

Capt. Daniel Carson

Stonington 12th May 1830

Stonington

Sir

The Sloop Brunkwater

now under your command being ready for sea
you will proceed direct to the Cape de Good Hope for Salt
and if you should arrive just you will sugar
the Salt for the Sloop Mercury & Hamet to be ready
on their arrival you will then proceed direct
to the coast of Patagonia and take a Boat that
that belongs to the Sloop Mercury and in case you
should find the Sloop Alouette then I would advise
your going off Cape Horn but if you should
not find her then we think it would be as
well for you to stay there this season and the
Mercury will also be there and mind and not
interfere with each other but make such
arrangements with her as you think most ad-
visable But if you should conclude to go
off the Horn which I certainly should if I found
the Alouette on the coast we would advise you
touching at the Croots or Staten land and
from there to the Deger and Illdefone leaving
one or more of your Boats at these Islands
as you think most advisable you will
then probably find the Hamet you can make
arrangements to sail in company with her if
you think it will be most for the interest
of the voyage we would recommend you not
staying at these Islands any longer than the
Go of June and then go through the Straights
of Magellan or when you think it will
be most for the interest of the voyage
leaving the voyage in very respect to your
good judgment as we consider nothing
in the above binding. We would also -

Recommend your sending home your skins by
every opportunity and take a Bill of Lading of the
same sending one home to us and keeping the
other yourself, we also wish you to give the
Sho-Mong the preference in buying from
the skins and when she leaves the country
if you stand in need of any thing and we
can spare it I have given Capt. Miller's instruction
to let you have it we hope you will endeavor
to keep peace and harmony on board of your
vessel at all times wishing you to write
us by every opportunity the Numan your friend

Wm. Williams
William Drustan

Extract from the Log Book of the Sch: Breakwater
Harbor Log, commencing Tuesday 18th Augt 1831. Civil time,
being at anchor in the Harbor of Salvador near the head of
Marville Bay, East Falkland. The Capt. & second mate with
1 Boats crew, being gone to Port Louis. First part calm clear
weather, sent a boat for water filled 6 barrels, middle part mod-
erate breeze from the W. (about 3 P.M. saw our boat in which the
Capt left, running down with the sail set, which prevented our
seeing who was in her, until she was fairly along side) the men
in our other boat which was hanging in the Tackles. They proved
to be a gang of 10 or 12 from Port Louis headed by a Capt Brisbane,
armed with muskets & Pistols. They sprang on deck & forth presented
arms ordered the crew below. Capt B. with a Pistol in his
hand following me into the Cabin demanded the Papers of the
Vessel with the Capt's & my own private Journals, & also all the
fire arms belonging to the vessel. He took from the Captains
Trunk the Sch: Papers & his journal which was in sight, but
gave me permission to keep mine until it was called for. He
then ordered the crew to Provide themselves with some bedding &
proceed in the boats to an Island up the Harbor, & directed me to
accompany them, but to this I objected & in fact refused to go unless
by force, he at length consented that the 3^d Officer, (W. Sutton)
should go with the crew & I might remain on board, with the
Steward, he subsequently agreed to have ^a man belonging forward
to look out for the Peoples dunnage, but without my request, I
furnished the crew with Provisions & water, & spare sails to
make them as comfortable as possible in the haste he was in

