

(Hear, hear.) The convention of 1833 was entered into for the purpose of embodying those details; it was therefore necessarily a part and portion of that of 1831, because that convention could not be carried into execution without the other. Therefore, speaking generally, the convention of 1833 arose out of the proposal made by the Government of this country in 1830, and which led to the convention of 1831. In justice to those who were Ministers in France, and to the Ambassador of that country in London at that period, he felt bound to state, that it was impossible for any one, or body of men, to enter more cordially into a proposition to carry out that which was the ardent wish of both Governments, viz., to put an end to so abominable a traffic.

Mr. HARDY.—Would the noble lord be kind enough to state the first time at which any complaint was made by the French Government of anything done under the treaties?

Lord PALMERSTON.—No cause of complaint arose until very shortly before the late Government went out of office. Generally, he might say that no cause of complaint had ever been made for any seizure under the treaties. A complaint was made of the seizure of a vessel in the Gambia, but it was made, not in execution of the treaties, but under the municipal laws of Great Britain, the ship being at the time in the waters of England, at her colony on the Gambia.

(On the 17th February Mr. HARDY brought forward a motion for papers relative to any complaints made by the French Government with respect to the detention or search of French vessels on suspicion of being engaged in the slave-trade. The motion was opposed by Sir Robert Peel, on the ground that negotiations were still pending respecting those cases, but stated them to be few in number. The motion was consequently withdrawn.)

### Home Intelligence.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—The following statement of the difficulties to which our cruisers are exposed on the coast of Africa, has been forwarded to us by Captain Hall, who commanded her Majesty's brig *Rolla*, on that station; and confirmed as it has been by the testimony of several other officers, to whom we have shown it, we can have no hesitation in giving it publicity:—

The cruel, unfeeling, and heartless slave traders, or their agents, reside at the most convenient places at or near the slaving towns or villages on the west coast of Africa, and have generally large expensive establishments in the shape of baracoons, for from 500 to 600 men slaves to live in, others for women and boys, with comfortable dwelling houses and every luxury for themselves. They have also factories or storehouses, containing quantities of slave goods, the only inland barter for slaves. A great part of English manufacture, viz., muskets, gunpowder, bar-iron (for forging shackles and chains), cutlery, slave cottons, rum, tobacco, woollen cloths, salt provisions, flour, rice, farina, &c., are carried to the coast and considered as *legal trade* by mercenary merchant ships of all nations, particularly English, French, and Americans. The produce these vessels generally get in return from the coast is nominally nothing—mostly leave in ballast, receiving from the slave-dealers payment in cash or bills on London houses for the goods or freightage out. There is scarcely an English merchant on the slave coast but indirectly carries on, and finds it his interest to keep up, the slave trade, and the slave traders can at all times procure an unlimited supply of slave goods from them. The slaving piratical vessels which run across the Atlantic for cargoes of slaves sail very fast, and are generally well armed with large guns, for the express purpose of killing and wounding the seamen, and sinking the boats belonging to British cruisers, showing at the time no flag of any nation. On their making the slave coast where they are bound to, they immediately, night or day, communicate with the shore by means of light canoes (which in some instances they carry across the Cuba), when they immediately make sail off the land, and at the appointed hour stand in close to the beach, keeping under weigh, often receiving on board from the shore numbers of desperate armed ruffians, to aid and assist the piratical slave vessel's crew to beat off or sink our armed boats belonging to the British cruisers, and most wantonly destroy the seamen.

Every thing being previously arranged and prepared, they ship off from the open beach their slaves, provisions, and water for them, in three or four hours, crowd sail, and escape with impunity, which more than half do in defiance of the vigilant cruisers. The elements seem to befriended the slavers on the coast of Africa, the weather being generally thick and hazy, with light breezes and smooth water, which answer their diabolical purposes. They have certain information where the cruisers are on the coast, and know their sailing qualities to a nicety, having scouts along the coast, and a communication kept up by signals, fires, smokes, and small kroocanoes which pull along shore very fast, giving timely notice of the approach of a man-of-war, or her boats. The inducements to the slave-dealers are very great; indeed, if at all successful, they realize a profit of from 180 to 200 per cent. and upwards. All the chiefs and natives on the slave coast heartily turn their sole attention to the exportation of slaves; and nothing else, which they consider to be their only legitimate revenue; any other trade is lost sight of, and they consider treaties as a mere piece of paper.

A speculating slave-dealer from Cuba or the Brazils, if he cannot readily procure a fast vessel for slaving, or to avoid the outward risk, gets a passage across to the slave coast in an American or a Brazilian merchant vessel, generally laden with articles manufactured mostly at Manchester and Birmingham, expressly for the slave-market; and which is the only barter to purchase slaves with in the interior, money being of no use there for that purpose. The slave-dealer either takes a round sum of money with him, or deposits a sum beforehand in a London banking house, on which he draws his bills to pay for the slave goods, and for the purchase of a fast-sailing vessel, mostly American, built for the express purpose, and brought to the Cape de Verd Islands, and on the coast, for sale.

Any quantity of English manufactured goods, only fit for the slave-trade, can be procured by the slave-traders on credit from English houses on the coast of America, at the risk of twenty-five per cent. on the first cost.

