

Cabry

Buenos Ayres 2nd July 1834



Henry Smith Esq^r Letters, Po. N.
Sir,

Deprived of my agent, Mr. Matthew Brisbane
and his assistants, by the horrid events of August last, the
news of which have reached here lately, and its being at pre-
-sent absolutely out of my power, to send down another agent,
I beg the favour of you to take charge of all my property, es-
-pecially endeavouring to preserve it, as much as lays in your power,
until I may be enabled to return to the settlement, and re-
-establish my private affairs on their former footing. In so
doing you will do a great service to one who is as yet a stran-
ger to you but who will ever be grateful to you for it, and
at same time you will thereby render a service to future colonies
-mission, for the foundation of which, the apparently insignifi-
-cant remains of my old settlement will be of essential utility.

I ask this favour, as far as may be compatible with
your public duties, and considering it to be connected with
public utility and especially tending to afford a constant
supply of good meat to the garrison under your charge,
and to H. B. M's shipping that may touch at Berkeley's
Sound, which employ may otherwise be lost for several
years. I feel therefore persuaded that my request will be
answering.

Flattering myself that you will for the present take
charge of my property, I beg leave to make some observations,
fruits of a long experience, which may serve you as a guide
for the preservation of my property, making it at the same time
subservient to the comfort of the people under your charge &
of the said shipping. And that you may act freely, I au-
-thorise you hereby, to act in every respect to the best of
your judgement for my interest, with which I shall be
perfectly satisfied.

In the preservation of the property, that of the houses is
of the least importance, it is the preservation of the horses
which is the main object, not because their transporta-
-tion to the Islands has cost me large sums of money,

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(being the remains of six cargos) but because their services can not be replaced by new horses that might be sent from hence; new horses requiring a couple of years stay on the Island, before they get enough accustomed to the climate and to the soil to be fit for catching wild cattle with, and even after the second and third year, many of the new horses, will for want of dexterity, be killed by the wild cattle. —

The most proper persons for taking care of the horses, are the three remaining gauchos, and being the only men who understand catching cattle, and who are acquainted with all parts of the Island, the proper nature of the soil &c. &c. they can also not be replaced by others for some considerable time to come; — therefore, the maintenance of those men ~~on the island~~ is the next object of importance; which point is most easily attained by securing their good will, and being really good men, this will not be difficult. These men have always behaved well towards everybody, and it would be well for them to know that they will eventually be rewarded for their constancy, and meanwhile set to let them be in want of anything. They must have their own way and time for catching, and bringing in the cattle, because this work meets obstacles which strangers are not aware of, and which are with difficulty conceived. They are generally unfit for other work preferring to remain idle. On the other hand the labor of catching cattle is expensive, and also the bringing them to the settlements from a distance; having to keep many night on horseback, exposed often to the worst of weather, to prevent the cattle from escaping again.

Three gauchos are to five to do the work properly, and they certainly will have a very hard job if it be that the horses are yet in a tolerable state of soundness, and you could afford the assistance of two or three good English lads, then they may probably be able

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To one man for minding the tamed cattle, one quarter of a dollar for
dollar for dogging or salting the hides, and one quarter of a dollar for
killing and skinning each animal. You will therefore have the good-
ness to pay them as formerly, which expenses as well as the wages
of the lads, must afterwards be deducted from the account of the
cattle consumed by the garrison and H. M. Ships of war. The
price of which is ten Spanish dollars per head.

You will probably have had all along lean beef, which is owing
to the cattle on the northern part of the Island being small and poor,
and although the southern cattle are fat and large, yet they
soon grow lean also, from getting, being deprived of their liberty.

This evil may be remedied by keeping a constant stock of
about 200 head upon Long Island, in the sound, where they
will grow fat in 3 or 4 months after their arrival. The Island
can not maintain a larger number during the year.

The cattle are however not quite safe on the Island, because at
low water, they wade or walk across to the main; it is therefore
necessary to keep two or three men on the main to watch them,
and to drive them back if they come. On the Island must be
a man or two to drive them on foot once every day together to
a particular spot on an eminence in sight of the settlement.

