

*Copy of General Hunt's correspondence with the Secretary of State
of the United States.*^a

General Hunt to Mr. Forsyth.

TEXIAN LEGATION, WASHINGTON
July 18th, 1837.

SIR,

I am instructed by the Government of Texas to inform you that they have lately received intelligence of certain arrangements having been made for the purpose of purchasing negroes, recently imported from Africa into the island of Cuba with the view of introducing them within the limits of Texas.

Their plan is to evade the law, which was passed by the Texian Congress last winter, making it piracy to introduce slaves from any other country than the United States, by landing them on this side of the Sabine and transporting them across that river into Texas.

It is the ardent desire of my government, not only to preclude all suspicion of connivance in this traffic, but also to lend their most efficient aid in putting it down. The condition of our navy, however, at present, is not such as would justify its being diverted from the immediate protection of the Coast. I have, therefore, the honor to request, in obedience to my instructions, that the Government of the United States will adopt such measures as will defeat the arrangements above alluded to, and thus aid in giving efficacy to a law, which was enacted in accordance with the enlightened spirit of the age and the established policy of the United States.

I have also the honor to inform you, that certain Indians from the United States are still committing their depredations upon the citizens of our eastern frontier, and again I would urge the terms of the existing treaties, relative to the control of the Indian tribes in that quarter.^b

I am instructed to complain of a trading establishment on the Red River, owned or superintended by a Mr. Coffee, who, it is said, has been engaged in the reprehensible practice of encouraging the Indians in their predatory incursions, by purchasing horses and mules and such other property as they can manage to carry off from our citizens;—a practice, so outrageous in itself, and so dangerous to the peace of that frontier, that I earnestly hope that the Government of the United States, if they should not deem it expedient to restrict the privileges of such establishments to peltries alone, will lay an express prohibition upon their trade with all those tribes of Indians, (except so far as relates to peltries) which have been in the habit of commit-

^a This is a general title covering the series of enclosures that follow. Both it and the title of the enclosures are inserted by the copyist.

^b For this paragraph see reference in Calendar.

ting these depredations, whether residing within the limits of Texas or under the jurisdiction of the United States.

I have the honor to renew to you the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

(signed) MEMUCAN HUNT.

Honorable JOHN FORSYTH.

Secretary of State of the United States.

Reply of Mr. Forsyth.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON [CITY,]

24th. July 1837.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 18th. instant. In answer to that part of it, which represents that information has been given to the government of Texas of arrangements having been made to introduce African negroes into that country by the way of the United States, I have the honor to state, that this government is prepared to use all the means necessary to prevent the execution of such a design. Efficient steps cannot, however, be taken by the United States for that purpose until more detailed information, respecting the scheme shall be furnished. It is desirable, therefore, to know what grounds your government has for believing that such a project is in contemplation, and the particulars of the information given? Who are to be the actors and participators in the plan? At what point or points, and when are the negroes to be landed? The Texian Government may be assured, that so soon as this information is supplied, the President will lose no time in adopting the most efficient measures to frustrate any attempt to violate the laws of the United States, or to make any portion of their territory the pretext for evading the laws of a neighbouring State against the Slave trade.

I embrace this opportunity to offer you renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed) JOHN FORSYTH.

To

His Excellency
General MEMUCAN HUNT
etc etc etc

[Next are transcribed copies of Forsyth to Hunt, July 24, 1837; same to same, July 29, 1837; Poinsett to Forsyth, July 26, 1837.*]

* For all three see Calendar.

General Hunt to Mr. Forsyth.

TEXIAN LEGATION, WASHINGTON

July 28th. 1837.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two notes of the 24th. instant in reply to mine of the 18th.

