

CARSON TO FORSYTH.^a

DEPT OF STATE TEXAS
Harrisburg Ap 1st 1836

To the Honble. JOHN FORSYTH
Secretary of State of the United States of North America

SIR

Allow me to present to You and recommend to Your consideration, The Honbles. Messrs George C. Childress and Robt Hamilton special agents of this Republic, to the Govt. of the United States. They are directed to communicate *freely* with the Executive Government of the United States upon the subjects with which they are charged. May I ask that You present them to the President and heads of department in such a manner as may be suited to the station they occupy

With considerations of the most profound respect I have the honor to be Your Obliged and Humble Servant

SAM P. CARSON
Sec of State

BURNET TO CARSON.^b

SIR

Since your departure I drew up something in conformity with the suggestion you had made but when the subject came to be presented fully to my mind and I had a moments oppy^c to contemplate it, there seemed to be some difficulties which had not before occurred to me

I will suggest them to you in that spirit of frankness which has and I trust ever will characterize our intercourse.

I doubt the ability of this government to invest the *power* of appointing a Secty of Legation in any one individual even of their own body—that appointment being one of great and delicate relations ought to be made in strict conformity with established modes, and in a manner to impose all its proper responsibilities. Again no particular necessity exists for a very hasty appointment. Should a recognition be obtained, one at least of the Commissioners would remain until the governt could act deliberately upon the subject.

On the subject of procuring Vessels I also feel some hesitation. Our fiscal resources are limited and the authority of the present government over those very limited resources, is itself restricted by its own organization. The Commissions and agencies that have already

^a Records of the Department of State (Texas), Book 34, p. 22.

^b A. L. S. Endorsed "Executive Instructions to Sec. of State. Copy to Carson April 1 1836."

^c Opportunity.

gone forth have a sufficient range of operation to absorb all the financial powers conferred upon us as a government, and indeed I am apprehensive that we have already transcended or put it in the powers of others to transcend the limits assigned us in this respect. The procurement of armed vessels is much to be desired, but it would be extremely hazardous, if not positively and morally wrong, for us to assume a control over the public funds, to a greater amount than our constituents have in their wisdom, thought proper to confide to us.

As usual I am much pressed with business. With high regard
Your friend and obt St

DAVID G. BURNER

YATES TO ALLEN.^a

[Extract of a letter from A. J. Yates, esqr., to A. C. Allen, esqr., New Orleans dated Baltimore April 5, 1836.]

I take the opportunity of writing you a few lines by your friend the Rev Mr Salmon who leaves here in the morning for Texas

Genl Austin is with me and we left Washington this morning for New York leaving Wharton and Archer there. Everything at Washington appears very prosperous and the Congress and Government are all ready to recognize us and if desired by us to receive us on favorable terms into the Union. The Commissioners cannot present themselves officially however until they receive despatches subsequent to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. They have received the most marked attention in Washington and both parties are warmly in our favour. I have had several conversations with the President and several of the Cabinet and members and find all unanimously ready to do all they can for us.

If the Government had done their duty on the declaration of Independence and forwarded the necessary powers and instructions to the Commissioners Congress would have decided the matter before this time

AUSTIN, ARCHER, AND WHARTON TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TEXAS.^b

WASHINGTON CITY April 6, 1836.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TEXAS,

Knowing that we could not effect any thing with the money market, or with the Government, until we received an absolute declaration of Independence by Texas, and special powers and instructions to pre-

^a This extract is on file with the correspondence, but how it came there is not clear.

^b Signatures original; directed "To the Government of Texas, Washington, Texas." The form of address was doubtless due to the uncertainty which the commissioners must have felt as to how the government was organized or who was actually in authority. This date must be at least one day too late. Cf. Yates to Allen, April 5, and Wharton to Austin, April 6.

sent it, we purposely delayed getting to Washington until such time as we thought we would certainly meet with the declaration, and also with the appointment of some one of us, or some body else, to lay the matter before the Government officially.

We knew that until such absolute declaration with proper powers to present it [had reached us], we could be of more use, in exciting in public meetings, the enthusiasm of the South and West, than we could be of here. We accordingly held meetings and made addresses at all important points, the result of which, you have doubtless seen from the papers.

We have received the Declaration through the papers, but we have not received it officially, and it is therefore useless to us. This Government will not act upon it, until it is presented to them by some one with ministerial powers from the same Convention that made the declaration. When presented in this form, with evidence of our Capacity to maintain our Independence, we believe this Government is prepared to recognize us, and if we wish, to admit us into this Union, on liberal principles, if the people of Texas wish it. But they require a Minister with full powers to treat on the subject. If we had had these powers, Texas would have been, by this time, recognized, if not admitted into this Union.

We have made every effort to obtain loans in conformity with our powers, but have not succeeded owing to the want of the full authority, and the information as to the capacity of Texas to sustain its Independence above stated.

Finding that nothing material can be done here at present, and that the most important object, under existing circumstances, is to obtain money, we have concluded that this object can be best promoted by operating at various places, at the same time; S F. Austin therefore leaves here today for Philadelphia and New York, and B. T. Archer will leave tomorrow for Virginia, for the purpose of trying to negociate the Government Bonds. W H. Wharton in the mean time, remains at this place to attend to such matters as may be important to the public interest.

B. T. ARCHER
S. F. AUSTIN
WM. H. WHARTON

WHARTON TO AUSTIN.^a

WASHINGTON [CITY,] *April 6th 1836*

DEAR SIR,

Dr Archer left this morning for Richmond. We were at the party of Mr Calhouns last night. Many of the ablest members of both

^a A. L. S., in Austin Papers.

houses were present. All was *enthusiasm* in our cause. I apologized for your absence which was regretted. I exhibited the Bank notes to Mr Calhoun and the Ladies and they were said to be very ingenious and appropriate. I also exhibited a map of Texas which afforded much satisfaction. The mail has brought us nothing since you left. The papers state that our privateers have blockaded all the Mexican ports. You will find a summary of the last news in the Telegraph of tomorrow which I will send you.

