

necessary, but reluctant departure from this Port for a few days only, of Her Britannic Majesty's Steamer "Spitfire" to Cape Palmas, for the relief of a distressed British merchantman, which vessel of war had been laying here a week, watching the whole movement in connection with the "Regina-Cœli," and during which time there was not the remotest intimation of an intention to perpetrate such an outrage, but the object is to give in a plain, simple and concise manner, a history of the circumstances attending the unfortunate ship "Regina Cœli," and to show, it is hoped, conclusively, that there is no just ground for complaint against the Government and people of Liberia, and that the act of Mr. Pointel in forcibly carrying away from the waters, and beyond the jurisdiction of Liberia, the French Emigrant Ship "Regina Cœli," then in charge of officers of this Government, was unwarranted, unjustifiable and deserving of the highest censure.

Under date of eighth of May, the Secretary of State, by direction of the President of Liberia, addressed a communication to Mr. Pointel in reply to the two communications of that Gentleman, dated respectively, May 5 and 7, 1859—but as Mr. Pointel declined to receive the communication, it was, by direction of the President of Liberia, under date of May 14th, 1859, transmitted to His Excellency, His Imperial Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, together with a Protest against the said Mr. Pointel for discourteous conduct in refusing to receive said communication. For the better understanding of the views of this Government, and of the cause of complaint which it now makes against Mr. Pointel, it is proper to extract and bring into this Protest, parts of the communication above referred to. Here are the extracts:

"The President begs to invite your attention to the fact, that your despatch of the 5th: inst. does not state in full the reasons assigned by this Government in a despatch of the 3rd: inst. through H. I. M's Consul to the Commander of "Le Daim," as to why it had not exercised cognizance of the matter up to this date, and consequently the reasons why Captain Simon had not been replaced in command of his ship; and he instructs me to say to you most respectfully, that by reference to that despatch, you will find reasons why Captain Simon had not been, up to that date, replaced in possession and command of his ship, more fully and clearly stated than they are expressed on the first page of your despatch."

"By reference to the Despatch of the 3rd: inst. addressed by this Government through H. I. M's Consul to the Commander of the French war Steamer "Le Daim," you will perceive that the President has unqualifiedly declared, that neither Captain Simon of the "Regina Cœli" nor any one else representing French interests, had, previous to that date complained to this Government that the "Regina Cœli" having been captured or rescued in Liberian waters, was in possession of a British officer who had displaced Captain

Simon from the command, and accompanied with the request that this Government take such steps as would restore him to the possession and command of his ship. The fact is, Captain Croft of the "Ethiophe" having, at the request of H. I. M's Consul, gone to the rescue of the "Regina Cœli" and brought her into this Port, this Government had no right to suppose that any French subject had any cause of complaint against Captain Croft for the manner in which he complied with the requisition thus made of him by H. I. M's Consul, unless Captain Simon had, through said Consul, made such formal complaint to this Government, and had appealed to it, after setting forth the main facts in the case, to be replaced in possession of his vessel."

"Upon the arrival of "Le Daim," and formal complaint being made to this Government for the first time by her Commander, through H. I. M's Consul, in a despatch of the 2nd: inst., in which several statements and allegations were made against the salvors, and closing with a request that Captain Simon be replaced immediately in command and possession of his vessel, this Government felt it to be its duty to afford and proffer facilities for the immediate investigation of those allegations, which if proven to be true before the proper tribunal, and to be of such a nature as to require Captain Simon's formal restoration to the possession and command of his vessel by this Government, as well as to entitle him to damages for illegal conduct towards himself and property committed by the salvors within the jurisdiction of this Republic, it might be done without delay. This Government, therefore, in consonance with the provisions of the 6th: Article of the Treaty subsisting between France and this Republic, proposed an immediate arbitration, and earnestly solicited the co-operation of those representing French interest in order that the matter might be brought to a speedy adjustment and settlement—at least as far as was practicable, but to this proposition those representing French interests did not think proper to accede."

"And as you have verbally informed the President that your arrival on the 4th: inst. has superceded the authority and consequently further action of the Commander of "Le Daim" in the premises, and as you have been pleased to further inform the President that you occupy the high position of Special Delegate, representing the Chief of the French Naval Division on the West Coast of Africa—which the President solicits you to formally communicate in a despatch to himself or to the State Department, to be filed therein, defining the powers you claim to legally exercise within this Republic in behalf of your Government—the President directs that I solemnly appeal to and request of you, in the name of this Government and in behalf of all concerned, that you cause those representing French interests in this matter to co-operate with this Government in carrying out and applying in this case the provis-

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XIII. Colonization Pamphlets

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