

HOUSTON TO JONES.^a

JONES TO VAN ZANDT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington [Texas], July 13th 1844.To the Hon. I. VAN ZANDT,
*Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Texas.**etc etc etc*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several despatches to the 18th of June Ulto.

In consequence of the absence of the President and a pressure of business upon the Dept., I write you at this time very briefly.

In a private letter which I recieved from his Excellency yesterday, he says "I enclose you a letter from Mr. Van Zandt in which he announces having sent his resignation to you. You will accept his resignation in the most courteous terms and express to him the confidence of the Executive in his patriotism and integrity"^b In accepting the tender of your resignation, allow me to add to the expression of the President the assurance that the Department has every reason to be satisfied with your conduct as Chargé d'Affaires, at Washington and with the very able zealous and faithful manner in which you have discharged all the arduous duties which have from time to time been devolved on you. The interests of the country have been well sustained by you and I devoutly hope you may live to enjoy its approbation and its highest rewards. I regret that circumstances have rendered your resignation necessary but am well aware that the compensation is not sufficient to support you and justify you in longer neglecting your private affairs

Enclosed I send you your leave of absence to be presented to the Secretary of State of the U. S. whenever you are ready to leave. It is not deemed necessary that you should remain, at your post to await a call of the U. S. Congress nor is it the wish of the govt that you should stay even if a Special Session should be determined on.

It is my desire that the matter of compensation to Texas by the U. S. for the goods taken from our Collector at Bryarly's landing and the arms etc taken from Col Snively's command should be pressed upon the consideration of the U S Government

On leaving you will place the archives of your legation in the Hands of Mr Raymond, who will act in the capacity of Chargé untill an appointment is made of a successor

^a July 8, 1844. See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

^b The letter was dated July 8. See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

Enclosed I send for your information Copies of two letters lately recd one from Gen. Murphy Chargé d'Affaires of the U. S.^a the other from Gen Adrian Woll announcing to Texas a resumption of hostilities on the part of Gen. Santa Anna^b The complaint set up by Gen Santa Anna that Texas has acted perfidiously in not sending Commissioners to Mexico agreeably to the terms of an *Armistice* proposed at Sabinas by the Commissioners who were sent there is without any just foundation in fact. As it was one of the expressed and agreed conditions upon which those Commissioners were sent that any agreement which might be made by them should not be of any force unless confirmed by the Supreme Govt. of Mexico on the one part and Texas on the other. This Government immediately on its receipt, rejected this proposed Armistice, information of which was informally given to Capt. Elliot, the medium of communication between us and Mexico. On the other hand, the Supreme Govt. of Mexico failed to give us notice that she had approved the acts of her Commissioners. So that both by the act of rejection on the part of the Govt., and the omission on the part of Mexico to notify Texas that she had approved and confirmed the Armistice the same was void and utterly null.

The true cause of this renewal of hostilities I presume to be the negotiations between the U States and Texas for Annexation

I have the honor to be
with the highest respect
Your Obt. Svt.

Signed ANSON JONES

GREEN TO JONES.^c

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Galveston July 14th. 1844.

To The Hon ANSON JONES

Secty of State

of the Republic of Texas.

SIR

The Undersigned Consul of the United States at Galveston has the painful duty to perform, of announcing to the Honorable Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas, the death of the Honorable William S. Murphy, late Chargé d' Affaires of the United States near this Government. This sad event took place on the morning of the 13th. inst at 1.30 Oelock.

Among the Archives of the Legation falling to the custody of the Undersigned by this event, is a communication from the Secretary

^a This letter has not been found.

^b Dated June 19, 1844.

^c See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 42, p. 511, for both this letter and its inclosure.

of State of the United States to General Murphy informing him of his rejection by the Senate, and enclosing the communication to the Honorable Secretary of State of Texas, herewith forwarded

In presenting the communication referred to, and in taking leave of the Chief Magistrate of this Republic, General Murphy is enjoined by the Secretary of State of the United States to renew to the Government of Texas, assurances of the friendly disposition of the President of the United States towards this Republic, and of his hope that it will be reciprocated, and that nothing may take place which will have a tendency to weaken that disposition on either part.

The Undersigned takes this occasion to inform the Honorable Secretary of State, that by instructions from his Government he has taken charge of the Archives of this Legation until the successor of General Murphy shall arrive; and that during this interim it will give him great satisfaction to communicate with the Honorable Secretary of State upon any subject that may arise of mutual interest to this country and that of the United States.

