

1886.
NEW ZEALAND.

FEDERATION AND ANNEXATION.

(FURTHER PAPERS RELATING TO THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, SAMOA, TONGA, AND RAROTONGA,
AND TO THE DESIRE OF FIJI TO BE INCORPORATED WITH NEW ZEALAND.)

[In continuation of A.-4D* and of A.-4A**, 1885.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

PARLIAMENTARY Committee sitting *re* Samoa, Fiji: Any information or proposal?
11th August, 1885.

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 2.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

PACIFIC Islands: Negotiations Germany still pending, but fast nearing final stage. You may inform Committee possible acquire Samoa if willing purchase German interests reasonable terms. Supposing this principle settled, shall be asked visit Berlin before position defined. Recommend speedy decision, because much hangs thereon at this moment, including question with France, and future policy three Powers.

11th August, 1885.

F. D. BELL.

No. 3.

The King of SAMOA to the PREMIER.

SIR,—

Mulinuu, Samoa, 11th August, 1885.

I received your letter of the 2nd of April, in answer to my letter taken to you by Mr. J. London, and great was my joy thereat.

And now there is no peace of mind from our anxiety to learn of a good result of that consultation between Germany and England, that our petition to Her Majesty the Queen may be granted.

I desire to inform your Honour that this thing—our petition—was not done in darkness or in doubt. No; our petition was sent with a clear knowledge of the evil that was coming upon us. It was done from true love for my country, which was in great consternation at the evil tidings. There is another thing about which I give you information: it is the rebellion which has been caused by some unwise people, the consequence of the exciting conduct of Mr. Weber, the manager of some German property in Samoa. Hence the continuance of the disturbance to the present time. But I continue to restrain myself, in consequence of the advice of the Consul, and of my love to my people, lest they be destroyed, and also from the desire to know the result of the consultation. But the chief thing which we desire is that our petition be granted.

I also beseech your Honour and His Excellency the Governor that we together petition Her Majesty the Queen that a ship of war be sent at once and stationed at Apia. It may be that a settlement of the differences with the rebels would be the result.

I have, &c.,

MALIETOA,

King of Samoa.

The Hon. Robert Stout, Premier, New Zealand.

No. 4.

The PREMIER to F. H. PRICHARD, Esq.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Wellington, 18th August, 1885.

A.-4A*, '85, No. 7.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, enclosing a supplementary list of signatures to the petition for the incorporation of Fiji with New Zealand,
1—A. 3.

and to inform you that I last night presented it to Parliament. I may inform you that a Committee is now sitting, to consider the question of the relation of the Pacific Islands to this colony; and I will not fail to send you a copy of their report.

F. H. Prichard, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary, Annexation Committee, Levuka, Fiji.

I have, &c.,
ROBERT STOUT.

No. 5.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SAMOA: What amount purchase German interests, including land claims?
18th August, 1885.

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 6.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

SAMOA: Amount roughly stated by Germans £200,000; but this absurd. Therefore, supposing entertain principle at all, next step would be define reasonable terms. This could only be done Conference Berlin, would take time, keep question open.
18th August, 1885.

F. D. BELL.

No. 7.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

SIR,—
7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 20th August, 1885.
After writing to you on the 12th instant, No. 1,034, I received your telegram of the 18th, inquiring what would be the amount required to buy out the German interests at Samoa, including claims to land.

I had understood from Dr. Krauel and Mr. Sahl that it would take about £200,000, including everything; so I replied to you to that effect, stating, however, that I thought such a sum absurd. I added that, supposing the principle (of buying out the German interests) to be first admitted, I thought the next step would be to define in some proper way what would be "reasonable terms;" but that this could not be done without conferences at Berlin, which would require time, and so give opportunity for full consideration, while the Samoan question would be kept open meanwhile. If I should hear that the Government and Parliament are disposed to entertain the matter any further, I shall be glad to submit my idea of the best way to arrive at a fair method of ascertaining the real value of the German interests.

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

I have, &c.,
F. D. BELL.

No. 8.

F. H. PRICHARD, Esq., to the PREMIER.

SIR,—
Levuka, 3rd September, 1885.

I have the honour, by direction of the Committee, to acknowledge receipt of your letters dated 23rd July and 18th August, with enclosure.

I am instructed again to tender you the thanks of the Committee, and to assure you that the report of the Committee will be looked for with special interest.

Herewith I have the honour to forward a further supplementary sheet, closing the petition.

The Hon. Robert Stout, Premier, Wellington.

I have, &c.,
F. H. PRICHARD.

No. 9.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

PARLIAMENT resolved expedient to establish closer relations Fiji, Samoa, without incurring serious pecuniary liability. Essential Rapa should be under British control. Urge Colonial Office.
10th September, 1885.

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 10.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—
Premier's Office, Wellington, 10th September, 1885.
I have this day cabled to you the substance of the report of the Pacific Islands Committee, which was referred to the Government by the House on the 4th instant; and I now enclose the full text for your information and guidance.

I do not deem it necessary to add anything to the report, because you have already anticipated it by your action, further than that the Government fully relies on your endeavours, and thanks you for what has been already done in reference to the matter.

Sir F. Dillon Bell, K.C.M.G., Agent-General.

I have, &c.,
ROBERT STOUT.

No. 5.

No. 6.

A.-4A*, '85, No. 6.

No. 9.
I.-8, 1885.

No. 11.

The PREMIER to F. H. PRICHARD, Esq.

Premier's Office, Wellington, 10th September, 1885.

SIR,—

In accordance with the promise contained in my letter of the 10th ultimo, I now enclose a copy of the report of the Committee of the House of Representatives that was appointed to consider the petition from settlers and colonists of Fiji, and the general position of the Western Pacific Islands in their relation to New Zealand.

I.-8, 1885.

F. H. Prichard, Esq., Levuka, Fiji.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 12.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 10th September, 1885.

SIR,—

I have received your telegram of to-day informing me that Parliament had resolved that it would be expedient to establish closer relations with Fiji and Samoa, without incurring serious pecuniary liability; also, that it was essential for Rapa to be under British control; and directing me to urge these views on the Colonial Office.

No. 9.

I shall take as early an opportunity as possible of carrying out your instructions.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

F. D. BELL.

No. 13.

The PREMIER to F. H. PRICHARD, Esq.

Premier's Office, Wellington, 15th September, 1885.

SIR,—

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, forwarding a further supplementary sheet of the petition for annexation, which I yesterday presented to Parliament.

No. 8.

F. H. Prichard, Esq., Levuka, Fiji.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 14.

The PREMIER to the King of SAMOA.

Premier's Office, Wellington, 28th September, 1885.

SIRE,—

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th August, and am much pleased to learn that mine of the 2nd April last was appreciated by your Majesty. At the same time I am very sorry to learn that the unsatisfactory state of affairs still continues. I had hoped that long ere this the German Government would have instructed its officers to refrain. I have delivered your letter to His Excellency the Governor of this colony, and I have no doubt he will again direct the attention of the British Government to the subject.

A.-1, 1886, No. 1.
A.-4D, '85, No. 72.

I have heard from our Agent-General in London that matters relating to the islands are still under consideration between the English and German Governments, but that nothing definite has been arrived at. Meanwhile I can only repeat my assurances of the good wishes of this Government.

I have, &c.,

His Majesty the King of Samoa, Mulinuu.

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 15.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

Premier's Office, Wellington, 28th September, 1885.

SIR,—

I had the honour, on the 10th instant, to send you a telegram stating the result of the deliberations of the Committee of the House of Representatives to whom was referred the petition of Fiji, and the question as to the attitude of New Zealand towards the Pacific Islands; and on the same date I forwarded to you the full report of that Committee. I now send you the debate that took place in the House regarding New Guinea; and I shall briefly refer to the views of the Government on these various questions.

No. 9.

1. As to New Guinea, the impression of the House was that it was unwise for them to express any opinion as to what the future government of that territory should be until the views of the Home Government and of the other colonies had been expressed. We will, however, have to go on paying our proportionate share of the £15,000 a year. The Victorian Parliament, I believe, will come to the resolution that this payment should be made for five years. In our memorandum to His Excellency Major-General Scratchley we thought three years would be sufficient. The House of Representatives has not expressed any opinion on that point, and therefore the matter must remain as it is for this year. We have made one payment of £2,668 18s. 9d., and will not be called upon to make another payment until the House meets next year. When General Scratchley was here a few months since he stated that scarcely any of the money contributed by the colonies had been used. After his visit to New Guinea the House may be better able to come to some definite conclusion. From the debate that has taken place in the Victorian Parliament it would appear that it is assumed in Victoria that the islands will soon be open for trade. I am, however, doubt-

ful if there will be much trade in New Guinea for many years to come. It requires considerable investment of capital to develop profitable trade, and there are few, if any, white people settled there at present.

2. As to Fiji, you will observe that the Committee was not averse to helping, if that could be done without casting any very heavy burden on this colony. In this matter we must wait for further developments. I have no doubt, however, that an agreement might be come to by which New Zealand might be brought into closer relationship with Fiji than she is in at present. Whether this will be better effected by a Customs treaty or by a closer alliance we must wait for time to show. The commercial treaty between Hawaii and the United States might form a useful precedent for our adoption.

A.—1, 1886, No. 1.
No. 14.

3. *Samoa*.—I forward you herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from the King of Samoa, and a copy of my reply. The King has also written to the Governor, and His Excellency is taking steps to communicate its purport to the Home Government. I believe that, if the Imperial Government were to make arrangements with the German Government for the purchase of German interests, we would not be disinclined to take over the responsibilities of the English Government so far as the group is concerned. The Committee that dealt with this matter would, no doubt, have come to some more definite resolution if there had been a definite proposal submitted by the Imperial Government for their consideration. It was felt, I believe, by all the Committee that the subject was not yet ripe for action. Judging from the position in Samoa, something will have to be done very soon, unless the English Government are content to allow Germany to obtain the islands.

4. As to the New Hebrides, I have already dealt with the matter. Of course they are of more importance to the Australian Continent than to New Zealand; but I feel sure that, were anything done by the British Government to give these islands to France, there would be a great deal of feeling evoked throughout Australasia.