to get them off. At Sunset they left the vessel guarded by 5 men in each boat. & the boats returned after landing them. Capt Brisbane returned to Port Louis by land. leaving 13 or 14 men on board in possession of all the vessels' muskets (as he supposed) as well as those brought with them. I learned from the guard left over me that the Sch^r Harriet was under seizure at Port Louis. & her officers & crew on shore. under guard. that the Harriet was to be sent to Buenos Ayres soon for trial & the Sch^r also, after being taken round to Port Louis, ^{and that every thing} examined, ^{was done} all this was executed by Capt Brisbane under orders from Louis Vernet. who professes to act by authority of the Government of Buenos Ayres) (Sept 19.) Begins with light breeze from N.W. - (orders were rec^d from M^r. Vernet by the guard to have 2 weeks' Provisions sent up to our crew & the boat taken up the bay & hauled up. the men to return to Port Louis. leaving 5 on board the Sch^r. armed, this was done & the day closed with calm weather. Aug^t 20. At about midnight. having a Rifle & 2 muskets. I secured the guard on board (16 in the forecabin & 1 in the after hold) & sent J. Kennedy & the Steward in the boat for the crew on the Island. they returned about 3. a.m. when we hove up both anchors & got under way the wind light from N.W. being directly ahead, we however got out into the Bay before day light, before which I landed the men I had confined, at 10 a.m. cleared away Harville Bay. at 12 the South Point of the Bay bore N by S. distant 20 miles by computation. being in Lat 51. 22 S. & Long 57. 52 by chart. from whence I taking departure - Lat 66° 51. 17 S. Long by ac 57. 19 This day closes with 12 hours & Sea & Ice commences.

State of Connecticut,
New London County,

Stonington, J. B. Be it remembered, that on

the 25th Day of October A. D. 1831 personally appeared before me, Alex^r
S. Smith Notary Public for the Town of Stonington, duly
Commissioned; Mr. Oliver York who sailed from said Stonington
chief mate of the Schooner Breakwater in the month of Aug. A. D.
1830 on a sealing voyage upon the Coast of Patagonia & elsewhere;
and Daniel O'Brien, Thomas Kennedy, Alexander Collins, Mariners
on board S. Schooner; and upon their oath state, that after they
arrived at Patagonia, they pursued sealing during the first season
and in the month of April A. D. 1831 left the Coast & proceeded for the
Falkland Islands, for the purpose of shipping home the skins they had
taken, and obtain fresh Provisions. That about the first of May follow-
ing, visited Port St. Louis, the residence of Luis Vernet, who claimed
to be Governor of the Falklands, under authority from the Govern-
ment of Buenos Ayres, from which place they shipped their skins
to the United States, and purchased from Mr. Vernet further supplies
for the Schooner and left in the month of May unmolested, and to
pursue their intended voyage; and they further state that on the 17th
day of Aug. A. D. 1831 they visited the Harbor of St. Salvador, at the
head of Marville Bay, East Falkland, in pursuit of the Schooner
Harriet, who sailed from Stonington about the time we did, and
on the same voyage; not finding her there, Capt. Daniel Carey
Master of S. Schooner Breakwater, Mr. Richard Coffin, the 2^d officer
& the following seaman, (viz, Robert Allison of New York, James
Freeman of North Stonington, a col. man, and Pharaoh Heady,

a cler'd man, of Groton, in S. State of Connecticut, and Frank Jewell of the Island of Flores; left the Schooner in one of the boats for Port St. Louis, in the vicinity of S. Salvador to obtain information of S. Schooner Harriet. That at about 3 P.M. of the 18th of Augt saw our boat in which Capt. Carew & the men left as as above, running down for the Sch. with the sail set, which prevented our seeing who was in her, until she was along side: they sprang on deck & order'd us all below, with presented arms: they proved to be a gang of about 10 or 12 men from Port St. Louis, arm'd with muskets & Pistols, headed by a Capt. Brisbane, (an Englishman) known to Mr. York, having seen him in the sealing country before; Capt. Brisbane with a Pistol in his hand, follow'd Mr. York the cabin into the cabin, and demanded the Papers of the Vessel; Log book, & Private Journals of the Capt. & S. Mate, and also the fire arms belonging to the Schooner, and then took from Capt. Carew's Trunk, the Vessel's papers, & his journal, which was in sight, and from Mr. York, the Log book. He then order'd the crew on board, to provide themselves with some bedding, & proceed in the boats to an Island up the Bay of Marilla East Falkland, and directed Mr. York to accompany them; but to this he objected, and in fact refused to go unless compelled by force. Brisbane then consented that Mr. Sutton, the 3^d Officer should go with the men, and Mr. York remain on board with the Steward, afterwar'd without Mr. York's request, he also concluded a man belonging forward might remain, to look out for the people's danger, making three in all to stay in the Vessel. That before the men left the Vessel as order'd by Brisbane, Mr. York furnished them with Provisions, & Water and spare sails, to make them comfortable a short season, & At sunset they left the Schooner

