

St. Anna will have to contend with an ex President Bustamanti^a and not an upstart General. The struggle will be a fierce one. The new Republic will be the gainer and from all I can learn there is not any wish to disturb her tranquility at present. Everything here is very quiet and calm. The conducta arrived with \$800,000—350,000 of which is on board this vessell. The Zacatecas Conducta leaves the 10th next Month the Balance of this Conducta, a Half Million will be shipped on board the British Packet for European account.^b Business in the interior pretty good, here rather dull. As this letter is merely for your own private information I beg the favour of your not publishing it in any of your public Journals. No news of the Draft. not received an answer to my letter this letter or any other requiring no reply

As usual

AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITISH HOLDERS OF MEXICAN BONDS AND
AGENTS OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.^c

CANALES TO PRESIDENT LAMAR.^d

REYNOSA Decr. 17th. 1838

3rd. Division of the Federal Army
To the PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
SIR

On the 3rd. of last month these towns of the North declared for the Federal System. The movement has progressed very rapidly and uninterruptedly, and I doubt not the Republic will follow it in a few days judging from what has already taken place. Our putting the Cavalry of the Garrison of Mier to flight, and obliging the remainder of said Garrison to leave the place, the same with Camargo, and Reynoso, The complete triumph obtained by the liberal party in Tampico, over the Govt. forces 30th Novr. last, The perfidious surrender of the fort of San Juan de Ul[ua], and Citadel of Vera Cruz all! all! has revived the enthusiasm of the Mexicans and in fine they have resolved (according to certain information I have received from the Interior) to be sacrificed rather than any longer to suffer under a Military despotism. The cause of liberty must infalibly triumph and those towns and yours will again very shortly be united in bonds of former amity. Upon this flattering prospect, I can with confidence congratulate your Excellency, and would ask at your

^a Bustamante.

^b Just how this sentence should be revised to make it clearly understandable is uncertain.

^c September 15, 1837. See Treat to Lamar, February 1, 1840.

^d See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 49, p. 199-200. Whether the original was in Spanish or English does not appear.

hands the following protection in y
(imperiously demand) that we have
As bad men availing themselves (of
may rob and carry off our property
persuaded that your Government ha
justice from its foundation, I take
apprehend all persons from these pa
into your country for sale unless they
or some one who I shall have previou
seizing any property found in possess
ports, and retaining it until the arri
advice from you to take charge in o
demanded. For this just measure
very grateful and happy to reciprocate

With distinguished consideration

I have the honor to subscribe
myself yours

COMMISSION OF BARNARD E. BEE AS

[To negotiate for recognition of the
for a treaty of peace, amity, commerce,
Mexico and Texas.]

COMMISSION OF BERNARD E. BEE AS
OF TEXAS TO

[Bee is empowered to negotiate for
pendence of Texas by Mexico, and for
merce, navigation and limits between

LAMAR TO PRESIDENT OF

[Letter of credence for Bernard E.
tiary and envoy extraordinary from

LAMAR TO PRESIDENT OF

[Letter of credence for Bernard E.
for the purpose of restoring friend
countries.]

^a Perhaps the meaning is that this protection is of
and the Federalists are fighting to preserve.

^b This is doubtless a copyist's error for Canales; Canales

^c February 20, 1839.

hands the following protection in your Republic, which interests (imperiously demand) that we have abandoned to take up arms.^a As bad men availing themselves (of our praiseworthy dedications) may rob and carry off our property into your country to sell and persuaded that your Government has been guided by principles of justice from its foundation, I take the liberty to request you to apprehend all persons from these parts who take mules and horses into your country for sale unless they have a passport signed by me or some one who I shall have previously declared authorized. Your seizing any property found in possession not mentioned in the passports, and retaining it until the arrival of some person sent after advice from you to take charge in order that I may pay the costs demanded. For this just measure to preserve order, I shall be very grateful and happy to reciprocate in the same manner.

With distinguished consideration,
I have the honor to subscribe
myself yours

LIC ANTONIO CANALLISO ^b

COMMISSION OF BARNARD E. BEE AS AGENT OF TEXAS TO MEXICO.^c

[To negotiate for recognition of the Independence of Texas, and for a treaty of peace, amity, commerce, navigation, and limits between Mexico and Texas.]

COMMISSION OF BERNARD E. BEE AS MINISTER Plenipotentiary OF TEXAS TO MEXICO.^c

[Bee is empowered to negotiate for the recognition of the Independence of Texas by Mexico, and for a treaty of peace, amity, commerce, navigation and limits between the two countries.]

