

[Mr. Washington to Mr. Amory.^a]HO. REP *21st Feby 1842*

SIR

Permit me most respectfully to recommend Asa A Brown Esq for the appointment of Texan Consul for the Port of Welmington North Carolina

Mr Brown is a gentleman of great intelligence and strict integrity as well as a considerable share of practicable experience; and from his position will have it in his power to render essential service to the Republic of Texas.

With great respect
Your Obt Servant

W H WASHINGTON

NATHL EMORY [sic] Esq
Secretary of Legation of the Republic of Texas

 REPLY TO JONES.^b

 FITCHLYNN TO SPENCER.^c

 REPLY TO JONES.^d

Despatch No. 80

LEGATION OF TEXAS
Washington March 25th 1842.

Hon.

ANSON JONES
Secretary of State of Texas

SIR,

The news of the invasion of Texas reached me last night contained in the Orleans Bee of the 16th Inst. I need not attempt a description of my regret at the occurrence or my desire for the welfare of my fellow citizens.

This morning at the earliest hour possible I went to the State Department and had an interview with the Hon Daniel Webster Secretary of State, and urged upon him the great necessity of the United States Government taking efficient and active steps to keep

^aThis letter is an enclosed original.
^bMarch 15, 1842. Part of the letter begun on the 11th.^cMarch 25, 1842. See Eve to Jones, May 9, 1842.^dL. S.

in subjection the Indians upon our Northern Frontier. He was just then on the eve of visiting the President, but informed me my request should be attended to. Feeling the deepest solicitude on that matter I called again at one P. M. but found Mr. Webster still out. I called again at 3 P M and have just returned from a very satisfactory conversation.

Mr Webster assured me that the United States would have their Indians kept within their proper Territory. I feel satisfied that it will be done and that Texas in her struggle can have the aid of all her gallant sons both in the east and along the Red river line since the United States will save their homes and property from the depredations of the savages. The Government here will likewise take means to defend the lives liberty and property of her citizens on Galveston Island. No doubt an officer has been despatched before this time to the New Orleans station for the purpose of taking the proper steps to carry out their determination to protect the rights of their Citizens on Galveston

At present nothing can be done in making a Treaty with the United States. The Secretary of State informed me this morning that the English and Mexican matters were pressing too heavily upon them to allow a just and due consideration of any Treaty with Texas. At the State Department yesterday I was favoured with the reading of the recent instructions of this Government to its Minister in Mexico in regard to the Santa Fé Prisoners, they are most positive in the demand for the liberation of the United States Citizens and requires the Minister of this Government to insist with the Mexican Authorities, that the Citizens of Texas now in captivity as well as those of the United States shall be treated humanely as prisoners of war and not abused or put to any slavish or degrading occupation.

I had a personal interview yesterday morning with Mr. Lawrence Bearer of despatches from the American Minister at Mexico to this Government. He states that the Prisoners at Perote were in good condition, and well taken care of whilst those in the City of Mexico were badly treated being made to labor on the streets and suffering every indignity. This will be ended I trust by the positive instructions of the United States Government received perhaps ere this by the United States Minister at Mexico.

Genl. Waddy Thompson has been appointed and sent out as Minister to Mexico he has the character of being a bold fearless enerjetick man a warm friend of Texas, and an enthusiastic advocate of Constitutional freedom. His instructions are of that nature which will enable him no doubt to vindicate the oft insulted honor of the United States and be of service to our unfortunate Prisoners My own impression is the United States Government will sustain the demand of her Representative with a force upon the Gulf. Did the bar of Gal-

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veston permit, the United States Government would despatch as Mr. Webster informed me one of her new Steam Frigates to the protection of the Merchandise and property of the United States Citizens at Galveston.

Trusting in the valor of Texan troops and believing they will ever be victorious, I sign myself with assurances of high consideration.

Yours etc

JAMES REILY

SPENCER TO TAYLOR.^a

REILY TO WEBSTER.^b

REILY TO JONES.^c

Despatch No. 81

LEGATION of TEXAS
Washington March 29, 1842

Hon.

Anson Jones,
Secretary of State of Texas,

Sir,

My Last despatch, dated March 25, informed you that I had urgently pressed upon the consideration of the United States Government, the justice and absolute necessity of concentrating upon the Arkansas and Red river lines, force sufficient to keep in check the Indians there placed. But a short time since, I had an interview with Mr Spencer Secretary of War, and the President, by both of whom I was assured the protection required had been given, and would be extended. Mr Secretary Spencer informed me, that the order had been issued, and the expresses sent in order to concentrate immediately about 2000 regulars along the frontier of both Dragoons, and Infantry. Five companies of the former, are ordered from Fort Leavenworth, and troops from Jefferson Barracks—The 6th Regiment now in Orleans from Florida—And others from various places. Peremptory, and positive orders, as Mr Secretary Spencer informed me had been given to the Chiefs, Agents, and officers among the indians, not to permit a single Indian to cross into the Territory of Texas, under any pretence whatever. I rejoice at the attainment of

^a March 26, 1842. See Reily to Jones, April 7, 1842.

^b March 28, 1842. See Reily to Jones, March 29, 1842.

