

Buenos Ayres 23^d July 1831



While only my personal interests were at stake, I Confess a feeling of false delicacy prevented me from addressing you, fearful of misrepresentations, not from you but from others, on the one hand, and on the other hand trusting that time would bring on a favorable development of my affairs at the Falkland Islands. But now that my substitute Mr. Mathew Brisbane and all my most faithful servants, who had voluntarily chosen to reside under the British flag, have been assassinated at the settlement, and that the consequences thereof are very alarming to the further conservation of the remaining elements necessary for the immediate comfort, and prosperity of future settlements, (unless prompt and effectual measures be taken by me to remedy the evil) I can no longer be silent, and am resolved upon coming forward. I am from various reasons under the impression that I cannot do better than by first writing to you, to obtain your advice, and if possible your assistance, 1st because you have had the goodness to encourage me to correspond with you giving me your address, 2^d because no person has so complete an insight into the nature of the Islands, and of the way they ought to be Colonized as you have, 3^d because you have always professed a friendly feeling towards my own personal welfare, and ex-

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propose much interest for the prosperity of
my settlement. If however I should be so
unfortunate, as to be under a mistake, and
that the subject of the present letter be indiffe-
rent to you, I trust at all events on your
honour, as a gentleman, that the having written
it, will never become detrimental to me, being
entirely confidential. However, unconcerned
of any cause for a change of sentiments, I
flatter myself that you will honour me
with the same friendly feeling as formerly,
and if it is under this impression that I shall
take the liberty of opening my mind fully
to you, hoping that you will contribute as
much as lays in your power to the furtherance
of my views, directly or indirectly.

The extent of this letter may perhaps not
be sufficient to demonstrate satisfactorily
the observations I am going to make; but
with the knowledge which you possess before
hand on the subject, I do not doubt but
what I shall be understood, and that you
will find my ideas correct.

My main object is to further my own personal
interest founded on the general prosperity
of settlements on the Islands. I mean this:
that if Great Britain should maintain possession
of all the Islands I intend to petition for a con-
firmation of my grants, offering to contri-
bute as much as lays in my power to the
immediate good success of new settlements,
which good success as it will tend to give
value to the lands, my interest as landholder
would naturally be forwarded.

It is far from being vain conceit which
makes me think that I may have it, in my

The claims against the U.S. is the amount of Capital employed in the foundation of the Colony, and prospects which may at least amount to as much more. All this is nothing to a Govt., but a great deal to me, and would enable me, to put up better must, on a squib better footing yet than formerly, not only for being more experienced now, but particularly for the efficacy of British protection and aid. I have now come to the main point of my subject, and shall now ask you the following questions: If it is certain or even only probable that the experience which I have had the good fortune to acquire, enables me to be of service to new settlements, so much so as to save the Government or British undertakers infinitely more Capital than what I claim from the U.S. or from the Government, and insure a more prompt good success to such settlements, further; if these my services may be lost by the delays to which negotiations are subject, or even paralyzed in consequence of such negotiations, by compromising me from political motives. (If these premises are admitted) would it not be for the interest or convenience of the British Government to pay me the amount equal to the Damages sustained in my Colony, and make me even the Claim against the U.S. all together? Your opinion in answer to this, will be valuable to me, and would very gratefully acknowledge any steps that you would think proper to take with your Government. But I must beg the greatest reserve to be practised for the present. In this I rely upon your well known honor as a



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Gentlemen, which I am so much the more disposed to
confide in from the friendly sentiments expressed
for my wellfare in the letters I have the honor to
peruse of you. Should my ideas meet a good re-
ception, the sooner put in execution, the better
will I have it in my power to serve, and most faith-
fully so. I flatter myself that you will likewise
trust to my honor and discretion.

The rude and irritat-
ing language of the Americans towards me,
prompted me to state in my report to this Govern-
ment all I knew respecting the B. A. claims
of sovereignty. I really thought that all I said
(even about the existence of a secret treaty, which
Lord Palmerston's answer to Mr. Moreno's protest
now seems not to have existed) was perfectly true,
I therefore entered into bona fide possession and oc-
cupation of the lands of the Island. The British
Consulate had put the seal to all my grants
as far back as 1823. I incurred into much expense
immense labour trouble and anxiety, expecting my
reward from the value which my own settlements would
give to the Island. It has given it a value and
also to the other Islands of the group, by raising
them out of oblivion, in which they might prob-
ably have remained a century longer. I have
taken for years past extensive measures for
bringing about settlements, which for want
of stability in this Government had lain in a
great measure dormant, but may now appear, and
I do not know how far the ramifications of
those measures extend. I am therefore compromised

