

et qui présentent pour la prospérité de notre établissement colonial une importance considérable.

Mon Gouvernement, qui attache beaucoup de prix à qui ces relations continuent sur le même pied, se préoccupe dans une certaine mesure d'un mouvement d'opinion qui se serait produit en Australie dans ce dernier temps.

Les journaux de ce pays auraient dénoué l'intention qu'ils attribuent à la France de réunion des Nouvelles Hébrides à ses possessions, et demanderaient, qu'afin de prévenir cette éventualité, l'Archipel dont il s'agit fût placé sous la souveraineté de la Couronne d'Angleterre.

Sans attacher à ce mouvement de l'opinion une très-grande importance, mon Gouvernement tient toutefois à déclarer que pour ce qui le concerne il n'a pas le projet de porter atteinte à l'indépendance des Nouvelles Hébrides, et il serait heureux de savoir que de son côté le Gouvernement de sa Majesté est également disposé à en respecter.

S. E. le Comte de Derby, &c.

Veuillez, &c.,
D'HARCOURT.

Enclosure 2 in No. 21.

The COLONIAL OFFICE to the FOREIGN OFFICE.

SIR,—

Downing Street, 20th February, 1878.

In reply to your letter of the 1st instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to acquaint you that he concurs in the terms of the reply which the Earl of Derby proposes to give to the inquiry of the French Ambassador at this Court with reference to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government in respect of the New Hebrides Group.

I have, &c.,
W. R. MALCOLM.

The Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office.

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir M. E. HICKS BEACH to Governor the Most Hon. the Marquis of NORMANBY.

(No. 16.)

MY LORD,—

Downing Street, 1st April, 1878.

In reply to your Despatch No. 10, of the 1st February, I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, which will inform your Government of the steps which Her Majesty's Government have taken for conveying to the Government of the United States the thanks of the Colony of New Zealand for the manner in which salmon ova have been sent to the colony by the United States Fishery Commission.

I have, &c.,
M. E. HICKS BEACH.

Governor the Most Hon. the Marquis of Normanby,
G.C.M.G., &c., &c.

Enclosure in No. 22.

The FOREIGN OFFICE to the COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,—

Foreign Office, 30th March, 1878.

I am directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, together with its enclosure, requesting that the thanks of the Government of New Zealand may be conveyed to the Government of the United States for the very handsome and effective manner in which salmon ova have been shipped to New Zealand by the United States Fishery Commission; and I am to state to you, in reply, for the information of Sir Michael Hicks Beach, that Her Majesty's Minister at Washington has been instructed to give effect to the wishes of the Colonial Government.

I have, &c.,
JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

No. 23.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir M. E. HICKS BEACH to the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT of NEW ZEALAND.

(Circular.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 12th April, 1878.

I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, enclosing a copy of a letter from the Chinese Minister at this Court rela-