In answer to the one, desiring to know what ground my government has for believing that a project is in contemplation for the introduction of negroes from Cuba by way of the United States into Texas, and the particulars upon which that belief is founded? and who are to be the actors and participators in the plan? and at what point or points and when the negroes are to be delivered?—I have the honor most respectfully to reply, that the information, imparted in my note of the 18th. was transmitted to me in a despatch, dated the 20th of May^a as having been recently communicated to the Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas, stating that it was the intention of a company to import and land negroes from Cuba near the Sabine river, within the United States, to evade the law, which prohibits their introduction from all other places except the United States. But the precise time, at which it is to be done and who they are proposing or intending to do this was not communicated. It is a practice which, without the constant attention of an ample naval force in the Gulph between the United States and Cuba, it is supposed, must exist for the reason that Slaves in Cuba do not sell there generally for more than half the amount of what they are worth in the United States. Consequently, the frustration of the plans of a Company in one shipment of negroes from Cuba in this way would not, it is believed, prevent a continuance of the practice, and in asking your attention to this subject in my note of the 18th. it was not to procure Cruizers in the Gulph for a week or a month, but to inform this government that there were arrangements, it was understood and believed, in contemplation to violate the laws of the United States, by introducing through its territory, negro slaves from Cuba into Texas. Should the Government of Texas ascertain when and at what time this or any other company may intend to land negroes from Cuba near Texas, as limited as is her naval force it is considered sufficient to make it unnecessary to desire the aid of the United States for so specific a service in checking the intruders.

It gives me pleasure to avail myself of this opportunity to offer to you renewed assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

(signed) MEMUCAN HUNT.

Honorable JOHN FORSYTH,
Secretary of State of the United States.

^a This despatch has not been found.

Mr. Forsyth's Reply.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington [City,] 31st. July, 1837.

SIR

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 28th. instant, and to inform you, that it is the intention of the Secretary of War to establish a military post at some eligible point on the Sabine river. Orders will also be given to the commander of the naval forces of the United States in the Gulph of Mexico to cruise off the mouth of that river to prevent the landing of African negroes in the United States. It is hoped that these measures will conduce to the defeat of any project that may have been formed to introduce such negroes into Texas by the way of this country.

I seize this occasion to renew to you the assurances of my high consideration.

(signed) JOHN FORSYTH

To His Excellency, General MEMUCAN HUNT.
etc etc etc

General Hunt to Mr. Forsyth.

TEXIAN LEGATION,
WASHINGTON

August 3d. 1837.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your notes of the 29th. and 31st. ultimo, and a copy of a letter from the Department of War to the Department of State, dated the 26th.

The government of Texas will be greatly gratified at the disposition, so promptly expressed by the government of the United States, to aid in preventing the indirect slave trade from Cuba to Texas.

The ready adoption of measures by this government for the purpose of enforcing the stipulations of the treaties relating to the Indians upon the Texian frontier, will also be especially gratifying to my government, and in anticipation of the just disposition of this government to enforce the treaty stipulations referred to, I have been instructed to invite it to order its troops within the limits of the territory of Texas, should it be thought necessary, so far as the river Trinity, and to make such temporary fortifications as may be advisable for their protection and convenience. The government of Texas will doubtless be satisfied, that every necessary effort will be made by the United States to prevent Indian depredations on its frontier.

I have the honor to renew to you the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

(signed) MEMUCAN HUNT.

Honorable, JOHN FORSYTH,
Secretary of State of the United States.

General Hunt to Mr. Forsyth.

TEXIAN LEGATION, WASHINGTON
August 4th. 1837.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you, that I have been instructed by my government to notify you of the appointment of a Commissioner for the purpose of running that portion of the boundary line between the United States and Texas, extending from the mouth of the Sabine to the Red River, and to express the desire that a similar agent or agents may be appointed by this Government, and as early a day set apart for the purpose as may be convenient.

It gives me great pleasure to renew to you the assurances of my most distinguished consideration and regard.

(Signed) MEMUCAN HUNT

Honorable JOHN FORSYTH
Secretary of State of the United States.