LAMAR TO PRESIDENT OF MEXICO. [BUSTAMENTE].^c

[Letter of credence for Bernard E. Bee, as Minister Plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary from Texas to Mexico.]

LAMAR TO PRESIDENT OF MEXICO. [BUSTAMENTE].^c

[Letter of credence for Barnard E. Bee, as agent of Texas to Mexico, for the purpose of restoring friendly relations between the two countries.]

^a Perhaps the meaning is that this protection is of interest to the Mexican Republic, which Canales and the Federalists are fighting to preserve.

^b This is doubtless a copyist's error for Canales; Canallizo was a centralist leader.

^c February 20, 1839.

WEBB TO BEE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Houston 20th Feby 1839.

Hon. BARNARD E. BEE

SIR

The President, anxious to effect a settlement of the existing differences with Mexico, and to restore peace and harmony, has appointed you Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Texas, near the Government of that Country. I have therefore the honor to hand you your Commission and Credentials as such, and to express to you his wish that you will proceed with as little delay as possible, by the most convenient rout to Vera Cruz, or such other point as you may deem best, for making known to that Government the object of your mission.

As this is the first attempt on the part of Texas to establish diplomatic relations with Mexico, it will be necessary to approach the subject with great caution and circumspection. I would suggest the propriety of your stopping in the first instance at Vera Cruz, Tampico, or such other point as you may select, and forwarding thence to the Government, a concise statement of the objects of your Mission, and respectfully ask to be received for the purpose of exhibiting your Authority and making known more fully the wishes of the President. This however, is a mere suggestion, and not intended to control you in the course to be pursued, should circumstances in your judgment offer a better one.

It is hardly to be expected that you will be formally received as Minister Plenipotentiary of this Republic, until a treaty of peace has been made, and the Independence of the Country acknowledged. Indeed, such a reception would be in itself an acknowledgment of our legitimate existence as a nation and a virtual recognition of our Independence; and as that is more than we can look, or even hope for, untill attained by negotiation, you will, in the event of a refusal to receive you as Minister, make your propositions as the agent of this Government; and to enable you to do so, separate credentials for this purpose are furnished you.

Indeed, it may be better, not to make known your higher functions, untill you have sounded your way as agent, and ascertained whether or not, they will be disposed to treat with you in either capacity; but in this, as in all other matters preliminary to entering upon your negotiations you will be guided by your own judgment and discretion.

Your powers as agent are plenary, and under them you are fully authorized to negotiate for peace, and to form and sign a treaty securing it, but in making such treaty, you will require the *unconditional* recognition of the Independence of Texas, and will admit

no limits less than those prescribed in an act to define the boundaries of Texas, passed on the 19th December 1836, a copy of which is enclosed.

These two last points you will insist upon in any permanent treaty with Mexico; and in the ultimate accomplishment of peace and recognition in the form of boundary to be subsequently settled, the limits, commerce, navigation and other points to be formed in such a treaty; but in doing so, it appears in it which could by any means be intended on the part of this Government, Territory claimed by the Act of Congress referred to.

In negotiating a treaty, having in view farther than the restoration of Independence, it will be better if you insist on the claims of this Government, to define the limits, so you will avoid much embarrassment in future negotiations of a general nature, subject as far as you can, without prejudice to your present negotiations, and in conformity with the Government.

Should Mexico express a willingness to recognize the Independence of Texas, and to agree to form a part of the Territory, you should refuse to admit our claims to the Territory within the limits defined by the Act of Congress, unless by the compromise by negotiating for the Territory, which is not within the original boundaries, the sum to be thus stipulated for the purchase of the Territory, five millions of dollars, and that sum must be paid in equal annual instalments; the first instalment to be paid one year after the exchange of the Territory.

The five millions will be the purchase price, and you will of course insist on the sum with propositions of a much less amount, but should you succeed in effecting the purchase of two Millions of dollars, you may insist that the whole of that sum shall be paid in equal instalments of ratifications.

It is understood that Genl. Santa Anna is the representative of the Mexican Nation, and if so this may be the only opportunity of negotiating with him.

^a See Gammel, *Loc. cit.*

no limits less than those prescribed by the Act of Congress entitled "an act to define the boundaries of the Republic of Texas" approved 19th December 1836, a copy of which is hereby furnished you.^a

These two last points you will regard as a *sine qua non* to any permanent treaty with Mexico; but if you find that it will aid you in the ultimate accomplishment of your objects, to negotiate a treaty of *peace and recognition* in the first instance, leaving the question of boundary to be subsequently settled in a general treaty of Amity, limits, commerce, navigation and intercourse, you are at liberty to form such a treaty; but in doing so, you must be careful that nothing appears in it which could by any possibility be construed into an intention on the part of this Government, to yield any portion of the Territory claimed by the Act of Congress to which I have already refer'd you.

