

particularly as respects the deportment of American seamen; and every facility offered to other consuls should be extended to him for the discharge of his duties, by assigning for his use a portion of land in a suitable situation to enable him to perform his duties advantageously, particularly as you invited the President to send him, and requested that our vessels might visit your ports.

4th. Relative to the inefficiency of the laws in regard to the apprehension of deserters from the whale-ships, and the absolute necessity of providing a jail or place for their safe-keeping, until they can be sent on board; also, for the appointment of a proper police to watch over and secure any offenders, otherwise it is impossible that the consul can carry into effect the good intentions of the President, that all who violate the laws may be punished and made examples of.

5th. It has been represented that a law formerly existed or still exists, exacting from seamen landing on this island the sum of thirty dollars.

If there is such a law it is extremely oppressive to them, as they are under the protection of, to be taken care of, and sent away by the consul as soon as convenient, agreeably to the laws of the United States. Any such law should be revoked or amended. Seamen elsewhere are exempted from such dues, unless they do not leave in a reasonable time, or intend to become residents.

The President and country entertain the fullest confidence that justice will be exercised at all times to American citizens, and that they will be safely guarded and protected in their rights secured to them by treaty and assurances given them heretofore.

The President will order vessels of war to visit these islands frequently, for the protection of American citizens and commerce, and to see that justice be done to all.

The undersigned requests that this communication may receive the careful attention and consideration of the Queen and chiefs, and that a written answer may be returned to him on his anchoring in the harbour of Papieti, where he intends to proceed with the vessels under his command in a few days, for the purpose of affording the Queen and chiefs an opportunity of visiting the vessels, and of receiving a few tokens of friendship from the President as evidences of his continued regard.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

U. S. Ship Vincennes,
Matavai Bay, Sept. 18th, 1839.