

We have received no notice from the French Government as to its intention in this matter, but we have seen in the columns of the London Times of July 12, 1858, extracts from an official communication of the minister of Marine at Paris, to the French Ambassador at London, which was read by Lord Malmesbury in the House of Lords. This report was furnished by Mr. Pointel, and is a palpable misrepresentation throughout. We will annex this report, and follow it with copies of certificates from the Collector of Customs of the Port of Monrovia—the Secretary of the Treasury of the Republic of Liberia, and a deposition made by Henry J. Roberts M. D. This Gentleman, had considerable intercourse with Captain Simon, and is well acquainted with his business transactions with this Government.

It is needless to notice further, the charge against this Government of complicity with Captain Simon in his fraudulent measures to procure "free laborers."

COPY OF EXTRACTS.

PARIS, JUNE 18 1856.

My Dear Count,—We first heard from newspapers both french and foreign, of the deplorable scenes which occurred on board the "Regina Cœli," on the west coast of Africa. I have just received, and hasten to communicate to you, the report on this affair, which I have received from Lieutenant Pointel, chief of the staff, to the captain commanding our naval station in those parts. I annex the letter of Mr. Pointel, and of the commander of the Joree, on the subject, in order fully to apprise you of the details of this affair. The facts are briefly these:—The Regina Cœli, a vessel sent to the west of coast of Africa, under the command of Captain Simon, with a view to obtain free labourers for our colonies, arrived at Cape de Monte on the 29th of October last. The Chief of that place strenuously urged Captain Simon to select for his operations that position of the coast above all others, and they both proceeded to Monrovia, the Capital of Liberia, in order to settle the preliminaries of the affair. The President of that republic, on learning Captain Simon's plan, approved of it so highly that he persuaded that officer to carry out his operations exclusively in the territory of the Liberian republic. Captain Simon hastened to pay into the hands of the local authorities the sum of 1564 piastres, as passport duty, for the 400 free laborers with whom it had been agreed he should be supplied in the space of 40 days. This fact, by the way, conveys a good idea of the value to be attached to the recent protests of the Liberian authorities on the subjects of our emigration, and on which

the British ambassador at Paris laid such stress, in opposition to our own convictions. Be this as it may, the enlistment of emigrants was carried on with the greatest facility, and the greatest care, under the superintendence of the Liberian authorities as well as of the agent of the French government; 271 emigrants had already arrived in the roadstead, and the rest of them were ready to embark, when, on the 9th of April while the captain and the government agent were ashore, a quarrel arose on board between a negro cook and one of the emigrants, which caused a scuffle, and ended in a general fight between the emigrants and the crew in which the second in command of the ship and 11 of his men were massacred by the emigrants. Captain Simon, who heard this disturbance while on shore, jumped into a canoe, picked up one of his sailors who had been thrown overboard from the Regina Cœli, but was obliged to return ashore, as his canoe capsized. Upon this, Captain Simon, assisted by the local militia, and some 40 Americans, whom he hired by the day, attempted to recapture the vessel, and then cruised about with two boats, so as in a manner to blockade her. Matters stood thus on the 15th of April, when the Ethiopie, a merchant steamer, commanded by Captain Croft arrived. The Ethiopie had been sent for by a Mr. Newnham, the British Consul, who also fills the office of French consular agent at Monrovia. When that steam vessel neared the Regina Cœli, Captain Simon, who continued strictly watching his own vessel, went on board the Ethiopie, declared he was the captain of the Regina Cœli, and asked on what terms he might accept of the assistance of the English steamer; for from the very first he had declared to Mr. Newnham in concert with the agent of the French government, that he should reject the assistance of the Ethiopie unless the conditions on which that assistance was to be given had been previously settled. He received no answer. The spanish vice consul for Accra, and a French merchant, who were passengers on board the Ethiopie, explained to him that his vessel was being taken possession of. Captain Simon then wished to leave the packet and go on board the Regina Cœli, but was prevented, seized, and consigned to the charge of two English sailors. Meanwhile the Ethiopie took the Regina Cœli in tow, without encountering the slightest resistance from the emigrants, and proceeded on her voyage. Captain Simon asked the spanish vice consul for Accra to beg for a delay sufficient to collect on land eight of his crew, two of whom were wounded; but Captain Croft peremptorily refused, and continued standing towards Monrovia, where they arrived at about eight o'clock at night. The report of Lieutenant Pointel respecting this incident contains the following passage:—Mr. Manuel Leira, of Daroca, the Spanish vice consul, was indignant at the brutal conduct of the captain of the Ethiopie, and openly protested against abandoning the eight Frenchmen. He moreover furnished Captain Simon with a certificate to the effect

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XIII. Colonization Pamphlets

6. Message of the President of Liberia,  
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