

No. 5.

*Mr. Stevenson to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 4.)*32, *Upper Grosvenor Street,*
September 2, 1841.

My Lord,

I HASTEN to do myself the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's Note of this evening, in reply to mine of the 31st ultimo, relative to the capture and destruction of the "Caroline" steamer.

I shall take the earliest opportunity of forwarding a copy of your Lordship's communication to the United States, but in what light the statements and circumstances which it details, will be regarded by my Government, it does not belong to me to decide, or even to conjecture.

Without desiring therefore to protract a discussion, in the conduct of which, neither your Lordship's sincerity, or my own, will be doubted, it is yet proper that I should notice the misapprehension which still seems to exist, in relation to the causes which influenced my Government, or myself, in not pressing upon your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government, an earlier decision of this painful subject.

After the explicit answer given in the last Note which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on this part of the case, and in which it was stated, that neither my Government, nor myself, were influenced by the considerations supposed in your Lordship's Note of the 27th ultimo, I had not imagined that such an inference would again have been repeated, and more especially, as I am still unable to perceive in the statements contained in your Lordship's last Note, any just foundation for such an imputation. On the contrary, the motives which influenced my course, connected either with myself, my Government, or that of Her Majesty's, were of an entirely different character from those which have been imagined. I must, therefore, take leave again to enter my friendly protest against the impression in which your Lordship still indulges, and to restate in language as precise and intelligible as I can use, that in refraining from pressing the case upon the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, I was not influenced, nor have I any reason to believe that my Government was, either wholly, or partially, by the considerations which your Lordship has felt authorized again to repeat; and however such a course might have been regarded by your Lordship as honourable to the Government of the United States, or its Minister. Should it however turn out to be the case, that the acquiescence in the silence of Her Majesty's Government by that of the United States, was as your Lordship supposes, a sacrifice made to a love of peace; of one thing I can assure your Lordship, that my Government will be prepared at the proper time, and whenever it may become necessary to do so, frankly to avow it. As there is no other part of your Lordship's communication, which requires any further notice from me, I avail myself of the opportunity in closing finally the correspondence, to express my acknowledgments for the very gratifying terms in which your Lordship has been pleased to speak of the manner in which I have represented my country at Her Majesty's Court, and to tender to your Lordship the renewed assurances of my distinguished consideration and respect.

(Signed)

A. STEVENSON.