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apparently of no importance. Any new horses that can be sent, will not be fit for the service of catching wild cattle, and wild horses until they have got accustomed to the nature of the ground, climate and work to doing at least two years stay on the Island. So that without my old horses, a delay of two years at least must be expected before settlers can be made comfortable. No doubt thousands of different plans, plausible in appearance, would be suggested for catching the cattle by other means, but all without effect, causing useless loss of time and money; the truth of this will strike you immediately, from what you have learned in this Country on the matter; tho' to those who have not been in this Country, this may appear incomprehensible, and for want of experience in this and many other parts. Certain new speculators or directors of settlements at the Falklands, will meet many disappointments and losses, (which I will do my best to save them.) The importance of contenting first settlers you are no doubt aware of, as they will otherwise give a bad name to the Islands and not stay a sufficiency of time to accustom them to the Country. Then again discontented men must be allowed to retire, otherwise the discontent becomes general. This was always my system, and it was by that means that I succeeded to get together a contented happy little Colony. I should long since have gone myself to attend to the reestablishment of my concerns at the Falklands, but I could not without exposing myself to the displeasure of that Government, who then would certainly dis-

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from the pretence of supporting my personal
Claims against the U. S. The great delay the
mission of Mr. Algear suffers, hurts me much, but I
cannot abandon those claims upon the conceiving
of my prospects at the Falklands. My claims
against the U. S. are valuable. My selling the
orders of the flag I then served, could not authorize
the Americans to break up my settlement. The
question of Sovereignty does not affect the justice
of my claim for indemnification of my private
Concerns Ruined. The Bot. you know has publicly
avowed his intention to support me and to get me
righted, but as said before, my going to the Falk-
lands would change the case. Besides my affairs
are in so ruinous a state, and all my friends so
much discouraged from pending me further as-
sistance, while my rights of property remain proble-
maticed, that it is quite out of my power to do much
good for myself at the Falklands. I must
regulate, that would never suit my views, who
have always been of a much more elevated nature.
The acquirement of much property and also the
glory I attached to the founding of a flourishing
settlement on an Island which had been aban-
doned by the world as useless, were my motives.
And if all Circumstances are duly considered,
I may hope that it will appear evident that I
wish to found my own well fare upon that of the
Islands, and that this is very practicable if
I am any way favored. I rely much upon the good
foundation of the opinion you gave me several
times, that my individual rights and grants
would be confirmed, I trust herein upon the
generosity of your Government.

instead of one it took five. At same time
 the expenses rose to four times as much than
 what I had calculated upon from the be-
 ginning. Some branches of business which
 I conducted then, independent of the Co-
 lony (namely the Cattle trade &c) produced some
 great profits, but the wants and comforts
 of the Colonists, required the invasion of these
 profits, as quick as they had been acquired,
 hence so few exportations, and my consequent
 difficulty of fulfilling my engagements
 abroad. I was so situated that had I
 withdrawn but the smallest sum from the
 support of the settlement, its dissolution
 would have been the immediate consequence,
 and with it the total loss of all the capital
 and labour employed, and consequently also
 the security of my creditors. My character is
 very dear to me, therefore on this point I am
 particularly anxious to explain myself well,
 in order to efface any erroneous impressions,
 which false appearances may have cast
 upon it. Under such circumstances as I have
 mentioned, when it was evident that the se-
 curity of my creditors rested entirely upon
 the stability of my settlement, was it rea-
 sonable or just to have satisfied any one
 particular creditor to the prejudice of all
 the rest? Certainly not, but these circum-
 stances not having been within the comprehen-
 sion of all, some misrepresentations may at
 times have occurred.



