

WHARTON TO AUSTIN.^a

official

The Honl S F AUSTIN *Secy of State*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of my credentials and instructions as Minister and will loose no time in repairing to the court of Washington

Very Respectfully

Your Obit Servant

WM H WHARTON

VELASCO 22d Nov 1836

AUSTIN TO WHARTON.^b

COLUMBIA Novr 25, 1836.

Department of State]
Hon. W. H. Wharton

DR SIR

Cols. Hockly^c and Bee start tomorrow with Gen Santa Anna for Washington City. The President confidently believes that much good will result to all the parties concerned by an interview between Gen Santa Anna and the President of the U. S. It is very evident that the true interests of Mexico, of the U. S. and of Texas, all demand a speedy termination of the war in this country, and the annexation of Texas to the U. S. Gen Santa Anna distinctly says that he is satisfied of this fact, and will use all his influence to effect it; He thinks that it is all important he should return to Mexico by Washington City in order to have an interview with the President of the U. S. and he is permitted to do so.

I enclose you a copy of the secret treaty made with President Burnet. It is *still* considered a *secret*, and therefore ought not to be published by any of us—also a copy of the public treaty. You may possibly need it. Copies of them were enclosed to Gen. Jackson by Santa Anna in his letter of the 4th July.

There is nothing new except the total loss of the Steam Boat Ocean. She sunk yesterday at Brazoria with a full load of merchandise just from the mouth of the river

yours respectfully.

S. F. AUSTIN

^aA. L. S.^bA. L. S.; apparently No. 2 in the series from Texas.^cHockley.

WHARTON TO AUSTIN.^c

NEW ORLEANS 28th Nov 1836

DEAR SIR

I arrived to day in bad plight owing to exposure to the worst of weather during the passage without a place to sleep, except on the naked deck—without any thing but two little blankets to answer both for a bed and covering. I have not had time to hear much news as yet—every thing however appears favourable. I will leave for Washington on the day after tomorrow Via the Ohio and Wheeling. A Packet at this season going North will I am assured have constant head winds and that from 30 to 40 days are required to perform the winter run from this to New York—not so coming from New York here. The roads on the Southern rout through Georgia Alabama etc are said to be in almost impassable condition. The mails seldom arrive within less than 6 days of the proper time. I am therefore convinced that the rout I propose taking Via Wheeling is the shortest and far the most certain. * * * I feel every moment more and more the vital importance of my being at Washington and nothing that human energy can surmount, shall retard my progress.

* * * From what you and others told and wrote me I have every reason to believe that Wolfe will be appointed Secretary of Legation. If so send on a power to draw for his salary simultaneously with his credentials—for his funds like my own are *low* indeed. * * * In my next by the Col. Fannin or Cesar on the day of my starting I will be enabled to give you some idea of what will be the judgement of the public here on the policy of releasing Santa Anna. Remember me to the President and Cabinet.

Yours with the highest
consideration

WM. H. WHARTON.

The Honbl. S F AUSTIN *Secy of State*

P. S. For heavens sake write by every opportunity and write fully freely and frankly

P. S. I have not as yet seen the persons of whom we made the loan, but will to day and write you what can be done about it with satisfaction to all. I shall take Wolfe as my private secretary at all events if he is not appointed Secy of Legation

^c A. L. S., in Austin Papers. The matter omitted in printing relates to Wharton's financial affairs.

CARSON TO HOUSTON.*

To His Excellency
SAML HOUSTON
President of
The Republic of Texas

SIR

I take leave to lay before Your Excellency (not knowing who may compose Your Cabinet) a brief statement of the manner in which I fulfilled the mission upon which I was despatched by the Govt. "ad interim" of Texas under a commission bearing date 1st April last (1836)

Should my despatches to the Govt have reached [you], a reference to the files containing them, will afford all the particulars up to July when Colonels Collinsworth, and Grayson superseded all other Agents; and at which time I ceased to act.

On reaching Alexandria on Red River La., rumors had just reached there by a Steam Boat from Natchitoches, that there was great apprehensions of Indian disturbances on our frontier, upon the head waters of Trinity etc. Learning also that Genl Gaines had passed up the River to Cantonment Jessup I took the first Steam Boat, (which passed the same day) and proceeded to Natchitoches where I met with Genl Gaines.