^c L. S.

this desirable matter, for it will enable the Red river, and Eastern troops, to leave their homes, should the danger of Texas require it, undisturbed by any apprehension for their homes and families from the Knife of the Savage. On yesterday, and before I had an interview with the President, and Mr Spencer, I had laid before the Secretary of State, a communication embracing these heads—1st the Indian relations which have been so satisfactorily responded to in the interviews with the President and Secretary of War—2d. The free navigation of the conterminous rivers, and using the Ports and places along them free of all duties to the Customs or vexatious delays, for entrepot—3d The interchange of mails between the United States and Texas and 4th whether the United States as a humane and civilized Government, recognizing the principles of international law, and the rules of honorable warfare, would as a member of the great family of nations, permit Mexico through her Dictator to violate all faith, transgress all the rules of honorable warfare—doom prisoners entitled to rights as prisoners of war to degrading drudgery, and cruel punishment, and above all violate in a most wanton manner, the terms of capitulation entered into between Mexican troops, and the unfortunate soldiers of the Santa Fé expedition

I have as yet received no answer to my Despatch upon these points, save the first in regard to the Indians.

We have the friendship of the Government of the United States, and the deep sympathy of the people.

General Waddy Thompson goes out as Minister to Mexico in the Frigate Macedonian, and I believe with orders to demand at once the release of the United States Santa Fé prisoners.

With sentiments of high respect

I am Yours—

JAMES REILY

P. S. A copy of the communication to Mr Webster herein alluded to will be sent tomorrow which please consider a part of the despatch No. 81

[Enclosed is the copy mentioned, a part of which has been published.^a The remainder follows:]

The Undersigned would beg leave to call the attention of the United States government to the harsh and unjustifiable treatment of the unfortunate Santa Fé prisoners by their Mexican captors. They do not receive the treatment due prisoners of war, which is certainly guaranteed to them by the Law of nations, as well as the rules of honorable warfare. The prisoners a large majority of whom are but recent emigrants from the United States to Texas, [() and several never have laid down their allegiance to this, their native land) have been imprisoned, ironed, doomed to severe and degrading drudgery—ill used, and some inhumanely murdered.

^a See Calendar.

The Mexican prisoners made in Texas have invariably been treated with kindness and humanity, so much so indeed that hundreds refused to return to Mexico, and a great many have been incorporated as Texan Citizens, enjoying all the benefits and rights conferred by our laws and Constitution. The undersigned would therefore submit to Mr Websters consideration whether, the United States, as a great, humane, and just nation, will not, acting upon principles justified by the Law of nations, compel Mexico, to observe the terms of the capitulation entered into between the captives, and the captors, which guaranteed their safety, preservation of side arms, private property, and to be marched again to the frontiers of Texas in safety. These terms in their violation, is a second edition of the perfidious violation of the terms upon which Fanning and his Three hundred patriots surrendered to Genl Urrea, and whose cold blooded assasination on the 27th of March 1836 by the command of Genl. Santa Ana, after promise of immediate restoration to their country and friends, from his fierce determination to keep no faith, observe no laws, disregard all principle, but, do all he can to establish the hated right of military Dictatorship, and at his own will trangress every precept contained in the national code, and the observance of which, are so necessary to the harmony, prosperity, and intercourse of civilised Governments—of the spirit on the part of Genl Santa Ana, the present invasion of Texas after his forfeited life had been spared by his too lenient conquerors, on his promise not again to take up arms against Texas, or instigate their being taken up, is an additional evidence.

The Mexican Government, through their President Genl. Santa Ana has rendered herself a criminal in the eyes of all civilized nations, for his treatment to the Santa Fé prisoners, by violating the terms upon which they were induced to surrender, even had the expedition been one of violence and warlike. But when it is considered that command went, upon the supposition that the citizens of Santa Fé were anxious for their arrival, and at the invitation of some of the citizens of Santa Fé, also were instructed by the Government of Texas not to attempt the subjugation of the people by arms, should it be found they were unwilling to come under our laws, and only were permitted to go as an armed body, to defend themselves and articles of traffic which they bore from hordes of hostile indians with whom they were constantly engaged in warfare for the three months consumed in approaching their destination, and by whose molestations, they were eventually reduced almost to starvation. Then again, when the capture was made within the territory recognised as belonging to Texas, when our independence was recognised by the United States Government, he becomes doubly criminal, as a violator of national law and should be checked in his violent career by nations whose institutions derive their strength, and support, from integrity of con-

duct, and inflexible adherence to the rules of right. Texas makes this appeal to the Government of the United States with the full assurance, that a nation illustrious in all things which contribute to greatness and renown, will not permit the firmly established and widely promulgated principles of justice to be trodden down by the authorities of any people, no matter in what cause they fight, or against whom their arms are directed.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion, to renew to Mr Webster, the assurance of his high consideration.

(Signed) JAMES REILLY

HON DANIAL WEBSTER
*Secretary of State of the
United States.*

WEBSTER TO REILLY.^a

REILLY TO JONES.^b

Despatch No. 82

LEGATION OF TEXAS,
Washington, April 7th 1842

HON. ANSON JONES,
Secretary of State of Texas,

SIR,

I have now the honor to submit copy of Mr Websters reply to my communication of 28th Ultio. with accompanying note from Secy of War.

