

SANTA ANNA TO JACKSON.<sup>a</sup>SANTA ANNA TO URREA.<sup>a</sup>BURNET TO COLLINSWORTH AND GRAYSON.<sup>b</sup>

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Velasco 8 July 1836*

To Messrs.

COLLINSWORTH AND GRAYSON—

GENTN

I had the pleasure to address You on the 20<sup>th</sup> ulto. Since then nothing of very material importance has transpired. We are moving on smoothly. The people are turning out with great unanimity, and I am almost afraid we shall have more men in the field than the occasion will require. Of our ability to repel any attack the enemy may make upon us, there is no doubt. We have appointed the late Secty of War the hon. M. B. Lamar to the command of the Army. He acquired a deserved popularity in camp and I believe his appointment will meet with general satisfaction. The army is encamped in the vicinity of Victoria and is daily accumulating. A free and bold spirit pervades the Country and I doubt not the event of another campaign, should the enemy have the temerity to undertake one, will be more glorious than that which terminated in the battle of San Jacinto.

Genl Austin arrived here a few days ago. He visited the President Santa Anna at Columbia and another effort towards the adjustment of our difficulties with Mexico, was suggested by the distinguished Prisoner. He proposes to procure the friendly mediation of the government of the United States between Texas and Mexico and has addressed a letter to President Jackson, a certified copy of which I enclose to You, in furtherance of this object.<sup>c</sup>

As peace on honorable terms ought always to be desirable to a christian people, You will do all in your power to facilitate and give prompt effect to this endeavor of the Captive President of Mexico to terminate the war on the basis of an unqualified recognition of the Independence of Texas. Should your present powers be considered inadequate to Your effectual action in this matter, You are hereby in-

<sup>a</sup> July 4, 1836. See Burnet to Collinsworth and Grayson, July 8, 1836.

<sup>b</sup> In Burnet's hand, except the signature and postscript.

<sup>c</sup> [Note by President Burnet.] "The original of this letter was transmitted to President Jackson by Genl Austin some days ago, enclosed to Genl Gaines."

vested with full authority to present to the government of the United States the Solicitations of this government concurrent with those of the Mexican President for the amicable mediation of that high power to procure an adjustment of the difficulties existing between Mexico and Texas on the cardinal principle above Stated.

I also send You copy of a communication which the President Santa Anna has addressed to Genl Urrea the present Commander in chief of the Mexican forces intended to operate in Texas. The effect that this letter will produce on the mind and movements of the belligerent Chiefs is of course problematical, but it certainly imports an earnest desire of the President to terminate the war. I have sent the letter to General Lamar, and Submitted the management of it in some measure to his discretion. He will probably communicate with Genl Urrea and we shall soon learn the result of this branch of the experiment.

I sometime ago addressed a letter to General Gaines of the United States Army on the subject of the Indians of our frontier and suggested to him the possibility of a combination of the several tribes west of the Mississippi in which event some bands within the limits of Texas would unquestionably unite with their more northern kindred And I assured Genl Gaines that should he consider it expedient and likely to secure peace among those Tribes to establish his head quarters at Nacogdoches, such a measure would be perfectly satisfactory to this government.

We entertain a hope that by this time the Government of the United States have favored us with a formal recognition of our independence and also that You will have received the expected information in relation to the second object of Your mission. It is important that the result of your enquiries be made known before the approaching election in September.

(Signed) DAVID G. BURNET.

P. S. I also transmit to you copies of the treaties lately concluded between this Government and President Santa-Anna, in as much as it may become necessary to refer to these documents in relation to the contemplated mediation.

It will be very evident to you that the secret Treaty should be carefully kept from the PRESS.

This copy has been taken from the one in possession of President Santa-Anna, who has transmitted a copy to President Jackson.<sup>a</sup>

(Signed) DAVID G. BURNET.

<sup>a</sup> For both treaties see *House Journal*, 1st Tex. Cong., 1st Sess., pp. 24-26.

Duplicate.

COLUMBIA, TEXAS, *4th July 1836.*

His Excy. PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON.

REGARDED SIR,

In fulfilment of the duties which a public man owes to his native country and to honor, I came to this soil at the head of six thousand mexicans. The disasters of war, which circumstances rendered inevitable, have reduced me to the situation of a prisoner, in which I still remain, as you will no doubt have been informed.