What occurred at that point and what passed between that distinguished officer of the American Army, and myself was communicated forthwith from that point—One despatch to his Excellency D. G. Burnett President, and one to Yourself as Commander in Chief of the Army. Those despatches I have understood were recieved

From thence I proceeded to my residence on upper Red River, where I had left my family. The great exposure to which I had been subjected in my journey brought on a severe attack of "typhoid pneumonia" or ["] influenza" which confined me ten days. So soon as I was able I proceeded on my journey to Washington City which place I was not able to reach until the 22 of June. This detention was caused principally by my very feeble state of health which compelled me to delay at various points to recruit my strength. At Louisville Ky. I had a very *violent* attack which confined me for some days. Mrs Carson would not consent after my sickness at home to be separated from me in consequence of my debilitated situation, and therefore accompanied me throug[h]out my travel

Meeting with Messres Hamilton and Childress on my arrival at Washington City we adopted such plans and measures for the furtherance of the objects with which we were charged, as seemed most expedient at the moment—all of which the Govt have been advised of by previous despatches

The resolutions which finally passed the Congress of the U. S. on the 4th of July, were forwarded to the Govt of Texas, accompanied by some details etc. I will take leave however here to remark, that nothing could be more gratifying to the feelings, and pride of a Texian than the debate in the U. S. Senate upon the resolutions referred to. The feelings manifested towards us were most generous, and kind—and far from being the least pleasing incidents of the debate was the *marked* respect with which *Your name* was treated and the eulogies bestowed by some of the most distinguished debaters, and which seemed to be responded to by every senator present, and by a very Crowded auditory. Many were the tears which fell in the Senate on that day.

Under the authority granted to the Executive Govt. to obtain a loan of money to supply the wants of the Army etc. Robert Hamilton Esqr was thought by the Cabinet to be the most suitable person to effect that object in part. He was therefore commissioned by the President on the 2d day of April last. His commission was confided to me for delivery to Mr Hamilton, which I bore and delivered to him at Washington City

Mr Hamilton set out shortly after to Philadelphia on his mission, at which place I joined him immediately after the rise of Congress.

To detail the course we pursued the conversations we held with Gentlemen upon Exchanges etc. etc. would be useless—sufficient to say that we had an understanding with *large Capitalists* at that place, that we should proceed to New York create a Govt. stock at such a rate of interest as we might think advisable and put them into market there and they (the capitalists of Philadelphia) assured us that they would take liberally at whatever we could start our stocks or bonds in New York

Upon this Mr Hamilton and myself proceeded to New York sounded the money market and were arranging our plans of operation, when to our surprise and astonishment there appeared in the Gazettes of New York the following proclamation extracted from the New Orleans Papers.*

To judge of our feelings and decide upon our deep mortification could only be done by persons placed in similar situations. But great as our chagrin was and much cause as we had to complain we deemed it better for the Cause of Texas to bear it in silence—had we taken any other Course we should have been compelled to give a *flat contradiction* to the President and publish in the public prints the authority under which we acted and had presumed to borrow

* A blank space was left in the original for the proclamation, but it was not copied. It is dated June 10, 1836, and is to the effect that, because of frauds that have been practiced by persons professing to represent Texas as agents, only Toby & Bro., of New Orleans, and R. F. Triplett, who is soon to resign, are recognized as such, and any authority that may have been given others is revoked. See Records of the Department of State (Texas), Book 35, p. 65.

money upon—but we preferred submitting to the injury, rather than bring the authorities of the Republic into disrepute in the only country from which we could expect aid, and in which our dissensions at home, had been sufficiently magnified and done sufficient injury. I also thought and hoped that the omission of the name of Mr Hamilton, as one of the Govt. Agents to obtain money, in the Proclamation of the President was a mere inadvertance or “*Casus ommissis*” which would be rectified immediately but in this I have been disappointed and Mr Hamilton and myself remain to this day under the odious light of having attempted to obtain money without authority from the Govt. which we professed to be serving. And this is the more extraordinary as the commission of Mr Hamilton is not only signed by Pres. Burnett in his official Capacity but *every word* of the Commission is also in his own handwriting. Under this statement of facts I submit it to the Govt. [whether] as an act of justice they should not cause to be published from the records of the Govt a copy of the Commission under which Mr Hamilton acted.

I deem it useless to say any thing upon the *probabilities* of our obtaining a loan. I will only remark that there never had been a more propitious time and the Credit of the country on so fair a footing. Your glorious atchievement at San Jacinto—the head of the Mexican Govt Your prisoner—the favorable Resolutions of the American Congress just passed (Unanimous in one branch and almost so in the other) but above all the universal spirit which pervaded the American people in our favor the troops that had gone on, and were going gave the strongest guaranties of final success to Texas and consequently her credit in the Northern Cities [was] better than it ever had been.

From New York Mr Hamilton and myself returned to Washington City when we met with Cols Collinsworth and Grayson who seemed to be charged with all the duties necessary to be discharged for the benefit of the Republic.

