

important a service to be permitted to pass into the hands of foreigners, even if it did cost some money to support it.

Our ships were also of great and essential service during the late Russian war.

We should at once proceed to build a ship of the dimensions of the "Persia," or perhaps larger. I myself am not afraid to take the responsibility of doing so, as I feel confident of the continued support of Her Majesty's Government. I originated this service, and have performed the duty faithfully, giving satisfaction to every branch of the Government and to the country at large. I therefore feel confident that I shall be sustained; but my partners in Glasgow are cautious men, and, without the certainty of an extension of the term of the contract, will not venture to lay down a ship which will cost nearly 200,000*l.*, and that cannot be ready for sea in much less than three years, which would be near the termination of our present contract.

I have, therefore, to solicit their Lordships to grant me the extension of five years beyond the termination of our present contract.

The French Government have just now entered into contracts for a period of 20 years, granting very large subsidies for the establishment of two lines of postal steamers between France and America.

I have, &c.
(signed) *S. Cunard.*

I beg also to enclose, for your information, copies of my letters to Mr. Wilson, dated 7th and 9th January last.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

Admiralty, 29 March 1858.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will lay before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury the enclosed copy of a letter, dated the 20th instant, from Mr. Cunard, and that you will, at the same time, direct their attention to the letters from this Board, dated the 26th of October and the 21st of December last.

My Lords consider it to be most important that the superiority of the Royal Packet Line should be maintained; and they therefore strongly recommend this application to the favourable consideration of the Lords of the Treasury.

To maintain regularity and speed in navigating the Northern Atlantic, more especially in the winter months, it is essential that vessels of the largest class, with machinery of the best construction, should be employed, and as the necessities of trade do not require the employment of ships of so costly a description, it is not to be supposed that on the expiration of the present term of Mr. Cunard's contract any other private enterprise could be found to afford an adequate substitute for the large steam ships constructed specially for the service, which they have performed with so much safety, regularity, and despatch.

Mr. Cunard proposes, in return for the prolongation of his contract for five years, to build another vessel at least equal to the "Persia," the largest and most powerful vessel now on the line; and my Lords are of opinion that by accepting this proposal great advantage, without any additional cost, will be secured to the public.

I am, &c.
(signed) *H. Corry.*

S. Cunard, Esq., to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

Bush Hill, Edmonton, 29 April 1858.

IN reply to your request to be informed upon what terms a monthly mail communication could be carried on between New York and Nassau, New Providence; this service could not be performed for less than 11,000*l.* or 12,000*l.* per annum; but as I am anxious to get the extension to my Atlantic Mail Contract arranged