6)
Having thus represented to you my character
towards individuals, in the light that my own
Conscience views it, permit me to do the same
with respect to my character in relation to
the public: I gave up my public employment
long ago. I am not bound by any promise,
or duty, and much less by ties of gratitude,
(so far from this that I have just reason of com-
plaint, which you will easily conceive when
you recollect the little affection there exists
here towards foreigners;) I am therefore now
perfectly independent to do any thing legal
to further my own personal interests. I see under
existing circumstances no wrong whatever in me,
if I contribute my mite to the good success of
Settlements at the Falklands that are of so
general an utility. On the contrary it is a
duty I owe to myself and family and also
to my Creditors. Respecting the latter I
have the pleasure to inform you that they
have almost unanimously made an honorable
arrangement with me, giving me time to pay,
when indemnification is obtained from the
Government. Half of the Claims are especial-
ly reserved in my favor only. As long as my hor-
ses exist on the Island and a few Gauchos
(which in time I shall replace with English
Lads), I shall have it in my power to supply
the immediate wants of new Settlers; that is:
beef, Cows for Dairies, Oxen for tillage and some
native Horses. Therefore to preserve these horses
and to replace them in time by new horses is
an object of the greatest importance; tho'

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power to contribute to the good success of the settlements at the Falklands; but it is the conviction that no person has had the opportunity of acquiring the same experience in that line as I have acquired. I have served a long and expensive apprenticeship, and to judge of what I have seen, I am confident that my presence there, and my advice in many instances would probably save immense sums to future undertakers, to the Government, and would at same time secure a good success, which otherwise would be very precarious, and be fruitful in bad consequences, which a good beginning would certainly avoid. It is not unlikely, but what very unfavorable reports will now reach your Court on the nature of those Islands, with respect to their fitness for Colonization. Reports from men that know little of the Country, and have not got accustomed to the climate, cannot be trusted. This was the case with the reports formerly obtained in England from the officers at Port Egmont, and by the Spanish Government from their officers at Port Soledad. You know however that all those reports were erroneous, and that my settlement has proved to the world that the Falkland Islands, are habitable, and felt under thousands of settlers happy.



You will recollect that during the latter years, the Colony contained upwards of one hundred settlers, who having got accustomed to the climate, and having begun to do well for themselves, were comfortable and happy.

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What may in a great measure corroborate this
assertion, is the circumstance that there never
were disorders of any kind, altho' my Au-
thority was all the time unsupported by any
force whatever. And what is a still more
convincing proof is that of all the Colonists
that have been there, more than $\frac{1}{10}$ of them
have expressed a desire of returning with me
to the settlement. All the difficulties of
first settlement had been got over, and its
increase and prosperity promised to be rapid.
If this was the case with my own limited means
what may not be expected when more powerful
means are directed to the same object, and
when new branches of industry are brought
forward, which have hitherto lain dormant,
for want of sufficient pecuniary resources?
But money though you will easily perceive,
is not of itself sufficient, if not properly
managed, it will all be wasted and the greater
the Capital employed, the dearer would
be the Apprenticeship to those who have not the
necessary experience. That my means even scant,
it will be known here, this obliged me to con-
tract many debts, several of which not ha-
ving been satisfied, may have cast in the
eyes of some, although really with in a
justice, an unfavorable reflection on my
reputation. If I acted wrong in getting
in debt, it was from error of judgment. For
instance, I judged that one year would have
been sufficient to place the establishment
in a state to begin to repay the expences, but

in any direction. But fortunately, my views and
have always been such as cannot be contrary
to established usages & laws.

This subject is too long for a letter, and
I have already intended much upon your time
and repeating my injunction of reserve and the
assurance of my gratitude for a service which
would also command the gratitude of all
those to whom I am unfortunately indebted,
I remain hoping to receive a prompt answer,
with great regard and esteem



Sir
Your most obed^t humble Serv^t
(Signed) Lewis Cornet

Woodbine Parish Esq^r
London.

Carte de Visite
à Mrs W. M. Smith
London

Copy (reserved)

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Plover Bay 23 July 1834

To Woodbine Parish Esq.



Sir,

While my personal interests only were at stake, I confess a feeling of false delicacy prevented me from addressing you, ^{partly} full of misconstructions not from you, but from others, and partly trusting that the would of itself bring about a favorable development of my affairs at the Falkland Islands. But now that my Substituted Mr Matthew Brisbane and all my most faithful servants, who had voluntarily chosen to reside here under the British flag, have been assassinated at my settlement, and that the consequences thereof are very alarming to the further preservation of the remaining elements necessary for the immediate comfort and prosperity of future settlements, you will prompt and effectual measures are taken ~~to~~ to remedy the evil. I can no longer be silent. And once resolved upon coming forward, I am from various reasons under the impression, that I can not do better than lay first writing to you, to obtain your advice, if it possible your assistance: 1st because you have encouraged me to correspond with you, 2^d because no person in England has so complete an insight into the nature of those Islands, and of the best way of colonizing them than what you have, 3^d because you have always expressed much interest for the prosperity of my settlement & a friendly feeling towards my own personal well fare. If however I should be so unfortunate as to have in myself in this respect, and the subject of the present letter be indifferent to you, I trust nevertheless upon your honor as a Gentleman, that my having written you, will never become detrimental to me, being entirely confidential. However unconscious as I feel of any reasonable cause for such a change of Sentiments, I flatter myself with a continuance of the same friendly feelings as you formerly entertained, a

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it is under this impression that I shall proceed freely to open
my mind to you, hoping that you will contribute as much
as lays in your power to the furtherance of my views, either
directly or indirectly.