5. *Rapa*.—You will observe that the Committee is very anxious that this island should be obtained. On the completion of the Panama Canal Rapa will be one of the most important trade centres in the Pacific; and I need not press upon you to continually keep this matter before the Colonial Office, as I know from your correspondence that you are as fully alive to the importance of Rapa as any one can possibly be.

6. *Cook Islands*.—You have not made special reference to these islands in your correspondence. You will observe from our statistics that we have larger trade with the Cook group than with almost any other group in the Pacific; and, as no nationality seems to claim them, you might be able to obtain their transference to New Zealand. Will you ascertain what the views of the Colonial Office are regarding them?

Sir F. Dillon Bell, K.C.M.G., Agent-General.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 16.

MEMORANDUM FROM GOVERNOR SIR W. F. D. JERVOIS to the PREMIER.

A.—1, 1886, No. 1. ON the 23rd ultimo I sent a despatch to the Secretary of State, forwarding a copy of King Malietoa's letter to me of the 11th August, and informing him that a similar communication had been addressed to Mr. Stout.

The same day I telegraphed the substance of the King's letter to the Secretary of State. I have this day received a telegram in answer, to the effect that instructions have been sent to the British Admiral, Sydney, to send a ship of war to Samoa, and report on the state of affairs without interfering with politics, returning as soon as possible.

Government House, Wellington, 15th October, 1885.

W. F. D. JERVOIS.

No. 17.

F. H. PRICHARD, Esq., to the PREMIER.

SIR,—

Annexation Committee, Levuka, 26th October, 1885.

Nos. 11 and 13.

I have the honour, by direction of the Committee, to acknowledge receipt of yours dated 10th and 15th ultimo respectively, the former covering copy of the Pacific Islands Committee's report, dealing, *inter alia*, with the petition from Fiji for assistance in the effort to obtain the incorporation of this colony with New Zealand.

The Committee notes with satisfaction the tone of the report and the character of the recommendations to the House; and, in thanking you for the valuable assistance rendered up to this point, it has desired me to solicit for the matter your further attention and support, so that on the reassembling of the House the recommendations may receive due effect.

I have, &c.,

F. H. PRICHARD,
Secretary.

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

No. 18.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

SIR,—

7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 4th November, 1885.

No. 10.

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 10th September, transmitting the report of the Pacific Islands Committee.

I beg permission to offer my respectful acknowledgments to you for the terms in which you are pleased to refer to such exertions as it has been my good fortune to be able to make in the cause which New Zealand must always have at heart; and so long as I am here I shall not cease to urge it upon the Imperial Government.

I could not read the report without discouragement, because it is vain for us to hope that Germany will consent to the political relations we want with Samoa while we do not meet the indispensable condition without which no real progress can be made. I am only too painfully aware of the financial reasons which made the decision of the Committee an almost inevitable one, and, as happens every day in the world, when this is so, there is nothing for it but that we must all be patient; but I greatly wish, all the same, that the Committee had thought of merely advising the question of expense to be adjourned until some indication could be got of the cost of acquiring the German claims, as this would have helped me in the main thing for which I have been striving—namely, to keep the question open, and avert embarrassing decisions being come to prematurely.

I have taken care to represent privately that the Committee's report is not to be taken as closing the door to further negotiation; but I think it more prudent not to take formal steps just now for urging the views of the Committee upon Her Majesty's Government; for, until the general election is over, and the decision of the country is given upon the question of who the Government are to be, more harm than good would be done by pressing questions which touch international relations so closely, and extend a good deal farther than they seem. You may nevertheless be sure that at the first favourable moment I shall once more try what I can do.

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

I have, &c.,
F. D. BELL.

No. 19.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Wellington, 7th November, 1885.

I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a memorandum addressed by me to His A.-1, '86, No. 10. Excellency the Governor on the islands question. The occasion of my forwarding it was in answer to a despatch from the Colonial Office requesting our opinion about the appointing of a vice-consul at Rarotonga. We have thought it better, in referring to that subject, to make some comments on the islands question generally.

I may point out, first, in reference to the Pelew Islands—to which reference has been made—that they lie on the route between China and Australia, and are of immense importance to England from an Imperial point of view. I believe that the need of making them British territory was pointed out years ago to the Imperial Government by the then Governor of the Straits Settlements.

As to the Cook Islands, I have already referred to them in previous correspondence; and I may state that the Queen of Rarotonga had a long interview with Mr. Ballance, the Native Minister. She is desirous of having some stronger bond of unity with New Zealand than at present exists; she did not desire to be under the French Government. No definite agreement or understanding was come to; but if we were permitted to make some treaty with her—perhaps of the nature of that which now exists between the Sandwich Islands and America—and if the internationalization of the islands were maintained, it would be of enormous service to us. You will see from the memorandum that our trade is very considerable with the islands. The islands have also been the seat of the London Missionary Society's efforts, and this has made the islanders have, no doubt, a warm feeling towards England.

As to the Kermadec Islands and Sunday Islands, they have been used as places from whence to obtain guano; and further than that they are mere rocks and of no importance, and I do not suppose that any of the European Governments would object to these islands being annexed to New Zealand. You will see from the map that they are not further from New Zealand than the Chatham or Campbell Islands are, which are included in New Zealand boundaries.

We are awaiting with some anxiety the report that will be made on the Samoan trouble by the man-of-war that has been sent there. From letters recently received it would appear that the revolution or dispute between the two sets of Natives still continues, and that the islanders are being still taught to look upon Germany as all-powerful.

Reference has been made, as you will observe in the memorandum, to Rapa; but I need not urge your attention to that question, as you are as fully aware of its importance to New Zealand as we are.

Sir F. Dillon Bell, K.C.M.G., Agent-General.

I have, &c.,
ROBERT STOUT.

No. 20.

The PREMIER to F. H. PRICHARD, Esq.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Wellington, 11th November, 1885.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, and to express my gratification that your Committee is satisfied with what has been done with respect to the annexation petition. Will you be good enough to assure the Committee that the matter shall receive my further attention and support.

F. H. Prichard, Esq., Hon. Secretary, Annexation Committee,
Levuka, Fiji.

I have, &c.,
ROBERT STOUT.

No. 17.

No. 21.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Wellington, 18th November, 1885.

No. 19.

In my letter of the 7th instant I enclosed a memorandum addressed by Ministers to His Excellency the Governor on the islands question; and I now wish you to be good enough to *delete* the reference to His Excellency's despatches in paragraph 3, as per enclosed. The Despatch No. 43 therein mentioned refers to the New Hebrides only.

Sir F. Dillon Bell, K.C.M.G., Agent-General.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 22.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Wellington, 27th November, 1885.

No. 7.

In reference to your letter of the 20th August last, regarding the purchase of German interests at Samoa, including claims to land, I have to state,—

1. The subject was brought before a Committee of the House of Representatives that had to deal with petitions from Fiji for annexation. The report of the Committee has been already forwarded to you, and you will observe from it that the Committee and Parliament seemed disinclined to go in the direction mentioned by you. I feel sure that the New Zealand Parliament, anxious as it is to see the Navigator group, as well as other groups, under British control, would never sanction the expenditure of so large a sum as £200,000 for the purpose. If, however, the Imperial Government were to make some arrangement for their purchase, they might attach as a condition the repayment of the money by a sinking fund by the colony to which the islands were annexed. I mention the words "the colony to which the islands were annexed" because I feel sure that it would be impossible to properly manage the islands from London as a centre. There will have to be some local control. The French Government have created for Tahiti and Marquesas a General Council, something equivalent to the English form of managing Crown colonies; and they have done the same for New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands. This might work; but the Samoan group is too small for a Council, and it would be better that they should be managed by some colony.

2. The need, in view of the opening of the Panama Canal, of the Imperial Government taking some more active interest in the Pacific Islands question I need not further refer to, as in various letters and correspondence this matter has been frequently urged. I would, however, point out that, from private letters received by me from Samoa, I learn that the islanders are still in a condition of unrest, and the dread of German annexation is still ever present with them. I hope that some means may be found for enabling the Imperial Government to comply with the wishes of the Samoan Islanders, and generally for extending a British protectorate over those islands whose inhabitants desire that they should be under British rule.

Sir F. Dillon Bell, K.C.M.G., Agent-General.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 23.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Wellington, 1st December, 1885.

A.-1, '86, No. 13.

I have the honour to enclose, for your information, copy of a letter addressed by the Hon. the Native Minister to His Excellency the Governor, giving an account of his recent interviews at Auckland with the Queen of Rarotonga. Ministers are quite in accord with the views expressed by Mr. Ballance, and they have asked His Excellency to transmit the letter for the consideration of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir F. Dillon Bell, K.C.M.G., Agent-General.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 24.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

SIR,—

7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 2nd December, 1885.

I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter I have received from the Colonial Office, covering a despatch from Governor Drummond Jervois to the Secretary of State, dated the 12th September last, with Colonel Stanley's reply, dated the 23rd ultimo.

You already know that I propose, whenever the general election shall be over, to approach the Secretary of State once more on the Pacific Islands question, in obedience to your instructions. At present I ought not, perhaps, to say more than that you are sure to read between the lines of Colonel Stanley's despatch. The "valuable equivalent" to France means, of course, the New Hebrides; and, as regards Fiji, an opportunity is afforded of stating what guarantees New Zealand would offer that "native interests" would be secured.

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

I have, &c.,

F. D. BELL.

Enclosure.

SIR,—
 I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for your information, copies of a despatch from the Governor of New Zealand, with its enclosures, and of the reply which has been returned to it, respecting the position of Fiji and the islands of the Western Pacific in relation to the colony.
 The Agent-General for New Zealand.

Downing Street, 23rd November, 1885.

I have, &c.,

JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 25.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—
 I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th ultimo, on the subject of Samoa; and I need only now say that the Government has every confidence in your taking such steps as you may consider expedient to prosecute the object in view to a successful issue.

Premier's Office, Wellington, 21st December, 1885.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT STOUT.

Sir F. Dillon Bell, K.C.M.G., Agent-General.

No. 18.

No. 26.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SAMOA: Germans have driven King from Mulinuu, hauled down municipal flag, and reported to be on the point of annexing. You had better see Government at once. "Nelson," with Admiral, is here in New Zealand.

