Copy 374 Outer Roads off B Ayres
19 June 1829

Woodbine Parish Esqr

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Sir

When I had the pleasure of waiting upon you last, it was with the intention of opening my mind freely to you on the subject of the new colony at Falklands in as much as it regarded my private interest in the establishment of a company for the purpose of causing a much more rapid increase than what my own means were capable of; but a doubt arising at the time on my mind, whether a Gentleman in your situation could with propriety embark in any speculation whatever, I hesitated, and at last becoming fearful of giving offence, I took my leave without accomplishing the object of my visit. Since then a circumstance has occurred which I had not the opportunity of communicating to you verbally and therefore contented myself with informing you of the same through Mr Sharp, with the assurance that my former ideas remained unaltered; it is a circumstance that may give me some more representation in my undertaking, but far from flattering my hopes it rather depresses them, as I fear there is bad faith at the bottom of it; perhaps some miserable intrigue brought forth by

envy. Be that as it may, time will shew the truth, and now to loose no further time which perhaps is but too precious to me, I shall take the liberty of addressing myself candidly to you at once, trusting that where there is no intention to offend, you will not be offended, and that you will attribute any impropriety in me only to an error in judgm.

My letter to you is not in your publick character, but as to a private individual, and as such being convinced that no person has it so much in his power to further the coming of settlers from England as you, and more so if the intention which once you mentioned to me, is realised. I propose either your entering yourself into into my undertaking or to introduce into some of your friends that you may wish to favour. The terms should be to mutual great advantage, that is to enter with me on equal shares — by repaying me one half of the expences that I have hitherto been at; then whatever the cattle, fishery, rent of Lands, or sale of the same may produce, will belong to both. I consider the trouble of sending out settlers either from England or from Bs Ayres — a sufficient equivalent for the value of the Lands, (all of which I introduce gratis into the company, as also the trouble and time it has already cost me). And I am further

willing to direct the business there, but should prefer to be associated by some other person named by you to assist me; the plan to be pursued for the better organisation of the Colony, its direction, management, I am willing to leave entirely to your better judgement, thus the business would go on without danger of diversity of opinion.

If my proposal meet your acceptance, it would be expedient to send by the very first vessels that are bound round Cape Horn some english families to the Falklands to avoid the expence of freighting vessels for the purpose; a contract in due form can be drawn up between us afterwards at our leisure, or immediately if you wish it, with my power of Attorney, Mr A Schipmann, who, though he has no instructions from me on the subject being a friend in whom every confidence can be placed, you may freely enter into any agreement with. I reserve nothing from him, and therefore had informed him of our conversations, and he is entirely of my opinion —

When you or a friend of yours has once entered on joint account with me in what I possess there, then it might be advantageous to us to establish in England a company on shares for, say pr example 100,000 Lstg; we could enter with half our lands, say 600 square miles or 400,000 acres at a comparatively low price respecting equally

uninhabited lands in North America, but whose valuation might with propriety be made to exceed tenfold the capital it costs us.

It may perhaps not be difficult, when the favorable prospects ~~that~~ which the situation of the Islands, its natural productions, its fitness for the ~~growth and~~ production fabrication of articles of great consumption in the more populated parts of South America affords are considered: that a company with a capital of 100,000 £st, wherein said lands are valued at 50,000 £ be established, we should then be holders of half the shares, and with the remaining 50000 £st the company would be enabled to carry on with ease the expences required for a rapid increase of the colony, which expences in all likelihood would soon be repaid by its productions as salted and dryd fish, butter, cheese, salt beef, pork and patatoes, the consumption of each of which articles is very considerable in the Brazils, further by the produce of the seal, elephant and whale fishery; wherein vessels coming from distant parts can never cope with the Islanders, who being on the spot want no vessels, and therefore will save all the expences that vessels occasion. I need say no more on this subject, as you are no doubt well aware of its advantages.

The importance of these Islands will now, that the jealous policy of old Spain can no longer

longer conceal their treasures, be viewed in its true light, and be no longer neglected. My little Colony is the first step, the next step must be its increase, which with only my present means can be but very slow; in St Ays there is no spirit of enterprise neither among the foreign nor among the native merchants, and if I dont seek assistance from capitalists abroad, great part of my life may perhaps be wasted before the Colony becomes considerable

To this letter the British minister gave the following reply, see his letter

Once more I must observe that my letter is private and intended for you in your private character; and were you not occupying a public situation, I should also, and indeed more willingly write to you on this subject, being prompted to me sherely by the concioussness of the knowledge that you possess of the subject, and that you well conceive the importance of founding a flourishing Colony, which at the same time that it enriches the undertakers, gives no little satisfaction to them in the concioussness of having been the direct means of making hundreds of families happy by rescuing them from poverty and want, and placing them in a situation where their labour will not be fruitless and enable them to enjoy comforts during the rest of their lives. and further the satisfaction of being the means of facilitating the navigation

round the Horn; here again the Undertakers do a great service to commerce, and derive great pecuniary profits for themselves —

I shall be happy if you will honour me with an answer when the Thetis goes round the Horn, and to apprise Mr S, whose address is at Mr B or S L & B^thers of the same, mean while I am with great regard — Sir

Your most obt Sr

L V —

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June 19 1829

To Woodbine Parish Esq

proposing the formation

of a company of

£100,000