

Part VIII.

The Shenandoah.

be an American. These were the only persons who could be ascertained, before she left Melbourne, to have joined or attempted to join her; and her Commander gave his word in writing, as commander of the ship, that there were no persons on board of her except those whose names were on his Shipping Articles, that no one had been enlisted in the service of the Confederate States since his arrival, and that he had in no way violated the neutrality of the port.

It was not the duty of the Colonial Government to seize or forcibly search the *Shenandoah* whilst in the waters of the colony, nor could it have done so without transgressing the rules of neutrality and the settled practice of nations.

No personal communication took place between the Governor and the commander of the ship while she remained in the waters of the colony.

The discovery having afterwards been made that, notwithstanding the vigilance exercised by the officers of the Colonial Government, persons had been secretly put on board the ship during the night preceding her departure, notice of this was sent by the Governor to the Governors of the other Australian colonies and of New Zealand.

Her Britannic Majesty having subsequently received reports, which appeared to be worthy of credit, to the effect that the *Shenandoah* was continuing to capture and destroy merchant-vessels after her commander had been informed of the cessation of the civil war, gave directions that she should be seized in any port of Her Majesty's Colonial possessions, or on the high seas, and should be delivered over to officers of the United States. But the truth of these reports was positively denied by her commander on his arrival at Liverpool, and Her Majesty's Government has no reason to believe that the denial was untrue.

On arriving at Liverpool the vessel was secured by the officers of the Government, and was handed over to the Government of the United States, on the express request of Mr. Adams.

The crew were detained on board for some days by the officers of the Government. No evidence being within that time given, offered, or discovered against any of them, they were at the end of it suffered to land and disperse. More than six months had at this time elapsed since the end of the civil war.

The *Shenandoah* was at sea during more than twelve months, from the time at which her cruise began. She was never, so far as Her Majesty's Government is aware, encountered or chased by a United States' ship of war, and no endeavour to intercept or capture her appears to have been made by the Government of the United States.

Her Britannic Majesty's Government denies that, in respect of the *Shenandoah*, there was on its part any failure of international duty for which reparation is due from Great Britain to the United States.
