

to use the present occasion, to apologize to you for the delay of his reply up to this period, which has been occasioned partly by his ill-health the last two days, and the difficulty of procuring a speedy and correct translation of your despatch.

The President has also directed me to say, that as several incidents affecting the interests of French and Liberian citizens, independent of those connected with the unfortunate "Regina Coeli," have transpired within the jurisdiction of this Republic in palpable violation of the stipulations of the treaty subsisting between the French and Liberian governments, to the great injury of the latter Government and its citizens, and which have been a great grievance and cause of complaint, but for which no redress, nor even promise of redress has been received by this Government up to this date, notwithstanding repeated applications have been made, the President therefore most respectfully solicits that you will please inform him more fully as to the nature and extent of your power as a special delegate of the Chief of the French Naval Division of the west coast of Africa, so that he may be cognizant as to what subjects, if any at all, independent of those of the "Regina Coeli," he can consistently and legally bring to your notice for adjustment.

In the absence of a letter to this Government from his Honor the Chief of the Naval Division, whom you represent, as also this Government not having received any communication from you since your arrival in this port giving definite information as to the nature of your business and extent of your powers as special delegate, the President feels necessitated to request most respectfully this information of you, and begs that you will view his motive for making the request as based on the highest respect for, and desire to cultivate the best feeling with H. I. M. Government.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

[L. S.]

Your most obedient,  
Humble Servant.

(Signed) J. N. LEWIS.

The Chief of the Staff of the French  
Naval Division of the West Coast of Africa.  
On board the Renandin.

This communication so very reasonable in its nature and respectful in its tone, did, nevertheless, create in Mr. Pointel some unpleasantness, as may be judged from his communication to the President, dated May 8, 1858, copy of which will follow in connection with

these remarks. It is not necessary to follow Mr. Pointel in the conclusions he seemed to have arrived at. The correspondence will show, that he has wilfully misrepresented the Government. But it is our duty to express our views as to the determination of Mr. Pointel, as stated in his note now referred to.

TRANSLATION.

Naval Division of the  
West Coast of Africa.

ON BOARD OF THE RENANDIN MAY 8TH, 1858.

MR. PRESIDENT,

When I had the honor of conversing with you yesterday on the subject of my two letters of the 5th and 7th inst., you replied to me that the answer of your Government was in preparation, that it would surely be sent me to-day; and you gave me to understand that it would be entirely different from what I hope. My surprise was nevertheless great on receiving a despatch from the Secretary of State, informing me that the sending of that answer is postponed, and, in the same time, that it arises from vague grievances about the facts that I am not recognized, or that I am requested to communicate the nature of the instructions that I have received from the Chief of the French Naval Division of the West Coast of Africa.

That ambiguous letter is the result of a line of conduct having evidently for its aim not to do justice to any of my requests, and to gain (or consume,) as much time as possible. Thus, I have found in a country which has promised to protect the French on an equality with the subjects of the most favored nations, but ill will with regard to them, and partiality and injustice.

The Government of this country on being informed of the misfortune that happened to the Regina-Coeli had, in the mean time, given some soldiers to protect that ship, for which Capt. Simon and myself have thanked you, Mr. President. But since an English commercial ship is so audaciously possessed of her before your eyes, you have not dared to cause to be respected the right of property and the nationality of Captain Simon.

You have suffered your territory to be violated, and a French vessel has been captured in the waters of Liberia, that is to say, in an asylum that one ought to suppose inviolable.

Even in the Roads of Monrovia the assassins of the crew of the Regina-Coeli have escaped, having pillaged and plundered the cargo of that ship; and you have not taken any measure to arrest them and maintain good order. In short, to all my demands, that the

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6. Message of the President of Liberia,  
...January 6, 1859 Monrovia, 1859