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in saying, declaring that I do not believe any Negro either free or a
Slave who had taken refuge on board the fleet under my command
has at any time been sent to the West Indies, the whole were either
ordered to the Island of Bermuda or to Halifax, I further
declare that none of these persons have been kept in a state of
Slavery, but suffered to go wherever they thought proper: As the
local laws of Bermuda did not permit of their settling there,
until opportunities offered of their being sent to Halifax, they and
their families were maintained at the public expence, and
those who performed any work were regularly paid for the
same. — As I am confident you would not have op-
ted what you did, without you had considered yourself
authorised to do so, I cannot doubt of your readiness
to acquaint me with the particulars, to which your letter
related and the authorities you quote; should you think
proper to favor me with these, I pledge myself either
to disprove every part thereof or to bring the guilty parties
to punishment.

If your Informants had been ac-
quainted with the regulations that have been established
in all the British West India Islands since the abolition
of the Slave Trade, they would have known the total
impossibility of introducing Slaves into any of them in the
manner they state, the public authorities there could not
have permitted the flagrant acts of injustice to have oc-
curred, which have been imputed to those who professed to be the
deliverers of the Negroes upon their quitting the American Shore.

I have sent this letter by a Ship of war to Harpington Road,
the Commander of which has my instructions to wait your
answer, I will endeavour to send a duplicate by post: having
by a late Despatch from England received similar informa-
tion to that contained in your letter to the Commissioners
at Ghent (which I presume had been sent to the British
Government from thence) it makes it of moment that I
should be put in possession of all the facts, that the inves-
igation may be proceeded on before the separation of the

The Honble
Secre-
tary

Andy St. J.
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