To them I stated my determination of proceeding to the White Sulphur springs of Va for the restoration of my health. Since which time I have been attending to my health and had hoped that I was restored, till a recent attack has thrown me quite back and I am barely able to make this communication

With profound respect and consideration—I am Sir

Yr Ob't and Hbl Servt

SAM P CARSON
For State Dept.

NOVR 28TH 1836
at the Douglass place
Pulaski Coy^a Arkansas

^a County.

WHARTON TO AUSTIN.^a

NEW ORLEANS 30th Nov 1836

D SIR

I am in the very act of starting and have only time to say a passing word. With great difficulty Toby raised for me \$1000 with which I will try and get to Washington. Toby did his best and is in my opinion an excellent man. I understand that A Huston Q^b Master is selling land rapidly in the upper country. I have seen some of the Loan takers. They will be satisfied I think with the bill now before congress for funding the debt and allowing them 15 per cent Interest and this bill ought to pass. They would like however to retain the option of taking land at 50¢ per acre without priority of location and this should be allowed them. By all means the minimum price of land for the future should be raised to one dollar per acre. This would be of great service. Whatever is done in relation to the loan great latitude should be given the scery of Treasury to alter or modify as him and the lenders might agree

Public sentiment in this quarter *would not I think condemn the liberation of Santa Anna as impolitic or improper*—on the contrary would I am sure approve the measure. No one here anticipates another invasion of Texas. *We* should however *act* as if *we* thought differently. A belief of this kind has nearly ruined us in time past. Let us gather wisdom from experience. Our recognition is considered beyond all doubt. Act harmoniously at home and we have nothing to fear. Crush for Gods sake and for our countrys sake crush these new projects for introducing Africans and put to death all concerned. Instruct me to complain formally to this government, that the Traffic is attempted by U. S. Citizens under the United States flag.

In extreme haste,

Yours very Respectfully

WM H WHARTON

WHARTON TO AUSTIN.^c

ON BOARD STEAM BOAT GENERAL GAINES

Near Natches

December 2d 1836

DEAR SIR

I write you from a steam boat which from the power of its engine shakes ten times more than any I ever before travelled on. But when an idea occurs I will continue to communicate it to you at the moment for fear of forgetting it. All of my notes have been written under the most disadvantageous circumstances, at moments hastily

^aA. L. S., in Austin Papers.^bQuarter.^cA. L. S.

snatched from other urgent business, generally amid the clamors of a crowd or under the pressing importunities of the vessel or the person who was to bear the letter. This will in your justice and kindness apologize for both the manner and matter of all of my despatches until I get to Washington, when and where I will be enabled to write more composedly and in a fair hand. Until then you will I am confident attribute whatever may seem too laconic or dictatorial, blunt or uncourtly, to any thing but *intention*.

In my general instructions you observe that "*should I not be formally received as Minister before recognition you have furnished me with credentials to act as Agent for the time.*" No such credentials are among my papers and I need not urge upon you the necessity of forwarding them forthwith. By superscribing all of your letters with the words "*to be forwarded by the Express mail*" they will reach Washington in 5 days from New Orleans. Do hurry that act waiving being a Catholic etc etc and also the judiciary act through as fast as possible. I cannot get along without them.

I believe I told you at Washington that after my Protest to General Jackson against a sale of Texas by Mexico which was at first supposed to be Gorostizas business I had a long and as I conceived semi-official conversation with Donnelson^a (Private Secretary) in which he stated that if the U S chose to give Mexico a few millions for a quit claim of Texas by way of hush money, leaving to Texas the arrangement of the terms of her annexation that Texas ought not through pride to object to it. I answered then as I will again unless otherwise instructed namely that the Treaty between Texas and the U. S. must precede the hush money to Mexico. That after Texas was annexed the U. S. might give what she pleased. Texas for her part would never give Mexico any thing but lead in purchase of peace and independence. Write me fully on this subject. Myself and family are in good health, with the exception of colds. Under every disadvantage and in great haste

I have the honor to be yours

W. M. H. WHARTON

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AUSTIN TO WHARTON.^c

No. 3.

Department of
State

COLOMBIA Decr. 10, 1836.

Hon. W. H. WHARTON,

Since your departure Congress has progressed rapidly in completing the details for the organization of all the branches of Govt

^a Donelson.

^b The omitted postscript relates to Wharton's salary.

^c A. L. S.; on the same sheet with "No. 4" below.

under the constitution. The greatest harmony and union prevails throughout the country. The army is rapidly increasing, is well supplied with clothing and provisions, and is better disciplined than it ever has been, for which latter essential improvement we are principally indebted to Adjutant General Johnson,^a formerly of the U. S. Army.

