

**1766, 9 Abril, Bristol. Carta de Henry Cruger Jr. para Aaron Lopez**

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Bristol, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1766.

Dear Sir,

Herewith is copy of my last respects to you, under date of 1st March which I now confirm, and am since favour'd with your agreeable letters of 21st January and 18th February.

It is an invariable rule with me, never to deviate from the words of an order for goods; but some times the stupid tradesmen will put one thing when they have not the other, and are never candid enough to own it; you may assure yourself I am always as exact on my part as tis possible to be; when you order'd shags, you did not call them shagg duffles, nor even give me the *Wedths*. The dull sale of ships at present all over this kingdom discourages me from telling you the large ship you mention of 240 tons will sell here even at £1300, low as the price is, recollect what we dayly experience with the ships you have sent here. The *Newport Packet*, lies still on hands, she will not fetch £500.

A small quantity of proper sized white oak plank square edge'd may sell, see my last letter, tho' Sir, it is not an object worth your notice, a little by way of filling up now and then will do, but at present the carpenters are all glutted with it. The time approaches when I hope to see your ships loaded with foreign sugars, coffee and all the enumerated products of the West India Islands; then we shall do business with pleasure, the present seems like endeavouring to sail against a head wind, tedious sales, difficulty in collecting money, and many more disagreeable circumstances prove quite disheartning: I congratulate you on the *certain prospect* of an amendment.

When I finish the sales of Mr. Lucena's oil and fins, the net proceeds shall be to your credit according to his orders, I have written to Mr. Lucena by this conveyance. Your whale fins with Mr. Lucena's were properly managed, enclosed is a copy of their sales, net proceeds £154.4.9 stg. to your credit.

As I was in hopes of selling the brigantine cou'd not discharge Captain Heffernan untill that was decided, which was not untill 28th February, when I determined to return the brigantine, for her I cou'd not get £250 stg.; Captain Heffernan was necessitated to receive his wages here, and £15 on discharging him, having nothing else to subsist

upon. His receipts, and account of his disbursements you have herewith. I made the best bargain I cou'd for your interest to get rid of the sailors, what I advanc'd on these accounts will appear in the ships disbursments.

Heffernan's passenger ran away and gave us all the bagg to hold, he will more fully explain that matter to you.

The bill you inclosed me for £55 stg. drawn by R'd Crucher of Jamaica on James Bonbonous is refused acceptance to, if it is not paid when due, the 7th May, it shall be protested for Non Payment and returned you.

The copper pans and 6 doz pannel squares, which you returned, your account has credit for their amount. I have taken care to omit sending the goods you were pleased to counter order in yours of 31st October on account of the cargo sent per *America*.

I wish your cooper to be more particular in his distinguishing the white and brown oil. It gives me uneasiness to write you any turns out *Brown* that you imagined was white, our Cooper who guages them seems to be very exact, I obliged him to examine them twice over, and he assures me 13 casks of the *Friendship's* cargo, that was denominated white, proves to be brown.

'tis very odd no buyers offer for the cedar, the man that bought the last sent it to London for sale, but tells me he can get no chap to take it off his hands. 1 ps. Heffernan says was washed overboard. Captain Osborne was quite mistaken in his intelligence of the *Friendship's* mahogany. I have sold none of it yet, the quality is not liked, the purchasers won't give by id ½ per foot as much for it, as for that sent by the *Newport Packet*, of the latter parcell I have sold only two or three lotts.

I am sorry so much more mahogany is coming by the *America*. I can't tell what I shall do with it. I have halled about a quarter of the *Newport Packet's* away, in order to lessen the quantity in the eyes of the buyers, as well as to make room on our keys. The great piles that now remain on the key get me a rap over the Nuckles every time I fall in company with our Mayor, but I laugh it off, saying it will soon be removed and so forth. If you can meet with some fine Jamaica mahogany of proper lengths and good breadths, it will sell from 10*d* to 1/ per foot.

Am sorry you are disapointed in your notion that but little oil wou'd be at market on account of the "indifferent success of your fishery last season." You'll perceive, Sir, by the price, here is no scarcity. I don't know where it came from, but this kingdom was never more glutted with spermaceti Oil than it has been all the Winter, and now.

Hemp is risen since my last, and cordage of course. The cordage now ship'd is of a very good quality for the price. I observe with some concern you have already drawn £600 stg. towards the cargo now on board the *America*. I must be frank and say, this is unexpected, I flatter'd myself you wou'd have thought it but equitable that as I am in advance £1300 stg on the ship *America*, you ought not to continue drawing untill that was *first discharged*. When you overvalued her, and your other ships, you might *not* have known how little ships were in demand, but upon being informed, and *fully convinced* the *America* wou'd fetch here, *not more* than £700, surely you ought to have had a little compassion, and left the £600 you have now drawn for, to reimburse the £1300 I have paid; in breif, Sir, if I am £1300 stg in advance for the ship *America* and she will not sell for more than £600, if you draw the value of her cargo out of my hands, how am I to be reimbursed the other £700? I will say no more on this subject than barely to reiterate the distresses brought on me by the vast debts due from my friends in America, who are ever declaring their inability to pay occasion'd by the late calamities of their country. I share with them equally, therefore must again intreat of you at this crisis to have mercy; after saying thus much, let us be silent on the disagreeable part of our business, and begin with another.

