The Undersigned, His Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires was already prepared to address an official Representation to His Excellency Señor F.co C. de Campos, Minister Secretary of State for foreign Affairs, for the purpose of strongly demonstrating against the violent and improper proceeding which took place this morning, on the part of some Brazilian Officers, in an armed boat, in forcibly taking possession of one of the boats belonging to His Majesty's Squadron in this harbour, and of insulting and maltreating the officer on duty in the most unwarrantable manner, - when he had the honor to receive His Excellency's Note, in which a complaint is preferred against that very British officer

His Excellency
Señor F.co Carneiro de Campos
&c &c &c

officer, who was, in fact, the injured
Party.

The details of this occurrence are
the following:—

Between the hours of 9 and 10.
this morning an officer belonging to
His Majesty's Ship Samarang, was
proceeding on duty, in a four oared
boat, when, near the Island of
Villagagnon, a large boat, belonging
to the Imperial Government, ran a-
board of the British boat, and very
considerably injured her. — The
British officer conceiving that this
behaviour may proceeding could not
possibly be intentional, approached
the Brazilian boat, for the purpose
of

of requesting that explanation to which
he felt himself justly entitled.—
The British Officer was received with
aggravating and insulting language—
He then desired the name of the
Brazilian Officer and the Department
to which the boat belonged, in order
that he might report the circumstance
to the British commanding Officer;
but all information was refused.
In the mean time a large Brazilian
boat, armed, put off from the
Island of Villegagnon, and
boarded the British Boat with
drawn Cutlasses, violently dragged
the British Officer, threatened him
with their weapons, tore his uniform
and

and otherwise maltreated him;
and, finally, conveyed the Officer and
Boat's crew prisoners towards the
City.

Such a proceeding could not
have unobserved by the commanding
Officer of the British Squadron, who,
being unable to account for so
unexpected and improper an act,
which, if could scarcely be supposed,
to have been perpetrated by the
authority of Officers in the Imperial
Service, considered it to be his duty
to cause boats to be despatched for
the purpose of affording that
protection which the circumstances
of the case appeared to justify.

Such are the facts of

This

this case, and the intention of an interference went no further than to rescue British Subjects in His Majesty's service, out of the hands of what had much the appearance of being a lawless party.

The undersigned sincerely regrets that such a misunderstanding between the Subjects of the two Nations should have taken place; but he is bound to declare, that it was not provoked by the British officer, but is to be solely attributed to the unjustifiable conduct of the officers and Crews of the Brazilian boats before mentioned. Supposing even that the British officer was the aggressor (which

which is not the case) the becoming
and legal mode of proceeding would
have been, to have preferred a
Complaint against him in the
proper Quarter —

The forcible seizure and
Maltreatment of the Officer, can
surely, not, under any circumstances,
be justified —

The Undersigned will
undertake to affirm that his
Excellency has never found any
disposition on the part of the British
Authorities in Brazil to refuse to
accord full investigation and
reparation for any injury or oppression
supposed to have been sustained
by

by the subjects of this Empire. —

The Undersigned must however,
observe that, notwithstanding that the
British Authorities are animated
with a most excited and anxious
desire to cultivate and maintain
the friendly relations at present
subsisting between the two Countries,
they cannot hold themselves
responsible for the consequences
ensuing from attacks upon the persons
of the Envoy's Officers, similar to the
aggravated one, of which the Undersigned has
now to complain.

The Undersigned fully
participates in the opinion of his
Excellency

Excellency as to the possible unpleasant
impression which this occurrence
may produce, and he is therefore
the more strongly impressed with
the necessity of urgently requesting his
Excellency to cause such orders to be
issued as may prevent the
repetition of similar conduct on the
part of Officers in the Brazilian
Service. His Excellency may be
assured that the British Commanding
Officer will continue to act as
heretofore, the observance of strict
propriety and good order amongst
the Officers and Men of the Naval
Squadron under his Command,

I am

in their intercourse with the Inhabitants of this City. —

The Undersigned has the honor Transmit to His Excellency the assurances of his highest esteem and consideration. —

Arthur Aston

Rio de Janeiro
30th September 1831