Copy
No 22

No 26

Montevideo 26th September
1828

Sir— The destruction of an English Brig called the Lord Eldon by the Brazilian Squadron on the bar of the Salado on the 30th ultimo, induced me to seek an explanation from the Brazilian Admiral/ copy of my letter and his reply I herewith enclose/ as to the motive of burning a neutral Vessel trading with a belligerent port not blockaded.

In his reply I beg to call your attention to his own admission that the Salado has not been regularly blockaded, nor have any Vessels been appointed for that service.

The subterfuge of the Salado being a rivulet, and not a regular port, is not only immaterial, but it is untrue: the Salado is a Port with a Custom house, and admits Vessels, at high water drawing 12 to 14 feet, and if there be other Ports of a similiar character in the river, which, taken collectively, were beyond the compass or power of the Brazilian Squadron to blockade, and that Vessel were only/ as the Admiral says/ enabled to be spared now and then to run a long the coast; it only proves that neutral commerce ought not to be sacrificed to such loose practices of belligerent Rights.

The Emperor of Brazil certainly ord/ as the Admiral says/ not only Declare

all the Ports in the River Plate blockaded, but all the Ports in the Republick of Buenos Ayres; but as Vessels have never been placed to support this Imperial Resolution, it leaves the blockade to be effective only where it is maintained by actual force; this has been the case as far as regards Buenos Ayres, and Ensenada, but at no other Port, or point, has it ever been pretended a blockade to exist; on the contrary, the Admiral himself, last January, defined the line of blockade to be from Point Piedras to Point Jesus Maria, declaring at the same time, that all Vessels met above that line of demarkation, and who might attempt to elude any cruiser, should be deemed guilty of an intention to violate the blockade.

In submitting this case to you for the information of His Majesty's Government, I beg to state, that the greater part of the Brazilian Admiral's assertions are untrue: the Vessel did not refuse any visit, she did not make sail and run under the protection of any battery, because she had grounded on the bar on the 29th and was, when destroyed, taking out cargo to lighten her in order to get her afloat

I inclose a Buenos Ayres news paper which corroborates the facts stated to me by the master and crew, which entirely destroy the alligations of the Brasilian

Admiral: I have the honor to be &c
(signed) Thomas Samuel Wood. = To John
Bidwell Esqr, Foreign Office

No 27

Extract of a declaration and Protest sworn before Woodbine Parish Esqr His Britannick Majesty's Consul General at Buenos Ayres by John Cooper, Master of the British Brig - Lord Eldon

The British Brig Lord Eldon, being chartered for the purpose of loading a Cargo of Yerba, and other produce at Paranaguá for Valparaizo, arrived at Paranaguá on the 27 of July and there loaded a Cargo of Yerba de Matti, Boards, and Charcoal - that whilst lying in the aforesaid Port, accounts were received of the deputies from the Government of the Republick of Buenos Ayres having arrived at Rio de Janeiro with the full powers to conclude a Peace with the Government of His Imperial Majesty's the Emperor of Brasil: upon which information it was determined by the charterer to ascertain whether or not the Ports of the Province of Buenos Ayres were in a state of actual Blockade by the naval forces of His Imperial Majesty's - that having entered the River Plate, without meeting with a Vessel of any description whatever, or seeing any land from the time of sailing until the 29th of August when land was discovered a head which proved