Navy Department Columbia 31st Jan

Lt Col. Thruston

Dr Sir,

From a conversation had last evening with his Excellency, I am led to believe he wished you while in New Orleans, instantly to purchase the Schooner Emille recently a privateer in our service. Probably you may meet the owner on board the Texas, his name is Bispel, where you will have a good opportunity of treating with him. Should you have to pay Cash, it would not exceed $2000, if good paper you can get it for $1600.

You will see Capt. Thompson of the service, who is instructed to call on you if he is in N. O. and furnish him with such supplies as he may require for a three months cruise, provided, you succeed in buying her, and placing him in command. I will observe she will have to change her papers here and come out as a Merchantman.

You will therefore instruct Capt. Thompson to fill up with goods on freight for Velasco or Quintana Only. Should Capt. Thompson not be there, you can put any one in her as a Merchant Captain you see proper, and send her out in the same manner as above expressed, with provisions &c for a cruise, with orders to hold herself subject to the instructions of this Department, and report immediately on arrival.

As relates to the Tom Toby owned by Mr. Shreve, you will have to manage the purchase of her with some address. Mr. Shreve must understand distinctly, that she will not be put in commission as a privateer nor in any way similar, and then possibly he may sell her at a fair price, but let him make his offer in writing to this Dept.

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