

No. 4

The Case of the Dutch Schooner *Thiza*  
John Discombe Master.

112

This Vessel was captured, by His Majesty's Brig, the *Thistle* Lieut. J. B. Hagan, Commander, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October in Lat. 5:35. North & Long. 9: West. - Altho' the Schooner sailed under Netherlands Colours, there was not a single native Dutchman on board of her: - John Discombe the Master declared himself to be a Frenchman; he had, however, a very short time before his undertaking the present Voyage become a subject of His Netherlands Majesty, by Papers which he procured from the Authorities at St. Eustatius. The Voyage began at the Danish Island of St. Thomas, and according to Discombe's Oath on the Interrogatories put to him by the Court, was to have ended there, as stated in a fictitious Charterparty which was found amongst the Papers delivered to the Captor: - This Document was signed by one Daniel Jacobs, supposed to

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

Reference: -  
**F.O.** 84 / 3

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

To the Hon. Secy of the Admiralty  
at the Admiralty Office  
10th Nov. 1815.

Confidential

Original



Belonging to the Thistle, state that on their Boarding the Schooner, they found on the Upper Deck the Iron exhibited in Court.

Notwithstanding all that is stated above - and the Statement is proved by the clearest Evidence; namely the Inspection of the Schooner, the depositions, on Oath, of the two Officers of the Thistle, and that of the captured Slave himself - notwithstanding this Evidence, the Master, and Mate of the Eliza, a Mr. Veltrop (a Passenger from the West Indies, who, by the by, states on his Oath, that the only motive of his visiting the Coast of Africa was for the benefit of his Health who there is no doubt but what he came to Africa to purchase Slaves, and John Hatched a Sailor, all swear that the before mentioned Slave, as well as the Women, Children, and the other nine Negroes attended to, were on board as mere Passengers - Passengers in Irons forsooth. I believe this is the first Instance that I ever was conversed to

to be the custom to keep Passengers in <sup>114</sup> Irons! - But, as we are not permitted to use Pleasantry in so serious a question as the violation of the Laws of one Country (and I am firmly of opinion that Mr. Discombe, as a Subject of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands, has been detected in violating the Laws of his Country,) I will come as soon as possible to my conclusion. It surely would be a wild conceit to suppose that any Court of Justice should be bound by mere Swearing: it is the swearing credibly that is to decide its judgment. The Evidence of Mr. Discombe and his People is, in my opinion, a mass of Perjury, & consequently it can have no weight with me.

After considering with an even care the several points in question, the general impression which the whole has made upon my mind is that I should not do my Duty were I not decidedly to declare, that the Master of the Schooner the Eliza has been captured in carrying on the Slave Trade, in violation

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
1	2	3	4	5	6
Reference: -					
F.O.					
84					
3					
COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NO. 7 TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON					

