

Capt. Alex. Collette to Col. McKahan

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Sir, His Majesty's Ship Swiftsure Post Office Minorca 24th
March 1812.

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The accompanying letter, copied from the original now in my possession, reached me only two days ago, and as its tenor appears to be decisive upon my appeal for redress as Commissary of prisoners in South America, to the Treasury Department, I have presumed, under any present circumstances, to place under Your notice, the issue of an approach to their Lordships, to which You had condescended to lend so

generous an aid—
There are several combined causes which induce me to this reiterated, and free address to You, and I am frank in exposing them to You, because I am sanguine that they are so strong in their nature, as to interest a mind so liberal as Yours. By the same conveyance which I have received this official communication, I have also had one of a domestic kind—It describes the situation of my family, a Wife and four children, all females, as suffering the most bitter privations, cut off from every pecuniary supply, and subject to the precarious, and painful obligations of private friendship for existence—Placed at such a distance, I cannot to say that I am unable to relieve either their feelings, or their wants, by my energies

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Capt. A.

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or my means - Were I to renew my claim to the Board of Admiralty at present, it might be treated with silence, or perhaps by a further reference equally unavailing, and my pay having long been, and still being under arrest, to refund a sum of £350 - and a remaining balance upon it of £38. 18. 10; besides being in arrears to my Agent Captain Kempster, who has declined making any advances to my family. I am here incapacitated to act and under sensations I cannot remove - I would not have been so repeated, and urgent in my memorial, to the various Offices, of State, had I not been sustained in them by two precedents of successful application to the Treasury and Admiralty Boards, on the part of Capt. Adairson 71 Regt. who, after different representations to the former, obtained his pay as Town Major of Buenos Ayres, during the whole period of his continuance in South America as a prisoner, under a document from General Beresford similar to the one I hold, by a warrant from Their Lordships of May 18. 1810, and in that of Lieut. Landel Royal Marines who was awarded his wages for a like time, as acting quartermaster to the Marine Battalion there, by an order from the latter department issued to the Paymaster Genl. Williams only in 1808 - under a certificate from Capt. Mc Kenzie, the commanding officer. I filled a duty

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irksome, continued, and perilous - It entailed upon me heavy
losses, and at this moment, I have not been recompensed with
a shilling either for pay, or disbursements. On the contrary I
have incurred a personal responsibility for £58.6.8 or 250
dollars paid to me August 6th 1806, out of the Treasury at Buena
Vista in order to support the prisoners on charge, after I had expended
funds of my own derived from prize money at the Cape, upon
the same purpose.

The Transport Board indeed has tendered to me £21:10: as a
compensation for all, but I have positively waved the acceptance
of it. I don't, Sir, thus keep you in time and patience. If
any suggestions for remedy of my case shall occur to your
comprehensive mind, after the perusal of this scroll, I pray you
will communicate them to John Francis Esq. of Duke Street
Westminster, my special agent in this business, who will avail
himself of them for my benefit, and any individual influence
you can afford him to promote it, will confer a lasting favor on
me, and my suffering family -

I have twice attempted to get some, without effect - I also
transmit to you Sir Edward Pellew's reply to my last, which
will evince to you that I am under a professional restraint
that precludes exertion for my own interests, and renders
this fresh submission to your Benevolent consideration a

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duty of necessity

I have the honor to attend my being, Sir, with
gratitude, respect, and esteem, your very devoted, and
faithful humble servant,

Alex Gillespie

Captain Royal Marine

John W Mahony Esq

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Captain Gillespie

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14 March 1872