Mr Robert Heysham

Madeira 15th May 1703

Wee have now your's of 23th January a Coppy & 18th February & 4th March originals & the George of Plym: Capn Reeves Comander who came in company of the Governour of Barbados wee have laden the hundred ffp in conformity to your Order Invoice whereof goes Inclosed the Import 2570U159 wee debet you in our acct Curt —

Wee note you had let to freight 120 Pipes on the Employ Capn Charles Culliford Comander and that you had laden sundry goods according to the Lists sent you as appears by the Bills of Ladeing and wee further observe you had given us credit 22 p ℔: by the abatement of freight in Capn Keasar but you say altho it was just wee had noe reason to complaine because of the Risque & that your kinsman should have put 40 p Cent being warr time wch you say you charge upon all the goodes for your Halfe — now wee must tel you that either you or wee must bee mistaken for if the Persons for whose acct wee sent for these good. wil bee soe content wee shall say nothing but if they refuse to accept them on your Termes because wee agreed to send for them as formerly upon the same conditions wee have nothing to allege nor indeed doe wee find any reason for it if you wil bee informed what wee know that goodes are not worth more since the warr then before but rather Less because wee have greater plenty by reason of soe many ships in Fleets always droppingin wch spoyles the trade wee need not mention these reasons but only assure you that wee cannot expect that any man should give us more then that for wch wee had agreed and if you doe not think it adviseable to doe it on those termes it had been much more reasonable for you to Advise us or sent them upon our acct rather then to say you had charged us 40 p Cent because it is now warr it is true in the last warr there was allowed 40 p Cent 7 p p Milkey and if you examine whether 20 p Cent 6 p p Milkey makes the same money you wil find them equal but it wil bee needless to urge this as an argument all that wee can say is that wee doe not think ourselves obliged to abide by the Arbitrary disposition of another nor because he says it must bee that it is reasonable therefore that it should bee soe wee could mention more wch would bee to the same Effect but wee rather incline to tel you that wee are not disposed to receive more of the goodes then our owne Halfe when they come and the other Halfe to remaine in the custome House for your acct until you are better informed — otherwise wee must act like men of little thought to take goodes att 20 p Cent loss and those goods to bee sold for next year's paym: when the whole amount is made good out of the value of wines laden p the same ships wee have contented ourselves to serve our friends were there is noe loss to us but how any Gent can expect that wee should lose by his gaine wee cannot understand wch wil be evident because wee sent for the goodes upon the same conditions without any alteration and must deliver them att the same Price as formerly and therefore wee desire you to ship us p the first ship for our acct the quantity of one Halfe of the goodes wch you have already shipt

of the same species that wee may bee able to give complement to our contract unless you are content to doe as wee doe and in case you are not soe pleas'd wee cannot remedy it and you must not blame us wee could not prevent what wee did not foresee nor expect —

Wee note you had shipe for your owne acc.t four hundred quarters of wheate and two thousand of Stoppes w.ch you order to bee sold for ready mony to goe in Parte of the wines to excuse Bills for Lisbon by w.ch wee suppose you further expect Impossibilities from us for you must note that wee never make in mony one quarter part but deliver out trusted to such Persons that take off our goodes & if wee did not wee must breake w.th them. The wheate p Capp.n Cullifford last year remained selling above ten months and not p part made into mony the remainder delivered upon notes to recover as wee can —

In short wee sel noe goodes for reddy mony nor present payment wee trust from one year to another and besides give in Bills to the Shopkeepers that take off these goodes in proportion to their value and this wee doe in October or November to pay us to easter in Feby or March not in mony but wines therefore this is done w.th our owne stock because wee are never Indebted to our Principals but ship their Effects by ye same ship — Wee desire nothing that you say will make mony because it will not doe it Nay worse it entails us w.th more debts in the Country w.ch otherwise would bee excused and the Debts owing to us would bee Less — wee would only aske you whether there is any such trade driven as this were you have twenty p Cent certain without the Hazard of Cos debts. Or delay in payments wee know of none or whether any factors act upon such foundation for the service of their Merchants and yet att once to say it must bee 40 p Cent and that this must shall oblige us — rede, wee'l act like reasonable men & give every man his due and if any have cause to complaine w.th Just Cause wee will acknowledge it — and therefore it will bee but equall Justice to allow us the same Liberty altho wee are under Covert — wee shall say no more until wee see the Invoices of the Goods & then wee shall bee and ourselves that equall Justice to the best of our knowledge not to spare the truth of our case in all particulars and remaine —

