

New York 6th December 1813

Mr. William Jones

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Sir

The Schooner *Betsy* belonging to me, with
a cargo of Cotton. Rice. &c. &c. partly to order from Savannah, was on the 21st
captured off the Hook by the British Ship of War *Plantaganet* of 74 Guns —
an arrangement was made with the Captain to come up to Town & procure
my vessel & cargo at a stipulated price — General Dearborn was
in town. I procured a smack & with the Captain of the Schooner, I embarked
the Head Quarters of the Commandant at Sandy Hook, to whom I made an
exposition of my situation & object, & received permission & a flag to go off and
recover my vessel; the wind & weather proving unfavourable I remained at the
Hook until the 26th when the *Plantaganet* being in sight with the Schooner in
company, I proceeded off to her &ransomed my vessel & cargo: and liberated Capt. Hrew without
delay — I then came in at the Hook, reported the vessel to the Commandant and
went up for town — Coming through the Narrows, was fired on & thought too
for a Gun Boat, by order of Commodore Lewis, who has ever since detained the
vessel on the plea of having had communication with the Enemy without his
permission — I immediately waited on two of our most eminent Counsellors
after examining all the Laws declared I had infringed no one, and the
vessel Commodore Lewis had rendered himself amenable in heavy
damages — I have repeatedly called on Commodore Lewis, who declares he is acting
by your orders, that he had forwarded a statement to you & hourly expected
an answer, from which circumstances I concluded to wait without commencing
suit; to which step I am strongly advised — This morning I called on
Commodore Lewis who had no reply to his letter; he asked if I had made any
representation to you; answered I had not; he was surprised & said I had best do so
immediately, that he had stated no particulars except his seeing an interest
in the Enemy — Why a flag was not obtained from Gen. Dearborn
& Quarters, may be a question with you to my injury, instead of the
Commandant at Sandy Hook? I vindicate myself by stating, that but
a few days previous the Sloop *Lady Washington* from Savannah, was captured
the same vessel, under similar circumstances, when on application to
(Head Quarters)