

LETTERS,

&c.

RELATING TO

CAPTAIN MINS'S

SECOND VISIT TO PORTUGAL.

London:

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1837.

- PREFACE.

IN my Work entitled "A Narrative of the Naval
" Part of the Expedition to Portugal," the object of
which was to defend myself against the cruel asper-
sions, and unmerited calumnies, of my enemies, - I
announced my intention of again proceeding to that
country, at the earliest possible period, in order that
I might challenge the public tribunals *to an inquiry
into my conduct, and to a thorough investigation of
those charges*, which had been so unjustly and ma-
liciously preferred against me.

Accordingly, the moment Don Miguel had quitted
Portugal, and the civil war had terminated, I
sailed for Lisbon. Admiral Napier was absent at the
time of my arrival, but returned shortly after, when,
to my astonishment, instead of that courteous, or, at
least impartial conduct I had anticipated, I expe-
rienced the utmost indignity and mortification, and
was exposed to the greatest difficulties and privations.

Not only did he refuse holding any personal intercourse with me, but would not allow that I was in the Queen's service, although he well knew I held a commission signed by Don Pedro, and that by *no official document* had it at any time been revoked. Nor was this all :—for at nine o'clock at night, without being allowed time to pack up my clothes, was I, whom he could not deign to address otherwise than plain *Mr. Mins*, arrested by his order as *Captain Mins*, and conveyed to a common prison ship, upon charges as vexatious as they were unfounded, and which, in spite of every disadvantage on my part, and of every precaution and remonstrance on that of the Admiral, were, by an honest and independent Court of Inquiry, pronounced to be unproved, and groundless.

I pass over the reiterated denial of verbal leave of absence having been given, the letters Nos. 11, 35, and 36, supplying abundant refutation on that point, neither will I dwell on that dereliction of duty, which prevented the *immediate* arrest of one, who, if guilty of a *shadow* of the charges which, be it remembered had been all cut and dried previous to his arrival, would have deserved to have been shot; nor will I argue on the motive which could have impelled a British officer needlessly to have rushed into the very

jaws of his enemies, and to have braved the most extreme dangers of ruin and infamy. But I must crave the indulgence of my readers for one moment, whilst I venture to anticipate their astonishment, that a supplementary ground (if I may so call it) for imprisonment, should have been established upon an alleged debt to the Portuguese Government, arising from a mere error in accounts, which had been as clearly refuted as it had been repeatedly explained; and that those parties should have ventured to argue upon the discrepancy of such accounts, which they well knew originated from the absence of those documents upon which alone they could have been accurately adjusted, and of which I had been so cruelly and illegally deprived.

Since my first book appeared, Admiral Napier has himself published; and in alluding to a mutinous letter written to me by my seamen, and which I suppressed, insinuates that I was to blame. Be it so,—it was exactly his own conduct on many occasions, when he acted in his fleet in total disregard of the laws under which he professed to serve, because, *under the circumstances it was better for the good of the cause*, and because to have acted in a regular way would have been attended with danger, difficulty, and delay.

Another individual has also turned publisher ; but as his statements are exclusively of a personal nature, are chronicled from the reminiscences of boyhood, and are utterly foreign to the subject, I shall not demean myself by alluding further to him, but leave him all the éclat he may have gained, from having so delicately enlivened his publication with anecdotes of juvenile delinquencies, and family disputes,—a meet accompaniment to the laurels he° will have earned from his interesting, novel, and *original* memoirs of The Azores, or Western Islands.

There is, however, one circumstance which I confess baffles my comprehension ; I allude to the forfeiture of that security given to enable me to quit Portugal, *a representative having been left with full powers to settle my accounts.* Urgent business, together with the alarming illness of one of my family, demanded my presence in England : but even these causes would not have induced me to leave, had not Signor Falcoa, the Paymaster General, told me it would “ take a long time to settle my accounts, and “ that a representative would answer every purpose.”

I think it necessary to make one remark, relative to my calling to a private account the officer who had been my Commander in Chief, and for which, I am well aware, I have been much censured ; but when

in explanation I again assert, that that Commander in Chief had so far compromised the dignity of his station as to state to me before all his officers, and that in the very ship bearing his own flag, that “ IF HE GAVE OFFENCE TO ANY OF HIS OFFICERS, HE HAD ALWAYS A PLAIN COAT AT THEIR SERVICE;” it will be at once evident that I had no alternative but to act as I did.

With these preface remarks, I beg to introduce the following Letters; and I do so in the full assurance, that whilst my friends will see at a glance the real state and merits of the case, and will discern amidst the persecution I have encountered, and the wrongs I havē endured, that relentless, vindictive spirit, which, with restless activity, marred my fortunes and assailed my character, and which, as a consummation of its vengeance, could contrive to infuse into the breast of another, a portion of its own malignant bias, friends and enemies must alike confess, that neither have the unhallowed artifices of my traducers been suffered to prevail, nor have the recorded verdicts of successive Courts of Inquiry, who have honestly dared to proclaim, “after mature deliberation, the conduct of the prisoner to be spotless and undefiled,” been rendered LESS CONCLUSIVE, LESS COMPREHENSIVE, OF LESS TRIUMPHANT.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

I.

London, May 4, 1834.

MY LORD,

Notwithstanding the public enquiries that have already taken place on my conduct, while in command of Her M. F. Majesty's Frigate Donna Maria II., I find that in Portugal I am still considered by some, guilty of conduct unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman; and being anxious to give my accusers any, and every public opportunity to substantiate their charges, I have to state my readiness to stand before a court martial, composed according to the British laws, and according to the contract I served under in the Portuguese navy. It has been my intention some time to go to Lisbon, to demand the justice due to my character, but the still unsettled state of Portugal, has caused me to adopt the plan of writing first. On the receipt of your answer, I shall immediately proceed thither, feeling sure, that from an English Commander in Chief, I shall find every facility given me, to clear myself from charges injurious to my reputation. Trusting an early answer will be given,

I have the honour to be

Your Lordship's obedient, humble Servant,

P. MINS,
Capitão de Mar e Guerre.

To Admiral Condé St. Vicente,
Commander in Chief, &c.

II.

Sir,

Lisbon, May 22, 1834.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., and in reply can only say, that I can find no document in this office relative to you, or any letter of leave; and that in fact you are not considered in H. M. F. Majesty's service.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,

CABO St. VICENTE.

To P. Mins, Esq., London.

III.

39, Rua das Flores, July 14, 1834.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Soon after I left Oporto with verbal leave from your Excellency to go to England, my services not being then wanted, I find you wrote a letter, to his Excellency the Chevalier de Lima, stating I had left Oporto without leave, and was in consequence considered a deserter; I have therefore to request your Excellency will re-consider the case, when I have no doubt you will remember granting me leave of absence; but should your Excellency's memory fail, I have no doubt of being able to bring it to your mind by a short interview, which I have to beg your Excellency will grant me; and I am sure, when you find you have done an officer of my rank a great injury, you will not hesitate to do all in your power to place my character in its right light. Waiting an answer from your Excellency,

I have the honour to be

Your Excellency's humble Servant,

P. MINS.

To the Marquis de Loulé.

IV.

39, Rua das Flores, July 14, 1834.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to report my return to this country, from the

leave of absence granted me by his Excellency the Marquis of Loulé, at that time Minister of Marine at Oporto.

I have the honour to be

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

P. MINS.

Capitad de Mar e Guerre.

To His Excellency,
The Minister of Marine.

V.

Answer to No. 4.

The Marquis de Loulé's compliments to Captain Mins, and in answer to his letter of yesterday, he can only say, that the length of time elapsed since the business of his ministry at Oporto is over, it is impossible to him, not having in his power any memorandum, nor any copies of his letters, to remember exactly every particular connected with Captain Mins's affairs; but the Marquis is confident that if he wrote the letter in question to the Chevalier de Lima, in behalf of Captain Mins, it was in consequence of the view he had taken of Captain Mins's position after his departure to England. The Marquis thinks this explanation is all he can say about this matter.

Belem, July 15, 1834.

VI.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

July 16, 1834.

I have just had the honour of receiving your answer to my letter of the 14th, and must say, I am surprised your memory should be so bad, particularly as several individuals, who I was obliged to apply to as interpreters, and who are now in Lisbon, remember the circumstance very well; I have therefore again to request you will permit me an early interview, when I feel sure I shall be able to bring it to your mind; and then I feel perfectly certain the Marquis of Loulé will do every thing that is honorable. Waiting your answer,

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

P. MINS*.

* Never was able to see him, and received no other answer.

VII.

SIR,

You were kind enough to say, the other day, you would give me in writing what the late Commissary General Sandford said before his death, relative to some men, whose pay it has been reported received, giving a receipt to the Commissary General for the same. At the time I wrote an official letter for their pay, I sent with the letter a list of these men, with the amount of pay due to each opposite their names, which list, I think you said, the other day, had been taken for my receipt, but that afterwards it was found out to be a mistake. You will much oblige, by stating all these things to me in writing; I beg you will do so as soon as possible, for with your statement I have things of importance to arrange.

I remain your obedient Servant,

P. MINS.

39, Rua das Flores, Lisbon,
August 8, 1834.

To Mr. Lumsden, Commissary General.

VIII.

Lisbon, August 11, 1834.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Affairs of the utmost consequence require my immediate presence in England, and however much I regret feeling obliged to leave Lisbon before my accounts with the Government are settled, yet such being the case, I have to request your Excellency's permission *in writing* to do so. I beg your Excellency to understand it is my intention of returning as soon as possible, to claim the balance due to me from the Government, and then to tender my resignation from the Portuguese service.

I have the honour to be

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

P. MINS*.

Capitão de Mar e Guerre.

To His Excellency,
The Minister of Marine.

* This letter was written in consequence of the alarming illness of one of my family in England, which circumstance I mentioned to

IX.

Lisbon, August 13, 1834.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have to request your Excellency will favour me with an answer to my letter requesting leave of absence, of the day before yesterday's date.

I have the honour to be, &c.

P. MINS*.

To His Excellency,
The Minister of Marine.

