the late General Mercer, of Virginia, that this trade should be made piracy by the law of nations, has failed to this hour of receiving the sanction of all enlightened and christian nations. We invite the attention of all our readers to the well considered statements, facts and arguments of Dr. Tracy. It is much to be desired that the United States and England would consider the benevolent wisdom of multiplying christian settlements of colored men on the coast of Africa, as an effectual method of suppressing the slave trade, of civilizing the people, and developing the vast agricultural and commercial resources of Africa.

From the American Theological Review, November, 1860.

This detestable traffic, having steadily diminished for a number of years under the combined naval action of Great Britain and the United States for its repression, has suddenly revived. A single small cargo-that of the Wanderer-has been stealthily landed in the United States. Other importations have been reported, but none of the reports are known to be true, and some of them are known to be false. Many slave-ships have been captured near the coast of Cuba, and more are said to have landed their cargoes. The capture of three by American cruisers, and the necessity of providing for the welfare of their rescued victims, brought the subject before Congress at its last session; and a call of the House of Representatives on the President for information, to be communicated to Congress at its next session, will bring it up again. Meanwhile, from many motives, some of which are political and others pecuniary, the public mind, on both sides of the Atlantic, has been industriously and skilfully misinformed in relation to many parts of the subject; and some of the ablest, and many of the best men, both in England and the United States, have been led to assign false causes for the continuance and revival of the traffic, and to propose useless measures for its repression. There is, therefore, a special demand, just now, for reliable information; and to such an extent as the limits of this article permit, we shall attempt to give it, on unquestionable authority. Several recent official documents settle some important points conclusively. We give them entire, as they deserve this mode of diffusion and preservation for future reference.

First, we give a Circular, addressed by Lord John Russell, her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to several British Ambassadors, to be communicated to the governments to which they are accredited.

The circular above alluded to, appeared in the African Repository for October last.

We have a manuscript copy of this despatch, obtained from the Department of State at Washington; but for the convenience of the printer, we use a printed copy of that addressed to Lord Cooley, at Paris; substituting only "the United States Government" for "the French Government" in two places, and "General Cass" for "M. Thouvenel" in the last paragraph. With these changes they are the same, word for word. We may be sure, therefore, that this is a well considered document, and was sent, with these three variations, to several other powers.

We must notice in it, however, one chronological inaccuracy—the

confounding of two treaties of different dates.

By a treaty signed at Madrid, September 23, 1817, Spain agreed to abolish the slave-trade for £400,000, as follows:

Article I. His Catholic Majesty engaged that the slave-trade shall be abolished throughout the entire dominions of Spain on the thirtieth day of May, 1820.

Article III. His (Britannic) Majesty engaged to pay, in London, on the twentieth day of February, 1818, the sum of £400,000 sterling, to such person as His Catholic Majesty shall appoint to receive the same. Article IV. This payment shall be in full "for all losses which are a necessary consequence of the abolition of the said traffic."

Other articles state the mode agreed upon for the suppression; conceding the mutual right of search and capture; providing for "Courts of Mixed Commission," to adjudicate on the legality of the captures, and on other questions of the kind. (See British Statutes at Large for 1818 .-58 Geo. III. chap. xxxv. preamble.)

This treaty proving ineffectual, another was made, dated June 28, 1835. See Statutes at Large, for 1836, (6 and 7 Gul. IV, chap. vi.) We copy three of its articles entire:

"Article I. The slave trade is hereby declared, on the part of Spain, to be hencefor-

ward totally and finally abolished in all parts of the world. "Article II. Her Majesty the Queen Regent of Spain, during the minority of her daughter, Donna Isabella the Second, hereby engages that immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of the present treaty, and from time to time afterwards as may become needful, Her Majesty will take the most effectual measures for protecting the subjects of Her Catholic Majesty from being concerned, and her flag from being used in carrying on, in any way, the trade in slaves; and especially that, within two months after the said exchange, she will promulgate, throughout the dominions of Her Catholic Majesty, a penal law, inflicting a severe punishment on all those of Her Catholic Majesty's subjects who shall, under any pretext whatever, take any part whatever in the traffic in

"Article XIII. The negroes who are found on board of a vessel detained by a cruiser, and condemned by the Mixed Courts of Justice, in conformity with the stipulations of this treaty, shall be placed at the disposition of the Government whose cruiser has made the capture, but on the understanding that not only they shall be immediately put at liberty and kept free,—the Government to whom they have been delivered guaranteeing the same; but likewise engaging to afford, from time to time, and whenever demanded by the other high contracting parties, the fullest information as to the state and condition of such negroes, with a view to securing the due execution of the treaty in this

This treaty of 1835, is referred to by Lord John Russel as still in force. That it is so regarded by Spain, and by the Spanish authorities in Cuba, is proved by the following circular of the Captain General of that island:

"His Excellency, the Captain General, has ordered the following circular, addressed to the Governors in the different districts of the island, to be published in the official

"In the orders communicated by this superior civil government, under dates of 30th November and 6th June last, I cautioned the civil authorities of this island to observe the strictest vigilance in order to avoid the landing of African negroes, stating that I would exact, to its fullest extent, their responsibility, as well as that of all public functionaries in whose jurisdiction the landing of negroes might take place, whenever I should be informed that they had been effected by means of neglect or abuse on the part of the said authorities or functionaries.

"Notwithstanding such plain and strict determination on my part, several lots of African negroes have been recently landed in various parts of the island, and I have been compelled to adopt such measures, which are always unpleasant, against certain functionaries, because they have not fully shown that they had used every exertion, and displayed the necessary zeal required for the exact fulfillment of their duties, and the orders

and instructions from this government.

"In consequence, therefore, of the above-mentioned circumstances, and determined as I am, to prevent by every means within my power, the continuation of the slave trade, thus strictly fulfilling the treaties with other nations as well as our laws and dispositions on the subject, I again call upon you, earnestly recommending that under your own responsibility and that of all public officers immediately subordinate to your authority, you shall keep the most vigilant watch, in order to avoid any infringement of the said laws and dispositions in the jurisdiction under your charge; with the understanding that the simple fact of a cargo of Africans being landed, will be deemed sufficient cause to suspend any public functionary who may not use every exertion, and employ all the means which the laws place at his command, in order to avoid or prevent the said landing, whether it is from neglect or from any other cause, subjecting him besides to the

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XII. Newspapers A. Maryland Colonization Journal

2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)-May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)