in two boats, under guard of five men in each boat. after landing
the crew (ten in number) upon an Island, the boats returned with
the guard, who accompanied the crew on shore, leaving them with
- out any further supplies, unprotected, and without any means of
escape - At this time we were informed that Capt. Carew, & the men
who went with him were detained as Prisoners at Port St. Louis, Capt
Brisbane then returned to Port St. Louis, leaving about 14 men on board
the Schooner, in possession (as he supposed) of all the vessels muskets
as well as those brought with them - Mr. York now learnt from the
guard left on board, that the Sch^r. Harriet mentioned above, was under
seizure at Port St. Louis, and her officers & crew detained as Prisoners,
and under guard. That the Harriet was to be sent to Buenos Ayres
for trial, also the Sch^r. Breakwater after being taken to Port St. Louis
and examined. And we further state that all this was done by
Capt. Brisbane (as we were informed) under orders from Mr. Vernet
who claimed to act by authority from the Government of Buenos
Ayres. That on the 19th of S. Augt. orders were rec^d. on board the Sch^r
from Mr. Vernet, to have two weeks Provisions sent to the Island, to our
men detained by him, and the boat then taken up the bay of Marville
and hauled on shore, and to leave five men on board the Schooner
armed, as a guard and the others, all to return to Port St. Louis -
And we further state that on the 20th of S. Augt. about one night,
Mr. York, the mate, & Thomas Kennedy, and the Steward, the two remain-
- ing crew on board, being in possession of two muskets & a Rifle,
overcame, & secured, the five men left as a guard in charge of the
Schooner; That Mr. York immediately sent Kennedy, & the
Steward, who had aided him, to the Island, for the 10 men as above

stated; and they returned with them about 3 O'clock A.M. Both
anchors were then hove up, and the Sch^{rs} got under way, and the
guard were landed from the Vessel & set at Liberty. That at 10
O'clock A.M. they were clear of Marville Bay, and made the
best of their way for the United States, to the Port of Stonington
from whence they sailed. On their return touched at Pernambuco
for wood & water, on the 22^d day of Sept. A.D. 1831. and on the 24th
of 3^d Sept. took their departure from thence. And we further
state that understanding Capt. Careo, and the men who went
with him as abovementioned, were detained at Port St. Louis by force
as Prisoners, and it not being in Mr. York's power to furnish them
any aid, or security, and such acts of hostility having been
commenced, and others declared against all Sealing, & whaling
on the Coast of Patagonia, it was deemed Prudent, & proper by
Mr. York, to leave the Country as is above stated; and accordingly
Mr. York took charge of the Schooner, and arrived with her
into the Port of Stonington, on the 24th Day of October A.D. 1831
where these facts are stated, and this Protest made & done