We have rumors of an invasion by land and water, how far they are true is uncertain, we are however fully prepared to meet them on land, and in a short time expected to be ready for them on sea

Public anxiety is unabated on the subject of annexation to the U. S. The opinion in favor of that measure is much more decisive, if possible, than when you left. It is therefore expected that you will press that matter with as much earnestness as prudence will permit

Rumors occasionally reach us, of the disposition of the indians on the northern frontier, to take sides in the war against Texas. The Caddos are decidedly hostile and have committed many deprivations

I was assured a few days since by a person of known veracity, that The Cherokees of the Nacogdoches district, the Caddos, Comanches and all the small tribes who were under their influence, except the Shawnees, had actually entered into a combination to join the Mexicans last spring, and were preparing to do so, when they heard of the defeat at San Jacinto. It is therefore of vital importance to the tranquility of the U. S. frontier that the American troops should be continued at Nacogdoches, and the number increased rather than diminished. This measure is also, evidently required, by the obligation of the U. S. to restrain her indians from committing hostilities within our territory. You will therefore represent this subject to the Govt of the U. S. for the purpose of showing the necessity of continuing the garrison at Nacogdoches.

Respectfully your most obt

S. F. AUSTIN
Sec. of State

AUSTIN TO WHARTON.^b

(No. 4).

Department of State.

COLUMBIA Dec. 10th 1836

Hon. W. H. WHARTON

It is certainly desirable that Texas should enter the American Union at once, and undivided; but should you discover that this condition, if positively insisted upon, is likely materially to effect the main object, which is annexation; I am directed by the President to

^a Albert Sidney Johnston.

^b L. S.; the postscript in Austin's hand.

say, that you are at liberty to waive it, and agree to a territorial Government, with the necessary guarantees as to a State Govt, as soon as it is petitioned for. This Govt. has too much confidence in the just and liberal principles by which the United States are governed, to doubt that full and ample justice will not be done us in every respect.

Should you discover that Mexico is willing to give a *quit claim* for Texas to the U. S, I am also directed by the President to say that this Govt. will not object to entering the American Union by that means, provided that the leading principles and rights embraced in your instructions of 18th ult. are fully and amply secured to Texas. You will therefore consider yourself invested with *discretionary powers* as to this particular.

The army and navy of Texas should be provided for in the Treaty of annexation on such terms as may be considered just and expedient for both parties; you will therefore keep this point in view in the negotiation.

Respectfully

Yours most ob'd't.

S. F. AUSTIN

Sec of State

P. S.

You will by no means omit to exhibit your general instructions of 18th ult. to the President and Secretary of State of the U. S.

S. F. AUSTIN

WHARTON TO AUSTIN.^a

ON BOARD STEAM BOAT *Casket* NEAR MAYSVILLE KY

December 11th 1836

DEAR SIR

I wrote you a hasty note from Louisville also from Cincinnati and sent you some papers from each place to give you at least a *Birds eye view* of the political horizon in relation to Texas. I have made it my especial business to ascertain as far as possible from the public prints and from conversations with the intelligent what would be the fate of our application for recognition and annexation. In regard to the first (recognition) both friends and foes seem to unite in admitting that it is a right justly due us. It is fair to conclude from all that I have seen and heard that our independence will be recognized by this government very shortly after my arrival at Washington with the Documents shewing that we have an organized

^a A. L. S.

government in successful and harmonious operation. In regard to our annexation both friends and foes bitterly oppose it. Our foes namely the leading prints of the North and East and the abolitionists every where oppose it on the old grounds of an opposition to the extension of slavery and of a fear of southern preponderance in the councils of the nation. Our friends by which term I now mean those of Louisiana Mississippi Kentucky etc (for I have seen and conversed with no others as yet) oppose our annexation, on the grounds that a brighter destiny awaits Texas. That she would be more happy and prosperous and glorious as an independent nation than as a portion or tributary of this. That in such situation she would soon complain of and be oppressed by high Tariffs and other Northern measures. That we would be driven to nullification, secession, etc and be thus involved in a worse revolution than we are now engaged in. That we should go on as we have commenced conquering and to conquer and never pause until we had annexed all or the best portion of Mexico to Texas, thereby establishing an independent government that would rival this in extent, resources, and population. In a few words however the main burthen of their song is the *glory* of the matter. To this I have invariably answered that their views and advice are predicated upon a mistaken notion of the character and description of our citizens. That if we were a set of adventurers, of young men of desperate fortunes, or without families dependent upon us, in other words if we were military or political aspirants we might select to follow their advice and continue to battle for glory and independence. To the contrary of all this I have assured them that the people of Texas were generally unpretending farmers and planters from the middle walks of life, that they were born under this government and were satisfied with the protection it afforded to person and property, that they had no ambition civil or military to gratify—that all they desired on earth was the privilege of cultivating in peace those fertile lands which they had so dearly earned by the perils and privations consequent upon the colonizing of a wilderness. To be plain and candid, I believe the recognition of our independence will certainly take place, but I have not at present much hopes of our being annexed. That question when proposed will agitate this union more than did the attempt to restrict Missouri, nullification, and abolitionism, all combined. Already has the war commenced violently commenced even on the prospect of our annexation. The Southern papers those in favor of the measure are acting most imprudently. They are irritating and bravading the north into an inveterate opposition. Language such as the following is uttered by the most respectable journals such as the Richmond Whig Charleston Mercury etc. The North must

