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Whitehall, March 7.

Extract of a Letter arrived this Day from Ambrose Stanyford, Esq; his Majesty's Consul at Algier, to his Grace the Duke of Bedford, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Algier, the 8th of February, 1749-50.

I H A D the Honour of writing to your Grace on the 4th of January, but did not receive your Grace's Favour of the 13th of October till the 26th of last Month, for Want of an Opportunity from Mahon, from which Time till now there has been an Embargo upon all Shipping, according to the Custom of this Place, when they are careening and fitting out their Vessels for Sea. The ten Xeveques are gone, and the Macho and her Prize will go in two or three Days; however, the Dey has for this once broke through the Rule, and has ordered a Vessel for Leghorn to sail immediately, in order for me to transmit the following Account to your Grace, and his Letter to his Minister.

Of the four Ships of this Place which were out on a Cruize, three returned without any Prize; but the fourth (thought to be lost) at last arrived on the 3d Instant, and reported he had taken a Ship belonging to Lubeck, laden with Deals and Pipe-staves, and a Spanish Snow Packet-Boat laden with Tobacco, &c. from the Havannah, but that he had been separated from them by bad Weather, as also from five English Vessels he had taken because their Passes were not good: He had taken three or four People out of each Vessel, and put an equal Number of Moors on board, so that he brought here 20 People in all, of which one of each Ship is either Mate or Boatswain: As soon as I found this, I applied immediately to the Dey, who was very much surprized at this Affair, and immediately ordered Examination to be made into the Matter; I accordingly took the Deposition of the Officer and People of each Ship, who all declared upon Oath, that to the best of their Knowledge their respective Passes were good and lawful; that the Fault the Captain of the Cruizer found in one, was some Deficiency in the Mizen Mast, and the rest, that some were broader and some shorter than his Counterpart of the Scollop, or Indenture, though a very Trifle, which

the said Officers said might happen by the Passes or their Counterparts being kept in moister or drier Places, as Parchment will give in the former, and shrink in the latter; and as the Captain had little to say in Contradiction, the Dey immediately sent all the People to my House, and declared to me, that if any of the said Vessels should come in, they should be supplied with Provisions, and sent away on their respective Voyages; and declared farther, that the Action was rash and stupid. Next Day the Dey acquainted me, that he had broke the Captain, and that he never more should serve in his Employ; and that he had determined to have strangled him, but was prevented by the strong Intercession of the Musli and others of the Divan; on account of the Celebration of the Nativity of their Prophet Mahomet. But he said he would give such Orders, that nothing of this Sort should happen again, and then swore by his Prophet, that if any one controverted those Orders, whether with Regard to Passes, or in any other Point of Conduct regarding the British Flag, he would take his Head; and this I find he has told to every one that has come before him, as he has been in a continued Fret ever since; and indeed all Sorts of People exclaim against this stupid and rash Proceeding. The Vessel which carries this is dispatched by the Dey express under my Direction, and will go to Mahon, and if the Commodore has no more expeditious Way of forwarding it, the Vessel proceeds with it directly to Leghorn.

Madrid, March 2. Letters from Barcelona of the 21st past mention, that several Vessels just arrived there, had parted with Commodore Keppell about ten Leagues from that Port, who was proceeding up the Streights with the Remainder of Thirty-five Merchant Ships, which he had taken under his Convoy at Gibraltar. As M. Spinola is not yet arrived in any of the Spanish Ports, it is thought he is returned back to Porto Rico, especially as a Register Ship which passed the Gulph with him is arrived at the Canaries.

Hambourg, March 10, N. S. This Day the Sieur Clamer was elected Counsellor of this City, in the Room of M. Otte, deceased in an advanced Age.

Tower