The present system pursued in endeavouring to put down the slave-trade by cruisers, is attended with great risk, anxiety, and loss of life, with

heavy expenses to the country; it is also attended with unspeakable horrors, and unutterable sufferings to the poor unfortunate slaves who are doomed for exportation. They are frequently for months (from a man-of-war blockading the slaving place) kept in a state of mere starving existence in the baracoons on shore. From the heavy expense of feeding them, many are starved to death, chained together in gangs (by the neck) from twelve to twenty, or shackled by the legs in pairs. On an opportunity offering, they are shipped off in an exhausted, inanimate state, and packed in a slaver's hold nearly in bulk, when their miseries or sufferings increase, as they are deprived of fresh air, and almost of water, which they did not feel the want of on shore, in the baracoons. Only fancy, if you can, their increased sufferings during the voyage across the Atlantic. Should they be taken by a man-of-war on the eve of landing the cargo of slaves at Cuba, or on the coast of Brazil, they would then, poor wretches, have to proceed on another voyage of extreme misery, until many are happily relieved by death!

The slave traders control and keep the native chiefs in subjection; on the coast they make defences, and mount guns at the slaving establishment on shore; often fire on the cruisers' boats; showing no flag of any description, and generally succeed in cutting off all supplies from ships-of-war.

The articles made expressly for the slave-trade are of the worst possible manufacture; the rum is horrible, and drives the natives mad; the muskets burst to pieces in their hands; and the tobacco is made up of the worst ingredients possible. The most worthless articles are exported, for which the natives are charged exorbitant prices. Every possible imposition is practised on the poor much-benighted African; and debased in intellect to the lowest grade by the white piratical slave-dealers, the scourge and curse of Africa, and to the utter disgrace of anything in the shape of a human being.

CHAS. HALL, Commander,  
Late in command of H. M. brig *Rolla*, employed  
on the West Coast of Africa.

—*United Service Gazette*, Jan. 18.

Mr. TURNBULL.—As will be seen by the following official notification, Mr. Turnbull has been appointed to the office of Commissioner of the Mixed Commission Court, established in Jamaica, for the suppression of the slave-trade. Mr. T. left England last week, bearing with him the best wishes of his friends.

FOREIGN-OFFICE, JAN. 24, 1843.—Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint George Frere, jun., Esq., to be Commissioner, and Frederick Richard Surtees, Esq., to be Arbitrator on the part of Her Majesty, and James Robert M'Leay, Esq., to be Secretary or Registrar to the Mixed British and Portuguese Commission, to be established at the Cape of Good Hope, under the treaty concluded at Lisbon, on the 3rd of July, 1842, between Great Britain and Portugal, for the suppression of the slave-trade.

Her Majesty has also been pleased to appoint David Turnbull, Esq., to be Commissioner, and James Fitzjames, Esq., to be Arbitrator on the part of Her Majesty, and Sydney John James, Esq., to be Secretary or Registrar to the Mixed British and Portuguese Commission, to be established at Jamaica, under the same treaty.

### Colonial Intelligence.

CANADA.—NELSON HACKET.—*Proceedings of the Canadian Legislature*, Oct. 8, 1842.—Dr. DUNLAP moved for all the papers relating to the case of Nelson Hacket. He said it was not the case of one man only, but of thousands, and a great principle was involved of international law. Hacket was charged with felony, but nothing was proved against him, and then he was kept in jail eight weeks, until men could be brought from Arkansas who would swear better. He did not say they had sworn falsely, but he had no confidence in their swearing. But whether the charge was true or false was not the question, for, if true, this government had not authority to give him up. How do we know that there is such a person as the Governor of Arkansas? We know no State but the United States, and if any wrong is to be redressed, the legislation is not between the Governor of Canada and the Governor of Arkansas, but between the Federal Government and the British minister. He was jealous of these slave States, for they have passed laws most disgraceful in regard to the blacks. There are a set of men on the other side who make a living by stealing free blacks from our side, and he would give them no encouragement.

Mr. D. B. VIGER said it was a case of the greatest importance. The Governor of Canada had no right to surrender any man, be he a subject or a foreigner. The Governor of Canada should not act as sheriff to the Governor of a State. A man should not be surrendered on a mere charge of felony, but only for certain crimes against the law of nations, as piracy. It is said there is a law of Upper Canada which authorised the surrender, but Upper Canada had no right to pass such a law. It is the prerogative of the Imperial Government. This man was a foreigner, but he was under the protection of the British Empire. Had the case happened under a despotic government, as was once customary in France, it could have caused no surprise; but that it occurred under a liberal government like England, is astonishing. The case has been taken up in England, and it was said that it was all right; but they could not have had all the papers before them, or they would not have said so.

Mr. HARRISON hoped the motion would be withdrawn. He had always doubted that the Upper Canada law on this subject was unconstitutional, but since it was law, it had to be obeyed. The treaty just entered into with the United States will put this question on a proper footing. This case was examined by the law officers of the crown in England, and they had approved of the proceedings. The law of Upper Canada authorised the surrender, and the evidence was clear and decisive. Hacket was guilty of a larceny, and that not to assist his flight, for he had stolen a watch; and as long as the law existed the Executive had no option but to fulfil it, whatever they might think of its unconstitutionality.

Sir A. M'NAB did not think the Government had a right to give up the