Information having been received by the Undersigned, His Britannick Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, from Bahia, respecting certain Vessels which, after having obtained Passports for a licit trade to the Coast of Africa, have nevertheless not left that Port, and Circumstances having transpired which afford strong ground for suspicion that these Passports have been procured for illegal purposes, connected with the African Slave-trade, – it becomes the duty of the Undersigned to call the attention of the Imperial Govt to the subject.

The singularity of the fact of these vessels, amounting to 28 in number, remaining in Harbour many months after having been cleared out, ostensibly for

His Excellency
Senhor Miguel Calmon du Pin e Almeida

&c &c &c

for the purpose of trading in produce to the Coast of Africa, induced His Majesty's Consul at Bahia to represent the case to the President; it appears however, that His Excellency has not been able to give any satisfactory explanation. —

From the inclosed list, it will be seen, that some of the above Vessels received Passports so far back as the 18th. of last July, whilst two of the Schooner Gallega, and the Brig Furão have obtained the requisite permission so late as the 28th. November and 12th. December, and consequently subsequent to the period fixed by the Imperial Decree for the issuing of Passports. —

Sir

It is notorious, that it has long been the practice of the Brazilian Merchants engaged in the Slave-trade at Bahia, to procure two Passports for every Vessel sent to the Coast of Africa; one, containing a license to traffick in Slaves, designating the real name of the Ship, and the other, purporting to trade in produce only, but under another name, and there are sufficient reasons for believing that the Passports for the Vessels mentioned in this Note, have been obtained under similarly false pretexts, and with fraudulent intentions

28.

No. 2.

In corroboration of the above Statement, the Undersigned begs leave to inclose a list of Ships which have lately left Bahia, their original names having been changed.

H

It has been stated by the Intendant of Marine and the Chief Officer of the Customs at Bahia, that these 28 Vessels detained in Port, had been properly examined and duly licensed; but these assurances ought rather to be considered as additional motives for a strict investigation on the part of the Imperial Government, than as affording a satisfactory elucidation of the suspicious circumstances attached to them. —

The Undersigned has therefore to request His Excellency Senhor Miguel Calmon du Pin e Almeida, Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will be pleased to cause the necessary steps to be

forthwith

forthwith taken to bring the facts detailed in this Note under a due course of investigation, in order that any fraudulent attempt to carry on an illicit commerce in Slaves may be frustrated, and the bad consequences which must necessarily ensue therefrom be timely averted. —

The Undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew to His Excellency Senhor Salmon da Pina e Almeida the assurances of his highest consideration and esteem. —

Arthur Aston

Rio de Janeiro.
March 3d 1830.

A list of Vessels, which having obtained Passports for a licit Trade to Africa, have never sailed from this Port.

Date of Despatch		Description	Name of Vessel	Name of Master
1829 July	18	Schooner	Bomfim	João Francisco dos Santos
"	"	Brig	Leal Portuense	Francisco Theodoro
"	"	Schooner	Maria Roza	Izidoro Manoel
"	22	Barque	Felicidade	José Barbosa Nunes
"	24	Schooner	Providencia	João da Silveira Villarboas
"	30	~~Schooner~~	Carlota	José Francisco Camerão
"	31	Brig.	Africano	Manoel Antonio Neto
August	11	Ship	Felicidade	Jacintho Pereira Carneiro
"	12	Schooner	Barbosa	José Claudio dos Santos
"	"	"	Aurelia	Ignacio Manoel d'Oliveira
"	18	Brig	Aguia	Antonio Vieira Velasco
"	"	Schooner	Aurelia	José Rodrigues Pereira
"	21	"	Triumphinho	Pedro José
"	25	Brig	Campeiro	Gaspar Dupuy
September	5	Schooner	Francisca	Honorio Machado d'Andrade
"	"	"	Irahira	Mano el Pereira dos Santos
"	19	"	Carolina	João dos Santos
October	1	"	Providencia	José dos Reys
"	8	"	Amazona	Joaquim Luiz da Cruz
"	10	"	Nova Providencia	Lourenço Francisco Alexo
"	20	"	Maria Thereza 2da	José Rabello
"	21	"	Independencia	Francisco Lopes
"	30	B. Schooner	Triumpho	Simão José Pereira
November	3	Patasca	Feliz	Bernardo José
"	6	Schooner	Heroina	José Maria dos Santos
"	13	"	Victoria	Sebastião Teixeira Cavalcº
"	20	"	Galega	José Martins
"				
December	12	Brig	Furaõ	Francisco Theodoro Araujo

Bahia 7th January 1830.

List of Vessels which have left the Port of Bahia, their original names having been changed.

Description of Vessel.	original name.		left Bahia under following names.
Brig.	"Fortuna" N.º 422.	" —	"Esperanca." —
Schooner.	"S. Antonio N.º 431.	" —	"Rozalia." —
do. —	"Providencia N.º 585.	" —	"Deligencia —
do. —	"Leal Portuense N.º 450.	" —	"Furão." —
do. —	"Maria Roza N.º 451.	" —	"Baiana" —