

THE SHIP "RESOLUTE."

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*Copies of a correspondence growing out of the restoration of the ship
"Resolute" to her Britannic Majesty's service.*

JANUARY 20, 1857.—Laid upon the table and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

Soon after the close of the last session of Congress I directed steps to be taken to carry into effect the joint resolution of August 28, 1856, relative to the restoration of the ship "Resolute" to her Britannic Majesty's service. The ship was purchased of the salvors at the sum appropriated for the purpose, and "after being fully repaired and equipped," was sent to England under control of the Secretary of the Navy. The letter from her Majesty's minister of foreign affairs, now communicated to Congress in conformity with his request, and copies of correspondence from the files of the Departments of State and of the Navy, also transmitted herewith, will apprise you of the manner in which the joint resolution has been fully executed, and show how agreeable the proceeding has been to her Majesty's government.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, *January* 19, 1857.

Mr. Dallas to Mr. Marcy.

[Extract.]

[No. 34.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
London, December 19, 1856.

SIR: * * * * *

Late in the morning of Saturday, the 13th instant, your No. 36 was delivered to me by Commander Hartstene, who had that morning ar-

rived with the barque Resolute, at Portsmouth. I addressed the Earl of Clarendon at once, in conformity with your instructions, tendering the ship to the British government, with a request that the United States might be allowed to restore her to her Majesty's service. In a private note I also sought an interview with his lordship, in order to arrange whatever formalities the proceeding might require. He was out of town; but on Monday I received a note from him, saying that he would return to London, and be happy to see me at three o'clock, on Tuesday, the 16th instant. Our conference was an entirely agreeable one; his lordship characterizing the restoration of the Resolute as an act of national courtesy wholly unprecedented, and which could not fail to have the most beneficial influence upon the relations of the two countries. As I desired to put Captain Hartstene in communication with the admiralty, I made inquiries about Sir Charles Wood, and was informed by his lordship that he was probably at his country residence, but should be immediately apprized of my wishes; and would, no doubt, come to the city without delay. At about nine o'clock that night, (Tuesday,) I received the reply of her Majesty's principal secretary of state for foreign affairs to my offering letter of the 13th. Copies of these communications accompany this despatch.

* * * * *

I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant,

G. M. DALLAS.

Hon. W. L. MARCY, *Secretary of State.*

Mr. Dallas to the Earl of Clarendon.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
London, December 13, 1856.

MY LORD: The barque Resolute, under the command of Commander Hartstene, of the United States navy, having reached Portsmouth, I beg leave briefly to invoke your lordship's attention to the cause and object of her arrival.

It will be recollected that this vessel formerly belonged to her Majesty's navy, and had been employed on a perilous service which enlisted the co-operative sympathies and exertions of the American government and people. The officers and crew, after gallantly enduring prolonged suffering, left her inextricably imbedded, as they had just reason to believe, in the ice of the arctic region. She was, however, about two years afterwards, discovered adrift more than twelve hundred miles from the place at which she had been abandoned, and was taken by certain American seamen to their own country. All claim to recover and repossess her was generously waived by her Majesty's government in favor of those by whom she had been rescued.

The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, at their late session, expressed, by a joint resolution, the sincere dispo-

sition and purpose of the nation on this subject, and I have the honor to place before your lordship a duly authenticated copy of that act.

I am now specially instructed by the President, while conveying to your lordship the assurance of his cordial gratification in directing such a measure of comity to a friendly power, to fulfil the congressional injunction, by tendering the barque *Resolute* to her Majesty's government, and by requesting that the United States may be allowed to restore that vessel, with all her armament, equipment, and property, preserved in good condition, to her Majesty's service.

Seizing an occasion so agreeable, personally to myself, to renew the expression of my highest consideration, I have the honor to be, your lordship's most obedient servant,

G. M. DALLAS.

To the Right Hon. THE EARL OF CLARENDON,
&c., &c., &c.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Dallas.

