

Great Britain. Emigration Commission. General Report of the Emigration Commissioners. v.4 London: William Clowes & Sons for H.M.S.O., 1836. pp. 287-290

No. 189.

His Majesty's Commissioners to Viscount Palmerston. (Received Oct. 23, 1835.)

Rio de Janeiro, 29th July 1835.

My Lord,

We have the honour to report to your Lordship, in this Dispatch, the "*Continente*," with sixty-two slaves on board, captured by the imperial sloop-of-war "*Dous de Março*," on the 7th ultimo, in the condemnation of the Brazilian patacho in the harbour of São Sebastião.

This being a clear case of Brazilian slave-trading, we need do no more than refer your Lordship to the Report of the case, and to the sentence of the court, both of which we have the honor to transmit herewith, the latter in original and translation.

From the former of these documents, your Lordship will perceive that the patacho was, in the first instance, detained only on suspicion, and that the capturing party had had possession forty-eight hours, and had made every possible search, as they supposed, before it was discovered that there were any slaves concealed on board. What the state of these wretched beings, to the number of forty-seven, must have been, deprived for so long a time of air and food, and packed in the smallest possible compass, like so many bales of goods, we need not pain your Lordship by describing.

This case is so connected with that which is the subject of our following number [190], that it is difficult to report intelligibly the one without the other.

The "*Continente*," a small vessel, which had only recently sailed from hence on a professed voyage to Rio Grande, was employed for the purpose of transshipping and conveying to other points of this coast the Africans brought by a larger vessel (the "*Aventura*") from the ports of Loanda and Ambriz, and it was the attempt to put on board of the former fifteen blacks from the shore where they had been previously landed, which determined the ultimate capture. The main body had not, as before observed, been at that time discovered.

The officer in command of the "*Dous de Março*" made a statement, in the course of his deposition, which, though not recorded in his testimony, we think we ought not to refrain from reporting to your Lordship. Speaking of the activity with which the Slave Trade is at present practiced, and the inefficiency of the means at command to suppress it, he mentioned one estate alone in the neighbourhood of Ilha Grande, where not fewer than sixteen hundred new blacks were openly maintained, the proprietor of the estate keeping up an armed force, and mounting some guns on such points of his grounds as might be supposed to be most accessible, thus setting at the Slave Trade is at present practised, and to inc defiance every attempt to interfere with him.

We have, &c.

(Signed)  
GEORGE JACKSON.  
FRED. GRIGG.

The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B., Sfc.

First Enclosure in No. 189.

Report of the Case of the Brazilian Patacho "*Continente*."

*Rio de Janeiro*, 29th July 1835.

The Brazilian patacho, "*Continente*," was detained on the 6th June last, at anchor in the harbour of São Sebastiao, by the Imperial sloop-of-war "*Dous de Marco*." On being visited, no blacks were found on board, but the truth of the suspicions entertained of her being engaged in the traffic of slaves, was manifested by the approach of a canoe with fifteen new blacks, which, on perceiving the patacho to be in possession of an armed force, attempted, but in vain, to put back, and, on being fired upon by the same, was compelled to give itself up.

This vessel sailed from Rio de Janeiro in the month of May, on a professed voyage to Rio Grande, and, on the pretence of having sprung a leak, had been anchored in the harbour of São Sebastiao about a fortnight. On the strength of this attempt on the part of the canoe, the "*Continente*" was definitively captured, and sent to Rio, and, after she had been taken possession of upwards of forty eight hours, forty-seven more Africans were discovered concealed between decks. It subsequently appeared that these sixty-two blacks formed part of a cargo which had been brought from Africa in the brig "*Aventura*," under Portuguese colours.

The Master, who was also Owner, of the patacho "*Continente*," contrived, after capture, to make his escape, so that the only witnesses to be examined in this case were the boatmen belonging to the canoe. They all denied any knowledge of the transaction, but the fact of her being engaged in the Slave Trade, and also of her being a Brazilian vessel, admitting of no doubt, sentence of condemnation was pronounced at the sitting of the Court on the 28th instant, on the said patacho, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and the Goods, Wares, and Merchandise laden therein, as good and lawful Prize, to be sold for the profit of the two Governments, and the emancipation of the slaves to the number of sixty decreed on the same day, to be placed at the disposal of the Imperial Government, to be employed as servants or free labourers, two having died between the time of capture and adjudication ; and further, the Master and Owner, José Francisco Dutra, a Brazilian citizen, was declared to have been guilty of an infraction of the first Article of the Convention of the 23d November, 1826.

(Signed)  
GEORGE JACKSON.  
FRED. GRIGG.

Second Enclosure in No. 189.

*Rio de Janeiro*, 28th July 1835.

The proceedings in the present case being examined, the undersigned Commissary Judges of the Mixed Commission declare to be a good Prize the Brazilian patacho "Continente," detained by the Brazilian sloop-of-war "Dous de Marco," inasmuch as after having been visited at the Island of Sao. Sebastiao, where the sloop met with her at anchor, there were found on board forty-seven Africans, besides fifteen others who were making for the said patacho in a canoe, and which, together, make a total of sixty-two, as is fully proved by the same proceedings, "condemn the said patacho, conformably to the 7th Article of the Regulations annexed to the Convention of the 28th July, 1817, and confirmed by the last Convention of the 23d November 1826, together with all her appurtenances and cargo, to be dealt with as is determined by the said Article; and further, declaré Jose Francisco Dutra, a Brazilian citizen, and Master and Owner of the said patacho, to have been guilty of an infraction of the 1st Article of this last Convention, and the above-mentioned Africans to be free and emancipated, to the number of sixty, two having died since the capture, and to be placed at the disposal of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, to be employed as servants and free labourers.

(Signed)

JOAO CARNEIRO de CAMPOS.  
GEORGE JACKSON.

(A true Translation)  
NATHANIEL LUCAS,  
*Interpreter (ad. int.) to the Mixed Commission.*