

Corporation of the Falkland Islands Company.

December 26<sup>th</sup> 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt (on my return from Hope Place) of Your Excellency's letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. drawing my most serious attention to an information furnished to Your Excellency by Mr Brooke the Stipendiary magistrate, on the testimony of a woman named Sayla Franco, to the effect that this woman arrived in this Colony as the wife of Celestino Zapata, whom I had caused, notwithstanding his entreaties, to be removed from a bed of sickness and improperly detained leaving the people in a state of utter want, whereupon the magistrate had caused the man to be again removed and Your Excellency had ordered food to the value of four shillings daily to be supplied to the woman, which you will require the Company to repay, and conveying Your Excellency's remark upon the inconvenience of my taking measures

That

His Excellency

Capt. Thos. Edw. L. Moore R.M. }

Governor Commander in Chief }

cc cc cc }

Government House }

must necessarily require much explanation at a time when I was about to leave Settlement.

2. In reply I beg to submit the following statement of facts which I am prepared to prove by evidence before Your Excellency. The woman Soyla Franco is a person of notoriously dissolute character, even amongst her countrymen, she is utterly unfit to have charge of the innocent children she has about her now, and she is not entitled to credit. This matter I brought clearly under the notice of the Stipendiary magistrate some time since.

3. Soyla Franco was not brought to this Country as the wife of Zapata, but as the wife of Francisco Brunel, as appears by the enclosed List. A corresponding List will be found on Record in the Police Office and in the Office of the Acting Colonial Secretary to whom I handed it on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 1855 before the people were landed. After their arrival Brunel got married here, Soyla lived with Zapata, and Feliciano, who had arrived as his wife, with a man named Gonzalez by whom she has since one child. As Soyla neglected the children both morally and physically, and as Brunel remained responsible to the Company for Soyla and Zapata so far Feliciano, an arrangement was made, with the wish of Brunel, the consent of all parties and in accordance with the laws of the Country whence these people come, that the Godfathers & Godmothers should

take charge of the children. Accordingly two of them Hypolita & Pancheta were placed with Inocencio Yllescas and his wife where they were well fed, clothed, instructed and taught to be useful and industrious, the boy Regustiano was placed with Iell Arguella whose wife Pancha takes good care of him and the woman Soyla retained the youngest, Soa, said to be a child of Zapata. This beneficial arrangement was put an end to, a short time ago, by an order of the Stipendiary magistrate that the two elder children should be given up to this bad woman (notwithstanding my earnest remonstrance) since which time their employment was carrying mate and spirits to & fro between her and her associates as I am informed.

4. Celestino Zapata, an excellent & esteemed servant of the Company, was found by me in a room that contained no article of furniture, lying ill upon the wet floor, without other bedding than an old mattress and his poncho, and wholly neglected by the woman, who was only in the house upon two occasions when I went there. Upon the poor man's arrival I immediately procured the attendance of the Colonial Surgeon and did all I could, where he laid, to alleviate his suffering. At last, finding him quite neglected by the woman, I again communicated with the

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the Colonial Surgeon who informed me that what Zapata required was nourishing food, wholesome lodging and attention; who also remarked upon the state of the floor and the neglect of the woman. I asked Mr. Hamblin if it would be well to remove him and it was that Gentleman's opinion that he should be removed and properly taken care of and that then he might have strengthening medicine. Mr. Hamblin further arranged to come and see him at the Company's Storekeeper's House. Zapata, owing to the wastefulness of Soyla, had no money coming to him; I therefore agreed with the Storekeeper, John Rudd & his wife (the former an old acquaintance of Zapata and who speaks Spanish well) to take every possible care of him and engaged to pay them from my own purse twenty shillings per week for so doing, and I had a bedstead made and a ~~warden~~ room fitted up comfortably for him. The making of the bedstead caused a delay that prevented his removal a day earlier. In company with John Rudd I twice saw Zapata and asked him if he would like to be removed to a place where he would be better cared for - he emphatically said he would and expressed on both occasions his gratitude - on neither occasion was the woman Soyla in the house. The last occasion was the evening before I left Stanley, when the room was ready to receive him. I then explained

explained to him the arrangement; that he would be removed in the morning; that if he could not walk I would send men to carry <sup>him</sup> — the poor man replied that he thought he could walk and the last words he uttered to me were "muchisimas gracias Patron!" M<sup>r</sup>. Humblin and John Rudd can confirm this statement.

