

1st P^o Albe via Boston under cover of Wm. Hill, Junr
2^d P^o Brj Montevideo
Newbury Port

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Buenos Ayres 18th April 1833.
C. N. Buck Esq^r Philadelphia

Dear Sir

It was with great pleasure that I received your esteemed favor of 13th November last the contents of which were very interesting to

Doctor Cox the Secener formerly to me the other and we did not meet until a few days ago when he departed, which I am to be grieved as it deprived me of the opportunity of introducing him into several respectable families of the party which he appeared very desirous, partly to get more perfect in the Spanish language, and partly to get a further knowledge of the people he had come to visit. Besides he would have spent a much pleasanter time than he did. However I trust that if you see him, he will tell you that Doctor Cox was the cause of it himself, and not me, as I should have been delighted in contributing to make the stay in this city agreeable to any gentleman recommended by a worthy and old friend as you are.

It was likewise satisfactory to me to see that you persevered in the Albany trade and sincerely hope you may have every success, and that your son Charles may soon follow it up. You write me too

nothing more to say
18th of May - At 4 o'clock I am
writing to the Governor
of my last time only

2.
tells of your family, family & near you
you please interest me much.

My affairs progress very slowly, but
I believe they go slow and sure. Our Ministers
are appointed to claim satisfaction and indem-
nification for the lawless attack of the
Brixington will probably go soon now. As
my sailing you must be well aware
have nothing to do with the national
question between the two Governments, because
the Island of St. H. or of England,
Linnæus had no right to destroy my establish-
ment.

Now a new difficulty has arisen
to this Government, which is the taking
possession of the Island by England
might give right wherever I think they
will remain in possession - However
that does not lessen the right of St. H.
against the U. S. Gov^t and they will
be claimed the same as if such a thing had
not happened.

When any thing new occurs
here I shall write you again, and mean
while share this with my constant wishes for
your welfare & that of your dear family
yours sincerely - Verret

1st for Chile via Boston under cover of W. Ashby Esq. Newburyport
2^d for Brig Mont^o



17th of Aug^r 18th Sept^r 1833

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to inform you that the
 Falkland Islands which were once secured to us
 but taken up by a military national zeal
 abuse of power of Captain Dinan involving
 thereby my private concerns in total ruin
 in which I am sorry to say you are also
 as far as regards the disappointed voyage of
 the Transport a sufferer

The vessel arrived at the colony
 after its destruction, and not finding
 nor any person to represent me would
 not deliver her cargo had to go elsewhere
 and was wrecked on the west coast of Terra
 del Fuego. The Captain and crew were brought
 by the Montevidean Schooner Unicorn to the
 Falklands whence I received a letter from
 Captain Bray a few days since mentioning

his misfortune
 The loss of to some of my men that
 have remained upon the Island, could not
 worth of goods, for which he received 100,000
 and 50 per cent advance, which he
 I presume, will ship in the Schooner
 Deer Captain Frost; ~~who~~ he intended to go home
 in her - These goods he had sold upon
 his first arrival at the Islands -
 when he had his vessel he is said to have
 saved little or nothing of his cargo - I
 believe you may have been assured so as to
 recover the loss notwithstanding the alteration
 which may have taken place in his voyage.
 It even then remains to be regretted that our
 intended earnings could not have been
 such, as no doubt had it would have
 been very beneficial to both parties - Some
 even after my affairs get a little more
 settled a greater sum will that we shall be
 able to do some good business yet, and may
 you take the first opportunity of placing you
 know of it -

Mr. Briggmont
 Dear Sir

13th 24 May - I have nothing
 new to communicate to you since my
 last of the 27th last of which the Governor is a copy, except
 that by a person lately arrived from the Island at about
 4 o'clock up to this city, it has been stated (I do not know with
 what correctness not knowing the individual) that Capt Brown
 had sailed in company with the ~~old~~ Unicorn and thereby got 1500
 which were on their account not lost with the Transport. The
 same person also states that Capt Gray got about 1000 of worth
 of his rigging &c. of the Transport to the British Navy ship Eagle

All which I have written to you
 in great haste & I am
 Yours truly
 Lewis Vicount

1st St. Jago de Cabo via Boston with dispatch of 24th Feb'y
2nd P^r Brig Montevideo



Com^o de Cab^o Juan Ruiz Ponce de Leon 29th April 1823.