9th January, 1886.

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 27.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

SAMOA: Saw Colonial Office immediately. Lord Salisbury sent energetic message Berlin, and reassuring reply now come. No annexing allowed, existing engagements maintained.

London, 12th January, 1886.

F. D. BELL.

No. 28.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

SIR,—
 I received on the 9th instant your telegram relating to Samoa, stating that the Germans had driven King Malietoa from his place, and that it was said they were also on the point of annexing the group, and directing me to see Her Majesty's Government on the subject; which I immediately did. A telegram had just been received at the Foreign Office from Consul Powell, to the same effect as yours. Lord Salisbury at once sent an energetic telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, who lost no time in communicating with the German Government; and assurances have been received in reply from Prince Bismarck that no annexation of Samoa would be allowed, and that the existing engagements between Germany, England, and the United States would be maintained inviolate. Count Hatzfeldt, the German Ambassador in London, also called at the Foreign Office and gave personal assurances to Lord Salisbury to the same effect.

I transmit herewith a number of extracts which have appeared in various newspapers since the arrival of the news. It was discredited at Berlin, and declared to be greatly exaggerated, because the German Admiralty had had a telegram from the commander of the "Albatross" simply reporting that he had come to Apia at Christmas, and was to leave again on the 14th of January, but saying nothing of any disturbances; and the German authorities could not suppose that the commander would have sent any telegram without mentioning such important events, if they had really happened, as Consul Powell described. It is certain, however, that an immediate effect was produced by the strong telegram Lord Salisbury had sent.

If it had not been for the opening of the Imperial Parliament on the 12th Colonel Stanley would have seen me before this on the subject of Samoa; but the pressure upon Her Majesty's Government has necessitated the postponement of a number of subjects: and I have, for my own part, much preferred that my interview with the Secretary of State should not take place during a time of so much hurry in affairs.

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

I have, &c.,

F. D. BELL.

[Extract from *St. James's Gazette*, 11th January, 1886.]

SAMOA ANNEXED BY GERMANY.—FLIGHT OF THE KING.—BRITISH AND AMERICAN PROTEST.

CENTRAL News telegram.—San Francisco, Monday morning.—The latest news from the Samoa group of islands in the Pacific is of a highly-disquieting character. The Germans have made a pretext for interfering with the government of the islands on the alleged ground of protecting the German traders. The King and chiefs of the native tribes have been wantonly insulted by the German officials; and so exasperated were the natives that, had it not been for the intervention of

the British and American Consuls, the German residents on the islands would undoubtedly have been massacred. A force of German marines and sailors were landed directly afterwards from the German man-of-war "Albatross," who forcibly took possession of the place, and before whom the King and his advisers have fled for safety. The Samoan flag was hauled down by the German Consul in the presence of the German forces. The British and American Consuls have protested energetically against these proceedings on the part of the Germans, but without any effect; and a formal written protest was afterwards lodged. The natives are in the highest state of excitement, and a war is threatened, in which it is feared white men will suffer indiscriminately.

The German interest in the Samoan group dates from the establishment in Samoa of the German firm of Messrs. Godeffroy and Co. They purchased large tracts of land, with the object of introducing German settlers. The firm interested Prince Bismarck in their scheme, and the German Government regarded it with favour. A scheme of colonization was drawn up, and measures were adopted for putting it in force, when the outbreak of the Franco-German war diverted attention from the matter, and the project fell through. In 1877 the Samoan chiefs petitioned the British Government to establish a protectorate over the islands, but their request was refused. In January, 1885, the New Zealand Government proposed to annex the islands; but it was then discovered that a treaty had been concluded between the Samoan King and the German Consul. By this treaty, which was dated the 10th November, 1884, the Germans practically obtained complete authority in Samoa. On the 6th January, 1885, the English Government received a telegram from Sir W. Jervois, Governor of New Zealand, announcing that the chiefs and people repudiated the treaty, and that the Parliament of Samoa declined to ratify it. Moreover, in a letter dated the 11th November, 1884, addressed to Queen Victoria, the King of Samoa reiterates his repeated requests for the establishment of British sovereignty in the territories, states that he had accepted the treaty with the German Consul "on account of his fears," and he thought that "if your Government should be set up in Samoa, then the treaty with Germany would become of no effect." In a telegram to the Governor of New Zealand, dated the 19th January, 1885, declining to sanction steps in relation to the annexation of the islands, Lord Derby said: "In important speech Saturday, Prince Bismarck mentioned agreement binding England and Germany maintain *status quo* in Samoa; and colonial action would be regarded as breach of agreement, and might lead to immediate annexation by Germany." On the 21st March, 1885, the New Zealand Government received a copy of an Act passed by the Samoan Government for the annexation of the islands to New Zealand. To this, however, no effect was given.

[Extract from the *Times*, Tuesday, 12th January, 1886.]

GERMANY AND THE SAMOAN ISLANDS.

IN reference to a report published yesterday afternoon the Press Association states that the Colonial Office has received information as to the interference of some German officials in the Samoan Islands, but Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that the German Government have no intention of annexing the group. This is confirmed by the fact that Messrs. Houlder, Brothers, and Co., who are the largest shippers to that part of the globe from the United Kingdom, have received no information of German annexation, and the private steamer "Explorer," belonging to the firm, is the only means of communication between the mail-steamers and the islands. The German gunboat "Albatross" is known to have been near the spot for some time. In addition to the representatives of Messrs. Houlder, Brothers, and Co. there are several British subjects resident on the islands. Mr. Wilfred Powell, the British Consul, was established there only a few months ago, at the time when the German Consul, Herr Rougay, was sent out; and the London Missionary Society rank Samoa as one of their chief stations. They have six missionaries at present stationed there—one at Apia, two at Malua, one at Tutuila, one at Savaii, and one at Aana. One of these, the Rev. George Turner, LL.D., has lately returned from there after a residence of fifty-five years on the islands, and he expressed the belief that there are among the Christians in the 230 villages of the group six thousand who have been converted by the missionaries of the society, and that, exclusive of those under the care of the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic missions, there are twenty-seven thousand of the Samoans who look to the London Missionary Society for spiritual instruction. The total population is now thirty-five thousand. It is pointed out that the greater portion of the land on the islands is owned by British subjects or by natives who have placed themselves under the guidance and instruction of Englishmen, and that the only German interest in that region has been created within a year or two by the formation of a trading station by Messrs. Godeffroy and Co., the Hamburg merchants, and the arrival at a comparatively recent period of German settlers invited by that firm. The King of Samoa in 1877 petitioned the English Government to annex the islands, which the Government declined to do, and in 1884 he was induced to enter into a treaty with the German Consul. The New Zealand Government, which regarded the possession of Samoa as vital to British interests, petitioned the Colonial Office twelve months ago to annex the islands, and the King again transmitted a request to the same effect; but the Home Government contented itself on that occasion also with forming an agreement with Germany to maintain the *status quo*.

[Extract from the *Times*, Wednesday, 13th January, 1886.]

SAMOA.

BERLIN, 12th January, 1886.—Nothing has transpired here with respect to the alleged hoisting of the German flag at Samoa. But, if there has occurred any incident of the kind alleged, it is probable that it had something to do with the late departure of the Imperial ironclad squadron from Zanzibar to the Australasian quarter of the Pacific. Letters for the squadron, it has been intimated, may next be sent to Sydney.

BERLIN, 12th January.—With regard to the statements published yesterday in London as to the alleged proceedings of the Germans in Samoa, it is pointed out in official quarters that the latest intelligence received from Samoa by the Government extends to the 30th December last, and that these communications contained no reference to the events referred to, which can consequently only have taken place subsequent to that date. In any case, it is added, the statements must be considered a complete distortion of the facts. It is known that the seat of Government of the King had been under sequestration by the German Consul for some months, in consequence of certain legal disputes, and it is considered probable that if, indeed, anything has taken place since the 30th December, the King may have attempted to bring about the removal of the sequestration, which attempts would have been frustrated. Finally, it is declared that, inasmuch as a treaty exists between Germany, England, and the United States with regard to Samoa, there can be no question of an annexation of the islands by Germany.

[Extract from the *Times*, Thursday, 14th January, 1886.]
SAMOA.

BERLIN, 13th January.—In official circles here it is pretended, and seemingly with truth, that no direct intelligence has been received at the Foreign Office confirmatory of the statements which have lately reached England with respect to a German annexation of Samoa. It is pointed out that such an act is precluded by the terms of the agreement between England, Germany, and the United States, under which the Samoan Islands cannot be annexed by one of these countries without the concurrence of the other two. It is certain that the Imperial squadron which has been lying for some time back off Zanzibar has steamed away in the direction of the Samoan Islands; but in the same official circles it is maintained that the squadron received its sailing orders to this effect before the news of any troubles in Samoa reached Europe.

[Extract from the *Daily News*, Thursday, 14th January, 1886.]
GERMANY AND SAMOA.—OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

NEW YORK, Wednesday.—The State Department has received official information from the American Consul in Samoa confirming the news of the German seizure as published. The brother of the Consul, living at San Francisco, received to-day a letter from him, in which he states that he has constantly warned the American Government that he suspected Germany intended to take possession of the Samoan Islands. He says that strong jealousy always existed among the consuls in consequence of the desire of each to protect the commercial interests of his own countrymen. This was intensified between the German and American Consuls by the fact that the latter was a German-American. The primary cause of the ill-feeling was the progress American trade has been making in the islands during recent years at the expense of German trade. The letter says that if Germany were to annex Samoa it would be the death-blow to all other foreign interests there.

[Extract from the *Daily Telegraph*, Friday, 15th January, 1886.]
GERMANY AND SAMOA.

BERLIN, 14th January.—With reference to the news received in New York respecting the seizure of Samoa by the Germans, it is declared in official circles here that there can be no question of such a step, and that the incidents referred to can only be connected with measures taken to prevent an illegal attempt on the part of King Malietoa to withdraw the guarantees he had given to the Germans. In any case, it is added, nothing can have occurred which could in any way affect the existing treaty between Germany, England, and the United States.