[Next come transcripts of Forsyth to Hunt, August 5, 1837, and of Poinsett to Forsyth, August 4, 1837.^a]

FORSYTH TO HUNT.^b

PROCLAMATION OF HOUSTON CALLING SPECIAL SESSION OF SECOND
TEXAS LEGISLATURE.^c

HUNT TO IRION.^d

Despatch No 25.

TEXIAN LEGATION
WASHINGTON CITY
August 10th, 1837.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, through the Agents of the government at New Orleans a copy of my note of the 4th. instant, to the Honorable John Forsyth, proposing the annexation of Texas to the United States.

^a For both, see Calendar. It will be noted that Forsyth's letter is of later date than that into which it is transcribed.

^b August 5, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, August 4, 1837.

^c August 10, 1837. See Irion to La Branche, February 13, 1838.

^d A. L. S.

In introducing this very important subject it was necessary to be full and somewhat minute in the history of the settlement of Texas and her contests with Mexico and in order to do this, I was compelled, as you will perceive, to present a comparative history of the two countries, which is very brief, in relation to Mexico and as succinct as possible in the account of Texas.

This I was very anxious to do, with the view of placing a correct and official history of the principles involved in our contest before the world and particularly before the people of the United States, and I gladly seized as a justification for it the denunciations and misrepresentations of the late Minister Extraordinary of Mexico, as published here and can maintain the ground should its propriety be called in question. This was made indispensable, as we have been greatly misrepresented in the United States by respectable public journalists and the only means of readily destroying the false impressions produced by them and by Mr. Gorostiza (the late Minister of Mexico) is to place officially before the world a true history of the contest. The French and English Legations are the only ones here, that are not decidedly against us, but when my paper comes to be published, I hope it will produce some change. I have spoken of General Santa Anna in severe but just terms:—I wish that I could have spared the fallen chieftain, but that was impossible in vindicating the truth of our wrongs and the justness of our cause.

My remarks upon Mexico as a nation are bitter, but they are true to the letter. Mr. Gorostiza's false denunciations in his correspondence with the State Department here, justified me as the Minister of Texas at the same Court in making a fair exhibition of the truth in relation to his own government and people. I thought it best to say nothing on the slave question, which as you know is more important than any other connected with the subject of annexation. With these short comments upon the paper, I entertain a hope that it will meet the views of yourself and be entirely satisfactory to his Excellency the President.

I think I discover a great solicitude on the part of the Executive to repress my ardent desire to bring up the question of annexation without the least delay and to induce a willingness on my part to see the action of this government deferred upon the subject. Indeed it was urged upon me to day in so earnest a manner by a gentleman, who is in the confidence of the Executive, that I found it indispensable to exhibit great sensitiveness upon the subject, and assured the gentleman, that if there was a failure to agree to the annexation of Texas by this government before our treaties with other foreign powers, became such as forever to defeat it, that the censure of the loss of Texas to the United States should rest where it ought to do

