

These circumstances were urged to the gentlemen interested, but were of no avail. Mr. Astor being unfortunately in Europe at this time, his agent, had he been disposed to act liberally, would have feared to evince a less exacting disposition, than the underwriters were doing; hence recourse was had to the ordinary mode of settlement, in like cases, that of arbitration; the result of which was a deduction of two and a half per cent. on my charge.

It is not unusual for those to be dissatisfied, who are adjudged by arbitrators to be in error; and it appeared to me, that I had abundant cause; but I refrained from manifesting it to my opponents at the time, because I trusted to the repeated (though unofficial) assurances of the President of the National Insurance Company, of pecuniary remuneration; and presuming that this would, at least, be equal to the sum deducted from my commission, the cause of dissatisfaction, on my part, would be obviated.

With such impressions, and having, as in duty bound, submitted to the award of the arbitrators, I left the city for my home, without notifying the underwriters of my intention; as I wished to avoid the appearance of hurrying them on the question of the promised remuneration, but never doubting that it would come in due time. A month, however, passed, and I heard nothing from them, and so a second month, when I could no longer doubt that they had found it convenient to forget me.

The conviction, that the supposed honorable, liberal, high-minded men with whom I was thus brought in contact were capable of such conduct, was very painful to me. Indignant at such treatment, and mortified at being thus duped, I determined to give them a word at parting expressive of those feelings.

Accordingly, under date Lancaster 22d of December, 1820, I addressed a letter to the President of the National Insurance Company, in which I referred to mine dated the 5th of October, enumerating the unusual services I had rendered the Company, in the recovery and successful employment of the Beaver; and further remarked, that if I had condescended to make invidious comparisons, I could have proved that what they considered to be an extra commission, bore no proportion to the extra earnings of the Beaver, over those of any other vessel then on the Peruvian coast; and this, less from any