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BRIGANDAGE.

THE following Circular has been addressed by Earl Granville to Her Majesty's representatives abroad, informing them of the decision of Her Majesty's Government to make no pecuniary advances in future to ransom British subjects, when in no public character, in the event of their being captured by Brigands:—

Foreign Office, July 22, 1881.

TWO recent cases of brigandage in European Turkey which led to the capture of Colonel Synge and Mr. Suter, and their subsequent release on payment to the brigands of heavy ransoms advanced by Her Majesty's Government, have forced Her Majesty's Government to consider the principles which should govern their conduct in similar cases in future, and they have come to the conclusion that where British subjects are captured by brigands, when in no public character, but in pursuit of their own pleasure or business, no advance whatever for the purposes of ransom should, under any circumstances, be made from the British Exchequer.

I have accordingly addressed the instructions, of which I enclose a copy, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, desiring him to make it known to British subjects who may be residing, or who may hereafter take up their abode, in any of the provinces of Turkey where brigandage prevails, that they do so at their own risk, and that Her Majesty's Government cannot in future undertake to make pecuniary advances to ransom them from the hands of brigands in the event of their being captured, or to relieve them from the dangers they may incur from a residence in Turkish territory.

The principle thus laid down applies to British subjects not only in the Ottoman Empire, but in other countries, and it is desirable that the decision of Her Majesty's Government should be universally known.

I have, therefore, to request to take such steps as you may think most effectual for giving it the widest publicity in your power.

I am, &c.

GRANVILLE.

Inclosure.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 13, 1881.*

I HAVE to request your Excellency to take such steps as you may consider most suitable for making it known to British subjects who may now

be residing, or who may hereafter take up their abode, in any of the provinces of the Turkish Empire where brigandage prevails, that they do so at their own risk; and that Her Majesty's Government cannot in future undertake to make pecuniary advances to ransom them from the hands of brigands in the event of their being captured, or to relieve them from the dangers they may incur from a residence in Turkish territory.

I am, &c.

GRANVILLE.

AT the Court at Windsor, the 15th day of July, 1881.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by the "Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," it is provided that whenever it is made to appear to Her Majesty that due facilities are or will be given for recovering and apprehending seamen who desert from British merchant ships in the territories of any foreign power, Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, stating that such facilities are or will be given, declare that seamen, not being slaves, who desert from merchant ships belonging to a subject of such Power when within Her Majesty's dominions shall be liable to be apprehended and carried on board their respective ships, and may limit the operation of such Order, and may render the operation thereof subject to such conditions and qualifications, if any, as may be deemed expedient:

And whereas it hath been made to appear to Her Majesty that due facilities for recovering and apprehending seamen (not being Danish subjects) who desert from British merchant ships in territories belonging to His Majesty the King of Denmark, will be given under an Agreement between the Governments of Great Britain and Denmark, signed at London on the 21st of June, 1881.

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by virtue of the powers vested in Her by the said "Foreign Deserters Act, 1852," and by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, is pleased to order and declare, and it is hereby ordered and declared, that from and after the publication hereof in the London Gazette, seamen, not being slaves (and not being British subjects), who desert from merchant ships belonging to subjects of the King of Denmark within Her Majesty's dominions, shall be liable to be apprehended and carried on board their re-