

Copied from
the United States
Sage of 29. Oct. 1831

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From the Falkland Islands

Arrived at Stonington Conn: on Monday Schooner Breakwater from the Falkland Islands, whither she went on a sealing voyage. The S. put in at Port Louis, where she was forcibly taken possession of by Vernet the Governor acting as he said under the decree of the Buo Ayres Gov: forbidding all fishing in those seas - A guard of 5 men was put on board, whom the mate M^r. Yorke of this city and 2 seamen contrived to shut below during the night and to retake the Schooner. She then proceeded to a place where some of her men had been left, landed the guard took her own men & came home - All her papers were seized at Port Louis. Schooner Harriet has also been seized under similar circumstances - There are 8 or 10 Schooners and several Ships about which a good deal of anxiety is felt -

The claim of jurisdiction over the Falkland Islands set up by the Government of Buenos Ayres, our government has formally declared it will not recognize -

P.S. Since the above was in type we have been favoured with the following Extract from the Schooners log book -

Journal of Commerce

Harbor log. Thursday August the 18th 1831 - civil time, lying at anchor in the Harbor of Salvador near the head of Elvarville Bay. The Captain and second mate with one boats crew, gone to Port Louis. First part calm clear weather - sent a boat for water filled six barrels. Middle part moderate breeze from the westward. About 3 P.M. saw our boat in which the Captain left, running down with the sail set which prevented our seeing who was in her until she was fairly along side - They proved to be a gang of 10 or 12 men from Port Louis headed by a Captain Brisbane & armed with muskets & pistols - They sprang on deck and with presented arms ordered the crew below - Captⁿ. B. with a pistol in his hand followed me into the Cabin and demanded the Vessel's papers, together with the Captain's my own private journals - And all the firearms belonging to the vessel - He took from the Captⁿ. trunk the Schooners papers and his Journal which was in sight but gave no permission to keep mine till called for - He then ordered the crew to provide themselves with some bedding and proceed in

the boats to an Island up the harbour; and directed me to accompany them. To this I objected and in fact refused unless compelled to go by force - He at length consented that the 3^d Officer (M. Sutton) should go with the crew and I remain on board with the Steward. He subsequently agreed to leave a man belonging forward to look out for the peoples dunnage but without my request. At sunset the crew left the vessel guarded by 5 men in each boat and after landing, then the boats were returned - Capt. Brisbane returned to Port Louis by land leaving 13 or 14 men on board in possession of all the muskets (as he supposed) as well as those brought with them. I learned from the guard left over me that the Sch. Harriet was under seizure at Port Louis & her officers & crew on shore under guard. That the Harriet was to be sent to Buenos Ayres soon for trial and this Sch. also after being taken round to Port Louis - That every thing was done by Capt. Brisbane under orders from Louis Vernet who professes to act by Authority of the government of Buenos Ayres -

August 19th Orders were received from M. Vernet by the guard to have 2 weeks provisions sent up to the crew and the boat taken up the Bay and hauled up - the men to return to Port Louis with the exception of 5 who were to remain on board the Schooner armed - This was done and the day closed with calm weather -

August 20th About midnight having a rifle & 2 muskets I secured the guard on board, 4 in the fore-castle & 1 in the afterhold & sent J. Kennedy & the steward in the boat for the crew on the Island - They returned about 3^o Clock A.M. when we hove up both anchors & got under weigh, the wind light from N. N. W. being directly ahead. We however got out the bay before day light previous to which I landed the guard I had confined - At 10 A.M. cleared away Marville bay - At 12 the South point of the bay bore W by S distant 20 miles by computation being in lat. 51. 22 S and long 57. 52 by Chart - from whence I take my departure -

Certificate furnished by Capt. Brisbane -

This is to certify that I have taken by force of arms from the Mate of the Schooner Breakwater M^o O. York the papers of said vessel viz^t her Regista, Clearance and crew list which were forcibly taken from the Captain Frank & I have also

taken possession of the log book the Journal of Capt. Carew &
by force of arms acting under the orders of Mr. L. Verret I have
taken possession of the Sch^o. Breakwater as she now lies in the
harbor of Salvador East Falkland August 17th 1831.

signed J. Math. Brisbane

[Faint, illegible handwriting]

[Faint handwriting]
A.