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Dear Sir,

A Portuguese ship arrived here yesterday, in thirty eight days from London, with intelligence, which renders it probable that there is either a war at this time with England, or that one will shortly take place. I shall proceed in about ten days to Rio Janeiro, where it is probable my ship will be detained, and in the event of war, sold. If a war takes place, my chance of return to the States, will be very precarious. The desire to make myself useful, urges me to suggest to you the propriety of my being authorized to equip and man a vessel for the purpose of cruising. A vessel of a proper description (I mean a fast sailing schooner) may be obtained, and I think fitted out at no very considerable expense. There are a number of American sailors in this country, who would be thrown out of their usual employment, and be glad to ship in the service. Will you be good enough to state the business to the Secretary for his consideration? The possibility that this letter may fall into other hands, prevents my enlarging on this subject; but I have information which convinces me the project may be carried into effect.

I think it proper to communicate to you for the information of the Secretary of the Navy, that Capt. James Barron, while in this place, in a Merchant Brig from Norfolk, did say to a Mr. Lyon, British Consul at that time, and now residing here, that even if the Chesapeake had been prepared for action, he would not have resisted the attack of the Leopard; assigning as a reason that he knew, (as did also our government)

2 there were deserters on board his ship. He said to Mr. Lyon further, that the President of the U.S. knew there were deserters on board, and of the intention of the British ships to take them; and that his ship was ordered out under these circumstances, with a view to bringing about a contest which might embroil the two nations in a war. He told Mr. Lyon that he had ~~in his~~ private letters in his possession, from officers high in the government, approving his conduct in the affair with the Leopard. I obtained this information from Mr. Thos. Goodwin, of Baltimore, (brother of Lieut. Ridgely) who received it from Mr. Lyon himself; not in confidence, but in company, where a number of Americans were present. Mr. Lyon considers Barron as having been highly injured in the business. I always knew that Barron was a man of the most vindictive heart. He has no doubt said these things with a view to revenge himself. I am now convinced that he is not only a coward, but a traitor; for I can call by no other name, a man who would talk in this way to an Englishman, and an Englishman in office.

I regret beyond measure that I left the U.S. - my situation on board of her, was such as would have secured my promotion in case of war. I had been long endeavoring to obtain a ship in the merchant service, for reasons of the strongest necessity; - it appears that I succeeded in a most unfortunate moment.

I am, dear Sir, Yours sincerely,

Chas. M. Goldsborough, Esq.  
Washington.

W. Lewis,  
Pernambuco, Sept. 7. 1811.

