

cannot do better than to communicate to him the substance of those instructions under which the British cruisers act, in relation to American vessels, when employed on this service.

If, from the intelligence which the officer commanding Her Majesty's cruiser may have received, or from the manœuvres of the vessel, or from other sufficient cause, he shall have reason to believe that, although bearing the American flag, the vessel does not belong to the United States, he is ordered, if the state of the wind and weather shall admit of it, to go a-head of the suspected vessel, after communicating his intention by hailing, and to drop a boat on board of her, to ascertain her nationality, without detaining her, if she shall prove to be really an American vessel. But, should this mode of visiting the vessel be impracticable, he is to require her to be brought to, for this purpose. The officer who boards the vessel is merely to satisfy himself of her nationality, by her papers or other proofs; and should she really be an American vessel, he will immediately quit her, offering, with the consent of her commander, to note on her papers the cause of suspecting her nationality, and the number of minutes she was detained (if detained at all) for the object in question. All the particulars are to be immediately entered on the log-books of the cruiser, and a full statement of them is to be sent, by the first opportunity, direct to England.

These are the precautions taken by Her Majesty's Government against the occurrence of abuse in the performance of this service; and they are ready to adopt any others which they may think more effectual for the purpose, and which shall, at the same time, be consistent with the attainment of the main object in view.

Mr. Stevenson has said that he had no wish to exempt the fraudulent use of the American flag from detection; and this being the case, the Undersigned is unwilling to believe that a Government like that of the United States, professing the same object and animated by the same motives as Great Britain, should seriously oppose themselves to every possible mode by which their own desire could be really accomplished.

The Undersigned avails himself of this occasion to convey to Mr. Everett the assurances of his distinguished consideration.

ABERDEEN.

No. 6.—*Mr. Everett to Lord Aberdeen.*

*Legation of the United States,
December 23, 1841.*

THE Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, has the honor to acknowledge the reception of a communication from Lord Aberdeen, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, bearing date the 20th instant, in reply to a note of Mr. Stevenson's of the 21st October.

The Undersigned will avail himself of an early opportunity of addressing some remarks to the Earl of Aberdeen on the very important topics treated in his note. In the mean time, the Undersigned begs leave to express his great satisfaction at the conciliatory and dispassionate tone of Lord Aberdeen's communication; from which the Undersigned augurs the happiest influence on the renewed discussion of the subject.

The Undersigned begs leave to renew to Lord Aberdeen the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

EDWARD EVERETT.

No. 7.—*Mr. Webster to Mr. Everett.*

*Department of State,
Washington, January 29, 1842.*

(Extract.)

BY the *Britannia*, arrived at Boston, I have received your despatch of the 28th December, (No. 4,) and your other despatch of the 31st of the same month, (No. 5,) with a postscript of the 3rd of January.

The necessity of returning an early answer to these communications (as the