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Foreign Office, June 23, 1865.

THE following Correspondence has passed between Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Her Majesty's Minister at Washington :—

No. 1.

Sir F. Bruce to Earl Russell.—(Received June 7).

Washington,
May 26, 1865.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, a Proclamation opening to foreign trade the ports on the seaboard of the United States, with the exception of those in Texas, after the 1st of July. The delay of a month is required, in order to reorganize the Customs establishments at the ports.

Two considerations will operate strongly in the restoration of unrestricted commerce with the Southern States. The rebellion having been suppressed, the North seeks for compensation for the sacrifices it has made in trade with those regions, and demands the cessation of the abuses and favouritism which have characterized the system of trading under Treasury permits which was initiated during the war.

Moreover the introduction of Northern capital and energy will give employment to the Southern people, who are now starving, and it is hoped will tend to develop the resources of the States, and thus promote the restoration of tranquillity.

I feel convinced that in a short time all attempts to impose restrictions on trade in any shape will be found impracticable.

The South is destitute of everything, and the Government is obliged to issue rations in many places to prevent the people from dying of famine.

In order to induce the people to resume cultivation, and to enable them to provide for themselves, it is necessary that the holders of cotton in the plantations should be induced to bring it to market by withdrawing the threat of seizure, and it appears to me that vague threats of confiscation of property cannot be kept hanging over the heads of the proprietors in general. An amnesty which shall reassure the masses cannot be long withheld.

The clause in the Proclamation, stating that persons trading with the ports of the United States in violation of the laws will be regarded as

pirates is to me unintelligible, nor can I obtain any satisfactory explanation of it. I think it is inserted *in terrorem*, as such offences must be dealt with according to law, and no tribunal would consider persons guilty of such acts as guilty of piracy.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.

Inclosure in No. 1.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, by the Proclamation of the President of the eleventh day of April last, certain ports of the United States therein specified, which had previously been subject to blockade, were, for objects of public safety, declared, in conformity with previous special legislation of Congress, to be closed against foreign commerce during the national will, to be thereafter expressed and made known by the President; and whereas events and circumstances have since occurred which, in my judgment, render it expedient to remove that restriction, except as to the ports of Galveston, La Salle, Brazos de Santiago (Point Isabel), and Brownsville, in the State of Texas :

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do hereby declare that the ports aforesaid not excepted as above shall be open to foreign commerce from and after the 1st day of July next; that commercial intercourse with the said ports may, from that time, be carried on, subject to the laws of the United States and in pursuance of such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. If, however, any vessel from a foreign port shall enter any of the before-named excepted ports in the State of Texas, she will continue to be held liable to the penalties prescribed by the Act of Congress approved on the 13th day of July, 1861, and the persons on board of her to such penalties as may be incurred pursuant to the laws of war for trading or attempting to trade with an enemy.

And I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known that the United States of America do henceforth