

a monsieur jerme négosian a bourdeaux

a louangue ce 24 de freveier 1744

Monsieur

jesoitte quela presante vous trouve En bonne sante vous & votre chere families
jela pranderes je vous assure avec bien duplezir je vousdires quele commerce vat
tres mal car despuis que nous sont arive En Cette Rade nous navons trete que
Dix sept noirs mais ce qui a Este lauteur de ca Cest monsieur laville Commandant
Le navire les pedistion de bourdeaux qui a heu latrette par rapor quil a fait
Monter les captif jusque a 25 piesses les homme & 24 les femme & En suite dureste
& Comme nous Estions En un Commancement detrete nous lavons quite trete luy &
un Engles nomme monsieur besti & a presant que monsieur laville a fini satrete
nous alons Re commence la notre a 19 piesses les homme & a 18 piesses le femme nous
avons nos deux soutte de feve qui sesont trouvee avarie pardessus mais sera
pas Este grand Choce nous En avons jette 8 sacq des hors des plus mauvaise que
nous avons trie une aune & apresant le Reste setreuve bon quoy que un peu
noire Le 8 de freveier a 6 heure du soir notre trois Eime quasble a quasse a
une brasse de les quubier Ce qui nous a aublige de moulie notre grand En Cre
ayant passe une tres mauvaise nuit a la faveur des aurage qui ont fait toute La
nuit & le lande main a 7 heure du maitain nous avons apersut que notre grand
Casble avet un torons de quasse levant sesttan Calleme nous avons levenotre
Encre nous avons trouve le joil quasce par le melieu & la vergede lancre quas
see autiers Ce qui nous a aublige dajettter une En Cre abor de monsieur besti
& apresant nous sont a selieu En Encre du 22 au 23 dudit sur les deux
heure du maitain il sest leve une aurage qui napas vanté autremant
Mais Comme la mer Estet si grosce nos deux quasble ont quasce tous les deux
Ensemble Ce qui nous a aublige de moulie lancre que nous avons ajette
que notre grand quasble esttet atalaingue dessus & surles 6 heure dumaitain
Comme la mer Estet sigrosce sant faire autremant de vant notre grand
quasble a quasse a 20 brasce de lancre ou Environ ayant plus de la motie
Du quasble des hors nayant que quatre brasce deau & Comme nous alion En derive
ala Coste nayant point dancre a moulie nous avons atalaingue notre segond

quasble a notre mauvaice Encre qui a vet le joil quasce & deux quanon
que nous avons atalaingue a notre trois Eime quasble [je..i] aabout qui estet
de Reste abor Cest Ce qui nous atenu nous avons le malheur davoit de
Mauvais quasble Car apresant il ont tous deux a trois espissure
jl lia 28 jours que monsieur boissaud est mallade monsieur bouyer aussi a
Este malade il ont Este bien mal & partiquiere ment monsieur boissaud
Mais apresant il va mieux dumerci il nont point de fieuvre lun ni lautre
il nia que la for Ce qui luy manque a tous les deux il vouous font bien des
Conplimant & moy aussi monsieur Riberon se porte bien & les deux sirugien ausi
jl lia une partie de nos gan qui ont Este malade mais apresant il va un peu
mieux le segond tounelier Est mort quelque jour apres notre arivee
Coume monsieur boissaud Est si foible il ne peut vous EsCrire nous
sont presantemant 20 navire ala coste il ena 9 agabainde & 7 amalainbe
& 4 que nous sont alouangue monsieur je suis...

Votre tres heumble & tres
aubeissant serviteur
francois normand

To Mister Jerme merchant in Bordeaux

in Loango this 24th day February 1744

Mister,

I hope this finds you and your dear family in good health

I would – I assure you - be very delighted to learn this.

I have to tell you that our trade is not going well,

because we have only bought seventeen Blacks since our arrival

due to Mister Laville, who commands the ship L'Expedition de Bordeaux,

being able to redetermine the trading conditions and raising

the price for the captives to 25 pieces [coins] for men, and 24 for women and so on.

Since we had only started with the trade,

we backed out of the deal and left him to trade with

an Englishman named Mister Besti. Now that Mister Laville has concluded his transaction,

we are going to start again our own trade negotiations

with prices starting at 19 pieces for men and 18 pieces for women.

We had two holds of beans that were going bad,

but fortunately we managed to preserve most of them

by sorting and thrown out eight bags of the worst ones,

leaving us with the rest which are good, even though they are a bit black.

On the 8th of February at 6 o'clock in the evening, our third cable broke one fathom below the hawsehole which forced us to drop our big anchor.

The next day at 7 o'clock in the morning,

after having been pelted by storms which lasted all night,

we noticed that our big cable's coil had also broken.

Thanks to the wind having calmed down, we raised our

anchor and not only discovered that its stock had been broken in the middle,

but that its shank had also broken in the third of its height,

which, in turn, forced us to cast our anchor onto Mister Besti's ship.

We were now able to anchor at this place from the 22nd to the 23rd of February.

However, at two o'clock in the morning, a storm arose and while its wind did not cause any issues,

it did cause a swell so heavy that our two cables broke simultaneously

forcing us to drop the anchor, which we had cast [onto Mister Besti's ship], after having attached our strongest cable to it. At six o'clock in the morning, due to the sea being so rough, even though the wind was not blowing too heavy, our cable snapped approximately 20 fathoms from the anchor.

Having more than half of the cable out and having only four fathoms and as we were now drifting towards the coast with no anchor left to cast, we attached our second cable to the anchor with the broken stock and tied our third cable [je...i] to the tips of two cannons which we were carrying on board.

This way we managed to hold ourselves in place, but, unfortunately, all of our cables are now in a bad condition since they have two to three splices each.

While Mister Boissaud is still ill for 28 days, Mister Bouyer, too, fell ill and they were both very sick – but especially Mister Boissaud.

Luckily, he is doing better and – thank God – they both do not have a fever, but are only lacking strength.

They give you their compliments and so do I.

Mister Riberon is well and so are the two surgeons.

Some of our people have been ill and are now slowly recovering, whereas our second cooper died a few days after our arrival.

Due to his weak condition, Mister Boissaud cannot write to you personally.

Currently, 20 ships lie on the coast: 9 in Gabainde [Cabinda], 7 in Malainbe [Malembo] & 4 of us are in Loango. Sir, I am

Your most humble & most
obedient servant
François Normand

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