Do try to start off a Privateer from New York to capture the paragon the vessel lately bought by the Mexicans or any other of their purchases that you may hear of. She can be captured before she is two days out. The object of this letter is to urge you to exert yourself in the matter. I will keep you promptly advised of everything important to be known.

Respectfully

WM. H. WHARTON

WHARTON TO THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS.^a

WASHINGTON CITY ^b 9th of April 1836

Confidential.

DEAR SIR.

Since the meeting of the new convention we have had no correspondence with the Texas Government. We have seen the declaration in the papers but this government will take no notice of it until it is presented by an agent with *credentials* from the present government. Let me urge the vesting of some one with plenipotentiary powers without *One Moments delay*. He must be here before this congress adjourns. They I think are favourable. The next may have a preponderance of Northern and Eastern jealousy and Abolition. Let our Minister be instructed and empowered to negotiate a treaty for the admission of Texas into this union if such which God Grant is the wish of Texas. In my estimation it is all important to become a portion of this confederacy. I would give $\frac{1}{10}$ ths of what I am worth rather than miss it. If Texas expels her present invaders and if disorder among the inhabitants does not prevail she will be recognized and admitted in my opinion on liberal terms. But if our invaders prevail or if *anarchy* and confusion and violence among the

^a A. L. S.; directed to the Governor of Texas "Care of Wm. Bryan New Orleans La" Wharton was, of course, uncertain as to who was the actual head of the Texan government at the time. As a matter of fact, it was President Burnet.

^b "Washington City" in this correspondence always means Washington, D. C. The name of the capital of the Republic of Texas, 1842-1845, always appears in dates as "Washington, Texas."

inhabitants should arise then *Texas will not be recognized or admitted*. On this you may rely. For Gods sake for our wives and childrens sake and our bleeding countrys sake let harmony and union prevail as among a band of *brothers*.^a Let our minister have ample powers and instructions so that the treaty when begun may not be stopped for want of them. Do attend to this. All is lost unless you do. I write earnestly but I trust it will be received as it is meant and not imputed to dictation. In regard to raising money we have been much cramped for want of a declaration of independence. Capitalists would not lend under the November declaration. We have had capable and industrious agents at work in New York since January but no money could be raised without giving away all Texas. Since the declaration Genl Austin has gone to New York to try the lenders again. We offer to the lenders to pledge all we have on earth even to our wearing apparel. We are trying one of the Government bonds in Baltimore and one in Philadelphia. Austin writes me from Baltimore that he has strong hopes of effecting a loan. Dr Archer has gone to Richmond to try and negotiate one of the bonds there. The others we are trying in New York. I remain here to attend to the correspondence and to keep the government correctly advised in regard to our situation and prospects. The Volunteers who have returned have filled the country with falsehood. I am nearly always writing to disprove their slanders.

I have been and am in bad health. I was confined several weeks in Nashville—left there for this place when I could not sit up and was again confined in Pittsburgh. My health is however improving. The commissioners have acted together in the utmost harmony. Do attend if you have not done it already to sending on a Minister immediately with ple[n]ary powers to treat for the admission of Texas into this Union. Probably 2 or 3 agents would be better.

Very Respectfully

WM. H. WHARTON

P. S. There is some talk about a piracy having been committed by one of our vessels. In the name of God let the act be disclaimed and the offender promptly punished if such be the fact. I called on the Secretary of state about it this morning. He had not heard it officially.^b

^a This appeal must have been due to reports which had come to Wharton of the quarrel between Governor Smith and the Council of the Provisional Government. See *Quarterly Texas State Historical Association*, V, 269-346.

^b The reference in this postscript is doubtless to the capture of the *Pocket* by the *Invincible*.

CARSON TO BURNET.^a

NATCHITOCHEES 14th April 1836.

To His Excellency

DAVID G. BURNET PRESIDENT AND THE
CABINET OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

GENTLEMEN

On my arrival here last night I met with Genl Gaines^b and have had with him a full and *satisfactory* conversation. His position at present is a delicate one and requires at his hands the most cautious movements. The object of the concentration of forces at Jessup is to protect the frontier and the Neutral Ground also to keep the Indians in check and repress savage agressions. This he is bound to do in fullfilment of treaty stipulations between the Govt of the U States and Mexico

An Express arrived here at 2 Oelk A M last night directed to Genl Gaines advising him of the concentration of from 1500 to 2000—Indians and a conjunction of their forces with about one thousand *Mounted* Mexicans. This is the detachment no doubt, which Jo. (Colo Travis servant) spoke of as having left San Antonio and which took the Bastrop road. There is no doubt of this information being correct. On Sunday night last (10th inst.) they camped about 60 Miles from Nacogdoches and 30 North of the road leading from that place to Trinity. The Gentleman who brought the Express says there is at least 300—Families west of Nacogdoches which will in all probability fall into the hands of the enemy. Numbers have I feare been slaughtered before this

Genl Gaines *immediately* on recd. of the Express issued an order to prepare thirteen companies to March this evening to Sabean with two field peaces with 75 rounds for each and 35 rounds for the Infantry—also 12 days provisions etc.

I herewith send you a copy of his requisition upon the Govr of Louisiana to furnish a Brigade of Mounted Volunteers.^c A similar request has been made to the Govrs. of Tennes Missis. and Alabama, requiring however only a Batallion of the latter in consequence of the Florida War. He will have in a few days (say 20 to 30) from 7 to 8000 men with him. You will perceive that we *cannot use Indian auxiliaries* unless in *self defence*. The Treaty referred to requires the U States to put such conduct down. This shows the wisdom of our decission upon the proposition of Smith and others to bring Indians to our aid. I shall write Genl Houston and advise him fully upon this subject

^aA. L. S.; directed to Harrisburg. On the margin of the first page are the words, "I made no copy of this and have written in great haste."

^bGaines.

^cPrinted in *Niles' Register*, L, 162.