The following letter, written by Earl Granville to Sir E. Malet for communication to the German Government, explains the nature of the arrangement which exists between Germany, England, and America in relation to the Samoan Islands: "Foreign Office, 19th December, 1884.—Sir,—Count Münster called at this office on the 15th instant to say that Prince Bismarck was very glad to learn, from the memorandum which your Excellency had delivered to him, that Her Majesty's Government had the best intentions towards the German Government in respect to Samoa and Tonga, and His Excellency was instructed to thank me for this communication. His Excellency observed that some private individuals had been working in those islands for British annexation, and it would be desirable that the Government of Samoa should be informed that such a movement was disapproved by Her Majesty's Government. As to the proposal for an engagement to respect the independence of Samoa and Tonga, the German Government had already declared in 1879 and in 1880 their willingness to do so, and they were now quite willing to enter into negotiations with that object." It is understood that Prince von Bismarck has, on the part of his Government, repudiated the action of the German representatives in Samoa, and that the King of Samoa's flag will be immediately rehoisted throughout the island.

[Extract from the *Standard*, Friday, 15th January, 1886.]
GERMANY AND SAMOA.

NEW YORK, Thursday Night.—A letter which has been published here, dated Apia, 9th December, leads people to discredit the German version of the recent occurrences at Samoa. It states that King Malietoa's fear of the chiefs who maintained a perpetual rebellion against him induced him to secure himself by placing a territory measuring five miles by two under the power of the representatives of Great Britain, Germany, and the United States. Within this territory, which includes Apia, Germany could neither have a just difference with the King, nor injure him without affronting the other nations associated with her in this *quasi*-protectorate. The American commerce with the Samoa group has lately largely increased, and hence some jealousy has arisen between the several

consuls, which has been increased by the fact that the United States Consul is a naturalized German. The reported seizure by the Germans is considered to be the sequel to King Malietoa's refusal to concede the German demand for a coaling-station at the time when he ceded Pagopago to the United States.

No. 29.

The PREMIER, Victoria, to the PREMIER, New Zealand.

HAVE you any official or other certain knowledge respecting recent German action in Samoa? Think of asking Federal Council next week to address the Queen on the subject, under section 29 of Imperial Enabling Act, which, in case you have no copy, runs as follows—namely: "The Council may make such representations or recommendations to Her Majesty as it may think fit with respect to any matters of general Australasian interest or to the relations of Her Majesty's possessions in Australasia with the possessions of foreign Powers."

17th January, 1886.

JAMES SERVICE.

No. 30.

The PREMIER, New Zealand, to the PREMIER, Victoria.

THANKS for inquiry. We have certain knowledge of what Germans have done. Two Samoan chiefs have come asking us for aid. The German Consul, aided by man-of-war, has driven King from land occupied by him, notwithstanding protests of British and American Consuls. But for the intervention of these consuls bloodshed was inevitable. This action is in violation of treaties and conventions, and looks like the first step of annexation. We have wired Home Government, who reply that they have Berlin assurances nothing intended. But the German flag still flies in violation of understanding; and it looks as if very little assurance satisfied British Foreign Office. We will be glad of your colony's powerful aid to maintain British interests in Pacific.

18th January, 1886.

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 31.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

Two Samoan chiefs here waiting decision Imperial Government. German flag still flying Apia. Reason German Government no information recent outrage, German despatches left early 31st December, and outrage evening same day. Chiefs came by schooner leaving day later. Chiefs exceedingly anxious English protection and annexation. Imperial Government might buy out German Company; but their claims exorbitant, and some independent Commission—say, American—would have to examine them. Writing you fully. English man-of-war, with some capable person to act, should be sent.

21st January, 1886.

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 32.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

GOVERNOR's telegrams, yours to-day. Nothing will be done except that neither Germany nor England will annex now that America intervenes. Raiatea is given to France.

21st January, 1886.

F. D. BELL.

No. 33.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Wellington, 22nd January, 1886.

Since I had the honour to address you on the 27th November last regarding Samoa, events of great importance have transpired, of which a short account has been wired to you and to the Colonial Office. I think it better, however, in order that you may be fully informed of the facts, to enter at some length into the position of affairs in Samoa.

2. I do not need to rehearse to you what was done by the German Consul and German man-of-war last year. You are aware that a new treaty or convention was forced upon the King, against which he protested both to the Emperor of Germany and to the Queen. You are also aware that the German flag was hoisted at Apia, and that the authorities at Berlin disavowed this act of their Consul, whilst they affirmed their right to have the new convention or treaty made with the King. We were informed that this act of hoisting the flag had not only been disavowed, but that the flag would be taken down. The fact is, however, that, whatever may be said at Berlin, in Samoa it is believed that the act of the Consul has been approved; and in proof of this the fact remains that the German flag still flies at Apia.

3. I must now give you a slight history of how the new complication has arisen to which reference has been made by wire. I enclose for your perusal copy of a letter addressed to His Excellency the Governor by the two Samoan chiefs Tuietufuga Upalu and Seu Manutafa, who have been specially sent to New Zealand by the King and Government, asking for New Zealand or British aid. This letter will give you the ideas and explanations of the Samoan Government; but I prefer to go further back in the history of the transaction. About two or more years ago there was a piece of land—a peninsula—called Mulinuu, which was looked upon as important in Samoan eyes. It was believed that the persons who had possession of this land were entitled to rule over Samoa.

Tamasese, who was vice-king, and who wished to be placed in Malietoa's position, claimed the land. A subject of the United States named Mr. Coe stated that he had bought the land from a Samoan called Puketoi, and he asked King Malietoa to aid him in obtaining possession. In consequence of the Samoans looking upon the possession of this land as of great importance, Malietoa stated that if the land was obtained by Mr. Coe he should give or sell it to him (the King). Mr. Coe promised that the land should be given to the King on payment of the money which the American gentleman had paid for it. King Malietoa being assured of this, it was arranged that the land should be declared to belong to Mr. Coe's vendor, and Tamasese's right to it was denied. The land was given over to the purchaser, and, in pursuance of the arrangement previously made, an interview was held between King Malietoa and Mr. Coe. At this interview, I am informed, Mr. Coe said that he was being troubled by Masu demanding the land, and that if the land was handed over to Mr. Weber, Masu would not trouble Mr. Weber, and Mr. Weber would sell the land to King Malietoa. The price was fixed at \$5,000, and Malietoa was told that if he paid \$2,500 at once, or in a short time, he could pay the balance afterwards, and the land should belong to him. King Malietoa consented on these terms that they should hand over the land to Mr. Weber, so as to get rid of Masu's importunities; and then a few days afterwards he called on Mr. Weber, and offered him, as had been arranged, \$2,500 as part payment. Mr. Weber declined to receive this money, and, although Malietoa held possession of the land, no arrangement was come to regarding it.

4. I now come to what took place on the 31st December last. The German Consul sent his despatches by the schooner "Vietala," to catch the mail-steamer early on that day, up to which time nothing had occurred calling for any special note. In the afternoon, however, and after the mail had left, the Germans took possession of this peninsula—Mulinuu—and, although the money was again offered—namely, \$5,000—it was declined, and the King and the natives had to remove from the land. The German sloop "Albatross" was in the harbour, and men from her came on shore and hoisted the German colours on the land. The British Consul's despatch, as well as the letter of the Samoan chiefs which I have enclosed, will show you what then occurred. King Malietoa, on the advice of the British and American Consuls, prevented bloodshed. He went and hoisted the Samoan flag on a piece of land that belonged to Seu Manutafa, one of the chiefs who has sent the letter to the Governor. Seu Manutafa had, however, mortgaged the land to an English subject named Mr. Johnson; so that, if the land was not Samoan territory, at all events it was British, and to it the Germans could not have had any shadow of a claim. The Germans, however, as you will see from the letter, pulled down the flag which had been hoisted on this piece of land. This insult the Samoans felt very keenly.

5. From an interview that I have held with the Samoan chiefs I gather that there is a unanimous desire on their part for union with Britain. I cannot express to you in writing what fear and terror they feel of German annexation. I have learnt from independent sources that the German Consul has done all he could to stir up the Samoan chiefs against the King and Government. I was informed by the Right Rev. Bishop Neville, Anglican Bishop of Dunedin, that at one of the islands which he visited in a small schooner he found no less than nine men, who stated they had been specially sent and paid by the German Consul to interview the chiefs of the island, to see if they would not join the German party and be against King Malietoa and the Government; and from other sources in Samoa which I believe to be reliable I have learnt that there has been carried on systematically an attempt by some of the German residents, if not by the Consul—the same policy of stirring up the chiefs against the King and his Government. I can hardly believe that this conduct is sanctioned or approved of by the German Government.

6. I now come to another phase of the question, on which, in view of any negotiations with the British Government, it is right that you should be informed, in order that you may give the fullest information to the Colonial Office. It is not necessary that I should go into the history of the Godeffroy Company. You are, no doubt, aware that the company failed. The reasons for the failure, I am informed by a gentleman who visited and spent many months in the islands, were that the company carried on its operations on an extravagant and expensive scale—indeed, that it was hopeless that the company could, with the trade of these islands, make any profit whatever. In its failure I assume that those who were creditors of the firm made some arrangement for carrying on its affairs. I have stated "I assume," but I have also been informed that that was the fact, and that Mr. Weber, who had been manager of Godeffroy's company, was appointed to manage the new business under other directors; and, from what I hear, unless the German company can maintain their claims to large land grants which they say belong to the company, the new arrangement will be just as unprofitable as the old one proved to be. I also learn from the same gentleman that many of the claims made by the company to lands are without a shadow of right, and that what happened in many instances in our own colony in the early days, before settled government, has happened in Samoa. People who have had no right or title to land have sold it or given it away. If, then, the Imperial Government should think it desirable to purchase out the German interests, great care will have to be exercised to ascertain their value. This, I believe, could only be done by some independent Commission meeting in Samoa, investigating the claims, and settling their value. I do not suggest that the company, or Mr. Weber, or the German Government would demand more than was believed by them to be the fair value of their interests in Samoa; but the fact that the company has failed, and the fact also that possibly creditors in Berlin think they ought to get their capital returned, might make them value their interests at an amount very unprofitable to any purchaser. If, then, the Imperial Government entertain the question of purchasing out the German rights, I think that they will have to be careful as to the amount. In my former letter I hinted that, if the rights were purchased, no doubt the New Zealand Government, if Samoa were left to them to manage, might make such arrangements as would allow the New Zealand Government to be responsible for interest and sinking fund of the amount of the purchase-money. I have no doubt that our Parliament would sanction such an arrangement.

