

1766, 1 Março, Bristol. Carta de Henry Cruger Jr. para Aaron Lopez

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Bristol, 1st March, 1766.

Sir,

The confusion of American affairs hath affected us equally. I have been very deeply involved in them, and think myself amply rewarded with the bare aspect, which now abounds with looks and promises of success to America, the Stamp Act is not yet repeal'd, but it is as good as done, a motion was made in the House of Commons for a bill to be brought in for a repeal and was carried by 275 against 167; the latter were only for a modification of the Act. The Debates pro and con have been very warm and serious. As I have not time now to be particular, will trouble you with a copy of my last letter to my father just for your amusement, there is little doubt but the affairs will be finish'd in a few days and the Act repealed; You'll be informed that the Parliament have settled their right of taxing you. When that was done they proceeded to the expediency of repealing the Act, which never wou'd have come to pass had it not been for the merchants and manufacturers of England. Trade here was totally stagnated, not one American merchant gave out a single order for goods, on purpose to compell all manufacturers to engage with us in petitioning Parliament for a repeal of the Stamp Act, by which thousands were out of employ, and in a starving condition. You, Dear Sir, shared in the common calamity I hope and persuade myself you will not murmur at this momentary disapointment when so much good will come out of it. I hugg myself the Parliament will never trouble America again. I cou'd not think of giving out any of your orders untill I saw which way this momentous affair wou'd turn, and terminate. I congratulate you on our success, and with redoubled joy – as the contrary was at one time much dreaded, the letter I shall inclose you, will give you a great insight into the actions and sentiments of our British senators.

Immediately upon hearing, by express, that a bill was to be brought in the House of Commons for a total repeal, I set about providing your orders, all which I hope to have shipped on board the *Charlotte*, Captain Brown, by the latter end of this month, no doubt you'll wonder at not hearing from me oftener of late. I have the best excuse that ever I had for not writing, even a serving my country, which I have been doing day and night. I am no politician, but in this matter of America, and its trade, I embarked body and

soul. I have been in London with all the great men in the kingdom. The Stamp and Sugar Acts were my two objects. I think you American gentlemen will have all your wishes gratified, but more of this in my next. I only claim a share of the merit, if all comes to pass that I expect, see the P. S. of the Letter to my Father. I will be very punctual in future to make amends for my past silence; have patience, and you'll reap the advantages.

Dear Sir, I have now before me your esteem'd favours of 4th September, 25th and 31st October, 8th November and 2d December, with their several copies, which I will not attempt to reply to this present writing, my time being in great demand, but have read them over frequently with much pleasure and attention; and shall be very full and explicit by the *Charlotte*, Brown, whom I hope to dispatch by the latter end of this month with all your goods. Brown had a tedious passage, put into Ireland by contrary winds, and did not arrive here untill the 1st February, one while I gave her over for lost; he is now discharged, if the oak boards by him had been 1 1/4 in. thick, shou'd have rec'd on them a bounty of 20/ per hundred boards, as they were not, got nothing, this for your future guidance. London is glutted with Oil, and so is this Market.

Yesterday I sold about 160 barrels of your's to be taken to, in ten days, the white at £22, the brown at £20 per ton. It is very low, yet nothing but its being of an extra quality got it a preference to some other parcells which wou'd fetch only £21 and £19 per ton. The logwood per *Charlotte* I sold at £6 per ton, in my next I shall be more particular.

All the *Friendship's* cargo is sold but the mahogany and oak boards. The *Newport Packet's* Logwood is sold at £8 per ton, the whale fins for £265 per ton.

I feel hurt when I tell you how small a sum I sold the *Friendship* for, after putting her up three or four times in vain to auction, it was for only seven hundred guineas, say £735 stg. and the person who bought her told me, he had done me a favour, as he might buy several other vessels quite as cheap, her sails were much against her, they were mildued and rotted, the purchasers were at the expence of a new suit, the canvas is of a bad quality, too much paste or flour and water in it, in order to make them feel thick and look shining to the eye.

Your two sloops are arrived at Cork, and I suppose will be with you long before this, inclosed is an account of insurance on them, also an account of £500 additional on the *Newport Packet* and (£900 and £250 on the *Charlotte*, cost of which being £110.13.0 is to your Debit in A/C.

Messrs. Lane & Co. of Cork wrote to know if I wou'd honor their draft on me (your account) for £200 stg. I wrote them I would and shall debit your account for the same.

I cannot get £500 for the *Newport Packet*, her masts are two foot too short, rigging sails etc. in proportion, which depreciates her at least £100 on that account, and I will say £50 more, because people conclude she is crank, and that you were obliged to undermast her more of this in my next.

Thus have I given you, Dear Sir, a diffusive and pretty perfect account of the state of your affairs in my hands which are entitled to a great share of my attention, and never shall suffer for want of that; notwithstanding this letter is wrote in so great a hurry, not so particular as I cou'd wish it to be, but the confusion of the times now begins to be rectified and like mud in troubled waters to subside. I hope soon to see things fall into order, and their old channel of regularity; of late all seems to have been floating on an Ocean of Scepticism, two days ago the owner of this vessel assured me she wou'd not sail this 3 weeks, to day he told me, she wou'd certainly sail to morrow which precipitates me to conclude, tho' with the utmost Respect and Regard, Dear Sir, Yours etc.

Hen: Cruger, Jr.

When you send any more plank let the quality be as follows 2 and ½ inch plank, full sawed and square edged; 2 inch ditto, all the length above 20 feet, and 12 inches wide.

White Oak, — *Red Oak* don't answer.