

56/9
13

Brief Statement of my Claims.

April 1839



1st A claim upon the Govt of the U. S. of N. A. of indemnification for losses and damages sustained in consequence of the destruction of my Colony at the Falkland Islands in December 1831.

The Colony was founded at my expence and by special authorisation of the Govt. of Buenos Ayres, as per extract from the original grant. See N.º 1. at foot of this, and said Settlement having been destroyed without any just cause by Capt Duncan of the U. S. Ship Lexington, as may be seen from the official documents, published on the subject in this ^{city} in the year 1832, the Govt of the U. S. is in justice bound to indemnify me for the losses and damages which have been caused to me by this act.

General Alvar was appointed in October of the year 1832 as minister for the U. S. to claim said indemnifications for me, & at same time to claim some satisfaction for the insult done to the flag. — Domestic dissensions and various obstacles, delayed the departure of the mission until the month of June 1838. He has now arrived in the U. S. — has been well received by that Government, and the next communications from him will probably inform us that the negotiations have commenced.

I make this claim consist in the total cost of the Colony, and deducting therefrom the value of what the same has produced during its existence and also what remained of the Colony; all which may be seen in a General account Current I kept with the Colony, the balance of which shows the value of what has been destroyed. To which have to be added a just estimate of the damages.

I did not make formal abandonment of the remains of my settlement, because they remained in

my possession for a considerable time, even after the British Government took possession of those Islands as may be seen by the letters which Lieut Smith (British Gov^r of the Falklands) and his son wrote me under date of 16th & 17th Dec 1835, by the Admirals letter to said Lieut dated 11th May of same year, and by the annexed extracts from Capt Fitzroy's (of H. B. S. Ship Beagle) official Report to his Gov^t dated 31st March 1833. See Copies Numbers 2, 3, & 85. The Value of said remains as placed to the Credit of my Claim against the U. S. Gov^t as per said Account Current amounts to 4189¹/₄ Spanish Dollars 1¹/₂ %.

Another reason of my not making abandonment of ~~these~~ ^{remains} was because I had men enough on the Island to take care of them, and because their use was the only certain means of subsistence I possessed after the dispersion of my Colony.

2^d A Claim upon the British Government, as I shall explain.

The remains of my settlement consisting of ten stone houses, thirty sod houses, nine large Corrals, sixty seven horses, a quantity of wood for building, several whale boats for sealing, salt, Casks, Seines &c &c &c having afterwards been taken possession of by the British Government it is upon them ^{that} I claim a compensation for the value thereof, as also for being deprived of the further use of the grants of the Land Cattle & privileges I held under the Span^{ish} Gov^t, and to which the British Government had tacitly consented during the long period of twelve years.

As yet the British Government only admits the first part of this Claim, and expresses itself in the instructions given to Admiral Hanou, which

30

the Admiral has transcribed to me under date of 14th Nov^r 1836, in the following words:

"Mr Vernet's utmost claim must be the value of his private property whatever that may have been when it was taken possession of by Lieut Smith"

To the value of said remains must be added the Or hides of Seal Skins which existed at the settlement according to Lieut Smith's letter, valued as per annexed acct N^o. 6. at 700 £ Ldg.

3^d A Claim upon the Govt of Buen Ayres for money advanced in public Service amounting to 7722 Spanish Dollars &c, the principle of which has been admitted by the payment of a similar claim of about 2300 Spanish Dollars which I recovered two years ago. —

4th An old insurance claim in England for bar-
nary of the master



5th Several claims against masters of vessels for depredations committed upon my private property while the settlement was left defenceless. see extracts N^o. 7, unless the U. S. Govt should pay the damages these Captains did me.

6th A Claim against Silas E. Burrows of New York, for nonfulfilment of a Contract.

For the prosecution of all these claims I possess the necessary vouchers, to the inspection of which my friends are welcome, and the first formal step I have taken in regard to these claims has been to appoint Mr James Bromilow my power of Attorney to pursue the claims in England. This gentleman has arrived here, but has not as yet had time to act. see copy of his letter N^o. 8. —

Brief Statement
of Landy Claims
of Mason in April 1839
Admitted for a Loan