signed, Oliver York

Acting Master of Sch^{rs}
Breakwater,

Thomas ^{his} Kennedy }
mark }
A. Collins } Mariners
Daniel O'Brien }

Notary

Duplicate

To his Excellency Andrew Jackson President of the U. States

The memorial of the undersigned citizens of the U. States & inhabitants of the Town of Stonington in the State of Connecticut respectfully represent: That for more than thirty years the undersigned and other citizens of this vicinity have been engaged in the Fur Seal Fishery in the Southern Ocean. In the prosecution of this business their vessels have necessarily avoided all coasts or islands that were inhabited or frequented by the people of other civilized nations, their sealing having been generally limited to the Islands of South Shetlands South-Georgia Staten Land Diego de Ramirez Fern del Fuero and other Islands in the vicinity of Cape Horn including the Southern Coast of Patagonia touching at Falkland Islands as a place of rendezvous and refreshment. That they have been uninterrupted in the prosecution of their voyages except by such obstacles as were incidental to their hazardous enterprise until very recently when we have found the power of a neighboring Republic exerted to interdict our privileges and effectually to prevent our further prosecution of these Fisheries. A Mr Lewis Fernet late of Philadelphia having effected an arrangement with the Government of Buenos Ayres procured from that Government a legislative Decree asserting its right to exclusive Jurisdiction over Falkland Islands and all those adjacent to Cape Horn and authorizing the appointment of him as military and civil Governor with unlimited authority over an undefined extent of Coasts Islands and Seas. Under this authority ostensibly delegated to extend protection to the Inhabitants of these regions Mr Fernet entered upon his Government himself and the members of his family constituting the entire population of his territory. The annual visits of our vessels at Falkland Islands contributed to furnish him with the means of subsistence until by the shipwreck of some vessels and the desolation from the crews of other vessels American and English his family or Garrison has been recruited until he finds himself in a condition to commit aggressions upon our vessels and we are compelled to ask for the protection of our Government. Having been assured that our Government would not countenance the usurpation of exclusive jurisdiction by the Government of Buenos Ayres over a territory if not unknown

certainly unprotected and unprotected by the citizens of that Republic. we have continued the prosecution of our Business having three Ships and seven smaller vessels now absent from this port. We are not aware nor do we believe that any of our vessels their officers or men have offended against the laws and regulations of Buenos Ayres or of their Governor Vernet so far as they have been promulgated. admitting their authority to decree such laws and regulations to be valid. yet two of our vessels have been surprised and captured by men in the service of Vernet when the vessels had entered the harbor of Soledad with his invitation as communicated in his circular and under his assumption of assistance and protection. Authenticated statements of the facts respecting the capture of the Schooners Breakwater and Harriet so far as we have any knowledge of those facts have been communicated to the Department of State and your memorialist would now ask your Excellency to cause such measures to be adopted as justice requires to procure the release of our fellow citizens who are now in captivity indemnification for the losses we have already sustained and secure our Commerce from further aggressions from the same quarter.

The amount of property in whaling and sealing vessels exposed to similar outrages from this colony is very great and it being known that a vessel well calculated for an armed cruise has recently been fitted and sailed from the port of Bristol N S under the direction of Cap. Bray who although an American citizen has hitherto been in the service of Vernet and who avowedly intends this voyage for this service we have additional cause of apprehension for the safety of our vessels and reasons for asking for the interposition of our Government.

Dated at Stonington 10 Nov 1831 Signed

George E. Palmer	Polly Hancey	Gordon Turnbull
Alex G. Smith	E. R. Ballam	J. H. Denison
O. C. Smith	W. A. Woodbury	Chas. Williams
Le. D. Palmer	George Mills	Chas. P. Williams
J. Amy	Nathan Hale	Jon. C. Malden
	Benj. Pundleton	Geo. Hubbard
	Wm. Williams	Oliver York
	Fre. Pundleton	Simon Carey
	Wm. Pundleton	Elisha Fayon
	Chas. H. Phelps	E. Fayon jr

Wherefore I the said ~~cro~~ have Protested, and by these
presents do Protest, as well for and in behalf of S. Fork
as for & in behalf of the owners and all interested in said
Vessel and Voyage; against the Government of Buenos Ayres,
Louis Vernet, Capt. Brisbane, and all others acting with, and
under them, and all underwriters, and others thus concerned; for
all losses, injuries, and detentions, or preventions, & hindrances,
occasioned by the arrests and treatment above described -

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto
set my hand, and affixed my seal
of office the day & year above men-
tioned, signed. Alex^r. G. Smith