Mr Webster to Mr Reily

The undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of the 28th Ultimo from Mr Reily, the Chargé d' Affaires of Texas. The undersigned has the honor to acquaint Mr Reily, that extracts from those parts of it which relate to an improvement of the commercial intercourse and of the communication by Post between the two countries have been submitted to the consideration of Congress by the President

In relation to the subject of the Indians of the United States on the Texan Frontier, the undersigned has the honor to transmit a copy of the instructions which have been given by the Department of War to General Z Taylor, in command of the troops of the United States in that quarter those instructions will afford another proof of

^a April 7, 1842. See Reily to Jones, April 7, 1842.

^b L. S.

the desire of this government scrupulously to fulfil its obligations towards Texas ^a

The treatment to which citizens of the United States, who were captured with the Texan expedition to Santa Fé, have been subjected in Mexico, has received and will continue to receive all proper attention from this Government

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to offer to Mr Reily renewed assurances of his distinguished consideration.

(Signed) DANL. WEBSTER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington 7th April 1842.

[Here follows a copy of Spencer to Taylor, March 26, 1842.^b]

You will perceive from the foregoing that due attention has been paid to my communication of the 28th Uto to this Government. I hope to have something interesting to communicate shortly upon the subject of improved commercial intercourse Santa Fe prisoners etc

Most Respectfully

Yr. Obt. Servt.

JAMES REILY.

—————
MCKINLEY TO WEBSTER.^c

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REILY TO JONES.^d

Despatch No. 83

LEGATION OF TEXAS,
Washington, April 14th, 1842

HON. ANSON JONES,
Secretary of State of Texas,

SIR,

Having dispatched several letters to your Department by the way of New Orleans and which were highly important, but having received no notification whatever of their arrival, I have deemed it advisable to send the Secretary of Legation, N. Amory Esq to make inquiries about the despatches and also bear this one to your hands. Although I have several times urged upon the Hon. Secretary of State the necessity of a Treaty of Amity, Navigation and Commerce

^a This paragraph is printed in U. S. Pub. Docs., 600, Doc. 14, p. 74.

^b See Calendar.

^c April 9, 1842. See Underhill to Jones, April 27, 1842.

^d L. S.

between the United States and Texas, yet the matter is still postponed, nor do I believe there is any possibility of its consideration until something definite is concluded, between Lord Ashburton now here on a special embassy from Great Britain and the Government of the United States. Independent of this all absorbing mission, pregnant with the most stupendous results, and which must either terminate in a firm and lasting peace or a protracted and sanguinary war between the two nations are the unsettled affairs of Mexico against whom I feel assured this Government is determined to proceed with firmness promptitude and decision. I have most closely and strictly obeyed the instructions communicated to me from your Department upon the subject of Annexation, and now communicate the result of my observations. I feel satisfied fully that the administration is decidedly in favor of the policy, and that the Question is a popular one with Congress; as to what would be the majority in the Senate should that body be called upon to act, it is impossible to say two thirds of the Senate being the majority necessary to consummate treaties. Texas is fast increasing in reputation and character, and by many Northern men is viewed as a country which would be a valuable acquisition to the United States. I am led to believe that one great reason why the negotiation of a Treaty has been postponed and still delayed is, because the administration wishes to make but one Treaty, and that a Treaty of Annexation. It would relieve me very much to learn from the Department whether I shall suffer matters to glide along quietly until the United States Government decides upon the policy of Annexation, or whether the consideration of a Treaty of Amity, Navigation, and Commerce shall be pressed. The United States Minister at Mexico has gone with positive orders to demand the restoration of the American Santa Fé prisoners, the treatment according to the rules of War of our own unfortunate sufferers, and I believe the prompt and immediate liquidation of the monies due citizens of the United States from the Mexican Government. It is the impression that the United States will receive in lieu of the sums due from Mexico a quit claim on her part, of the Texan Territory, and then treat with us for annexation, I do not vouch for this, but advise you that such rumors are afloat and very well authenticated, in order that I may receive instructions, and the proper authority to act in accordance with your instructions, so soon as the response of Mexico shall have been learned and which must transpire in a short time. My chief object in despatching this letter by a special Agent is to communicate the results of my investigation as to the truth or untruth of the rumors apparently well authenticated, that Great Britain was furnishing money, supplies etc to Mexico for the subjugation of Texas. My labors have at last this morning been most satisfactorily ended, through the medium of the Hon.