By recent advices from the South west, the undersigned has learned that a bearer of dispatches from the Government of Mexico has proceeded to the Seat of Government of Texas, and that under the present existing circumstances he will be excused for requesting at this early moment to be made acquainted with such parts of the subjects of those dispatches as may be interesting to his Government, in order that he may communicate the information without delay, to the Honorable Secretary of State of the United States.

The Undersigned avails himself of this occasion to assure the Hon Secretary of State, of his high consideration and respect.

A. M. GREEN

[Here follows a transcript of the enclosure referred to, Calhoun to the Secretary of State of Texas, June 12, 1844, announcing the recall of Murphy.]

HAYS TO HILL.^a

JONES TO GREEN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington [Texas,] July 22d 1844

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 14th Inst, announcing to this Department the melancholy intelligence of the decease of the Hon. Wm S. Murphy late Chargé d' Affaires of

^a July 21, 1844 (extract). Copy sent with Jones to Howard, August 6, 1844. See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

the U. States near this government, and that by instructions of your government you had taken charge of the archives of the Legation untill Gen. Murphy's successor should arrive etc. accompanying which was a letter from the Hon. Secretary of State of the United States addressed [to] this Department.

The friendly sentiments towards this Republic which on behalf of the Govt. of the United States, Gen. Murphy was enjoined to make known to this Government, a duty which his lamented decease prevented him from performing but which you have now executed, are I beg leave to assure highly appreciated, and fully reciprocated, by this Govt.

In reply to your request to be made acquainted with, such parts of the despatches lately recieved by this Govt from Mexico as might be interesting to the government of the United States I have the honor to inform you that copies of those despatches were some days since forwarded to Mr. Van Zandt our Chargé d' Affaires at Washington who will, I doubt not, communicate the desired information to the Hon. Secretary of State of the United States, without delay.

Be pleased to accept, Sir the assurances of the high consideration and regard with which I have the honor to remain

Your Most obt. Servt.

(Signed) ANSON JONES

To, A. M. GREEN Esq.

U. S. Consul

etc, etc, etc.

BROWER TO VAN ZANDT.^a

HOUSTON TO SANTA ANNA.^b

HILL TO WOLL.^b

JONES TO RAYMOND.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington [Texas] July 29th 1844^c

To CHARLES H. RAYMOND Esq.

acting Chargé d' Affaires of Texas

etc etc etc

SIR,

The Hon. Isaac Van Zandt having resigned the office of Chargé d' Affaires of this Republic near the Govt. of the U. States it is the

^a July 27, 1844. See Van Zandt to Jones, August 8, 1844.

^b July 29, 1844. See Jones to Raymond, August 6, 1844.

^c Received August 23. See Raymond to Jones, September 12, 1844.

desire of the President that you should assume the duties as acting Chargé untill a Successor shall have been appointed and arrived at Washington City.

You will take the earliest opportunity to notify the Government of the United States that a Council will be held at Tawacoro^a Creek near the Brazos on the 15th Sept next between Commissioners of Texas and the Commanche and other Indians who reside within and upon our limits, and invite that Government to send a Commissioner or agent to be present at that time and place, to aid in promoting the reciprocally important object of effecting a peace with these Indians.

The place fixed upon for holding this Council is the same at which the Council was held in March 1843 at which Govr. Butler was present. The time is fixed for the 15th Septr. but it is not very probable that the Indians will come in exactly at the day appointed or that much will be effected before the latter part of the month.

Should a Commissioner or agent be sent to attend this Council on the part of the U. States it would be desireable that he should be attended by a large escort of Dragoons not that any danger is apprehended to the Commissioners but for the purpose of making an impression upon the Savages

I have the honor to be with the highest respect

Your Most obt Svt

(Signed)

ANSON JONES

ADDRESS OF HOWARD TO JONES.^b

Address of Mr. Howard on presenting his letter of Credence to the Hon. Anson Jones Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas.

On presenting to you, Sir, this letter of Credence from my Government, I am instructed to express to you, the warm interest felt by the President of the United States, in the happiness and prosperity of the Government and people of Texas, and the earnest desire which animates him to preserve and strengthen the bonds of good feeling and kind relations which now, so happily, subsist between the two countries.

In addition to this expression of the feelings and sentiments of the President, I avail myself of the occasion to add, that similar sentiments are cherished by the people of the United States, and that at no former period has a deeper interest been felt, for the welfare and prosperity of the people and government of this Republic, than exists at the present time.

