

GRAYSON TO BURNET.^a

WASHINGTON [CITY,] Augt. 2. 1836

To His Excellency

DAVID G. BURNET

President etc

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the mail of last night brought to my hands (Majr. Collinsworth being yet absent) your Communication of the 8th ulto. with its enclosures. That of the 20th of June to which you refer^b has not yet been received. So that, the one of last night, was the *first* official intelligence received by us since our arrival here.

This morning at the earliest hour of admission, I went to the State Department, to have a conference with the Present Acting Secretary of State, Mr. Dickens, the incumbent Mr. Forsyth being absent on a visit to the North. I enquired of him, if as yet any intelligence had been received at the Department of the Communication of Genl. S. Anna, to the President of the United States—to which he replied in the negative.

By our previous Communications you have been informed that Genl. Jackson had gone to the Hermitage. So that it is probable the letter of Genl. S. Anna will reach him there direct, without coming by Washington; certainly so, if, as it is probable, Genl. Gaines was aware that the President had gone on a Visit to Tennessee. In a few days there is no doubt, there will be intelligence at the Department here, on the subject, by which we shall learn the action that Genl Jackson may have determined to take with respect to it.

With respect to the solicitation on our part for the mediation of this Government, although we shall of course do all in our power, in urging it, nevertheless we feel a good deal embarrassed for the want of the proper letter of credence, that is to say, one made out with all the requisite formalities of a *Seal* etc. Mr. Forsyth politely gave us to understand, that he would be happy to see us at any time we might desire to converse with him; but left us to infer pretty plainly that we were not in strictness, *accredited Agents*, on account of the informality of the papers conferring our authority. He intimated moreover, that some advice from our Government addressed to this, was at least of formal necessity, in regard to the persons previously here in our character, whose functions have ceased by our appointment.

If we are to continue here, of the necessity of which you and your associates in the Government will of course judge from circumstances presenting themselves, I have to request that all these formal particulars I have mentioned will receive their proper attention. Besides

^a A. L. S.^b This letter has not been found.

this I would suggest that it will be proper to have made out and sent on to us a regularly authenticated Copy under the Seal of the State, of that portion of the Ordinances of the Convention, which established the present Government ad interim. This is necessary to show its regularity, since in the Constitution proper as printed, nothing appears, that has any reference to the present Organization.

The intimation given in our previous Communications that we would both leave Washington for a short time, for Nashville and Louisville respectively, I have this morning on reconsidering the matter deemed it prudent to revoke; and have determined myself to remain here, whilst Majr. Collinsworth is absent at Nashville, where by having the opportunity of intimate conversations with Genl. Jackson he can render the most essential service.

I think it best that one of us should remain here constantly, until it is deemed proper that both of us should return home.

Allow me to hope, that as frequently as it may be convenient, you will keep us advised of the state of things in our country and of whatever it may be desired of us to do.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Yr Obt Servt.

P W. GRAYSON

BURNET TO COLLINSWORTH AND GRAYSON.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Velasco 9th Augst 1836.

To the honble
P. W. GRAYSON
and
JAMES COLLINSWORTH
Commrs etc.

GENTN

I transmit to you a decree of Blockade of the Port of Matamoros etc

An actual force is ordered to that Station competent to effectuate the Blockade in fact.

We have no late intelligence from the Enemy that can be relied upon. From present appearances, I do not apprehend a speedy visit from them. Many of the Settlers have returned from the Army to their homes, but they are always ready to take the field in defense of the Country, and their just rights.

Yours in haste

(Signed) DAVID G. BURNET

BURNET TO COLLINSWORTH AND GRAYSON.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Velasco 10 Augt 1836

To the hon.

JAMES COLLINSWORTH

and

PETER W GRAYSON

GENTN

I enclose you copy of Mr Jacks letter to You of 23 ulto. Mr Jack has recently resigned his charge of the State department and is a candidate for Congress. The electioneering campaign has opened with Some activity and will probably be conducted with a good deal of Spirit. Austin is out for the Presidency. Archer is talked of by a few. No other candidate has yet passed the curtain.

Since our last communication to You we have been made to feel some little inquietude on the subject of the northern emigrant Indians of Texas. It is said on very credible authority that Several Chiefs of the Cherokee and other tribes had been at Matamoras, holding councils with Genl Urrea and negotiating a treaty of alliance with him. Their council fires have been lightened [sic] within the wigwams of our enemy, and it may be, the war-whoop will soon be heard in our land.