5. On the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> Dec the man I had engaged to accompany me refused to start and I was obliged to take John Rudd: but I charged M<sup>r</sup> Lynch with the removal of Zapata and, at the request of Escalante an old comrade of his, explained to him the arrangement made, because it appeared that Sayla had misrepresented it. William Rutter, John Cook, John Watts and Thos Dowers removed <sup>him</sup> upon a proper stretcher with a bed & coverings. In the first instance Parry the Constable said the man did not then wish to be removed, whereupon the men left, but were called back by Escalante who said Zapata did wish to be removed and this was distinctly confirmed by Zapata himself to William Rutter, who, after what Parry had said, would not otherwise have removed him. From the account of the men I have reason to believe that Parry was misled by the woman Sayla. I have ascertained that whilst at the Company's house every possible attention was paid to poor Zapata.

B. M<sup>r</sup> Lynch



the responsibility of the reputed husbands  
 must necessarily be with the Company's manager  
 to enable him to fulfil the Company's Bond to the  
 Colonial Government - or frequent changes might  
 take place and women be eventually left without  
 any person responsible for them except the Company.

- that the species of union between them,  
 generally faithfully preserved, can only be treated  
 (as it has always hitherto been here) according  
 to the laws and customs prevailing in their  
 own Country, which is the only moral hold  
 I have upon them - and that in pursuing  
 an ordinary and regular course consistent  
 with the dictates of humanity and the Bond  
 to Government, under the advice also of a  
 medical man, it can hardly be deemed  
 necessary that I should remain in Settlement  
 to afford explanations of the Company's proceedings,  
 which, if I am rightly informed, appear to have  
 arisen from the Magistrate's being misled  
 by the contrivances of the woman Soyla  
 that have imposed on the wife of the Constable.  
 The great misfortune consequent upon the  
 second removal of this much regretted servant  
 of the Company I deeply deplore and on  
 that account regret much that I was not  
 present to have urgently remonstrated against  
 it and to have implored Your Excellency's  
 interference to prevent it.

9. I have only to add that it pains me much to know that an act of common humanity, strictly in accordance with the law, and with the Company's Bond, should have been so misrepresented as to call forth, from Your Excellency, observations so forcible as to amount to a severe rebuke; and that I trust the result of an investigation will enable Your Excellency to relieve me from any share whatever of blameableness or irregularity in the transaction, it being always my earnest desire to merit in all my proceedings your Excellency's valuable approval.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient

humble servant

J. H. Stanley

Ct. Maj. Stanley

## List of Persons arrived at "Victoria" @ Montevideo.

Stanley 31<sup>st</sup> August 1855.

Names.	age.	Country.	families.	Names & ages of family.
Celastino Zapata -	29 -	Entre Rios -	wife & 3 -	{ woman - Felicitiana Pereyra Rosita 8y <sup>7</sup> } her children Juanita 6y <sup>3</sup> } Juan - 1y <sup>1</sup> her's by Zapata
Domingo Peratte -	34 -	Oriental -	wife & 1 -	{ woman - Estanislada Charo 9y <sup>1</sup> their son
Manuel Gil -	18 -	do -	none -	
Estanislado de los Santos Villaba	16 -	do -	none -	
Leocadio Torre -	23 -	do -	none -	
Alejandro Casales -	23 -	do -	none -	
Francisco Brunel -	29 -	do -	wife & 4 -	woman - Soyla Franco Appolita 7y <sup>1</sup> their daughter Panchita 14y <sup>1</sup> dau of Ramundo yllasca Regustiano 3y <sup>1</sup> their son Soa - 3m <sup>1</sup> her son 1 <sup>st</sup> b. by Zapata.