^a Tavakana.

^b A. D. undated, but inserted between the 2nd and 6th of August, 1844. See Howard to Jones of the former date, and Jones to Howard of the latter.

During my residence here, Mr. Secretary it will be my study to promote and strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries—a course which I can adopt with great cordiality, in view of the common origin of our people, and that identity of interest, which seem so clearly to point to our destiny.

It remains my painful duty, further to say, that the gratification I feel in being the organ of my Government in the expression of these sentiments, is much tempered by the chastening circumstances which have attended my arrival in this Republic, in the death of two distinguished fellow citizens—Gen Murphy and Col. Green, two of our public functionaries.

I have been, however, much consoled by the generous sympathy which I have every where met from your people. This is the more consolatory, as it will be evidence to their friends and afflicted families at home, of the confidence and respect, which, I have the satisfaction to know, were enjoyed by them amongst the citizens of this Republic.

JONES'S REPLY TO HOWARD'S ADDRESS.^a

Reply of Mr. Jones to the address of Gen. Howard

GENERAL,

I take great pleasure in receiving and recognizing you as the accredited representative of the United States to Texas; and in assuring you that the friendly sentiments and kind wishes which you have expressed on behalf of the President of the United States and the people of that country towards the government and people of this, are highly appreciated and fully reciprocated by the President and people of Texas.

Adverting to the fact of your former connexion with the President of Texas and the intimate personal relations which have for a great length of time existed between yourself and him rendering your appointment, so very acceptable to his Excellency I am happy to witness in your selection as their Representative here another proof of the friendship of the United States, towards Texas

I shall take much pleasure General, in co-operating with you in the work of preserving the good understanding which now so happily exists between the two countries, and in drawing still closer the ties which should unite them. In the performance of a duty so agreeable to myself I am well satisfied I shall be acting in accordance with the wishes and the feelings of the people of Texas who ever mindful of the identity of the origin language laws and customs of the two nations ardently desire united destiny.

The sentiments which you have expressed, on this occasion in reference to the recent melancholy death of the two distinguished func-

^a See title of Howard's address, note.

tionaries of you[r] government, Gen. Murphy and Col. Green are very proper, and I assure you of the sympathy I feel in common with all our fellow citizens, at the loss which their country as well as their friends and families have sustained, by this afflictive dispensation of divine providence.

JONES TO RAYMOND.^a

[Transmits copies of the following: Houston to Santa Anna, July 29, 1844;^b Hill to Woll, July 29, 1844.^c]

HILL TO JONES.^d

JONES TO HOWARD.^e

[Inclosed were Hays to Hill (extract), July 21, 1844; Woll to Houston, June 19, 1844; Hill to Jones, August 6, 1844.]

HOWARD TO JONES.^f

JONES TO RAYMOND.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington [Texas,] Augt. 6th 1844

To C. H. RAYMOND Esq.
acting Chargé d'Affaires of Texas

SIR,

Information has just been recieved through Col. J. C. Hays commanding on our South Western frontier, that Mexico is actually about to make a hostile movement upon this country. Enclosed herewith I send you the copy of a letter from the Hon. G. W. Hill Secretary of War and Marine addressed on to-day to this Department with the accompanying documents marked A. and B. which will place you more fully in possession of the particulars in relation to the immediate expected movements of the enemy.^g

^a August 5, 1844. See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 44, p. 222. This dispatch was received August 23. See Raymond to Jones, September 12, 1844.

^b See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

^c See Correspondence with Mexico.

^d August 6, 1844. Copy inclosed with Jones to Howard, August 6, 1844. See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

^e August 6, 1844. For this letter and its inclosures, see Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

^f A. L. S., August 6, 1844. See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

^g The inclosures are the same as those sent to Howard, August 6, 1844, except that Howard's reply is added. For this, see Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

Information received from the city of Mexico through the agent of the United States Government there, has made known the fact that, Gen. Santa Anna is engaged in raising funds, and recruiting an army for the avowed purpose of attempting to subjugate Texas and that in pursuance of his design he has already despatched a number of troops from the city of Mexico and is concentrating them and other forces upon the Rio Grande.

The fact, that the negotiations for an armistice in progress at Sabinas in Feb. last were suddenly interrupted upon the receipt of the intelligence by Mexico that a proposition for the annexation of Texas to the United States had been submitted by the latter country, and that subsequently the information of the conclusion of the treaty had given great umbrage to the Mexican Govt. taken in connexion with the letter of Gen. Woll^a seems conclusively to indicate that these movements of the enemy have been caused, by pending negotiations between the United States and Texas on the subject above referred to.

