

INTRODUCTION.

In editing Part II of the Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas, the same difficulties which appeared in dealing with Part I have manifested themselves with much greater intensity, and to them have been added some new ones. The effort to restore the original grouping has been especially difficult. In the files, inclosures have generally been found separate from the letters with which they were transmitted and placed in order of dates; and, in the records, though they frequently indicate the arrangement of the communications and other matter as sent or received, there is sometimes such confusion that they become utterly useless for the purpose. Besides this, some of the letters received, both those sent independently and those inclosed with others, have been taken out of the "diplomatic" correspondence and filed with other series in the archives, such as "colonization," "financial affairs," "army papers," etc.; and the task of discovering them and returning them to their places in the correspondence has not been easy. It is hoped, however, that, while a little doubt remains in some cases, the endeavor to restore the original arrangement has been fairly successful.

The principal aim, both in the arrangement of the letters and in the annotations, has been to throw as much light as possible on the internal relations of the Correspondence. In this way, it is believed, will the publication of it be given the highest degree of value for the investigator. The external relations, which can be so much more easily worked out by readers unable to reach the Texan archives but with fair library facilities available, have received much less attention.

Part II has been a little more liberally edited than Part I. Errors in the original documents that are evidently the result of pure inadvertence have been corrected, with notes where they have seemed important enough to call for it, but frequently without. The supposition of inadvertence in the case of errors in the use of French and Spanish accents has been made wherever there seemed to be room for it. But errors in this respect or any other that appear to be habitual or due to want of information have, as a general rule, been reproduced, or corrected only with annotations. More freedom has been used in editing copies that there is reason to suspect as corrupt than originals and copies that appear to be trustworthy.

The classification of the correspondence has been by subject matter rather than by the diplomatic office or location of the writer. Letters dealing with Spanish relations, for example, are placed in the correspondence with Spain, even though written by or to the Texan chargé to Great Britain and France.

The system of reference for inclosures, leading from the title to the letter with which the inclosure came, and thence sometimes to the calendar or another division of the correspondence, may now and then try the patience of the reader; but it has been adopted as that which will throw the clearest light on the history and the relations of each letter.

Before reaching final conclusions in the study of Part I, the reader should compare the corrections and further annotations and the list of addenda for Part I given in Part II.

The diplomatic relations of Texas with the European powers began in 1837, with the sending of J. Pinckney Henderson on a mission to Great Britain and France. He had letters of credence both as agent and as minister plenipotentiary to Great Britain, and presumably also to France.^a He reached London in October. The efforts to establish relations with Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, the Hanse Towns, and Prussia were made partly by the ministers in Great Britain and France, and partly by special chargés. May 20, 1839, James Hamilton was sent to act as joint agent of Texas with Henderson, both in England and France, and on April 18, 1840, he was appointed Texan diplomatic commissioner to the Netherlands, and at the same time received a second commission empowering him to treat with both the Netherlands and Belgium. January 20, 1843, William H. Daingerfield was commissioned as chargé d'affaires to the Netherlands, Belgium, and the Hanse Towns. While on his mission he visited Vienna and Berlin also, and, in fact, undertook some correspondence to ascertain through official sources the attitude of Prussia towards Texas. In 1842, Ashbel Smith, then chargé d'affaires to Great Britain and France, tried to open the way for formal negotiations with Spain by a correspondence with General Sancho, Spanish minister to Great Britain, and Washington Irving, United States minister to Spain, but nothing came of it; nor did Smith nor George W. Terrell, who was commissioned as Texan minister to Spain in 1846, visit Madrid at all.

Strenuous efforts were made by the Texan government during Lamar's administration to establish amicable relations with Mexico. On February 20, 1839, Barnard E. Bee was commissioned both as agent and as minister plenipotentiary of Texas to Mexico. He went to Vera Cruz in May; but the Mexican government refused to receive

^a No copies of his letters of credence to France have been found, but they doubtless had the same form as those to Great Britain.

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him, and he got no further. On August 9, of the same year, James Treat was appointed private and confidential agent of Texas to Mexico. He reached Mexico in December, 1839, and remained until November, 1840. On March 20, 1841, James Webb received commissions similar to those which had been given to Bee. He went to Vera Cruz in May, but was not allowed to proceed to Mexico.

On July 20, 1841, President Lamar wrote the governor of Yucatán, which was then in a state of insurrection against the central government of Mexico, inviting him to send an agent to Texas with a view to the establishment of relations of amity and commerce between the two countries. The result was a sort of military convention by which the fleet of Texas was subsidized to operate against Mexico on behalf of both Texas and Yucatán, but no treaty was concluded.

