Nº 8

Illmo e Exmo Sr

Lord Palmerston, fiel á sua promessa, acaba de
dirigir-me a Nota inclusa por copia, accompanhada
de certas peças, que lhe parecem plenamente
desculpar a atroz conducta do Commander Matson
para com o Mestre e equipagem do brigue brasileiro
=Voador= Á vista de taes documentos diz S. Exª. que
o Governo Britannico se faria autor em vez de réo,
si os aggressores não tivessem já soffrido a pena
que merecerom! Eis a satisfacção que se nos dá
por um attentado que deshonraria a Marinha de
qualquer Nação barbara, e parece que outra não
conseguiremos.

Deos guarde a V. Exª. Londres em 19 de
janeiro de 1831.

Illmo e Exmo Sr. Francisco Carneiro de Campos

Euntaquio Adolfo de Mello Matty

Copia

The undersigned, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with reference to the note which under date of the 10th Instant, he had the honor to address to the Chevalier de Mattos, Charge d'Affaires from His Majesty the Emperor of Brazil, on the subject of the capture of the Voador" has now to fulfill the promise which he then made, to acquaint M. de Mattos with the result of the enquiries which were immediately instituted into the truth of the charges brought forward by M. de Mattos, of sanguinary cruelty against the Captor of the Voador. — The undersigned cannot discharge this duty in a more satisfactory manner than by communicating in extenso to M. de Mattos the answer which has been given to the enquiry made; an answer which, so far from admitting the truth of the charges against M^r^ Matson, reports them so forcibly upon the Master and the crew of the "Voador" as would have rendered it imperative upon the Government of His Majesty to require from the Government of Brazil the exemplary punishment of those offenders, if they had not received

punishment in the conflict itself.

The Undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to repeat to the Chevalier de Mattos the assurances of his distinguished consideration. — The Chevalier de Mattos. — Palmerston — Foreign Office January 14 — 1831. — —

Admiralty Office, 27 December — 1830

Sir — I am return to your letter of the 10th instant enclosing a copy of a note from the Brazilian Chargé d'affaires in this Country complaining of the capture of the Brazilian Slave Vessel "Voador" by His Majesty's Gun Brig "Clinker", under the circumstances therein stated, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the admiralty to transmit to you, for the information of Viscount Palmerston copies of a letter and it enclosure from Commander Matson, who then commanded the Clinker detailing particulars of the affair alluded to. — I am &c. — signed — John Barrow — To Sir George Shee Bart.

Copias

No 6 Notting Hill Terrace Kensington
19 December 1830 — Sir — I have the
honor to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter of the 16th instant, (received by me
only yesterday); being confined to my bed,
I fear I may not be able to do that justice
to the Voador's case that it deserves.
I enclose for the information of my Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty a copy of
my letter to Commodore Collier (also a
statement made to me by one of the Crew
of the "Voador" which will lay before their
Lordships the whole circumstances.
The extraordinary nature of this affair
caused me to be so explicit in my letter
to Commodore Collier, and to obtain a
full explanation and correct account of
the same. — Instantly on the Vessels joining
me I made Mr. Coyde (the Officer in charge
of the Boats) give me a full statement
of it which was taken in writing, (he being
blind). I then closely interrogated Mr.
Sainsbury, also several of the most intelli-
gent men of the Boats Crews, who all not
only corroborated Mr. Coyde's statement,
but bore strongly upon his forbearance

On my arrival at Sierra Leone with the Voador and her Crew, it was my full intention to have tried the Vessel and her Crew in the Vice Admiralty Court, for which purpose examinations, Depositions were taken in Court and the Prisoners committed to Prison to take their Trial.

