

1698-1700. Earl Of Bellomont and Frederick Philipps

Source: E. Donnan (1932/1969). *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to America*. NY: Octagon, v. III, 438-444.

1698. The Board Of Trade To The Earl Of Bellomont.

. . . We send you also here inclosed the deposition of Humphrey Perkings of New Yorke, which we caused to be taken for the same reason. It relates to a voyage from New York to Curasso some *years* ago in a ketch whereof one Smart was master and Colonel Depeyster owner; that you may make what use you can of it, either in troubleing those concerned for what is past, or preventing the like (as much as possible) for the future. But upon occasion of this Perkings it is fit that we acquaint your Lordships a little particularly with his story. He was master of a vessell called the *Frederick* sloop belonging to Mr. Frederick Philipps, and (since your Lordship's being there) was sent out under the conduct of Adolphus Philipps to cruise for a vessell expected from Madagascar, which vessell they accordingly met, and having taken great quantitys of East India Goods out of her and put them on board this sloop, Adolphus returned in the Madagascar ship with nothing but Negroes to New York. In the mean while this sloop went and lay privately in Delaware Bay till Adolphus came againe from New Yorke to them, and then sent her away (under the conduct of one Jay a Frenchman) North about Scotland to Hamburgh. But at Hamburgh S'r Paul Ricaut his Majesties Resident getting notice of such a vessell with such a cargo, seized what he found and sent the men hither, who have all of them made depositions about the circumstances of the whole voyage.

WHITEHALL, October the 25, 1698.

1698. Colonel Fletcher's Answers To The Complaints Against Him.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Council for Trade and Plantations.

May *it please your Lordships*, . . . Glover was an inhabitant of New York and master of a ship built there, and then riding in the harbour; he had another of the like sort. . . .

As for Glover he went directly, as I heard, with a loadings to Barbadoes, and there tooke a new Commission from the Governour, and was thence sent for Negroes to Madagascar, and that he was there taken by the Pirates. . . .

I say the same thing in the case of granting a commission to Moston. The case (as I recollect) was thus. There were severall English and Dutch merchants of New Yorke who had haired the ship *Fortune*, to fetch negroes from Madagascar, as was every year usually with them. . . .

LONDON, December 24th 1698.

1699. Representation Of The Board Of Trade.

To the Kings Most Excellent Majesty, . . . The 10th Article is: That Colonel Fletcher granted also a like commission to Thomas Moston Commander of the ship *Fortune*, an unfree bottom, tho' it was then evident that the said ship was not designed for any service of war, but for illegal trade, and the sequel demonstrated it accordingly.

In answer to this article Colonel Fletcher acknowledges that he granted the said Commission to Captain Moston upon the desire of several merchants who had hired the ship to fetch negroes from Madagascar; but denies his knowledge that the said ship was an unfree bottom: the evidence of which, as it lyes before us, consists of the, information given us by the Earl of Bellomont that the said ship was known to all men to have been formerly a Dutch privateer; also in the copy of her Charter party of affreightment, by which she is hired to lade other goods as well as Negroes; likewise by the cargo she took in publickly at New Yorke, which the Earl of Bellomont writes was goods proper for the pirates; and in the last place by her seizure and confiscation for illegal trade upon her returne thither. . . . WHITEHALL, March the 9th 1698/9.

1699. The Earl Of Bellomont To The Board Of Trade.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for
Trade and Plantations.

My Lords. . . . But rather than require more soldiers from England (for I confesse I grudge our parting with people out of England) I should advise the sending for negros to Guinea, which I understand are bought there and brought hither all charges whatever being borne for 10£ a piece New Yorke mony, and I can cloath and feed 'em very comfortably for 9d. a piece pr. day sterling money, which is 3d. pr. day lesse than I require for the soldiers. If it were practicable for the King to be the merchant and that whole management of this undertaking were upon his account, which I confess I am not able to judge whether it be (as I said) practicable or would be pleasing to the Nation; but were it so, there would be a profit of at least £50 pr. Cent made of the goods sent over hither and to the other plantations for defraying the charge of making and providing the Stores. . . .

NEW YORKE, Aprill the 17th 1699

1699. The Earl Of Bellomont To The Board Of Trade. Boston

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations.

My Lords. . . . I desire to be directed by your Lordships whether I may not lawfully require bonds of all the ships that go From hence and New Yorke on trading voyages, that they shall not goe to Madagascar nor elsewhere, where pirates frequent. I know 'tis a thing sometimes practised to take the Governors passe for one port or place and sail to another. And that trick was served me last summer at New Yorke by Baldrige and Taylor who fitted out a Briganteen; and took my passe for Antegoa, but I was told their design was for Madagascar or Guinea; when the briganteen was at Sea, whether with or without the privity of the forementioned Owners I cannot tell she turn'd pirate and went to Newfoundland and robb'd ships.