7. I now come to the question of the Tonga Islands. They are at present in a very anomalous position. The King is an aged man, and if his death were to occur the probabilities are that there would be trouble as to his successor. I do not mean to enter into the dispute that has taken place between the present Premier of Tonga, the Rev. Shirley Baker, and the Wesleyan Methodist Church. That has been, and is still, a bitter controversy. It has divided the islands into two parties, those who remain with the Wesleyan Church and those who belong to what is termed the Free Church—practically the Church under the authority of Mr. Baker. It seems to me, however, that, in the presence of the complications that are sure to arise in Tonga, the Imperial Government ought to have stationed in the islands a Consul or Vice-Consul of judgment, and of great experience and ability; and that it should be an instruction to the admiral on the station to send frequently a man-of-war to visit the Friendly Islands as well as the Navigator group. This would tend not only to maintain the prestige of Britain, but would be a guarantee that, in the event of any trouble, British interests would be carefully guarded. I believe that the feeling in Tonga, if ascertained, would be the same as it is in Samoa—that their islands also should be placed under British dominion. So long, however, as the present King rules and Mr. Baker is Premier, this feeling will not be given expression to; but in the event of the King's death I feel sure that, if there is not a civil war, there will be a request to the British Government to afford some protection to the islands.

No. 19. 8. I have referred in a former letter to the arrival here of the Queen of Rarotonga and to the Cook or Hervey group. With this group, as you are aware, and as I have stated, New Zealand has a great trade, and the islands have been partially civilized through the efforts of the London Missionary Society. These islands also require the attention of the British Government, and would, I believe, gladly accept annexation.

9. You will see from what I have stated that in my opinion the Imperial Government should pay more attention to the Pacific question than has been hitherto the case. It is hardly necessary that I should refer to the history of what has occurred in the past; but if in Lord Palmerston's time the request of Queen Pomare had been acceded to, the extensive and important group known as the Society Islands, the Austral Islands, and the Tuamotu and Marquesas, would all have been British instead of French possessions. This would have been better for English trade and better for the natives of those groups. The question now is, Is the Imperial Government to allow the islands that ask annexation to fall into other hands, or is the request of the islanders and the colonists to be heeded?

I feel sure that you will strongly urge the Colonial Office to take decided action. Should it fail to do so, both the colonists and the islanders will feel much aggrieved.

Sir F. Dillon Bell, K.C.M.G., Agent-General.

I have, &c.,
ROBERT STOUT.

No. 34.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

We protest against ceding Raiatea to France unless Rapa given us.
26th January, 1886.

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 35.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

SIR,— 7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 27th January, 1886.

No. 23. Since writing to you on the 15th instant (No. 41) I have received your two despatches—of
Nos. 22 and 23. the 27th November and 1st December—relating to the Pacific Islands question, and also your
Nos. 31 and 34. telegrams of the 21st and 26th, relating to the Samoan chiefs and Raiatea.

I had already seen at the Colonial Office the telegrams which His Excellency the Governor had sent to the Secretary of State in reference to Samoa, and the Agent-General for Victoria had been good enough to show me a telegram he had received from the Premier of that colony on the same subject.

No. 32. I understood that the Secretary of State was to have sent His Excellency a reply to his telegrams to-day; but the defeat of the Ministry last night may have prevented it. I sent you a telegram myself, however, on the 21st, to the effect that nothing would really be done of what you wished about Samoa, and that the only thing to be depended upon was that neither England nor Germany would annex the group.

I believe you will find the true key to what has happened in the *communiqué* entitled "The Foreign Office under Lord Salisbury," which appeared in the *Times* a few days ago, a copy of which is enclosed. When Lord Salisbury went to the Foreign Office many questions of great perplexity and importance were still pending with foreign Powers; and it was the greatest of the Minister's objects to close all these questions, in order to bring about a complete concert of Europe upon the Eastern question. For this purpose it was essential, among other things, not to have a misunderstanding with either Germany or France about the respective spheres of those countries and England in the Pacific. As to Germany, it was agreed that Samoa was not to be taken possession of by either that country or England; as to France, the long-pending dispute about the Newfoundland fisheries (which I have so frequently mentioned) was to be settled by giving up Raiatea; for ever since the German acquisitions in New Guinea and the adjacent islands there has never been the least chance of France giving us Rapa in exchange.

On the first night that the new Parliament met (21st instant), Lord Salisbury declared in the House of Lords that there was not, in any hypothesis, any danger of the annexation of Samoa by Germany. Some events, he said, had not only been imperfectly reported, but the reports had not even reached the Court at Berlin at all; and, while Her Majesty's Government were at present unable to place an exact interpretation on these events, they had received the most positive assurances from Germany that she would adhere to the existing treaties about Samoa.

Under these circumstances you will, no doubt, see that any contrary action by England is now out of the question, especially after the United States having ordered a ship to be sent forthwith to the Samoan group. There has been a rather curious suggestion from Berlin for a partition of the group among the three Powers concerned, England receiving Savaii, Germany Upolu, with the Port of Apia, and the United States Tutuila, with the great harbour of Pagopago; but as yet the suggestion seems to be without any authority. Every question, however, relating to the Pacific may go into a new phase now, in consequence of the defeat of Lord Salisbury and the resignation of his Government; and I think it would be futile for me to say any more until the new Government is formed.

Copies of the telegrams are annexed, together with the extracts from the *Times* to which I have referred.

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

I have, &c.,
F. D. BELL.

Enclosures.

[Extract from the *Times*, Thursday, 21st January, 1886.]

THE FOREIGN OFFICE UNDER LORD SALISBURY.

It is well known that when the late Government resigned, and the affairs of the Foreign Office were handed over to Lord Salisbury and Mr. Bourke, many questions of great perplexity and importance were left unsettled, while in some cases a positive deadlock existed. We are not concerned to inquire whether this untoward condition of the foreign relations of the country was due to mismanagement on the part of the late Administration, or whether it resulted from an unfriendly attitude assumed by the representatives of certain foreign Powers, and especially by the German Chancellor. The fact is sufficient for our purpose, and the fact is indisputable that the change of Government was welcomed by many, irrespective of party predilections, as affording a prospect of improvement in the foreign relations of the Empire. Let us see how far this prospect has been realized. We can best accomplish our purpose by reviewing the recent history of some of the more important foreign questions which were still pending when the late Government resigned. Our object will be rather to state clearly what has actually been done than to express any opinion, whether favourable or unfavourable, as to the merits of the policy pursued.

The question of the Afghan frontier was the most urgent and perplexing of those with which Lord Salisbury was confronted when he received the seals of the Foreign Office. It is not necessary to deal with the earlier events in the history of this question, such as the agreement made by the late Government that the frontier should be defined, the discourteous treatment of the English Commission, the advance of the Russians into the debated and debatable territory, the capture of Penjdeh, and the occupation of the Zulfikar Pass. When Lord Granville agreed that Penjdeh should be retained by the Russians on condition that Zulfikar should remain to the Ameer, it was ascertained that the proposed Russian line would practically command the Afghan part of the pass, while the Russian Government contended that the Afghan line at another part of the Pass was carried so near to the road leading to and from Russian stations that in this respect it was inadmissible. Several attempts were made to reconcile the difference between the two Governments, and at one time it was proposed to refer the matter to the Frontier Commission; but Lord Granville and M. de Giers could not agree upon the terms of reference. It will be remembered that on the 11th of May Mr. Gladstone announced in the House of Commons that the Government "had arrived substantially at an agreement which was satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government and to Lord Dufferin and his Council." A month later, however, the discussions were still being carried on without much prospect of final accord, and M. de Staal had informed Lord Granville that the "Imperial Cabinet did not find it possible to agree to Lord Granville's terms." The Government being about to change hands, Lord Granville promised to convey this intimation to his successor. When Lord Salisbury assumed office he at once abandoned the idea of referring the question to the Frontier Commission, and, after communication with Sir West Ridgeway, determined to maintain fully his objection to that part of the Russian line which practically commanded the pass. On the other hand, he offered to modify the English proposal with respect to that portion which gave to the Afghans the command of the roads connecting the Russian stations. In accordance with this principle the Afghans retained command of both defiles, but were precluded from interrupting the communications between one Russian station and another. Sir Peter Lumsden, Sir West Ridgeway, and the Government of India being of opinion that this solution might be accepted, the protocol of the 10th September was signed by Lord Salisbury and M. de Staal. This protocol set forth in great detail the course of the line through the Zulfikar Pass, and thence the whole way to the Oxus. In pursuance of this agreement the Commissioners have completed a portion of their task. The work of delimitation has been accomplished to within a short distance of the Murghab River, and boundary-stones have been erected. It is possible that some differences may arise between the Commissioners as to that part of the frontier which has not been accurately explored, but there is no reason to anticipate that any serious difficulty will occur, or that even in such a case the appeal from the Commissioners to the respective Cabinets which the protocol provides for would fail to solve this difficult question in an amicable manner. The work of the Commissioners may be interrupted for a short time by the weather, but it is expected that it will be completed to the Oxus early in the spring.