FOREIGN OFFICE, *December 16, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, announcing to me the arrival of the barque "*Resolute*" at Portsmouth, under the command of Captain Hartstene, of the United States navy. That vessel, after having been unavoidably abandoned in the ice, while employed in the service of her Majesty, on an expedition in the arctic seas in search of Sir John Franklin, was discovered two years afterwards adrift, more than twelve hundred miles from the place where she was abandoned, and was taken to the United States by some American seamen, in whose favor her Majesty's government relinquished all claim to the ship. Under these circumstances, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, by a joint resolution, of which you transmit to me a certified copy, authorized the President of the United States to purchase the "*Resolute*" of her salvors, with all her armament, equipment, and the property on board of her when she arrived in the United States, and to cause the ship, with everything belonging to her, after being fully repaired at one of the navy yards of the United States, to be sent back to England, in order to be restored to her Majesty's service, as a testimony of the deep interest felt in the United States for the service in which the ship was engaged when she was necessarily abandoned.

I have not failed to lay your letter and its enclosures before the Queen, and I have received her Majesty's commands to acquaint you, that she gratefully accepts the offer thus made of the restoration of the "*Resolute*" to her service. I beg to assure you that the friendly feeling on the part of the Senate and House of Representatives which prompted this measure, and the generous and complete manner in which it has been carried into effect by the President and his government, are most highly appreciated by the Queen and her Majesty's government, and, I am confident, by the British nation at large.

I request you, sir, to have the goodness to convey to the President,

and to request him to communicate to the legislature of the United States, the cordial thanks of the Queen and of the British government for an act of generosity and sympathy which will meet with a warm response in this country, and cannot fail to strengthen the kindly feelings which unite the people and governments of the two nations.

I beg to add, that the Queen has signified her intention to visit the "Resolute," off Cowes, on this day, in recognition of the munificence of the legislature and government of the United States, in restoring that vessel to her Majesty's service, and in compliment to the officers and crew who have brought her to this country.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of the highest consideration with which I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

CLARENDON.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *November 8, 1856.*

SIR: The department has placed you in command of the "Resolute," recently fully repaired and fitted out by the United States, with a view to her restoration to the British government, in pursuance of a joint resolution of Congress, approved August 28, 1856.

You will, so soon as she is in all respects ready for sea, proceed to England, entering the port of Portsmouth. Leaving her there in charge of the officers under your command, you will proceed immediately to London, in order to advise with the American minister, Hon. George M. Dallas, to whom you will deliver the enclosed despatch from the Department of State. Accompanying these instructions, you will receive an open communication from this department to Sir Charles Wood, the first lord of the admiralty, who will, I presume, advise you as to the proper disposition of the ship, in the event of her Majesty's government accepting her. You will consult freely with Mr. Dallas, and will find it convenient to be guided in your movements by suggestions from one so peculiarly competent as he is.

When you have performed the duty assigned to you, you will make arrangements for the return of the officers and men, exercising all prudence and economy. Previous despatches have instructed you as to the mode of procuring funds to effect your purposes.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. DOBBIN.

Commander HENRY J. HARTSTENE, *U. S. Navy,*
Commanding Barque Resolute, New York.

UNITED STATES NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, November 8, 1856.

SIR: This communication will be delivered to you by Commander Henry J. Hartstene, of the United States navy, who goes to England,

in command of the "Resolute," under orders from his government, with a view to carrying into execution "a resolution authorizing the purchase and restoration to the British government of the ship 'Resolute,' late of the British navy," a copy of which I have the honor to enclose herewith.

The language of the preamble and the resolution so distinctly announces the considerations which prompted their adoption and approval as to dispense with their repetition and recital on my part. This very agreeable duty is performed by me, sir, with much pleasure. The ship has been thoroughly repaired, and has on board "all her armament, equipment and property," which has been preserved in good condition. In pursuance of the resolution, the President requests her Majesty's government to allow him to "restore the ship Resolute to her Majesty's service."

Commander Hartstene is ordered to deliver the vessel at any port and to any officer to be designated at the pleasure of her Majesty's government.

Accept assurances of high respect, &c., &c.,

J. C. DOBBIN,
Secretary of the Navy.

To the Right Honorable Sir CHARLES WOOD, *Bart.*,
First Lord of her Britannic Majesty's Admiralty.