Mr. Robert Heysham

Madeira 22th June 1703 @

Wee confirme the aforegoing Coppy of our last, Since which arrived the Employ Capp.n Richards comander with yours of 13 March, and 15 April p. Capp.n Turpin, wee have received the Sundry Goods according to Bill of Ladeing, and have now almost compleated the Ladeing of the Sloop pursuant to your order — shee will Saile in five days —

Wee note your approbation of the Wines laden p the Seahorse, and hope they may meete a good Market, because they were wanted in that Island, your Brother Mr. William Heysham sent up the Mary gold Sloope wherein hee was halfe concerned with Some others wee dispatched her three dayes past, shee came from Barbados the 27 March & then wines sold for 29 a 30 p Pipe, wee wish good Success — hee writes us that hee designs for England in the Fleete that may be going in this Month, but wee presume when these ships of the last arrive at Barbados, they will not come away soe Soone —

Mr. Morgan in ye Lydia and a Brigantine called the Fryall Capp.n Legist Comander parted from the Fleet & were taken together by a Man of Warr & a Bridateer from Rochel bound to St. Domingo, they tooke out of the Lydia all the Goods & Buccaneers, and the Brigantine was ransomed by the Merchants aborde for two — — Capp.n Davison Separated from the Fleet, but had better Success, meeting with a french Ship with 14 Guns & 8 Pedeveros & 40 Men, whom hee attacked two houres and afterwards renewed it again in the Morning boarded & tooke the Frenchman, who had Ten Men More then himself, hath brought the Prize into this Porte, laden with Wines from Thenerife bound to Lisbon, w.ch being incapable to send for England and for Want of Men, is now takeing out the Wines aborde his owne Ship, in order to carry them to England — it was a fine action done without Stratagem, but by dint of Resolution and Conduct, because he laid the French Man aborde & entered his Men, w.ch is more then usual when the force he had was inferior —

wee have sent you Capp.n Hen: Mundays first Bill on Mr. Robert Ellison — £62:10:—
Capp.n Hen: Mundays first Bill on Mr. Robert Ellison — £24:01:03
Mr. Abraham Mendez jun.r first Bill on Mr. Menahah Mendez — £86:11:08
Capp.n W.m Boswel first Bill on Mr. Micajah Perry & Comp.a — £20:10:11
Admiral Greydons first Bill on Mr. Robert Travers — £100:09:04
Capp.n Thomas Day's first Bill on Mr. Thomas Reynolds — £90:06:03
Capp.n Nicholas Ladens Bill on Mr. Thomas Edgecumbe of Plimouth — £82:19:04
Capp.n Thomas Lemons first Bill on his wife — £31:05:—
Capp.n Thomas Bulcocks first Bill on Mr. Robert Heysham — £80:—:—
Capp.n W.m Harrisons first Bill on Mr. Robert Heysham — £25:10:—
Mr. Manifold Howes first Bill on Mr. Robert Chester — £36:05:—
Mr. John Walters first Bill on Mr. Christopher Fowler — £17:10:—
Capp.n Roffeys Bill on Capp.n John Hyde first Bill — £57:12:06
Capp.n Roffeys Bill on his wife first Bill — £100:—:—
Mr. William Dotins first Bill on Mr. Mel Holzer — £151:—:—
Our first Bill on Mess.rs Rowland & William Tryon — £30:07:02
Our first Bill on Mr. Edward Lascelles — £153:00:05
Our first Bill on Mr. George Lapthorne of Plimouth — £61:15:—
— £51:—:—
£1176:02:02

Wee are god be praised at 23th ditto. The Employ will be fully laden this day w.ch is Saturday and will infallibly Saile on Monday, wee have not Time to be more particular w.ch wee shall be by Capp.n Davison who may saile in Ten days —

Wee intended to write you on the Subject of the 40 p Cent on Goods, wee confirme what have written in the Coppy, and shall only add that wee much admire that Mr. Heysham should leape from 20 to 40 p. Cent, only because the Insurance is now 4 Guineas p Cent, whereas it was 2½ p. Cent before the Warr, wee argue nothing against the extravagant freight because others pay you the same, if your Will is a Law, wee cannot withstand it, and when wee can have noe redress, wee must have patience but you must remember that 40 p. Cent was when the Exchange was 7 p Mil Rej. The goods you sent are still in ye Custom House, & wee expect your answare — with due Respects remaine —

Sr. most humble Servts
W.m Bolton & Co.

No 104

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