The questions connected with Egypt and the Soudan were not less imperatively urgent than that of the Afghan frontier. The cessation of active operations in the Soudan had secured a momentary respite without removing any of the difficulties of the situation. Indeed, it seemed probable that the withdrawal of the British troops from their advanced positions might so encourage the Mahdists as to enable them to cause serious trouble in that portion of Egypt which England had undertaken to defend. The Government thought that if an appeal were made to the Sultan he might be induced to co-operate in an attempt to come to terms with the rebels, and thus to make an arrangement which would prevent the further effusion of blood. Sir Henry Drummond Wolff was accordingly sent to Constantinople as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and instructed to confer with the Sultan on the affairs of Egypt. His mission was to solicit the assistance of the Sultan in the military protection of that portion of Egypt which had been the scene of rebellion and commotion. Sir H. D. Wolff was also desired to intimate to the Sultan that, although the Government were anxious to secure his co-operation, yet if this were withheld they would not be relieved from the obligation of endeavouring to restore order in the Soudan, and would accordingly find themselves obliged to seek other means of fulfilling their duty. It was further explained that the object of the Government was to provide an efficient Egyptian government, free from foreign dictation; and as the pretext for foreign interference in Egypt was the unsatisfactory condition of the finances, Sir H. Wolff was enjoined to inquire into this subject, especially as regards the employment of foreigners, while he was to be equally mindful of the intention of the Government strictly to observe all international agreements, and loyally to support the present Khedive. The object of the mission was communicated to the Powers, and no opposition was offered by any of them. It is true that Germany and Austria were not very sanguine as to the prospect of peace being restored to the Soudan by means of Turkish troops; but they placed no obstacle in the way of an attempt being made in this direction. The communications that took place between Lord Salisbury and M. Waddington were of a nature to assure France that her susceptibilities would be respected, while the Powers generally were informed that the solution of the whole Egyptian problem would at last be approached with firmness and determination. There was indeed good reason to believe that, had matters remained much longer as they were when the late Government resigned, the Powers would have themselves undertaken the problem which England was apparently unable to solve. The following were communicated to the Powers as the leading principles on which the Government proposed to work: (1.) They would fix no date for leaving Egypt; (2) they would not separate Egypt from the Ottoman dominions; (3) they would respect treaties; (4) they would endeavour to induce the Sultan to send a small Turkish force to Egypt, to stay there so long as the British forces; (5) they would undertake the improvement of the Egyptian Administration when peace was restored to the Soudan. On the 22nd of August Sir Henry Drummond Wolff arrived at Constantinople, where his stay was prolonged for some time by the formalities and delays of Turkish diplomacy. It is unnecessary to follow minutely the discussions which took place at Constantinople, and the difficulties they presented—difficulties which were largely increased by the outbreak of the Bulgarian revolution. The negotiations covered the whole subject of the pacification of the Soudan and the appointment of a Turkish Commission, and raised such delicate questions as the disinclination affected by the Sultan in associating his troops with those of England after the useless massacres, as he was pleased to consider them, in which the latter had been engaged, the expense of a Turkish force, the duration of the English occupation, the character of the Turkish forces, and many similar matters.

By the 14th of September matters had so far advanced as to allow Sir H. Wolff to formulate the result of the discussions in the draft of an arrangement which he requested might have the approval of the Sultan, and to intimate that it would be necessary for him to proceed to Egypt on an early day. A series of protracted negotiations thereupon took place as to the details of the draft prepared by Sir H. Wolff. After many weeks of discussion and many references to Lord Salisbury, the convention was practically concluded by the middle of October, and Sir H. Wolff was formally appointed Commissioner to Egypt on behalf of Her Majesty's Government. The Sultan himself, at the last moment, proposed alterations in the convention; but the document was formally signed on the 24th. Its main provisions are: (1.) That the two Governments will each send a Commissioner to Egypt. (2.) That the Ottoman Commissioner will consult with the Khedive, or with a representative specially designated for the purpose, as to the best means for tranquillizing the Soudan by pacific measures. The English Commissioner is to be kept currently informed of these discussions and their results, and the measures decided upon are to be adopted and put in execution in agreement with the English Commissioner. (3.) That the two Commissioners will reorganize the Egyptian army in concert with the Khedive. (4.) That, subject to existing firmans, the two Commissioners, in concert with the Khedive, will examine all the branches of the Egyptian administration, and modify them where necessary. (5.) That the international engagements of the Khedive will be approved by the Sultan so far as they are not contrary to existing firmans. (6.) That the two Commissioners will report to their respective Governments as soon as they have assured themselves of the security of the frontiers and of the good working and stability of the Egyptian Government; and that the two Governments will thereafter consult as to the conclusion of a Convention regulating the withdrawal of the British troops from Egypt within a convenient period (*dans un délai convenable*).

On his arrival in Cairo Sir H. Wolff's first duty was to make the Khedive and his Ministers acquainted with the text and purport of the convention. They received it with great satisfaction, and there is no doubt that it has done much to allay the irritation previously existing in the Mussulman mind towards England. It has placed the authority of England on an equality with that of the suzerain Power in Egypt—in fact, so long as the British occupation continues, it legitimates our position in the country, it offers fresh hope of a settlement with the Soudanese, while it lays down distinctly that England has a right to stay in Egypt until that country can be safely left to itself.

The selection of Mukhtar Pasha as Ottoman High Commissioner is probably the best that could be made; and it is to be hoped that both English and Turkish Commissioners will very soon come to a satisfactory understanding with respect to the reorganization of the country. It is too soon to anticipate what measures will be adopted, but some steps have already been taken to bring about a settlement of the Soudan. It may be necessary to reoccupy Dongola if no peaceable arrangement is practicable; but upon this subject Sir Henry Wolff will be entirely guided by the military authorities. With respect to finance, it is clear that the primary object must be the promotion of economy. It is therefore to be hoped that the projects which have been already set on foot for a more economical administration of the domains may be carried out, and that the general administration of the finances will be such as to remove all danger of foreign intervention under the terms of existing agreements.

Another question which was causing considerable anxiety at the time that the Government assumed office was that of the relations of Germany with Zanzibar. When, under the award of Lord Canning in 1861, the territories of Muscat and Zanzibar were divided, the father of the present Sultan obtained possession, for himself and his successors, of Zanzibar and its dependencies. The line of coast then obtained extended from Cape Delgado to Warsheik, 2° 30' north latitude. It has always been understood that both the last and the present Sultans claimed sovereignty over that line of coast, but the exact character of the control has always been doubtful. The Sultan's title to territory in the interior is uncertain. When Germany, some eighteen months ago, in pursuance of her recently-developed colonial policy, claimed the protectorate over certain territories to the west of the Zanzibar coast, she came into collision with what the Sultan considered his territorial and sovereign rights. The German claims were founded on the fact that three or four Germans had settled in the interior and had made treaties with certain Native chiefs. More recently still, the German East Africa Company had, it was alleged, made other treaties with two or three chiefs who had hitherto been faithful to the Sultan and acknowledged his sovereignty. In these circumstances, the Sultan declined to acknowledge the German protectorate. His refusal was followed by the despatch of German men-of-war to the coast, with a demand that a treaty should be signed, not only acknowledging the German protectorate, but also agreeing to the possession by Germany of a port on the coast. Considerable irritation was felt in Germany in consequence of the prevalent impression that it was due to the great influence which our able and energetic representative, Sir John Kirk, possessed with the Sultan that opposition was made to the German demands. Very soon after the change of Government took place a better understanding was established, and the influence of England was used to prevent a collision between the Government of Zanzibar and the German authorities. At the same time, Germany proposed that the delimitation of the real territory of the Sultan should be conducted by an International Commission. Owing to a report that the German commodore had received instructions to enforce the demands of Germany, explanations were asked for and received upon the subject, and it was stated that the commodore had no authority to enforce his demands by intimidation. This pacific assurance soon produced a favourable effect. The Sultan very quickly came to an understanding with the German authorities which the latter declared to be entirely satisfactory, and the influence of Sir John Kirk has been successfully used to bring the views of the Sultan and the German Government into harmony. A Commission, consisting of an English, French, and German representative, is now sitting at Zanzibar, and the Sultan has acknowledged the protectorate of Germany, subject to a definition of boundaries by that authority. A commercial treaty advantageous to the Sultan and other nations has been signed between Germany and Zanzibar, and negotiations for a similar treaty with England are now in progress.

Another subject which has long engaged the attention of the Foreign Office is that of international copyright. The existing British copyright law consists partly in certain vaguely-defined common-law principles, and partly in the provisions of fourteen statutes ranging in date between the years 1735 and 1875. The complexity and obscurity of these statutes had given rise to such frequent complaint that in the year 1875 a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the subject. Their report, published in 1878, fully confirmed the justice of the complaints which had been made. The Commissioners, with some dissentients on points of detail, consequently recommended that the existing statutes should be reduced by codification to an intelligible form, and should be amended in substance in many important particulars—notably as to the duration of copyright and the right of translation, and as to the formalities of registration, deposit, &c. So far, however, no action has been taken in the sense suggested by the Royal Commission. The anomalies inherent in the existing system of British law on this subject have become especially apparent in the international branch of the question, for it is there brought into comparison with the more recent and less cumbrous systems adopted by foreign countries, with which it can rarely be made to harmonize; and it is for this reason that all the attempts which have lately been made by Great Britain to conclude copyright conventions have failed. The British International Copyright Acts require the insertion in such conventions of many detailed formalities, unacceptable in spirit and unintelligible in form to foreign countries, where the tendency is always to facilitate the protection accorded to the owners of intellectual property. It was this difficulty of harmonizing the varying details of divers legislations which led the International Literary Association to hold a meeting at Berne in 1883, with a view to some sort of international codification, as a first step towards the formation of an International Copyright Union. The rough scheme prepared at this meeting showed sufficient promise to encourage the Swiss Government to take the matter up diplomatically, and to invite all countries to be represented at an official International Copyright Conference. This was held at Berne in September, 1884, and was attended by delegates from twelve States, including Great Britain, the result being the submission for the approval of the Governments represented of a draft convention for the creation of an International Copyright Union. The British delegate was Mr. Adams, Her Majesty's Minister at Berne, who was not, however,

empowered to discuss or to vote upon any question; and the draft convention was consequently found upon examination to contain many details unacceptable to Great Britain. In 1885 the Swiss Government followed the matter up by proposing a second Conference to revise the work of that held in the preceding year. It was at first decided that Mr. Adams should again attend as British delegate in his former capacity of spectator; but the present Government, on their accession to office, considered it desirable that Great Britain should take a more active part in the discussion. Accordingly, at the second Conference, held last September, Mr. Adams and Mr. Berge, of the Foreign Office, were sent as British delegates, with instructions to discuss and to vote, subject to the approval by Her Majesty's Government of the resolutions which might be arrived at. A draft convention was agreed to at this Conference as the definitive basis of the proposed union. The broad principle of agreement is that each of the States of the union shall accord to the other States composing it the advantages of national treatment, on condition simply of the accomplishment of the legal formalities prescribed in the country of origin of the work; thus abolishing the antiquated form of double registration and deposit. The exclusive right of translation is reserved to the author for a period of ten years after publication, and provision is made for the due protection of musical, artistic, and dramatic copyright. It is proposed that this draft convention shall be definitively signed at Berne next September, and there can be little doubt that many of the most important States will agree to it. France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and several other States are known to be desirous of creating the union on this basis; and from the friendly interest manifested by the United States delegate, who was present for the first time at the last Conference, it is to be hoped that America, the State of all others most important to the copyright interests of Great Britain, will also become a party to it. In order, however, that Great Britain may be in a position to sign the convention, it is necessary to pass an Act removing the difficulties imposed by the existing British law. This matter has been under the consideration of the Government, and they have decided that it will be advisable to propose the necessary legislation at an early date, and that the opportunity should also be taken, if possible, to carry out the recommendation of the Royal Commission of 1878 for the general codification and amendment of the British statutes on the subject.