I have consequently called this day upon Gen. Howard, Chargé d'Affaires of the U States requesting him to take early action upon the assurances given to this Govt. by Gen. Murphy and by Mr. Calhoun, and that the promised aid might be rendered to Texas by his Government.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of his reply to my communication by which you will perceive that Gen. Howard thinks it necessary to refer the whole matter back to his government for its action, and to await instructions from the City of Washington. This delay has given great dissatisfaction to the President

It was his impression that he should at any time in case of threatened danger to Texas command the aid of the Military and Naval force of the United States in the Gulf and upon our frontier. This was expected to be rendered in case of emergency like the present, even, without the delay of an appeal to the government at Washington

It is the wish of the President therefore that you should immediately make known to the President of the United States his understanding of the pledges given for the security and protection of Texas during the pendency of negotiations for Annexation, and his conviction of the importance to the success of that measure of immediate action on the part of the U States government, in the employment of their land forces on our frontier in preventing the threatened injury to Texas; and of such other means as may be deemed adviseable and proper for the same object.

This Government trusts that the action of the United States in reference to this subject will be prompt and efficient, a course which

^a One of the Inclosures.

you will urge upon them by every consideration in your power to offer.

Gen. Howard despatches an express to-morrow to Gen. Taylor at Fort Jesup by whom I shall send you this communication.

Should not the required aid be rendered by the United States, it is probable you will be instructed to break off all negotiations having for their object the annexation of Texas to the United States, nor can we wait beyond a reasonable time for their determination to be made known.

I have the honor to remain
very Respectfully
Your Obt Svt

(Signed) ANSON JONES

HOWARD TO JONES.^a

VAN ZANDT TO JONES.^b

No 127.

LEGATION OF TEXAS

Washington [City] August 8th. 1844

HON ANSON JONES

Secretary of State

DEAR SIR

I have delayed writing to you for some time, with the expectation daily of receiving something from your department. The Steamers having left for New York, and all communication being thereby rendered uncertain I shall delay no longer.

In my last dispatch I informed you that I anticipated an early and satisfactory adjustment of the Red River difficulty.^c I had just then had an interview with Mr. Calhoun in which I submitted to him the points upon which we rested the claim for indemnity, to all of which, after some little discussion he assented, and promised to submit the matter to the President for his determination, at the next Cabinet meeting. This he did, but instead of the President's approving it, he and the cabinet all dissented. The Attorney General, Mr. Nelson then drew up a written and lengthy opinion in opposition to the demand, after which Mr. Calhoun sent for, and made known to me the result, submitting to me the opinion of the Attorney General for my inspection and consideration. Upon an examination of it with, all the other objections urged, I informed Mr. Calhoun that if he would make me a communication upon the subject

^a August 7, 1844. See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

^b L. S.

^c The attack on Collector Bourland. See Bourland to Secretary of Treasury of Texas, May 4, 1843, in Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

in reply to my former demands, I was prepared to enter upon the discussion. He then suggested that it would perhaps be more satisfactory to discuss it, first, verbally, at the Department, and that, then, in the event we did not agree, the written correspondence might be opened. To this I assented, believing they would more readily abandon their position before the committal on paper against the demand, than afterwards. On the next day I repaired to the state department where we took up the matter and discussed it near two hours each day for about a week, exploring the whole range of cases and authorities from the earliest writers up. The result was that at the end of the investigation my positions were fully admitted by the Secretary of State, and I understand sanctioned by the majority of the Cabinet. Mr. Calhoun then drew up a formal reply acknowledging their liability for the damages. Before sending it to the President he submitted it for my inspection, after some slight modifications I told him it would be satisfactory. The communication was then forwarded to the President who had gone to Norfolk. Upon an examination he dissented from some portion of the conclusions of Mr. Calhoun and returned the communication, suggesting certain modifications. On the receipt of this answer Mr. Calhoun sent for me and expressed a desire that the case should rest until the President returns to the city, which will be in the course of the present week; when he anticipated a removal of every difficulty. To this course I have consented. I have been thus explicit that you may understand the cause of the delay.

