Most Excellent Sir

I hasten to inform Your Excellency that information has reached me from Desterro one of the Ports of the Island of St. Catharine's, of a late transaction at that place, violating in a most flagrant degree the rights and liberties of Citizens of the United States.

On the 13th of May last, the American Schooner Hero, George Simmonds, Master, bound from Buenos Ayres to Boston, having experienced some Disaster at sea, entered the Harbour of Desterro in distress, asking the common hospitalities of the Port: Capt Simmonds proceeded in the repairs of his vessel, entertaining no suspicion, that they were plotting on shore to take advantage of his misfortune. — On the 11th ultimo, his vessel was seized by an armed force, her sails taken from her, and subsequently Capt. Simmonds himself, & Mate, incarcerated in a loathsome, disgusting Prison, the common receptacle of every character of vice; where they are mingled together with every order of Criminals.

As no justification can be offered for such a Proceeding, I am unwilling to view it in any other light, than as an unauthorized Act of some uninformed Subaltern, & under this impression, I flatter myself, that Your Excellency will lose no time, in having them restored to liberty, the most sacred right of an American Citizen. —

Your Excellency will no doubt readily conceive, that in a Government like that of the United States, whose whole authority is the will of the People, whose sole

object

ject their happiness, that every infringement of the personal liberty of a Citizen, must excite the most unpleasant sensations, and that this act of barbarity towards Capt. Simmonds and his Mate, cannot fail still farther to inflame the Public feeling, already irritated to a high degree by past occurrences.

With regard to the detention of the Hero, the Tribunals of this Empire have already decided, that the circumstance of a vessel having sailed from Buenos Ayres, will not justify her detention.

Your Excellency will please accept the assurance of my high consideration

Rio de Janeiro 16th July 1827.

W. H. Wright
Consul
U. S. A.

To His Excellency
The Marquis of Queluz
Counsellor, Minister,
&
Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs
&c. &c. &c.