The extent of this letter may perhaps not be
sufficient to demonstrate, in a satisfactory manner,
the focus point of my views; but the knowledge you
possess already of the subject, will I trust, supply
the deficiency, and that you will find my ideas to be
correct. My main object is, my own personal in-
terest, founded upon the general prosperity of Settle-
ments on the Falkland Islands. I mean this: that
if Great Britain should maintain possession of the Falk-
land, I shall petition for a confirmation of the grants
I shall have this year, offering to contribute as much as lay
in my power to the immediate good success of new settle-
ments, the good success of which tending to enhance the
value of the land, my own interest as land holder would
thereby be benefitted.

It is far from vain conceit, which induces
me to think that I have it in my power to contribute
to the good success of future settlements on those Islands,
it is the conviction that I have acquired important expe-
rience in that line, which no other person has had the
opportunity of acquiring. I have served a long and dear
apprenticeship, which shews me that my presence there and my
advice may probably save immense sums, time, trouble and
misfortunes to future undertakers or to Government, and
insure a good success from the commencement, so that all
may go on smooth & easy ever after.

It is not unlikely but what now very unfavorable
reports will reach your Court on the nature of these Islands,
with respect to their fitness for colonisation. Reports from
men that know little of the country, and have not got accus-
tomed to the climate, can not be relied on. This was the
case with the reports formerly obtained in England from

When the Commander of St. B. ill's
Ship, Eliza took possession of the Island
he offered a passage to any of the ladies
who might wish to return to St. B. the
Commander of the Ship for choosing of ever land.
I did not come, but yet most of my best friends remained
on the Island, but not a man to communicate with me
for many days, until they did so that other lands in view of the
Island, I did not visit the Island.

her officers at Port Egmont, and by the Spanish Govt of
his officers at Port Saldad. You know that all those
reports were erroneous; and that my settlement has
proved since to the world, that the Falklands are inhabitable,
and fit to render thousands of settlers happy. You will
recollect that during the latter years the Island contained
upward of one hundred settlers, who having got accustomed
to the climate, began to do well for themselves, and
below, were comfortable and happy. What may corroborate
this assertion is the fact, that there never were disorders
of any kind during my time, all the my authority was
unsupported by any force whatever. And what is still more
convenient is the fact, that of all the colonists, who have
left the place on account of posterior calamitous events,
3/4th of them, have expressed a desire of returning again
to the settlement. All the difficulties attending
your first settlements had been got over, and its increase
and prosperity promised to be rapid. If this was the case,
with my own limited means, what may not be expected
if more powerfull means are directed to the same object,
and when new branches of industry are brought forward
hitherto laid dormant, for want of ^{a sufficiency of} pecuniary resources.
However, you will easily perceive, that money alone
of itself not sufficient, if not properly managed,
it will all be wasted, and the greater the Capital employed,
the dearer will be the apprenticeship of the inexperienced.

(All has gone on well with me, notwithstanding my
limited means). It is well known here how limited
resources were, yet comparatively speaking much Capital
was employed to raise the settlement to an efficient
state of self existence. This at same time has obliged me
to contract many debts abroad, several of which, not having
been satisfied, may have cast in the eyes of some, the
unjustly, an unfavorable reflection upon my reputation.
If I acted wrong in getting in debt, it was from an error



judgment, which led me to believe that I should be able to full fill my engagements. I judged that one year's time would enable the establishment to begin to repay its expences, but instead of one it took five years, and the expences rose to four times more than what I had calculated ^{at} the beginning. Fortunately, some branches of business, which I conducted there independently of the Colony, (namely the Cattle trade &c.) produced me great profits, which contributed to supply the wants of the settlers, hence so few exportations for my account, and my consequent inability of full filling my engagements abroad. I was so situated that had I withdrawn but the smallest sum from the support of the Colony, its dissolution would have been the immediate consequence, and with it the total loss of all the Capital and labor employed in it, and consequently also the security of my creditors. My character is very dear to me, therefore on this point you must permit me to be explicit, as I am anxious to appear erroneous impressions, which appearances may have cast upon ^{me} under the circumstances, these ^{of which} I have mentioned, where it was evident, that the sole security or guarantee of my creditors rested upon the stability of my settlement, was it reasonable or just to have satisfied one or more creditors to the prejudice of the rest? Certainly not; but these circumstances not being known to all, misrepresentations may at times have occurred.