Lastly, we may mention the progress that has been made in connection with the troublesome matter of the Newfoundland fisheries. The dispute, which has been going on for the last hundred and seventy years between England and France, is one which it is impossible to describe accurately without going into great detail. It dates back to the Treaty of Utrecht, when Newfoundland was ceded to Great Britain; but the French were allowed to catch and dry their fish on certain parts of the island. This state of things naturally led to frequent disputes. A further attempt to settle the matter was made in 1783 in the Treaty of Versailles. An informal understanding was then arrived at to the effect that the French should not be disturbed in their fishing. This was interpreted by the French to mean that their portion of the island should not be colonized. The French clung to their contention, and British subjects engaged in the fishing were indignant that they should lose their fishing establishments and be driven away. During the wars from 1793 to 1815 the French were excluded from the fishing, and British fishermen settled themselves on the coast. But an Act was passed in 1824 removing British subjects from the shore; and this Act was in force when Newfoundland obtained representative institutions in 1834. It was shortly after this that the question arose which has never been settled—namely, whether the colony has a right to include "the French shore," as it is called, in its electoral districts. The point has been discussed and adjudicated upon in antagonistic senses by various Secretaries of State and divers law officers of the Crown between 1836 and 1873. When the colony appointed Magistrates the French Government were assured that their treaty rights would not be interfered with, and the French fishermen who yearly visit Newfoundland have for more than a hundred and fifty years enjoyed a sort of extra-territorial immunity from obedience to the laws of Newfoundland, and have been governed by their own naval officers. One of the thorny points in dispute until now has been whether the French can claim exemption from certain revenue laws of the colony. It would indeed be impossible here to describe even superficially the various disputes which have arisen between the two Governments—disputes which have often given occasion to violent expressions of opinion on the part of the colony. Various Commissions have been appointed to consider the matter and make recommendations; but the labours have had little result, owing to the impossibility of inducing the colony to agree to the French proposals, and *vice versa*. In 1878 protracted negotiations took place between the two Governments, but led to no result. In 1881 another mixed Commission was appointed, but no agreement was arrived at. At the end of 1883 Mr. (now Sir) Clare Ford and Mr. E. B. Pennell were ordered to Paris to act on a Commission with two French Commissioners. Their labours began in January, and on the 26th of April, 1884, an agreement was signed. The British Commissioners were then ordered to proceed to Newfoundland to offer explanations to the colonial Government, and Lord Derby expressed a hope that a special meeting of the colonial Legislature would take place to pass the Acts required to give effect to the provisions of the agreement. The Commissioners proceeded to Newfoundland, where they found that the colonial Government required some modifications of the agreement. When their demands were made known to the French Government they required in return concessions in other quarters. These demands once more imperilled the settlement of the fishery question itself. It was in these circumstances that Lord Salisbury took charge of the question. Arrangements have now been made with respect to the French demand for the abrogation of the Declaration of 1847, relating to the island to the leeward of Tahiti, and a new arrangement was signed on the 14th of November with respect to the Newfoundland fisheries. This arrangement has been concluded, subject to its acceptance by the colony and to its ratification by the two Governments. At the same time the arrangement of the 26th of April, 1884, was cancelled. The main features of the new arrangement are that, while the French Government are not to object to the establishment of different industries on the coast, the French rights of fishing are to be maintained; the police of the fisheries is to be managed by the ships of war of

England and France; the French Government abandons the salmon fisheries in the rivers; and French fishermen are to be exempt from paying duty for articles necessary for their fishing. Should this arrangement prove acceptable to the colonial Government it will put an end once for all to a dispute which has lasted for more than a century and a half.

[Extract from the *Times*, Tuesday, 19th January, 1886.]

SAMOA.

PHILADELPHIA, 18th January.—The Secretary of the Navy has ordered one naval vessel on the Pacific Station to be sent forthwith to the Samoan Islands.

[Extract from the *Times*, Friday, 22nd January, 1886.]

HOUSE OF LORDS, 21ST JANUARY.—THE ADDRESS.

EARL GRANVILLE.— It was rumoured the other day that Samoa had been annexed by the German Government. We all know the interest which Germany has in that island, but I felt sure when I saw the statement that it was not a fact, or that it had been done by an individual officer, and would be disowned by the German Chancellor. I am glad to learn that that is the case.

The Marquis of SALISBURY, who was received with cheers, said,— With respect to foreign affairs, allow me, in the first instance, in answer to the first question put by the noble Earl, to state that I think he is in error in supposing that there has been, in any hypothesis, any annexation of Samoa by Germany. There have been events which are imperfectly reported, and which, strangely, never reached the Court of Berlin at all, and we are at present unable to place an exact interpretation on the news which has come to us; but this, which is quite satisfactory, we have received—namely, the most positive assurance on the part of Germany that she will adhere to the treaties in respect to Samoa which already exist.

Extract from Leading Article.—Lord Salisbury is not only Prime Minister, but Foreign Secretary as well. When, therefore, he speaks on foreign affairs he speaks with the whole authority of the Government. He gave, in the first place, a welcome explanation of the exact position of the question which has lately arisen concerning the relations of Germany and Samoa. There has not been, he said, in any hypothesis any annexation of Samoa by Germany. The events which have actually occurred have been imperfectly reported, and no account of them seems as yet to have reached Berlin. But the German Government have given the most positive assurances that Germany will adhere to the treaties which already exist in respect to Samoa. We have no doubt that this assurance, coming as it does with all the weight of Lord Salisbury's authority, will be regarded by the country as eminently satisfactory.

[Extract from the *Daily News*, Saturday, 23rd January, 1886.]

THE SAMOAN ISLANDS.

BERLIN, Friday.—The proposal for a radical settlement of the Samoan question by the definite partition of the group among the three Powers most nearly interested appears to find much support, particularly in commercial circles in Hamburg. According to this plan England would receive the westernmost island, Savaii, the largest of the group, Germany taking the middle island, Upolu, with the Port of Apia. The eastern islands, including Tutuila, with Pagopago Harbour, would go to the United States. It is contended that this partition, which would accord best with the distribution of the trading stations of the three Powers on the islands, has become both a political and a commercial necessity. Of course the execution of the proposal is dependent on the modification of the agreement between the three Powers which terminates two years hence. As yet there is no indication of German intentions in the matter.

[Extract from the *Times*, Wednesday, 27th January, 1886.]

SAMOA.

PHILADELPHIA, 26th January.—Captain Churchward, the British Consul in Samoa, has arrived at San Francisco *en route* to London. Captain Churchward, in explaining the recent Samoan-German difficulty, states that Millin Point, in the City of Apia, the seat of the Samoan Government, many years ago came into the hands of Herr Weber, formerly German Consul, and head of a leading firm in Samoa. Notice was given to the Government to remove itself; and, although Herr Weber was offered the previously-stipulated price for the land, he refused to accept it, and the Samoan King was compelled to remove his residence to another part of Apia. Herr Weber's action was supported by the German Consul, Herr Steubel. The King hoisted the Samoan flag over the part of the city to which he had removed; but subsequently, owing to an alleged insult to the German Government by that of Samoa, Consul Steubel forbade the King to display his flag anywhere within the municipality of Apia. The Consul went personally to the King and commanded him to pull his flag down. This the King refused to do. Consul Steubel then went on board of the German gunboat "Albatross," which happened to be in the harbour, brought a party of armed sailors on shore, and forcibly, and against the protests of the United States and British Consuls, pulled the flag down. Captain Churchward concluded by stating that two Samoan high chiefs afterwards went to New Zealand to claim sympathy in their troubles, and from their story the report of a German annexation of Samoa probably arose. Captain Churchward has been sent to London to lay despatches relative to the recent disturbance caused on the Samoan Islands by Germany before the British Foreign Office. The vessel bearing German despatches regarding the affair failed to catch at Honolulu the steamer which brought Captain Churchward, and these despatches will consequently be late in reaching Berlin.

No. 36.

[Enclosures in Agent-General's letter to the Premier, No. 188, 12th February, 1886—A.—4, 1886.]

The COLONIAL OFFICE to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Colonial Office, Downing Street, 30th January, 1886.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you copies of three telegrams from the Governor of New Zealand, and of a letter from this department to the Foreign Office, respecting the affairs of Samoa. I am also to transmit a copy of a telegram which has been addressed to Sir W. Jervois on the same subject.

I have, &c.,

The Agent-General for New Zealand.

JOHN BRAMSTON.

Enclosure 1.

TELEGRAM from the GOVERNOR of NEW ZEALAND to the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES.

Two Samoan chiefs paid visit to me to-day. Urged on behalf King and people of Samoa that Great Britain should undertake government of their country, and stated that all trouble would then cease.

Enclosure 2.

TELEGRAM from GOVERNOR of NEW ZEALAND to SECRETARY of STATE, received Colonial Office 4.55 a.m., 16th January, 1886.

REFERRING to your telegram of 13th January from Foreign Office, two Samoan chiefs paid visit to me to-day, and stated that occurrences reported by British Consul took place immediately after departure of last German mail.

Enclosure 3.

TELEGRAM from GOVERNOR of NEW ZEALAND to the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES.

