

of such an arrangement taking place, it is not to be expected that the American cruisers will be made equal to the whole number of the British; but it will be very desirable that they should be as nearly so as possible; and you will use your utmost endeavours to induce the Government of Washington to employ such a force in this service as may effectually and at once put down the trade in slaves, wherever carried on by citizens or vessels of the United States, or by natives of other countries fraudulently sheltering themselves under the Flag of the Union.

Whatever may be the amount of force employed, it will be essentially necessary that the officers in command of the cruisers of the United States should act under instructions of the same nature as those which, in the British service, are founded upon the equipment articles contained in all Treaties lately concluded between Great Britain and Foreign Powers for the suppression of Slave Trade; so that an American cruiser shall have authority to detain and carry to trial, vessels of its own nation, as well for slave equipment, as for the actual presence of slaves on board.

Further than this, Her Majesty's Government do not consider it necessary to lay down any rule for your Lordship's guidance in the details of the Treaty. It will be a source of sincere satisfaction to them if, in default of a more extended Convention, you should be able to bring the proposed arrangement to a successful conclusion.

No. 4.

Lord Ashburton to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 30.)

(Extract.)

Washington, May 12, 1842.

ON the important subject of effectually suppressing the Slave Trade by cooperation, I hope I am making very valuable progress. Your Lordship will find herewith the report of the two American naval officers in reply to certain queries put to them by the Secretary of State on the subject of the African Slave Trade, and the best means of suppressing it. This is a most valuable document. It is written by men of honour, impartiality, and experience, and will show, I believe, that they agree with the general view of the best informed persons of our own country on this subject. With this business I trust your Lordship's instructions in reply to my last despatches will enable me to proceed. Nothing has been done towards framing the Article for cooperation, but it is intended to engage for the employment of a given joint force, leaving to the commanders of it the settlement of their plans of acting. Mr. Webster seemed to think the amount of force to be employed rather large, but has no objection to the United States supporting their half of it. I apprehend that, with respect to the amount of this force, I may safely leave them to please themselves.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Report of Naval Officers to the Government of the United States respecting Slave Trade.

Sir,

Washington City, May 10, 1842

IN accordance with the wishes expressed in your communication of the 30th ultimo, we have the honour to submit the following statement:

In reply to the first particular, viz.:—

“The extent of the western coast of Africa, along which the Slave Trade is supposed to be carried on, with the rivers, creeks, inlets, bays, harbours, or ports of the coast to which it is understood slave-ships most frequently resort.”

The Slave Trade; from Western Africa to America, is carried on wholly between Senegal, lat. 16° north, longitude 16½° west; and Cape