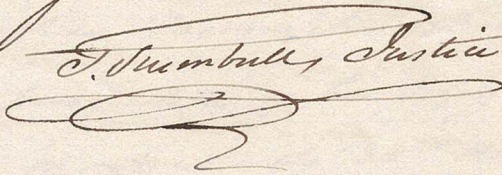
Notary Public

A True Copy of the original }
Protest. by Oliver Fork. }

I William Mitchell of Newport State of Rhode Island
depose and say That I sailed from Stonington Conn in August
1830 in the Schooner Harriet, Gilbert Davison, master, bound
on a sealing voyage to the Southern Hemisphere, and continued
attached to said Schooner in prosecution of his voyage, until in
the month of July following. on or about the 25th day of said
month of July. the said Schooner was in the Harbour of Salva-
dor, Falkland Islands. where we were after a Boat left there
by the Schooner Penguin on a former voyage. — ^{on or about the 1st day of August 1831} While lying in
said Harbour of Salvador one of the Crew of said Schooner
having deserted. Capt Davison with a boat's crew consisting
of nine persons in the whole, having seen some persons on the
shore of said Harbour went on shore as he said to look for
his man. The deponent was one of the number of said Boat's
crew. — Having arrived ashore we found a Capt Brisbane
with two boat's crews consisting of 14 or 15 men, who told
Capt Davison that he was ordered by Mr Perret to bring said
Davison and his men to Port Louis. and said Brisbane said
he was armed and prepared to enforce his orders. we accordingly
submitted to him and went with him to Port Louis. where we
were detained, until Brisbane was despatched with men
to take possession of the Schooner which they brought round
into Port Louis and moored with armed sentries on board.
On or about the 25th day of August 1831 the Schooner Superior
Capt Congar of New York arrived in Port Louis harbour. and
the Captain and a boat's crew came on shore as they said to

purchase Reef of Vernet. Capt Congar and his men were immediately seized and placed under guard by Brisbane. The morning following Brisbane with his armed men boarded the Superior and brought her within the inner harbor, and put a guard on board of her after taking out her crew, who ^{they} ~~were~~ placed on an uninhabited island for security. About the 20th of September following the Schooner Harriet was fitted out and sailed from Port Louis under command of Capt Brisbane for Staten land as they said to capture a Boat's crew belonging to the Sch^r Superior and another Boat's crew belonging to the Schooner William of Stonington who were sealing there, and afterwards to prosecute sealing on Vernet's account. The Sch^r Superior was also fitted out by Vernet and had sailed on a sealing voyage the master of said Schooner having made a contract with Vernet to go in said Schooner on shares. On the 26th of September I went on board of the Ship Sir Andrew Hammond from London bound into the Pacific on a whaling voyage, which ship had touched into Port Louis in distress, and having agreed to work my passage sailed on said 26th Sept in said ship. Three other men formerly of the Harriet shipped on board the said ship. On the 1st day of October 5 days out we spoke the U.S. Ship St Louis Capt Hoot bound to the U.S. when the Captain of the Ship Andrew Hammond hailed and informed Capt Hoot that American vessels had been seized in Falkland Islands, and at the request of Capt Hoot afterwards went on board of the St Louis and carried the deponent. When I communicated to Capt Hoot, the facts herein deposed. John Walton one of our

Crew and myself shipped on board of the St Louis and came
to New York in said Ship. Wm Witchell

Sworn to and subscribed Stonington 24th Dec^r. 1831 before me
J. Turnbull, Justice of the Peace


Dear Sir

Department of State 31 March 1832.