and must do, namely, with the Executive of the United States;—that the chief Executive officer could carry it through, if he would and the consequence of a failure, which would prove perhaps fatal to this Union itself, he and his advisers would be answerable for. I expressed at the same time the regrets which it would give me to see the consequences, which it was thought by gentleman would result from a failure to make the two countries one, but, at the same time, assured him, that unless this government acted speedily, that all opportunity would be forever lost;—that I hoped it possessed a proper sense of the importance of the proposition now before them and would act wisely. I think I shall succeed and that too at an early day, for I learn that there is great feeling upon the subject. In short, as I before remarked, the President cannot be reelected unless he favors annexation and I candidly believe that the Slave States will withdraw from the confederation and there will never be another election for President in these States as they are, unless Texas should be annexed. I am ardently attached to the government and Union of these States;—my ancestors aided in their establishment and I believe the annexation of Texas would prolong if not perpetuate the existence of the Union. With these sentiments and impressions you can form a just idea of my deep solicitude for the accomplishment of my mission and I am extremely gratified to discover that you entertain similar opinions unofficially in relation to its importance. My whole mind is devoted to its accomplishment. It is a desire, nearer my heart than all others as it is fortified by the belief that nothing can so much benefit my beloved and adopted country. My fears in relation to the disposition of this government to protract its deliberations upon the subject of annexation induce me to suggest to you the policy of placing it in my power, should it be necessary to bring the consideration of the subject before Congress, whether the Executive may desire it or not. To do this, it will be necessary for you to address a communication to a member of Congress (and leave me to fill up the name if you please,) soliciting him to present the within proposition and terms of annexation to the Congress of the United States. I will draw up such a treaty or proposition as I believe will succeed and place it within the communication and seal and direct it to such member of Congress as will be able to secure most influence in its favor. I must likewise request that you will solicit his Excellency the President to direct you to enclose me a blank order for a copy of the archives of this Legation since its establishment that the same may be published or any part thereof as printing is cheaper and may be better done in the United States than in Texas. The object of these requests you will readily discover and appreciate;—for should the Executive of this government pursue an equivocating course and plainly evince a

disposition to defer the consideration of the subject until there would be danger of its being defeated entirely, it would then be necessary to bring the question before the nation through a different channel and in another form. And should our government persist in its determination to try every possible means of accomplishing the measure, without regard to the opposition of the Executive here, the plan above suggested, has occurred to me as the most feasible that could be adopted. How long the President will cause the Secretary of State to defer an answer to the proposition of annexation, I am at a loss to say.

I have not yet received a reply from the Secretary of State upon the subject of a commissioner to run the boundary line.

Mr. Poinsett, Mr. Forsyth and Mr. Kendall as I mentioned in a despatch some time since are favourable to annexation. In Mr. Poinsett we have a powerful advocate. The Southern States and Texas should know at a proper time, how zealously he advocates the measure and I make this mention of the distinguished gentleman's name that the archives of this Legation may bear testimony to his valuable efforts for its accomplishment.

General Hamilton of South Carolina reached this City on the 8th. instant. I waited upon him immediately after hearing of his arrival and for the first time had the honor of taking this gallant son of the South by the hand. I have communicated with him more freely than with any other citizen of these States, and am very much delighted at his zeal for Texas.

My despatches are generally written in haste and without that attention to the arrangement of sentences and language, which I should bestow if they were to be made public without my being allowed to correct them in this respect. You will therefore excuse these defects.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

MEMUCAN HUNT

To,

The Honorable

R. A. IRION

Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas

FRIDAY MORNING

11th August

Since writing the above, I have ascertained beyond a doubt, that Mr Forsyth Secretary of State of the United States is violently opposed to annexation!! I could not avoid proclaiming on hearing of it, "and you too Brutus" knowing it as I did to be "the unkindest

cut of all"; for it proves him to be a traitor to the most delicate and deepest interests of those to whom he is indebted for the very power and influence which he is now attempting to exercise against them. But thanks to God, if matters terminate as it has been intimated to me they will, this ingratitude will bring about results for Texas, the South and himself precisely contrary to his expectations. Were it not for Mr Poinsett we should lose the question, and if it succeeds I award to him in advance the greatest and most unqualified praise. If I am successful, this Cabinet will not remain as it is. You understand me. Mr. Kendall is a zealous supporter of the measure, but unfortunately for us he is absent. He and Mr Poinsett has [sic] the battle to fight, they are valliant soldiers and I deem the comparison analog[o]us when I say of Mr. Poinsett, that like the brave Bowie and Travis and their associates, he will not survive a defeat;—*he will not hold office unless the question is carried.* This is true patriotism, his name is worthy to be associated and remembered with those of the most chivalrous Captains and Statesmen of our gallant native land or the one of our adoption.

General Hamilton left this City on yesterday.