In a subsequent communication I had with the (then) late Chief Justice (Bannister) who had examined the expositions, he gave me to understand that the lives of some of the Prisoners would be forfeited, particularly two or three who had been badly wounded one name "Francisco," had been sworn to as the man who first commenced firing into the Gig, and who shot Woodley one of the Crew (this man had his right arm amputated at the shoulder Joint). The Chief Justice in a private manner suggested to me, that as these men had suffered severely from their wounds, how far I conceived the ends of Justice had been answered, and whether I expected that Justice which could only be obtained by taking the lives of these mutilated men— Upon this advice I felt it my duty to humanity not to press

the

the Trial of the men. The "Clinker" went to sea upon hasby service, and the men were released from jail for want of a Prosecutor. I should not have trespassed this fact upon their Lordship's, but that from that part of the Note from the Chargé d'affaires of His Majesty the Emperor of Brazil, which states that no notice was taken at the condemnation of the Vessel of the circumstances attending her capture: — It was then by the advice of my Agent, the late Mr. Macauly, that the Vendor's Case was put into the Court of Mixed Commission, in the usual way. Tried and Condemned in that Court for unlawfully Trading, Selling her Cargo, Battering for Slaves in 4° 30° north of the Equator, contrary to her Passport, and in direct violation of the Treaties, under which points many other Vessels had been condemned; that she had been at the Port some weeks, that all her cargo had there been disposed of, and from my information from the natives I had watched her some period, I knew of her being there, I knew that 150 Slaves were at the Factory on the Beach, that the Coppus were on shore, and men

attending

attending the Slaves. I also know that many months after a Vessel came from the Brazils, and demanded the Slaves of the King or Chief — a letter I found on board the Voador / and which I think was put into the Court / from Captain of another Slave Vessel up the Cameroons / a short distance from the Bimbia / which stated that the English man of Wars boats were up that River, had taken one Vessel, and the Brig Climber / the Brig's name was inserted in the Letter / was at anchor in a certain compass bearing / named / about 20 miles. I have also very strong reasons query to suppose from information I afterwards obtained that the Captain of the Voador / Vicente Ferreira Rebello / some years back commanded a Slave Vessel which was captured by H. M. Pheasant, when M.r Castle the midshipman was murdered and the Vessel retaken by her Captain — In no other way could I account for his fighting as it appeared in evidence that the crew obeyed his orders in fighting. The depositions, Examinations &c of Mess.rs Loyde & Jainsbing and some of the Boats crew were taken before

Mr Jones

Mr James the Present King's advocated
at Sierra Leone — I regret that Mr Boyle
is not in England — I left him mate
of H.M.S. Ship Atholl and that Mr Fairns=
bury is dead; but I instantly yesterday
wrote to Portsmouth where I expect some
of the Boats crews are to be found, and
if any I will transmit their names and
ships, that my Lords Commissioners of the
Admiralty may have the depositions of these
men if required. The two Marines in
the Boats and who are named in the
margin / Joseph Roade — Thomas Sulton / Ports=
mouth Division / were conspicuous in the
Vessell, so much so that Thomas Sulton,
shot at the Master when he got on the
Tafrail and was presenting a Pistol at
Andrew Johnson, and I think could fully
prove that the master never had before been
wounded or shot at with a Pistol when first
boarding. — With respect to the conduct of
Mr Boyle the officer in charge of the Boats /
the master was absent in a Prize which
caused the charge of the boats to devolve upon
a mate / Mr Boyle had passed his examin=
nation, he was not a youth, but an officer
who

who had seen much Service and bears very high testimonials from Capt.n Shads under whom he served in the Boats during the whole of the Burmese War; His orders, and my general orders were very strong upon the point of forbearance, and never to risk a man's life, or even a quarrel, but rather give up the boarding (when no slaves). In fact these orders were constantly inculcated upon not only officers but the men, and I felt perfectly satisfied that as long as forbearance could be shewn it was, and not until self de= fence required did he commence an attack.— The boats had been pulling all the day, the men were much fagged, and they intended to have rested for the night on board the Vessel. I have to request you will be pleased to lay before my Lords Comm.rs of the Admiralty the above state= ments and enclosed letter, trusting the same will meet their Lordship's approba= tion, and soliciting that any error or impropriety in the language, or delay in answering may be attributed to my illness. I have &.c signed= Geo Will.m Madison= Lieu.t=