choose between the Union with Texas added—or no Union. Texas will be added and then forever farewell abolitionism and northern influence. Threats and denunciations like these will goad the North into a determined opposition and if Texas is annexed at all it will not be until after the question has convulsed this nation for several sessions of Congress. In the meantime what are we to do? But here in what I am about to advance you may possibly say that I am travelling out of the record and departing from the prescribed line of my duties. This may all be true, but being bound to the cause and country by ties as strong and as sacred as fortune family and life can make them I feel myself entitled to speak and trust that what I say will not be termed "*Dictation*" as has heretofore been done in similar cases by some who were more captious and sensitive than wise or courteous. What I mean to say is this, if we cannot obtain *peace* either by annexation or by the voluntary concession of Mexico, self preservation will in my opinion demand that we immediately commence an active system of *offensive war* against our enemies in their own territory, that we quarter upon them, and make them in turn experience the ravages and calamities which they once so cruelly inflicted upon us. Look at the history of old *Spain* and it is but fair to conclude that the Mexicans partake largely of the same *false* and bigotted pride obstinacy. Old Spain is famed for never granting any thing to any of her revolted dependencies. Just so will it be with Mexico. So long as the battles between us and her are to be fought in Texas so long will she refuse to concede us any thing. When they are ready to come in vast numbers they will invade us and when they cannot come with an imposing force they will remain at home if it be five years at a time. In the mean while we will be compelled to keep up a standing army which we cannot do for two reasons, 1st on account of the expense and 2dly The enterprising spirit of our race will not submit to the inaction of a garrison life. As I before said if peace is not to be obtained by annexation or other means, necessity will compel us to commence an offensive war as soon as that fact is known and inasmuch as annexation is extremely doubtful we should be preparing accordingly forthwith so that we may be by the 1st of March on the west of the Rio Grande with a sufficient force. With recognition I believe that funds can be had, and with funds you know—we can muster an army of any size that may be necessary. Do think on this and receive these suggestions in the spirit in which they are meant.

Send me on an estimate of our public debt. It is indispensable. Are you not greatly in error in estimating Texas at 100,000 square miles? You certainly must be. You say that an objection may be urged against adopting the Rio Grande as our Western boundary on account

of its including many of the Mexicans of New Mexico, and other States. This can be obviated it appears to me in a way that will give us the navigation of that river as high up as it is worth any thing and at the same time to take in no Mexicans of consequence. If I recollect aright there are very few Mexican settlements on the East of the Rio Grande from its mouth to the Passo del Norte. Let then the line commence at the mouth of the Rio Grande and continue up the middle of that stream to the Passo del Norte or to where the Mexican settlements commence on the East bank—thence with the mountains you speak of—leaving all the valley of the river above to Mexico. Do write me promptly and fully on this subject. Genl Chambers ^a will hand you this and will give you much information in farther explanation of what is herein contained. His generous sacrifice of much of his own estate to procure men and means for our country, his indefatigable energy and perseverance and his courage and promptitude in exposing and silencing those calumniators of our cause (Wilson and P ^b) are worthy of all honor and praise and have secured for him the universal approbation of this whole section of country. I trust that in Texas his services will be long remembered and properly rewarded.

I have the honor to be Yours etc

WM H WHARTON

HUSTON TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR [JOHNSTON].^c

AUSTIN TO CATLETT.

Department of State

COLOMBIA Decr. 14, 1836

To F. CATLETT Esqr
 Sec of Legation to the
 U. S. of A.

You will herewith receive your appointment and credentials as Sec of Legation of the Mission to the U. S. of A. and you will proceed with all possible dispatch to the city of Washington, and present

^a Thomas Jefferson Chambers, a native of Virginia, settled in City of Mexico, 1826; after 1829 lived in the State of Coahuila and Texas, and in 1834 was appointed surveyor-general of the State; in 1836 went on a mission for Texas to raise men and money in the United States; murdered at his home by persons unknown in 1865.