These Cherokees and their associate bands are in truth Indians of the United States—they are recent emigrants from that Country and have been thrown into our territory, by the peculiar *transplanting* policy of that government. I therefore conceive that they come, objectively, within the purview of that clause of the treaty between the Republics of Mexico and of the U States, which relates to the Indians of the respective contracting parties. This government feel that they are entitled to any beneficiary provision contained in that treaty which relates to Indian hostilities, as this portion of the then Confederation of Mexico was the only one to which that clause of the treaty could have any practical reference. Treaties have a territorial as well as a political relation and the disruption of the Confederacy of Mexico and the Severance of Texas from the new government established over the residue of that Country, cannot deprive Texas of the benefits of that portion of the Treaty which has a peculiar and exclusive application to *its* territorial circumstances. Those benefits may to be Sure be superseded by a subsequent and separate treaty made between the Governments of Texas and the United States, but no such treaty has yet been celebrated. Until it is, Texas has a right to expect, as a late integral portion of the Confederate Sovereignties of Mexico, the advantage of a treaty made with that confederacy and having special and peculiar relation to her own territory.

Independent of this abstract right which we would advance with some diffidence we rely confidently upon the generous sympathy which has been so abundantly manifested by the people of the United States in our behalf, for a liberal and humane interpretation of the obligations of that treaty and for a practical extension to their "Kindred according to the flesh", of all the benefits that were intended, in the original ratification of that treaty, to be conferred upon them.

I therefore entertain a hope that the contemplated hostilities of the Cherokees and other lately Northern tribes located, without invitation or permission within the jurisdiction of Texas; will be restrained by the just and humane interposition of their foster government of the United States. It is not to be imagined that they would hazard the displeasure of that government, for any dubious gratification or advantage which the promises of our Semi-Savage enemies may have profered to them.

You will be pleased to give to this Subject your profound attention and to make such communications to the Executive at Washington in relation to it as may seem meet and best adapted to the attainment of our object, which is to Secure the neutrality of those Indians in our contest with Mexico. Genl Gaines is well disposed towards us and a mere verbal indication on his part would effectually restrain the warlike habitues [sic] of the northern tribes resident, without leave, within our borders.

We are moving on in tolerable tranquility. The late disquietudes of the army have in a great measure Subsided and there prevails a disposition to improve the internal as well as defend the external interests of the country. The Civil authority is fully recognized and predominant, and the military manifest a disposition to recede from their late assumptions of undue power.

We have not yet had the pleasure of hearing of Your arrival at Washington. I have observed that the President has left Washington for Tennessee, which I fear took place before You had an opportunity of an interview with him. The assignment to the Executive of the discretion to acknowledge our nationality makes it very important that You should confer with that high functionary as early as practicable.

Our writs [of] election are out. Congress [is] to hold its session at Columbia—to meet on the first Monday of October. We are quite impatient to hear from You

Your obt Servt

DAVID G BURNET

I send you the first number of the resuscitated Telegraph. It contains the Constitution etc

GRAYSON TO JACK.^a

WASHINGTON [CITY,] Augt. 11, 1836

DR SIR,

I have just received your unofficial of 15th ulto and was at the moment just sitting down to address you further on the subject of the Mexican brigs, fitting out at Baltimore.

In my communication to you, under date of the 30th of July with respect to these Vessells, I stated that the first one would sail between the 1st and 15th of September and not sooner—on yesterday I learned that extraordinary exertions have been making to get her ready and that she will very probably sail by the 25th of the present month. If the plan I suggested of taking her at Vera Cruz be received as worthy of attention, I would recommend that our Vessells be in the Waters near there, something earlier, than the 20th of September (the time mentioned in my last) to make still more sure of being in good time—say by the 10th if it is possible. As it may be, that my letter to you of the 30th of July may have miscarried, I will here state briefly to you, the plan therein suggested. Three or four of our Vessells, to be standing off and on, near Vera Cruz waiting for the Brig, when they see her to hoist American colors, make signal to speak, and getting near enough, bring her to—etc. She will be in no condition to make resistance; her Guns etc etc being all down in the hold *certainly*. Her Captn and crew will be all *American* and no more than the common compliment [sic] of a Merchant Vessel. Having contraband of war, on board, she will be liable of course to search seizure etc etc. As she will not be *American* property (tho' under American colors[]), we need not care much about any little irregularity in the business of taking her.

There will be no difficulty in recognizing her,—her color black with a white streak.

I hope the trial will be made in the way I have mentioned, if no other plan has been thought of—for I assure you the Vessel is quite too formidable for us at present and would eventually cut off our intercourse with N. Orleans.

As to the other Vessel, I will observe her progress and give timely notice.