You will of course have seen that the Mexican Congress have voted Four millions of dollars and thirty thousand men for the invasion of Texas, also the manifesto of Genl Woll to Genl Houston^a declaring the intention to re-commence hostilities against Texas. I have seen likewise the correspondence both official and private, of the United States Charge de' Affaires in Mexico to the State Department here. From a survey of the whole facts that have been developed I think we may conclude that it is the intention of Santa Anna, again, to commence the war upon *some scale*, the measure and extent of which will much depend upon the encouragement that he may receive abroad. If England winks at the measure, we may look out for a formidable effort. England will of course view all the circumstances, and pursue that policy which her interest may seem to dictate. There is no occasion for a panic in Texas, and [it] should by all means be avoided. You know the pledges of the President of the United States. I think we may rely with every confidence that they will be fulfilled. Your Representative here should be kept advised as frequently as possible upon this subject, and especially as to the views and wishes of the President.

^a That is, the letter of June 19, 1844.

There is advertised to be sold on the 20th. Inst, a large amount of the public arms at New York. I am endeavouring to get the sale, of three thousand stand of them, suspended until we can see whether we need them or not. They can be got low, and it may probably be to our advantage to secure them, especially if we can do so in such way as to pay for them out of any indemnity we may get from this Government. I merely make the suggestion in order to have the opinion of the President upon the subject.

The two Mexican Steamers now repairing in New York, I learn from Mr. Brower are making great efforts to complete their works and outfit. I send you a copy of Mr. Brower's letter. The suggestion which he makes in regard to the effort to seize the vessels I think might be successfully attempted near New York. I went to Baltimore a few days ago partly to see what could probably be done. If the proper papers and powers were placed in the hands of your Representative here, with proper caution and energy, I think arrangements might be made to seize them, without a dollars expense to Texas, by proposing to some proper individual the spoils, or a portion of them for pay. The vessels will not likely get off before the 1st. of October.

I expect by the next mail notice of the acceptance of my resignation. I hope my successor if one has been appointed may arrive with my recall, that I may be able to explain the situation of matters here, as present appearances indicate that this will soon be the theatre of important action in our affairs.

* * * * *

Since writing the foregoing I have seen Mr. Calhoun who informed me, that it was stated in the dispatch just received from Mr. King the American Minister in Paris that in an interview, which that gentleman had with the King of the French His Majesty told Mr. King that they wished Texas to remain independent, upon commercial grounds, but would take no part in any controversy growing out of the question of annexation.

I remain with high regard

Your Most Obedient Servt.

ISAAC VAN ZANDT

(Extract of a letter from Mr. Brower to Mr. Van Zandt, referred to in the foregoing dispatch.)

"CONSULATE OF TEXAS *New York July 27th. 1844*

DEAR SIR

You are aware the Mexican War Steamers, "Gaudalupe" and "Montezuma"^b are here undergoing repairs. I was told a few days

^a Here is omitted a paragraph relating to Van Zandt's salary.

^b These were the two vessels built in England in 1842 and allowed to go to sea in spite of the protests of Chargé Ashbel Smith. See Smith to Aberdeen June 14, 1842 (the protest), in the Correspondence with Great Britain.

since, by a person who saw it that there appeared much anxiety on the part of the officers to hurry forward the work—from which he supposed Dispatches may have been recd., pertaining to the part they may be designed to take in Santa Anna's new project for the invasion of Texas. If any part, naturally, the object would be to use them for blockading the Texian shipping ports, especially that Texas, now, has no Naval force in commission. It has appeared to me that the Government and people of Texas should look to the protection of their sea coast, and without any bustle, but as quietly as possible plan some expedition by which to board and take those Steamers if they appear off Galveston. It appears to me an ordinary Steamer, under American colors, properly manned with men of right nerve, well equipped, might accomplish the object. Of course it is for you to make any suggestion you may please, to the Texian Executive upon the subject."

VAN ZANDT TO CALHOUN.^a

CALHOUN TO KING.^b

CALHOUN TO VAN ZANDT.^c

VAN ZANDT TO CALHOUN.^d

VAN ZANDT TO JONES.^e

No. 128

LEGATION OF TEXAS

Washington D. C. August 16th. 1844

Hon ANSON JONES

Secretary of State

SIR

I have the honor to enclose you herewith the note of Mr. Calhoun of the 14th. Inst, together with the documents which accompanied it, and my reply of this date to the same.