^b Edward J. Wilson and G. L. Postlethwaite of Lexington, Kentucky, who had published severe criticisms of the people of Texas and of General Chambers. See *Niles' Register*, LI, 59, 102, 119.

^c December 13, 1836. See Burnet to Dunlap, May 30, 1839.

yourself to the Hon W. H. Wharton Minister of this republic to the U. S. of A.

It will be your special duty on your arrival at Washington to be subject to the orders and directions of Mr Wharton the Minister, and to take charge of, and safely keep, in a neat and regular manner, all the documents papers and records, belonging to the Mission, and generally to do and perform all the duties usually attached to the office of Sec of Legation

In the event of the death or recall of the Minister, you will represent the interests of this republic near the U. S. government, until otherwise directed by this Govt.

Respectfully

Your most obt.

S. F. AUSTIN

Sec of State

AUSTIN TO WHARTON.

[No. 7^a]

COLOMBIA *Decr. 16, 1836*

Republic of Texas
Department of State
To the

Hon. W. H. WHARTON

Minister to the U. S. of A.

SIR—It has come to the knowledge of this Govt. through the channel of common rumor sustained by the statements of several persons of known veracity, that extensive projects are in contemplation to introduce African negro slaves into this country by citizens of the U. S. in a manner that will equally violate the laws of the U. S. and the constitutional provision of this Republic on the subject.

It is intended, as we have been informed, to land said African slaves on the sea shore east of the Sabine river, on the east bank of the Sabine within the limits of the U. S. and then reship them to this country, and thus attempt to bring such introduction of slaves under that clause of our constitution which admits them from the U. S. exclusively.

This attempt to evade the prohibition of the African slave trade, contained in our constitution certainly will not be sustained by the tribunals of this Republic, but it is also desireable that the Govt. of the U. S. should be apprised of such attempts to carry on a piratical commerce by her own citizens through her territory and in American vessells. I am therefore directed by the president to instruct you, to

^a Nos. 5 and 6 relate to the appointment of Fairfax Catlett as secretary of the legation, to his salary, and similar details.

lay this subject before the Govt. of the U. S. and to request its co-operation on the Sabine frontier and in the gulf of Mexico, to enforce the laws for the suppression of the African slave trade.

Yours respectfully

S. F. AUSTIN
Sec. of State.

AUSTIN TO WHARTON.

No. 8.^a

Department of State

COLOMBIA *Decr. 19, 1836*

HON. W. H. WHARTON

Minister Plency. to the U. S. of A

Sir,

Brigr. General Felix Huston, who is at this time commanding the Army, writes officially to the Sec. of war from Camp Johnson on La Baca, under date of the 13th instant as follows "Traviño^b (a mexican) informs me to day, that when the Cherokee Chiefs were in Matamoros last summer, the interpreter, named Necibio Cortinez, who he says has been much with the indians, and about Nacogdoches, stayed at his house, and from him he learned that the indians had agreed with Urrea *to appear friendly with the Texans, until the mexicans crossed the Guadalupe, and then they were to march on the frontiers with five thousand warriors*"

Gen F. Huston writes that he has confidence in this statement of Traviño's and believes it to be true.

I am directed by the President to communicate this information to you, to be used as you may deem expedient in corroboration of the information heretofore collected relative to the disposition and intentions of the Indians to join the mexicans in the present war.

I have to inform you that John Woodward Esqr has been appointed by this Govt consul general of this republic for the ports of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore and that he is directed to report himself to you on his arrival in N. York, and apply through you for a recognition of his consul generalship by the U. S. Govt

Respectfully your most obt

S. F. AUSTIN, *Sec of State*

WHARTON TO FORSYTH.^c

DAYTON TO WOLFE.^d

^a With this the numbering of the serles from Texas stops.

^b Treviño.

^c December 19, 1836. See Wharton to Austin, December 22, 1836.

^d December 20, 1836. See Wharton to Austin, December 22, 1836.

WHARTON TO AUSTIN.^a

Despatch No. 1.

WASHINGTON CITY
December 22nd 1836

SIR

I arrived here on Monday the 19th. and immediately addressed the Secretary of State the following note by the hands of Col. Wolfe.^b

[Next comes a copy of Wharton to Forsyth, December 19, 1836, asking an interview relative to Wharton's mission.]

In answer he stated verbally to Col. Wolfe that he would make it his business to see the President immediately on the subject and would let me hear from him on Wednesday the 21st. On Tuesday the 20th. I called on the President who informed me that he had directed Mr. Forsyth (Secretary of State) to see me on that day and late in the Evening of that day I received from him the following note

[Here is inserted a copy of Dayton ^c to Wolfe, December 20, 1836, acknowledging receipt of Wharton's note to Forsyth and stating that he may call at the Department of State whenever he chooses.]

