

Extract of
An Abstract of the Case
of the Schooner "Anna Maria" under
Spanish Colours, Juan de la
Roche, Master

The fact of the Anna Maria being
crowded with Negroes, the declaration
of the Captor and the depositions of the
Chief Mate and Seaman of the Schooner,
afforded the Court the proof of the
Traffic in which she was engaged.

The Anna Maria was fitted
out for a Slave-trading Voyage at
Saint Jago de Cuba under the
sanction of the Authorities of that
place, her Passport dated the 1st
December 1020, was a general one
permitting her to proceed to the
Portuguese Island of Princes for the
purposes of commerce of an undefined
nature, but a certificate of two Officers
of the Royal Treasury of Saint Jago,
dated the 2nd December 1020, found
amongst her papers, was to the effect
that certain goods therein specified
upon which duties had been paid
were embarked for the purpose of
a traffic in Negroes. On the 0th

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Reference :-

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Dr. Gregory & Co. Stationers
(The Albany Company)

No 4
St. Martin

4. G. Robinson
Dec. 20 - 10 7. 16/9. 1021

Remains abstract of
the case of the Schooner
Anna Maria

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25 of December 1820) Six Months after this
traffic was totally abolished by Spain,
this Vessel left Saint Jago with the
object of pursuing it on the Coast of
Africa, an Object avowed by the
parties and known to the Spanish
Authorities.

The Schooner being of
172 Tons burthen was armed with
Six Guns, eighteen Pounders, and
manned with thirty five men,
some of whom were said to be
Subjects of His Majesty. One of
them, George Gardner, the Chief-
Mate, is, we regret to say, on his
own acknowledgement an Englishman.
The British part of the Commission
had hoped that after the lapse of
fourteen Years since Great Britain
abolished the Slave Trade, no one
of her Subjects would be found so
lost to humanity or to British feeling
as to take any part in this detested
trade; this is the first instance which
the Commissioners have discovered of
so great a Scandal, but they, as
it has been intimated above, have
the regret to learn that it is not
the only instance in the Anna
Maria. The Commissioners have
requested the Acting Governor to

direct the attention of the Acting King's
Advocate of the Colony to these offenders

The Papers exhibited in Court
pointed out Don Antonio Vincent of
Saint Jago de Cuba as the Armador,
or managing owner of the Anna
Maria, but nothing was found to
shew his title to the Vessel; the
depositions of Gardner, and of the
other Witnesses stated that several
persons were concerned in her.
Gardner pointed out Smith, the
Supercargo, and Mess^{rs} Shetton and
Wright, Merchants of Saint Jago,
as part Owners. Smith and Shetton
were declared to be Americans;
Wright was by Gardner said
to be a resident at Saint Jago
but of English descent and by
Jones, One of the ^{negro} Seamen, he was
said to be a Native of Ireland.
A Letter appeared amongst the Vessel's
Papers, which seemed to shew
that Shetton and Wright were in
some way or other connected
with the Schooner. It was not
- dropped by the Master, Juan de
la Roche, to these two persons
as an acknowledgement to them
that he though nominally the



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Commander of the Anna Maria was subject to the orders of Matthew Smith, the Supercargo, and that he only considered himself to be the first officer of the Vessel under Smith.

The Vessel arrived in the River Bonny on the 3rd February, and immediately commenced trading in Slaves. Between the time of her arrival and that of her Capture, it appeared she took in between four and five hundred Slaves. On the Night of the 23rd March she was taken by the B^oats of H. M. Ship Tartar, Commodore Sir George Collier, assisted by those of H. M. Brig Thistle, Lieutenant Hagan; some of the Slaves threw themselves overboard at the time of Capture and were drowned.

From the crowded state of the Vessel the Captain deemed it proper to remove a number of the Slaves into the Tartar; two hundred and seventy two were left on board of the Anna Maria; of this number thirty four died during the Passage from Bonny to Liberia Leone, and two hundred and thirty eight were brought into this Harbour. On the 16th Instant the Court, on

a review of the evidence, passed Sentence of Condemnation against the Schooner Anna Maria her tackle apparel and furniture, and decreed the emancipation of the two hundred and thirty eight Slaves then on board of her, as also the emancipation of such Slaves belonging to the Vessel as were removed from her into H. M. Ship Tartar, and that they should be delivered over to the Government of the Colony to be employed as Servants or free labourers.

Sir George Collier's notice of an intention to prosecute the Vessel for Piracy, after the Slaves should be condemned was, we conceive, given without due consideration and we could not see any reason or motive connected with it, to induce us to suspend the fulfilment of that part of our duty under the Treaty which requires the condemnation of Ships proved to have been engaged in illegal

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Shave made as prize for the
benefit of both Crowns
Sierra Leone May 17/1821

E. Gregory
Edward Fitzgerald

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