Respd: em 27 de Setembro

Most Excellent & Illustrious Sir

The very prompt manner in which my recognition as Consul of The United States of America, by His Royal Highness The Prince Regent, was communicated to me, and the polite reception with which I was honoured by your Excellency, have led me to presume that I shall not be considered as forcing myself too hastily upon your attention, in making to you the following communication.

The Portuguese Consuls and Vice Consuls in The United States have heretofore been authorized to require the owners of every american vessel bound to Portugal or her De

pendencies, to procure from them certificates
of ownership to the manifest of the cargo, without
which it has been understood, that no vessel
would be freely admitted into the said ports.
When the declaration of Independence by Brazil
shall have become known in North America,
it is highly probable that the said Consuls and
Vice Consuls, will refuse their certificates to ves-
sels bound hither, in consequence of which the
American Merchants will be apprehensive
that some interruptions may take place in
their voyages, and the consequence will be a
temporary suspension of the direct trade between
the United States and Brazil. I would take the
liberty of calling your Excellency's attention to
this subject, and of suggesting, whether it would
not be productive of benefit to both nations,
without the possibility of proving disadvanta
geous to either, if American vessels should be
freely allowed to enter the ports of Brazil, without
the certificates of Portuguese Consuls, and whether
cleared out for the ports of Brazil or of any other
nation, with the liberty of disposing of the whole

or of such parts of their cargoes upon paying the lawful duties, as they might find to be their interest. Rio de Janeiro, from its local position and its safe and capacious harbour, is destined to be the most important commercial port in South America and nothing is required but a free permission to enter for information and to trade as far as the admitted parties may find it advantageous, to render it an intermediate depot, at which exchanges of the productions of the Northern and Southern hemispheres would be made to a great extent.

To a Gentleman so well acquainted with the true principles of political economy as your Excellency, it would be obtrusive in me to attempt to point out the benefits likely to result to Brazil from a system of free trade and unobstructed intercourse with foreign nations, and I should not have taken the liberty to have made these remarks, had they not been so intimately connected with the subject, which was the immediate occasion of this note.

With sentiments of the most distin-

tinguished regard and Respect

I have the honour to be

your Excellency's

Most Obliged,

And Humble

Servant

Condy Raguet

Consul of U. S.

Rio de Janeiro. Sept. 25. 182.

To His Excellency

Jose Bonifacio de Andrada e Silva

Counsellor of State, and

Minister and Secretary

of State for Home

and Foreign Affairs

&c &c &c &c