If the President shall acquiesce in the acquittal of Captain Cooke, and the offer to return or make compensation for the arms, it will only be necessary to indicate at what point the arms are desired to be delivered. If it be wished, new arms will be given instead of those taken. If a monied compensation be preferred, it will be necessary to await an appropriation by Congress. As the arms will likely be needed in the country, and less difficulty would attend

^a August 10, 1844. See Van Zandt to Jones, August 19, 1844.

^b August 12, 1844. See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

^c August 14, 1844. See Van Zandt to Jones, August 16, 1844.

^d August 16, 1844. See Van Zandt to Jones of same date.

^e L. S.

their acceptance, it seems to me it would be policy to receive them instead of awaiting the tardy action of Congress.

I have been told that Captain Cooke has a letter from Colonel Snively in which he expresses his gratitude for the kindness shown him by Cooke. If this be true, perhaps it would be unnecessary to prosecute the case further.

I hope the President will be pleased at the prospect of a favorable adjustment of the Red River difficulty.^a The assurances given are perhaps as favorable as we could expect under the circumstances. In fact as to the liability, every thing is conceded which could be desired. If I had had "full powers" for the purpose, it would have been more formal to have concluded a convention, but not having them I think the matter is as well shaped as could be.

The Affidavit of the Collector and others as to the introduction, seizure and value of the goods will be all sufficient, to transmit to the Congress of the United States, but these should be obtained and forwarded to this Legation as early as possible. I told Mr. Calhoun during the discussion I was of opinion, although not authorized to say so officially, that our Government would be willing, as an act of courtesy, to relinquish the claim for damages so far as the property actually belonged to the United States. I should be much gratified if my opinion as thus expressed should be sanctioned by the President.

We have no further news from Mexico. The papers of yesterday contain a rumor that the Mexican loan of four millions had been taken by Great Britain, but I think there is nothing to substantiate the report.

We have no mail yet from Texas.

The President and Cabinet are discussing the propriety of a call of Congress to consider how far Texas should be protected against Mexico. This is Cabinet day, and if anything important transpires I will advise you of it to morrow.

With great respect, Yr Most Obdt. Servt

ISAAC VAN ZANDT

[Here follows a copy of Calhoun to Van Zandt, August 14, 1844.^b]

(Copy)

WAR DEPARTMENT

April 24, 1844

SIR

I respectfully transmit herewith an extract of the proceedings, containing the opinion, of the Court of Inquiry held at Fort Leavenworth, Missouri, under the orders of the President, in the case of Captain Cooke of the U. S. Dragoons, in relation to the discharge

^a See note c, p. 297.

^b See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

of the duty assigned to him for the protection of the Caravan of Santa Fe traders over the territory of the United States to the Texan frontier in May and June 1843.

Very Respectfully, Your Obdt. Servt

WM. WILKINS, *Secretary of War*

Hon JOHN C. CALHOUN

Secretary of State.

(Copy)

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Washington April 24th. 1844

Extract of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry held at Fort Leavenworth, Mo, in the month of April, pursuant to "general orders" No. 6, dated February 28th. 1844, instituted by order of the President, "to examine into and report the facts respecting the manner in which Captain P. St. George Cooke, of the United States Dragoons, discharged the duties assigned to him for the protection of the Caravan of Santa Fe traders over the territory of the United States to the Texan frontier in May and June 1843, whether, in his march, he disarmed the Texan force under Colonel Snively, if so, in what territory and in what manner; and whether his conduct was harsh and unbecoming."

"The Opinion".

In view of the foregoing facts, the Court is of opinion, that Captain P. St George Cooke, of the Regiment of United States Dragoons, on the 30th. of June 1843, disarmed a Texan force under Colonel Snively, within the territory of the United States, by causing them to lay down their arms, under an appropriate exhibition of military force of United States Dragoons; and that there was nothing in the conduct of Captain Cooke that was harsh and unbecoming" The Court is further of opinion that Captain Cooke did not exceed the authority for the protection of the lawful trade of the Santa Fe Caravan, "derived from the orders of the Secretary of War to the Commanding General of the army, dated March 28th. 1843, and of the Adjutant General to Colonel Kearney,^a dated March 29th. 1843", and that the confidence reposed in him by his Government was not "in any degree misplaced".

The Court then adjourned sine-die

(signed)

H. S. TURNER

1st Lieut and Adjt Dragoons

Recorder of Court

(signed)

S. W. KEARNEY

Col U. S. Dragoons

President of Court

True Copy

(signed) R. JONES

Adjt. Genl.

^a Kearny.

(Copy.)

