Repeated representations having been made
to the Undersigned His Britannic Majesty's
Chargé d'Affaires respecting the unusual
detention of several British Merchant-
Vessels, about to quit this Port, by the
Brazilian Officers on duty at the Port of
Santa Cruz, he feels it to be his duty to
bring the subject before His Excellency
Lūrs Jos.o C. de Campos, Minister and Secretary
of State for foreign Affairs, and he has
therefore the honor to state to His Exc.y the
Circumstances under which these
Vessels have been detained. —

On the 21.st Instant the
British

His Excellency
Lūrs Jos.o C. de Campos
&c &c &c

British brig Amity, after being duly
cleared at the Custom-House, and
visited, according to established
usage, by the guard boat, proceeded
to Sea at 4 o'clock the same evening
(the wind not proving favorable
for) and when outside of the
Bar Fort Santa Cruz was fired at twice from
the Fort, the last time with shot, and
obliged to return into Port and the
Master fined 10$000 Rs on the plea
that the Vessel had not fulfilled
the regulations of the Port.

Yesterday morning the
British Ship "Harmony" was likewise
compelled

compelled under threat of being
fired at, to return into Port, altho' the
Vessel had passed through all the
formalities and Regulations required
by the Brazilian Authorities.

These practices on the part
of the officers at the Port, whether
originating in error or neglect (which
the Undersigned is willing to believe)
cannot, the Undersigned feels assured,
fail of being considered by this Govt
as extremely reprehensible, not only
as causing improper obstructions to
the prosecution of legitimate Commerce,
but likewise, as incurring the risk of
known

serious accidents.

Previous to the occurrence

above referred to H. M.'s Schooner "Adelaide"

was also fired at and prevented going

to Sea. In this case, however, the

Brazilian officer on duty apologized for

the mistake, and the Undersigned

does not prefer any complaint upon

this point, having merely made mention

of the circumstance, as contributing an

additional motive for calling the

attention of the Imperial Government to

the subject.

Relying upon the

disposition uniformly evinced by

His

His Excellency's Government, to afford
all lawful facilities to foreign
Commerce, the Undersigned has to
request that His Exy. will be pleased to
cause such explicit orders to be
issued, as may prevent the occurrence
of the practices complained of.

The Undersigned has the honor
to renew to His Excellency the assurance
of His highest Consideration and
Esteem. -

Arthur Aston

Rio de Janeiro
26. Febr. 1831.