Commander Royal Navy = = to the
John Barrow Esq^r + + Admiralty
Postscript = All Slave dealers use false
names for the different Ports which
caused the Bimbia to be named Olenby
in the roter —

December 20th

I have waited and just received information
that the two men named in the margin
Wm Shillito. (H.M.S. Sapphire) James Fellowes
Hen. S. Tyne (who were in the Boats, both
intelligent men, and I think Williams
Shillito was Coswain of the Cutter are at
Portsmouth and on board the Ships named
agont their names = I am Sir signed
G. W Matson = =

H. M's Gun Brig Clinker off the
Cameroons River 21st August 1828.

Sir = I have the honor to report to you,
that, in furtherance of your orders of the 24th
July, the Boats of H. M's Gun Brig under
my command (being a Cutter, twelve men,
and a gig with six making in all eighteen,
including

including Officers/ in charge of Mr. William
Coyde, Inaks, passed through the Bimbia
Creek to the Back of Bimbia Island, at
about 5 P. M. on the 18th Instant, where I had
information a Vessel was lying collecting
Slaves, which Vessel/ a Spanish/ on observ=
ving the Boats fired a shot wide of them, and
hoisted Brazilian colors— They pulled up to
the Vessel with their colors flying in both Boats.—
Mr. Coyde in the Cutter on approaching
the larboard/ being the nearest quarter/ obser=
ved the Crew of the Vessel to be all under arms,
he spoke to them in English not to fire, that
the Boats were the boats of an English man
of War and intended no harm— No notice
was taken of this but the Cutter went along=
side without molestation, so much so that
on the hook rope/ painter/ being thrown up,
the Captain of the Vessel caught it and gave
it to one of his Crew to make fast— Mr. Coyde
and his men jumped upon deck without
interception: in the meantime Mr. Lainsbury
in the Gig had reached the starboard gangway
at which instant two muskets or Pistol shots
were fired at Mr. Lainsbury and the Coxswain,
both missing, the Gig's Crew instantly got
upon

upon deck.— Mr. Coyle repeatedly called to the Captain and the Vessel's Crew not to fire, that they were English— and addressed the Captain who offered Mr. Coyle his hand, and said "Viva l'anglaise" (no fight).— A Parley for a moment was held, which was stopped by the Vessels Crew, (part of which had collected about the main Hatchway) firing again.— No hostilities on the part of Mr. Coyle's men had yet commenced, but he repeatedly desired the Captain to order his men to lay down their arms, the Boats were English.— Mr. Twinsbury had scarcely reached the deck when a man presented a pistol and shot at his head, the ball of which passed through his hat and shot the man. Nearly at the same instant Philip Woodley (one of the gigs Crew) fell from a musket shot fired by a man before the main Hatchway— Mr. Coyle finding a determined attack from the Vessels Crew, ordered his men to fire and charge forward, where the whole had collected, which order was instantly and gallantly obeyed.— The Captain of the Vessel and two or three of his Crew were aft who the instant they saw their Crew recommence the attack from forward

forward, did so with fire arms, at the mo-
ment Mr. Coyde's men turned round to
face the fire from forward, as if a premeditated
and treacherous plan to have our men in,
and attack them in the rear, had been
formed. Two or three of Mr. Coyde's men
turned and all the after end of the vessel
were slain with the cutlass but the Captain,
who stood on the Shudder head, offered his sword
to Andrew Johnson (S) with his left hand, en-
dicing him off his guard, presented a pistol
at his head which flashed; he instantly
jumped on the Taffrail and in the act of
firing another Pistol was shot, fell overboard
and sunk. — Mr. Coyde and his Crew gained
complete possession of the vessel after a few minu-
tes desperate Cutlass fighting — secured 13 Prisoners,
seven of whom were badly wounded. The Vessel
was found to be armed with only one long
nine pounder on a Pivot, four twelve pounder
Carronades, and two six pounder Carraje Guns,
making seven Guns all full charged and
primed. A great number of muskets and
Pistols besides what the men had in use,
laying ready loaded, most of which had two
Balls, and nearly all the Cartridges found had