Henry Clay of Kentucky, who for the sake of Texas has had an interview with Lord Ashburton special Minister from Great Britain, and Mr Fox Minister Resident on Wednesday the 13th instant. The terms of great personal intimacy on which he stands with both individuals, and his friendly and long continued relations with Lord Ashburton especially, made him the best qualified person to find out the truth of the rumors. Their communications Mr Clay informed me, were perfectly unrestrained, and given with great apparent candor. Lord Ashburton peremptorily disclaimed any interference of the British Government in behalf of Mexico, and that the British Ministry he said would as soon aid Old Spain in again subjugating the Low Countries, as to aid Mexico in reconquering Texas. Mr Fox remarked that Great Britain would much rather interpose to bring about a peace between Texas and Mexico than to aid Mexico in her attempts upon Texas, and that the Crown without the consent of Parliament, could not make advances of either money, ammunition or supplies to Mexico. Lord Ashburton farther added, that Great Britain would sooner expect Texas to Conquer Mexico, than Mexico Conquer Texas, and that if the Mexican Government had obtained any money at all, it was as all others obtain it, by loans. Both disclaimed in positive terms again, and again, any interference on the part of Great Britain, in favor of Mexico. These statements I have not one hour ago received from Mr Clay, who sent for me and gave the conversation between himself and the Gentleman named. My own apprehensions are very much relieved, and I obtained the permission of Mr Clay to use the name of himself and Lord Ashburton and Mr Fox in my communication to the Texan Government, but the Department will see the *great propriety* on account of the *names of the Gentlemen concerned* of keeping them from the public eye, but still easing the minds of the Citizens by giving a general and authentic denial of the rumors set on foot in Texas, New Orleans and elsewhere, and the too great credence of which does our nation a vast amount of harm. I must again call the attention of the Government to the necessity of furnishing the Legation at this point with the laws of last Congress, as use is found for them almost every day. I would also most earnestly press upon the consideration of the Secretary of State, the necessity during the present interesting crisis of keeping this Legation advised of the various movements of the army, events concerning the national welfare that occur, and of every thing important to Texas and interesting to its Representative, this course would prevent the mortification to which I am frequently subjected, by being unable to answer questions of importance to Texas and asked by the Government here, and on which your Representative here ought not to be ignorant. Frequently I have confessed my entire ignorance upon subjects relating to Texas

and of deep interest, and perhaps the next morning see the facts or information contained in the public journals. The Department of State has heretofore been informed that my request to allow Texas the free use of the conterminous rivers and the right of entrepot in United States Ports and drawback on goods foreign to the United States, entering by routs other than sea and also arrangements for the transportation of the mails between the two countries had been laid before Congress as a special message of the President and referred to the Committees on Commerce and Post Offices. I hope soon to communicate a favorable result in regard to these matters so deeply interesting to Texas

With Sentiments of high respect
Yours

JAMES REILY.

[Here follows another letter from Reily to Jones, relating to Amory's salary, written on the same sheet and dated April 16, 1842.]

REILY TO JONES.^a

EVE TO ROBERTS.^b

REILY TO WEBSTER.^c

ROBERTS TO EVE.^d

WEBSTER TO REILY.^e

UNDERHILL (FOR MCKINLEY) TO JONES.^f

NEW YORK 27 April 1842.

To the
Hon ANSON JONES,
Secretary of State, Texas,

SIR

Annexed I hand you a copy of a letter addressed by me to the Hon. Danl Webster, Secretary of State U. S. to which I have re-

^a L. S., dated April 16, 1842. See Reily to Jones, April 14, 1842.

^b April 20, 1842. See Calendar.

^c April 21, 1842. See Reily to Jones, April 28, 1842.

^d April 23, 1842. See Calendar.

^e April 25, 1842. See Reily to Jones, April 28, 1842.

^f A. L. S.

ceived an answer stating that he would comply with the request therein contained.

Respectfully,

Yours

for W. McKinley

W. S. UNDERHILL.

NEW YORK *April 9th. 1842*

To the Hon

DANIEL WEBSTER

Secretary of State etc

DR SIR

I take the liberty as an American Citizen to address you in your official capacity and to request that you would notice through the Texan Secretary of State the disinterested and generous conduct of Com. Moore in rescuing the lives and saving the property of the Master, Crew, and passenger of the Schooner Sylph which was wrecked January 19th. on her passage to Sisal, and the transportation of the Cargo saved to the above port.

Although Com Moore and his squadron were 75 Miles from the shoal when the wreck occurred yet on receiving intelligence of the disaster of an American vessel and the danger of the persons on board he immediately got under way and repaired with his vessels to the spot, received the Master, passenger, and Crew on board, took out the Cargo and transported them to Sisal and with the generosity of a true Sailor after his arrival there when he found there would be no immediate opportunity for the return of the crew to their own land despatched one of his own vessels with them to New Orleans

It is but justice that Com Moore should not only receive the thanks of an individual but that official notice should be taken of his conduct on the above occasion inasmuch as that we were saved from imminent peril by the timely appearance of his vessels and as American Citizens received his protection and assistance in our hour of danger and time of need and we feel that it is not asking too much to request of you to acknowledge to the Texan Secretary the benefits conferred upon any of the Citizens of the happy land in which we live especially when those benefits are conferred with disinterested motives and without the hope of any fee or reward other than the satisfaction experienced by rescuing from danger and peril persons advocating the same lofty principles of Liberty for which he is contending and which it is to be hoped will terminate in success

With the highest sentiments of respect---

WM. MCKINLEY *late M Sch Sylph*

REILY TO JONES.^a

Despatch No. 84.

TEXAN LEGATION, *April 28th. 1842.*
Washington City D. C.

HON ANSON JONES
Secretary of State, Texas.

Sir—

The undersigned has the honor of submitting the following correspondence, and the results thereof between the Hon Secretary of State of the United States and himself.

