

Nov. 9, 1793

Unto His Excellency George Washington  
President of the United States of America.

The Memorial of James & Edward  
Senman Esq. North & Vesey and  
Jennings & Hoddrop of Charleston  
South Carolina Merchants

Sheweth

That your Memorialists, deeply impressed  
with the deplorable situation to which many of the Inhabitants of  
St. Domingo, now residing in this City with their families, have  
been reduced, from Affluence, to want of the necessaries of  
Life, undertook to send a small Vessel, with a Confidential  
Shipmaster, to bring off some little matters for their Subsistence  
and at same time to see if the Country was in that situation  
that Vessels could be sent with safety, and a certainty of bring-  
off farther Supplies.

That in consequence thereof, they  
on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August last, dispatched the Schooner Fild  
Trial, an American Bottom, under Command of Capt. Arch-  
Thompson, an American Citizen, with a Cargo of Rice, Flour  
and Pork, with orders to call at St. Marc and Port au Prince  
and take onboard whatever property might be offered for Relief  
the unfortunate persons now in this State, but advising  
at same time, and also our Correspondents Messrs. James Fra-  
Forbes Esq. of Port au Prince "That in our sincere Wishes  
be aiding in procuring some little Supplies for those unhap-  
"people here, we meant to run no Risk ourselves, nor that  
"or any others, should in any shape do so, of offending against  
"Laws which, unknown to us, might be made, or of drawing  
"Resentment of the Ruling Powers; - that though Humanity  
"was deeply imprinted in our nature, (and we had never met  
"greater occasion to exercise it, yet it was not to be expected at  
"perils to ourselves or friends."

That your Memorialists have been  
rendered very uneasy at receiving <sup>no direct</sup> Intelligence of this Vessel  
for some time, but have lately had open Letters sent them from  
New Providence, advising that not only the Vessel had been  
laid hold of by the Commissioners, but the Captain and your  
Memorialists Correspondent, James Grant Forbes, had been  
put in Confinement at Port au Prince, on Suspicion of  
intending to bring off Property for Persons here.

That having candidly mentioned the  
Truth, they are ignorant of the reasons which can have led  
to such a procedure: - As American Citizens, they understood  
they had a right, both by existing Laws and Treaties, to send  
their Vessel to a French Port which had always been open to  
American Vessels, and to bring away their own, or the Property  
of others, not absolutely forbid by any Law or Proclamation,  
of which they avow their Ignorance, and which it is evident,  
their Letters and Instructions they did not mean to offend against

They therefore humbly request your  
Interference with the proper Persons for  
Relief of Mr. Forbes and Captain  
Thompson and also for Redelivery of  
their Vessel and Cargo with Damages  
And your Memorialists Request

Charleston S. Carolina  
9<sup>th</sup> November 1793

J. H. Pennant & Co.

North & Vesey  
Jennings Woodroffe