Capitão de Mar e Guerre.

X.

Copy of an order brought by Captain Henry, when in a café at about nine at night.

SIR,

As it appears by a letter from the Minister of Marine, dated the 29th of June, 1833, that Captain Mins absconded from Oporto without leave, or a passport, and is considered a deserter, you are hereby ordered and directed to arrest him, and conduct him on board the Don Pedro prison ship, till the decision of the Government is known†.

Marine Head Quarters, August 13, 1836.

CABO St. VICENTE,

Admiral and Major General.

To Captain Henry.

Admiral Napier, who would do nothing, stating I was not in the service. *This would have been the time to have demanded security of the settlement of my account; but it was not justice, but persecution he wished to deal to me; therefore instead of enabling me to go, with so pressing a reason, he, two days after, had me arrested, to prevent it. So much for his fine feelings.*

* I received no answer.

† I had now been at Lisbon more than a month, having arrived the 11th of July. The Minister did not see any cause for my arrest, but the (English) Admiral, a few days after his arrival, thinks it necessary then to persecute me.

XI.

Lisbon, August 16, 1834.

SIR,

I have received and laid your letter before the Minister of Marine. By the contract under which you served, you were subject to the rules and regulations of the British Navy; and it appears to me to be perfectly in accordance with them, that an officer should be under arrest on board the ship destined for that purpose, whether that ship is a flag ship, receiving ship, or prison ship. Orders were given that you should be treated agreeable to your rank*, to mess with the captain, &c.; and have on board what you please. But if you do not think proper to send for your effects, it is not the duty of the Government to do it; and Captain Carvalho informs me you do not choose so to do.

You are under an accusation by the late Major General, of having money in your hands belonging to several seamen; and when you applied to the Marquis of Loulé for leave, he gave you verbal leave, but on condition that you gave security for that money, which security you did not give, and he in consequence wrote to the Minister in London, to inform him you could only be considered a deserter. When you informed me you had verbal leave from the Marquis of Loulé, I immediately waited on him, and he gave me clearly and distinctly to understand† that leave was conditionally given; and these conditions not being fulfilled, he referred me to the late Major General's letter, and his own to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in London. Nevertheless, I am directed by the Minister of Marine to inform you, that if you give security for the payment of the money that may be claimed agreeable to the late Minister's letter, and your word of honour not to quit Lisbon without the permission of the Government, he will give directions that you are released from the Principe D. Pedro.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

CABO St. VICENTE.

To P. Mins, Esq.,
Prison Ship, Don Pedro.

* What rank, by my treatment, I could not discover.

† See Marquis of Loulé's letter, which states he has forgotten all about it.

XII.

Prison Ship, Principe Don Pedro,
August 16, 1834.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day's date, directed to P. Mins, Esq., and in answer, I have to remark, that it is inconsistent to place an officer of my rank (namely, Capitão de Mar e Guerre), or, in English, the rank you held in the British service, (with the difference that I am the senior captain of the Portuguese service) in a prison, or to arrest one on half pay. As for the accusations of the former Major General, I can prove them all false; as also that the Marquis of Loulé ever made a condition about giving bail; or that I have money belonging to seamen, that could be given up. I was perfectly aware you waited on the Marquis of Loulé, as also why you did so, and beg to say, you gave yourself unnecessary trouble; and I can prove the Marquis never made any condition to my going to England that I did not fulfil; and in conclusion, I have to state, I will not give any security; but when you can prove I have money of any men, I will pay that. The Government are in my debt, and I believe them honest enough to pay it. The late Major General robbed me, by using my name without my leave, to a large amount; from the present Major General I expect honesty, and to find him ready to assist his countrymen, and not to oppress them. I have been unjustly placed here, and expect to be released in a legal manner.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

P. MINS.

Capitão de Mar e Guerre.

To Admiral Cabo St. Vicente, &c.

XIII.

Prison Ship, August 20, 1834.

Sir,

I have to request you will be pleased to acquaint me, what are your intentions relative to myself. I have been now a prisoner in a common prison ship for one week; and am quite ignorant upon what particular charges, or as to any intention of bringing me to a court martial. I believe I have a right to demand the charges, as

also an immediate court martial. You informed me, on my interview with you, there were not officers enough to try me, and it is with some surprise, I hear that one of the few is on the point of going to England, which will make the number still fewer. I beg to repeat my former protest, against the unjust, unconstitutional, and inconsistent manner I have been, and am, treated. I am imprisoned upon a misgrounded charge ;—and am punished before I am either tried or sentenced, which is contrary to every thing like justice.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient Servant,

P. MINS.

To Admiral Condé Cabo St. Vicente.

XIV.

August 20, 1834.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of this day's date, I beg leave to acquaint you, that a Court of Inquiry will be immediately appointed to investigate into the reasons of your having quitted the ship you was placed on board of by Vice Admiral Sertorius, as also to investigate by what authority you quitted Oporto contrary to the orders of the Minister of Marine. Relative to your accounts, Mr. Lumsden has directions to settle them, and you will furnish him with all the documents necessary so to do, and which you have by letter to the Minister, now before me, pledged yourself fourteen months ago to do without loss of time. Relative to the latter part of your letter, I beg leave to observe, that an officer quitting the ship wherein he was placed by his Admiral, and afterwards leaving Oporto, in direct disobedience of the order of the Minister of Marine (whose letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in England you published in your own work, and insinuate that the name of the Minister of Marine was surreptitiously obtained), could not expect any other treatment than to be arrested; and as to your application to be put on your parole, I strictly followed the line of conduct of the Minister* in requiring security for your unsettled accounts,

* In another letter he acknowledges the fact I was well aware of, that the Minister knew nothing about the affair, and it was all his own doing.

and your word of honour not to quit Lisbon without leave, which you have declined doing.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

CABO St. VICENTE.

To P. Mins, Esq.

XV.

Prison Ship, August 23.

SIR,

In your letter of the 20th, you are pleased to acquaint me, that a Court of Inquiry will be immediately ordered, to investigate into the charges you there name; and up to this moment I have had no notice as to the time it will take place. I believe, having fulfilled the agreement under which I served, I may be permitted to say the delay is of serious importance, as my presence in England is much wanted: nor am I able to ascertain any cause for keeping me still a prisoner, so contrary to justice, "when the legal court is at hand." I must therefore request that something may be immediately done, to relieve me from an imprisonment contrary to the constitution of Portugal, and in decided opposition to the British laws, under which we are.

I have the honour to be, &c.

P. MINS.

To Admiral Condé Cabo St. Vicente.

XVI.

Marine Head Quarters, August 24, 1834.

SIR,

The order for an inquiry into the causes of your coming to Oporto, and going from thence to England, has been issued some days; the only cause of delay is the illness of the Commodore. I must again repeat, that you are under an arrest simply because you left the squadron without leave, and Oporto, contrary to the order of the Minister of Marine; and because you have positively refused to give security until your accounts were settled, and your word of

honour not to quit Lisbon, without permission of the Government, which is perfectly in accordance with both English and Portuguese law.

I remain your most obedient Servant,
CABO St. VICENTE.

To P. Mins, Esq.

XVII.

H.M.F.M. Ship, Don Joas VI.,
Tagus, August 24, 1834.

SIR,

I am directed by an order from his Excellency, Admiral Count Cape St. Vincent, to assemble a Court of Inquiry, to examine into the charges stated therein against you, a copy of which I beg to enclose, to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, on board Her Majesty's prison ship, Don Pedro; consequently, you are directed to prepare to attend the same.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
BARTON REEVES, (COMMODORE).

Mr. P. Mins,

Late Captain of H.M.F.M. Ship, Donna Maria.

XVIII.

(COPY.)

August 20, 1834.

SIR,

I beg leave to enclose you various letters and papers forwarded to this office by the Minister of Marine, relative to Mr. Mins, late Captain of the Donna Maria; you will, as soon as your health will permit, take to your assistance, Captains Henry, Liott, and Fox, and proceed on board the prison ship, Don Pedro, and strictly examine

into the cause of Mr. Mins, formerly Captain Mins, leaving the squadron then laying in Vigo Bay, as also for leaving Oporto, and report to me whether he has any letter of leave, either from the Minister or from Vice Admiral Sertorius.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(SIGNED) CABO St. VICENTE.

To Commodore Reeves.

XIX.

Prison Ship, August 24, 1834.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, informing me a Court of Inquiry on myself is to take place to-morrow, enclosing the order from Admiral Cabo Condé St. Vicente, and in consequence I have to request you will be pleased to order the undermentioned officers to be in attendance.

I have the honour to be, &c.

P. MINS.

Capitão de Mar e Guerre.

Lieut. Robinson,
 — Ludlow,
 — Hutchinson, &c.

To Commodore Reeves.

XX.

Prison Ship, August 25, 1836.

Sir,

I have to request you will be pleased to order a Court Martial on either of the charges brought before the Court of Inquiry, that that court may think has any foundation.

I have the honour to be, &c.

P. MINS*.

Capitão de Mar e Guerre.

To Admiral Condé St. Vicente.

* I was induced to write this, fearing the Admiral intended to *play* with the opinion of a Court of Inquiry (which he did do), for he knew he *could not alter* the sentence of a Court Martial; this must have been his reason for not granting it, for it *positively* was at hand.

XXI.

H.M.F.M. Ship, Don Joas VI.,
Tagus, August 26, 1834.

SIR,

I beg to enclose you a copy of a letter from his Excellency Admiral Count Cape St. Vincent, addressed to me, respecting the Court of Inquiry held on you yesterday; in consequence of which, I shall give directions for a second Court to assemble, whatever day shall be most convenient to yourself, which you will be good enough to name.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

BARTON REEVES, (COMMODORE).

Peter Mins, Esq.

XXII.

(COPY.)

Marine Head Quarters, August 25, 1834.

