13 — Août

The undersigned Chargé d'affaires of the United States has the honor to address his Exc.y the Marquess of Aracaty, to communicate the substance of two letters he has received from Commodore Biddle, & the Consul Mr Wright relative to certain American seamen.

Commodore Biddle writes, that it is generally believed, there are some American seamen on board the prison ships in this harbour who have been captured on board vessels belonging to Buenos Ayres. That altho' these men have forfeited all claim to the protection of their country, by entering into the service of a State at war with a nation, with which their own is at peace, yet he cannot help communicating the unfortunate of these individuals, who with the heedlessness common to sailors, are enticed to enter a foreign service

without considering the consequences.
He thinks that the government of Brazil
will not be disposed to judge them too
harshly, & will consider it as some equi-
valent for their conduct, that so many
American seamen are serving in the
Imperial navy; & that if your Exc.y can
be assured that these men will be carried
home, & thus prevented from returning
to the service of Buenos Ayres, that the
advantage of being relieved from the
expence of supporting them, & the doing
an act of kindness, which will be appre-
ciated by the government of the United
States, will induce your Exc.y to give
orders that an enquiry should be made,
& if there be any American seamen in
confinement, that they should be sent on
board the frigate Macedonian. Commo-
dore Biddle authorizes the undersigned
to pledge his word, that any men thus
delivered to him, shall not be allowed to
leave his ship until her arrival in the
United States.

The letter of the Consul is confined to the case of a single sailor, who has now been in prison four months. It appears that this man is in a state of absolute insanity, which lasted many days, arising from excessive drinking fired a pistol at a sailor landlord, who he thought had defrauded him, & gave him a slight wound. No trial has been had: the police on application refer to the judge & the judge refers back to the police. Perhaps the man by his imprisonment has been sufficiently punished for the offence committed when his mind was in an unsound state. The object of the police will be answered, if this person can be taken away: & the undersigned hopes as an act of humanity that your Exc^y will also give directions that he should be sent on board the frigate Macedonian, in which case he will be received on board, & will be responsable that he does not again land here.

The undersigned wishes
to inform your Exc.y that the Mace-
donian will sail in a few days for
the United States, any despatches sent
by her will be safely forwarded. With
this occasion he repeats to the Marquess
of Aracaty the assurances of his
very high respect & esteem

W. Tudor.

Legation of the U. S. A.
Rio de Janeiro Aug.t 13th 1828.