I cannot state positively what Genl Gains may do but one thing I think I may say that should he be satisfied of the fact, that the Mexicans have incited *any Indians* who are under the control of the U States to commit depredations on *either* side of the line he will doubtless view it as a violation of the Treaty refered to in his order to Govr White and others and be assured that he will maintain the honor of his country and punish the agressor be him whome he may. Now the *fact is* that the Mexicans have already with them a number of the Cadoes some Cherokees and Indians of other Tribes which are under the protection and controal of the U States. It is only necessary then to *satisfy* Genl Gains of the facts, in which case be assured be will act with energy and efficiency. The proofs will I have no doubt be abundant by the time he reaches Sabean in which case he will cross and move upon the agressors. You will remark that I can give you nothing from Genl Gains himself as to his movements—he to be sure has been polite enough to furnish me with a copy of his orders to the Govrs which will be publish[ed] no doubt to show the world the principles upon which he acts. The departure on the part of the enemy from the useages of Civilised Warfare will doubtless have its effect with Genl Gains and he will be brought to reflect *how far it may become his duty to interfeare* so as to *compell* the *observance* of the principles of civilised warfare as established by Nations and which now forms a parte of the code of National Law. I will address him an official letter upon this subject and bring his mind directly to it, and will give a statement of facts to show their departure etc. such as the slaughter of Dr Harrison the deliberate shooting of the 30 of Fannings Men who surrendered as Priss of War etc.

I shall proceed to Washington City as fast as my health will admit. I was very sick yesterday and last night am only able to sit up to day

May providence protect you all and Our adopted country is the sincere prayer of verry Truly and faithfully Yours

SAM P CARSON

P. S. I have writen Genl Houston and requested him to forward the communication to you.^a

CHILDRESS TO BURNETT.^b

NASHVILLE TENN. *April 18th 1836*

MY DEAR SIR,

I reached this place a day or two since on my way to Washington City. Mr Hamilton and I parted company at Natchitoches, he hav-

^a In the original the whole of the postscript is written in the margin.

^b A. L. S.; directed to San Felipe, via Fort Jessup, Louisiana.

ing gone by his plantations on Red River. We are to rendezvous at Washington on the first day of May. The present is a long session of Congress and it is thought that it will not adjourn until some time in June, there being many questions of great interest still undisposed of by that body. We are not sanguine of getting an *immediate* recognition of the Independence of Texas from the Government of the United States, but will open a negotiation and continue it until crowned with success, unless otherwise instructed by your Excellency and the Cabinet. It is of great importance, I conceive, to obtain it as soon as possible as the moral effect in our favour would be great in the United States. Many persons who now feel scruples in volunteering to take a part in the internal conflicts of a *foreign* country would freely do so if the independence of the party with which they sympathize was recognized by the Government of their own country. I set out for Washington to day or tomorrow. Allow me to remind you and the Secy. of State of the instructions we shall need on our arrival there, and without which we shall feel much at a loss. You will also instruct us with regard to any other matters that you may think could be effected by Mr. Hamilton and myself to further the interests of Texas. We have been endeavouring (with some success) to create as much interest as we can at those points in the South and West which we have touched at, and shall continue (through the press and otherwise) to *agitate* the United States as much as possible. You will have received before this reaches you accounts of the public meetings and proceedings at Natchez and other places. So far as I can see the South and West is kindling into a *blaze* upon the subject. So great is the interest felt upon the subject, and so numerous are the applications by letters from individuals, editors etc for information upon the Subject, that to do all the writing required and to keep copies of all relating to the public affairs requires more writing than any one or two men can do. We have therefore been under the necessity of employing upon our own responsibility a *Secretary* to the Mission, whose services will be especially wanting when we reach Washington, as we shall have to carry on a very onerous correspondence with the Government of the U. S., the Government of Texas, and with Secretaries of public meetings, committees, individuals, and editors of Newspapers in every part of the U. S. Many of these communications will be of such importance, that we must of course take copies—of the *official* ones especially. We have engaged a young gentleman of fine qualifications to act in this capacity who will proceed with us to Washington. He has visited Texas, and intends to become a permanent resident of our country. We have told him that the first Congress would, in our opinion, appropriate an adequate remuneration for his services. This however will be left entirely with the Government. His services we need.

I met, at Natchitoches, Col. Waterson of Tennessee bearing a communication from Gen. Richard G. Dunlap of this State proposing to bring from Tennessee a force of two thousand men, provided he would have the rank he now has in Tennessee. Gen. Dunlap is now here, and I believe that from his influence and popularity in the State, and from the present state of feeling existing, that he can raise from two to five thousand men *if he had the funds to transport them to Texas. A Tennessee army* would give confidence to the friends of the cause throughout the U. S. and would carry terror to the heart of the Dictator himself. You will have seen his proposition before you receive this and as I have no doubt that it will be accepted by your excellency and Cabinet I have induced Gen D. to proceed in the execution of the plan, and I wish your Excellency and the cabinet to write me immediately on the receipt of this to Washington City, and inform me whether if we succeed in our pecuniary negotiations at New York Mr. Hamilton and I could take the responsibility of advancing a sufficient sum to Gen Dunlap to transport the Tennessee troops to the seat of war. Please address Gen Dunlap also with regard to the whole matter at this place.

He will bring a sufficient number of troops (if provided with funds to transport them) to entitle him to the rank of a Major General, and wishes the power conferred of appointing the two Brigadier Generals to which he would be entitled—as he wishes to confer those commands upon two gentlemen of fortune, character and influence who have agreed to raise a thousand men each and to cooperate with him, and in whose military talents he has entire confidence.

I am Sir, with great respect,

Your obt Servt

GEO. C. CHILDRESS

P. S. My respects to the members of the Cabinet.

WHARTON TO BURNET.^a

DEAR SIR

This will be handed you by my friend J M Wolfe Esqr who has since the 1st of January last to my own knowledge exerted himself as indefatigably and as zealously in the cause of Texas as ever man did or could in any cause. This I know is inough to insure him the kindness and friendship of yourself and all the friends of Texas.