Now that I have had occasion to mention Baldrige, I will acquaint your lordship with a particularity told me of him by Kidd, when I first examined him in Council, because you had directed in your letter of the 25th of last October or 5th of last January that I should inquire after some pirates kill'd in St. Maries near Madagascar. I question'd Kidd about it, and he told me Baldrige was the occasion of that Insurrection of the Natives and the death of the pirates, for that have inveigled a great number of the natives of St. Maries, men, women and children on board a ship or ships he caaryed and sold them for slave to a French Island calld Mascarine or Mascaron, which treachery of Baldriged the Native on the Island revenged on those pirates by cutting their throats. . . .

Boston August 24th 1699.

1700. Heads Of Accusation Against The Earl Of Bellomont

The Earle of Bellomont in justification of these proceedings calumniates the people of New York of being Pirates and favourers of Piracy and breaking the Acts of navigation whereas it is evident that but one ship has for ten years past gone from thence on a Piraticall voyage and that was pretended to be commissioned by Leisler; "Tis true that severall ships have had a constant trade to Madagascar for Negroes and some of them having lately met with India goods there which they brought an easy rates transported them to New York. These are what I am informed by the Merchants of London will appear to be true. March 11, 1700.

1700. The Earl of Bellomont to Secretary Vernon

...As to the charge against me for suffering the ship *New York Marchand* to come thither after having been at Madagascar, I have inquir'd ab't it, and the story of that ship is this: Frederick Philips her owner had appointed her to stop at Delaware Bay, which is 50 leagues westward of this Province, and there his son met her in the Frederick's sloop, takes out all her E. India goods and sends the Frederick's sloop and goes to Hamborough (the story whereof you know) and come to this town in the *N. York Marchand*. Upon notice of the ship's coming in (for the sloop I never heard of till from your selfe) I sent immediately to search the *N. York Marchand*, where there was nothing found but a parcel of Negros, and the trade for Negros to Madagascar was not them under a prohibition, not until the E. India Act passed in England. I

defie all mankind to charge me justly with any sort of corruption in the least degree or with any connivance or partiality shew' d to one man or party more than another...

Depositions of William Johnson and Peter Lockcourt (nd)

Wm. Johnson being Examened Declareth That He was One of the Seamen and mariners on Board of and belonging to the Pink *Charles* Whereof Robert Godingham was master when She Came into this Port of New Yorke and that he was Shipped by the Sayd master at the Isle of May 2 in the month of October Last Past and that Peter Lockcourt was Shipped att the Same tyme And the Sayd master Agreed and Promised to Pay him fourteen Guild'rs Hollands Money As he payd Other men per month that himselife and the Sayd Peter Are Dutchmen and when they Came On Board they found with the master and Boy but fiveteen In all besides them Belonging to her of which two were Scotchmen and one Dutchman Called the Doctor, the Rest English and that they went from the Sayd Isle of May for Angola In Guiny and by the way one of the Scottsmen Dyed Soe the Whole Ships Company with them Remained Sixteen in all That Att Guiney they Received On Board About One Hundred and fourty Negroes which in Or About the month of Aprill Last Past they Landed att the Island of Barbados Except About twenty three which were Sick and of them but Nine Remained Alive who were brought into the Sound and Eight of them Put Ashore with the Long boat neer About Rye and Delivered to Mr. Frederick Philips his Sonne and the Other being A Negro boy was Sent to this City in the Boate of Cornelis Fransen with a Sack or Bagg of Pepper twelve Or more Pewter Dishes and Some Peeces of Striped Stuff for hankercheifs which were Delivered from On Board the Sayd Pink when She was in the Sound under Sayle bound In hither that the Same men that Sayled in Sayd Pink from the Isle of May for Guiney And Barbados where the Same That Came in her To this Porte Except One Scotsman that Dyed and besides the master and Boy were in all fourteen marriners with the Doctor and of them three were Dutchmen and One James A Scottsman He Sayth further that Att Stanford att the house of Capt. Selleck there was Delivered On there out the Sayd Pinke about One Hundred and Tweenty Water Caskes One New Sheat Cable One Small Gable Or Hasser four great gunns Six Musketts two New Sayles two great Anchors and A great Quantity of Negro Bread and further Sayeth not.

Peter Lockcourt being Examened Sayth and Declareth that he was Shipped On Board The Pinke *Charles* by Robt. Godingham Master thereof to be payd as he Sayd he Payd the other men That Is to Say fourteen Guilders Hollands Money per month and went in her the Voyages mencioned in the Above Deposcion of Wm. Johnson and Agrees with him in Relateing the Severell Passages both Concerning the Quality and number of the Marrin'rs and Landing of Negros and goods etc.