SIR,

I have read with due attention the report of the investigation on Peter Mins, Esq., by which you observe, that there was no proof of his being placed under an arrest at Vigo; but the order is not directed to that point, you are to examine into the causes why he left the squadron in Vigo Bay, and whether he has any document giving him leave; not whether he was under an arrest or not, and I refer you to his own letter to the Emperor, in which he says it was necessary to come to Oporto to claim H. M. protection. You are not sufficiently explicit about his leaving Oporto. I refer you to documents marked Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, because it appears, by document No. 2, that leave shall be given to him immediately he presents the required security, and neither Mr. Carvalho, nor Sir John Doyle, could be aware if the security was given or not. Therefore you must call upon him to account for having gone to England without that security, which by the papers it does not appear he ever gave.

I remain your most obedient Servant,

(SIGNED) CABO St. VICENTE.

Commodore B. Reeves.

XXIII.

Prison Ship, August 26, 1834.

SIR,

I have to request (before I can answer so strange a point as your letter contains), that I may be furnished with the written opinions of the Court of Inquiry of yesterday.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

P. MINS.

Capitañ de Mar e Guerre.

To Commodore Reeves.

XXIV.

H.M.F.M. Ship, Don Joas VI.,

Tagus, August 27, 1834.

SIR,

In consequence of his Excellency's letter addressed to me of yesterday's date, a copy of which I enclosed to you, by which his Excellency conceives that the inquiry has not been entered into sufficiently explicit, a continuation of the same Court of Inquiry is to be assembled, in order that the different documents may be more particularly specified, in accordance with his Excellency's order. In reference to your request, to have a copy in writing of the opinion of the court, immediately it is completed, a copy shall be sent you.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

BARTON REEVES (COMMODORE).

To P. Mins, Esq.

XXV.

Prison Ship, August 27, 1834.

SIR,

In answer to your letter of this day's date, I have to state my readiness at all times to appear before any legal court, upon any charge. But must add, I should prefer a *Court-Martial*, although I shall not object to a second Court of Inquiry, and shall be ready at any time you may name.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

P. MINS.

Capitañ de Mar e Guerre.

To Commodore Reeves.

XXVI.

H.M.F.M. Ship, Don Joas VI.,
Tagus, August 27, 1834.

SIR,

I beg to inform you that the Court of Inquiry will be resumed to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, when you will be pleased to be prepared for the same.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

BARTON REEVES (COMMODORE).

To P. Mina, Esq.

XXVII.

Lisbon, August 29, 1834.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 25th inst., requiring a Court-Martial, I beg leave to acquaint you, that I have laid your letter, and the report of the Court of Inquiry, before the Minister of Marine, who will take his Imperial Majesty's decision on your case.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

CABO St. VICENTE.

To Peter Mins, Esq.,

Late Captain of the Donna Maria.

XXVIII.

Prison Ship, August 30, 1834

SIR,

Several seamen who were in the Donna Maria under my command, have been to me, stating they have not been paid the two months pay said (by one of those unaccountable mistakes of Admiral Sertorius) to have been received by me; I wrote to the Minister of Marine, date August 1st, respecting it, but *as usual* I did not obtain any sort of reply. I have therefore now to hope that these seamen will not be permitted to leave the place without either their

pay, or some satisfaction respecting it. I think five of them are Portuguese, and therefore are not going to England. I beg to refer you to Mr. Lumsden for their names, and further particulars; and I trust you will be pleased to let me know what arrangements you have made respecting it, to enable me to reply to those men, who have been some time in England, and who have been constantly applying to me for it.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

P. MINS.

Capitão de Mar e Guerre.

To Admiral Cabo St. Vicente.

XXIX.

Prison Ship, August 30, 1834.

SIR,

I have to request you will be pleased to order that I be furnished with a copy of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry held on me the 25th and 28th instant.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

P. MINS.

Capitão de Mar e Guerre.

To Admiral Cabo St. Vicente.

XXX.

Lisbon, September 1, 1834.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of this day's date, I beg leave to inform you, that the report of Inquiry is submitted to the consideration of the Minister, and when I get the decision, it shall be immediately sent to you. It does not appear to me a court-martial is necessary in your case; the time for a court-martial was when Admiral Sertorius was off Oporto with the squadron, and when you was there also, or when you was at Vigo, and when there were witnesses at hand. The Court had no order to enter into the

accusation of Admiral Sertorius, but to ascertain simply why you left Vigo and Oporto. The case of your being a prisoner is owing entirely to yourself; when at Oporto, you pledged yourself to settle your accounts when you got your papers; you come here a year afterwards, and then applied to return without settling them. It appears you are in debt to the Government 296*l.*, you refused to give security, and your parole to remain in Lisbon, till the decision of the Minister was known. There is no question in this sum of seamen's money whatever. I cannot see what other step the Government could take; and I must observe, the latter part of your letter is indecorous.

I remain your most obedient,

CABO St. VICENTE.

To P. Mins, Esq*.

XXXI.

Prison Ship, September 1, 1834.

SIR,

I hasten to reply to your's of this day's date, in answer to a letter from me, and to cast from me the insinuations you there make, respecting the time for a court-martial (namely), when Admiral Sertorius was off Oporto; if you inquire of some of her Majesty's present Ministers, you will find the outrageous conduct of that Admiral, in openly abusing both his Imperial Majesty and his Ministers, as also the fact of his having most dishonourably seized all my private property and *papers*, and sending them to *England*, although he knew I was at Oporto; you will at once have a strong and insurmountable reason why Oporto *was not the place*, and you will also find that your insinuation, is adding insult to your prisoner, illegally and unconstitutionally so; for in your letter of August 16, you state, "You are under an accusation by the late Major General, of having money

* By the decision of the double Court of Inquiry, he found I was slipping through his fingers; he therefore hatched up another charge, equally false, and easily proved to be so; but I was not permitted the means.

“ in your hands belonging to several of the seamen, and when you applied to the Marquis of Loulé for leave, he gave you verbal leave, but on condition you gave security for THAT money, &c;” and at the end of the same letter you say, “ That if you give security for the payment of the money, agreeable to the late Minister’s letter,” &c. I will put that letter to any honest man, and he must allow it is the *men’s money you alluded to*; and as I was aware the charge was false, and of a piece with all those of the late Major General’s, I replied, I would pay the men who I owed money to; and I have now, since a new position is taken, to state I came to Lisbon for the express purpose of settling my accounts, and can have no manner of objection to give any security for any sum I owe the Government. The world will judge how I have been treated; and in the meanwhile, I shall take the liberty to declare it unjust, unlawful, and on a par with the government under Don Miguel. I have also to state my full conviction that Her Majesty’s Ministers are not participators in the act. You say, in your order for my arrest, that it was in consequence of a letter from the Minister of Marine, stating I absconded from Oporto (although the word absconded is never made use of in any original letter), and in that order there is nothing about security, I am therefore at a loss to discover how it is “ owing to myself” I am a prisoner. When I applied for permission to leave Lisbon, I stated my intention to return immediately; and if justice alone was intended, security ought to have been demanded then.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

P. MINS.

To Admiral Cabo St. Vicente.

P.S.—I have to request you will be pleased to answer my letter of the 30th of August, relative to the seamen’s pay.

XXXII.

Head Quarters of the Marine,

Lisbon, September 3, 1834.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st of September, which I only received yesterday, and I must observe,

c 3

that the abuse you are pleased to heap on Vice Admiral Sertorius ought not to be addressed to this office. I am still of opinion that an officer accused by his Admiral of deserting the squadron, and of having run off with public money, ought never to have left Oporto without demanding a court-martial; there were captains in the squadron, whom I have no reason to doubt were men of principle and honour, and who would have been guided by the rules of the British navy; after my arrival at Oporto, you had it also in your power to have demanded a court-martial, and insisted on Admiral Sertorius remaining to make good his charges; and although the squadron entered Lisbon on the 25th of July, 1833, you only arrived here in the June following, when great part of the officers and men had returned to England, and witnesses that could have been brought forward, dispersed; I am not either aware whether you invited Admiral Sertorius to come to Lisbon and make good his charges. You may put what interpretation you choose on my letter of the 16th of August, but when you were asked for security it was evidently meant for any money that was owing; but even allowing your own interpretation, there is a document signed by yourself, of having paid 400 dollars to seamen which they never received, and which now forms an item against you. Your objection to the word "absconded" appears trifling, the Portuguese word in the original letter is "evadido," the English of which is evading, eluding by artifice, subterfuge, or sophistry, and I believe you employ the word "abscond" in your own translation. I must also observe, that as you quitted Oporto without giving security for the settling of your accounts, as is shown by the Minister of Marine's letter, you have no right to complain of being arrested; and your parole was offered you on giving security, which you refused. In reply to your observation that Her Majesty's Ministers are not participators in the act, I have no hesitation in informing you that you were arrested by my order, approved by the Minister of Marine, and that the investigation was laid before a council of Ministers, and decided by them.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
CABO St. VICENTE.

To Peter Mins, Esq.,
Prison Ship, Don Pedro.

XXXIII

Prison Ship, September 1, 1834.

SIR,

I have to repeat my protest against the illegal and unjust manner in which I have been treated; I have nineteen days been kept here a prisoner, upon charges reported by the Court of Inquiry to be unfounded, and five days since that court gave that opinion; whereas, if justice had been intended, a court-martial, *repeatedly demanded* by me, might have been long ago ordered, instead of which, I have been kept a prisoner, and all the captains put out of commission, and many of my witnesses sent to England, thus putting out of my reach the legal court so strangely refused. My parole on shore was refused me, on the ground that I would not give security for pay *said to have been paid me* (belonging to some seamen), notwithstanding I stated in that letter (August 16), that I would pay any seaman who it could be proved I owed one penny to: in conclusion, I have to state, before the Constitutional Charter was established at Lisbon, no conduct of Don Miguel was ever so illegal or unjust.

I have the honour to be, &c.

P. MINS.

Capitão de Mar e Guerre.

To Admiral Cabo St. Vicente.

XXXIV.

Marine Head Quarters, September 3, 1834.

SIR,

In consequence of a demand addressed by you to Commodore Barton Reeves, requesting a true copy of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry held on your case on board H.M.F.M. ship, Principe D. Pedro, I am directed by his Excellency the Commander in Chief, to forward you the enclosed copies of the same.