The good disposition manifested by Don Samuel Houston, Commander-in-chief of the Texian Army, for terminating the war, and by his Successor, Don Thomas J. Rusk; the determination of the President and Cabinet to make an honorable arrangement between the contending parties, and my conviction; have given rise to the Agreements, of which I annex copies, as also of the orders issued by me to General Filisola, my Second in command, for him to retire with the remainder of the mexican Army, from this river Brazos, where he then was, to the other side of the river Bravo del Norte.

As there was no doubt that General Filisola would scrupulously fulfil all that part which related to him, the President and Cabinet had taken measures for my return to Mexico, to enable me to complete the other stipulations and I had, in consequence, embarked on board the Schooner Invincible, which was to convey me to the Port of Vera Cruz; but, it unfortunately happened, that some indiscreet persons raised a tumult, which obliged the Authorities forcibly to land me and again to place me in close confinement.

That incident prevented my arrival at Mexico, since the beginning of last month, which has induced that Government, ignorant, no doubt, of what had occurred, to take the command of the Army from General Filisola, ordering Genl. Urrea to whom the command has been given, to go on with his operations, in virtue of which, the latter General is now at the river Nueces, according to last accounts.

In vain have some men of foresight and well-disposed, endeavoured to show the necessity of repressing the passions and of my return to Mexico, as it was agreed upon. The excitement has gathered strength with the return of the Mexican Army to Texas. Such is the present state of affairs. The duration of the war and its disasters are therefore necessarily inevitable, unless a powerful hand interpose to cause the voice of reason to be opportunely listened to. It appears to me, then, that it is you who can render so great a service to humanity, by using your high influence to have the aforesaid Agreements carried into effect; which, on my part, shall be punctually fulfilled.

When I agreed to treat with this Government, it was under the conviction that for Mexico to continue the war, was unnecessary. I

have acquired correct information of this country, of which I was ignorant four months back. I am sufficiently zealous of the interests of my country not to wish for her that which is most suitable. Always ready to sacrifice myself for her glory and welfare I would not have hesitated to prefer suffering torments or death, rather than consent to any arrangement whatever, if by such conduct an advantage had accrued to Mexico. My full conviction that it is more expedient to settle the present question by political negotiations, is, finally the sole motive which induces me to agree sincerely to what has been stipulated. In the same manner do I make to you this frank declaration.

Be pleased, then, to favor me with like confidence: afford me the satisfaction of preventing evils near at hand, and of contributing to do the good which my heart dictates: let us establish mutual relations to the end that your Nation and the Mexican may strengthen their friendly ties and both engage amicably in giving existence and stability to a people that wish to figure in the political world; in which they will succeed within a few years, with the protection of the two Nations.

The Mexicans are magnanimous when treated with consideration! I will make known to them with purity of intentions the reasons of conveniency and humanity which required a frank and noble conduct, and I do not doubt they will adopt it, when conviction has worked upon their minds. This manifestation will convince you of the sentiments which animate me, and of those with which I have the honor to be,

Your very devoted, obedient Servant

ANTO. LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA.

A true translation.

Velasco 8th July 1836.

EDWARD GRITTEN

COLUMBIA, 4th July 1836.

To

DON JOSÉ URREA; *Commander-in-chief of the Army of Operations,*  
Wherever he may be.

ESTEEMED FRIEND,

I have learned that the command of the Army has been taken from General Filisola and that the Supreme Government has ordered you to place yourself at the head to continue operating against this country; and as I consider that the war should, at once, cease between Mexicans and Texians, because it is better to terminate the present difficulty by political arrangements, I am of opinion that you ought

not to continue your march, but to halt at the most suitable place; for, I have no doubt, that when you communicate officially to the Commander-in-chief of this Army "that so soon as my person has been set entirely free so that I can join you, you will withdraw the army under your command to the other side of the river Bravo del Norte, without committing any act of hostility whatever" I shall then be able to proceed to wherever you may be and continue my journey to the capital of the Republic.

The bearer of this should be treated with all the attention that my friendship can require of you, and by him you can send, as suggested, the aforementioned official note and propose giving every possible security, to be included in an Agreement which you can enter into with the said Commander-in-chief, in order to remove all distrust and all further obstacle to my return to Mexico, which you are sensible, is now very necessary for the adjustment of the present difficulty.