Your etc

WM H WHARTON

Nothing of great moment can be done here without there is a minister from the new government of Texas with plenipotentiary powers

^aA. L. S.

to sell bonds etc. etc. On this subject I have written to the government a dozen times but have not received one line since the 20th of February last. Col Wolfe will tell you all the news. In great haste

Yours etc

WM H. WHARTON

NEW YORK *23d of April 1836*

P. S. I wrote to you at great length on the day before yesterday

On my arrival at Velasco about the 23d of Dec. 1835 I met with Dr S B Dickinson and J M Wolfe Esq who had emigrated to Texas for the avowed purpose of participating in her struggle for liberty—but in as much as San Antonio had fallen, and the army were about repairing to winter quarters, they justly concluded their services in the United States would be more efficient, by giving a fair expression of the difficulties existing between Texas and Mexico, Stimulating volunteers to embark in her cause and to raise Monies by donations, subscriptions etc In which operations and movements they have since been very actively and devotedly engaged. I therefore recommend that they be considered as citizens of Texas by the govt. from said 23d of Dec. and entitled to all the privilege[s] of such.

NEW YORK *April 22d 1836*

WM. H. WHARTON

We are acquainted with the truth of the above statements, in acknowledgement of which we hereunto affix our signitures

S. F. AUSTIN
B. T. ARCHER

URQUIHART AND OTHERS TO DALLAS.^a

SECRET TREATY OF SANTA ANNA WITH THE TEXAN GOVERNMENT.^b

WEST TO BURNET.^c

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE M & F. INSURANCE COMPANY.

New Orleans 16th. May 1836.

To the

Honble DAVID G. BURNET
President of Texas

SIR,

By a resolution of this Board I am directed to forward you copy of a letter to Com. Dallas, and as as you informed Mr. Edwd. An-

^a May 9, 1836. See West to Burnet, May 16, 1836.

^b See Webb to Dunlap, March 16, 1839.

^c A. L. S.

draws of Brazoria that documents were found on board the American Brig Pocket establishing the fact that her Cargo belonged to the Mexican Government and was intended for the Army in Texas under the command of Genl St Anna, and would consequently be condemned as "contraband of war" and as Eight thousand Dollars on said Cargo is Insured by this Company you will please forward copy of said Condemnation properly certified so as to be evidence in our Courts and oblige

Your obt St

JOHN K WEST *President*

P. S. Mr. A has had the Protest relative to the capture of the Pocket to [have^a] a copy made to forward you.

Copy.

NEW ORLEANS *9th. May 1836.*

A. J. DALLAS Esqr.
Commanding the U. S. Naval Forces
in the Gulf of Mexico.

SIR.

Owing to the officers and crew of the Invincible being discharged by the Judge, and Capt. Brown commanding said vessel, and captn. Hurd commanding the armed Schr. Brutus having stated to R. L. Robertson the Inspector of their Insurance Offices as per his certificate before the U. S. district Atty. that their intentions were to indorse the Registers of all American Vessels which they meet, without the jurisdiction of the United States bound for any Port in Mexico, forbidding them to continue their voyage, and if afterwards they should be found doing so, by any Texian vessels, they would be captured and condemned as good prize, and as several American Vessels are now loading with valuable Cargoes for Tampico and other Ports in Mexico on which our respective Offices have taken Risks to a large amount, we take the liberty to request that you would dispatch a vessel to the Balize to convoy said vessels to their respective Ports of destination, and their captains will be requested to be there ready for Sea on or before the 20th Inst.

The Offices having also issued Open Policies by Vessel or Vessels at and from any Port in Mexico to this in the belief that the American Flag would be respected by Texian Cruizers, and finding by the capture of the American Brig Pocket that it is no protection whatever they request that a National vessel may be employed between Tampico Vera Cruz, Matamoros and this Port in the transportation

^a Obliterated.

of specie, and the general protection of this highly important commerce to this city and to the whole United States or we shall be liable to sustain heavy losses and this commerce [to be] totally destroyed, and we request the Merchants to whom our respective companies have issued said Open Policies to immediately address their Correspondents requesting that so long as the present difficulties exist that not a dollar must be shipped but by National Vessels.

Respectfully

Your Obt. Servts

"Signed "

THOS. URQUHART *President of the New Orleans Insurance Company.*

JOHN K WEST *President Louisiana State Marine & Fire Insce Compy.*

R. O. PRITCHARD *President Ocean Insurance Co.*

THOMAS BARRETT *President of the Atlantic Marine & Fire Insce Compy.*

CHARLES HARROD *President Mississippi Marine & Fire Insce Compy.*

BURNET TO COLLINSWORTH AND GRAYSON.^a

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

Velasco 26th May 1836

TO JAMES COLLINSWORTH

AND

PETER W. GRAYSON

GENTLEMEN;

By these presents you are appointed Commissioners on the part of this Government to proceed to the City of Washington in the United States and obtaining access to the Executive and Cabinet of that Government present yourselves as duly empowered and instructed by the Executive and Cabinet of the Government ad interim of Texas, to solicit the friendly mediation of the former, to produce a cessation of the war, between Texas and Mexico, upon terms just and honorable to both parties to the end of procuring the recognition of the Independence of Texas by Mexico and you will also use your best

^a James Collinsworth was a native of Tennessee; came to Texas in 1834; was a member of the convention of 1836; secretary of state of the Government *ad Interim*, 1836; commissioner to United States, 1836; first chief justice supreme court of Texas, 1836-1838.

Peter W. Grayson came to Texas in 1832; was attorney-general of Government *ad Interim*, 1836; commissioner to United States, 1836; agent of Texas to purchase vessels in United States, 1837; minister plenipotentiary to the United States with Anson Jones for his colleague, 1838.

exertions to procure the acknowledgment of that Independence by the Government of the United States.

You are further instructed to say; that in the opinion of this Government, the annexation of Texas to the United States as a member of that confederacy, would be for many weighty reasons highly acceptable to the people of this Country. You will in the event of your being received with the frankness and consideration due to your Commission and with indications of a desire to hold communication with you on this subject, respectfully enquire the terms upon which in the opinion of the authorities you address, the proposed event might be attained and you will on your part state with candor the terms upon which as you think, it would be acceptable to the people of Texas.

