

Arquivo Imperial

Pasta de 1868

(carta de William Sculley Tassaries)

Woc. 84

Rio de Janeiro

17th January 1868

To His Excellency the President
of the Council,

When I made the Anglo-Brazilian Times, the exponent of news upon the condition of the war, which are almost universal in this city, which turn from the correspondence from all parts of the Empire, and find their strongest corroborations and assertions in that which arrives by every packet from the River Plate, I fully expected that my undisguised declaration of the general loss of confidence in

the present generalissimo of the Brazilian forces would call down upon me a large amount of obloquy from many of those to whom such plain speaking would be obnoxious.

Thus I feel no surprise at the organ of the Conservadores - the *Correio Mercantil* - attempting to defend the chief of its party, even with the most laughable of all the absurd hypotheses which party rancor assumes - that my article was an inspiration of the very government which supports the general whom conducted my article criticized!

I was also reasonably prepared for venomous abuse from that anomalousity the effect Uliario de Bude Janeiro,

for ~~the~~ no man's lungs moved
for a feast upon a carcase.
Sham, it yearns for a subsidy.

I ~~thereupon~~ therefore pay
no attention to the editorial
assaults which have
been made upon me, think-
ing it perfectly rational
that the Mercantil should
defend its idol of clay by
fair and foul, and that the
Diario de Rio should seek a
condemnation for its afters casti-
gated lack of realism, by a presen-
ce of virtuous indignation,
even while bidding for go-
vernment support.

But, what has astoun-
ded me in the numerous
diatribes that have filled
the journals (excepting the
Journal do Commercio) is —
that no serious attempt
has been made to rebut the

criticism in the so abused article
 of the Anglo B Times, that no
 effort has been made to mi-
 gade their force, but that all
 the rough of the defence is
 derived from this narrow-
 minded argumentum ad
 hominem - that I, as a fo-
 reigner, have no right to ex-
 press an opinion such matter
 that I am ungrateful even
 to Brazil!

According to their mathema-
 tical line of intelligences a
 foreigner such as I who have
 made Brazil my home, in
 our English ~~sense~~ ~~to~~ sense to,
 who have sought in every
 way within my power to
 fairly advance her interests,
 who, while never concealing
 the truth about her have ever
 declared it in a friendly, not
 a carping spirit - must not

dare to discuss the condition of a war in whose good result not only are involved my own fortune and those of every other foreigner engaged in her commerce, or otherwise (connected(?)) financially with her prospects, but likewise the fortunes of Brazil herself, a country in whose prosperity I take the liveliest interest, alike from the warmest admiration of its constitutional national institutions as from the long roll of good and great Brazilians whose friendship has endeared it to me.

It is the proudest boast of a free people that, amid it, all opinions are respected, their expression unassailed - and those writers who have thus judiciously attacked that noblest palladium of freedom,

have hereby given the strongest demonstration that they are utterly unable to comprehend the fine principles of constitutionalism, that they are unworthy of the protection of liberty, and that itsegis once withdrawn, they are ready to succumb, without resistance, to the slavish dominion of a Lopez.

And now Your Excellency will permit me to touch upon a matter which has been a serious source of tribulation to the scribblers.

After the establishment of the Anglo-Brazilian Times, your illustrious predecessors, without solicitation from me, directly or indirectly, subscribed for a num-

ber of copies to be distributed in the interest of immigration which subscription the present Government continued. Had the former Ministry intended that subscription as a subsidy, it would have been then refused by me; if the present cabinet consider it in any way in the light of such, I beg leave most respectfully to decline it for the future. At the same time, I must in justice say that never by word or insinuation was such a supposition hinted by either Ministry, never was even the bend of an article suggested to me and I, and I alone, conceived and wrote the article discussed which I regret to see has been asserted, but without the least

foundation of truth, to have been published with the previous cognizance of Your Excellency's cabinet.

When I established the Anglo-Brazilian Times, I started it to fill a void that was widely felt, to make it the independent exponent of the opinion of the foreign residents upon all matters pertaining to the Empire, outside the arena of mere party strife; as such I have consistently conducted it, and never will I allow its utterances to be constrained or abandon the inherent right of journalism to a free and unlimited discussion of all subjects of public policy of the country which ~~the~~ I have made my home.

With Your Excellency's permission I intend to publish

this letter in the 12th journals
- provided the journalistic
unfairness already shown
by some of them does not
extend to the exclusion of my
communication.

With profound respect
and esteem, I have the
honour to remain

Your Excellency's
Ob^{ts} Serv^t

William Scully