I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient,

JOAS DA COSTA CARVALHO.

Captain Tene. Aj. & O.

To Peter Mins, Esq.

The proceedings of the Court of Inquiry held on Peter Mins, Esq., late Captain of H. M. F. M. Ship, Donna Maria 2nd, assembled on board the Prison Ship, Principe D. Pedro, the 25th and 28th of August 1834.

Witnesses called—Lieuts. Robinson, Ludlow, and Hutchinson.

“ Did the Admiral tell the ship's company of the Donna Maria he was obliged to supersede Captain Mins?—Yes, he did.

“ Did Admiral Sertorius read Captain Massey's commission to the ship's company?—Yes, he did.

“ Did you hear Admiral Sertorius ask Captain Mins how long it would take him to get out of the ship?—Yes; Captain Mins stated that it would take him three hours to arrange his private affairs; but the Admiral must know how long it would take to arrange the ship's accounts.

“ Did you hear the Admiral say, Captain Mins was to leave the ship in three hours?—Yes, I did.

“ Did you hear Admiral Sertorius order Captain Massey not to come on board till Captain Mins left the ship?—Yes, I did.

“ Did you hear Admiral Sertorius say to Captain Mins that he was at liberty to go to either of the steam boats?—Yes, I did.

“ Did you hear Captain Mins say, I will go to the City of Edinburgh, as I have taken a passage in her?—Yes, I did.

“ Did you hear Admiral Sertorius's answer to Captain Mins?—Yes; the Admiral remarked, very well.

“ Did you know the City of Edinburgh was going home?—Yes; understood so.

“ Are you aware Captain Mins offered to resign the Donna Maria at Vigo, and only waited to be superseded?—Yes; understood so by Captain Mins having expressed himself to that effect at the dinner table.

“ When the Admiral read Captain Massey's commission on board the Donna Maria, did you suppose Captain Mins was superseded, according to his wishes?—Yes; I heard Admiral Sertorius say to Captain Mins, I have come on board to supersede you.

“ After Captain Massey's commission was read by Admiral Sertorius, did you not suppose Captain Massey the captain of the Donna Maria?—Yes, certainly.

“ In the absence of the captain, who is the proper person to sign all officers' and men's discharges?—The commanding officer.

“ Do you recollect Admiral Sertorius giving an order for all

verbal orders to be obeyed?—Yes, I do; by signal made from flag ship, and copied into order book.

“Had you any idea Captain Mins was placed under arrest?—Certainly not.

“While Captain Mins was on board the steam-boat, did you consider him as a prisoner?—Certainly not.

“Or did you conceive Captain Mins was under the orders of Admiral Sertorius?—Considered him free from all orders issued from Admiral Sertorius.

“Was the boat Captain Mins left the Donna Maria in manned by officers, or men?—Manned entirely by officers.

“Would you, as commissioned officers of the Donna Maria, have pulled an oar on that occasion, had you supposed Captain Mins was under arrest?—Certainly not.”

To Lieut. Hutchinson.

“Did Admiral Sertorius say any thing to you relative to Captain Mins leaving the Donna Maria?—Yes; the Admiral said Captain Mins was about to leave the Donna Maria, and I shall take you on board my flag ship.

(SIGNED)

R. M. ROBINSON, LIEUT.

C. LUDLOW, LIEUT.

B. HUTCHINSON, LIEUT.

A true Copy.

Marine Head Quarters, September 3, 1834.

JOAS DA COSTA CARVALHO.

Capt. Tene. Aj. & O.

LETTER No. 1.

Dated January 7, 1833.

Extract.

“I regret being obliged to report to your Excellency that notwithstanding the orders, and strict injunctions I gave to Captain Mins to consider himself under an arrest, and remain on

This appears to be irregular, as Captain Mins was superseded from the Donna Maria by Admiral Sertorius, with leave to go on board the steam boat, on the 1st of January, 1833, and consequently* Captain Mins con-

* Alterations made. In the original (copied at the time the court was sitting), it stated, “Consequently, we consider Captain Mins “had a right to go,” &c.

board the Portuense until an opportunity occurred for my trying him by a court-martial, he has disobeyed my commands, and made his escape, without my being able to trace whither he is gone."

LETTER No. 2.

"By a letter bearing Vice Admiral Sertorius's signature, dated the 7th of June, Oporto Roads—'That when a captain leaves a vessel on being *superseded*, transfers all monies not strictly private, to his successor.'"

In answer to letter No. 3, we beg leave to refer your Excellency, and observe—

In answer to letter No. 4, we beg leave to refer your Excellency, and observe—

considered he had a right to go wherever he pleased. Captain Mins denies ever being on board the Portuense, and no document can be shown to prove that he was, and proof can be shown he never was.

Here it evidently appears Captain Mins was *superseded*; and by former evidence of the officers of the Donna Maria, Captain Mins was not allowed to see his successor, and was only allowed three hours to arrange his private accounts.

OBSERVATIONS.

Captain Mins states to his Excellency, the Minister of Marine, that he was not allowed to see his successor; that his papers were seized by Admiral Sertorius; that he would arrange his public accounts to the satisfaction of the Government as soon as possible; and *courts an investigation*; consequently, we do not consider Mr. Mins's (late Captain Mins) letter of the 21st of June, a vague account.

Captain Mins never received this letter, as the original document signed by the Marquis of Loulé, is now in office*. The

* In the original, copied at the time of sitting, the following is written, "Captain Mins having departed for England."

Minister, Senr. Carvalho, and Sir John Milley Doyle, could not be aware that security was given by Captain Mins, because security by the Minister never was asked in their presence; merely an answer required from Captain Mins to the Admiral's charges, which was done by Captain Mins in his letter of the 21st of June; and before the letter No. 4, demanding security, was sent to Captain Mins, he was gone from Oporto.

A true Copy.

Marine Head Quarters, September 3, 1834.

JOAS DA COSTA CARVALHO.

Capt. Tenc. Aj. & O.

With regard to the cause of Mr. Mins (late Captain Mins) leaving the squadron in Vigo Bay.

We, the undersigned, have examined the witnesses, Lieutenants Ludlow, Robinson, and Hutchinson, and beg leave to enclose their evidence.

We likewise beg leave to point out a letter signed by Admiral Sertorius, wherein it is evident Mr. Mins (late Captain Mins) was superseded at Vigo from his ship, consequently, Mr. Mins considered himself at liberty to depart*.

* Altered from "Consequently we consider he was at liberty to depart."

With regard to Mr. Mins's absconding from Oporto without leave—

Mr. Mins, late Captain Mins, cannot produce any written document from the Marquis of Loulé, or Vice Admiral Sertorius, giving him leave to quit Oporto.

We beg leave to refer your Excellency to the observations on letter 3, wherein it appears Mr. Mins was anxious to settle his accounts with the Government, and we by no means consider his letter of the 21st of June a vague statement.

We likewise beg leave to refer your Excellency to the observation on letter 4, wherein it appears that Mr. Mins had left Oporto before the Minister's letter demanding security was sent. Whether Mr. Mins was correct in so doing, remains for the consideration of her Majesty's Government.

We have read the Marquis de Loulé's letter, commenting on his Excellency, Senr. Carvalho and Sir John Milley Doyle's statements, wherein it appears there is a difference of opinion, by the Marquis still denying that Mr. Mins, late Captain Mins, had leave to quit Oporto*.

We have likewise read Commodore Bernardino's letter, and as Mr. Mins had no official document, he was not aware Mr. Mins had obtained leave from the Marquis of Loulé to leave Oporto.

(SIGNED)

BARTON REEVES, COMMODORE.
FREDERICK HENRY, CAPTAIN.
W. B. LIOT, COMMANDER.
G. R. FOX, COMMANDER.

A true copy.

Marine Head Quarters, September 3, 1834.

JOAS DA COSTA CARVALHO, CAPT. TENE. AJ. & O.

* The Admiral in his letter to me of the 16th of August, stated the Marquis gave me verbal leave, &c. See that letter.

XXXV.

8, Rua da Prior, Buenos Ayres,

Lisbon, July 28, 1834.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have this moment been favoured with your letter of yesterday's date, and in reply, can have no hesitation in attesting to the fact to which you allude, *viz.*, that at your request I accompanied you to the Minister of Marine (then the Marquis of Loulé) at Oporto, about the commencement of the month of June 1833, when I interpreted your wishes to his Excellency, for leave to proceed to England, as your services were not then required. His Excellency's reply was, that he had received a letter from Admiral Sertorius respecting you, which he would immediately send, and the moment you answered that letter, you were at liberty to proceed to England.

Believe me to remain, my dear Sir,

Your's very truly,

J. M. DOYLE,

M. General.

To Captain Mins, &c., &c.

XXXVI.

(COPY.)

Lisbon, August 6, 1834.

ILLUSTRIOUS SIR,

Enclosed I send you the paper you have wished, and I take also the opportunity to certify to the fact to which you allude, as it took place in my presence in Oporto, June 1833, namely; that when you stated to the Marquis of Loulé, then Minister of Marine to Her M.F. Majesty, your great desire to go to England, that Minister answered, that he had received a letter from Admiral Sertorius relative to you, which he would send you, and the moment you answered it, you were at liberty to proceed. I trust this will prove as satisfactory as I wish it to be, and that you will believe me to be, with much consideration,

Your's, &c.

(SIGNED) JOSÉ DA SILVA CARVALHO.

To Ill^o. Senhor Peter Mins.

José da Silva Carvalho, Counsellor of State, and Minister of Finance, &c., &c.

I certify that Captain P. Mins, during the time he has been in the service of Portugal, always conducted himself most properly and regularly, and, in my opinion, deserves highly the approbation of the Government of Her M.F. Majesty, serving the cause of the Queen with great zeal, not only in England, when he was preparing the expedition for Portugal, but also after its sailing, particularly when making the passage from Belle Isle to Terceira, then in command of one of H.M. frigates, in which I was a passenger and also during the operations at Oporto, up to the time of his having leave to go to England, his services not being immediately wanted; the truth of this I declare by the present paper, for his satisfaction, to use wherever he wishes.

