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Examination of the
Papers of the
Slave Ship "The
"Theodore"

1. Commodore
5th Nov. 1821.

2. Captain

N^o 10

3. The
Commodore

4. The
Commodore

Abstract of the case of the Portuguese Schooner
"Theodore" owned by Manuel P. da Costa, Master.

Inferred from the depositions of the
witnesses in this case that the schooner
equipped at Bahia under the direction of the
owner, Manuel P. da Costa, sailed from that Port in the month
of March last. Her clearance papers state
that she was bound to Malacca for a
cargo of slaves, and her Passport allowed
her to take on board 315 slaves being the
number noted according to her bill of lading
125 tons.

Instead, however, of proceeding to Malacca,
the schooner directed her course to Cape Palmas
Lat. 4° 35' North from whence she proceeded
within sight of land to Comandor on
the Gold Coast. At Comandor she anchored
and the Master went on shore to purchase
slaves. In answer to special interrogatories,
the Master said that he bought slaves on
of the Fairs of Comandor, but whether
it was the English or Dutch Fair, he
could not recollect; but purchased in a
cave from natives who lived at some
distance from the Fairs. From Comandor
the schooner proceeded on to Caloum but
was prevented from anchoring off that
place by His Majesty's Ship "Pheasant". The

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Reference: —
FO 84
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Slave trading equipment of the *Schelaide* being observed by Captain Kelly, the Commander of the *Pheasant*; her Master was warned by that Officer not to engage in a traffic of an illicit nature. Not profiting by the warning the Master proceeded with the *Schelaide* to Quitta to purchase canoes, these that he had bought at Commenda having been sent adrift on the approach of the *Pheasant* at Comina. The Master stated that he landed under the Danish Fort at Quitta, but that he bought a canoe from natives who resided at some distance from the Fort.

From Quitta the *Schelaide* proceeded to Pape where she took in canoe-men and from thence to Badagary situated in about Lat. 6 deg. North where her Master commenced trading in slaves.

At Badagary the Master was employed about two months in the collection of slaves. On or about the 31st of July, the *Schelaide* was again visited by the *Pheasant* then proceeding down the Coast; but as the *Schelaide* had not then slaves on board she was not molested. On the succeeding day the slaves to the number of 332 were all shipped on board of the Schooner and she left that part of the Coast to proceed to Bahia. On the 25th however, being in the vicinity of Cape Formosa, Lat. 15th she was discovered at some distance by

by the *Pheasant* and by the *Magist's* Schooner, Captain Luke, who gave chase and captured her. During the passage to Sierra Leone, 25 slaves died, and one on his being landed here.

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The British and Portuguese Court of Mixed Commission on a view of this case, passed sentence of condemnation against the *Schelaide* and secured her slaves to be emancipated.

Sierra Leone, September 17th 1824.

E. Gregory
Edward Fitzgerald

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