With respect to the expected invasion of Texas, I have with you my apprehensions, though there seems at the present, every probability of such a revolution in Mexico, as may postpone operations for a while. From the Accounts in the papers, which you have no doubt seen, ere this, pronunciamientos are taking place, in favor of Federalism, in all directions, without any molestation from the Government, and writers from different parts of Mexico, express the

^a A. L. S. Endorsed on back " Forwarded by yr. obdt. Serts. T. Toby & Bro. pr. J. B. Clark "

opinion merely, that the invasion of Texas will be for a time suspended.

It seems the Acting Presidt. has resigned, and Aleman^a is spoken of as his successor, but I think from my knowledge of him he will not accept. The forced loan which you have seen decreed is said to be so unpopular, that not much good is expected from it.

Notwithstanding all this, they may make out to harass Texas not a little.

It is a week to night, since Majr. Collinsworth left this [city] for Nashville, to see Genl Jackson and urge the mediation, solicited by S. Anna and equally by us. I shall write to him by the mail of tonight.

As I have said before, there is in my mind no doubt that the present Administration, *can carry the measure of Annexation*. Genl Jackson feels the utmost solicitude for it and we know how much that will count.

You mention nothing of the Agent, from this Government having as yet arrived among you. I fear he will behold a confused state of things. But if his report should be unpropitious for *recognition*, it will I think be *good for mediation*—which for my own part I should like to see proceed on any terms which the United States might deem *consistent with our honors*, even if they should think some *consideration* was due to Mexico, in the adjustment of the business. What but an unreasonable sort of Pride could make any one opposed to this?

As I intend to make pretty regular communications whether I have any thing important to say or not, I will for the present conclude.

Having the honor to be

Very respectfully

Yr Obt Servt

P. W. GRAYSON

Honble

WM H JACK

Secretary of State etc etc

BURNET TO GRAYSON.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Velasco 12. Sept. 1836.

To hon

PETER W. GRAYSON

SIR

I had the pleasure to receive yours of 15. July and also of 30. July.

We had before heard of the two Brigs and have conceived divers projects for laying violent hands on them. Whether any will succeed is problematical.

^a Alamán.

The election is closed. The result is not positively known but no doubt is entertained that Genl. S. Houston is the President-elect. Lamar Vice. Wm H. Wharton is thought to be elected to the Senate—his brother and Dr. Archer to the Other branch

Congress will soon meet and I do not consider it expedient to proceed any further in relation to the Commission to Washington. The subject will be taken up at an early stage in the session

Your Obt Sevt

Signed DAVID G. BURNET

Mr. Jack has resigned
vacancy not yet filled.

BURNET TO COLLINSWORTH.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Velasco 12 Sept. 1836

To hon

JAMES COLLINSWORTH

DEAR SIR

I had the pleasure to receive your letter of 15. July apprising us of your arrival in Washington etc etc. I trust you have availed yourself of every opportunity to make a favorable impression on the mind of the venerable President of the U. S. Your long personal acquaintance with him gives you many facilities for this purpose.

Our elections are over and there is no doubt that Genl Houston is the President elect—Lamar, vice P. Wm H. Wharton is probably [chosen] for the Senate. John A. W.^a and Dr. Archer lower house

The meeting of Congress is so near at hand that I do not think advisable to anticipate that time in the appointment of an Agent for Washington. One at least will doubtless be appointed soon after its assemblage

in haste

your' Obt. Sevt

Signed DAVID G. BURNET

GUARANTEE OF HENDERSON TO COOPER.^b

GRAYSON TO BURNET.^c

LOUISVILLE Novr 3, 1836

To His Excellency

DAVID G. BURNET

President etc

SIR,

Some ten days ago I arrived at this place from Washington, where I had remained until the 11th. ulto., expecting to receive the

^a John A. Wharton.

^b September 29, 1839. See Van Zandt to Jones, June 5, 1843.

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

credentials of our Commission, in the form which had been pointed out by Majr. Collinsworth and myself, as necessary to give us official intercourse with this Government. Not receiving them as I had been expecting and being not a little weary of my *unrecognized character* at Washington, I concluded to come to this place and await the determination of my Government on the subject of its further intercourse with this. A few days more I take it for granted, will bring us information whether our services will be longer required in this Country. Majr. Collinsworth is I suppose still at Nashville, though I have not had the pleasure of hearing from him, since a short time before my departure from Washington.

On the subject of the recognition of our Independence by this Government, I can add but little to the conjecture you would yourself naturally form in regard to it, which would be no doubt, *that it would take place at the earliest moment that circumstances would at all justify it in the eyes of the world.*

I know from undoubted authority the warm inclination which is felt by the Executive of this Government, to adopt such a course in regard to us, as would the soonest bring about *all the objects we have in view.* But I think he will delay the recognition, until he shall have further observed the course of our Civil administration; by which our capacity for regular government may be sufficiently and suitably tested. Our Independence of Mexico, seems to be a fact universally conceded.

