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\* Feb 19. 1783 \*  
P. 33111A

Copy for Bolivia  
1 Copy more for 29 March 1786

the History  
of Bolivia  
As seen  
by  
Mr. Crench  
Mr. Gwynne  
(at Paris)

To The Honourable the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled.

The Petition of Belinda an Affirown, humbly

Shews.

That seventy years have rolled away since she on the banks of the Rio da Satta, received her existence — the mountains covered with spicy forests, the valleys loaded with the richest fruits, spontaneously produced; joined to that happy temperature of air which excludes ice, would have yielded her the most compleat felicity, had not her mind received early impressions of the cruelty of men, whose faces were like the moon, and whose bows and arrows were like the thunder and the lightning of the clouds. — the use of these, the most dreadful of all enemies, filled her infant thumbers with horror, and her noon tide moments with cruel apprehensions! — but her affrighted imagination, in its most alarming extension, never represented distresses equal to what she hath since really experienced — for before she had twelve years enjoyed the fragrance of her native groves, and ere she realized, that Europeans placed their happiness in the yellow dust which she carelessly marked with her infant footsteps — even when she, in a sacred grove, with each hand in that of a tender Parent, was praying her devotions to the great Orisa who made all things — an armed band of white men, driving many of her Countrymen in chains, rushed into the hallowed shade! — could the fear, the sighs, and supplications, bursting from the tortured Parental affection, have blunted the keen edge of avarice, she might have been rescued from agony, which many of  
her

her Country's Children have felt, but which words have ever yet  
described. — in vain she lifted her Supplicating  
voice to an insulted father, and her guiltless hands to  
a dishonoured Obity! She was ravished from the bosom  
of her Country, from the Arms of her friends, while the  
advanced Age of her Parents, rendering them unfit  
for servitude, cruelly separated her from them forever!

Scenes which her imagination had never conceived  
of a floating World — the sporting Monsters of the deep —  
and the familiar meetings of Willows and clouds, those,  
but in vain to divert her melancholly attention, from  
three hundred Africans in chains, suffering the most  
excruciating Torments, and some of them rejoicing,  
that the pangs of death come like a balme to their wounds.

Once more her eyes were blest with a return —  
but alas! how unlike the Land where she had been born —  
here all things appeared unpropitious — she learned to  
catch the Ideas, marked by the sounds of language, only  
to know that her doom was Slavery, from which death  
alone was to emancipate her. — ~~yet~~ What did it  
avail her, that the Walls of her Lord were hung with  
Splendor, and that the dust trod on underfoot in her native  
Country crowded his Gates with sordid worshipers — the Laws  
had rendered her incapable of receiving property — and  
though she was a free Moral agent, accountable for her actions,  
yet she never had a moment at her own disposal! —  
fifty years her faithful <sup>hands</sup> have been compelled to ignoble  
servitude, for the benefit of An Isaac Moyall, until,  
as if Nations must be agitated, and the World convulsed,  
for the preservation of that freedom, which the Almighty Father  
intended for all the human race, the present war was  
Commenced — the terror of men armed in the Coast

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of freedom, compelled her master to fly - and to breathe  
away his Life in a Land, where, lawless domination,  
sit enthroned, pouring bloody outrages and cruelty, on all  
who dare to be free.

The face of your Petitioner, is now marked  
with the furrows of time, and her frame feebly bending  
under the oppression of years, while she, by the Laws of the  
Land, is denied the enjoyment of one morsel of that  
immense wealth, apart whereof hath been accumulated  
by her own industry, and the whole augmented by  
her fortitude.

~~Without profiting~~

Wherefore casting herself at the feet of your  
honours, as to a body of men, formed for the cultivation  
of Copalago, for the reward of virtue, and the just  
returns of honest industry - she prays, that such  
allowance be made her out of the Estate of  
Colonel Moyal, as <sup>will</sup> prevent her, and her more  
infirm daughter, from misery in the greatest extreme,  
and scatter comfort over the short and downward  
paths of their Lives -

and she will every Day

Boston 14th February 1783 me *J. Smith*

*Solida*

Whether any Money has been <sup>paid</sup> into the Treas. by the Com<sup>rs</sup> of Sales of Abandoned  
 Estates County of Midd<sup>x</sup> from the Rents & Profits of Isaac Royall Esq:  
 his Estate, & how much? —

75. 7. 8

52. 15. 9

£ 128. 3. 5 This sum has been paid into the Treasury  
 at different periods to this time

Boston Oct<sup>r</sup>. 28. 1755

J. Downing

Common Wealth  
of Massachusetts

In the House of Representatives July 19. 1783 <sup>11</sup>

On the petition of Belinda an African,

Resolved, That there be paid out of the Treasury of this Commonwealth <sup>10</sup>  
fifteen pounds twelve Shillings p<sup>o</sup> Annum to Belinda an Aged  
Servant to the late Isaac Royall by an Absentee <sup>13</sup> during <sup>the</sup> natural life  
forth in said Belinda's petition,

In Senate Feb. 29. 1783  
Read & concurred with amendment  
at A. & B. Sent down for concurrence

Sent up for concurrence

Tristram Dalton Speaker

at A insert, out of the Bonds and Profits  
arising from the Estate of the late  
Isaac Royall by an Absentee  
at B delete from B to C & insert until  
the further Order of the General Court

In the House  
of Representatives Feb. 22. 1783  
Read and concurred

Tristram Dalton Speaker

Approved by the General Court  
at the City of Boston  
the 29th of February 1783