Mr. Secretary Catlett set out on a visit to his father last evening, and expects to remain a week. I have therefore to attend to the duties of both Minister and Secretary. Mr. Catlett is as attentive as it is possible for one to be to the duties of his office, but it is impossible for him to perform all the labours attendant thereupon at this time. I conceive myself very fortunate in having near me a gentleman who is in every way so agreeable to me as Mr Catlett is.

I have the honor to renew my expressions of respect and regard
MEMUCAN HUNT

To,
The Honorable R. A. IRION.
etc. etc. etc.

[Enclosed is a copy of Hunt to Forsyth, August 4, 1837.^a]

IRION TO HUNT.^b

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
CITY OF HOUSTON
Aug 13th 1837

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that your communication of the 12th^c Ultimo marked dispatch No 23, has been received, submitted to the President and duly considered

^a See Calendar.

^b L. S.

^c Should be 11th.

The able manner with which the various topics connected with our diplomatic relations with the United States have been discussed, and your zealous support of the interests of this Republic, as evinced in that dispatch, I take great pleasure to state, is highly satisfactory to the Government and gratifying to the Executive.

The policy of this Government with regard to annexation continues the same. To what extent the instructions heretofore given on this subject may be modified consistently with the interests of Texas must in a great degree be left to the judgment and discretion of yourself and those friendly to our cause, who are aiding, or may assist to consummate this paramount measure. In the spirit of those instructions you will make the conditions as favorable for Texas as possible.

With respect to the south western boundary this Republic claims to the Rio Grande. Should the United States however object to this extension of our Territory insist only on the former limits of Texas, which were fixed by the Government of Mexico at the River Nueces.

Should *insuperable* objections arise to receiving this Republic as a State negotiate for admission as a Territory. In either case stipulate that the United States shall assume the payment of a definite amount sufficient to cover our national debt; and for a general guarantee for the protection of all legal and vested rights, acquired under this and former governments.

In reply to the remonstrance of the U. States by Mr. Forsyth protesting against the act of the Congress of this Republic establishing a land district including territory claimed, and in the occupancy of Arkansas, I addressed you on the 14th July ultimo, during the absence of the President, to whom, since his return, both ^a have been submitted.

He approves my communication on that occasion and in order to prevent any further misunderstanding with that Government on this subject, and as the only means within his power of remedying the evil, he has issued a Proclamation convening Congress on the 25th September next, in order that they may suspend the operation of the law which requires that said land office shall be opened on the first Monday of October, until that boundary shall be defined.

Very respectfully

Yr. Obt. Servant

R. A. IRON, *Sec'y of State*

Hon M Hunt
Minister etc
Washington City

^a That is, remonstrance and reply.

IRION TO HUNT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CITY OF HOUSTON *Aug 13th 1837*

SIR,

Col Grayson intending shortly to visit Washington City the President has instructed me to inform you that he is fully authorized to confer with you on all matters touching the intercourse and diplomatic relations between the Government of the U States and this Republic; in whom you will find an able coadjutor in effecting the great object of annexation, and to whom I refer you for much useful information relative to our present political condition at home.

The Col's visit to Washington has caused my communication of this date to be more brief than it would have been, he being well acquainted with the views of the Government.

Very respectfully
Yr Obt. Servant

R. A. IRION
Sec'y of State

Hon M Hunt.

 FORSYTH TO HUNT.^a

 HUNT TO FORSYTH.^b

 HUNT TO IRION.^c

Dispatch No 26.

TEXIAN LEGATION
WASHINGTON CITY,
September 18th 1837.

SIR,

I have the honor herewith to present to you Mr. Forsyth's reply to the proposition I made on the 4th. of August to annex Texas to the United States and my rejoinder to that reply. I hope that the independent grounds, which the dignity and honor of my country and self demanded that I should assume in the reply to Mr. Forsyth's refusal to entertain the proposition for annexation will be entirely satisfactory to his Excellency the President.

Mr. Adams of Massachusetts offered a resolution in the House of Representatives on the 12th. instant, calling for any correspondence,

^a August 25, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, September 18, 1837.