In negotiating a treaty, having for its immediate objects nothing farther than the restoration of peace, and the recognition of our Independence, it will be better if it can be done consistent with the claims of this Government, to define the limits at once, as by doing so, you will avoid much embarrassment and discussion in your future negotiations of a general treaty; you will therefore urge the subject as far as you can, without involving the risk of breaking off your present negotiations, and interrupting your future intercourse with the Government.

Should Mexico express a willingness to establish peace, and recognize the Independence of Texas to the extent of her original boundaries when forming a part of the Mexican Confederacy, but peremptorily refuse to admit our claims to the entire territory embraced within the limits defined by the act of Congress, you may propose a compromise by negotiating for the purchase of all that portion of it which is not within the original boundaries, at a stipulated price; but the sum to be thus stipulated for it, must not exceed five Millions of dollars, and that sum must be made payable in not less than five equal annual instalments; the first instalment to be made payable in one year after the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty.

The five millions will be the ultimatum of your propositions for the purchase, and you will of course commence your negotiations with propositions of a much less sum, and payable at longer periods, but should you succeed in effecting the purchase for a sum not exceeding two Millions of dollars, you may, if you find it necessary, stipulate that the whole of that sum shall be paid in one year after the exchange of ratifications.

It is understood that Genl. Santa Anna is again at the head of the Mexican Nation, and if so this must be a propitious moment for the

^a See Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 1193-1194.

commencement of your negotiations. By a secret agreement made between him and the Cabinet of this Republic, at Velasco, on the 14th May 1836, he promised that he would not take up arms himself, nor cause them to be taken up against the people of Texas during the War of Independence; that he would prepare the Cabinet of Mexico for the favorable reception of a Minister, through whose negotiations all differences might be settled, and the Independence of the Country acknowledged; and that a treaty of Commerce, Amity and limits should be established between the two Countries, the limits of Texas not to extend beyond the *Rio Bravo del Norte*.

This agreement stipulates for all that we ask, and as Genl. Santa Anna has once pledged himself to use his influence to carry it into effect, it is believed that it may be rendered very available by you, in the event of your finding him at the head of the Mexican Government, you are therefore furnished with a Copy of it.^a

It is true, that the stipulation in this agreement, to send General Santa Anna at once to Vera Cruz, was not literally fulfilled on the part of the Texan Government at that time; and this may be urged as a reason for absolving him from the moral obligations which it implies; but the causes of the non fulfilment of that stipulation are well known to you, and to him, and as they involve no want of faith on the part of this Government, but were forced upon it by uncontrolable circumstances, the moral force of the agreement is left wholly unimpaired; and more especially, as it was complied with and enforced, as soon as it could be done consistently with the personal safety of Genl. Santa Anna. He was subsequently set at liberty, and sent out of the country, in virtue of this very agreement, and in the only way which was deemed safe to himself, and conducive to the accomplishment of the objects contemplated by it.

It is not contended by this Government that the agreement made with Genl. Santa Anna, while in this Country and a prisoner of war, is *legally* binding on the Mexican Government; but it is a well established principle of the law of Nations, that the person who makes promises under circumstances similar to those in which the President of the Mexican Republic was placed while here, is afterwards bound to use his influence in causing those promises to be respected by his Government, and that the Government itself is bound to make many sacrifices rather than permit them to be violated. This principle of the law of Nations may be useful to you, in your negotiations, and I therefore refer you in support of it, to Vattel and other writers on international law.

Besides, in asking for the fulfilment of the stipulations of this agreement, we do not believe that we are requiring any sacrifices on the

^a See *Niles' Register*, LXIX, 98.

part of the Mexican Government which would be done up to that country by the advantages which would result from the establishment of peace and a friendly intercourse. Apart from all the obligations which it may require as reasons for the acknowledgment of the Independence of Texas, and for the forming a general treaty of Commerce and intercourse between the two Countries, the subject is urged with peculiar force in your negotiations. The entire dissimilarity in education, habits, and pursuits of the Inhabitants of the two Countries, and the impossibility of their ever assimilating themselves together, if they were again united.

2dly. The total incompatibility of ideas and feelings of the two Republics as to the peculiar rights and duties adapted to the wants and rights of Mexico.

3dly. The conflicts which must inevitably result from the incompatibility of sentiment, and the injuries which would be done if the Anglo Saxon race now inhabiting Texas were mingled under the same form of Government with the Mexicans.