If great care is not taken the whole troop of cattle may stray
to the main, and if not observed immediately they may be
irretrievably lost. When they get from the Island to the main,
they invariably go along the foot of the near mountain, until
they find about five miles to the westward, a passage to the
southward. Therefore the most eligible place to put a watch
is about two miles from the Urania's wreck, to the westward,

on the side of the mountain, high enough to overlook the
neighboring country, and another on the slope of the same
mountain nearer the wreck. The enclosed chart of Beck-
ley Sound has marked with red ink, the track which

The cattle generally follow, when they stray from the Island.
No 1 and No 2 are the best spots for placing, at each a man to
look out. The man on the Island should make a signal as
soon as he misses any cattle. The cattle after having been
a few days on the Island get sufficiently tame to suffer



themselves to be driven about by a man on foot.

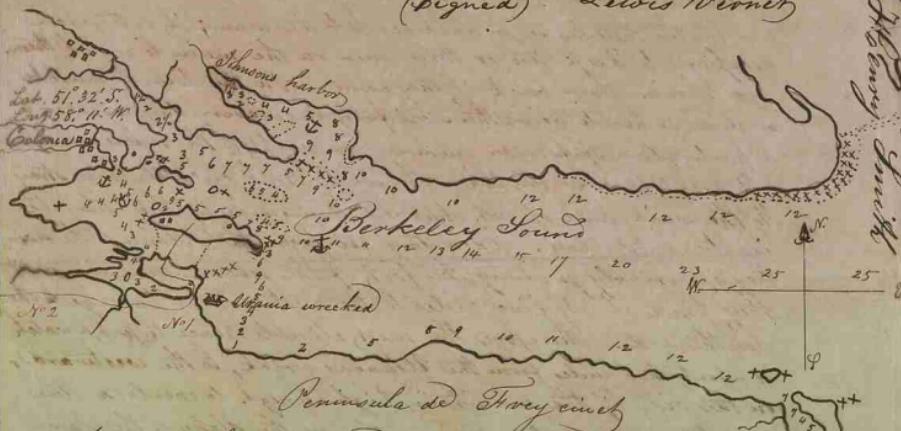
I have been informed that Captain Low has got possession of the seal skins and hides which my late agent Bristow had collected, and also many papers to which he can not possibly have any right. I presume that he has deceived you by some false representations, and hope therefore that you may have an opportunity of getting them again out of his hands, and to send them per first opportunity to Rio Janeiro.

I speak my earnest desire that you will have the goodness to take charge of my affairs at the settlement, which service will be gratefully acknowledged by

Sir Your most obedt^t servt

(Signed) Lewis Vronchy

D. C. H. D. S.
July 1834
to Capt. Henry Smith



Map of the Bay and Port of the Colony of
Port Louis East Falkland Island

Scale of nine miles
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 miles
2 leagues



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to bring in a sufficiency of cattle for the consumption of the settlement, and shipping for the year, without injuring the horses (that is during the summer months and autumn). It is not possible to give positive instructions on this head, as circumstances may vary; but, the men themselves will best know what can be done. The English lads would serve to mind the spare horses and the small troops of tame cattle (generally called cinuelo) while the gauchos would hunt the cattle. One of the gauchos should be head man of the party. Santiago Lopez is the most experienced that way, and in the next place Manuel Coronel.

The English lads would in the course of two or three years become dealers, and if 8 or 10 boys could be made good gauchos, this would be of immense importance to future settlements, who will require many tamed cows for dairies and bullocks for tillage. Prudence however, requires for the present, that this be done gradually, lest the jealousy of the gauchos be awakened, and from ill will become bad teachers, and expose the lads to get hurt by the cattle. Lively lads of a good disposition will agree well with them, and if the lads themselves do not know the main object why they are employed, jealousy will be effectually prevented.

