

Paris le 12th Nov. 1835

Sir

I have the honor of acknowledging receipt of your much esteemed favor of 1st July the contents of which have furnished me an additional proof of your kindness towards me in my misfortunes, for which accept my sincere thanks.



It did not surprise me much to learn that you had never heard of Mr Whittington or of his projected Sulkland Island Association, which I think would not have escaped your notice if it was really so powerfully supported as Mr Whittington represents it in his letters, because several other circumstances have long since induced me to suspect that there is something wrong in Mr Whittington's proceedings. I may be mistaken, but I shall state to you in confidence said circumstances, and you will judge whether my suspicions are well founded.

Wm. Langdon Lieut. R.N. Captain and owner (as he says) of the Ship Thomas Lawrie of London, having touched several times at my colony on his homeward voyages from Swan Diemens Land, came to an understanding with me on his last voyage (in Oct 1831) to do his best for promoting the colonization of one of the sections of the Island. To attain which, and not doubting of his respectability, I appointed him agent for one of the sections, granting him in the section ten square miles of land as his property forever, and authorizing him 1st to give gratis to a number of settlers lots of ground for farms containing one hundred acres each, 2nd to sell land to companies or individuals who might wish to speculate in colonisation in said section, 3rd to sell land

of other sections conditionally, that is provided a previous disposal of the same land by the agents of other sections does not prevent it. All which with many clauses calculated to favor the settlers, was contained in the document I gave to the agent of each section, copy of which you may recollect I once shewed you in Buenos Ayres. Of such documents only Mr Langdon was holder, and no more. The Thomas Lawrie arrived in England in Dec. 1831, but I received not a line from Langdon until May 1834, when Messrs Hodgson and Robinson received two large packages for me from Mr Whittington accompanied by the following lines,
"London 6th Dec 1833, Mr G. T. Whittington presents
"his compliments to Messrs Hodgson & Robinson and
"solicits the speedy ^{transmission} of the enclosed to Mr Bernes
"(being of importance)."

"Mr Whittington being extensively engaged and connected as a merchant, with India the Australian Colonies and all the principal Mediterranean and continental ports, tenders his cordial services at all times and upon all occasions to Messrs Hodgson and Robinson and will be glad to hear from them with a price current of all their imports and exports and advices on such as deserve attention in either"

There were two letters from Mr W. to me one dated 6th Dec 1833. the other 30th Jan 1834, another from Langdon dated 4th Dec. and the London Mercantile Journal of 28th Jan containing a long letter of Mr Whittington to the Editor on the subject of Australian colonies, and on the advantages to be derived from colonising the Falkland Islands. Said letters

state that Langdon had transferred his documents
of agency and his ten square miles of land to Whi-
tington; that they were actively engaged in the for-
-mation of a company to carry the object of said
-document into execution; that they were endeav-
-ouring to obtain from their Government the con-
-firmation of my Buenos Ayrean grants; that it was
-necessary for me to confirm Langdon's transfer, and
-to extend the ^{REAL DE LA UNICA} agency to an unlimited time: they re-
-quested me to do this per very first possible oppor-
-tunity "in order, ^{as they said} not to restrict the full and contin-
-ued promotion of the object, which requires free-
-dom, time, security and a full and perfect discre-
-tionary power". That my complying with their re-
-quest, "the assurance to them of my wish to join them
" in the undertaking, would be followed by the im-
" -mediate colonisation of their section, there being
" many other respectable commercial houses ready
" to cooperate with them." Mr W's letter of 30th July
speaks of bringing the matter before parliament;
then a long postscript couched in mysterious terms,
which I do not understand to this day, concludes
thus; "I fully expect the Government will be inclin-
" -ed to cooperate with me, and having such aff-
" -sistance, combined with our reciprocal aid and
" assiduity, your welfare and ours must be most
" beneficially promoted". I must confess that all
this ~~apart~~ induced me to form sanguine expectations
of this connection, but not knowing Mr W. nor being
able to obtain here any information about him,
I thought it most prudent not to give him the
perfect discretionary power which he had instanc-