(SIGNED) JOSÉ DA SILVA CARVALHO.

Lisbon, August 6, 1834.

XXXVII.

Lisbon, September 2, 1834.

SIR,

I am directed by the Minister of Marine to inform you, that as there is not sufficient proof to support Vice Admiral Sertorius's accusation of your having left the squadron when under arrest, His Imperial Majesty considers you are entitled to half pay from the time you left the *Donna Maria*, till the day you left Oporto.

It appears you left that city without any document whatever from the Minister of Marine, or Major General, which is proved by the Marquis of Loulé's letter, and confirmed by the Minister in London informing you, that he had no power to grant leave, but would transmit your letter to Lisbon, from whence no leave was ever sent you; under these circumstances, His Imperial Majesty cannot consider you as a captain in the Queen's service from that time. I

am further directed to inform you, that you are in debt to the Government £296 9s. 9d., and when you give security for that sum, you shall be set at liberty. Your accounts are in Mr. Lumsden's office, and every facility will be afforded you to disprove any part you may think incorrect.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

CABO St. VICENTE.

To Peter Mins, Esq.*

XXXVIII.

September 3, 1834.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of yesterday's date, containing your *honourable, just, and impartial* decision relative to my case, and have to state my readiness to give security for any sum *I may owe* the Government, and request you will lose no time in acquainting me what description you require; whether the bond of an English merchant, that I do not leave Lisbon until my accounts are settled, or, in fact, what is required? I beg to state I wrote yesterday, declaring my readiness to give security, which letter remains unanswered, as also one dated the 30th of August, relative to the seamen's wages, which I request you will condescend to answer, and have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your much obliged,

P. MINS.

To Admiral Cabo St. Vicente.

* Strange to say, this is the only letter in the Admiral's own handwriting; I suppose, that no copy might be taken and kept.

XXXIX.

Head Quarters of the Marine,
Lisbon, September 3, 1834.

SIR,

The security required is a respectable house becoming responsible for the payment of £296 9s. 9d., owing to the Government by you; there is also a demand of 474 dollars of prize money above your share, which you will be able to explain with Mr. Lumsden.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
CABO St. VICENTE.

To Peter Mins, Esq.,
Prison Ship, Don Pedro.

P.S.—The accounts of the seamen are in Mr. Lumsden's hands.

XL.

Prison Ship, September 4, 1834.

SIR,

The sum of £296 9s. 9d. appearing to me to be much more than I can owe to the Government (particularly when the six months' half-pay, so generously granted me, is placed in my favour; as also two sums, amounting together to about £136, due to me as per naval instructions, which we are supposed to follow, for feeding passengers at my table). In again stating my readiness to pay the Government any thing I may owe them, I have to request you will direct Mr. Lumsden to come on board the ship, since it appears I cannot get on shore to him, notwithstanding you were pleased to acquaint me, by letter from Mr. Lumsden, of the 20th of August, that every facility should be granted me to settle my accounts. I have often protested against the illegal act of placing me in prison at all; but the detaining me here, by keeping back the promised facility, is more than illegal.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

P. MINS.

To Admiral Cabo St. Vicente.

XLI.

Prison Ship, September 4, 1834.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

By a letter from Admiral Condé Cabo St. Vicente to me, containing (as he states in another letter) the decision of a council of Ministers, I learn, with feelings of much surprise, that the Government should have given a decision so contrary to justice, in the case of that individual, who although ensured, in England, by the same Government, against all risks he run by joining their cause, to the amount of £7,500, besides the promised boon of £2,000 more, or four years' gratuity at the final, making altogether nearly £10,000, and of whom it is recorded, "*he generously gave up the first named sum, in consequence of the small pecuniary means in the power of the Regency,*" and now, at the conclusion, is it possible, that the Government will take advantage of a quibble and a petty intrigue, and declare he has forfeited the whole; thus valuing his services when in London at £10,000, and when all is over at Lisbon, through an intrigue, declare they will give him nothing, after having had four years' service from him, three years active and very fatiguing; and now, as a reward for the support he rendered them at Oporto, and contrary to the constitutional law, have given him a month's imprisonment on a quibble, as has been shown by the Court of Inquiry. But against injustice from a Government there is no help, I therefore shall take no more steps, but beg to send you a copy of the Admiral's letter.

And have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

P. MINS.

To Their Excellencies, the Ministers of Marine,
of War, and of Finance.

XLII.

Marine Head Quarters,

Lisbon, September 5, 1834.

SIR,

Mr. Lumsden has informed me of your objections to some items of our account; he is directed to examine it again, with the director of

the comptabilité; the objections about the exchange, is one of finance, which must be settled between you and the comptabilité; and I can only say, that nothing will be exacted from you, for which there is no proof; and if the house of Carbonel has not the documents for the sums they have to pay to your order, they will be required to refund*.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
CABO St. VICENTE.

To P. Mins, Esq.,
Prison Ship, Don Pedro.

XLIII.

Prison Ship, September 6, 1834.

SIR,

It is with surprise I remark that the copy of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry, sent me from your office, differs in some important points from a copy made on the spot from the original, signed by the officers composing the court. I have to request a true copy of the very original is sent me; it is still more strange that the differences are strongly against me, thereby showing no accident.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,
P. MINS.

To Admiral Condé St. Vicente.

XLIV.

Lisbon, September 6, 1834.

SIR,

A bill† on your agent for the amount, *properly endorsed*, will be considered a sufficient security. I must decline entering into the details

* This is one of the persecuting ways adopted towards me, they have seen by Messrs. Carbonel's receipt, that I have settled with him.

† A bill on my agent for the amount, is what he is pleased to call bail!!! but what any other person would call actual money.

of your account. The comptabilité, who made their report, will enter fully into them with you, and refund any thing that is not just and proper.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient, humble Servant,

CABO St. VICENTE.

To Peter Mins, Esq.

P.S.—If you are not satisfied with the copy of the investigation, you are at liberty to look at the original.

XLV.

Prison Ship, September 6, 1834.

Sta,

I beg to be clearly understood as to Mr. Carbonel's bill, namely, when I demanded Mr. Carbonel's bill, in July 1833, he gave it me amounting to about £314; and on my saying I would trust to him, as I had not received my paper, he replied, "Then Sir, we will look it over." We then looked over all the seamen's letters, when he (the clerk, Mr. Alverci) found he had charged to me the bill of the whole squadron; he then made a new list of mine, amounting to £215 5s. 4d., which I paid before I left his house; he not only giving me a receipt, but also all the seamen's letters, signed by myself and my first lieutenant, according to Admiral Sertorius's order (which I now hold); the remaining sum, about £70, and which by mistake was charged to me, are in bills signed by Admiral Sertorius and Captain Bertrand, which I am quite sure of, as I saw them myself. However, to prevent any thing like a difficulty on my part, I shall have no objection to give a bill on my agent, endorsed to your satisfaction, for that money, provided *you will pledge yourself it shall be refunded to me, without loss either of time or money*, as soon as the mistake is seen, which it must be the moment it is looked at. To pay coin for coin, must be considered fair, particularly as I most scrupulously kept the very coin always with me, and I am inclined to think the very same coins are still in London. There is a trifling objection to, I think, £27 14s. charged to me, though I have no doubt it is quite correct; but as I kept my accounts so differently from the

commissary, I was not aware how I had disposed of it ; but since, I believe, I have discovered, by some receipts I have by me ; however, I make no objections to those sums I *cannot prove*. As to the account I sent to Government a year ago, it was never intended to be considered correct, only a rough sketch. But I am surprised, on looking over it again, to find it so far out, and against myself. I beg Mr. Lumsden may be sent to finish my accounts, that I may be at liberty, which I must add, is the only way to give the *promised facility*. It is something strange in the law of *justice*, to keep a man in prison before his bill is sent him, when he has the money in his hands, and is most anxious to pay it. With respect to the money stolen by the seamen, from the prize, I beg to say, I called on the captain of the prize, and told him I should pay the sum recovered to him, and it was my intention to have placed it in a merchant's hands here, for him to receive ; but I shall have no objection to pay it to you, and shall be glad to get rid of it. But as it is of a private nature, I have a right to expect you will give me *an indemnity* against any further call for it, which, of course, you will not refuse.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

P. MINS.

To Admiral Condé St. Vicente.

XLVI.

Lisbon, September 6, 1834.

Str,

Since receiving your letter this morning, Mr. Lumsden informs me you now refuse to give the security you offered: this vacillation is extremely disagreeable to me, and must ultimately be unpleasant to yourself. The Government do not ask for payment, but for security. You have sent a claim for upwards of £3,500, on the Government; your accounts have been examined by your own documents; and you now say these documents are incorrect. I am not authorised to depart from the decision of the Ministry*, but shall be

* He stated before, that Ministers had nothing to do with it. }

happy to lay any written document before them; and in the meantime I must observe, that I cannot understand why you should now refuse to give the security you offered: by giving that security you are at liberty, and then can dispute your account; by refusing it, I can only lay it before the Government, which will be attended with delay, and for which delay, I must observe, I cannot be responsible; it is an act entirely your own.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient Servant,

To P. Mins.

CABO St. VICENTE.

XLVII.

Prison Ship, September 7, 1834.

SIR,

I beg to be permitted to recall the two different accounts I sent to the Minister of Marine, as I perceive they are very incorrect, and to substitute the enclosed, which I hope will be found more correct; but as I am in a great measure obliged to apply to my memory, assisted by Mr. Lumsden's account, it will be impossible to say there are no errors: there is some misunderstanding with Mr. Lumsden. I shall not object to give security for the amount, if it shall be found I am in debt to Government, but should prefer paying it at once.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

P. MINS.

To Admiral Condé St. Vicente.

XLVIII.

Marine Head Quarters,

Lisbon, September 9, 1834.