From time to time, during the pendency of the intercourse you will hold under your Commission, you will advise this Government of the progress you are making and of all important facts which seem to favor or obstruct the end in view. And when you shall have arrived, through the medium of a free intercourse " of sentiments, at what you may consider the best understanding that is to be had on the subject, you will without delay, communicate the substance of all you have ascertained, to your Government, and then feel yourselves at liberty to return.

In your suggestions of the probable terms upon which the people of Texas might be disposed to come into the Union of the United States it will be proper for you to point out the following as in your opinion indispensable.

First. You will insist on a stipulation that all the laws Civil or Penal, acts and obligations, either legal or equitable, of the present Government of Texas and of the Provisional Government which preceded it under the declaration of the Seventh of November last shall be respected and held valid.^b

Second. That bona fide settlers in Texas shall be protected in their right to so much land as they can rightfully claim in virtue of laws under which they imigrated, and that all bona fide grants of land of whatever denomination, that have been regularly located or are justly entitled to location, shall be held good and valid; and shall not be adjudged defective for any failure to comply with formal requisitions, such as cultivation in toto, erecting land marks, paying annual fees or dues to the Government and the like, the object being, that when the grant was good at the beginning it shall continue to be held so, upon the party hereafter complying with neglected requisitions so far as they may be legally insisted on.

^aA less satisfactory copy of the instructions than that following in printing them has here the better word "interchange."

^bAt this point follows, written in pencil, the instruction to the copyist, "(insert here the published Decl of Texas [])."

Third: That Slavery shall be allowed in Texas, of persons of African derivation and that all persons of that description now in Texas and held as Slaves shall be respected as the property of their respective owners.

Fourth. That all Citizens of Texas who may be bound to Citizens of Foreign Countries, for debts contracted previous to their coming hither, shall in respect of such debts be protected from suits, for and during the term of years

Fifth. That liberal appropriations of public land shall be made for the endowment of Seminaries of learning, Colleges, and other institutions of public utility.

Sixth. That all Act[s] and Ordinances or penal laws, declaring as subject to confiscation or forfeiture property, of any description, either real or personal, for causes specified in the same, shall be duly respected and allowed to be carried out by the authorities of Texas.

Velasco 26 May 1836

Your obt Servt.

DAVID G BURNET

Wm H Jack^a
Secy of State

JACK TO AUSTIN AND OTHERS.

VELASCO
27th May 1836.

TO S. F. AUSTIN AND OTHERS
SIR

I am instructed by the President and cabinet to inform you that inasmuch as important changes have recently occurred it has been deemed necessary to despatch to Washington two commissioners for the purpose of representing this Government there. It was conceived most advisable to select gentlemen who are now in this country because they could be more fully informed of the views of this Govt. and the wishes and interests of the people. These Gentlemen are Peter W. Grayson and James Collinsworth Esqrs. to whom you will be pleased to communicate any valuable information which you may possess, affording them at the same time every possible facility in consummating the objects of their mission.

In recalling you the President and Cabinet, are not unmindful of your disinterested efforts in the Service of your country, but have acted on the conviction that at this crisis of affairs, commissioners fresh from Texas, would from their more intimate knowledge

^aA native of Georgia, who lived some time in Alabama and came to Texas in 1830; author of the Turtle Bayou resolutions of 1832; secretary of state of the Government *ad Interim*, 1836; member of the Congress of the Republic, 1836-1844.

of her present wants and policy be able to represent her more efficiently at Washington.

The confidence which your country reposes in you is entirely unimpaired, and you will be received with heartfelt greetings of gratitude upon your return.

Allow me Sir in conclusion to tender my personal testimony of the highest consideration, while

I have the honor to
be very respectfully
your obdt Servt.

WM H JACK, *Secy of State*

DUNLAP TO CARSON.^a

CARSON TO DUNLAP.^a

CARSON TO DUNLAP.^b

DUNLAP TO CARSON.^b

CARSON TO BURNET.^c

NASHVILLE *1st June 1836*

To his Excellency

DAVID G BURNET *President*

MY DR SIR

Sickness which confined me at one time ten days to my bed the consequent debility which rendered me unfit for traveling—high waters and other casualties too tedious to mention has procrastinated my journey to a very unexpected length. I have engaged passage on a S Boat for Pittsburg which leaves here shortly—will proceed with all possible dispatch to Washington City, where I shall hope to be *advised of the wishes of the Government.*

I shall not attempt a description of my feelings upon the receipt of the news of Houstons Victory—you may imagine but I can not describe.

^a May 31, 1836. See Carson to Burnet, June 1, 1836.

^b June 1, 1836. See Carson to Burnet, June 1, 1836.

^c A. L. S.

to sending on Troops—having heard nothing by the Boat and Troops being ready to march I have determined to send them on and continue sending untill otherwise ordered

Genl Dunlap will expect the rank of Majr Genl. which I hope the Govt will confer upon him with permission to commission the officers under his command such as his men may elect etc.

Captn Grundy leaves an interesting Family (a Wife and four children) his professional prospects the comforts of his home etc. to aid us in our struggle. I commend him to your warmest friendship and respect I will write soon again

A rumer has reached this place that our friend Thomas (Atty Genl)^a is dead accidentally killed by his own Pistols I hope its untrue.

Genl Dunlap has promised to select and send you on all the news papers of this country containing matter interesting to Texas. They will accompany this.

The bearer of this is a Volunteer in our cause and was selected by Genl Dunlap to beare a dispatch to our Govt before I arrived to ascertain whether he should proceed with his troops or whether Texas required more aid

Make my regards acceptable to the Cabinet and all friends and be assured of the profound respect with which I am

Yr Obt Servt and Friend

SAM P CARSON

P S. The bearer Mr Caruthers, ought to be reimbursed in his expenditures as he will beare his own expenses to the Govt.^b

P S. I send you the letter of Mr Childress accompanied by the note of Genl Dunlap.