ated in his letter, and contented myself with
merely confirming the transfer made by Laugden,
and extending the agency to an unlimited time, and
requested an explanation of the meaning of said post-
script. I also stated to them that the first thing to be
attended to, was the sending to the Falklands a new
supply of Buenos Ayrean horses, without which it
would not be possible to supply settlers with the
necessary cattle for their comfort and progress,
and for which I requested his assistance, having
not the means of doing it, alone. A long time elapsed
without any answers coming to my letter. Meanwhile
Mr Hamilton received a letter from W, enclosing
a printed Prospectus of a Falkland Island Associa-
-tion, under Royal Charter, adding a few lines
-dated 5th Aug^r stating that he was "in treaty with
"Mr Spring Rice for the completion of the matter,"
that he would be proud of any communications Mr
Hamilton could make on the subject, that "the
"gentlemen whose names are perilled" on the first
"page of the Prospectus are the supporters of this en-
-deavour undertaking". The following were their
names: John Arnold, R. Brooks, J. W & H. Buckle
& Baxter, John Campbell, John Bennett, Mess^{rs}
Chapman, A. Chapman M.P., Charles Enderby, J
Olyth, Thomas Fincomb, H. Gould, Charles Gore,
G. Lyall M.P., John Boussoth, W. Martin, C. C. Manglish,
J. Perie Alderman, G. R. Robinson, W. Thompson M.P.
and Alderman, Moses Wigram, W. Walker, G. Wildes,
G. F. Young M.P. - Mr Hamilton was so kind as
to send me these documents for perusal, and offered
to recommend me to Mr Whittington for director of
the colonization. A long

A long time after this on the 24th April I received per
 Brig Lane, original & duplicate of a letter from Mr W.
 dated the 10th Nov 1834 (pr. Andromeda written on the cover,
 though no such vessel arrived here) acknowledging
 receipt of my letter (of 31st May) and stating that he could
 not find such postscript in his letter book, and there-
 fore inferred it to have been minor matter, not copied
 in the book. On the subject of the assistance for reestab-
 lishing the cattle business, not a word was said, but
 many questions made regarding the nature and pro-
 duce of the Islands, and a request for me to send
 to him all my original documents I hold from
this Government, and to be endorsed over to him.

The Prospectus was now accompanied in the letter,
 but different names appeared as supporters of the
 undertaking, and Lord Viscount Falkland and the
 Earl of Dundonald as Patrons, and the supporters were
 now the following: - Mess^{rs} Enderby, Blyth & Son, Gould
 Dowie & Co, Alex^r In^r Perie & Co, Robert Brook & Co, Campbell & Co,
 Arnold & Co, Walker, Brothers & Co, M. P. Curling Young & Co,
 M. P. Robinson Brooking & Co, Mangles & Co, Furncomb & Co,
 and as Solicitors Templer & Shearman. I answered
 the letter, but did not send the requested documents,
 offering however, that I would do so, provided that
 he would explain clearly his object, and what benefit
 was to arise to me by so doing. To which I had not
 yet an answer, but received on the 6th of the present month,
 via New York, pr. American Ship Elio, original and
 duplicate of a letter from W. dated London 16th June,
 of the following tenor. -

"My Dear Sir I am much surprised not yet
 to have had from you (altho' I have from

Hamilton Hamilton at Montevideo one of the
9th Jan^y last, in which he recommends you to
my notice &c, the which I shall doubtless be
glad to avail myself of so soon as any measures
can be matured for our future security & success)
any reply to my last long letter of 5 Nov last sent
per Ship via Rio covering the preliminary Pro-
spectus of a company which I am forming for the East
and West Falkland. ~~to~~ With our present adminis-
tration who are disposed to act for the public
good I have the prospect of making some progress
towards the completion of our views and the recall
of Lieut Smith; meanwhile I wish you to furnish
me with the information &c required in my former,
and any further advices or circumstances relation
to the Islands &c, as also with a distinct & separate
letter to the following effect, authenticated by the
Consul or attested by a Notary Public - viz:

“ Mr G. J. Whittington, London. - Buenos Ayres ..
Dear Sir In further fulfillment & compensation
of the covenants contained in the original grant in
the East Falkland made by me unto Wm Langdon,
by him conveyed to you & subsequently confirmed
by me, I do now in consideration thereof, hereby
assign, convey and deliver over to you, your heirs
or assigns all the cattle, horses, implements,
houses, produce and property of every description,
which were left on the Island at my departure,
and with the further power to recover by all means,
all or any part of the aforesaid, or the proceeds or compen-
-sation for all or part, which may have been or may have
been or may be detained, appropriated or
destroyed