TEXAN LEGATION, WASHINGTON

April 21st. 1842.

The undersigned Chargé d' Affaires of the Republic of Texas would most respectfully beg leave to call the attention of Mr Webster Secretary of State of the United States to the consideration of the points submitted in September last by Mr Bee, former Texan Chargé d' Affaires, as the basis of a Treaty between Texas and the United States, and requests that he would designate a day (and soon as possible) when he will be ready to enter upon the consideration of the subject.

With sentiments of high respect

Yours

JAMES REILY

HON DANIEL WEBSTER
*Secretary of State
of the United States.*

Mr Websters reply.

The undersigned Secretary of State of the United States, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of the 21st. Inst. from Mr. Reily Charge d' Affaires of Texas requesting the appointment of a day for the consideration of certain points submitted by Mr Bee in September last as the basis of a treaty between the United States and Texas

The undersigned has the honor to acquaint Mr Reily in reply that he will be happy to see him at the Department whenever he may call.

DAN. WEBSTER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington [City,] 25. April 1842
To JAMES REILY Esq
etc etc etc.

^a A. L. S.

Shortly after the reception of Mr Websters note, and on the same day I repaired to the Department and had an interview with the Hon Secretary of State, and commenced our conversation by informing him of the reception of his note, in reply to my own of the 21st. inst, and trusted he was ready to proceed to the adjustment of the points submitted. In reply he remarked, that he had not yet been permitted to refresh his memory with the matters submitted by Mr Bee, nor could he perceive any necessity for pressing the subject, but stated that if there was any particular matter or subject which required immediate attention he would attend to it. I then observed that there were many important and unsettled matters between Texas and the United States which required adjustment, such as the Indian relations, the free navigation of Red River, the use of certain ports in the United States as entrepots for the products of Texas, free from duties, and from vexatious and unnecessary delays in Custom Houses of [the] United States and of the right of drawbacks upon goods foreign to the United States transported into Texas from Ports of [the] United States. The Indian relations I confessed had been regulated by the late prompt action of this Government in concentrating a force of troops much increased upon the Louisiana and Arkansas lines bordering upon Texas, but that large amounts of cotton and other Texan products had been locked up, for the want of some stipulations either by Treaty or legislation, permitting their descent by the conterminous Rivers to points to which they would naturally flow. The subjects of entrepot as well as of *drawbacks* had been recommended, suggested, Mr. Webster, to Congress in a special Message of the President, and that he would willingly and readily aid me in removing difficulties which prevented the accomplishment of my desires. Our conversation then turned upon the necessity of a treaty, in order to regulate tonnage duties, define consular rights, and secure the claims of those entitled to inheritance and succession of citizens of the two Governments dying whilst on a visit to either of the nations, and once more reviewing the subjects of the free navigation of the conterminous rivers and of drawbacks, Mr Webster informed me that he would consider the points and in a short time he trusted to be able to enter fully and definitely into the consideration of the subject.

Altho meeting with a reluctance on the part of the Secretary of State to conclude a treaty, yet I do not refrain nor cease to urge upon the favorable consideration of members of Congress and especially of the members of the Committee on Commerce, the requests contained in my letter to the Department of State, as regards right of drawback and entrepot in Ports of the United States, and the extracts of which letter touching upon those points were submitted to the consideration of Congress accompanied by a special Message of the President. The

delegations from the States of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi most interested are decidedly favorable to the measure so important to Texas, and in fact I have met no opposition from any of the cotton and sugar growing States. The only point of difficulty likely to be started, is that if the privilege be conceded to Texas, it must be general to the whole world. However we trust to succeed.

On yesterday by invitation of Captain Newton of the War Steamer Missouri, the Diplomatic Corps visited that truly magnificent vessel. We were received with great civility and kindness, not only by the officers of the vessel, but also by the courteous and able Secretary of [the] Navy Judge Upshur, and were conducted through the ship for the purpose of examining the armament, machinery, arrangements, and construction of the vessel. The visit passed off in the most satisfactory manner, and was increased in pleasure so far as I was concerned, from the friendly spirit which I found entertained by many distinguished characters present towards Texas, and the reiteration personally to me by Lord Ashburton, that Great Britain had not intermeddled nor had the Government any disposition so to do, between Texas and Mexico. He made various inquiries about the extent of territory wealth, climate, products, resources and prosperity of Texas, all of which it gave me great pleasure to answer. I feel no hesitancy in condemning as false all rumors of British interference in the contest between Texas and Mexico.

Permit me again to call the attention of the Hon Secretary of State to the recommendation made a few days since through this Legation for the appointment of Asa A. Brown Esq. as Consul for Texas at Wilmington North Carolina.

With sentiments of great consideration

Yours

JAMES REILY

REILY TO WICKLIFFE.^a

EVE TO JONES.^b

EVE TO JONES.^c

[Enclosed are: a Choctaw to Pitchlynn (extract), February 9, 1842; and Pitchlynn to Spencer, March 25, 1842.]

^a May 4, 1842. See Reily to Jones, May 21, 1842.

^b A. L. S., May 9, 1842; endorsed "No. 4." See Calendar.