From the communications made by you to this department in relation to the piratical proceedings of Vane and others at the Falkland Islands, it will be interesting to you and some of your constituents, to learn that dispatches have been received from Capt Duncan of the United States Ship Lexington giving the following intelligence that having received information at Buenos Ayres of the capture of the Harriet and other American vessels he sailed for the Falkland Islands, on his arrival having received full proof that the said vessels were piratically taken and plundered he took care of the persons most active in the robbery, and has them confined on board the ship at Montevideo, whence they will be sent to the United States to be tried for piracy, and that all the other inhabitants of the Islands have by their own desire been conveyed to Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, so that the establishment being entirely broken up our commerce in that quarter will no longer be exposed to risk.

I have the Honor to be Your Obedt. Servt.

Thos Lloyd Garrison
Copy

Edw Livingston

Mr Oliver York

Stonington Aug 1832

Sir

In reference to your enquiry. what is my knowledge of the ~~reception~~ receipt of the Decree of the Buenos Ayres Government of June 10. 1830 respecting the Falkland Islands &c. as well as ^{of} Gov Urquiza's Circular addressed to the Captains of American vessels? I can answer that I believe I was ~~the first~~ in possession of a copy of that Decree and circular before it was known to any other person in this vicinity. — This copy I received from E. W. Allen Esq of Newburyport. Mass. who enclosed to me a newspaper containing it. This was near the close of the year of ¹⁸³⁰ ~~1829~~ the month or day I do not remember. but as I considered it important that ^{our} ~~the~~ Government should be notified of the promulgation of this Decree. I enclosed this copy to Hon Noyes Barber. to be communicated to the Secretary of State. By a copy of my letter to Mr Barber I find I wrote to him on 10th Jan'y 1831. so that it was undoubtedly near this date that the first intelligence of this Decree was received in Stonington — And by a copy of Mr. Van Buren's instructions to J. M. Forbes Charge d'affaires U. S. to Buenos Ayres of Feb'y 10. 1831 it appears that my communication furnished the first information of the Decree to the U. S. Government.

As the Decree itself is dated June 10. 1839 at Buenos
Ayres. and the circular of Louis Farnet promulgating said
Decree. was subsequently issued at Port Louis Falkland
Islands, without date. and from thence transmitted to the
U.S. it will be seen that it could ^{not} much earlier have been
received in the United States. . . . Considering the assumption
of Jurisdiction by Buenos Ayres as ~~unfounded~~ without right
and opposed ~~that~~ by the avowed determination of our Government
to resist any measures of that power "calculated in the re-
motest degree to impose any restraints whatever upon the
enterprise of our citizens engaged in the fisheries in question or
to impair their undoubted right to the ^{freest} use of them" we
have since ordered our vessels there as usual and should still
without hesitation do it. the Decree and Circular notwithstanding.
standing).

If the facts will lead you to the production
of any testimony. serviceable in your case. ~~the same facts~~
I shall be gratified in placing you in possession of them.

I am in much haste

Yours de

J. Turnbull

Mr. Gordon Fremont

Providence Jan'y 31. 1851

Sir,

Through Mr. Thos. W. Williams

I was some time since informed that your self.

E. & P. Williams have claims on the Govt. of
B. Ayres for captures & detention of vessels at
the Falkland Islands, and that I might address
you on the subject. — I also have claims on
that Govt. and have by indirect means been for
some time endeavouring to call the attention
of this Govt. to send out a Minister or Charge d'Aff-
aires, persuaded that every delay will prove
in an inverse ratio the time & chances for recovery.

But the Govt. ostensibly are sticking to a point
of etiquette; that as that Govt. has promised to
send a Minister here, they refuse to send one
there, until that promise is fulfilled, at the
same time the Secy of State added, that the
finances of B. Ayres were at so low an ebb
that he did not believe them capable of main-
taining a Minister here & that therefore none
would come. — If all this be so, no Minister
will ever be sent, nor our claims against

that Gov.^t be well received. - It is under these cir-
cumstances that I have ^{been} making some exertions to
induce this Gov.^t to change its policy in this respect.
A new Consul, Mr. Alfred M. Stude of North
Carolina has been appointed his going out to V.B.
Ayres, a respectable intelligent gentleman, as
I have been informed by those who know him; and
it is my intention to employ him in my affairs,
unless a Charge d'affaires should be appointed. -

