

*Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Liberia. Commerce and Navigation. Concluded at London, October 21, 1862. Ratifications exchanged, February 10, 1863. Proclaimed by the President of the United States, March 18, 1863.*

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: October 21, 1862

### A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS a treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Liberia was concluded and signed by their respective plenipotentiaries, at London, on the twenty-first day of October last, which treaty is, word for word, as follows:

Preamble.

The United States of America and the Republic of Liberia, desiring to fix, in a permanent and equitable manner, the rules to be observed in the intercourse and commerce they desire to establish between their respective countries, have agreed, for this purpose, to conclude a treaty of commerce and navigation, and have judged that the said end cannot be better obtained than by taking the most perfect equality and reciprocity for the basis of their agreement; and to effect this they have named as their respective plenipotentiaries, that is to say: the President of the United States of America, Charles Francis Adams, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America at the court of St. James; and the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency Stephen Allen Benson, President thereof, who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following articles:

Contracting parties.

ARTICLE I. There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the United States of America and the Republic of Liberia, and also between the citizens of both countries.

Peace and friendship.

ARTICLE II. There shall be reciprocal freedom of commerce between the United States of America and the Republic of Liberia. The citizens of the United States of America may reside in, and trade to, any part of the territories of the Republic of Liberia to which any other foreigners are or shall be admitted. They shall enjoy full protection for their persons and properties; they shall be allowed to buy from and to sell to whom they like, without being restrained or prejudiced by any monopoly, contract, or exclusive privilege of sale or purchase whatever; and they shall, moreover, enjoy all other rights and privileges which are or may be granted to any other foreigners, subjects, or citizens of the most favored nation. The citizens of the Republic of Liberia shall, in return, enjoy similar protection and privileges in the United States of America and in their territories.

Reciprocal freedom of commerce.

ARTICLE III. No tonnage, import, or other duties or charges shall be levied in the Republic of Liberia on United States vessels, or on goods imported or exported in United States vessels, beyond what are or may be levied on national vessels, or on the like goods imported or exported in national vessels; and in like manner no tonnage, import, or other duties or charges shall be levied in the United States of America and their territories on the vessels of the Republic of Liberia, or on goods imported or exported in those vessels, beyond what are or may be levied on national vessels, or on the like goods imported or exported in national vessels.

Tonnage, import, and other duties.

ARTICLE IV. Merchandise or goods coming from the United States of America in any vessels, or imported in United States vessels from any

Goods in United States vessels not to be prohibited &c

country, shall not be prohibited by the Republic of Liberia, nor be subject to higher duties than are levied on the same kinds of merchandise or goods coming from any other foreign country or imported in any other foreign vessels. All articles the produce of the Republic of Liberia may be exported therefrom by citizens of the United States and United States vessels, on as favorable terms as by the citizens and vessels of any other foreign country.

Goods in Liberian vessels.

In like manner all merchandise or goods coming from the Republic of Liberia in any vessels, or imported in Liberian vessels from any country, shall not be prohibited by the United States of America, nor be subject to higher duties than are levied on the same kinds of merchandise or goods coming from any other foreign country or imported in any other foreign vessels. All articles the produce of the United States, or of their territories, may be imported therefrom by Liberian citizens and Liberian vessels on as favorable terms as by the citizens and vessels of any other foreign country.

Vessels wrecked or damaged.

ARTICLE V. When any vessel of either of the contracting parties shall be wrecked, foundered, or otherwise damaged on the coasts, or within the territories of the other, the respective citizens shall receive the greatest possible aid, as well for themselves as for their vessels and effects. All possible aid shall be given to protect their property from being plundered and their persons from ill treatment. Should a dispute arise as to the salvage, it shall be settled by arbitration, to be chosen by the parties respectively.

Disputes as to salvage.

Privileges of most favored nation.

ARTICLE VI. It being the intention of the two contracting parties to bind themselves by the present treaty to treat each other on the footing of the most favored nation, it is hereby agreed between them that any favor, privilege, or immunity whatever in matters of commerce and navigation, which either contracting party has actually granted, or may hereafter grant, to the subjects or citizens of any other state, shall be extended to the citizens of the other contracting party, gratuitously, if the concession in favor of that other state shall have been gratuitous, or in return for a compensation as nearly as possible of proportionate value and effect, to be adjusted by mutual agreement, if the concession shall have been conditional.

Consuls.

ARTICLE VII. Each contracting party may appoint consuls for the protection of trade, to reside in the dominions of the other; but no such consul shall enter upon the exercise of his functions until he shall have been approved and admitted, in the usual form, by the government of the country to which he is sent.

The United States not to interfere, unless solicited, with the domestic concerns of Liberia.

ARTICLE VIII. The United States Government engages never to interfere, unless solicited by the Government of Liberia, in the affairs between the aboriginal inhabitants and the Government of the Republic of Liberia, in the jurisdiction and territories of the Republic. Should any United States citizens suffer loss, in person or property, from violence by the aboriginal inhabitants, and the Government of the Republic of Liberia should not be able to bring the aggressor to justice, the United States Government engages, a requisition having been first made therefor by the Liberian Government, to lend such aid as may be required. Citizens of the United States residing in the territories of the Republic of Liberia are desired to abstain from all such intercourse with the aboriginal inhabitants as will tend to the violation of law and a disturbance of the peace of the country.

Ratifications.

ARTICLE IX. The present treaty shall be ratified, and the ratifications exchanged at London, within the space of nine months from the date hereof.

Signature.

In testimony whereof, the plenipotentiaries before mentioned have hereto subscribed their names and affixed their seals.

Done at London, the twenty-first day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, [SEAL.]  
STEPHEN ALLEN BENSON, [SEAL.]

And whereas the said treaty has been duly ratified on both parts, and the respective ratifications of the same were exchanged at London, on the tenth ultimo, by Charles Francis Adams, Esquire, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of St. James, and Gerard Ralston, Esquire, Consul-General and Commissioner for and on behalf of the Republic of Liberia, on the part of their respective governments:

Exchange of ratifications.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States of America, have caused the said treaty to be made public, to the end that the same, and every clause and article thereof, may be observed and fulfilled, with good faith, by the United States and the citizens thereof.

Proclaimed

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

[L. S.] Done at the city of Washington, this eighteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President :

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*