SIR,

I have received and laid before the Minister of Marine your letter, enclosing a fresh account; I cannot help observing, that it appears

to me most extraordinary, that an officer coming to this country* for the express purpose of settling his accounts, should not be furnished with his documents. You have published to the world that the Portuguese Government was in debt to you, your first account corresponds with that publication, and now that you are brought in debt, you say that the account was made out from memory, and is incorrect; you follow up your new account with a demand for £7,500, as indemnity for what you never lost; £1,994 for four years' gratuity, though it appears you were absent without official documents; you demand half-pay up to the present date, and all this after His Imperial Majesty† has decided that you cannot be considered in Her Majesty's service from the 21st of June, 1833; and finally, you persist in making out your account as Captain Mins, which cannot be considered in any other light than insult to the Government.

I again beg to advise that you give the security required, and you will have an opportunity of discussing your accounts in the comptabilité, and that your detention depends entirely on yourself.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

CABO St. VICENTE.

To Peter Mins, Esq.,
Prison Ship, Don Pedro.

XLIX.

Prison Ship, September 10, 1834.

SIR,

I have received your letter of yesterday's date, and shall endeavour to get security. Although up to this moment, I have no idea of the amount required, and therefore must add, my detention does not

* I expected to have my account sent to me, as they were to every other person, and therefore had not the necessary documents; indeed, no one could have them but the Commissary General. I had no assistance from him, and the Admiral was doing all he could to throw difficulties in my way.

† I have reason to believe His Majesty never gave that decision, for it never appeared in the Government Gazette, and only in the Admiral's own hand-writing.

depend on myself, nor do I yet know to what quarter the security is to be directed; it is this intentionally keeping me in the dark, that detains me.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
P. MINS.

To Admiral Condé St. Vicente.

L.

Marine Head Quarters,
Lisbon, September 10, 1834.

SIR,

You have been repeatedly informed the amount of the security required, which is £296 9s., and that a bill to that amount, properly endorsed on a respectable house, giving security to the comptabilité for that sum, is what is required; and if you can disprove any part of your debt, no difficulty will be made*.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
CABO St. VICENTE.

To Peter Mins, Esq.,
Prison Ship, Don Pedro.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF PETER MINS,

Sheweth, that your petitioner was arrested by order of Admiral Condé Cabo St. Vicente, five weeks ago, on an alleged charge of desertion from the Constitutional squadron, and also from Oporto; that a Court assembled on the 25th of August on those charges, and

* It must be evident to all, this is not *security*, but a bill for a certain amount; in other words, money; after this letter, I was advised to take no more notice of the Admiral, not to write to him, or answer any letter he might write me, as it was evident he had no idea of doing me justice.

gave an opinion so very favourable to petitioner, but so displeasing to Admiral Condé Cabo St. Vicente, that another was ordered on the 28th, which also gave an opinion still more favourable to petitioner: notwithstanding, petitioner was not released, but was then told he was imprisoned for a debt he owes to Her M.F. Majesty's Government, although petitioner does not owe any thing, and petitioner's accounts will show the Government owe him a balance, independently of a large sum which petitioner claims, but which petitioner omits in the settlement of his accounts, as it is disputed. There is one feature in petitioner's case scarcely credible, but which petitioner can, in the most satisfactory manner prove, namely, that the Commissary General, or accountant of the department, was ordered by Admiral Condé Cabo St. Vicente to enter against petitioner large sums he, petitioner, charged himself by mistake, notwithstanding the Commissary General told Admiral Cabo St. Vicente they were mistakes, and these mistakes form the alleged balance against petitioner, and for which he is in confinement. Petitioner was on the point of giving a bond for the sum demanded, when, upon inquiring, petitioner's friends advised him not to acknowledge a debt he did not owe, which the bond required would have done. Admiral Condé Cabo St. Vicente refused bail for the personal appearance of petitioner, which if he had taken, petitioner would then have had it in his power, by being at liberty, to look into his accounts. Petitioner's accounts are very simple, and embrace no disputed points; are mere matters of calculation, and by a person used to accounts, can be settled in five minutes. Petitioner humbly prays the Honourable House of Deputies will take his hard case into their consideration, and will immediately order his accounts to be settled, when it will be seen, he owes nothing, and has and is suffering a false imprisonment. And your petitioner will ever pray*.

PETER MINS.

Prison Ship, Lisbon,
September 18, 1834.

LI.

Mr. EDITOR,

As I see in the Government Gazette of the 27th, a statement from Admiral Napier's office, in which it is made appear, that bail was

* This petition was presented to the House, and referred to Committee, where I suppose it is now.

never offered for me. I therefore, in contradiction, beg to state, that bail for my personal appearance was offered by a friend, to Admiral Napier himself, who refused it, demanding a bond for £296, which there is no document to prove I owe, as £215 of that sum is a mistake in calculation, and which, although he has been officially told is so, he yet still persists in having it put against me, on which account my English friends have refused to lend themselves; the truth of this is known to several English residents in Lisbon, as also my readiness to pay any amount I justly owe. The gentleman who offered the bail having left Lisbon, is a reason why the mis-statement has now made its appearance; but a short time more will I believe bring him back to answer for himself. Trusting you will give this a place in your valuable paper,

I remain your obedient Servant,

P. MINS.

To the Editor of
A, Aguia do Occidente,
September 27, 1834.

LII.

Prison Ship, Lisbon, September 28, 1834.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I beg to address a few lines to your Excellency on your coming to the office of Minister of Marine, relative to my persecution. I have been kept in this prison for more than six weeks, by order of Admiral Cabo St. Vicente, on a charge of owing the Government £296, notwithstanding £215 of it was a mistake of my own, but which the Admiral insists shall remain against me; to get out of this prison, I endeavoured to find bail for the amount so unjustly demanded; but as the English merchants looked upon it as a fraudulent way to obtain money out of my pocket, they have refused to give security for me; I am, consequently, without the power; I have therefore nothing left, but to request my accounts may be made out fairly and justly, and in strict accordance with the British printed instructions; and if it shall appear, from documents, I owe any thing, I shall be glad to pay it instantly. I must protest against the unjust, oppressive, fraudulent, and unconstitutional way the Admiral has acted towards me, by refusing to let me have my accounts honourably made out, for

the purpose of keeping me in a false imprisonment. I have therefore to request I may be treated in the same way other officers have been, by having my accounts immediately settled, that I may return to my own country.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

P. MINS.

To Senhor Friere,
Minister of Marine.

I.III.

Prison Ship, September 28, 1834.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I beg to address a few lines to you, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of my persecution, and illegal imprisonment. I have been here a prisoner, more than six weeks, by order of Admiral Condé Cabo St. Vicente, on a charge of owing the Government £296; £215 of that sum being a mistake I made against myself in calculation, but which the Admiral insists shall stand against me. The English merchants, considering this an attempt to swindle me out of money, have refused to give bail for me, and I cannot get the Admiral to order my accounts to be made out honourably and fairly; I am therefore kept here a prisoner, contrary to law, and notwithstanding that I am ready to pay any amount I justly owe, the moment I get my accounts sent me. I believe, as a foreigner, in applying to your Excellency (to order my accounts to be settled, that I may be able to return to my own country), I apply to the right quarter.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

P. MINS.

To Condé Villa Reale,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

LIV.

Prison Ship, Lisbon, September 28, 1834.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I feel it a duty to make you acquainted with the circumstances of my present persecution, as much to prevent the possibility of your being ignorant of it, as to be able to declare you were acquainted with it. I shall, therefore, begin from London. At the time your Excellency and the Duke of Terceira were acting as the Regency for the Queen, I was invited by Admiral Sertorius to join the expedition, which I consented to do, provided a sum of money was paid me to cover the risk you are aware I run; this was promised to be paid me before I left England, and in the name and on the behalf of the Regency, was by contract agreed to be paid me. I on this, trusting to the honour of the Regent, gave up all my prospects in my own country, and joined with heart and hand, but the only answer I could ever get respecting the money was, trust to *our honour, you shall have it before you leave England*; but no money; and I was regularly deceived to leave England, with the repeated assurance, *trust to our honour, and you shall have it*. At Belle Isle, for the first time I was shown the contract, when, to my surprise, I found that by trusting to the honour, instead of getting the money; an additional article was added, about a week before I left London, giving up the money, and my name most unwarrantably used to it; I remonstrated, but was induced to continue in the expedition, by being assured it was only given up in advance, and would be most scrupulously and honourably paid when the expedition was finished; and having given up so much in England, I was obliged to trust once more to the faith of the Portuguese Regency, and wait until the expiration of the expedition. In the meantime, I did not think Admiral Sertorius did his duty, in not destroying or capturing the enemy's squadron, or that he followed the contract, in his conduct to either officers or men; I therefore became at variance with him, and he, to injure me, laid all kinds of charges to me, but none of which he has proved, whereas almost all of them have been, by different trials, proved to be false and malicious; and some were of so gross a nature, that when the Government turned him out of his situation, and he went to England, I asked for permission to follow him, to call him to a private account; I received verbal leave to go to England from Oporto, in presence and through the medium, as interpreters, of Senhor Da Silva Carvalho and Sir John Doyle, both of whom have

given me strong certificates to that effect; and I wrote several letters, to get that leave renewed, but received no answer; and as I knew Admiral Napier would not employ one who had quarrelled with his bosom friend, Sertorius, I was quite convinced my services were not wanted immediately, and therefore considered myself at liberty to remain, having no order to the contrary. When the war was over, I immediately returned to Lisbon, and to my surprise was told I was considered a deserter, was arrested late at night, and taken to a common prison ship, without bed or clothes; after a time, I obtained a Court of Inquiry, the proceedings of which are highly favourable to me; however, as I had nothing but Senhor Carvalho and Sir John Doyle to prove that I had leave to go from Oporto, I am told I am not in the service; and that I am not to have the sum of money ensured me before I left England, by trusting to the honour of the Regent and Admiral Sertorius, and after that I was sure to get it when the expedition was over; and again, to trust to the honour of the Portuguese and Admiral Sertorius, and I should have it. I am not to have the four years' pay as a gratification ensured me by the contract; and, in fact, after having served nearly four years, and given up every thing in England, I am to be out of pocket by trusting to honour; and further, have been kept in this common prison ship now more than six weeks, on a plea that I am in debt to the Government £296, notwithstanding all the prize money due to me, and they owe me a small balance on the sum they permit me to claim, and the item that forms the alleged balance against me, is clearly a mistake of my own, but which Admiral Napier will not allow to be removed. I am not permitted to have my accounts fairly and justly settled, which, when done, I have often repeated my readiness to pay any balance that may be against me. But Admiral Napier insists on my giving security for £296, which I am unable to do, as it is evidently a fraud, and I cannot get any merchant to lend his name in consequence; and as he will not permit my accounts to be settled fairly and justly, I am detained a prisoner by that nation, towards whose newly gained liberty I contributed my aid, and which they acknowledged, by awarding me the decoration of the tower and sword; and by thus lending that aid, ruined my prospects in my own country; under all these circumstances, I ask the world, have the Portuguese nation kept their pledged and signed faith? or are they treating me honourably, by withholding what I agreed to have given me before I left England, and then being told to trust to their honour, I should have it at Lisbon, upon the dishonourable quibble, that I went from Oporto without *written* leave, although if I had stayed there it is well known I should not have been employed. I feel it my duty to state this to your Excellency on

your joining the Ministry, that you may not be ignorant how I have been treated, as you were the chief person in the Regency when I attached myself to the Queen's cause, and therefore in *your* honour and faith I have put my trust,

