

N^o 2.)

Lisboa Leone, 21st June 1819.

52

My Lords,

I have the honour, under date of the 1st of May, to inform Your Lordships of my arrival at Cadix, and of my being about to proceed immediately from thence with His Catholic Majesty's Commissary Judge and Commissioners of Arbitration, to this Place, in order to enter upon the duties entrusted to our care, under the mixed Commissions for preventing the illegal Traffick in Slaves.

I now take the earliest opportunity of informing Your Lordships that we landed here on the 5th Instant, and, agreeably to my Instructions, I, without loss of time, fully communicated with M^r. Fitzgerald, His Majesty's Commissioner of Arbitration, on the subject of our Appointments; and laid before him His Royal Highness's Commission with the other Documents which

The Right Hon^{ble} Viscount Castlereagh.

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which I brought with me relating to the duties of my Mission: we immediately, together with the Spanish Commissary and Commissioners, took, in proper form, the Oath prescribed, and administered to Mr. Hamilton (the Registrar) the Oath prescribed for him.

His Ex^{ty} Governor

MacCarthy, in pursuance of the Instructions which he has now received from His Majesty's Government, has ordered a convenient house to be got ready for us, as an Office, to carry on the duties of the different mixed Commissions; and Mr. Fife, General, Mr. Hamilton, and myself, are perfectly prepared, in conjunction with the Spanish Commissary and Commissioners, to enter upon our duties accordingly, whenever any Spanish Slave vessel, acting in violation of the Treaties, may be captured, and sent into this Port by any of His Majesty's Cruisers. In the meantime I have to observe, for Your Lordship's Information, that Mr. Hamilton (who had been employed

employed by Capt. Wilks when on this Station last year) has put into my ⁵³ hands the documents relating to the detention of the Spanish Slave ship the Josefa, captured on the 15th of May 1818, by His Majesty's Ship Cherub, and on the 26th of November, sent into this Port where she sunk on the 24th of May last, after having first landed her Slaves (twenty eight in number) who were delivered over to the Governor. I shall immediately, in conjunction with Don Francisco Le Fer, the Spanish Commissary, go into the merits of this case, and in my next Dispatch shall have the honor of laying the results before Your Lordship.

I am sorry to be under the necessity of informing Your Lordship that no Commissioners are yet come forward from Rio de Janeiro, on the part of His Most Faithful Majesty, and consequently, it is not in our power, at present, to take cognizance of any

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any Portuguese vessel that may be sent in
under the before mentioned circumstances.
There are, however, now actually here, two
small Portuguese vessels, a Schooner and
a Brig, captured by His Majesty's Ship
Tortoise, Commanded by Sir George Collier;
but, as the Commodore himself is gone
to England, and I understand that
Governor Mauerthay has forwarded to
my Lord's Postoffice all the
documents relating to the capture and
detention of these vessels, I omit troubling
Your Lordship with any further
detail on the subject.

I now presume to assure
Your Lordship that, in the execution
of the duties of my Office, I shall
ever keep in view that part of my
Instructions wherein I am commanded
to endeavour uniformly to combine
a fair and conscientious zeal for
the prevention of the illegal traffic
in Slaves, with the maintenance
of the strictest justice towards the
Parties concerned, and with the promo-
tion of a spirit of conciliation and
harmony between His Majesty's
Subjects

Subjects, and those of the Kingdoms of Spain
and Portugal. I will only add that
in every part of the performance of
my official duties, my utmost zeal and
exertions will be used to evince how
conscious I am to merit the full approba-
tion of Your Lordship, and to show
that the Commission with which I
have been honoured, by His Royal
Highness the Prince Regent, has not
been unworthily bestowed.

I have the honor to subscribe
myself with the greatest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's
most obedient
and very humble serv^t.

Thos. Gregory

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