Rio de Janeiro 8 June 1826

M. le Vicomte,

The Schooner Pilar, which arrived in this Harbour on the 5th Instant from Bahia, whither she had been sent by the Commander of the Imperial Brazilian Schooner Emprehendedor, is, as Your Excellency may perhaps be aware, a Vessel under Spanish Colours, detained by His Britannick Majesty's Ship "Redwing" because found at anchor in the Port of Whydah, whilst engaged, (as there was reason to suspect,) in the illicit Slave Trade.

Your Excellency will permit me to observe that this Case, already sufficiently grave in its nature, if the circumstances respecting it that have been stated to me are true, is assuming a still graver character from the harsh proceeding adopted towards the British Prize

To,
His Excellency
The Viconde de Inhambupe
&c &c &c

Prize Master and Crew upon their arrival here.

It is my duty, M. le Vicomte, to render an account of these Acts to my Government, by the very first opportunity; and to forward at the same time, all the information I can collect that may elucidate so very extraordinary an occurence as the Seizure by a Brazilian Vessel of War, of a Vessel detained by and in the possession of a British Ship of War. —

I have therefore to request that Your Excellency will be pleased to acquaint me, for the Information of His Majesty's Government, with the reasons alleged by the Commander of His Imperial Majesty's Schooner, "Emprehendedor" for seizing the Schooner Pilar, and sending her to this Port, and the motives of the Government for treating the British prize Master and Crew as Prisoners; and that Your Excellency will also be pleased

to

to give directions that I may be permitted to have immediate access to the Documents received by His Imperial Majesty's Government touching these points, and that I may be allowed to take, or that there may be furnished to me, official Copies thereof for transmission to England.

And I would further beg to request that Your Excellency will be pleased to give directions that myself, or any person sent by me, may have at all times free Communication with the Beforementioned British Prize Master and Crew, so long as they are kept under Confinement. Such free Communication being for the purpose of making such examinations, and taking such depositions, as the circumstances that may come out in the course of Investigation, and as the ends of justice or reparation, shall require.

In this early stage of the

business

business I think it right to mention, that if these Individuals have committed crime it is no part of my object to shield them from punishment: but that I shall feel it to be my publick Duty to watch the proceedings that are, or may be, instituted against them by the Brazilian Government, and to exercise my own judgment with respect to lending them protection and assistance whilst under prosecution, if a prosecution be commenced against them.

I profit with great pleasure of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the Assurances of the high Respect and Consideration with which I have the honour to be,

M. le Vicomte,

Your Excellency's
most obedient
humble Servant,

H. Chamberlain