S P C

(Copy for Govt.)

NASHVILLE, *May 31, 1836.*

To the Hon.

SAMUEL P. CARSON, Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas.

SIR:

Your arrival is most propitious to the cause of Texas at this time. This day the Volunteers now in rendezvous here, will be mustered and discharged. On the 10th of June, the Volunteers in the Eastern division of the State will also be mustered and discharged, at Knoxville. On the 15th of June the Volunteers in the Middle Section of the State will be mustered and discharged, at this place. And on the 22nd of June the Volunteers of the Western District of the State will

^a David Thomas, attorney-general of Texas for a time under President Burnet. The rumor was true.

^b This postscript written in the margin.

be mustered and discharged at Jackson. This presents a most favorable opportunity to raise volunteers for Texas. You already understand that I had determined to unite my destiny with Texas. I formed this determination as soon as I heard of the bloody massacre of the Alamo, and sent a proposition to your Government to be allowed to bring forces to the field.

My present object is to learn from you whether volunteers are now wanted in Texas. The defeat and capture of Santa Anna by Genl. Houston has induced a belief that the war is over. Do you want any further aid, and will the soldiers be allowed their bounty and pay as heretofore promised? If you do require further aid, I wish to be allowed to day to state this to the three companies that will be mustered and discharged, as I am confident an appeal to the chivalry of the sons of Tennessee will be answered as becomes gallant spirits. I shall attend the several rendezvous and increase the ranks of volunteers if you will only say that duty and patriotism still invite the friends of public liberty to the relief of your adopted country.

You are aware that funds must be had to subsist and transport troops. You will see the necessity to give me some power on this subject. Mr. Childress has promised me means and has instructions to purchase me 4000 stand of arms, cannon and every thing necessary for a campaign. I wrote him so soon as I determined to join the Tennessee Volunteers called to the Western borders, that I did this under a belief that we would not be marched further than Memphis, and that if I had the means there ready that I could carry the whole army with me to Texas.

I have no doubt but that Capt. Grundy will be enabled to raise one company to march forthwith to Texas if they can be assured of the necessity.

In haste.

I am respectfully
Your humble Servt.

R. G. DUNLAP.

[Copy²]

NASHVILLE *May 31st 1836.*

To Genl R. G. DUNLAP
SIR

Your letter of this date is just received and I hasten to answer it, as the volunteers under the requisition of Genl. Gaines are this day to be discharged,—in order that you may state, to those disposed to go to Texas, my answer.

^a Records of the Department of State (Texas), Book 34, p. 26.

Although the defeat of Santa Anna has been most propitious for the cause of Texas, and the victory the most brilliant and glorious ever gained, yet there are other Generals and Divisions of the Mexican Army, that *must* be whipped and driven from the Country.

Santa Anna in his official but very false communication to his Government of the fall of the Alamo, calls upon Mexico for five thousand additional troops, and two hundred officers. The Priests will, doubtless, organize and send on all the troops they can raise, and their power is now much the greatest in Mexico. I therefore hope that no effort of yours will be relaxed, but that you will persevere in your operations, and get on as soon as practicable to the seat of War, where you will be hailed by our gallant officers and soldiers, with enthusiastic friendship, and gratitude for your aid, and I doubt not that you will find a field for action where *you* too, may win imperishable honor.

As to the lands, it has been fixed by our Government, the quantity that each volunteer shall have, and graduated in proportion to the time he serves. This, you will perceive, cannot be altered, because it is a fundamental regulation and nothing, but a termination of the war, can stop its operation. Your volunteers will, therefore, be entitled to bounty lands in proportion to their services.

With regard to financial regulations to enable you to forward on troops, I invite a private interview with you this evening at the Inn, when I hope we shall be able to come to some satisfactory conclusion upon that subject.

I hope you received my letter to you dated at Alexandria, as you did not meet me in Memphis, I feared it had miscarried. Should it not meet your convenience to see me this evening, early in the morning will do.

With much respect

I am Sir yr Obt. Servt.

SAM P CARSON
Sec'y of State

[Copy *]

JUNE 1ST 1836.

Genl. R. G. DUNLAP
DEAR SIR:

If you can obtain the amount of money necessary to forward and defray the expenses of the volunteers now ready to start and those which may follow under your command, for Texas, (say twenty five thousand dollars) I will direct Robert Hamilton Esqr. the authorized agent of the government of Texas, to negotiate a loan to refund the amount with not exceeding ten *per centum per annum* interest thereon, if he should obtain a loan in the Northern cities, where he

* Records of the Department of State (Texas), Book 34, p. 28.

at this time is. Should he, however, fail there, I will direct that he immediately recognize the amount you obtain, as a loan to the Government of Texas, and pledge the faith of that Government for the payment thereof, with the interest mentioned, provided, you cannot obtain money for a less interest. In the disbursement of the money, you may borrow for Texas, you will please to observe the necessity of taking vouchers in all cases, as a strict accountability will be required by the Government of Texas. Should a larger amount be necessary for the subsistence and transportation of the volunteers, you are authorized to increase the amount to meet the necessity.

Strict economy, as well as accountability, will be expected, and I hope, rigidly observed.

With my best wishes for the safe and speedy arrival of yourself and troops at the seat of war, and your success while there, I subscribe myself,

Your Obt. Servt. and Friend

SAM P. CARSON
Sec'y of State.

NASHVILLE

June the 1st, 1836.

MY DEAR SIR

I send you a letter from Mr Childress of the 18th. of Aprile to the Prest of the republic of Texas. I expected to have sent this letter so soon as I had made some developments favorable to Texas, but before this occurred we had a Call from Genl Gains for a brigade to defend the Western borders. I joined the volunteers with a full Conviction that we would not be detained long in the service of the U. Sts, and that in that event I could take the whole volunteer Corps with me to Texas.

I am Very Respfully

Your obet Sert

R. G. DUNLAP.

To the Hon

SAML. P. CARSON.

