

Buenos Ayres Aug 5/50



The Undersigned respectfully begs leave to draw the attention of the Right Honorable Lord Viscount Palmerston to a subject not only vitally interesting to himself, but he confidently believes, of some importance to the British nation.

Although fully aware that the private grants of Lands which the undersigned held under the Argentine Republic, as well as the privilege of the fisheries and the exemption from taxation granted the Colonists, must remain uncertain untill H. B. M.'s Government may be pleased to resolve finally upon this subject; the undersigned trusting implicitly to its equity and generosity has not hesitated to incur new and considerable expence to maintain his private possessions on the East Falkland Island; Establishments, which in their nature are intimately connected with public utility and in the maintenance of which, he has met with a series of misfortunes, and has exhausted not only his own means, but considerable portions of the Fortunes of his friends.

The object of the present communication to H. B. M.'s principal Secretary of State for the foreign department is to solicit the aid and protection of the British Government in promoting the private interests of the undersigned at the Falkland Islands, whilst at the same time it will insure the future

To H. C. Lord Viscount Palmerston  
No. 30. St.

Mr. Palmerston received this Aug 24/50

prosperity and utility of these now valuable  
Islands, rendered so by the good fortune, personal  
exertions, patience, experience and Capital of the  
undersigned, shewing their importance, and of which  
truth H. B. M.'s Government is in possession  
from the communications already laid before it by  
the several Admirals on this Station, as well  
as by Woodbine Parish Esq; H. B. M.'s  
late Charge d'affaires to this Republic.

It appears to the undersigned as quite necessary  
that the British Government should be convinced  
that the maintenance of the establishments he  
possesses on the East Falkland Islands for  
catching and tanning the wild cattle thereon, formed  
some years since by the undersigned, is, as far as  
respects those Islands, a matter of infinite im-  
portance: that their continuance and increase for  
the future is what will ultimately constitute  
the value of the colony, be its support for some  
time to come, and in a few years worth Islands  
for centuries abandoned as inhospitable and  
unfit for the abode of man, valuable to the  
sovereign to whom they belong and of public  
utility to all nations whose spirit and enter-  
prise lead them to penetrate into the wealthy  
regions of this southern Hemisphere. Such  
is the importance of the private interests of  
the undersigned and such are the objects readily  
obtainable by the aid and protection the under-  
signed now seeks from H. B. Majesty's  
Government.

To produce this conviction in the mind  
of the British Government, it becomes only  
necessary to state, that the cattle (originally  
supplied from the River Plate and subse-

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quently granted to the undersigned) in the wild state they are now in, are of no use to any one, that their domestication is practicable only by persons acquainted with the process of doing it, that it requires the experience of the founder, the skill and dexterity of the hunters, the docility and practice of the horses to be employed, the becoming acquainted with the sometimes petty at other times hegy ground, the getting accustomed to the food, the climate &c. &c. and lastly that the increase of the cattle in a domesticated state is prodigious, at least three times greater than in the wild state.

To restore this business to its former advantageous state, requires that aid and protection solicited, the which aid would not have been necessary had not the undersigned met with the misfortunes before alluded to - viz: The destruction committed by the U.S. ship *Leinster*, the subsequent work of the Argentine Garrison and the murders committed on the persons of the agents of the undersigned since the British flag has been hoisted at the Settlements.

Every years delay will render efforts to the effect proposed more costly, more laborious, the undersigned will be ruined and his family be left destitute; the British nation will in so much be injured, as the increased expenses of future efforts may amount to, and what now could be accomplished with from two to three thousand pounds in a short time, if delays will require tenfold the money and time to restore thereafter, if not for ever found to be impracticable.

The undersigned most respectfully solicits

The early attention of H. B. M.'s Government  
to the matter herein laid before it, and earnestly  
requests it may be pleased to forward such in-  
structions to H. B. Majesty's Minister  
Plenipotenciary resident in this city, as may enable  
him efficiently to succour the undersigned, and  
moreover thereby avoid the painful inconvenience  
incidental on long and distant correspondence.

The undersigned has thus the honour to  
present himself with all due respect and deference  
before the Right Honourable Lord Viscount  
Palmerston, and subscribe himself as  
His Excellency's



faithful and obed<sup>t</sup> servant  
(Signed) Lewis Vernet.

Copy of letter to  
Lord Palmerston  
21st Aug. 5. 1836