Having thus represented to you my character towards individuals, in the light that my own conscience views it, permit me to do the same with respect to my character in relation to the public. (My undertaking was ~~entirely~~ purely mercantile from the beginning; my weakness, obliged me to attach myself to some power for protection. This republic had but a few years before ^{the} asserted rights of sovereignty over the Island, ^{wherefore} I bona fide considered her entitled to the sovereignty.)

Capt. quarter of the National Ship, Baltimore was sent by the Gov. in 1820 to take possession of the French lands in Maryland, which he did in due form.

much more elevated nature. The acquirement of a great fortune, partly, but principally, the glory which is attached to the founding a flourishing settlement on an Island which had been abandoned by the world as useless and uninhabitable, were my motives. If all these circumstances, therefore, are considered, I hope it will be evident, that I wished to found my own colony on a spot upon that of the Islands which I had the good fortune to raise into notice, and it seems to me practicable in any way to do so.

referred to the
 the
 his H. M.,
 of taking possession
 Islands.

I rely much upon the foundation of the opinion you gave me several times, that my individual rights and grants would be confirmed ~~by~~ ^{by} I trust however upon the generosity of your Government.

My claim against the U. S. is equal to the amount of capital employed in the foundation of the Colony, and prospects, which ^{might} amount to much more. All this is nothing to a Govt, but a great deal to me, as with the assistance of it I would be enabled to make a better settlement still than the former, not only on account of my more experience, but principally for the efficacy of British protection ~~and~~ ^{and} aid and security.

I have now come to the main point of my subject, which leads me to the following question. If it is certain or even only probable that the experience which I have had the good fortune to acquire enables me to be of service to new settlements, so much so as to save the Government or British Speculators, ~~indefinitely~~ ^{indefinitely} more capital than what I claim from the U. S. or of this Government, and at same time insure a more speedy and good success to such settlements; and if these my services may be lost by the delay to which my claims are liable either from the time that negotiations generally require, or from political compromises or other events; would it not under these circumstances be for the interest or convenience of your Government to pay me the amount I claim, and to me



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of the State of my command at the Island governing
wishes every day, how all my resources set off.

to be seen in the official note paper of the Secretary of the American
Minister, § 3814, page 11 & 12 of the pamphlet published by the Gov. Gen.
of the Falkland Islands.

to prevent the discontent from becoming general
this was always my system, and was the means
by which I succeeded in a few years to get together
a contented happy little Colony, ^{also} by the ex-
ample of endurance and patience held out by my
own family. This example no doubt contributed con-
siderably. For, how could the common settlers com-
plain of want of society & comforts with a good
grace, when a family which had been accustom-
ed to the best society and had enjoyed all the
ease and luxury of life, did not complain.

I would long since have returned to the Island
to re-establish these my Commercial concerns had I
possessed the means of doing it with the desired
effect, neither could I do it without exposing myself
to the displeasure of the Government, who then would
certainly desist from her offers of supporting my private
claims against the United States. The great
the mission of Alvar settlers, hurts me much, but still
I can not abandon these claims, (not that my prospects
at the Falkland) remain involved in doubt. My claims
against the U. S. are valuable to me, and certainly
very just; my fulfilling the orders of the flag I then
served could not authorise the Americans to break up my
settlement, the question of sovereignty over the Island
could not affect my private property, and I have right
to ask an indemnification for its wanton destruction.
This Govt you know has publicly avowed her intention
to endeavour to get me righted, ~~but~~ as said before
my going to the Falkland might change the case.
Besides, my affairs are in so ruinous a state, and all
my friends so much discouraged from rendering me further
assistance, while my rights at the Falkland, remain prob-
lematical, that it is out of my power, to do any good
at the Falkland. I willingly to vegetate there, would
never suit my views, which have always been of a