First after the United States to accord recognition to the Republic of Texas was France. This was done by a treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation concluded September 25, 1839, and ratified February 14, 1840. A similar treaty between Great Britain and Texas was signed November 13, 1840; a convention for British mediation between Mexico and Texas, on November 14; and a treaty for the suppression of the African slave trade, on November 16. For reasons which need not be detailed here, the ratifications of these three treaties were not exchanged till June 28, 1842. A commercial treaty with the Netherlands was signed September 18, 1840, and ratified June 15, 1841. A convention of amity, commerce, and navigation with the Hanse Towns was concluded April 17, 1844, and was later ratified by the Senate of Bremen; but, doubtless because of the near prospect of annexation, it seems never to have been acted on by the Senate of Texas. No treaty was concluded with Spain or Belgium. In April, 1838, before Texas was formally recognized, an agreement was effected with the British Government whereby Texan vessels were admitted to the ports of Great Britain as those of Mexico; and a resolution adopted by the senate of Bremen on August 9, 1843, provided for the admission of Texan vessels to the ports of Bremen on the same terms as to port charges and duties as the ships of Bremen on condition of a reciprocal arrangement by Texas.

Of course, until the ratification of the various treaties mentioned, the negotiations with the countries with which they were made was on a more or less informal basis. After those with Great Britain and France were ratified, chargés were sent to Texas by both these nations; but no other had a diplomatic representative to that republic at any time.^a The only chargé sent by Great Britain was Charles Elliot, whose letter of credence was dated June 28, 1842, and who

^a There is good reason to believe that Mr. J. T. Crawford, who visited Texas in April, 1837, came as a secret agent of Great Britain to report on its civil and political condition. Count de Saligny undertook a similar mission for France early in 1839, and Capt. Victor Pirson came openly as the agent of Belgium in 1842. None of these, however, appears to have had any diplomatic authority.

reached Texas in August, and remained till the eve of annexation. The first chargé of France was Count A. de Saligny,^a who was accredited October 2, 1839, and reached Texas in February, 1840. He left Texas in March, 1841, but returned for a brief period in 1842. Towards the end of that year, he was succeeded by Viscount J. de Cramayel. Some two years later, Cramayel left Texas and Saligny returned. This time he continued in the capacity of chargé until the mission was ended by annexation.

The letters printed in Part II have been taken mainly from the file of originals received and copies kept of letters sent from Texas, and from the transcripts in the books of the Department of State. Book 55, from which some of them were obtained, is evidently the original kept by Daingerfield for his missions to the Netherlands, Belgium, and the Hanse Towns. It is, however, the only book from any of the European legations that has been found in the Texan archives. That it was brought to Texas and delivered to the Secretary of State is shown by the letter of Daingerfield to Allen, February 2, 1846; and its contents place its identity beyond question.

Just as this part was ready, as the editor thought, to send to press, a considerable mass of the correspondence was found in books which had not been suspected of containing it. The reasons why it had escaped discovery are that the mass of matter in the books is so great and the indexes so imperfect. The indexes are, in fact—where they exist at all—often worse than useless, in that they are misleading. Many of the letters in the newly discovered group belong to the period of Correspondence with the United States covered by Part I. They make it possible, in some cases and to a certain extent, to follow both sides of the correspondence where the letters already published had given but one. While the editor does not feel absolutely certain that some letters may not still have evaded his search, he hopes that little of importance preserved in the Texan archives and properly to be included in the correspondence now remains unpublished.

The editor is under special obligations to State Librarian E. W. Winkler, who several years ago gave the Correspondence here printed its first approach toward rational and useful arrangement, and consequent availability for the student. Mr. Winkler's minute knowledge of the Texan archives and of southwestern history in general have made his freely rendered assistance of the highest value. Grateful acknowledgment is made also to instructors Walton H. Hamilton and J. L. Worley, of the University of Texas, for help in verifying and arranging the copies; to Profs. Lilia M. Casís and E. J. Villavaso, also of this university, for verifying, respectively, the Spanish and

^a Thus written by himself. The name is usually given in official documents emanating from the French Government as "Dubois de Saligny."

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GEORGE P. GARRISON,
University of Texas.

NOTE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 24, 1910.*

The Commission suffered a severe loss in the death of Professor George P. Garrison during the progress of this work. Professor Garrison died in July, 1910, before reading a single page of the proof of this second part of the "Diplomatic Correspondence of Texas." The labor of proof-reading, therefore, fell upon others, who did not possess the special knowledge, experience, and full equipment enjoyed by him. This has occasioned some delay, and may have resulted in some inaccuracy.

Professor Garrison had for years been preparing the material for these volumes, and, fortunately, left it in very good shape for publication. So far as the collation of the text is concerned, he gave assurances of completeness and accuracy. The list of material already published was prepared by him, and he left, to be used with the documents as they were published, notes explaining and illustrating the subject. These have been inserted in the places designated by him. The volume practically stands as his labor.

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