WAR DEPARTMENT

June 27, 1844

SIR

In answer to your communication of this day, I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of two letters of Wm. Armstrong Esq. Acting Superintendent of Indian Affairs West, and Choctaw Agent,^a and a report of the Adjutant General of the Army, which contain all the information required, and not embraced in the letter of the Secretary of War to the Department of State, on the 11th. of May 1843, so far as it can now be furnished by this Department.

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt

D. PARKER

Actg Secy of War

To Hon.

JNO. C. CALHOUN

Secretary of State.

(Copy.)

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Washington, June 27, 1844

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR,

SIR

I herewith submit a copy of Brigr. General Taylor's report of the 2nd. of April, (marked B) relative to the protection alledged to have been given by an officer of the Army of the United States to persons concerned in an assault upon the Collector of Red River in the Republic of Texas, etc refered to in the letter of the Secretary of State of this date, being the result of the inquiry directed to be made in the matter, as seen by instructions from this office to Genl. Taylor of the 11th. March, of which a copy is herewith furnished, (marked A). I also submit herewith a copy of Lieut Colonel Loomis' report (the officer implicated) to Genl. Taylor, dated April 20th. 1843, which accompanied the General's communication of April 2. (Marked C). These are all the papers which have been received relative to the subject.

Respectfully submitted.

(signed)

R. JONES

Adjt. Genl.

^a Neither of these two copies is on file with that of Parker's letter; but they must have been those of the two communications of Armstrong to Crawford, one of April 10, 1843, and the other undated, that were enclosed with Van Zandt to Jones, August 15, 1843.

(Copy.)

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Washington March 11th. 1844

SIR

You will see by the correspondence, copies of which are herewith enclosed, between *Isaac Van Zandt* Esq. Charge d'Affaires of Texas, and the Secretary of State, (and the accompanying papers) relative to an alledged assault upon the Collector of the Customs of Texas, for the District of Red River, and violation of the revenue laws of that Republic by sundry citizens of the United States, that complaint is made against Lieut. Colonel Loomis, commanding at Fort Towson, it being alledged that he protected the said assailants, in their persons and property, by placing a guard on board the Steam Boat "Fort Towson". I am therefore directed to call your attention to this complaint against the officer of the army named, and that you report thereon for the information of the War Department and the Government.

I am sir, very Respectfully

Your Obdt. Servt

(signed)

R. JONES, *Adj. Genl.*

Brigr General

Z TAYLOR

*Com'g 2nd. Dept**Fort Smith, Ark.*

(Copy.)

HD. QRS. 2D MILY DEPT.

Fort Smith April 2d 1844

SIR

Your communication of March 11th. with enclosures from 1 to 7, relative to an alledged participation of the Military force of Fort Towson, in an interference with the revenue laws of Texas in April 1843, has been received. I respectfully enclose herewith, Lt. *Col Loomis'* original report on the subject; dated April 20th. 1843, which will, I trust, be found satisfactory. His course was fully approved by me at the time, and the case seemed so plain that I did not deem it necessary to make any report to General Head Quarters. It will be seen from the Lt Colonels' report, as well as from the account of the affair given by the Texan Collector, in No 4,^a that the Military force had nothing to do with the forcible removal of the goods from

^a Bourland to Secretary of Treasury of Texas, May 4, 1843. See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

the custody of the revenue officer, that after they were placed on board the Steam Boat, and once more within the limits of the United States, a guard, at the application of the Master of the boat, was placed over them, in which I deem that Lt. *Col Loomis* did not exceed the limits of his duty, particularly as public stores were on board. It is believed that *Col Churchill*, Inspector General, was on board the Fort Towson at the time, and I would respectfully refer you to him for any further particulars.

I am, Sir, very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt

(signed)

Z TAYLOR *Br't Brig. Genl.*

U. S. Army, Comd'g.

The ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY

Washington D. C.

(Copy.)

HE[A]D QUARTERS FORT TOWSON

20th April 1843

CAP.

For the information of the Commanding General 2d. Mil. Dept. I have to inform you that on tuesday, 11th. inst, I was informed by the master of the Steam Boat, Fort Towson, that he had a large quantity of public stores, as well as merchandise, etc, belonging to merchants of Doaksville and Sutlers of the posts of Fort Towson and Washita, and that he was apprehensive of an attack from the Texan Custom-house officers, and requested a guard for his boat, which was lying about 35 miles, by land, below this. I sent Lt Merrill of the Riflemen, with 30 of his Company, and Lieut Ernst, of the 6th. Infantry. Lieut Merrill has this morning returned, leaving Lieut Ernst and 10 men to come up on the boat.—No appearance of an attack—The river is rising and the boat expected to day. I am told these goods were stored on the Texan shore to lighten the boat, and seized by the Custom-house Officers of Texas, and afterwards taken by force from the store by the Master of the Fort Towson, therefore, he feared an attempt to recapture them.

