Rio de Janeiro 12th September 1826

Monsieur le Vicomte,

A Portuguese Ship arrived in this Harbour yesterday, bringing a Cargo of Slaves; and the Diarios of this day state, that she is called the "Orfeo" from Ambriz, with Seven hundred and Eight Negroes on board; eleven having died during the Passage; and that she is consigned to the Merchant, João Alves da Silva Porto.

I lose not a moment in bringing these circumstances before Your Excellency, in the hope that the necessary enquiries will be immediately gone into, and measures taken to enforce the Law against the Parties concerned: if, as it is apprehended must be the case, the "Orfeo" has infringed the existing Treaty and Convention for the repression of the Slave

To,
His Excellency
The Viscon de de Inhambupe
&c — &c — &c.

Slave Trade.

By the Establishment and Recognition of the Independence of Brazil, Portugal and Brazil are become to all intents and purposes, quoad each other, Foreign States; and Portugal is bound by existing engagements with Great Britain, (See Additional Convention of London of 1817 Art. 1. Sec. 4) not to allow Portuguese Vessels to carry Slaves to any Port not in the Dominions of his Most Faithful Majesty. Which makes it most improbable that the "Orfeo" can be provided with a Passport from the Government of Portugal to load Slaves for Rio de Janeiro.

That she can be provided with a Passport from His Imperial Brazilian Majesty's Government, to carry on the Trade between the African Possessions of Portugal and Rio, is presumed to be still less likely. And we all know that no Governor of any of the Portuguese African Colonies has the

power

power to grant any such Passport.

Wherefore it appears reasonable to conclude that the "Orfeo" has illegally engaged in this Traffick.

And I take the liberty to request the favour of Your Excellency to order the result of the beforementioned Enquiries to be communicated to me, and that I may be permitted to see the original Documents under which this Vessel sails, and to be furnished with Copies of them for the information of my Government.

I have much pleasure in renewing to Your Excellency the assurances of high Respect and Consideration with which I have the honour to be,

Monsieur le Vicomte,

Your Excellency's
most obedient
humble Servant,

H Chamberlain