JACK TO FORSYTH.^a

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Velasco 2nd June 1836

To The Honl. JOHN FORSYTH

*Secretary of State of
the United States of America*

SIR

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter which the President of the Republic of Texas despatches to the President of the United

^a Records of the Department of State (Texas), Book 34, p. 30.

States of America; containing the credentials of the Honl. Peter W Grayson and James Collinworth, as commissioners, on the part of our Government to yours. Permit me to introduce these gentlemen to you; and allow me to express the hope, that you will present them in form to your President, at the earliest opportunity.

I have the honor to tender my acknowledgements of the highest consideration and regard.

Most respectfully

Your Obedient Servant,

WM. H. JACK
Secy of State.

AUSTIN TO BURNET.^a

NEW ORLEANS June 10, 1836

DR SIR.

I have this moment landed and have only time to say a few words as the vessell by which I send this is starting.

I left Washington on the morning of the 21 ultimo came by Wheeling and down the river.

I fully believe that nothing is wanting at Washington, to procure an acknowledgement of our independence but *official information*, of the true state of things at home. That is, evidence that a govt *de facto* is regularly organized and in operation and able to sustain the independence of Texas—that the Mexicans have been defeated, and driven out of Texas, (if the latter be the fact) or if not driven out, how far they have retreated. What is the force of the Texas army, what that of the enemy, their relative position, and the situation of the country generally. All this should be sent *immediately* in an *official* form to the representatives of Texas in Washington, (Childers^b and Hamilton including Wharton should he still be there, or either of them who may be there) with instructions to lay it before the Govt of the U. S., without delay and apply for a recognition of our independence.

If such documents as the above had been received by the representatives of Texas before I left Washington, I believe that I could have brought on our recognition. The feeling there is decided and ardent in our favor and no time should be lost in making a proper use [of it] Wharton will remain a short time longer at Washington to act with Mr. Childress and Hamilton, and then return home. That was the conclusion when we parted. Archer was to leave Washington on the 25th for Richmond Va. and will be here on his way to Texas in a few days. I shall leave [on] the first boat for Nachitoches and through by Nacogdoches without delay.

^a A. L. S.; addressed "D. G. Burnett President of Texas Velasco—or wherever he may be—Texas"

^b Childress.

About 350 to 400 men will be down in a few days from Lexington and Louisville Ky. and 80 from Cincinnati. How are they to be transported from here? Would it not be well to send some instructions on the subject to the agency here, or to Nachitoches? I will do all I can here on the subject.

There is a report here this morning that a treaty has been made with Santa Anna by which he is to be released. It has caused some excitement (as I am told) as doubts exist of his capacity to make or enforce any treaty whilst a prisoner etc, etc.

Every thing is right for Texas all over the U. S. *provided there is union and prudence at home*—which I have no doubt there will be.

Yours in haste

S. F. AUSTIN

D. G. BURNETT
President of Texas

CHILDRESS AND HAMILTON TO BURNETT.*

WASHINGTON [CITY,] *June 10th 1836.*

SIR,

We have been, for some time past, at our post, in this city, using our best exertions to attain the important objects for which we were accredited by your Excellency and Cabinet to this Government. Upon our arrival here we presented our credentials to the Government through Mr Forsyth the Secretary of State. We have been much at a loss on account of a failure to receive *official* accounts of that all important event the capture of the President Santa Anna, and the victory of San Jacinto. These have, no doubt, been sent, but have failed to reach us, perhaps in consequence of the interruptions of the Southern mails growing out of the hostilities of the U. S. with the Creek Indians of Alabama. In the absence of official accounts we were obliged to adopt Gen Houstons account of the battle of San Jacinto which we find in the newspapers, together with your letter to Col Triplett

Upon these *quasi* officials we today, made a *communication* to Mr Forsyth in support of the position we have assumed that the Government we have the honor to represent is *de facto* the Government of Texas, and therefore entitled to *recognition* upon the principles which have regulated the Government of the United States in its intercourse with foreign nations. We had also a *conversation* with Mr Forsyth on the subject, and are by appointment, to have another, more at length in the course of next week; after which it will, probably, be in our power to give you a more satisfactory opinion with regard to

* Draft in Childress's hand; signature original; endorsed "(Public Dispatch) Please forward it and oblige Robert Hamilton Geo. C. Childress."

the probability of the Independence of Texas being recognized during the present session of Congress.

Col Carson has not yet arrived, but is daily expected. We shall, of course consult with him upon every subject connected with the interests of Texas.

In conclusion allow us, my dear Sir, to suggest the importance of keeping us *promptly* advised of every thing material which may occur. We entreat that a communication shall be made to us once a week, regularly, sending duplicates for fear of miscarriage, one via New Orleans the other via Fort Jessup. We will do ourselves the honor to address *you* (*Col Carson being absent*) as soon as we have our next interview with Mr Forsyth at which something important will probably transpire.

With great respect, we have the honor to be your obedient Servants,

GEO. C. CHILDRESS
ROBERT HAMILTON

His Excellency
DAVID G. BURNET
President Republic of Texas

FORSYTH TO BURNET.^a

Private

WASHINGTON, 25th June, 1836.

SIR,

I have the honor to introduce to you Henry M. Morfit, Esquire, of this City, who has been chosen to endeavor to procure more accurate and detailed information than that now in possession of the President of the United States, relative to the civil, military and political condition of Texas. I will thank you to facilitate Mr Morfit's inquiries in any way you can.

I have the honor to be,
Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH

His Excellency,
DAVID G. BURNET,
etc etc etc

AUSTIN TO BURNET.^b

AT J. H. BELLS *Saturday July 2 1836.*

DR SIR,

I have seen Santa Anna—he will write a letter to President Jackson requesting his mediation to terminate the war on the basis of a recog-

^a L. S.

^b A. L. S.

ning
of
ter-
of
pay
e a
via
the
ave
ant
ts,

dition of Texan independence etc I will send this letter by the express to Gen. Gains and also a copy of it to him (Gains)

I am satisfied that Santa Anna wishes to end the war, and stop the advance of the Mexican army—how is this to be done? You will answer me by asking the same question. When I come down I will try to answer it.^a

Yours

S. F. AUSTIN

CARSON TO BURNET.^b

WASHINGTON CITY 3rd July 1836.