Since writing the foregoing I have received letters from Capt^o Pizarro and from my Agent at the Falklands, by which I had the satisfaction to perceive that the transport was wrecked on the west coast of Terra del Fuogo in Jan'y last carrying little or nothing of its cargo and ^{capt^o Pizarro} perished at the colony on the 2nd of Nov^r in the ship's uniforms of Mont^o which he intended to carry home in the ship's Capt^o Pizarro. My agent has written with him for the article he sold to my people in the same States in my former letter to you; the hinder he intended to carry home in the same schooner. I regret extremely that this first undertaking to my establishment should have terminated in a perfect wreck which I can only attribute to the wrecking up of the colony by the Lexington. However I do not lose the hope of doing with you some mutually advantageous business; yet, after things got a little settled again.

I can write you but little more respecting the British flag having been hoisted at the Falklands, that what you will have seen from the public papers. It is doubtful yet whether suspicion was taken by orders of the British Gov^t upon the mere responsibility of their command in ship on the British Station. The circumstance that the British Government had not communicated even their intention either to this Government or to our minister in London or to their minister here, induces a belief of the British Gov^t having given no orders. This belief is strengthened by various other reports that have circulated since the

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including the name 'Juan Ruiz Ponce de Leon' and other illegible text.

some time ago and as that the American Express Co. has
 threatened but urge the British Government to take
 possession of the Island in the names of his King
 but judge that we should immediately send some
 more would go it seems to take the Island from
 the U. S. Such reports appear incredible, but
 after the late experience that we have made of
 Mr. Baylis, & Capt. Duncan's unprovoked aggressions
 towards this country, & their conduct in general, I
 can by no means reject those reports until in
 favour of the contrary.

I shall be very happy to hear of
 an answer from you. Mr. McLean is still here he is
 in good health and will probably write you by
 the next opportunity.

Our minister appointed for the U.S.
 has been long detained, but it is intended that
 he shall go soon.

I am with esteem

Dear Sir,

Your most obedt
 Servant

Wm. Henry Monto

13th May 1833

Enclosed is a copy of my last
 (of 29th April) since which I am still without your
 favour. By a passenger lately arrived in this country
 at Monto I have come up to B. A. P.
 on account that the two men would touch at Monto, so
 that we may probably see Capt. Gray here - the
 same passenger states that he had got 1500 seal skins &
 had saved them having been sealed in company with the Union
 and another states that he had sold about 1000 of worth of
 seal & mizzing to the British surveying ship, Beagle. I
 do not know whether the account can be relied upon
 but think it was given us by the passenger.
 There is otherwise nothing new here worth men-
 tioning and I remain respectfully yours - L. V.

102 for these via Boston, under Cross of S. Kelly Post
2^d P^o 18 rig Mont

with packet of 7th Inst. Letter of 12th
Inst. enclosing translation of alleged copies of
the same, but of 8 Oct. the Mexican treaty
is not being sealed and several
copies of having taken & several



1/

Buenos Ayres 5th May 1833

L. W. Knutson Esq Philadelphia
Dear Sir

My last was of 24th Feb. I wish to be
informed is a copy. The varied occupations which
press upon me have not permitted me to
do so. The last I sent you ten days
ago. I shall do your favour of 20 & 25th October of
which I shall do

I believe by the former that Mr P has had
your the documents of condemnation, tho I am rather
surprised that he has not his first
copy. I have not his first
by compromise

I answer that I have acted in my office
regarding the Sr. Superior was the best I could
do, and shall take good care to send every thing
according to your directions and shall not hesitate
to venture the necessary retaining fee

The construction which you give to the
sentence of Judge Cardenas is different from
what the judge intended. he lawyers here consider
it a condemnation of the vessel, or a declara-
tion tantamount to "good prize" because the
act of having made prize of them is declared just
and legal. Sr Cardenas was then judge of this
prize Court which supplies here
of admiralty, and its condemnations are generally
declared in that manner. But the for case between
the captor is to be seen in a point between the
captor and his Government and is a matter of

indifference + the Captained. The point has not been
 settled yet between me and Gov... nor has it
 been agreed... we being... and the appearance of
 being captured... for the sake of... intelligence
 within nearly... the only... in...
 government... degrading vessels
 ment is so excessive... all its operations that
 to be... of the... and the...
 between... out. Between
 to... it would like
 to... of right
 to do nothing at... set to
 of... be...
 it is to have to do with... will issue twenty
 times that do not... for
 and... consequences of...
 some... presented by... It...
 ves the... to... it

you say that... it is not...
 continuation in my... I can not expect to...
 the owners of... the contract
 I can not rightly... For 3rd article of
 the contract says... and...
 voyage shall be for my account. It does not say
 that the... be in my...