^c A. L. S., May 9, 1842; endorsed "No. 5." For the letter and enclosures see Calendar.

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WAPLES TO REILY.^a

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Houston 12th May 1842

SIR,

Your several despatches of 11th 28th^b and 29th March, 7th and 14th April have all been received and laid before his Excellency the President, who has instructed me in the absence of Doct Jones, Secretary of State to reply,—with regard to your course relative to the negotiation of a Treaty, the President wishes you not to act hastily, and desires that you “suffer matters to glide along quietly until the U States Govt decides upon the policy of annexation.” He does not under existing circumstances and the excitement at present raging in this country deem it of vital importance to the country to have this Treaty concluded; therefore the instructions given you on your departure as a guide relative to annexation contain the course of policy he wishes you to pursue.

c * * * * *

I have the honor to be
very Respectfully
your obt. Servt

JOSEPH WAPLES
Acty Secty. State

To Honl. JAS. REILY
*Chargé d’Affaires
etc etc*

WICKLIFFE TO REILY.^dREILY TO JONES.^eDespatch No. 86.^f

Mr Reily to Mr Wickliffe

TEXAN LEGATION

Washington May 4th 1842

The undersigned, Chargé d’Affaires of the Republic of Texas, would beg leave most respectfully to call the attention of the Hon.

^a A. I. S.^b No despatch from Reily of this date has been found.^c The remainder of the letter relates to Amory’s salary.^d May 18, 1842. See Reily to Jones, May 21, 1842.^e Reily to Wickliffe and Wickliffe to Reily copied; the remainder written and signed by Reily. Note that the transcribed copies come first in order.^f No. 85, dated May 14, 1842, relatets wholly to Reily’s financial affairs and is therefore omitted.

C A Wickliffe, Post Master General of the United States to the consideration of some plan whereby the prompt and certain interchange of letters, papers etc by mail between Texas and the United States can be effected; of the importance and necessity of such an arrangement I need not speak. The Post Office at New Orleans, from the position of that City, being as it is in almost daily intercourse with not only Galveston and the Coast by Steam Ship navigation across the Gulf, but with Eastern Texas through the medium of the numerous Steam Boats on Red river, could be made a point where mail bags could both be received from, and sent to Texas, either by the way of Galveston or Natchitoches, with but little trouble. It would be received as a great favor if the Post Master General would submit a plan which he would be willing to adopt, so that I may advise the Government of Texas and see if it meets with approval, and shall be prepared soon as the views of The Texas Government are obtained to act definitely upon [the] matter.

(signed) JAMES REILY

Mr Wickliffe to Mr Reily

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, 18th May 1842.

To JAMES REILY Esq *Chargé d'Affaires of Texas, Washington D. C.*

Sir; I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst, relative to the interchange of mails, between Texas, and the United States. After making the suggestion that New Orleans, be adopted as the channel of transmission, you ask, that this Department propose a mode of interchanging the mails, which it would be prepared to adopt that you may submit to your Government for its consideration and sanction.

Agreeably to this request I offer the following scheme;

1st to order all letters, newspapers and other mailable matter in the United States, for Texas, to be mailed for New Orleans—as well unpaid as prepaid matter.

2d. To require the Post Master of New Orleans, to forward those mails to Galveston, in Texas, by such mode of conveyance as shall be pointed out by the Post Master General of Texas; or, by the private or public ships, of either country, as opportunities may offer, without any further charge of postage on the part of the United States than what arises on the transit of these mails to New Orleans.

3d. That the United States postage of all such mails be charged to the Government of Texas, in an account kept at the New Orleans Post Office, against the Post Office of Galveston.

4th That the Post Master General of Texas shall pay over quarterly to the Post Master Genl. of the United States, all postages so charged

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against the Galveston Post Office, excepting so much thereof as has not been collected, to be shown in the accounts to be rendered to belong to dead matter that has not been delivered, to be remitted to this Department quarterly in specie or equivalent at New Orleans.

5th All mail matter in Texas, for the United States, to be mailed at Galveston, and thence forwarded to New Orleans, by ship or in such other mode as this Department shall prescribe. But it is to be understood that this Department cannot collect the Texas postage on such mail matter, except that for the delivery of New Orleans; The great number of Post Offices in the United States, rendering it impossible to execute an arrangement, that would be fully reciprocal in this respect.

6th The Post Master General of the United States will collect, and account for, the Texas postage on letters to the New Orleans delivery, and remit to the Texan Post Office Department in specie or its equivalent at Galveston, quarterly, deducting the usual Commissions allowed by law to the P Mr. of New Orleans.

The letters coming from Texas to New Orleans, will be chargeable with Ship postage, 2 cents per letter, in addition to the regular rates, from New Orleans to the place of destination in the United States; Whether a similar charge be made on the letters going from New Orleans to Galveston, is a matter to be determined by the Authorities of Texas. An exchange of locks and keys between the New Orleans and Galveston Post Offices is to be made.

Regular Commissions, similar to what are allowed the United States Post Masters, will be allowed to the Post Master General of Texas, in the settlement of his quarterly accounts with the United States, on all postages collected and paid over by him to this Department

The foregoing is similar in all respects except that no Canada postage is collected in the United States, to the arrangement existing between this Department and the British Post Offices of North America, for the exchange of mails between this Country and Canada, arrangements that have been carried on for many years, and still continue, in successful and harmonious operation.