As soon as business hours arrived on the next day Wednesday, I called at the State Department and had with Mr. Forsyth what he termed an informal interview of more than an hours duration. The most that I could get out of him was that the president would send a message to Congress on the subject of Texas in a few days. I told him that I wished to communicate to my Government immediately the result of our then interview and wished to say to it something that was *tangible*. He answered (that all I could now communicate was that the President would in a short time lay the Texas matters before Congress). I then urged him to hasten this communication to the President. He promised to do so and *that it would be made in all [probability(?)] this week*. With this we parted. At several times during our interview he observed that the President would be glad that we would get our recognition elsewhere first, and asked me if I was not empowered to proceed to England? I answered him in the negative. I asked why he thought so. He replied from the report of our committee on foreign relations. I asked him why the President wished us to obtain our recognition

^a Filed separately are the following, which were probably enclosed in this: James Treat to Wharton, New York, December 21, 1836; S. Swartwout to Wharton, of the same date; and R. E. Handy to Wharton, also of the same. These letters give many interesting details relative to the feeling towards Texas in the United States, etc., but to save space they are excluded.

^b J. M. Wolfe, acting secretary of the Texan legation. See Wharton to Burnet, April 23, 1836.

^c H. O. Dayton, chief clerk of the Department of State.

elsewhere first. He said that our vote for annexation *embarrassed* the matter. That if after that vote the United States were to recognize Texas too promptly it would seem as if it was a preconceived arrangement with which the United States had been frequently charged. That it would seem as if the United States were recognizing Texas to make her a Competent contracting party for the purpose of immediately annexing her.

I am satisfied that Morfitts report is very unfavorable. Gen Jacksons ill health putting it out of my power to talk freely with him is truly unfortunate. When his communication is made, I will write to you immediately. In the mean time I am forced to fear the worst in regard to the nature of it. You have doubtless heard of the new invasion of Texas said to be intended by Mexico. This has given our enemies an excuse for delaying our recognition. It happens at a most unfortunate period for us. The same cause of complaint that existed last year (*while we were commissioners*) still exists, namely never hearing from the Government of Texas. Do put an immediate end to this. Depend not upon merchant vessels for a transmission of your correspondence with me. Send an express by land every week if you only have to say "*all is well.*" I will pay the expense of the express. I have been already much embarrassed for want of timely information. Every body knows more of Texas and Mexico than I do, for I have not received a line from the Government since I arrived.

I have the honor to be yours etc

WM H WHARTON

WHARTON TO AUSTIN.^a

Despatch No. 2

SUNDAY December 28th.^b 1836

SIR.

The Presidents message in relation to Texas has been communicated and has surprized every body. It has pleased no party "en-masse" except perhaps the abolitionists. Many of our administration friends dislike the delay recommended in relation to our recognition. Speculations are various in regard to what prompted the President to take this course. Some say it was the work of Mr. Van Buren for the purpose of transferring the responsibility from the Administration to Congress and that the President will recognize immediately if Congress recommends it by a Majority of even one. Others say that from the dissatisfaction and departure of Gorostiza, on account of the movements of General Gaines that the

^a L. S.; Austin died December 27, two days after this letter was written.

^b Should be 25th. See date of postscript.

United States apprehends difficulties with Mexico, and do not wish to give this new cause of offense, Viz. recognition believing that it will be difficult enough to explain to the world the causes of dissatisfaction already existing. Others say that the administration expect to acquire Texas by treaty with Mexico soon and thus remove all cause of complaint. Others say that Santa Anna is still viewed as President of Mexico. That he is shortly expected here and that if he treats with *me* and recognizes Texas, the Administration here will recognize and guaranty the treaty. I am at a loss to conjecture the true cause of the movement. Congress will probably recommend a recognition in the course of a week. If so, I think it will be made. I have not yet seen Morfitts report although I have no doubt of its being extremely unfavorable. I will send it as soon as it can be had and if it contain any misrepresentations, you will certainly have them disproved immediately and the disproof forwarded to me to be used here in our defence. Governor McDuffies Message has produced an universal astonishment, but Gen. Hamilton has completely nullified and repudiated it in his report in the Senate of South Carolina all of which are herewith sent.^a

The report of a new invasion of Texas by Mexico under Bravo has given an excuse for a delay of our recognition which our enemies do not fail to urge. The Invincible and Brutus are detained still in New York for debt. I have no means to release them and no instructions on the subject. All that I can do will be done, for their detention does us at this time particularly a great injury. The amount is about 24,000 dollars as the accompanying documents will show.