And shall subscribe myself,

With much respect,

Your obedient and humble Servant,

P. MINS.

To His Excellency, the Duke of Palmella,
President of the Council, &c.

L.V.

SIR,

We, the undersigned, late officers in H.M.F.M. Navy, anxious to do justice to one so long traduced, and now able to give free utterance to our opinions by our removal from the sway of an arbitrary power, which we were well aware would be used to our persecution, embrace eagerly the earliest opportunity of expressing the high opinion which we entertain of your private as well as professional character, while commanding a frigate in the service of H.M.F. Majesty, the Queen of Portugal, and the utter disgust in which we hold the mean and dishonourable conduct of Vice Admiral Sertorius, towards one of whose independent character and professional talent he was jealous and afraid.

Signed by the officers.

To P. Mins, Esq., Capitão de Mar e Guerre,
Offical da Torre e Espada, &c.

L.VI.

TO CAPTAIN MINS.

Sir,

We feel ourselves happy in being able to assure you and the world, that in spite of the unjust and arbitrary manner in which you have been persecuted, and your conduct and motives meanly and mali-

ciously misrepresented, we still continue to entertain the same opinion which we have always done, of your upright dealings, and of your activity and intelligence as a naval officer; and we feel ourselves called on to make this public declaration, to counteract as much as possible the impressions injurious to your character, which have been industriously circulated by those who could find no *just* method of degrading you in the eyes of the public.

We are, Sir, &c.

LVII.

SIR,

Finding ourselves at last free to do you justice, without fear now of being persecuted merely for speaking the truth, we avail ourselves of the first opportunity of bearing testimony to your honourable conduct as a gentleman, and your zeal, activity, and intelligence as an officer, while commanding H.M.F.M. ship, Donna Maria 2nd: at the same time we are of opinion that a great deal of the injustice done you by Vice Admiral Sertorius, proceeded rather from the pernicious counsels of advisers, in whom he placed too much confidence, than from the natural promptings of his own heart.

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

To Captain Mins*.

LVIII.

Lisbon, October 4, 1834.

SIR,

I herewith forward to you a letter received from the marine department, enclosing the copy of one from Vice Admiral Sertorius, rela-

* These three letters were sent me a few days after Admiral Napier's flag was *hauled down*. I do not give the officers' names who signed them, for very *obvious reasons*, but I keep the *originals* in my possession.

tive to the robberies committed on board the ship "Commercio Maritimo," by the crew of the Donna Maria, under your command at that time, on which subject you will report, and return the above-mentioned papers.

CABO St. VICENTE.

Marine Head Quarters, October 4, 1834.

To Peter Mins, Esq

LIX.

(TRANSLATION.)

ILLUSTRIOUS AND EXCELLENT SENHOR,

Enclosed I send your Excellency a copy of a letter that has been directed to this office, dated the 25th, written by Vice Admiral G. R. Sertorius, relative to a robbery of money and jewels, on board the ship Comercio Maritimo, by a part of the crew of the frigate Donna Maria 2nd, then under the command of Peter Mins, and who the said Vice Admiral considers much compromised by keeping in his possession the greater part of the robbery without having given any account of it. I acquaint you (in consequence of the above named letter by the order of Her M. F. Majesty), that your Excellency may proceed according to the law, to obtain the requisite account of this circumstance of so much importance, and in such a way as to make the case quite clear, demanding from Captain Mins all the declarative documents and proofs that may be necessary to this effect. God preserve your Excellency.

AGOSTENHO JOSE FREIRE,

Secretary of Marine.

To Senhor Condé Cabo St. Vicente.

October 2, 1834.

LX.

(TRANSLATION.)

ILLUSTRIOUS AND EXCELLENT SENHOR,

A part of the crew of the frigate Donna Maria 2nd, of Her M. F. Majesty, when commanded by Captain Mins, stole a large sum of

money and some jewels, from the Miguelite ship Comercio Maritimo, taken by the above frigate in July 1832, a great part of which robbery Captain Mins was able to recover, always refusing (evadido) to give me any account, or to the Government. Deserting first from the squadron, and after from Oporto, without making any declaration upon the affair; and kept for two years, and is still keeping in his power, the part of the robbery that was recovered, in opposition to the following article of war (here follows the 8th article of war). As the money and jewels that I mention are part belonging to the squadron and part to the owners, I beg your Excellency will do what is necessary, that the said Peter Mins (now in Lisbon) may prove, from satisfactory documents, the quantity of money, and the value of the jewels, that he recovered from the thieves, and the motive he had for keeping them so long in his possession, without any authority. I do not include the Spanish dollars that on the occasion was taken from the seamen, and which was their property and pay (the stolen money was in Brazilian coin), to which I do not allude, as in the account that Captain Mins published and sent to the Government for the settlement of his accounts, based upon his papers, and when he had sufficient time to do so correctly, is totally in error, and with a difference of some hundred pounds sterling, which he confesses to be an error. I consider that I do not ask much, when I require that other documents more satisfactory than his *ipse dixit*, may be required.

SERTORIUS.

Vice Admiral.

Rua das Flores,

September 25, 1834.

To His Excellency, Senhor Francisco Lemoes Margoechi,
Minister of Marine.

LXI.

Prison Ship, October 6, 1834.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Agreeably to your wish, I proceed to give you an account of the circumstance relative to the robbery of the Comercio Maritimo, committed by some seamen of the Donna Maria. Having taken

possession of that ship late at night, with a strong tide, and most of my seamen on the beach at Mindella, leaving not more than about sixty men in the frigate, and agreeably to the order of the Commander in Chief to return to him immediately, I was unable to make more arrangements that night than sending the first lieutenant in a cutter, with other officers, to take charge of her, and sending her boat (which came on board with her Captain) back with more men. Next morning, I sent a Mr. Fitz Costa (a midshipman), with Mr. Williams (a midshipman), and, I believe, about twelve men, to take charge of her, taking my first lieutenant and other officers and men back, and leaving on board of the prize her own captain, with about eight of his men, to see every thing was quite safe, sending the rest into a small vessel. Mr. Fitz Costa, and the men sent with him, remained in charge some days, and until the Commander in Chief sent me a written order to give the ship up to her owners, taking my men out, but to leave Mr. Fitz Costa on board, to manage (I believe) the share due to the squadron. As those seamen were coming alongside, my first lieutenant reported to me, it had been hinted to him that all had not gone right in the prize, &c., upon which, I ordered him to have the seamen and their things searched, when money was found upon them. It was also suspected more might be found below in the ship, I therefore sent the men aloft, to "mend sails," and ordered the lower deck to be searched, after which, the first lieutenant and other officers counted the money, and gave it into my charge, giving me a list of the men it was taken from, as also the different sums and coins, a copy of which list I beg to enclose. At the time this took place, the Commander in Chief was on shore at Oporto; when he came back, I reported the circumstance to him, and begged the men might be tried by a court-martial; he did not like to make the matter public. I begged him to make inquiry as to whom the money was to be repaid, which he promised to do, and desired me to keep charge of it. When I resigned my ship at Vigo, I wrote to Oporto, to request steps might be taken to find out to whom the money belonged, and to let me know, that I might send it to them. I often inquired of the Commander in Chief if he had heard any thing respecting this money, and he invariably expressed his surprise that he had not. I never received any order from the Commander in Chief until the 30th of December, 1832, after resigning my ship. I was then looking for documents to answer his order, when I got another, on the 1st of January, 1833, demanding the reason why the first was not answered; at the time the second came, I was in the midst of packing up my private property of all kinds, to leave the ship, having been given only *three* hours to do so, by the Commander in Chief, when superseding

me, which circumstance has appeared twice at a public court. I answered the second, by stating, that my things being packed up, and my clerk absent, it was then impossible to do as he wished, but that in the course of ten days, I hoped to be able to give the account as demanded. I need not state why it was not done, or why the money has been so long in my charge. The strange conduct of the Commander in Chief in seizing all my property of every description, (well known to your Excellency) will explain this, and not getting them again until the following September, (nine months,) when most of them were spoiled, and many lost, amongst these, papers of consequence; I immediately sent an account to the Minister of Marine; however, when I arrived at Oporto, I found the captain of the vessel, and learned many particulars from him, all which appeared before a court-martial on the subject, held on me, by his Imperial Majesty's orders, at Oporto: to the proceedings of that court I beg to refer your Excellency for further particulars, as also to the proceeding of the late court on me, relative to my leaving my ship, and afterwards Oporto. Having petitioned her M.F.M. to be pleased to direct that my accounts may be placed before a committee for arrangement (which I find I cannot do myself, not being a merchant, or knowing any thing about accounts, by which cause, in my accounts sent to Government, I have made great mistakes, both for and against myself); the affair of the Commercio Maritimo can be examined into at the same time. I beg also to state my readiness to pay any sum I may owe, and to express my surprise, that I should not be allowed the same facility the other Englishmen, who were in the service, have had; but, that, contrary to justice, I am detained a prisoner, simply because I cannot get these accounts made out. I trust this letter will have answered every point you require, but as your letter is written in Portuguese, which language I do not well understand, and not having it in my power to get it translated, this must stand as the reason, if I have mistaken my points.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

P. MINS.

Capitão de Mar e Guerre.