You will have observed that the horses thrive in the open air, even in winter, provided they have not very sore backs, in which case they should have their wounds dressed, which operation is better intrusted to Europeans than to gauchos, they being so much accustomed to an abundance of horses in their own country, that they have never known the necessity of curing them. Although the horses are very hardy to bear the rigours of the climate, they are by no means so for standing fatigue as European horses, which no doubt is owing to their feeding only on grass and no grain. Therefore the work of hunting the cattle being very violent, it cannot be continued on the same horse many hours, wherefore the gauchos change horses twice or thrice a day, and do not ride the same horses again during two

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days, so that if it is required to work every day, each man
must have nine horses; and having this number of good
sound horses, they can work every day from the mid-
dle of October until the end of April. After April
the horses should not be used again until the follow-
ing October, because the winter rains make the soil
very heavy, and in many parts impassable, whereby the
work is so much increased that the horses can not stand
it, and becoming tired they fall victims to the wild
cattle. Also the frost falling on heated horses hawks
them up very soon.

You will no doubt be aware that full-grown Europeans
can not become dangerous gauchos, it is therefore useless
to employ them for the purpose. They can at most only
serve to mind the cattle which are already caught,
and the spare horses. I have seen many Europeans
here, that thought themselves gauchos, but in reality
I never saw any but what were bunglers.

The many disagreeable occurrences at the settlement
which these poor gauchos have witnessed ever since
the attack of the Lexington, and the present deserted state
of the settlement, may perhaps make them unwilling
to stop any longer, and if a chance of a passage to Bal-
sas Ayres offers, they may wish to embrace it; but
I am in hopes you will in that case be able to per-
suade them to remain. To contribute my part I
have written them the enclosed letter, which please
to hand them at all events.

As long as they have the use of my horses, they
consider themselves to be in my service, and will be
well contented if paid as formerly. The terms were
these, I, as proprietor of the cattle, had to pay them one
dollar for the work of catching them, and bringing them
in, which was two Spanish dollars per each head of
cattle (calves no price), for the one dollar per man
for every night that the men kept watch over the
cattle in the open country, twenty dollars per month

Copy



*Prospectus
of the*

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Falkland Island Association

*to be
established under Royal Charter*

Commercial and Agricultural purposes

Patrons

Directors

Bunkers

Solicitors

Provisional Committee

Chairman

Deputy chairman

Managing Director

G. F. Whittington Esq -

Gentlemen supporters of this embryo undertaking -

Jhu Gould Esq

N. Gould

J. Brunetti

C. J. Care

J. Blyth

G. Lyall M.P.

H. Bentcott

T. Martin

R. Brooks

C. E. Margish

J. & H. Buckle + Bester

J. Perceval Adams

H. Campbell

J. R. Robinson

Wesley Chapman

W. Thompson Alderson & M.P.

A. Chapman M.P.

Moses Wigram

Charles Endersby

W. Walker

Thos Faircomb

G. Wilder

G. F. Young M.P.

St. Mary's Hill 6th Aug 1834

Mr G. T. Whitinga presents his compliments to Hamilton Hamilton Esq and begs to hand him the annexed Prospectus for the completion of which matter he is in treaty with Mr Spring Rice,* and will feel proud to any communications he can make on the subject. The Gentlemen whose names are pencilled on the first page hereof are the supporters of this embryo undertaking.

To Hamilton Hamilton Esq

*Secretary to the Colonies.)

This undertaking is founded upon incontrovertible facts, and recommended to the public by its utility and perfect security, for the beneficial employment of capital; it also supplies an object of great national importance, namely, a safe and commodious port of rendezvous &c. in the Southern Hemisphere, for Ships of war and commerce; the position and natural resources of the Islands, command general resort, thereby very largely conducing to the prosperity of a colony.

