Rio Janeiro 16 de Janr 1828

Most Excellent Sir,

By a Communication just received from Mr. Bond, acting Consul of the United States of America, at Monte Video, I am informed, that by a late Order, foreign Vessels are not permitted to depart from the Ports of that Province, without bonds being previously given, conditioned for their not entering any of the Ports of Buenos Ayres.-

A similar order was given some months past, but being immediately repealed, I supposed that the Government of His Imperial Majesty, had become fully satisfied of its injustice, and illegality, and felicitated myself, that it would never become my duty, to protest against its revival.-

The right of every Government to establish Laws for its own dominions, is not contested, and however oppressive and inhospitable those laws may be, foreigners who voluntarily place themselves within their Sphere, have no just ground for complaint.-

But Sir, the operation of the Order in question, is not confined to the domain of the enacting Power. Its effect is to extend the Authority of Brazil, to foreign Neutral Vessels, upon the high-Seas, a right which has been seldom assumed, and never yet admitted.-

The United States, scrupulously observant of the utmost good faith towards every friendly Power, will not sustain their citizens, in the Violation of any right of Brazil; And on the other hand, equally tenacious of their own dignity and rights, will not permit any foreign Power, to assume unjustifiable Authority over their Citizens, or their property, by allowing it, to prescribe the extent and character of their Commerce with other Nations, and to dictate the terms upon which they are to navigate-

the Ocean.-

"The United States as a Sovereign and independent Power, claim the right to use the Ocean, which is the Common and acknowledged highway of Nations, for the purposes of trade-por-
-ting, in their own Vessels, the products of their own soil and the acquisitions of their own industry, to a Market in the Ports of friendly Nations, and to bring home, in return, such articles as their necessities or convenience may require, always regarding the rights of belligirents, as defined by the established Laws of Nations".-

Many American Vessels, bound to this Port, to the United States, and elsewhere, are now detained at Monte Video; Among other cases I will call Your Excellency's attention to one of peculiar hardship; The American Brig Pioneer of Salem, was captured during the latter part of the year 1826, by His Imperial Majesty's Squadron, for an alledged attempt to violate the Blockade, after a detention of twelve months she was acquitted, her Cargo was sold, and delivered at Monte Video, and a return Cargo of the produce of the Country taken on-board, to be delivered at New York, her Clearance was requested, twenty four hours before the promulgation of the order, for the demand of bonds, notwithstanding which, and the fact of her Cargo being the produce of the Country, (which she certainly could not be suspected of intending to take to a Buenos Ayrean Market) she was refused permission to depart.-

I feel Sir, that my duty imperiously commands me, to protest, in the most solemn

Manner against the application of this Order to American Vessels; I protest against it, as a system violating the Sovereignty of other Nations, confounding the innocent with the guilty, and obstructing the Channels of lawful Commerce.-

Your Excellency will readily conceive the difficulty which must be encountered in obtaining Security, in a foreign land; The Continuation of the System must give rise to the detention of many American Vessels, and create large and just claims of demurrage against the Government of Brazil, which the Government of the United States will feel itself bound to sustain.-

I beg Your Excellency to accept the assurance of my high regard and distinguished consideration.

Rio de Janeiro Jany 15th 1828

Wm. H. Wright
Consul
U. S. A.

To His Excellency
The Marquis of Aracaty
Counsellor, Minister, and
Secretary of State
For Foreign Affairs
&c. &c. &c.