

5116

*Considerations for, & against
the Possession of Gibraltar*

Decem. 1782

By Mr. Saml. Garbett.

511

1. The keeping of Gibraltar gives a Dignity to Britain

2. Gives us consequence with the Barbary States.

3. Gives us Protection in Trade to the Mediterranean and Levant.

4. Having been for many years esteemed a Point of National Honour, the parting with it would certainly occasion great dissatisfaction amongst the most worthy; and be a most unpopular measure.

5116 (2)

- 1 Is the Dignity worth the Money it costs? This is a deep Question. - doth it occasion ill will against us in Spain that is of any consequence.
- 2 Of what value, and where in is that Material?
- 3 In Time of Peace it may be of use, but the Value of that will be in the Rate of Insurance. In Time of War our Commerce with the Mediterranean and Levant ought to be in Neutral Bottoms, not only because Freight and Insurance will be cheaper by Neutrals, but because our Sailors are then of great importance to the State. This Opinion will be illustrated by referring to S. Garbett's difficulties in getting Brimstone from Leghorn, for more than two years during the present War tho' He employed 7 ships.
- 4 It is not probable that the Bulk of the Kingdom will think any thing an Equivalent for Gibraltar - as to Islands in the West Indies they will no doubt soon be Independent of this Country. -

Relative to procuring Brimstone from Leghorn
in time of War.

(This Paper is referred to in the foregoing Considerations)

That the principal Ingredient used in making
Oil of Vitriol is Brimstone and Plaintiff had
for many Years experience found that the
best Brimstone for making Oil of Vitriol was
that made at a place called Salamona in Italy,
and procured from a particular Mine in that
Country, and Plaintiff for many Years preceding
the year 1779 had made use of no other sort
of Brimstone except by way of Trial at his
Vitriol Works at Preston near Oxford, and by
frequent experiment had found it very
hazardous to use any other Brimstone in
making Oil of Vitriol on account of the
uncertain Quality of the Vitriol when any other
Brimstone was used therein, And therefore
Plaintiff

5117

Plaintiff entered into Contract with the Proprietor of the aforesaid Mine to be supplied with an annual Quantity of about 200 Tons of such Brimstone at about 46 ^½ Cent. more than he could have Purchased other sorts commonly used for, And that by reason of the War which broke out with France in the year 1778 it became very difficult if not totally impracticable to procure any further supply of Brimstone from Italy either in English Ships or in Neutral Ships as the same is one of the Articles which are deemed Contraband, and Plaintiff from the Causes aforesaid met with repeated Disappointments in his Endeavour to procure a supply of Brimstone from Italy I was unable to procure any from thence during the years 1778 and 1779 altho' he used his utmost endeavours to procure such Supply thereof as was necessary to enable him to fulfill his part of said Articles of agreement, for Plaintiff sheweth that
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in August 1778 Plaintiff purchased a large
Quantity of Brimstone made at the aforesaid
place called Salamona in Italy, and sent a
Ship in which Plaintiff was a fourth part
Owner (no other being to be had at any time
on account of the Danger of the Passage from
the War with France) to the Port of Leghorn
in Italy in order to convey such Brimstone to
Scotland and so great was the hazard
esteemed that enormous Wages were given to
induce them to venture upon the Voyage &
that tho' the Vessel was known to be a Prime
Sailor excellently Manned and compleat in
every respect, Plaintiff was obliged to pay
35 Guineas per Cent. Insurance to Leghorn as
much back again would have been 70 Guineas
per Cent. Insurance on the Ship besides Insuring
the Premium and the advance of Wages which
were heavy Expences but which Plaintiffs
anxiety to perform his Contract with the
right sort of Brimstone induced him to
undergo but said Ship was captured by
some

5117 (2)

some French Ship in the Mediterranean before it arrived at Leghorn, immediately upon his receiving notice of which Misfortune Plaintiff directed his Agents Mess^{rs} Gentile & Orr, at Leghorn to Charter a Neutral Ship at any Price to bring to Scotland about 200 Tons of the Brimstone that was purchased and then lying at Leghorn, and they in conformity to such directions Chartered a Spanish Ship and loaded same with Brimstone for Plaintiffs Works in Scotland, but in the course of her Passage she put into a Port in Spain, where the Ship Master found that a War was commencing between Spain and England and many Circumstances occurred which made it necessary for him to sell the whole Cargo in Spain in order to prevent a total Loss, and he accordingly sold the whole Cargo there, and Plaintiffs Agents at Leghorn thereupon in conformity to the directions herein before mentioned Chartered another Neutral Ship

Ship a Danish one to bring 200 Tons of Brim-
stone to his works in Scotland but that the
Ship Master being apprehensive that Brim-
stone was a Contraband Article refused on
that account to perform his Contract & Plaintiffs
Agent at Leghorn thought it expedient on
account of the Importance of such Objection to
endeavour to enforce the performance of the
Charter by Proceedings at Law, in consequence
whereof the Matter was Tried at Law before the
Maritime Court a Pisa, and there Judgement
was given against the Ship Master, but upon
appeal to the supreme Court at Florence
Judgement was there given that the Article
was Contraband, and therefore the Ship
Master not compellable to perform his
Contract, and that upon such Determination
Plaintiffs' Agent at Leghorn according to such
Directions as aforesaid did without delay by
an enormous Gratuity induce two other
Neutral Ships Danish & Russian to undertake
to

to bring Cargoes of Brimstone to Britain for Plaintiff's Works, and that the Danish Kessel brought a Cargo to London in August 1780, and the Russian to Preston Pans in December following and which Russian Ship had been seized by an English Privateer on account of her having Brimstone on Board which was a contraband Article and was carried into Minorca where she was released upon Proof being made that the Cargo was actually designed for Britain, and not for France or Spain - And Plaintiff not only took such Measures as aforesaid to obtain Brimstone of a proper Quality for his Works but by his directions dated Octo. 1778 his Agents at Leghorn shipped two Cargoes on board two English Ships, the Masters of which were deterred from proceeding on the Voyage by the great danger of being Captured by the Enemy in those Seas, and after waiting there upwards of twelve Months with said Brimstone on board, same was taken out & put on shore again & which occasioned great Expences to Plaintiff in many Respects.

Expences incurred for the Garrison of Gibraltar
in the years 1780, 1781, & 1782 extracted from
the Treasury Books. _____

1780	Voted for Pay of 3 Batt ^s of Hanoverians	20.017
	Do. for 5 Batt ^s of British	94.525
	Staff and extra Staff	8.311
	Bills of Exchange	26.776
	Medicines	571
		<u>212.950</u>

1781	Voted for 3 Batt ^s of Hanoverians	20.017
	Do. 6 Batt ^s of British	110.826
	Provisions & Stores sent in Feb. 1781	85.636
	Cart sent at same time	30.000
	Bills of Exchange	39.295
	Staff and extra Staff	8.311
	Value & Demurrage of Ships	37.891
		<u>339.976</u>

1782	Voted for 3 Batt ^s of Hanoverians	20.017
	Do. 6 Batt ^s British	110.826
	Staff and extra Staff	8.311
	Stores sent by Mr. Bourke	30.121
	Provisions from Army Stores	30.974
	Cart and Bills of Exchange	37.907
		<u>262.156</u>