It is intended immediately to form an establishment in the colony, for supplying both fresh and cured provisions, water, fuel, and other requisites, to vessels navigating the South Seas; particularly those trading with Van Diemen's Land, Australia, South America &c. and to which vessels homeward freight will be given. Colonisation will be effected upon a well digested system, that can not fail to protect the settlers from the numerous difficulties, which have been so injurious to the Emigrant in other new countries. From the settlers, it is proposed to select parties properly qualified for carrying into effect, extensive and

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most valuable fisheries, for which nation has here prepared every thing ready for the industry of man; with the unusual advantage of important adjacent market, in addition to those of Great Britain, for the immediate disposal of all its products). The sources of profit are ample and abundant, and this concern differs from almost all others possessed within itself the various elements, for speedily producing an excess of funds, with handsome remuneration, and requires only to be set in motion, by a small outlay: this fact is capable of being made perfectly manifest.)

Further particulars may be known, by application
at 37 St Mary Hill City.



devenire per mea solita deinceps et pectora deinceps
invenimus illam eamque exponimus ut quaecumque res
et industria in bellicis exercitibus exercitiorum et exercitiorum
et exercitiorum militum etiam utrue possit exinde
luna secunda et tercera et quarta et quinta et sexta et septima
et octava et nonnulla et nonnulla et nonnulla et nonnulla et nonnulla
et nonnulla et nonnulla et nonnulla et nonnulla et nonnulla et nonnulla
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et nonnulla



Bd A^d 2^o July 1834.

Henry Smith Esqre Lieut Roy Navy
in charge of the Falkland Islands

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Sir

Desirous of my agent Mr Matthew Brisbane and his assistants, by the horrid murders of August last, the news of which have reached us here lately, and it being at present absolutely out of my power to send down another agent, I beg the favor of you to take charge of all my property, endeavouring to preserve it as much as lays in your power until I may be enabled to return to my establishment and put my private business to rights again. In so doing you will do a great service to one who is as yet a stranger to you, but who will be the grateful for it, and at same time you will thereby render a public service, since the apparently insignificant remains of my old settlement will be of essential utility to future settlements; and whatever way the question of sovereignty over the Islands between the Govt of B & Ad, Great Britain may be finally settled, the property of settlements there will be of public utility to ~~the whole~~ all nations who trade round Cape Horn, furnishing their vessels with refreshments after long voyages, and a safe refuge when in distress in that boisterous region. These advantages will in a great measure be lost to the public in general, or at least for a great many years, I feel therefore persuaded that you will do as I ask.

If you take charge of my property, they have to make some observations, fruits of a long experience, which may serve you as a guide.

In the preservation of my property, that of
the horses is the object of the least importance
it is the preservation of the horses which ought
to be the main object, not because their trans-
portation to the Islands has cost me large sums
of money, (being the remains of six cargoes)
but because their services can not be replaced
by new horses that might be sent from hence,
new horses requiring a couple of years stay on
the Island, before they get enough accustomed
to the climate and to the soil to become fit for
catching wild cattle with, and even after the 2^d
and 3^r year, many of the new horses, will
for want of dexterity, be killed by the wild
cattle.

The next most proper persons for taking
care of the horses, are the three ~~laborers~~ ^{Indians} ~~Indians~~
gambors, and being the only men ~~men~~ ^{Indians} ~~Indians~~
catching cattle, and who are acquainted with
all parts of the Island the passes, nature of
the soil &c &c they can also not be replaced
by others for some considerable time to come.
Therefore, the maintenance of those men on
the Island is the next object of importance,
which point is most easily attained by securing
their good will, and being really good men
this will not be difficult. — They should
have their own way in working in the camp,
because they understand it best, and being
paid by the job they naturally do as well as
they can. — The labour of catching cattle is
expensive, as also the bringing them to the
settlement from a distance, having to pass several
successive nights on horseback, exposed to the worst
of weather at times, to prevent the cattle escaping
after having been caught — Three gambors are too few