URGENT. Referring to your telegram 15th January, Samoan chiefs state that German despatches were shipped in sailing-vessel 31st December, in ordinary course, meeting steamer sixty miles from Apia. Occurrences reported took place subsequently same day. Chiefs, leaving Apia 1st January, in consequence of German action, in special vessel, unknown to Germans, succeeded in catching same steamer. British Consul sent report by same opportunity.

Enclosure 4.

The COLONIAL OFFICE to FOREIGN OFFICE.

SIR,—

Downing Street, 20th January, 1886.

With reference to the two letters from this department of the 19th instant, and to previous correspondence respecting recent German proceedings in Samoa, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for communication to the Marquis of Salisbury, copies of two telegrams from the Governor of New Zealand on the subject. I am also to enclose a third telegram from Sir W. Jervois, reporting a visit from two Samoan chiefs, who urged that this country should annex Samoa; and I am to state that Colonel Stanley proposes, with the concurrence of Lord Salisbury, to reply that it is entirely out of the power of Her Majesty's Government to take this request into consideration.

I have, &c.,

The Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office.

R. G. W. HERBERT.

Enclosure 5.

COPY of a TELEGRAM from the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES to Sir W. JERVOIS, dated Downing Street, 28th January, 1886.

IN answer to your telegram of 11th January, communications immediately interchanged between Her Majesty's Government and German Empire. In answer to your telegram of the 16th January, entirely out of power of Her Majesty's Government to entertain proposals of chiefs. Despatch follows by mail. German Government assure they adhere to all previous agreements.

Enclosure 6.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,—

7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 2nd February, 1886.

I beg that you will be pleased to convey my respectful thanks to the Secretary of State for having communicated to me copies of the telegrams which have passed between himself and the Governor of New Zealand, as well as the letter from your department to the Foreign Office, respecting the affairs of Samoa.

Having learned from a recent Reuter's telegram that the Federal Council of Australasia have made a request to Her Majesty's Government for information as to the present position of affairs in regard both to Samoa and the Island of Raiatea, I beg permission to ask whether the Secretary of State would be pleased also to communicate to me, for the information of my Government, the

answer which may be sent to the Federal Council on those subjects. Although New Zealand has not entered the Federal Council, the great interest she must have in any events affecting the islands of the eastern Pacific will, I hope, make this request appear reasonable.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,
F. D. BELL.

Enclosure 7.

The COLONIAL OFFICE to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Colonial Office, Downing Street, 6th February, 1886.

In reply to your letter of the 2nd instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for your information, copies of a telegram forwarded by the Governor of Tasmania, at the request of the Federal Council, and of the reply which has been returned to it, respecting the present position of affairs with regard to Raiatea and Samoa. I have communicated these telegrams to the Agents-General for the Australian Colonies.

The Agent-General for New Zealand.

I have, &c.,
ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Enclosure 8.

COPY of a TELEGRAM from Sir J. C. STRAHAN to the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES, dated 30th January, 1886.

I HAVE been requested by the Federal Council to forward to Her Majesty by telegraph the following resolution: That, in the opinion of this Council, it is desirable that further information be obtained from official sources with respect to the present position of affairs in the Islands of Raiatea and Samoa.

GOVERNOR, Tasmania.

Enclosure 9.

TELEGRAM from the COLONIAL OFFICE to the GOVERNOR of TASMANIA, sent 4th February, 1886.

No change Samoan affairs. German Government has recently assured they adhere steadfastly to understanding between Germany, England, and United States, by which each Power is pledged respectively to the others not to endeavour to acquire any privileges in group without consent of others. United States have also objected to any interference with existing arrangements. Raiatea: Provisionally agreed French flag shall remain, subject to stipulation British ships and trade equal footing with French in Society Islands. These islands could at no time since 1847 have come under British flag.

No. 37.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

RAIATEA: Agreement with France gives equal rights British subjects.
1st February, 1886.

F. D. BELL.

No. 38.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

PROTOCOL signed Germany France pledging Germany not prevent France taking Raiatea and Hebrides.
1st February, 1886.

F. D. BELL.

No. 39.

H.B.M. Consul WILFRED POWELL to the GOVERNOR of NEW ZEALAND.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

H.B.M. Consulate, Samoa, 12th February, 1886.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 14th of January last, covering a telegram from Lord Salisbury in code, with interpretation.

I have to report, in reply to the statement that "the German Government surprised at the contents of telegram of the 31st of December, having received telegram from commander of 'Albatross' of same date reporting all well, and no mention made of incident," that the commander of the "Albatross" must have been badly informed to report "all well," when the expulsion of Malietoa from Mulinuu Point was imminent at the time; but the fact that he does not mention the incident of the flag being lowered is in consequence of the small coasting vessel that is employed to carry letters to the mail steamboat off Tutuila had left the same morning, but prior to the lowering of the flag.

Lord Salisbury was informed of the fact by my telegram despatched by a small schooner subsequently, which was especially chartered immediately after the occurrence, with orders to the master to allow nothing to interfere with her intercepting the mail-steamer. I succeeded also in catching the following mail, of the 5th January, by despatching my letters per steamer "Explorer"

(trading boat), whereas the German Consul-General despatched his by the small coasting vessel before referred to, which failed to catch the mail-steamer. The German despatches have therefore remained here until the 4th February instant.

His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir W. F. D. Jervois,
G.C.M.G., C.B., &c., Governor of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

WILFRED POWELL,
H.B.M. Consul.

No. 40.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

SIR,—

7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 22nd February, 1886.

I transmit to you herewith copy of a letter I have received from the Colonial Office, containing the announcement that Germany has taken possession of the Marshall, Brown, and Providence groups of islands.

The Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

I have, &c.,

F. D. BELL.

Enclosure.

The COLONIAL OFFICE to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Colonial Office, Downing Street, 20th February, 1886.

I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, enclosing a translation of a note from the German Ambassador at this Court notifying officially to Her Majesty's Government that the Marshall, Brown, and Providence Islands, in the Pacific Ocean, have been placed under the protection of the German flag.

The Agent-General for New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

JOHN BRAMSTON.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

The FOREIGN OFFICE to the COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,—

Foreign Office, 8th February, 1886.

I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a translation of a note from the German Ambassador at this Court notifying officially to Her Majesty's Government that the Marshall, Brown, and Providence Islands, in the Pacific Ocean, have been placed under the protection of the German flag.

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

I have, &c.,

J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

(Translation.)

4th February, 1886.

THE undersigned has been instructed to notify officially to Her Majesty's Government that the groups of the Marshall, Brown, and Providence Islands have been placed under the protection of His Majesty the Emperor by virtue of treaties concluded with the Native chiefs, due regard being had to justly-acquired rights of third parties, and that, as a sign of possession, the German flag has been hoisted there.

In now carrying out these instructions, the undersigned avails himself, &c.,
The Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., &c.

V. HATZFELDT.

No. 41.

The PREMIER, Victoria, to the PREMIER, New Zealand.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Melbourne, 22nd February, 1886.

No. 29.
No. 30.

With reference to my telegram of the 17th ultimo, relative to the reported action of Germany with regard to Samoa, and to your reply dated the 18th *idem*, I beg to forward enclosed, for your information, a copy of a telegram which, immediately on receipt of your message, I addressed to the Agent-General for Victoria on the subject, also a copy of Mr. Murray Smith's reply thereto.

The question was brought under the notice of the Federal Council at Hobart on the 28th ultimo; with the result that an address to the Queen, praying for further information from official sources with respect to Samoa, was resolved upon by the Council, and was forthwith communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania.

The Hon. the Premier of New Zealand, Wellington.

I have, &c.,

D. GILLIES,
Premier.

Enclosure 1.

The PREMIER, Victoria, to the AGENT-GENERAL for Victoria, London.

(Telegram.)

Melbourne, 18th January, 1886.

TELEGRAM from London to-day says *Cologne Gazette* infers England would not object German annexation Samoa, and that *North German Gazette* asserts lowering Samoan flag ordered by Imperial Government. Warn at once Secretary of State for Colonies and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that such annexation would produce storm disapprobation. Get other agents co-operate.

JAMES SERVICE.

Enclosure 2.

The AGENT-GENERAL for VICTORIA to the Hon. the PREMIER, Melbourne.

(Telegram.)

London, 18th January, 1886.

I BELIEVE need not be any fear as to Samoa. Bismarck already given very satisfactory assurances, repeated by the Prussian Ambassador. Salisbury has acted promptly, energetically.

R. MURRAY SMITH.

No. 42.

ARTHUR H. BROWN, Esq., Rarotonga, to the Hon. Sir J. VOGEL, K.C.M.G.

SIR,—

Rarotonga, South Pacific Ocean, 20th March, 1886.

I have the honour to inform you that I have this day forwarded, per mail steamer "Janet Nicoll," a petition, signed by the residents of this island, and addressed to H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, requesting that a British Consul be appointed for this island and Hervey group.

In a previous memorial, signed, as this is, by the residents, H.M. Government graciously acceded to our request, and Charles E. Goodman, Esq., was appointed Consul; since which time Mr. Goodman has retired to England, and we have had an acting Vice-Consul, appointed by him.

As, Sir, you must be aware, the commerce of this group, especially with New Zealand, is rapidly increasing, and the exports to New Zealand alone now exceed £30,000 per annum, independent of a large share of the trade which goes to Tahiti and elsewhere.

We consider that it is full time now that a British Consul be appointed with full powers to protect our interests, and we would now humbly request, Sir, that you would communicate with the Foreign Office on our behalf, in order that a Consul be appointed from the Crown.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR H. BROWN,

(on behalf of the petitioners.)

The Hon. Sir Julius Vogel, K.C.M.G., New Zealand.

No. 43.

The PREMIER to ARTHUR H. BROWN, Esq.

SIR,—

Premier's Office, Wellington, 17th April, 1886.

I have been directed by the Hon. the Premier to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th March, addressed to the Hon. Sir Julius Vogel, relative to the appointment of a British Consul for Rarotonga and the Hervey group, and to inform you that the Government of New Zealand has for some time past been in communication with the British Government on the subject.

I have, &c.,

Arthur H. Brown, Esq., Rarotonga.

ALEX. WILLIS.

[Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, nil; printing (1,400 copies), £8 10s.]

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBUZZ, Government Printer, Wellington.—1886.