I trust that the orders you may have received from Mexico will not prevent your yielding to this suggestion, and on my arrival at the seat of Government you shall be free of all responsibility and commitment.

Show this to the Generals and Chiefs of the Army, which they are to consider as addressed to them, and with wishes for your good health,

I remain,

Your most affte Friend  
Who kisses your hands

A. L. DE STA ANNA.

A true translation.

Velasco 8th July 1836.

EDWARD GRITEN

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CARSON TO BURNET.\*

PHILADELPHIA 9th July 1836

To His Excellency

DAVID. G. BURNET, *President*

DR. SIR,

Mr. Wharton and Mr. Howard who are the Bearers of this and my despatches to the Government have been detained for want of a Vessel, but will get off tomorrow on board a Schooner direct for Galvestown: The Vessel which carries them will also take a number of Volunteers from this place the precise number you will be advised

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\* Part under date of July 10 in Carson's hand; signature original.

of by the Bearers. These two Gentlemen to whom this will introduce you are of respectable families and are recommended to me by Various Gentlemen in whom I have the highest confidence as worthy of attention and promotion. They will probably prefer a situation in the Navy I hope you will have it in your power to advance them. Mr. Hamilton is with me, and this day we have a consultation with one of the largest business men of the City upon the subject of a loan, should any arrangement be concluded you shall be for[th]with advised. Messrs. Collinsworth and Grayson had not arrived at Washington City when I left, which was thursday last. The President will leave there for the Hermitage to morrow, and will be absent for some months. I send you the New Orleans Bee of the 20th Ultimo, to show its Tone etc. I have learned since my arrival here, that the Mexicans had purchased the Bee, and that it is now the Vehicle of their falsehoods and Villanies. I will leave this open until to morrow.

*Same date.*

Mr. Hamilton and myself have just returned from seeing Mr. Thomas Biddle and Mr. Hodge Capitalists of this place and from the bearing of their conversation they wish *Land*, not the "*hypothecation*" only, but the Land in fee, at a price to be negotiated etc. They were explicitly told that no power had been given by the Convention to alienate Lands, but simply to pledge on the faith of the Government of Texas for the payment of the principle and Such interest as might be agreed on. After a Long talk it was determined that we should go on and open a negociation in N. York, we therefore shall have to try the capitalists there, of the results you shall be advised; more in the morning

July 10th

Nothing has transpired since yesterday. My friend who copied for me left this morning and I now have all my writing to do which occupies me verry much. My correspondence is extensive and gives me much trouble I cannot however think of adding any thing to the expenditures of the Govt. by employing a clerk or secretary. My own means are verry much reduced and economy is necessary till I can reinstate by my cotton crop. Have just learned that Messrs Collensworth and Grayson arrived day before yesterday at Washington City But for arrangements made to be in New York tomorrow I would return and see them, will make all haste to see them. I have spoken to a Gentleman well qualified, to go to Texas and set up a press for the Govt. He is to give me an answer on my return to Washington—price of press, all materials to carry on for 12 months to be furnished by him as well as to take the editorial department and supervision

of the establishment. His terms shall be forwarded to you and your answer recd. before anything definitive is done

In haste Yr Obt Servt and friend

SAM P CARSON

The latter parte in my own hand writing not copied <sup>a</sup>

COLLINSWORTH AND GRAYSON TO BURNET.<sup>b</sup>

WASHINGTON [CITY,] 15th July 1836

SIR

We arrived here on the 8th<sup>c</sup> Ins' after have<sup>d</sup> been detained some days in consequence of low water and grounding in the Ohio River.

We omitted no ordinary exertions to reach this place before the adjournment of Congress but by unavoidable delays were disappointed.

On arriving here we were informed that the President of the U. States was on the point of setting out for the Hermitage, and that time would not admit of a formal interview. Under these circumstances (Congress having adjourned and most of the members left) one of us having had a long personal acquaintance with the President, deemed it not improper on the evening of our arrival to make a personal call; during which we were fairly led to infer from a communication<sup>e</sup> with him,<sup>f</sup> that he had sent a secret agent on the part of the government of the U. States to Texas with letters to the President of the Republick of the latter country; to prosecute various inquiries as to our situation, internal, Civil and Political, and that nothing conclusive would be done until Said commissioner was heard from.