two

two balls. The Papers now in my
possession prove the Vessel to be the "Voador"
105 Tons — master Roll — 28 men comman=
ded by Vicente Ferreira Rebello, belonging
to Rio de Janeiro, with a Passaport to trade
for Slaves at Cabinda and Rio Zaire, ha=
ving now but little cargo on board viz
Cloths, arms and aguardente, and from
information had 150 Slaves brought on shore
at Bimbias — I find that four of the pri=
soners speak English, two of which very good
and the Captain understood English a little
and in saying "Viva l'anglaise" (no fight)
he made use of the word fight. — That no
excuse can be shewn for his treacherous
fighting in not understanding that the
Boats were English; the Captain and Crew
also knew that some days previous an
English man of War's Boat had taken a
Brig with Slaves on board in the Camerons
River. — Mr Coyde reports to me that the
conduct of all his men was such as to be
highly creditable as British Seamen, in
their steady and cool firmness at receiving
the repeated fire of this treacherous enemy
without returning it till ordered to the charge,
when

when the effects ensured the victory in a few minutes. — Mr. Coyde speaks more particularly of the gallant and zealous conduct of his assistant Mr. Saunsbury, not only during the fight, but in securing the Prisoners, keeping the Vessel in a state of defence and bringing into the offing. To the Gunner, Mr. Coyde being severely wounded and blind with both eyes.

I have the honor to return a list of Wounded and regret to state that Philip Woodley died of his Wounds, and respectfully solicit you will be pleased to lay before H. R. H. the Lord High Admiral the gallant & meritorious conduct of the Officer in charge of the Boats, to whole cool and steady proceedings in endeavouring to prevent bloodshed and determined gallant mode of charging when no alternative was left. — I am much indebted for not having to return a large list of killed and wounded, and whose conduct during two years under my command (with much boating service) has always met my greatest approbation and confidence.

I have &c. — Signed G. W. Matson — Lieut. & Commander — To the Commodore Collier C. B. &c. —

List

List of Wounded — Mr. Coyde (made severely) — Mr. Lounsbury — slightly — P. Woodley (S) — mortally. — L. Tackett (S.) severely. — S. Morton (S.) slightly — W. Thilleto (S.) slightly —

Statement made by one of the crew of the "Voador"

I Joen Baptista voluntarily depoeth that on the 18th Inst. he was a seaman or lork on board the Brig Schooner Voador, laying at anchor at the back of Bimbia Island; that about 5 oclock or past in the afternoon two Boats were seen coming round a point, the Captain of the Vessel was on shore at Bimbia — a Genoese Flag was hoisted on board the Voador as a signal to the Captain; On the Captain's coming on board he called to his crew to take the arms out, fired a Gun and hoisted Brazilian Colours — The deponent saw the English Colours flying in the Boats; he told the Captain that was the English Flag; he told the deponent not to speak English when the boats came alongside; the Captain said

said to his Crew, some hands go to the
Starboard and some to the Larboard—
When the Boats Crew got on deck he had
heard the Englishmen say, lay down your
arms, and very soon after he say Fran-
cisco fire from the long Gun in midships,
and he saw an Englishman fall— The
deponent further states, that on the same
day, before the boats came on board, he
heard the Captain say, (alluding to
keeping Slaves on board) that the English
man of Wars boats might come and
find them on board; He further deposeth
that he saw no firing or fighting on the
part of the English until after the English-
man fell; he heard the English Officer say
when he came alongside We are English-
no fight— no fight, and afterwards when
he got on board he heard him say to the
Captain. We are English, do not fight and
the Englishman said to the Crew, put your
arms down,— We are English— The mark
of Joen X Baptista— Stated in the
presence of and signed by his mark,
Wednesday 27th August 1828— on
board the Cleister.— signed G. W Smalton

Lieut

Lieut. & Commander — W. Loyall —
mate — Joel Hitchings — Gunners
mate

Cata' cantarone
Cantapino Adolfo de Mello Matty