1 destroyed by any party or parties whatsoever



2 " Yours truly

3 "Signed L Vernon"

4 The object for this I must now explain. It having
 5 been stated to me by both the former Colonial Sec-
 6 retaries Mr Stanley & Mr Spring Rice, that as
 7 you had thought fit to place property where
 8 you had no right, you would not be allowed
 9 to trespass again in your own capacity for its
 10 recovery or compensation. But this I may
 11 with the present Administration fairly
 12 overcome, upon its assignment in my favor,
 13 in consideration of your inability now
 14 otherwise to fulfill certain obligations of
 15 your Grant. It is ~~most~~ certainly the only
 16 way to obtain restitution from Litch Smith
 17 & others, or compensation from the Government
 18 & to debar others from enjoying the fruits of
 19 your exertions. Of course under all the
 20 untoward circumstances which have assailed
 21 your labors &c, I bind myself to give you at
 22 least one half of the recovery or advantage
 23 I may obtain herefrom, & in which I, as a
 24 British Subject, sustaining loss or injury in
 25 an Island claimed by the British Govern-
 26 ment with my influence, stand some
 27 better chance of success, than can ever possibly
 28 attend your direct exertions - Better letter

" étant entre nous seuls Vous ^{les} garderez
" sacré -

" You might still prosecute your claims
" for compensation against the Americans,
" for destroying your personal property. -
" You shall be advised according as I
" progress, and waiting your immediate reply
" in conformity, &c

" Believe me faithfully yours &c

" Signed - G. T. Whittington

The initials of his signature were entirely
different from his former signatures, for
instance, the present was G. T. W. and the
former were G. T. W., as if intending after-
wards to deny the signature.

With all these bad appearances, I scarcely
entertain a doubt, but what he intends to
deceive me and probably all parties, even the
Government. However, there being still a possibility
of my being mistaken, I answered his letter in a
manner not to give offence, stating merely
that I conceived he was acting upon erroneous
principles, that I therefore could not see the
use of writing him such a letter as he requests,
& beg to be excused from so doing.

Whether or not such an Association exists
as Mr W. represents, you will soon be able to
find out, on enquiring of such of the
stated supporters as you may be acquainted

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with. If there is any deception then very likely his communications with the two secretaries for the Colonies may also be a fiction, or at least the communications may have been very different from what he has represented it to me, and his statements to the Government may be equally distant from the truth.

If this should actually appear, then I shall be convinced that the man intended to defraud me of the only thing which dire misfortune had left me "my claims". —



Even if these suspicions should turn out to be incorrect, I think nevertheless that the irregular proceedings of Mr W. are more calculated to injure than to benefit my cause, in which it is my intention to go straight forward, and to place my whole dependence upon the equity & generosity of the British Government. Yet as long as I am in the Lion's mouth, and my personal safety at the mercy of arbitrary power, all my communications with your side must be conducted with great secrecy. The same consideration makes me fearful of indisposing W. toward me, lest he should injure me in that line. However, I would be glad if it was in your power to apprise your Govt, that I disown all farther connection or business with Mr Whittington beyond what has been transferred unto him by Langdon; that any attempt at using my name beyond the clauses contained in the original document, is without my consent. —

What Mr. W. says respecting the accomplishing the recall of Lieut Smith & recovery of my property out of his hands, is nonsense. I am far from wishing the recall of Lieut Smith, he having protected private property perfectly well, neither is there any idea of detaining my property, the Admiral having given orders to Lieut Smith to deliver me the same. In short, I have not the least complaint to make in this respect.

I have some hopes now of soon getting resources to go down to the Island, this summer, with a view to reestablish ere it is too late, the cattle business on its former footing, so that H. M's Ships and any settlers may at all times be supplied with that necessary article, which otherwise will soon be totally impracticable, as I have explained to you on a former occasion, and also to the Admiral, which explanation was then forwarded by him to the Gov^t begging for precise directions on the subject; to which, owing probably to many important attentions of Gov^t the Admiral has not yet received any answer.

Pray Sir excuse my intruding so much upon your time. I fear to abuse your goodness; but please to consider I have no friend in England who can do for me what you can do; and any step you may think proper to take in my favor will be most gratefully acknowledged by

Sir.
Your most obed^t & h^o serv^t
L. V.