



Nº 6

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of 20

Philadelphia 20<sup>th</sup> April 1832.

My dear Lewis,

My last letters to you were dated December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1831 and February 7<sup>th</sup> last, but both went by the same Vessel, the Brig Sophia Capt<sup>r</sup> Frater to the care of Mess<sup>r</sup> Hodgson & Robinson at Buenos Ayres the same as I forward the present to those Gentlemen by the Brig Caroline. Since that time I have received no letter from You, Your last received by me being of 24<sup>th</sup> September, and strange public reports having appeared here respecting You and Your Settlement. You may suppose how anxious I, and all your friends, here are to have accounts from You of what has occurred.

I thought it already strange when we heard here that the Sloop Lexington had sailed from Montevideo for the Falklands; thinking that her Commander could obtain the best information at Buenos Ayres, and would there ascertain officially how matter stood at the Falklands, and that the seizures You had made were legal and justifiable; but I was perfectly astonished when the following appeared in our papers.

Official  
Navy Department

Official information has been received at the Navy Department of the return to Montevideo from the Falkland Islands, of the

Sloop of War Lexington, having secured on board most of the persons recently engaged there in the outrages on American property and American citizens, having retaken the captured and plundered vessels which remained at Berkley sound and furnish'd relief to such of our Seamen as were illegally detained, or had been inhumanely left to perish on the neighbouring islands.

and in another paper was said

"One of the individuals brought prisoners from Falkland island,  
by the Lexington was the Deputy Governor."

As the Vessel which brought the above intelligence arrived at Baltimore, I immediately wrote them, in hopes to get further particulars - but could not; two passengers only stated that You had left the Island in one of the captured vessels and had arrived at Montevideo and the Commander of the Lexington demanded You of the Buenos Ayres Govr<sup>n</sup> as a pirate; that the establishment at the islands was entirely broken up - and that their Gentlemen spoke very harshly of You. I write to You all this, thinking it proper for the measures You may deem proper to adopt, that You should know all! To me the whole is inexplicable enough indeed the whole arises from a hot headed rash act, of which there are former instances!!! I hope I need not to assure You that these, nor any other reports I may hear, will have the least influence upon my opinion respecting You - I am under the

fackest conviction that you are duly appointed Governor and that  
 the seizures you have made were legal and justifiable, and when  
 the proper time comes I shall not fail to avail myself of every means  
 to make this publicly known; for the present I can do nothing as it  
 would be of no avail, nay indeed improper, without official docu-  
 ments to contradict an Official Statement, of the Navy Department,  
 The business is now taken out of your hands; it is your Government  
 that must right you; and I trust that you have means and  
 friends enough that it will right you. At all events I fear it  
 will prove a calamitous affair to you; whatever redress you may  
 obtain in character, your losses, I fear, will not so easily be made  
 good; the business to the Island was just on the eve of becoming  
 very considerable, Mr. Fitzhenry Homer and Mr. Morris from  
 Bristol R. I. were lately here, they, and several others, with  
 whom I have had communication, were disposed to go into the  
 business extensively, which now is out of the question; I inform  
 you in my last that I had not succeeded in making insurance  
 on the Sch. Superior, these reports preclude it entirely, if justice is  
 done to you, in granting you damages, they ought to be heavy indeed.  
 If you are really arrived at Montevideo, I cannot help wondering  
 that I have no letters from you as we have had several arrivals;  
 I hope the next will bring me one as I also feel very uneasy  
 about your and your family health, after the harassing circumstan-

You must have had to go through - myself and mine all well  
Mrs K desires her particular affectionate regards to you.  
William was to be married at New Orleans the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. to a  
Miss Jane M<sup>c</sup> Bullock, a very amiable fine girl of one of the  
most respectable and rich families there - and they were to embark  
3 days after the wedding for home, Lewis is to be married as soon  
as they arrive to a Miss Sophia Ramsay of Washington City,  
also a remarkable fine and amiable girl, so that I need  
entertain no apprehension of the name of KC becoming extinct,  
besides what Alexander in due time may do on his part.

Adieu my dear friend, may that God who has led you  
wonderfully through life, and conducted you safe through  
many troubles also assist you, and carry you happily through  
your present difficulties; and under all circumstances take  
to heart the old Spanish proverb which says "He that loses  
his money loses much, he that loses his friends loses more,  
but he that loses his head loses every thing."



Fube presente en  
Catorce de Octubre de 1832  
James F

Your affectionate friend

J. Rumsdall

L. Knobhaar