With Sentiments of respect

Your Obt Servt.

(Signed)

C. A. WICKLIFFE

P. M. Genl. U. S.

TEXAN LEGATION *May 21st. 1842*

SIR—

I trust the plan proposed will meet the approbation of the Government, and the very moment I am authorized to inform the Post Mas-

ter General of the United States that the plan submitted has the sanction of my government, it will be carried into operation, and thus enable a free intercourse by mail to be kept up between the two nations. I struggled hard to get a point of intercommunication established in the East, but at present could not succeed. It may be gained in the course of time. For the present all mail matter unpaid must go through New Orleans and the postage due the United States must be collected in gold or silver or its equivalent, whilst the postage due [the] Texas Government can be collected as heretofore. This has been a desideratum anxiously sought by our fellow citizens and I trust the matter will meet immediate attention and I shall be favored with a prompt reply, as the Post Master General will act immediately upon my answer.

I also beg leave to call the attention of the Department to my letter of the 14th. of May and await a reply with great anxiety and request that it be numbered as despatch No. 85.

With sentiments of highest respect

Yours

JAMES REILY

To Hon

ANSON JONES

Secretary of State of Texas

P. S. All news from Mexico is favorable to Texas, shewing that miserable country is in a state of impoverishment, on the eve of revolt, and utterly unable to strike a blow against the safety or liberty of our land.

J. R.

BOCANEGRA TO WEBSTER.^a

JONES TO EVE.^b

JONES TO REILY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Houston June 7th 1842

HON. JAMES REILY

Charge d'Affaires

etc etc

SIR

Your several despatches marked Nos. 84 85 and 86 were duly received and have been laid before his Excellency the President.

^a May 31, 1842. See Reily to Jones, July 11, 1842.

^b June 6, 1842. See Calendar. The letter is printed under date of June 7.

The Archives of the Nation (etc as in the letter to A. Smith^a)
Enclosed I forward you the Commission of Thos. H. Airey as consul
of this Republic for Nachitoches, on which you [will] apply for the
usual Exequatur. The commission is some what unusual in form as
there were none of the usual blanks.

b * * * * *

The proposition made by the Hon Mr. Wickliffe Post Master
General of the United States relative to a mail arrangement between
the two countries is now under consideration by the office having
immediate charge of the Post Office Bureau, in this Department, and
an answer will be transmitted you at the earliest convenience

Resp y, etc

ANSON JONES

HOUSTON TO BOYLAN.^c

PROTEST OF MEANS AGAINST THE SEIZURE OF THE RETRIEVE.^d

AFFIDAVIT OF BARTON AS TO THE FACTS IN THE CASE OF THE RETRIEVE.^e

RELLY TO JONES.^f

Despatch No. 88.^g

LEGATION OF TEXAS WASHINGTON

June 24 1842

Hon ANSON JONES
Secretary of State

Texas.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge accompanying your de-
spatch of the 7th of June the commission of Thomas H. Airey Con-

^a This parenthetical direction indicates that there was copied in the original from the letter of Jones written the same day to Ashbel Smith, Texan minister to England and to France, the following paragraph:

"The Archives of the Nation being still retained at Austin in opposition to the orders of the Executive, and the derangement of this department consequent upon a removal under such circumstances as well as the want of suitable offices for the transaction of public business, and the necessary absence of the Clerks, render it impossible to write you as frequently as would be desirable."

^b Here are omitted several paragraphs relating to Relly's salary.

^c June 17, 1842. See Eve to Waples, August 16, 1842.

^d June 18, 1842. See Eve to Waples, August 16, 1842.

^e June 20, 1842. See Eve to Waples, August 16, 1842.

^f A. L. S.

^g No. 87, dated June 22, 1842, relates entirely to Relly's financial affairs and his desire to resign, and it is therefore omitted.

sul of Texas for the Port of Natchitoches, La. It shall be immediately attended to.

The plan submitted in my despatch of May 3d. and numbered 86,^a for the transmission of mails between Texas and the United States, I trust will meet the approbation of the Government. The Post Master General asked me a few days since if I had received an answer from home upon the subject. It will go into operation the very day I am authorized to give notice of your assent.

