

Halifax 16<sup>th</sup> May  
1864

Sir

Great apprehensions being entertained  
by the Merchants of this place that  
their interest will be very materially  
affected by the Proclamation lately  
issued by your Excellency declaring all  
the Ports &c of the United States to be  
in a state of rigorous Blockade, I  
have the honor to transmit the copy  
of a Petition which has by them been  
submitted to me on this occasion,  
And have to request that you will do  
me the favor to inform me as speedily  
as possible whether Vessels licensed by  
me to carry Articles enumerated in  
the Prince Regent's Orders in Council

The Duke

Sir Alexander Cochrane K.B.

Commander in Chief  
H.M.S. "Hulk" &c