+ I would not
accept any pay,
and served all
the time without
pay.

and acted accordingly, but always in a mercantile
factor for several years, & until in 1829, I obtained the
appointment of Governor: which appointment I of course
admitted with reluctance; and was prompted to do so merely
from the fears of some break in office being appointed for
the place, and whose Government might become very dis-
turbant to my private concerns. + Once employed, I soon
faithfully obeyed the order of the Government, and the success
of my establishment was the consequence. I have since
given up my Commission; and am not bound by any
promise, tie or duty, ~~but~~ much less by gratitude; for
from it, I have just received ~~of~~ ^{of} complaint, which you
will easily conceive when you recollect the feeling which
exists towards foreigners. I am therefore now perfectly
independent, to do any thing legal, to further my
own personal interests. I see under existing circumstances
no wrong whatever of it to choose to contribute my
mite to the good success of settlements, and the settlements
which are of so general use & utility to the country
round Cape Horn. On the contrary it is a duty which
I owe to my family, and also to my creditors. Respecting
the latter, I have now the pleasure to inform you, that they
have almost unanimously come to an honorable agree-
ment with me, giving me time to pay when indem-
nification is obtained from the United States Government
through the Government. Half the indemnification ob-
tained is for the creditor, the other half for me (My claims
if paid amount to more than double my debts.)
(I have written you a description of ruin of my
Fakland ~~concerning~~ ^{concerning} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~power~~ ^{power} to be
very useful to future settlements, ~~not~~ ^{only} with respect
to experience, but also with respect to what I still have
in the Island. As long as my horses exist there, and a
few gauchos, ~~take~~ ^{in time} I shall ^{in time} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~have~~ ^{have} with english
tools, it will be in my power to supply the immediate
wants of new settlers, which is a help for good, cows for



and to make one waive the claim against the other Govern-
ments altogether?

Your opinion in answer to this will be very
valuable to me at all events, & will serve me as guide. I
would gratefully acknowledge any step that you
think proper to take with your Gov^t on this subject. —
entreat however that the greatest reserve be observed for the
present. I rely herein fully upon your honor, and on
which I am so much the readier to confide, on the
recollection of the friendly sentiments you formerly
entertained towards my welfare, & of which the differ-
ent letters which I possess of you, present me the fairest
tokens.

Should my ideas be approved of, the sooner
they are put in execution, the better will I have it in
my power to serve, and that most faithfully. On
the other hand I flatter myself that you will be kind
to trust to my honor and discretion.

The vice irritating language which some
American agents used against me individually, pro-
tected me to state in my report to Gov^t candidly all
I knew on the subject of the Spanish Queen's
claim of sovereignty over the Island. I rely on account
of piracy, & do not set different from what I did
here. I must however confess that I laid under a great
error respecting the existence of a secret treaty, by which
England is said to have ceded the Island to Spain, Lord
Palmerston's answer on this point is convincing. But ap-
pearances and history naturally lead to the error. It has
therefore, never entered my mind, that the claims had remain-
undisturbed in 1774, wherefore, I entered into a bona fide posses-
sion and occupation of the land, which this Gov^t had granted
me on condition of founding there a colony at my expense,
as also the grant of smaller tracts in 1823. The British
consulated seal affixed to said Grants, lulled me still more
into security, and I had no reason for hesitating, nor did

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merino Sheep

... are the appointed
... of Europe to provide employment for
... of the Remnants of appointments
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nor did I hesitate to enter into great expences, immense personal labour, troubles and anxiety of mind, in order to fill fill my engagement of founding a Colony, from which I expected my reward in the increased value of lands as a natural consequence, and in the honor of having founded a Settlement, where it was thought none could be formed; I consider, that notwithstanding my unusual misfortunes, I have been the means of giving a value to that group of Islands, which they never had before, by raising them out of oblivion, in which they might have remained a century longer. I am also Compromisist in every direction, having taken for years back extensive measures for getting out settlers from England, Holland, & Germany, which for the extreme want of Stability in these Governments, had lain in a great measure dormant, but may now appear, and I do not know how far the ramifications of those measures may extend. Fortunately however all my measures are such as are not at variance with the established laws of your Country. F

I must close in order not to intrude any longer upon your time, and hoping you may succeed in doing me some essential service, which would command my gratitude and that of all those to whom my misfortunes have made me a debtor, I remain with regard and esteem

(Signature) Sir, y. m. o. s.
L. V.

To W. P. Esq
London