I have been thus minute that you may see
at once my views & motives in this affair. -

I would beg leave to suggest, that if you think
proper to write at this time to your Senators, or
representatives in Congress to prep the sending of a
Charge d'affaires, or employing some other agent
to demand a settlement of your claims, it might
produce the desired effect. - Wm. Byrum of North
Carolina would unite with any of your members
to endeavor to get such appointment for his
friend Mr. Stude, or perhaps for some diplomatic
agent; and Mr. Robbins, the Senator for Rhode
Island would unite in any such application. -

Mr. Senator Viles would have more weight
perhaps than a Rep.^t. - It has been suggested
to me, that it is thought that the Secy of State
is not very friendly to the Spaniards; therefore

any application had better be made by your
Members direct to the President; what foundation
there may be for this suggestion I do not pretend
to know. — This letter is embodied confidential except
as respects the Messrs. Williams. — If at New Haven
any persons have like Claims it would be well
to have them set forth at once their requests for
the intervention of Gov. — By a perusal of the
correspondence of this Gov. with that of Mexico,
it may be seen, how very lax it has been respecting
the Claims of the Citizens of the U. S. against
Mexico until put into action by some
State notice, and unless action be made
the same fate may await ours. —

Yours &c

Respectfully

J. H. Cole

Thos. Lloyd Halcyon

Wm Lloyd Garrison Esq. Sonnington Feb 7 1838
Providence

Dear Sir,

Your favor of 31st ult was received ^{per mail} in due course of mail. I have submitted it to the attention of Mr. C. & P. Williams who are the agents for the owners of the Sch^d Harriet & Breakwater seized under order of the Gov^t of Buenos Ayres, and with their concurrence have to state in reply, that ^{both} previous and subsequent to the seizure of these vessels we had the appearance of our Government that should the Buenos gov^t of 13th Ayres authorize such an act under their decree they ~~should be~~ might expect ~~to make~~ restitution. ~~and~~ very strong measures on the part of our gov^t immediately followed the apprehension, which we had good reason to believe would be followed ^{up} without further solicitation on our part. You are undoubtedly acquainted with advised of gradual yet progressive change of ~~Department~~ ^{the subsequent course} of the subsequent action of our Gov^t ^{we have been disappointed and have little to hope from} and ~~their backing out~~ ^{to the other extreme} the present Executive soon after the capture any change of policy of our present Executive in our Foreign Relations unless ^{it} they may be made ~~operative~~ as such change shall be thought expedient, as ~~political~~ ^{political} experiment ^{for} effect, ~~at home to favor some object or~~ ^{to promote some political experiment in the home depart} ment. Soon after the capture of these vessels we commenced suits to recover ~~them~~ Insurance. These suits are yet pending before U. S. Circuit Court in Massachusetts and we have ~~been waiting for a decision of that Court~~ ^{now a} prospect of an early decision, i.e. on the return of Judge Story from Washington. He is expected to ^{be prepared to} give his opinion in the ^{then} case, and we shall ^{then} either have stronger inducements to press our claims upon the gov^t or have acquired an efficient ~~ally~~ ^{ally} in the Insurance office of Boston ~~in the prosecution of our claims on them~~. — The suspension of these suits has ^{operated to} ~~deterred to~~ ^{operated to} ~~prevent~~ our adopting further measures through further application

to our Government and we are yet disposed to wait
for the decision of ^{the} ~~my~~ Court. This we hope to have in
time to make available before the present session of
Congress is brought to a close. when we shall be ~~happy~~ ^{gratified}
to cooperate with you in any measure that may be
thought advisable for ~~our mutual interest~~ the
attainment of Justice

I am Sir very respectfully

Yours truly Sir

Frederic Townsend

Feb. 5. 1851