^b September 12, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, September 18, 1837.

^c L. S.

which may have occurred between Texas and the United States upon the subject of the Union of the two governments, which was adopted, and I learn that the Executive will comply with the wish of the House, as expressed in that resolution.

I will at this time forbear to say any thing more than that I hope and believe that the correspondence will be published and circulated extensively, and that its effect will be so great as to ensure successful termination of the question at the main session of Congress. The mere introduction of the subject by a call for the correspondence produced great excitement.

My present hope is that one of the branches of Congress at the main session will pass a resolution, requesting the President of the United States to instruct the Secretary of State to ask of the Minister of Texas the terms, upon which his government asks admission into this Union, and when said terms are presented, there will be a move for their acceptance, which, if adopted by both branc[h]es of Congress, will be signed doubtless by the President.

I have, as yet, received no reply from Mr. Forsyth upon the subject of the appointment of a commissioner to run the boundary line.

The President assured me sometime since that Mr. La Branche would proceed to Texas as Chargé d'Affaires from this government without further delay. Your despatch of the 14th July has been received. I will write to you again soon in detail.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

MEMUCAN HUNT

To The Honorable R. A. IRION
Secretary of State

[Enclosed are copies of the following: * Forsyth to Hunt, August 25, 1837; Hunt to Forsyth, September 12, 1837.]

IRION TO HUNT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
CITY OF HOUSTON, *Sept. 20th. '37.*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches under dates of the 4th. and 10th. ultimo, and have submitted the same to his Excellency, the President.

With regard to the North American Indians, who have from time to time intruded themselves into Texas in violation of the 33rd. article of the Treaty of limits between Mexico and the U. States,

* See Calendar.

Bands of the following Tribes may be enumerated, viz,—Cherokees, Cadoes,^a Kickapoos, Shawnees, Delawares, Creeks, Seminoles, Cuchattas,^b and Biloxes.^c These Bands are interspersed through Texas at various distances from each other from the Gulf of Mexico on the east to the Cross Timber on the west, living during a part of the year in villages for the purpose of raising corn, and the remaining portion of the season roaming the country from the Rio Grande to Red River on hunting, stealing, robbing and murdering excursions, in which adventures they often unite with the hostile indians of the Prairies.

That several of those Bands entertain a settled determination to unite with the Mexicans against the Texians when a favorable opportunity presents itself there can be no doubt. Their conduct during the panic of 1836 in eastern Texas demonstrates the fact.

Nothing but the timely presence on the Sabine at that time of that humane, heroic, and immortal leader, Gen. Gaines, restrained them, and prevented a general Massacre of women and children who were leaving the country on account of the advance of the Mexican army. Many of them were embodied and already in the service of Santa Anna. A relic of that service still exists at Teran on the Naches, where, at the time of the battle of San Jacinto, they were employed in constructing rafts to facilitate the crossing of the Mexican Army, which was but a few days march therefrom.

That the Cherokees sent a delegation to Matamoros last summer to negotiate with the Mexican authorities we have the positive testimony of several respectable Americans, as well as Texians, who were there, and recognized them.

The line of the Sabine and Red River frontier is not the scene of the depredations of the Cadoes; *their* acts of violence are perpetrated on the Trinity, Brazos, Colorado, Guadalupe etc. far distant from the places of their ordinary abode. In almost every skirmish that occurs on our western frontier Cadoes are recognised. They have in several instances, been shot in the act of stealing horses and murdering the Texians.

They are not formidable on account of number, but from their influence with the prairie Tribes

This information we derive from officers in the ranging service, and citizens living on the frontiers. It is not remarkable that the wily Chieftain, Bowl, of the Cherokees, should, when, application was made to him by agents of the U. States, to know whether he and his associates were innocent, [and] that they should, from his own statement, appear so.

^a Caddoes.

^b Koasati. (See Handbook American Ethnology.)