LONDON, *December 19, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that after a boisterous passage we anchored at Spithead on the 12th instant at half past two o'clock p. m., with the United States and British ensigns flying at the peak. Notwithstanding the furious gale which was then raging we were immediately boarded by Captain Peale, of her Britannic Majesty's frigate Shannon, who cordially offered to us every civility and attention. In a few moments afterwards a steamer arrived from Vice Admiral Sir George Seymour, (commanding officer of the station,) with a tender of services and congratulations upon our safe arrival. Proceeding to Portsmouth next morning, (which I did in a government steamer provided me for that purpose,) I visited the United States consulate, and was there waited upon by Sir Thomas Maitland, (who had become commanding officer of the naval station in the absence of the Admiral Sir George Seymour,) and received from him a most cordial welcome with proffers of every possible service, by express instruction from the admiralty. Accommodations were prepared for us at the first hotel, and orders for a bountiful supply of provisions to be sent on board the "Resolute;" also a carte blanche for the railroad to London for myself and the officers of the "Resolute." In fact nothing could exceed the kindness and courtesy with which we were treated by Captain Sir Thomas Maitland, who seemed unwilling that any means of adding to his hearty expressions of welcome should pass unexhausted. That morning's post brought me a communication from Sir Charles Wood, first lord of the admiralty, (which I herewith enclose,) whose expressions of kindly feeling I beg may be particularly noticed. At noon of the day after our arrival a royal salute was fired from

the "Victory," (flag-ship,) from the fortifications, and from the "Shannon," at Spithead. As soon as my official visits were made, I proceeded to London and delivered to the honorable Mr. Dallas, minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary from the United States, the open communication committed to my charge by the department. In London, as well as in Portsmouth, I received the most cordial and pressing hospitalities; in fact scarcely an hour has elapsed without a proffer of courtesy and hospitality from municipal corporations, military authorities, scientific associations, clubs, &c., &c.; all of which I have politely declined, except an invitation to dine with Lord Palmerston; also one from Admiral Sir George Seymour, and one from the municipal authorities of Portsmouth.

Her Majesty the Queen expressing a wish to visit the "Resolute," and a desire that that vessel might be taken to Cowes, (near her Majesty's private palace,) I immediately acceded, and the ship was towed thither by the government steamer, escorted by two other steamers and her Britannic Majesty's steam-frigate Retribution. On the morning of the 16th, at 10 o'clock a. m., her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, Princess Royal, Princess Alice, and several members of the royal household, visited the "Resolute." She was received with all honors. As her Majesty stepped on board, after being presented by Vice-Admiral Sir George Seymour, K. C. B., I welcomed her, and, from the impulse of the moment, and in obedience to what I conceived to be the feelings of my countrymen, I delivered the "Resolute" to her Majesty. After which I showed her Majesty all the objects of interest connected with the vessel, with which she appeared much gratified.

On the afternoon of the same day I received from the Hon. C. B. Phipps, C. B., (keeper of her Britannic Majesty's privy purse) a note, enclosing a check for £100, (one hundred pounds,) with a request from her Majesty that it should be distributed among the crew, which I accepted in their behalf. I enclose the note, also a letter from Admiral Sir George Seymour, K. C. B.

By favor of an invitation from her Majesty the Queen, I dined and spent the night at the palace of her Majesty, at "Osborne," where I was treated with the most distinguished attention. On the following morning (December 17th) the "Resolute" was towed up to the harbor of Portsmouth, escorted by her Britannic Majesty's steam-frigate "Retribution," and on arriving at her anchorage was received by another royal salute, and with such an outburst of popular feeling as was never known before.

I have this day received from Sir Charles Wood, first lord of the admiralty, an invitation (herewith enclosed) which could not be declined. I have, therefore, accepted it, and shall, as soon as it is agreeable to her Britannic Majesty's government, deliver up the "Resolute," and take advantage of their courteous tender of a passage to the United States.

Respectfully, &c.,

H. J. HARTSTENE,
Commander, U. S. N.

Hon. J. C. DOBBIN,
Secretary U. S. Navy, Washington D. C.