Although I do not sanction any attack upon Texas, I could not allow our boats to be molested. This was also the opinion of Col. Churchill. Immediately upon the news of their seizure, the Merchants of Doaksville etc sent an express to Washington, Texas, to demand their release. I wrote our Chargé d'Affaires, requesting him to use his influence to procure the restoration of these goods.

I believe the re-capture was the act of the master etc of the Fort
Towson, and unknown to the Merchants and owners of the goods.

Respectfully, Sir,
Your Ob Servt.

G LOOMIS
Lt. Col. 6: Inf
Commg.

Captain W. W. S. BLISS
Asst. Adj't Genl.
Fort Smith
Ark.

[Here follows a copy of Van Zandt to Calhoun, August 16, 1844.^a]

BROWER TO VAN ZANDT.^b

CALHOUN TO VAN ZANDT.^c

VAN ZANDT TO JONES.^d

No. 129.

LEGATION OF TEXAS
Washington D. C. August 19th. 1844.

HON ANSON JONES
Secretary of State

SIR

I have the honor to enclose you herewith a copy of my note of the 10th. instant to the Secretary of State of the United States requesting the delivery of two boys said to have been taken prisoners on the Trinity River, and now among the Wichitaw Indians, together with a copy of the reply thereto of the 17th. instant which I have just received. You will perceive from my note to Mr. Calhoun that I derived the information concerning the boys through the letter of Mr. Upshaw Chickasaw Agent. I have no knowledge of their names or ages. It was stated by the Indian Chief who gave the information to Mr. Upshaw, that their parents were murdered at the time of their capture. The boys will no doubt be recovered and sent to the Chickasaw Agency. Would it not be well to publish the fact that the friends of the boys may take the necessary steps to secure their safe return?

^a See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

^b August 16, 1844. See Van Zandt to Jones, August 19, 1844.

^c August 17, 1844. See Van Zandt to Jones, August 19, 1844.

^d L. S.

I did not deem it necessary to await your instructions in this matter, but thought it best to act promptly lest the delay might embarrass the object. I hope the steps I have taken may meet the approbation of the President

I have just received a letter from Mr. Brower, dated 16th. instant, in reply to certain inquiries which I addressed him respecting the Mexican Steamers now at New York. I send you an extract of the same. In a few days I expect to hear from him again when I may think proper to write you further on the subject.

With the highest respect I have the honor to be
Your Most Obedt. Servt.

ISAAC VAN ZANDT

[Next come copies of the following:^a Van Zandt to Calhoun, August 10, 1844; Calhoun to Van Zandt, August 17, 1844.]

(Extract from Mr. Brower's letter to Mr. Van Zandt)

"CONSULATE OF TEXAS NEW YORK

August 16th. 1844

DEAR SIR

I acknowledge with pleasure your much estd. letter of 12th inst. I have heard it rumored that the Steamers "Guadalupe" and "Montezuma" are to be manned, or partially so with U. S. seamen when they leave here, but as yet, I am not enabled to write you with that degree of certainty upon this point which I hope to do in a few days, having a friend, who can approach the matter in the right place, as I think, now seeking information for me.

I think with you, it might not be policy to interfere with the shipment of the crews of these steamers—except so far to have knowledge of the fact, as to rebut any charges by Mexico against the United States and her citizens for doing towards Texas that which, in repeated cases, Mexico has attained for herself. Nor do I believe but that Amer. seamen on board these ships might easily be taught to feel more patriotism for Texas than Mexico, provided a few good and sagacious friends of Texas could be shipped on board each vessel.

There can be but little doubt that England is endorsing Mexico in the proposed campaign. England prefers Texian Independence with free ports, and second to this she sees her interest clearly in returning Texas to the Govt. of Mexico in preference to annexation to the U. S. She is acting on this principle with that secrecy and sagacity which control all the great measures of her Cabinet Counsels."

The above is a true extract

CHAS. H. RAYMOND ^b
Secty of Legation

^a See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States in Part I.

^b Autograph.