To His Excellency

DAVID G. BURNETT, *President*.

SIR

Your letter of 23rd May has been answered by a private communication of the 29th ultimo, a copy of which accompanies this, lest the one sent by mail via New Orleans, may fail to reach you. Despatches from Natchotoches and Nashville I hope have reached you. Perceiving from the Newspapers of this country, and a letter from Mr Austin, dated at New Orleans, that an amnesty has been entered into, and the war (at least for a time) terminated, I shall suspend any further efforts in regard to forwarding troops etc.

On my arrival here I found the President favorably disposed, but fearful of action lest the censures of the world, or at least the civilized world might fall upon him. It has been suggested to me that he is surrounded by an *atmosphere* which produces unnecessary fears and apprehensions, or he would act promptly. The debate and vote of the Senate was a triumphant manifestation of feeling on their part towards us. The House of Representatives will doubtless pass the resolutions on monday the 4th instant, which being the great anniversary of the independence of this, our native country, will produce fine effect and influence upon the public and the world; it is indeed too significant to be misunderstood. I send you the Telegraph which contains a brief outline of the proceedings of the Senate; the vote was unanimous. The committee of Foreign Relations, in the House of Representatives, are ready to report the resolutions of Mr. Clay, as amended by Mr Preston, verbatim, but have designedly postponed the final action of the House till Monday the 4th. in order that it may be passed and *bear date* on that memorable day.

^a The remainder of the letter relates to the internal affairs of Texas.

^b The original signed autograph letter is in the archives and is endorsed "Rec. 10 Sept"; it is however, so damaged by water as to be for the most part illegible. The letter as here printed follows the copy in the Records of the Department of State (Texas), Vol. 34, pp. 32-36.

The venerable James Madison died on the 28th. ultimo, due honors will be done to his memory by this great Nation.

On yesterday I dined, by invitation, with the President. I had entered the palace (as it is called) but a short time before the following conversation took place between him and myself.

President. "Is it true, Mr Carson, that your Government has sent Santa Anna back to Mexico in company with your Vice President and others?"

Carson. "A letter has been received, Sir, which states that he was to sail on the day the letter was dated, or the next day for Mexico, with Vice President Zavala and Mr Hardeman as ministers to negotiate the final recognition of our Independence upon a basis arranged by the Government of Texas and Santa Anna."

President. "Then I tell you, Sir, if ever he sets foot on Mexican ground, your Government may whistle; he, Sir, will give you trouble, if he escapes, which you dream not of."

Carson. "He will be on board of one of our armed vessels; and I hope the negotiation will be carried on from Vera Cruz, without permitting him to land."

President. "I tell you, Sir, if that vessel goes within range of the Guns of the Battery of Vera Cruz, they will capture the vessel, release Santa Anna and take the head off your ministers or imprison them."

Carson. "Then, Sir, I tell you and the world, that should such be their conduct, that it will not be six months till an army composed of your own countrymen in part, and of Texians will be at the walls of Mexico, and ample revenge shall be had."

President. "Where is your means, Sir, to carry on an offensive war against Mexico?"

Carson. "In the enthusiasms of the American people, their devotion to the cause of Liberty and the ways and means, to defray the expenses of the War, will be found in the coffers of the villianous Priests of that country."

Dinner was then announced which broke off the conversation. I confess I felt the same apprehension expressed by the President, but you know whatever my feelings or fears may have been I would, of course, justify, rather than condemn the policy of the Government. In the total want of communications, from the Government, with regard to the reasons which actuate them, and indeed as to their whole policy and action except as I gather it from Newspapers and letters from individuals of Texas written to their friends in this country, I am at fault how to act and indeed frequently subjected to mortification, because of my inability to answer questions put by our best friends here, and who wish to shape their course in conformity to the wishes and measures of Texas.

July 4th

The House of Representatives have just passed the resolutions of the Senate; the vote stood on 1st. Resolution 128 to 20, on the 2nd. 113 to 22. This overwhelming majority speaks strongly the feelings of the American people. Members were, doubtless apprised of the feelings of their constituents and have only spoken their wishes, but have not gone as far as the people would have justified.

I am in daily expectation of Mr Collinsworth and Col. Grayson, they have not yet arrived.

Mr Hamilton is in Philadelphia, feeling the pulse of the Capitalists, and will proceed to New York. It appears, from his correspondence, that a recognition by this Government of our Independence is made a sine qua non by capitalists.

We hope, however that the passage of the resolutions, referred to, by both Houses of Congress, will produce a happy effect. The news of this morning, however, via New Orleans, from Mexico may counterbalance the effect which the resolutions would otherwise have produced. The news is that Mexico has abandoned Santa Anna to his fate, are organizing Fifteen Thousand Troops to march upon Texas etc etc; all of which you are doubtless advised.

An agent has been sent by this Government to Texas to ascertain our condition, our force, our means of defence and capacity to defend ourselves, and to organize and carry on a Government etc.

He is a secret agent, but I presume he will make his business known to you. His name is Maffett.^a

Should this reach you before his arrival, you will understand his business, if he should not explain it, and can be prepared for him.

I shall leave this tomorrow for Philadelphia and New York to give what aid I can in obtaining a loan for our Government,—will write you of our success etc.

I must conclude this communication with the expression of my entire approbation of the course and conduct of our agents Messrs Hamilton and Childress, and also of the various efforts of the agents of the Provisional Government, whose reputation, as Gentlemen and Patriots, stand very high in this Country. My congratulations are tendered upon the present prospects of Texas.

With high consideration I am
Your Excellency's Obt Servant,

SAM P CARSON
Secy. of State
R. T.^b

P. S. This communication was intended to have been sent sooner, but detained till I could see the *whole* action of Congress

S. P. C.

^a Morfit.

^b Republic of Texas.