The recent departure of the Mexican Plenepotentiary Mr. Gorostiza from Washington^a has given rise to some speculation with respect to its probable consequences. Some predict an immediate rupture between this Government and that of Mexico. I confess that I myself look only for further *sparring* between them; in as much as Mexico, no matter how much she may feel herself aggrieved, can hardly think of resorting to force with a country that certainly has the power to blot her out of existence.

There is pretty good authority for the fact that Mr Gorostiza previous to his departure required the recall of the U. S troops from beyond the Sabine. As we know from the published correspondence that took place some time ago between him and Mr Fo[r]syth, that he strongly remonstrated against troops going over in the first instance, it is quite likely that he would have brought the question to a practical issue by requiring them in direct terms to *come back.*

To the last application he, of course received the same response which he did to his first remonstrance on the subject.

If he has said any thing further of late, on the other matter complained of some time ago, namely the getting up of volunteers in

^a Because of occupation of Nacogdoches by U. S. troops. U. S. Pub. Docs. 291, Doc. 256, p. 65.

this country, for Texas, etc. we may be sure that upon this point as on the other he remains in the same unsatisfied condition; this Government in neither case having thought fit to change the line of conduct which it adopted at the beginning.

In my last communication to you from Washington I informed you of the unhappy condition of our vessels the Brutus and Invincible at N York, for the want of funds, etc.

Mr. Williams who had been anxiously looked for to supply them had not arrived at the period of the last advices I received from N York, before leaving Washington; but he has reached there since as I have reason to suppose and I hope in time to furnish the desired relief.

In regard to the sale of Land Scrip, it is perhaps needless for me to inform you of what you have no doubt already learned, that it is exceedingly dull and difficult.

I have the honor
to be
very respectfully
Yr Obt Servt

P W GRAYSON

COLLINSWORTH TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
[SAM HOUSTON.]^a

BRAZORIA
Nov. 13th, 1836

To the President of the Republic of Texas

SIR the undersigned in conjunction with P. W. Grayson Esqr. was appointed on the second day of June last, commissioners on the part of this government to the court of Washington. The duties with which they were charged will appear by a record of their credentials and instructions on file in the office of the Secretary of State.

They accordingly repaired with as little delay as possible to Washington City. When they arrived there they found congress adjourned and the President of the United States on the point of setting out for the Hermitage. The undersigned impressed with the importance of an interview with him previous to his departure from the seat of government, called on him immediately. He briefly informed me that nothing could be done until he heard from an agent despatched from the government of the U. States to the government of Texas to inquire into the civil and political condition of the latter country. But referred us to Mr Forsyth Secretary of State for all further communication on the subject. We saw Mr Forsyth and presented our credentials, they were formally objected to for the omission of the seal

of the State being affixed to them. We immediately wrote to the President of this Republick informing him of the fact and requesting him either to supply the omission or grant us leave to return. Informing him also that the undersigned would repair [one] to Nashville and the other to Louisville and await orders.

A short time afterwards it was deemed more expedient that one should remain at Washington as something might arrive or occur that would render even an *unauthorized* agent of Texas useful at that place. Upon consultation between Mr Grayson and myself it was determined that he should remain at Washington and that I would repair to Nashville where I would be more likely to have an opportunity of discussing the objects of my mission with the President himself, at the Hermitage to advantage than even at Washington. I accordingly repaired to the former place and saw him frequently while there. He informed me in substance that nothing could be done until the Congress of Texas met and organized a more formal and regular government, than that then in existence. Deeming myself without power to act and anxiously awaiting the orders of my government, I determined to remain at Nashville until I could hear from the President of this republick.

On the 21st of Oct last I recd the enclosed letter marked A. which I considered as finally ending any pretence of authority on my part to act as an agent of this government,* and I accordingly set out for this place the next day.

It might be further necessary to state that previous to the arrival of the letter last referred to: I had addressed a letter to the President of the U. States a copy of which if desired I will furnish, briefly setting forth the objects powers and policy of the subjects with which I was charged.

Without pretending to have received any official information upon the subject, which of course I could not do for the reason above stated, I think [I] may safely hazard the opinion that the present ex[ec]utive of the United States *is in favor* of all the measures contained in our instructions. Should the present government believe in the same policy, I cannot too forcibly impress upon them the necessity of despatching some one forthwith vested with plenary powers to the court of Washington, as in my opinion much may be endangered by delay to bring these matters before the approaching session of the Congress of the United States at an early period of its session.

With this brief view of the subject I remain your ob't ser't.

JAS. COLLINSWORTH.

* This was probably Burnet's letter of September 12.