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ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, Nov. 29.

Copy of a letter from Captain FREDERICK WATKINS, Commander of his Majesty's ship *Nereide*, to *NEFFAN*, Esq. dated in Curacao, 15th Oct. 1800.

SIR,

Be pleased to inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I have thought it indispensably necessary to send these dispatches to England by my First Officer, Lieutenant Paul, to acquaint their Lordships of the surrender of the valuable island of Curacao to his Majesty's frigate under my command. I beg leave to transmit duplicates of all my letters to the Right Hon. Lord Hugh Seymour, and the articles of capitulation agreed between his Excellency Johan Rudolph Lauffer and myself; as also inventories of warlike stores, shipping, &c. I hope their Lordships will sanction my conduct in taking possession of this central and valuable island in his Majesty's name.

Lieutenant Paul I cannot recommend in too strong a language to their Lordships, for his zealous exertions during the whole of the siege: And for any further information he is perfectly able to describe every thing their Lordships may be desirous of knowing respecting Curacao.

I have the honour to be, &c.

FRED. WATKINS.

His Majesty's ship *Nereide*, off Amsterdam, Island of Curacao, 11th Sept. 1800.

MY LORD,

I wish not to lose a moment in sending a fast sailing vessel to inform your Lordship, that the island of Curacao has claimed the protection of his Britannic Majesty. I have in consequence felt it my duty to take possession of it in his name.

I am now running for the harbour, as it is absolutely necessary to lose no time to save the island from the enemy, who threaten to storm

the principal fort to-night; but I trust the *Nereide's* assistance will be the means of frustrating the enemy's views, and saving a most valuable colony for his Majesty.

I compute the force of the French to be about fifteen hundred now in possession of the west part of the island, but no strong post of any consequence to prevent my holding the forts commanding Amsterdam, until I am honoured with an answer from your Lordship.

There is great property afloat belonging to the Spaniards.

Lieutenant Paul will have the honour of delivering this dispatch to your Lordship, of whose exertions and zeal for the service I cannot speak in too strong terms.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) F. WATKINS.

The Right Hon. Lord Hugh Seymour, &c.

His Majesty's ship *Nereide*, off Amsterdam, MY LORD, Sept. 14. 1800.

Since sending my last dispatch of the 11th inst. Governor Johan Rudolph Lauffer has finally surrendered the Island of Curacao and its dependencies to his Majesty's arms.

Inclosed I have the honour of transmitting to your Lordship a copy of the terms of capitulation. I have the honour to be, &c.

FRED. WATKINS.

The Right Hon. Lord Hugh Seymour, &c.

ARTICLES OF CAPITULATION agreed between FREDERICK WATKINS, Esq. Captain of his Britannic Majesty's ship *Nereide*, now lying off the harbour of Curacao; and JOHAN RUDOLPH LAUFFER, Governor (interim) of the said Island, and its dependencies, and Commander in Chief of all the armed force of the said Island; namely, that the said Island of Curacao and its dependencies shall surrender and be placed under the immediate protection of his Britannic Majesty, in conformity to the following articles, viz.

(R.)

Art. I. The Island of Curacao and its dependences shall be placed under the protection of his Britannic Majesty and shall peaceably and quietly submit to the Government of his said Majesty. Anf.—Agreed to.

Art. II. The inhabitants of this Island and its dependencies shall enjoy perfect security in their persons and properties, and the full exercise of their religion, except such as shall appear to belong to the subjects of the powers now actually at war with Great Britain; such property only excepted as was on board the vessels in the harbour on the 10th inst. Anf.—Agreed to.

Art. III. All ships and vessels of war that may be in the harbour, and all artillery, warlike stores, ammunition, &c. that may be found in the forts and public magazines, and all property of whatsoever nature it may be, belonging to the Batavian Republic, shall be delivered up to his Britannic Majesty in the state in which they now are, and officers shall be appointed on each side by the joint parties to take inventories thereof. Anf.—Agreed to.

Art. IV. All debts due by the Government of this Island shall be punctually paid out of the revenue of the said Island. Anf.—Agreed to.

Art. V. No alteration shall be made in the established laws of the said Island; except that in future such might be found necessary for mutual benefit or safety, and which must be regulated by the concurrence of both parties. Anf.—Agreed to.

Art. VI. During the time this Island may remain under the protection of his Britannic Majesty, or in case this Island and its dependencies should, at the conclusion of the war, remain in the possession of Great Britain, the inhabitants of the said Island and its dependencies shall enjoy the same rights and privileges of his Majesty's subjects in the West Indies. Anf.—Agreed to.

Art. VII. The laws heretofore observed respecting property shall remain in full force.

Private. As it is impossible for the inhabitants of the said island and its dependencies to subsist without a free intercourse with the Spanish Main, the ports of Curacao and its dependencies shall be open to all Spanish vessels.—Anf. Agreed to be allowed the same free trade as the island of Jamaica.

Signed, sealed, and ratified in the presence of Cornelius Spencer and E. A. Van Eck, on the part of Johan Rudolph Lauffer; and in the presence of John Lewis March, on the part of Frederick Watkins; at the port of Amsterdam, in the island of Curacao, the 13th of September 1800.

(Signed)

JOH. RUD. LAUFFER.
FRED. WATKINS.
WM. RIDLEY, Sec.

[Price 6d.]

