Memorandum for Miss Alexander H.

From James Sargent in Havana, March 3, 1789.

To the commerce from our country to this, as well as several voyages which may be made from different ports with advantage to this country, may not be fully under
stood. I wish to give you the following information on which you may rely.

The Slave Trade appears very profitable and as yet but few have engaged in it, all the advantage is great, beyond any Island on the west Indies.

Slaves may be introduced here under certain regu-
lations, either from Africa, the neutral or French
West Indies, in American, British, French or Spanish bottoms. To accomplish this, permission
must first be obtained from Government here. This is
hav accomplished by any number of vessels paying
a duty of 25£ per, on the valuation upon landing.
The duty paid under these special licences first
obtained is 25£. If any uncertain of admittance on
any terms, some bargains have been lost from 50,000
gallons, which have been sold on average at 400 per
bark. Share Duties - But as these Slaves are not from
or British Ships, who bring them from Africa at
an advanced price, it will immediately appear how
very profitable a voyage from America, with Tobacco
To France & Holland, & from thence to Africa, with
In short, a general apportionment may be made, but most of the above will be wanted for the army of my country. I shall now come to the other articles. Silk cloth, in good weight at 250 Dolls. Prices. Broidery 32 Dolls. Silk, 100 Dolls. Freshly manufactured. A suitable quantity of foreign goods will bring 300 Dolls. A large cargo boat or two will be sent in Europe; a vessel planning with such a large

amount of foreign shipping, if bound either to the United States or New Orleans, is only needed here to refit. As the Laws of Spain do not permit an open trade of this kind, very matter cannot be brought in.

A voyage from France may also be made profitable. Sailard, with good canvass, sails in the

also a good, fast, and cheap vessel; would carry a Butter, Fish, and

fresh, together with a general apportionment of the goods, such as Brittania, Irish and German linens, silk and

fruits, for women's wear, all these to be delivered in a couple of hundred

thread, blue lawn, Cambric and lawn, linen

handskerchief, and any other commodity that may be

gain, cheap, suitable for an American climate. I would

also have that show any ships of foreign or such a

voyage, most of those articles may be sent when

annual trade as taken out of a fleet at sea, which

prices have been sent to America, any a vessel

will come with such, will immediately or coming to

Anchors on the coast, having arrived, to the

Danger of Loss involvement.

Writing Paper
All American prizes admitted gold here in return from hence, we have Sugar, Rum, Coffee, Cocoa, Cotton, Hides Indigo, cochinal &c. as low as any of the Islands, should a peace take place immediately, still I would advise a voyage with negroes, as no doubt they will be admitted after the War, it being the Interest not only of the Spanish Court, but of every person in this country, the kind which can use best are young Negro Boys from 12 to 24 years age as few women as possible, Negroes from Africa all preferable to those bred in any other country.

If the War continues I am of opinion a sufficient force going any beam together might make many prizes, as the British now carry on an extensive trade that way. The advantage of which must appear evident to any person who may have a eye suitable The island prize court will further show the utility of such Voyage.