To His Excellency,

The Minister of Marine, &c., Lisbon.

LXII.

Translation of the order sent to release me from prison, putting me in full liberty.

October 20, 1834.

QUARTER GENERAL OF MARINE,

Senhor P. Mins having done all demanded by an article dated the 1st of September, giving bail, as that article directs, your Excellency will acquaint him he may leave the prison, and consider himself at liberty. This order you will execute*.

(SIGNED) JOSÉ XAVIER BRESSANE LIETO.

Quarter General of the Marine.

To Senhor Ricardo José Alves,

Capitão Tenente,

Her M.F.M. Prison Ship, Don Pedro.

* The alarming illness of one of my family in England, made it absolutely necessary I should get home as soon as possible; thus I was obliged to give the money Admiral Napier demanded, for the purpose of being able to go.

CAPTAIN MINS'S CLAIMS ON HER MOST FAITHFUL MAJESTY'S
GOVERNMENT.

	Due from Government to P. Mins. £. s. d.	Received by P. Mins. £. s. d.
For pay and table money, from the 1st of October 1831, to the 1st of Jan- uary 1833	903 15 9	903 15 9
Allowance for passengers fed at my table, by Government order, at different times	216 0 0	80 0 0
Paid out of my pocket for ship's stores	5 10 6	
Half-pay from January 2, 1833, to Octo- ber 20, 1834.....	475 12 0	
Four years' gratuity, as per contract ..	1,994 4 0	
Cash at Porto Santo, from Capt. Jarvis		3 16 4
Ditto at Vigo, from Marquis Palmella ..		31 8 6
Left, from money received at St. Mi- chael'a to pay seamen		43 1 6
Taken from seamen who robbed the prize		141 19 5
Insured me by Regency before I left England, but was not fulfilled, was then solemnly ensured to be paid me at the end of the expedition*	7,500 0 0	
A bill demanded by Admiral Napier upon false grounds	296 9 0	
	£ 11,391 11 3	1204 1 6

Balance due to Captain Mins from } £ 10,187 9s. 9d.†
the Portuguese Government }

* See letter at bottom of page 52.

† This account or claim is different in its form to that which I published in my first book; I then hoped to find myself dealing with *honest people*, not expecting they would insist upon my paying them a sum they knew I did not owe them, simply because it was put

LXIII.

Lisbon, November 15, 1834.

DEAR SIR,

On the 10th inst., I was served with an order from the solicitor to the Admiralty, signed by the Minister of Finance, José da Silva Carvalho, to pay the amount of the security I had given for you, within ten days, or an extent would be issued on my property, as you had ("evadido") absconded without settling your accounts. Mr. Reis (your procurador) seems to think (though he is doing every thing to avoid it) that I shall be obliged to pay the money, or go to prison. I am grieved to say that the bundle and papers, with your procuration, &c., were almost entirely consumed, from the accidental falling of a candle; it is certainly most unfortunate. I am afraid nothing can be done in your affairs without your actual presence on the spot. The bill is forwarded by this packet for acceptance, to meet the expected payment.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

GEORGE DOBSON.

To Captain Mins.

LXIV.

72, Great Russell Street,
January 18, 1835.

MY DEAR SIR,

It is some time since I received your letter, dated the 15th of November, informing me you had been summoned to pay the security you had given for me; and also that *all my papers* had been burnt. The surprise I felt that such a summons should have been sent you, to pay a security, given ALONE to ensure the settlement of my accounts, and to enable me to leave Lisbon, certainly was great; I therefore naturally showed your letter to all my mercantile friends in

down by a mistake; nor would they permit that mistake to be altered, although they knew it to be one, nor receive Carbonel's receipt; adding all this to my account, swelling it up by the difference of exchange, &c., not allowing that which the contract ensured; thus the Admiral endeavoured to make it appear I was in debt £296 to Government, and on that false plea, gratified his desire of persecuting the person who had quarrelled with his friend Sertorius, and I verily believe for his friend he did it.

F

the city, who, when I informed them that the security was given by the express advice of the Portuguese Government, and by their advice I left Lisbon, leaving a representative, and the extraordinary circumstance coupled with the burning of all my papers, of the *utmost consequence*, caused them to give such an opinion of the case, which I shall forbear to repeat, and which I trust will be found to be erroneous, though, at the same time, I must follow their advice in demanding some explanation, both for my satisfaction, as also to enable me to do away with the injurious impressions your letter has caused in the city. I must therefore request you will send me the order you were served with, dated the 10th of November, from the Minister of Finance, directing you to pay the security, and the remains of my papers, for you say "they were almost entirely consumed," consequently there must be some parts left; and also that you will acquaint me what steps you took, and ordered Mr. Reis the lawyer to take; these papers you will not hesitate to send me, for how can people here believe that a Government owing me about £10,000, telling me my accounts will be a long while in arranging, and therefore *advising* me not to remain, but to leave a representative, and to get that person to give, *what they expressed*, a nominal security that *they should be settled*; and *about one week after* I go; having *done all this*, that they should actually demand the payment of that security, £296 9s. 9d., stating, *because I have gone*, thus robbing me of that sum over and above the large amount they are in my debt; that much intrigue has been most *dishonourably* used against me by two *most dishonourable* countrymen, I am well aware, but that the Portuguese Government could be so *base and rascally*, thus to rob me, I must have strong proofs of to believe. I am quite sorry these unpleasant circumstances should have taken place, but as they have, *the elucidation of the whole*, AND MOST FULLY, is *as necessary for you as it is to me and my friends*, as also to expose so base a fraud as that to which the Portuguese Government have lent themselves. Mr. Reis cannot have done his duty to me, if he has not taken some steps to prevent this fraud; he ought to have shown, that they could not demand the sum until my accounts are settled; and when those accounts are settled, the Government will find themselves in my debt £10,000 (and which they are well aware of). Is it possible they act thus to save that money? if so, I should wish to have papers and documents, that I may give to the world an example of *Portuguese honour*. But your letter, *as it now stands*, unfortunately forces from all I have shown it, opinions quite of a different kind. Pray let me hear soon, and I have no doubt will be good enough to take charge of any thing for me, as he and I have the same agent. I hope you are quite well, and believe me to be,

Your's, most sincerely,

P. MINS.

To G. Dobson, Esq.,
Lisban.

LXV.

Lisbon, February 1835.

CAPTAIN P. MINS.

Sir,

I have received your letter, under date of the 16th of January, 1835, which I can not only consider as ungrateful but insolent, and scarcely worthy of notice; however, from the vile and insidious insinuations it holds out, I will endeavour to reply to it as briefly as possible.

You say, "That your surprise that such a summons should have been sent you to pay a security given *ALONE* to ensure the settlement of my account, and to enable me to leave Lisbon, certainly was great; I therefore naturally showed your letter to all my mercantile friends in the city, who, when I informed them that the security given was by the express advice of the Portuguese Government, and by their advice I left Lisbon."

Now, Sir, you will give me leave to say, it was not exactly as you above state, because you very well know you were in gaol at the instance of the Portuguese Government, and could not be liberated from it, without security given (exactd and not advised by that Government), in order to enable you to settle your accounts here, and in all probability would have been *HERE* yet, had I not, most unfortunately, been induced to become your security; nor is it at all likely they should have advised your leaving Lisbon, when the only apprehension they had was (that if you were liberated) of your leaving the country before you had *settled your accounts*. Now, if you will be pleased to show this statement to your mercantile friends in the city, it may, perhaps, induce them so far to modify those terms they made use of, as to enable your extreme delicacy to state them to me, and I do hope do away the injurious impressions caused by my letter in the city.

I shall have your documents examined and taken an account of, and they shall be forwarded to you by Mr. . . . who has kindly offered to take charge of them. Being of the *utmost consequence* to you, I hope the injury they have sustained may not prove prejudicial to your cause*.

* This letter, from its style, and from *having no signature*, I think will do no credit to the writer. I give it as I got it. He kept the £300 I gave him, and has never sent any account, although I desired him to pay the balance to Mr. Reis the lawyer. I received the papers, only very *slightly burnt*, and which, as they are of importance, is very fortunate. It is very strange that *two* packets should be only *slightly burnt* by one candle, and one of those packets being rather *large*, containing clothes.

Note.—Captain begs to inform Captain Sertorius, that it will not be in his power to accept of employment on the projected expedition for the restoration of the Queen of Portugal to her throne, unless he receives a *permanent* and *effectual* indemnity *before he starts*, for the risk he would thereby incur, which he considers to be as follows:

In the first place, *if* the risk of loss of life *only* affected an individual, it would, perhaps, be a secondary or minor consideration to a military or naval officer. The loss thereby incurred to his family, is one that cannot be overlooked.

In the next place, the risk of losing an officer's commission is not limited to a *pecuniary consideration*; the degradation to which he is exposed thereby, together with the loss of his professional prospects, are much greater than can be recompensed by pecuniary considerations. The chance of this degradation would be inevitable, if the members of the late administration should return to office; *and he would be at any future period liable to be thus treated*; under these circumstances, Captain † could not accept *less* than £5,000 3 per cent. consols: that would produce him in the British funds an income equal to that arising from his rank and losses, and which will be enjoyed by his family in the event of his death.

• Captain Mins.

† This letter was written in London, when things were in their infancy;—was presented by Admiral Sertorius to those acting for the Regency, *he himself being one*;—it was agreed to; and in consequence, and in answer, Article 3rd of the contract appeared, which may be seen in the appendix of my Narrative.

FINIS.