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to do the work properly, and they certainly will have a very hard job of it. ~~It is to be hoped~~ we yet in a ~~calmly~~ go to the ~~task~~ and ~~we~~ can afford ~~the~~ the services of two to three ~~cars~~ ~~than~~ ~~there~~ ~~was~~ ~~no~~ ~~way~~ ~~of~~ ~~be~~ ~~done~~ ~~but~~ bring in a sufficient ~~of~~ cattle ~~for~~ ~~the~~ demands ~~of~~ ~~post~~ ~~Louis~~ ~~in~~ ~~that~~ ~~period~~ ~~of~~ ~~time~~ ~~and~~ ~~it~~ ~~will~~ ~~require~~ ~~several~~ ~~months~~ ~~to~~ ~~have~~ ~~so~~ ~~far~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~task~~ ~~is~~ ~~so~~ ~~large~~ ~~as~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~possible~~ ~~to~~ ~~give~~ ~~sufficient~~ ~~instructions~~ ~~as~~ ~~to~~ ~~heat~~, ~~as~~ ~~experience~~ ~~tells~~ ~~us~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~men~~ ~~themselves~~ ~~will~~ ~~not~~ ~~know~~ ~~what~~ ~~to~~ ~~do~~. ~~The~~ ~~last~~ ~~ganzwilde~~ ~~land~~ ~~there~~ ~~will~~ ~~not~~ ~~raise~~ ~~well~~ ~~enough~~ ~~to~~ ~~meet~~ ~~the~~ ~~spare~~ ~~horses~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~two~~ ~~troops~~ ~~of~~ ~~lame~~ ~~cattle~~ ~~employed~~ ~~to~~ ~~drive~~ ~~the~~ ~~wild~~ ~~with~~ ~~fifty~~ ~~horses~~ ~~been~~ ~~seen~~ ~~in~~



Although the horses ~~are~~ ~~very~~ ~~good~~ ~~they~~ ~~are~~ ~~no~~ ~~means~~ ~~so~~ ~~good~~ ~~as~~ ~~European~~ ~~horses~~, ~~which~~ ~~no~~ ~~man~~ ~~is~~ ~~ever~~ ~~used~~ ~~to~~ ~~their~~ ~~only~~ ~~feeding~~ ~~on~~ ~~grain~~ ~~and~~ ~~water~~, ~~and~~ ~~no~~ ~~grain~~. ~~Therefore~~ ~~the~~ ~~work~~ ~~of~~ ~~driving~~ ~~cattle~~ ~~being~~ ~~very~~ ~~violent~~, ~~it~~ ~~can~~ ~~not~~ ~~be~~ ~~continued~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~horse~~ ~~more~~ ~~than~~ ~~about~~ ~~one~~ ~~day~~, ~~and~~ ~~you~~ ~~must~~ ~~change~~ ~~horses~~ ~~twice~~ ~~or~~ ~~three~~ ~~or~~ ~~four~~ ~~days~~, ~~and~~ ~~do~~ ~~one~~ ~~ride~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~horse~~ ~~again~~ ~~but~~ ~~not~~ ~~for~~ ~~more~~ ~~than~~ ~~two~~ ~~days~~, ~~so~~ ~~that~~ ~~if~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~performed~~ ~~in~~ ~~such~~ ~~a~~ ~~manner~~, ~~each~~ ~~man~~ ~~must~~ ~~have~~ ~~nine~~ ~~horses~~, ~~and~~ ~~have~~ ~~the~~ ~~number~~ ~~of~~ ~~good~~ ~~horses~~ ~~so~~ ~~they~~ ~~can~~ ~~work~~ ~~every~~ ~~day~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~first~~ ~~of~~ ~~October~~ ~~and~~ ~~till~~ ~~the~~ ~~first~~ ~~of~~ ~~April~~ - ~~After~~ ~~April~~ ~~the~~ ~~horses~~ ~~must~~ ~~not~~ ~~be~~ ~~used~~ ~~again~~ ~~until~~ ~~the~~ ~~following~~ ~~October~~, ~~because~~ ~~the~~ ~~winter~~ ~~rains~~ ~~make~~ ~~the~~ ~~soil~~ ~~very~~ ~~heavy~~, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~work~~ ~~is~~ ~~so~~ ~~much~~ ~~increased~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~horses~~ ~~can~~ ~~not~~ ~~stand~~ ~~it~~, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~ground~~ ~~is~~ ~~so~~ ~~soft~~.

