

Portland Aug 26. 1845.

My Dear Sir -

We yesterday wrote you directing our letter to S^t Louis, as you desired in yours of the 14th of August - But fearing you may have passed through that place before our letter reached there we write you again to meet you at New York. In the first place we are desirous of saying to you that Cap^t Libby informs us he has written you three letters all directed to New Orleans, two from Rio de Janeiro & one since his return home, & that he is without answer to either of them. This day the Grand Jury of the Circuit Court are examining the case of Cap^t Libby, and will probably be about it for several days. There will he think, without doubt, be a bill found against him, & if they follow the charge made against him before the commissioner, it will be for bringing from Inhambane, Coast of Africa, to Rio de Janeiro, two black boys, about fourteen years old in your Brig Porpoise - Cap^t Libby brought these boys into Rio, without any suspicion that they were slaves, in fact believing them free, in as much as they were furnished by the Supercargo, Paulo, with full passports that they were free - It proves that Libby knew they were slaves the government rely on a mass of proof, 12 witnesses sent home from Rio, to show that Libby went in the Brig, where Paulo required & delivered his cargo in different places

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society (Local Code: Coll. 187 Box 1/4)

Date: Aug. 26, 1845

Description: Letter to George Richardson, owner of the brig Porpoise, from the lawyers Fessenden & Debois, on the occasion of the brig being seized by the U.S.S. Raritan and charged with having been engaged in the slave trade between Africa and Rio de Janeiro.

on the coast where there were slave factories & that
Capt Libby was frequently ashore at these factories,
and saw slaves bought and sold by Paulo -
You will perceive therefore at once the importance
to him and you to show that the Brig was
chartered in a legal trade - and to show the
sailing orders, & that he was chartered by Maxwell
Wright & Co. agreeably to your orders - In a word
we must rely on you for much that is highly
important - Capt Libby has therefore been very
anxious for your return to enable to see what he
can substantiate by your evidence - You will
therefore hasten home as fast as practicable, altho'
we think that even if you were here we should
move to have the trial continued in order that
we may have time to send to Rio for the
passports - Capt Libby came home voluntarily
& immediately on his arrival surrendered himself
to the proper authorities - The Brig was first
seized by the U.S. Frigate Raritan, and afterward
delivered to the Brazilian Government, who after
examining the case gave her up, when the Amer-
ican Government seized her again & sent her into
Boston, where she is now libelled - Her trial
stands for the 1st Sep^r. But, we have already in
your behalf in the name of Capt Libby filed
our claim to the Brig in the Dis. Court U.S. at
Boston, & shall attend the Court & take care of
your interest - But on this account also we

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your intent - But on this account also we

are very impatient for your arrival to enable
us to file your answer to the Libel, tho' we
have no doubt the Court in consideration of
your absence will grant a continuance -
The officers in Boston do not feel very
confident of succeeding against you, but
here they feel more confidence - We
believe Cap^t. Libby entirely innocent.
Hasten on then as fast as you can as your
presence is absolutely necessary - We think
that on your arrival you
will bond the Brig &
take her out of the expense
of keeping.

Yours very truly,
Fessenden & Deblois.

Geo. F. Richardson Esq.
NYork.

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