Sometime since I assumed the responsibility (believing it would meet the sanction of the patriotic Executive and cabinet of the Texas Government), to propose to the President and Secretary of State here, the propriety and justice of the United States as the leading power on this continent mediating between Texas and Mexico. They both informed me of their disposition and willingness to accede to my request, and Mr Webster desired me to write him a note which I might make strictly private and confidential if I saw fit, upon the matter, but which would serve as a justification for the action of this government. I did so and proposed that these alternatives be submitted for the consideration of the Mexican authorities. 1st The recognition of the Independence of Texas, with the acknowledgment of her limits as defined in the act of Congress of December 19th. 1836. If this was refused, then 2ndly. the recognition of her independence leaving the question of limits to be settled by future negotiation stipulating for a cessation of all hostilities until that question was settled. If unwilling to recognize Texas, then 3dly. An armistice or cessation of all hostilities for five years or longer and which hostilities are not to be renewed without notice being given by the party intending to renew them of at least twelve months of such renewal and the notice of renewal to be officially made through the United States. I also to my letter or note added a copy of the treaties and promises entered into by Santa Anna in 1836. On Wednesday last I called upon Mr Webster to learn what action the cabinet had taken and was informed by Mr Webster that the President and cabinet were extremely desirous to bring about a peace between the two countries and that if I would call the next morning I would be permitted to read the despatch he had prepared for Mr Thompson Minister at Mexico. Yesterday morning according to appointment I called at the State Department and was favored with a perusal of the despatch. It is a clear, manly and strong document, instructing Mr Thompson to offer the mediation of this Government between Texas and Mexico and urging with irresistible reasoning the hopelessness of Mexico ever reannexing or reconquering Texas, and the absolute necessity of peace between the two countries. Mr. Thomp-

^a The date of this despatch was in fact May 21.

son is charged in the most positive and unequivocal terms to convince Mexico of the justice and necessity of our acknowledgment as an independent nation and to do all he possibly can to obtain her consent to the mediation offered by the United States. Last evening I met Mr Webster at the house of Hon. J. C. Spencer Secretary of War and also Hon A. P. Upshur Secretary of the Navy and by all of them was informed of their extreme solicitude that peace should be restored between the two governments and the deep anxiety which as individuals and cabinet they felt on the subject and that the Executive and cabinet officers would press upon Mexico the favorable consideration of their mediation. Mr Webster further informed me that a despatch would be forwarded to Mr Eve then Chargé in Texas, with instructions to offer the mediation of this Government to Texas. I can not but express my deep anxiety that the generous and humane proposition offered by this Government, will be accepted by both belligerents and the blessings of peace established. Every day convinces me more and more of the great injury Texas is suffering from the excitement under which she is now laboring and the continued rumors of war that are sent abroad. The world is ignorant of the relative situations of Texas and her cowardly foe, and know not how invincible are her liberties against the efforts of Mexico. The rumored preparation of war by both nation[s] goes out, injuring our trade, destroying any credit we might otherwise gain, and stops the emigration of laborious mechanics, industrious farmers, and men with capital. They will not risk themselves and their property in a community where they are liable at any hour to have their business broken up and themselves marched to the field. Mr Horsley Palmer the well known English Banker informed me last evening, that the late excitement in Texas had deterred some hundreds of industrious and good citizens in England from emigrating, who had determined this spring to move to Texas and who would have proved a valuable acquisition to our population.

No sensible man who knows anything about Mexico, believes that she has the least idea of again invading Texas, but all our friends dread the consequences of an invasion on our part, unless Texas has an abundance of treasure and can march a large and well appointed army with supplies that would render it independent of the necessity of hunting for them in the enemys land. The information derived from the Hon Powhatan Ellis late Minister to Mexico and now here, is similar to what I have before communicated about the intentions of Santa Anna as regards Texas. He speaks confidently that he has not the least idea of again perilling his arms on our plains, but aims at despotism at home and for this purpose [has] gathered all the force he can. I myself from all I can learn am the more convinced that Mexico has no idea of marching upon Texas, and this too after hear-

ing and reading all the rumors now afloat about the concentration of troops on the Rio Grande frontier, in the City of Mexico and even the purchase of ships and war steamers.

You will perceive the propriety of keeping this despatch from the public eye, until some thing definite occurs in regard to the proposition made by the United States, as its development or publication might displease her President and officers and embarrass the operations of those so ready to serve us. And as it will be impossible for the response of the Mexican authorities to the proposed mediation to arrive here until after the first of August, upon which day my resignation as you have been previously advised takes effect permit me most respectfully to suggest that no time be lost in despatching my successor to this point, so as to be able to act promptly in the premises and give intelligence to the Government at home of the determination of Mexico and the future course of the United States. I have no disposition to remain until the first of August if I can be sooner relieved, but it is highly important that as various matters of deep and vital interest to Texas both as regards her relation with Mexico and her commercial relation with the United States are now situated my absence should be immediately supplied with an active and influential person, or the advantages we have gained may be lost.

It will be impossible for several weeks and perhaps not until after the adjournment of Congress to get Mr. Webster to enter upon the consideration of a treaty. He is now absorbed and weighed down with the negotiation of the great questions at issue between the United States and Great Britain. I solicited his att[ention^a] the other day to the necessity of a treaty defining our commercial relations, but he informed me it would be utterly impossible to take up the matter for sometime yet. Before the Committee on Commerce in both Houses and with several members I do not fail to press the adoption of laws which will secure to Texas, and especially the people who must use the Sabine and Red Rivers as their outlets to market the right of landing for exportation free from duty, (if not for sale which I also hope to gain) all their products. I have the honor to believe that from my exertions the bill allowing the right of drawback upon certain goods will be so amended as to secure the benefit of drawback no matter whether the goods are carried into Texas by sea, river or overland. This is important to our trade, and should have some one here to urge it to perfection.

Will you have the kindness to have my despatch dated June 22nd, numbered as 87.

With sentiments of highest respect

Yours

JAMES REILY

^a Obliterated.