^c Biloxi.

This Government was incidentally informed by letter from that quarter that two U. States officers in June last visited the Cherokees in order to report their disposition to that Government. Had that application been made to this Government abundant evidence could have been presented to have convinced them of the hypocrisy and cunning of Bowl. Some of his tribe were then at Matamoros, and others, associated with their allies, murdering our frontier inhabitants. Deep rooted apprehensions with regard to those Indians still pervade the public mind, and constant anxiety is felt throughout the whole country. The prairie Indians are unskillful in the use of fire arms, who, without the guidance of N. American indians, would be comparatively harmless. The citizens of Texas are relatively, a small nation of people spread over an extensive territory, at the same time battling against vast odds for the sacred and immutable principles of liberty, with the Mexicans on the south, hordes of indians to the Rocky Mountains on the west, the Gulf of Mexico on the east, and those disconnected Bands from the U. States dispersed throughout the Border of Sabine and Red River. Under those circumstances, inasmuch as many of those indians are intruders and have no claims on Texas, it would seem more consonant with humanity and justice for the U. States, who have the power and the right, at once, to cause all who have emigrated contrary to stipulations in Treaties entered into between Spain, Mexico, and the U. States, to be removed to countries heretofore assigned the tribes of which they are parts, by that Government. Independently or other considerations philanthropy towards those indians would indicate such a course, for the longer they remain among us the more unpleasant will be their situation. Conflicts between them and citizens on whose lands many of them reside will necessarily arise, which disputes, it is easy to foresee, will engender animosity that will end in open strife. The experience of more than half a century in the U. States shows that Americans and indians cannot live together under the same laws. That conviction created the humane policy of removing them peaceably to countries where they may for ages flourish and preserve their own habits and nationality.

I have communicated to the Post Master General the willingness of Mr. Kendall to interchange the respective mails at the crossings of the Sabine, with which arrangement he is much gratified.

It will afford to the inhabitants of both countries important facilities.

The President declines the appointment of the secret agent suggested in your 25th. Despatch.^a

^a This must relate to Hunt's proposition that some member of Congress, chosen by himself, be solicited to present terms of annexation.

With respect to annexation there is nothing new to offer.

We are anxiously awaiting the determination of the U. States Government on the proposition for admission.

I feel much solicitude on this subject, for I am confident should we be rejected now the proposition will never again be made by the people and Government of Texas.

In case they refuse to admit us our Agent is ready near the Court of Great Britain to receive instructions, and we will be compelled to make the best bargain with her we can. The wisdom of England seldom loses sight of her true interests, especially when they relate to commerce and manufactures. A direct trade from Galveston, and other ports to Liverpool can be easily established. It can also be demonstrated to England that there are sufficient cotton lands in Texas to grow more cotton than that Kingdom requires for the supply of her manufactories—and owing to peculiarity of climate and soil a better article at a cheaper rate can be furnished, than by the U. States.

No apprehension is entertained of an invasion at this time.

Two Brigs of the enemy recently appeared on our coast, and after an engagement at Galveston with the Invincible departed and have not been since heard from. The Invincible was lost by running aground after having fought several hours doing them considerable damage without sustaining any herself.

The continued bad faith of the Mexican Government has induced the President to issue "Letters of Mark and Reprisal;" the great object now being to keep command of the Gulf. They cannot reach us by land unless they can supply their troops by sea.

The country is more tranquil than it was in the spring and summer. Good crops have been raised throughout the populated portions of the Republic. We have assurances of a large influx of emigrants during the fall and approaching winter. Congress will convene on Monday next.

The President I regret to state has had an attack of congestive fever. He is yet very feeble, but is decidedly convalescent.

Please make my best compliments to Col. Grayson, and say to him that my health is as precarious as when he left.

With great consideration and respect I
have the honor to be your obt. Servant.

R. A. IRION

Hon. M. HUNT
*Minister Plenipotentiary
of R. of Texas to U. States*