

Thomas Warrington to Messrs. Carteret Priaulx & Co. 20 December 1811

LITERAL TRANSCRIPTION OF RELEVANT SECTION OF LETTER

'...the discharg was hardly finished when poor Captⁿ Beckerwise was so ill as to oblige him to Keep his Cabbin & notwithstanding every medical assistance was had he departed this life on the 23 Ult^o the very day that your Brig the Dolphin arrived in this port & Captⁿ Benset being in practice I desired him to send to take immediate charge of the Vessel which he did...'

MODERN DAY INTERPRETATION

The discharge [into the sea] was hardly finished when poor Captain Bechervaise was so ill as to be obliged to keep to his cabin & notwithstanding having had every medical assistance, he departed this life on the 23 ultimo [of the previous month] the very day that your Brig the Dolphin arrived in this port [Messina]. And Captain Benest already in practice [a practising ship's captain] I sent for him and asked him to take immediate charge of the vessel which he did...'

[This of course puts the date of death exactly on 23 November 1811]

From Priaulx Library

For Lynden courtesy of Martha Noo's

Messrs^o Picauls &
Guernsey. Gent^{rs}

Messina the 20th Decem^r 1781.

I had the pleasure to pray you my respects on
the 15th Ult^o about a fortnight after which I completed
the delivery of the Amazons Cargo of Fish but which
turned out in very bad condition as Capt^r Deckerwaise
some had some reason to fear when we concluded on
closing for the offer of 100¹/₂ Ducats & Cantars & I can assure
you it was with great difficulty I could keep the buyers
to their bargain by allowing them ¹/₂ a ducat & Cantar
abatment on the whole, several Cantars having been
thrown into the sea not being worth any thing, the discharg^e
was hardly finished when poor Capt^r Deckerwaise was so
ill as to oblige him to keep his Cabin & notwithstanding
every medical assistance was had he departed this life
on the 23rd Ult^o the very day that your Brig the Dolphin
arrived in this Port & Capt^r B must being in port

I desired him to send to take immediate charge of the Vessel which he did making out an inventory of Stores, Ships, & Capt's papers & c^a, & judged it advisable to put his mate into the Amazon as Master & to pay off the Crew who were at high wages & ship a new one at lower, the wine being ready for shipping, at Melarro I sent her there to load it & can faithfully assure you that a better Cargo was never shipped from thence & sincerely hope it will arrive in good condition & give satisfaction, having found the quality so strong & bodie I judged 6 to Brandy sufficient to reinforce it with, she is returned to this port & will proceed in a few days to join the Convoy for England appointed for the 1st next month, the Capt. will however take up & abide by instructions you may have sent to meet the Vessel at Gibraltar & in case you do not direct him elsewhere means to go to Falmouth to lay guarantee & meet your orders there, She has on board 94 Pipes & 39 Punchons & White Cont^r, together 15320 Gallons none of the Casks containing less than 70 Gall; but as she had room for ~~about~~¹⁷ small casks of about 40 Gall. each I shall fill them with the best sweet Olive Oil I can procure as I understand it will answer for your Island. — Shortly after the Dolphin arrived

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I had 11 Ducats offered for a good part of her cargo & then 12 Ducats on board but Capt; Benest having determined not to sell under 12 Dollars & Cantar on board I have not been able to dispose as yet of more than 150 Cantars at that price but sincerely wish buyers may come forward by this small example tho' I must own to you as I did to Capt; Benest that this price could only be obtained when all probability ceased of further arrivals coming in & even allowing that good luck as there is another Cargo in port of the same size as the Dolphin it would require a long time & great patience to get rid of the whole Cargo, but which I shall most willingly ^{by} use my utmost endeavours to accomplish with all possible speed, but if I do not succeed according to your & his expectations you must not blame me as I should have thought it more advisable to lower something in the pretensions & dispose of the whole Cargo on board in stead of selling in small parcels & most probably be obliged to land & retail the greater part. For the Dolphins return Cargo Capt; B. seems inclined to take a Cargo of Oil for the Brazils but has not as yet decided & will of course write you himself more fully on this subject. In my next I will send you Acc^t Sales of Fish if the parcels shipped to the our Ports are disposed of, & at all events you

may depend on receiving the Invoice of Amaron's return cargo
 in the mean time I remain very truly
 Yours
 Your much obliged M^r Sawe,
 Thomas, Warrington.

P.S. Next week I shall send round to the out ports about
 200 fantans of the Dolphins cargo for fear that the
 Consignee of the other cargo in port (belonging to Mr. St. John
 of Jersey) should think of doing the same in which case
 his fish would find a quicker sale being of a better quality.
 this circumstance I also pointed out to Capt. Bennett but he
 would not allow it & I most sincerely hope I may be in the
 wrong. — The Amaron will sail for Malta on Sunday
 next in company with the packet of inclosed you have the
 Bill of Lading of the Cargo & hope you'll be persuaded of
 my exertions of advance to serve you not having as yet received
 any part of the proceeds of either of your Cargoes of Baccala

M^r Sawe 20th 1766
 Thomas Warrington
 Liverpool 27th July