enough if they are condemned and when I made the contract
 only calculated for a certainty on the produce of the voyage
 as to whether the vessel in case of condemnation should be mine
 or of B's Agent that point I could not determine in myself
 however having staid security to the port for the reap sea
 rance of the Superior, as stated in the contract I am accom-
 table for her and am consequently the only person that
 can claim her. Your courts are very liberal and what
 we would call a libling. You have therefore done me a
 great service in putting me on my guard, which in my
 afterword, save me much time in avoiding correspon-
 dence to and from such a distance I shall now be glad
 to receive your memorandum of documents that will be
 required for an action against Duncan, because however
 near I may be in their collection there may after words
 be documents wanting I can not at present foresee

I then suppose I am concerned is liable to
 great and unavoidable d... notwithstanding the
 clearness of the case. Business with Governments is
 always tedious.

I was over in the whole of the
 matter... I would have been laid before con-
 gress and that the mat... is fully described
 Government... tied to act in con-
 sistance with the general op... which I trusted would
 have been agreeable. B... I find the President has managed
 to have laying the correspondence and his instructions be-
 fore the house, on the plea that the negotiation was not
 could I to the matter is therefore entirely left to him and
 I should not be for... is not to be advanced nothing
 good can be expected until the next meeting of Congress
 Our Minister has been long detained, but the intention
 seems to be to send him soon to the U.S. however there



great diplomatist began the negotiation with a long list of the same heinous charges, which the public long knew to be false and several were over-
taken

Mr. B went away in a great huff and is said to have assured his friends here that in five months more (from Sept 6th 1832) an American Squadron would be here to blockade B's Bay. Bright Cooper the Commodore is said to have expressed the same opinion. They must have been sadly disappointed when Mr B's return to the U.S. the Govt showed no disposition at all for hostilities with B's Bay and were positively advising the approval of the minister Genl. Alvaro from here to continue the negotiations.

There was a good deal of visiting between the British and American Ministers and Consuls here, and friendly feelings seemed to extend to the naval command of both nations on this station. A few report say they all of them agreed very readily in the justice of the British claim to the Falkland, that in the 1st place Mr B. or Mr Alvaro I do not recollect which had several times in conversation urged the British agents to get possession taken of the Islands, that afterwards in Rio Jan the American naval Commander had stated to the British Commander that if the latter would not immediately take possession, the former would do it in the name of the U. S. that it was in consequence

of this intimation, on the strength of the old British fortification ^{and} Mr Bayles able defence of the British claim that he sent the ~~Cruz~~ ^{Cruz} to take possession not doubting but what his Govt would under such circumstances approve the act

All these are yet mere reports and by no means to be relied upon, and we are as yet ruzal in the dark upon the subject, ~~the~~ affair however seems certain that the British Government has not signified even the intention of taking possession, not to their agent here nor to the Govt direct, nor to the agents of B. G. in London, which certainly appears very strange and might almost induce a belief that the act was committed without the knowledge of that Govt. However

as the English have long wished to have the Falklands I doubt very much whether they will ever be willing to give them up again, on the other hand this report sh^d will insist upon her right with great obstinacy, and be far from considering that the late British act will any way bar their reclamations against the Am Govt. On the contrary, the general opinion is that it will favor their cause in that quarter, grounding the opinion upon the idea that it is more for the interests of America that B. G. should be the possessor of the Islands than G. B. considering the importance of their geographical situation in a political point of view being as much the key to the Pacific as the cape of good hope is to the Indian ocean, which two positions together ~~and~~ in one hand are in time of war certainly highly important. And if as is probable the matter may not at present merit disputing about it may serve for a future pretext, when war may be desirable, for some political views such as incorporating Canada & some west india ^{of the} Islands to the territory of the U. S. I think though that ~~at the least~~ ^{at the least} steps will be a signification of a war consent to the