We have had two interviews with Mr Forsyth since the departure of the President and find him but little disposed to be communicative in anything. But he has conversed with us in regard to the objects of our mission and has also stated that he knew the annexation of Texas to the U. States was a favorite measure of Genl' Jackson whenever it could be done with propriety. He informs us that he has forwarded to the President at the Hermitage the terms so far as disclosed by us (and founded upon our instructions), upon which an incorporation of Texas into the U. States would be acceptable to the former, and that he can do nothing upon the subject, until the opinions and action of the President is had thereon.

<sup>a</sup> Written in the margin.

<sup>b</sup> L. S.

<sup>c</sup> The duplicate, also on file, has "7th."

<sup>d</sup> Having.

<sup>e</sup> The duplicate has "conversation."

<sup>f</sup> Here the duplicate is followed. The original has a period after "him" and makes "That" begin a new sentence.

Under these circumstances it will be useless for us to remain here during the Summer.

One of us Mr Grayson will therefore return in a short time to Louisville Kty. and the other to Nashville Tenn' where they will both hold themselves ready to receive any instructions or obey any commands of their government.

Should it be desired that we should longer represent our government here, it will be necessary to make out new commissions and forward them to the last named places, as those we have, have been deemed inadmissible in consequence of having no seal. It will be seen by reference to our constitution that in absence of a seal of state the President may use his own private seal.

There is a further Omission on the part of the address to the President and secretary of State in omitting to state even the country they are from.

I know the difficulty of recollecting all these things without forms, and merely mention them to prevent the possibility of their being overlooked.

Respectfully your obedient servants

JAS COLLINSWORTH  
P. W. GRAYSON

To His Excellency DAVID G. BURNET  
*President of the Republic of Texas*

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AUSTIN, ARCHER, AND WHARTON TO BURNET.<sup>a</sup>

To his Excellency DAVID G. BURNET  
*President of the Republic of Texas.*

Being appointed by the Convention of November last Commissioners for raising funds and other purposes in the United States in prosecution of our duties we arrived in New Orleans on the 1st of January 1836. On reaching that city we found that the government of Texas was without funds or credit, and that the quarter Master of the army and other agents were wholly unable to procure the requisite supplies of arms ammunition provisions etc. Under these circumstances we promptly exerted ourselves to make a flat loan at a fixed rate of Interest. This, however was wholly impracticable. Capitalists would not lend at any interest without obtaining lands in payment. Impelled by the urgency of our situation we effected a loan with Robe[r]t Triplett and others which has been submitted to and modified by your Excellency and Cabinet.

We are free to admit that the terms of this loan were not such as we would have dictated—but we are bold in asserting that a loan

<sup>a</sup> Draft in Wharton's hand, signatures original.

You have no doubt received a copy of Santa Anna's letter to President Jackson.

The fond hope is cherished, that something valuable may result from this, and that the farther effusion of blood may be suspended, by the friendly interposition of that Government.

Do you think a negotiation could, in any way, be opened through the Mexican Minister at Washington? Suppose you sound him indirectly, and, if possible, learn whether Mexico will consent to appoint commissioners, to meet ours, on neutral territory, for the purpose of settling the terms of a peace, based upon their recognition of our independence.

I am inclined to think this measure not very likely to succeed, but still it can do no harm.

Allow me to conclude with assurances of the highest personal regard

WM. H. JACK,  
*Sec'y of State.*

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GRAYSON TO JACK.<sup>a</sup>

WASHINGTON [CITY,] *July 30, 1836*

Dr SIR,

Leaving this place with Majr. Collinsworth a few days ago on a short trip to Philadelphia, and passing through Baltimore, we took pains to obtain all the information possible in regard to two brigs of War, we understood the Mexican Government, by their Agent, were having built there, for immediate service in the gulf.

I doubt not that through the late Commissioners, our Government has already received some account of these Vessells; Genl Austin particularly when in Balto. having obtained information of them, from a person residing there, who was well acquainted with every thing, in regard to them.

As he, however could only speak of their state of forwardness, at the time he left, which is now something upwards of two months ago, I consider it important (Majr. Collinsworth being at present absent at N York) without delay to communicate what I know of their present condition, with my conjecture as to the time in which they will probably be completed. Having been, no later than yesterday, on board of one of them and but a few days before, seen the other, I am able of course to give certain information with respect to them.

