

**1765, 4 Outubro, Bristol. Carta de Henry Cruger Jr. para Aaron Lopez**

(in *Commerce of Rhode Island 1726-1800*, vol. I: 1726-1774, Boston, Massachusetts Historical Society, 1914, pp. 124-127)

Bristol, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1765.

Sir,

I have paid due attention to the import of your esteemed favour of 12th August. I entirely concur with you that a wide distinction ought to be preserved between persons of consequence and established in a trade, and interlopers who too often through ignorance, at the same time ruin both markets and themselves, these latter Sir, you may rest satisfied shall meet little encouragement from me.

Herewith is an account of £1800. Insurance on the *Newport Packet*, cost £54.16. to your debit.

Before I proceed any farther in this letter, it may not be improper to mention Capt. Osborne, whom I have made master of the ship *America*: he appears to me an intelligent good kind of man, hope you may find him such. It seems as if Capt. Osborne was desirous to be in this trade, and would be glad to hold a small share in a vessel with you, but, I chose to say nothing more to him on this subject, than that I would hint it to you. he has taken a good deal of pains to inform himself of the state and situation of our market; indeed it would not be amiss were you to confer with him.

The *America*'s cargo of lumbar lies still unsold save the 34 ps. cedar, which have disposed of at 3 months credit for 3/ per foot. Advise you to send no more anchor stocks; what have of late been sold, were used not as such, but as timber; wherefore, to the proprietor all is lost that is cut off the ends to model them. When you consider the use of them, it must naturally occur the consumption can not be great, seeing one hundred would serve this city a year.

Your logwood I have at last sold at £7 per ton. One tun of it was full of tar, which were obliged to pick out and sell at only £6. Sales you have inclosed, net proceeds being £163.13.4 sterling to your credit. Last week I had a cargo (arrived) of about 100 tons fine Honduras logwood, it is the best I ever saw; my orders are to sell it as soon as landed (for the most it will fetch), which I have done at £6.15. per ton. this for your government.

The *Friendship* is not arrived yet. I wish I could give you any hopes of a sale of her. Trade is as much at a stand in England as in America; my friends in London write me,

they know not what to do with their ships; here also is the same stagnation; which is the only cause why there is no sale for ships.

I am in great hopes 'ere long things will mend. I am very cautious how I interfere, and very unwilling to discourage gentlemen in the progress of their plan, or business, it is certainly a delicate point; but still, Sir, as a mutual confidence and indulgence between two people so connected as are your good self and myself, must hope you will excuse the liberty my attention to your interest prompts me to take, in saying, I think you really might do better than by sending new ships and lumbar to market, it so happens now and then, that such an adventure turns out well, but it will not do to be extended, it appears to me, (for reasons I fear too obvious to your good self) that you must sink money by every ship you build: the time may come when the demand for Ships will be great, then it may do, but not untill then.

Suppose, Sir, you was to keep one, or more ships in this trade, load them with the most valuable cargo Rhode Island produced, send them some times to Carolina, or the West Indies, etc., etc., the produce of these places always meet a ready sale here. If the cargo now on board the *America* meets a good sale with you, (and I think hemp must) you never need be at a loss what to load your vessels back with. I for my part am ready and willing to promote any of your schemes, as far as it can be done by giving you the most extensive credit for goods you can desire, by which means you may monopolize all the best trade of your place, thus have I under the sanction of a most sincere regard taken the freedom to offer a few hints, which you may improve to your own advantage.

It hurts me to read over my letters to you, as not one that I have yet written but what is filled with discouraging circumstances. Those calamities are now become general. God grant we may soon be relived. I like to let you know the worst of things, tho: am ready to lend all the aid in my power to make the best of 'em.

Inclosed Sir is bill lading and invoice of the *America*'s cargo, amounting with cost of insurance made thereon to £2452.2.6 sterling to your debit in A/C.

We had not time to get the whole ten tons of anchors made. Junk and oakum were scarce; have shiped as much as could get; have sent 20 tons of the best, and 20 tons of the 2d hemp call'd out shott; it is the method of the rope makers here to mix it, and pass it all for the 1st, by way of hint for your guidance.

The English duck is from *two different* makers, the bales no. 1 to 7 is called Parliament Cloth, no. 8 to 12, is of an inferior quallity. Let me know which best suits your purpose and I shall in future know which to send.

We have lately discover'd one barrel of the oil per the *Charlotte* to be blubber, as per particulars inclosed.

I have endeavoured to be as frugall as possible in fitting out the *America*, tho: were obliged to give her a few new ropes and pay her uper works. The sailors are to work for their passage; to 3 or 4 of the poor dogs we are obliged to advance a little money to get a few cloths, they are to work it out. Capt. Osborne is shipped at 5£ sterling per month, his mate at £3. The latter has had from Osborne one months advance, their wages commence from the 16th September. I have paid Capt. Osborne £24.3.0 (as per his receipt inclosed) for which he will account with you, it being for the use of the ship *America*, an account of her disbursements will send per my next, inclosed are the plantation certificates for canceling your bonds.

Night is come, and as the wind has been flattering all day, worked very hard to clear and dispatch the ship, for which purpose Capt. Osborne will leave us in about half an hour; I heartily wish you a quick sight of him, being in all your commands with my usual esteem and regard,

Dear Sir, Your most Obedient Humble Servant,

Hen: Cruger, Jun.

P. S. It is necessary you send me two certificates to cancel two bonds given here for the coal, one for 20 chaldron and one for ten.

H. C., Jr.