British occupation is not a formal point

their sincerity can then not be
held to be than by acknowledging the B. American claim
the question pending between the two. Thus people have
succeeded in the negotiation with your Govt to
interest of political convenience to the U.S. which
overbalances the interest of the pelting fishery and
which in the end England will have to produce
also if it will not be unjust to the B. American
subjects. But I go about it I trust also to the
justice of your Govt. I do not see the case
altered from what it was before - "might
does not give right" as you very truly say, these
parts of the islands, & really belong to B. America
does not do away that right, and as the justice
of our case appears if the justice of our claim
we shall have justice done us by your Govt
that it should be against your Govt
reason to doubt

When the Commanders of the B. American had taken
possession of the Falkland he said to my agent
that I might carry on my business as formerly
that my property would be protected. I have however
no objection to that effect - If the business
is settled by the British paying for the B. American
in my letters are thereby acknowledged and if not
then my right will rest upon the principle of
first settlement. I found the Island without a single
inhabitant, and I possess the whole of
it under undisputed control during six years,
I occupied the whole Island in my different territories
surveyed it, divided it into sections named agents

to all hands to speak out and to grant Justice
 to all, (I don't know how long I have been
 in your part of) and this being five years before the
 British government protested against the sovereignty
 of the State to the King, knowing that the
 established way of their rights is in the
 the question is whether the British Govt will
 be pleased to allow us to be but it has been
 will be more than a year since that we
 they are usually to be known to be
 they are - Valid they took the Chief of the
 1776 - Unparticular independent, so that
 at the time we do not see that
 would be but we are by the time, sent to
 his own way - you'll know we are well
 at present we are some independent, you
 in great numbers but the Government of the
 in the we have to give you justice
 respect to the rights of the Government
 established - I think in equity the British
 Govt if it should not retain the
 1776 - It will either confirm my individual
 rights, or say we are an independency. But
 said not to be at - therefore I have
 shown - that Govt - you will have heard
 what new depredations have been committed
 by some sailing vessels upon my settlements
 near to the Lexington Cape the place
 in such a manner to the Govt - The Lt. A. took
 Capt. James Wash of New York, landed with
 200 men and took cattle by force, and killed
 wounded

wounded
 and is not my best horses causing
 a damage of upward of Ten thousand Spanish Dollars.
 The Sr. Equite of Lord High John Kelluck
 with some with the intention of having newly
 to be incurring an equal damage. If their
 owners dont support of the report I will
 come upon them for the damages, & it
 must be a suit to the claim against
 them in the original case of the animals
 being destroyed my stock of sheep, hogs,
 and poultry

I am rather perplexed now what
 to do whether to return to the Island
 to establish things as well as I can before
 it is too late, or whether to neglect this and
 attend to the resolutions - both can not be
 well executed - the Island requires my
 presence to do any good there, and the whole
 without my presence my presence also because
 many unpleasant questions may be started that
 no body can answer but me - some of my
 friends advise me to go to America, others to Eng-
 land to the Island, others to remain here to
 await the arrival of the Minister Mr H. Mil-
 ler for England - For my part I dont know
 yet what to do - However I am occupying my
 self in preparing myself for every case
 with affectionate remembrance to Mrs K
 and family and to hear off of you & your much esteemed
 family I remain Sincerely Verret

J. P. Brightwell
 May 24 1833
 L. K. - Give my love to what the going

is a copy I am still without your favor.
 Nothing new has occurred here lately. There is
 not the least intelligence from England yet respect-
 ing the taking of the Falklands, either privately
 nor official. But I have it for unquestionable
 authority that the Mr As Minister in London has
 written that the British claim to the Islands was
 beginning to be looked upon in a different light.
 Since the diplomatic correspondence with Mr
 Baylis was published. - This remains between
 ourselves and I say it for your government -
 You will have observed that my report to
 the government proves well the Buenos Ayres
 right to the Islands - I wonder why, the Journal
 of Commerce in its translation omitted the
 Report it was the only document that re-
 sulted Mr Baylis arguments in favor of the
 British Claim -

General Alvear is not ready yet, but
 pray do not leave my reclamations out of
 mind that is to say to keep a look out, because
 I shall certainly sooner or later come forward,
 be it with or without Alvear. The claim
 against the Sch^r Antarctic Capt Nash I
 look upon as a very good one and promptly
 to be recovered, provided the vessel appears



Yours with esteem

Signed - L. V.