The one I saw yesterday, deserves to be considered first, as she is in the greatest state of forwardness, and seems to be the one, that has been selected to be soonest fitted for sea. From what I was able to observe myself of her, and from the information I received from

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<sup>a</sup> A. L. S.

competent persons, I came to the conclusion that she would be ready to sail between the 1st and 15th of September; in all *probability* not until the last mentioned date, and *certainly* not before the first mentioned. Both the Vessells are of the same size; about 110 feet long and made to carry, each Sixteen Guns and they Eighteen pounders. I would only say of them what will no doubt readily enough, Occur to you, that they are very formidable Vessells for our Navy; particularly as their construction is such as to make them sail well; full as well as the Invincible and even perhaps, better. This last idea I have from a person who knows the Invincible well and is moreover a good judge of such matters. There is however this consolation in regard to them, that when thoroughly fitted for service, with their Guns and all on board, they can not draw less than seventeen feet; a circumstance you know that will effectually shut them out of all our inland waters.

It is to be observed that they will sail from Balto. in no state of preparation for service; their Guns—powder—ball etc etc being all to be put down in the hold. This I *know* will be done in such a way, that they will be under the necessity of discharging every thing on shore, at some point in Mexico, before they can be in a condition to assume their character of Vessells of War. And there is no doubt that Vera Cruz must be the point for which they will be dispatched, as there is not I believe sufficient water for them, to enter any other suitable port in the country.

A consideration of these last mentioned circumstances has brought me to think a good deal of the possibility of intercepting one or both of these Vessells, before their reaching the protection of any Mexican port.

I know not what our Government has thought on the subject, or whether any expedient that seemed practicable has occurred to them, of getting rid of these fearful odds, that seem likely to come against them.

Uninformed as I am, of their Views in the matter, I may be permitted to mention a suggestion that has been made to me, of a plan to effect the object spoken of; say at present the interception of the Vessell that is first to sail.

I can say that the suggestion is from a person versed in such affairs, and warmly interested for the success of our cause. He proposes that 3 or 4 of our vessells of War should repair in good time to the waters near Vera Cruz, where with the advantage of good pilots, standing off and on, they can await the arrival of the Brig, which can easily be distinguished by her port holes etc, and her color, which I understand is to be black and white. She is, to be sure, to sail under American Colors, but as she is certainly to carry contraband of War;

she will consequently be liable to search—seizure and detention. Our vessells on seeing her can hoist American Colors setting the proper signal to speak, can easily approach her so near, as to become masters of her at once. As she will be commanded by an American Captn. and an ordinary merchant crew—all *unarmed*, there would of course be no resistance—to say nothing of the probability of their being but little disposition to resist, even with competent means.

I think we need care but litle about any risk of irregularity in the business,—since, altho' sailing under the American flag, the Vessell will not be American property, and consequently no American will be disposed to make any complaint about it.

If our Vessells could get to the waters near Vera Cruz by *the 20th of September*, it is certain they would be there in good time, and if by spending a few weeks in that service, they could indeed effect the object, I must say I think at least, that they could in no other way do so great a good to our cause.

What I have written I submit of course with proper deference to the judgment of my Government. Little Versed as I am in such subjects I would only be considered as offering suggestions which I know run some risk of being of no value. The mere chance however of their being something of a different character will I think serve as my excuse for making them.

After all it may be that some far better plan has been already thought of for the object in view.

Nevertheless if I shall ascertain or think of any thing further on the subject which I shall think important to be known I will not fail to communicate it immediately.

That something effectual may be done in the matter, I anxiously hope; for I give it as my opinion, that these Vessells would be able to clear the gulph of the whole of our Navy.

I enclose a Duplicate of the Communication made by Majr. Collinsworth and myself to the Government, on the 15th inst. This I do to meet the contingency of the Original having miscarried

Nearly all the Heads of Departments are at present absent from the city.

As soon as Majr. Collinsworth arrives here, which will be in a day or two, we will depart for our respective temporary destinations Louisville and Nashville.

I have the honor to be  
Very respectfully  
Yr Obt Servt

P W. GRAYSON

Honble WM H. JACK  
*Secretary of State etc etc*