

Lord Clarendon has taken three months to consider what answer could be given to this demand. He has at last produced a reply, which we will now proceed to examine.

It is as follows,—

“THE EARL OF CLARENDON TO MR DALLAS.

“Foreign-office, April 30, 1856.

“The undersigned, &c., had the honour to receive, on the 29th of January, from Mr Buchanan, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at this court, a copy of a despatch dated the 28th of the previous December, addressed to Mr Buchanan by Mr Marcy, Secretary of State of the United States, containing observations on a despatch which the undersigned had directed her Majesty's Minister at Washington to communicate to Mr Marcy. Mr Marcy's despatch was in continuation of the discussion which had been some time pending between the two Governments, on the subject of the conduct which was alleged by the Government of the United States to have been pursued by certain of her Majesty's officers in giving effect to the intentions of her Majesty's Government to receive into the military service of the Queen any persons who, coming from any quarter into her Majesty's dominions, might there be willing to engage in that service.

“The undersigned has hitherto deferred replying to Mr Marcy's despatch, not only because it was more consistent with the respect which her Majesty's Government entertained for the United States, thoroughly to inquire into the allegations contained in it, but also because it was just and right towards her Majesty's officers whose conduct was impugned, to put them in possession of the charges brought against them, and to give them that opportunity of explanation and defence which was then for the first time afforded them.

“The undersigned, before he adverts to Mr Marcy's last despatch, must express his deep regret that the Government of the United States should have deemed it necessary to continue a controversy on a question which Mr Buchanan considered at the time would be finally settled by the note of the undersigned of July 16, 1855, a note which Mr Buchanan said he would transmit with much satisfaction to his Government. The undersigned had indeed hoped that that note, together with his subsequent communications of the 27th of September to Mr Buchanan, and of the 16th of November, through Mr Crampton, to the Government of the United States, would have been accepted by a friendly Government such as that of the United States, as a disclaimer of any intention to give offence, and as a satisfaction for any offence which that Government might have been led by circumstances to think had, though unintentionally, been given.”

As regards this note of 16th of July, 1855, it is to be