from Earl Russell to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and of a Despatch from the Duke of Newcastle to the Governor of the Bahamas :

Foreign Office,

MY LORDS,

January 31, 1862.

HER Majesty being fully determined to observe the duties of neutrality during the existing hostilities between the United States and the States calling themselves "the Confederate States of America," and being, moreover, resolved to prevent, as far as possible, the use of Her Majesty's harbours, ports, and coasts, and the waters within Her Majesty's territorial jurisdiction, in aid of the warlike purposes of either belligerent, has commanded me to communicate to your Lordships, for your guidance, the following rules, which are to be treated and enforced as Her Majesty's Orders and Directions.

Her Majesty is pleased further to command that these rules shall be put in force in the United Kingdom and in the Channel Islands on and after Thursday, the 6th day of February next, and in Her Majesty's territories and possessions beyond the seas, six days after the day when the Governor or other chief authority of each of such territories or possessions respectively, shall have notified and published the same, stating in such notification that the said rules are to be obeyed by all persons within the same territories and possessions.

I. DURING the continuance of the present hostilities between the Government of the United States of North America and the States calling themselves "the Confederate States of America," or until Her Majesty shall otherwise order, no ship of war or privateer belonging to either of the belligerents shall be permitted to enter, or remain in the port of Nassau, or in any other port, roadstead, or waters of the Bahama Islands, except by special leave of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Bahama Islands, or in case of stress of weather. If any such vessel should enter any such port, roadstead, or waters, by special leave, or under stress of weather, the authorities of the place shall require her to put to sea as soon as possible, without permitting her to take in any supplies, beyond what may be necessary for her immediate use.

If, at the time when this order is first notified in the Bahama Islands, there shall be any such