to the Spaniards. This has offended the King of Naples, who is resolved to support the royal dignity of a monarch. In order to bring this message directly to me he commissioned Marquis Silva, his father's consul,[4] to call himself his, who after a long and ceremonious visit, told me that it was very true the King of the Sicilies his master could not pretend to cope by sea with the superior force of his Britannic Majesty, but if such proceedings continued, he must make use of the forces he had, and that *un solo cenno reale*[5] could produce great inconveniences to the British subjects in his state. This was let drop in discourse as appeared by accident,[6] but it being too strong not to relieve it, [I] replied *il Signore Residente*[7] *è certo che ogni principe nei suoi stati può fare anco dei torti ai forestieri che vi risiedono, ma se ne astengono per il motivo della giustizia e spesse volte sul reflesso delle conseguenze;*[8] was not this well said? However, here our declarations stopped, but on leaving me he said he had composed a letter to leave with me, hoping I would give an answer in writing,[9] so the next day I *distended* another for him. His to me is violent; he talks of broken faith of the contracting powers, *giustificando insulto sì scandoloso presso il mondo tutto, il pieno diritto avrà il Re di prendere le misure più adattate alla sovrana dignità del monarca ed al pubblico interesse dei suoi vassalli.*[10] Is not this bold? Did not one know out of whose mouth this thunder was shot, it would terrify. Nothing but the name of *il Re di Napoli* could remove its terror. How, if he should seize poor Allen[11] and his

4. At Leghorn (HW). 'Marquis Silva in the beginning of this affair gave an account of it to the Court of Naples and by the return of a courier received orders from that Court to style himself Consul of the King of the Two Sicilies in order to come to speak to me about it' (Mann to Newcastle 29 June NS, S.P. 98/50 ff. 144–5).

5. 'A single royal nod.'

6. It 'was not by accident,' according to Braitwitz, 'to whom Marquis Silva owned in confidence that it was by order of the Court of Naples that he had made use of it' (ibid. ff. 145–6).

7. Mr Mann (HW).

8. 'I answered that it was certain every Prince had the power in his own state to do even wrongs to the subjects of other sovereigns who resided in them, but that they abstained from such proceedings from the motive of justice and frequently upon reflection of the consequences' (Mann to Newcastle 29 June NS, S.P. 98/50 f. 145).

9. 'That he might give an account of his commission to the King of Naples, his master' (ibid. f. 145). Silva's letter of 27 June NS and Mann's reply of 28 June NS, in Italian, with their respective English translations form part of Mann's dispatch of 29 June NS (ibid. ff. 147–52).

10. Silva's letter, enclosed in Mann's dispatch, ibid. f. 148, has 'la seconda' instead of 'il Re.' Mann's translation (in his dispatch to Newcastle, ibid. f. 147) is: 'justifying to all the world so scandalous an insult, the right which the latter Court will have to take measures the most suitable to the sovereign dignity of a monarch and to the public interests of his vassals.'

11. Consul at Naples (HW).