

U.S. Ship John Adams

Rio de Janeiro Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 1849

Commodore:

I have the honor to report, that  
in obedience to your order of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Sept.,  
I sailed with the ship under my command,  
for Campos on the Eastern Coast of Brazil.

Adverse winds and almost continued foul  
weather obstructed our progress and prolonged our  
passage to an extraordinary degree, so that I  
did not reach the vicinity of our cruising  
ground until the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. I (pushed ?)  
in shore on the 9<sup>th</sup> (passing?) in my way a (Bra?)  
-gillian brig, and some fishing craft, and anchored  
on the coast the same evening; and in the morning  
got close in shore between Campos & Mangueneos (poss.Manguiera).

Whilst standing along the coast in search  
of a convenient point to anchor, I encountered some  
fishing craft belonging to Campos on their way  
in for the night, and arranged to send a boat  
in next day.

The Padrone\* of the smack informed me,

that the bay of Campos offered only seven feet of water, that Manguenos was little better, and that there were no square rigged sea-going craft in either port. He reported that a slaver had appeared on this part of the coast a month since, was met by a steamer which took on board the slaves; and that both had departed, the steamer for Rio – and the slaver, probably for Espiritu Santo.

At the same time I was arranging to hold some communication with the shore, the wind was freshening, and as we stood off, increased

(# 1)

\*The master of a small fishing vessel

to a stiff gale from the N.E. and forced us to carry a heavy press of sail to weather the banks off Cape St. Thomas. Throughout the night the weather was so stormy as to give me little hope of being able to regain our ground for several days, and again resume our operations. This brought me to consider that neither your orders nor verbal communications, looked to so prolonged an absence, as this return would involve. The time had already passed. I knew your desire for the speedy return of the ship to Rio, and I therefore bore up before the gale, and have the honor to report our arrival after the most (boisterous ?) weather I remember ever to have encountered in the same number of days.

The people are however, for the most part well, though considerably fagged.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

L.M. Powell

Commander

To

Commodore George W. Storer

Commander in Chief of U.S. Naval Forces

On the Coast of Brazil