I am now, Dear Sir, at the 12th and altho' I did not expect to get Captain Brown away this 4 or 5 days, yet as the wind is fair will not run the risque of his losing it by detaining him for trifles, and letting essentials suffer. His cargo is nigh compleated; therefore am determined to give him his dispatches this evening that he may embrace the fine wind that blows, if in our hurry we have committed any mistakes in the number of papers herewith, I dare say Sir you'll excuse us, and point them out, that with you we may rectify them.

In the first place is the sales of part the cargo per the *America*, Captain Pope, net proceeds £544.11.2. Secondly are two sales of the cargo per the *Friendship*, that of the oil net proceeds £566.3.0 stg that of Naval Stores £318.9.4 stg. also an account sales of the ship *Friendship* net proceeds being £714.8.6 stg. the disbursements on said ship is with sales, amounting to £142.3.6 stg.

Thirdly is the disbursements and additional disbursements on the ship *America*, her insett from and outsett to Newport, the first amounting to £279.12.6, the latter to £6.4.3, with them is an account of £1500 insurance on said vessel from Newport to this, cost £39.16.0 stg.

Fourthly is the disbursements on the *Newport Packet*, Captain Heffernan, amounting to £112.16.2 stg. I can as yet render you sales of no part of her cargo but the logwood, which you have herewith, net proceeds £151.14.10 stg. Fifthly comes an account of what part of the *Charlotte*, Captain Brown's cargo is disposed of vizt. all your oil, as per the sales net proceeds £220.4.9 stg. oak boards and staves, net proceeds £55.12.5 stg. also the logwood net proceeds £119.18.3 stg. You'll find with the *Charlotte*'s sales an account of £400 stg. insurance effected on her this present voyage to New Port, cost £10.16.0 stg. to your debit, as is likewise an additional account of disbursements on her, when Captain Bowers was master, amounting to £4.8.10 stg.

Inclosed is an account of insurance done on the sloop *Industry* from Cork to Rhode Island cost £24.4.0 stg. also an account of insurance on 3 *Sallys* cost £26.16.0 stg. to your debit.

I have returned you the *Newport Packet*'s portlidge bill with all Heffernan's papers, his receipt for the money I advanc'd him.

Herewith is Captain Brown's receipt for the several sums of money advanced him amounting to £111.18.5 stg. I made some words at letting him have so much, but he promises to make that satisfactory to you, which is all I aim at.

Dear Sir, I have just for your government, drawn out a sketch of your account current ballance whereof in my favour being £10,784.8.4 Stg. to your debit in a new account, if on examination you find it right please to note the same in conformity with me, if any errors please to point them out, and they shall be adjusted accordingly: what interest may be due on your bills paid before I was in cash for the goods sold, shall be calculated when I am a little more at leisure, and an account thereof sent you perhaps per my next, if not must crave your kind patience a little longer.

I now inclose bill lading and invoice for the cargo of goods now on board the *Charlotte* amounting to £2510.9.2 stg. to your debit. I heartily wish them safe to your hands and to satisfaction having taken a good deal of care in laying them in.

I fancy if you had known that malt not made for exportation did not get a drawback, you wou'd not have order'd any. I was loth to send it, but Brown told me it was designed for a present, that you wou'd be disappointed unless you had it. The difference between malt made for home consumption, and that for exportation, is at least 9/ per quarter.

I must, Dear Sir, make use of your friendship to favour me in the most private and expeditious manner what your opinion is of Mr. Robert Crooke of your place. I am

sensible how delicate a thing it is either to ask or grant a favour of this sort, but these are occurrences that will happen in trade, my reason for this enquiry is that I have sent Mr. Crook out by way of New York a pretty large cargo of goods, without knowing any thing of his circumstances therefore must trespass upon your goodness for your private opinion of him which shall be kept by me as an inviolate secret.

N. B. for your government in the disposal of your hemp, I have sent Mr. Crook 4 tons.

Your Account is credited £9.2.2. Sterling for freight now on board the *Charlotte*; the freight made by her and the *Newport Packet* from Rhode Island to this place shall be carried to your Credit as soon as I make out sales of goods that pay it. To my concern the wind is got about to the Westward, still shall give Brown his dispatches in ten minutes, he promises to go aboard immediately and endeavour to sail as the weather is moderate; I heartily wish you a quick sight of him, being with perfect esteem, respect and sincerity in all your commands, Dear Sir, Your most Obedient Humble Servant

Hen: Cruger, Jr.