I suffer Crucifixion for want of any information from our Government. I have not as yet received a single letter from Texas. Do write frequently and give me explicit information and instructions on every subject connected with my mission. I have suffered much and am still suffering with a violent influenza. As soon as I am able to go out, I will endeavor to have a secret interview with the British Minister in accordance with my instructions.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your etc

WM. H. WHARTON.

MONDAY *December 26th 1836*

P. S. I have delayed this despatch for the purpose of sending a copy of Morfitts report along with it.

I have barely glanced over it and conceive that if his facts are taken for granted and his fancies and deductions are discarded the

^a See *Niles' Register*, II, 229, 242, 277.

report will do us no material disservice. There are however some egregious errors which you will readily perceive. The violence of my influenza has not abated.

HUSTON TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR [JOHNSTON].^a

HENDERSON ^b TO WHARTON.^c

STATE DEPARTMENT
COLUMBIA TEXAS
December 31st 1836

To The Honb Wm H Wharton

SIR

Yours of the 2nd of Decr has been received by this department, and the credentials for you as agent of Texas have been made out and forwarded to you by Genl Hunt^d to be used by you in the event of the Government of the United States refusing to receive you as Minister. Genl Hunt has been furnished with the like credentials, he has also been commissioned Minister *Extraordinary* to act in connexion with you the resident Minister Plenepotentiary. To him additional instructions for you both have been given to guide you in your negotiations.

I am directed by the President to say to you that Mr Wolf of whom you speak has no claims upon this Government as the Secy of Legation has been appointed and provided for.^e

You will doubtless join with the whole Nation in lamenting the death of its founder Genl Stephen F Austin who departed this life on the 27th Instant; he was interred with military honors. In his death the country has sustained an irreparable loss. That your own good health may long continue is the since[re] wish of

Yours With the Most profound respect etc

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON
Acting Secy Of State

^a December 31, 1836. See Burnet to Dunlap, May 30, 1839.

^b J. Pinckney Henderson was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina, March 31, 1808; reached Texas June 13, 1836, at the head of a company of volunteers; was attorney-general in Houston's cabinet, 1836; secretary of state, 1836-1837; minister to England and France, 1837-1839; special minister to United States, 1844; member of Annexation Convention, 1845; governor of Texas, 1846-1847; major-general of volunteers in the Mexican War, receiving a vote of thanks and a sword from the United States Congress for gallantry; United States senator from Texas, 1858; died June 4, 1858.

^c A. L. S.

^d Memucan Hunt, a native of North Carolina, who came to Texas in 1836, arriving soon after the battle of San Jacinto; Texan minister to United States, 1837-1838; secretary of the navy in Lamar's cabinet, 1838-1839.

^e Cf. Wharton to Austin, December 31, 1836.

HENDERSON TO HUNT.^aREPUBLIC OF TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Columbia Decr 31 1836

To The Honbl MEMUCAN HUNT.

SIR

The following instructions are given you as a general guide by which you are to be governed in order to effect the important objects of your Mission. You have received your commission as Minister Extraordinary of Texas, to the United States of North America together with other papers necessary to show the perfect organization of the Government of this Republic etc And fearing that some difficulties may arise in relation to your reception as Minister previous to the Recognition of the Independence of this Republic by the Government of the United States you have been furnished with seperate credentials authorizing you to urge this desirable object as Agent of this Republic in which event you will act in concert with The Honb. W H Wharton the resident Minister or agent of this Republic near the Government of the United States. But should no difficulty arise in relation to your reception as Minister and you should be received as such you will then act in concert with The Honbl W H Wharton the resident Minister Plenepotentiary, and will be governed or guided in your negotiations by the instructions already given to that Honbl Gentleman by the late Secy of State, together with this letter which contains instructions for you and he jointly; founded principally upon facts arising out of the more complete organization of this Government since the departure of Mr Wharton for the United States. You will discover by the instructions above alluded to that, the principal objects of your Mission are 1st The recognition of the Independence of this Republic, 2nd. The annexation of this Country to the United States either as a seperate State to be on equal footing with the other States of the Union or as a Teritory with the right to admission into the Union as a State when she can number a sufficient amount of population to entitle her to admission according to the Laws of the United States. You will therefore procede to the Government of the United States at Washington City with as little delay as possible where you will confer and act in conjunction with the resident Minister of this Republic The Honbl Wm H Wharton, and in all your intercourse with that Government you will doubtless use the utmost frankness and candor. You will urge the recognition of the Independence of this Republic upon the ground that it is so *de jure* and *de facto*. So far as regards the *right* of Texas to declare herself Independent or the sufficiency of the reasons upon which she

report will do us no material disservice. There are however some egregious errors which you will readily perceive. The violence of my influenza has not abated.

HUSTON TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR [JOHNSTON].^a

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