ADMIRALTY, *December 12, 1856.*

SIR: I have this moment heard by telegraph that the Resolute, which the government of the United States has, in a manner so gratifying to the feelings of this country, sent over under your command, is entering Portsmouth. I hasten to assure you of the satisfaction with which I have learned your arrival in this country, and of my anxiety to offer to yourself, your officers and crew, the warmest reception in my power.

Captain Sir Thomas Maitland, the senior officer at Portsmouth, in the accidental absence of the two admirals, will, I am assured, do everything in his power to show the spirit in which we are most anxious that you should be welcomed; and when we are apprized of your wishes and intentions as to your stay in this country and return to America, we shall be happy to meet them to the utmost.

This is not a fitting opportunity for saying anything as to the munificent conduct of your government, which will be the subject of communication between the governments of our respective countries. I am wishful at present to offer to yourself and your companions, personally, every civility and courtesy that the Board of Admiralty can command.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient and faithful servant,
CHARLES WOOD.

Captain HARTSTENE.

OSBORNE, *December 16, 1856.*

MY DEAR SIR: I have received the commands of her Majesty the Queen to request that you will have the goodness to distribute amongst the ship's company, who have brought the Resolute to England, a hundred pounds, for which I beg to enclose a check.

Her Majesty would wish this to be considered as a personal present from herself to the crew, and I am directed to request that you will use your own discretion as to the proportions in which it is to be distributed.

I have the honor to be, my dear sir, faithfully yours,
C. B. PHIPPS.

[Private.]

ADMIRALTY HOUSE,
Portsmouth, December 17, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR: I have received a note from Lord Palmerston, from Broadlands, his country residence, beyond Southampton, in which he says that he does not know how long you remain at Portsmouth, but if, during your stay, you will come over with me and dine at Broadlands, it will give Lord Palmerston great pleasure to receive us.

Will you have the kindness to enable me to reply to this invitation to-day about five o'clock, or before six.

I think you will find the visit our prime minister proposes an agreeable manner of making his lordship's acquaintance; and if you can name a day for the purpose I shall be happy to accompany you.

We can go by the railway from Portsmouth to Romsey, which is very near Broadlands.

I have received no direction about the arrangement for the transfer of the "Resolute," but I am disposed to think that less ceremony may be requisite hereafter, her Majesty's visit having conveyed a national compliment on the manner in which the vessel has been restored to this country by the United States.

I remain, dear sir, your very obedient servant,

G. H. SEYMOUR.

Captain HARTSTENE,
United States Navy.

ADMIRALTY, *December 18, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, informing me of the Resolute's being in Portsmouth harbor. I have also received the letter from the Secretary of the Navy of the United States, communicating to me the resolution of Congress, in pursuance of which the government of the United States has so liberally presented that ship to her Majesty, and sent her over to this country under your command.

I shall have the honor of addressing the Secretary of the Navy in acknowledgment of his letter.

You are good enough to say that you are ready to deliver the Resolute in any manner which may be deemed advisable, and I have only to say that orders will be given to Vice Admiral Sir George Seymour, the commander-in-chief, at Portsmouth, to make such arrangements for receiving her as may be most convenient to yourself, your officers and crew. It will probably render the arrangements more suitable to your wishes, if you would have the goodness to communicate with him on the subject.

I have also to propose to you that you should return to the United States in one of her Majesty's ships, which I shall be ready to order on this service whenever it suits your convenience to leave this country, if you accept my offer. I am anxious to show, by every means in my power, the sense that we entertain of the generous conduct of your government, and to offer every courtesy to yourself, your officers and crew. I am anxious, also, that we should endeavor to promote the good and friendly feeling between the United States and this country, to which on all occasions the conduct of the naval officers of both countries has so much contributed.

The frigate in which I propose to convey you to any port in the United States which you prefer is ready for sea, and would only require filling up with coals, but will of course wait for any time you may wish to spend in this country.

I have the honor to be, dear sir,

Your obedient and faithful servant,

CHARLES WOOD.

Captain HARTSTENE,
United States Navy.