4thly. The inconvenience and worthlessness of Texas on account of its remoteness from her Seat of Government, the small body of the population; and also, on account of her proximity to the United States of the North, where in any case a friendly intercourse must necessarily tend.

5thly. The difficulties which Mexico would be obliged to keep in keeping the Indians bordering on Texas, and the expense of doing so from them.

6thly. The advantages which would result from a friendly intercourse and trade between the two Countries, and the reciprocal kindness and harmony, and the mutual benefit which would result therefrom.

7thly. The disposition which Texas has shown of San Jacinto to rely upon friendly negotiations to settle her differences with Mexico, rather than to resort to arms, and the confidence which she has reposed in Genl. Santa Anna, made shortly after that battle.

Had Texas been disposed to farther negotiations, she had a most inviting opportunity for settling her domestic conflicts by which it has been rendered necessary, the embarrassments produced by the late war. This forbearance affords the strongest evidence of her desire for amity—a desire which nothing will do her injustice and wrong.

^a See Bancroft, *History of Texas*.

part of the Mexican Government which will not be more than made up to that country by the advantages which will result from the establishment of peace and a friendly intercourse between the two nations. Apart from all the obligations which it imposes there are weighty reasons for the acknowledgment of the Independence of Texas by Mexico, and for the forming a general treaty of amity, commerce, navigation and intercourse between the two countries, and these reasons may be urged with peculiar force in your negotiations. Among them are 1st. The entire dissimilarity in education, habits, manners, disposition, and pursuits of the Inhabitants of the two countries, and the utter impossibility of their ever assimilating and moving harmoniously together, if they were again united.

2dly. The total incompatibility of ideas entertained by the people of the two Republics as to the peculiar forms of Government best adapted to the wants and rights of Men.

3dly. The conflicts which must inevitably grow out of this incompatibility of sentiment, and the injuries which would result from them if the Anglo Saxon race now inhabiting Texas should be again commingled under the same form of Government with the Spanish race of Mexico.

4thly. The inconvenience and worthlessness of Texas to Mexico on account of its remoteness from her Seat of Government, and the main body of the population; and also, on account of its contiguity to the United States of the North, where in any state of things, most of its intercourse must necessarily tend.

5thly. The difficulties which Mexico would always experience in keeping the Indians bordering on Texas in check at so great a distance from them.

6thly. The advantages which would necessarily result to both Countries from a friendly intercourse and traffick, conducted in the spirit of a reciprocal kindness and harmony, and

7thly. The disposition which Texas has manifested since the battle of San Jacinto to rely upon friendly negotiations for the settlement of her differences with Mexico, rather than a farther resort to war, and the confidence which she has reposed in the promises of Genl. Santa Anna, made shortly after that battle.

Had Texas been disposed to farther hostilities with Mexico, she has had a most inviting opportunity for invading that Country during the domestic conflicts by which it has been harassed on the one side, and the embarrassments produced by the French invasion ^a on the other. This forbearance affords the strongest evidence of her desire for amity—a desire which nothing will destroy but an evident attempt to do her injustice and wrong.

^a See Bancroft, *History of Mexico*, V, 186-205.

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This agreement stipulates for all that we ask, and as Genl. Santa Anna has once pledged himself to use his influence to carry it into effect, it is believed that it may be rendered very available by you, in the event of your finding him at the head of the Mexican Government, you are therefore furnished with a Copy of it.^a

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It is not contended by this Government that the agreement made with Genl. Santa Anna, while in this Country and a prisoner of war, is *legally* binding on the Mexican Government; but it is a well established principle of the law of Nations, that the person who makes promises under circumstances similar to those in which the President of the Mexican Republic was placed while here, is afterwards bound to use his influence in causing those promises to be respected by his Government, and that the Government itself is bound to make many sacrifices rather than permit them to be violated. This principle of the law of Nations may be useful to you, in your negotiations, and I therefore refer you in support of it, to Vattel and other writers on international law.

Besides, in asking for the fulfilment of the stipulations of this agreement, we do not believe that we are requiring any sacrifices on the

^a See *Niles' Register*, LXIX, 98.

part of the Mexican Government which would be up to that country by the advantages which would result from the establishment of peace and a friendly intercourse. Apart from all the obligations which it implies for the acknowledgment of the Independence of Texas, and for the forming a general treaty of Commerce and intercourse between the two Countries, the Government of Texas is urged with peculiar force in your negotiations. The entire dissimilarity in education, habits, and pursuits of the Inhabitants of the two Countries, and the impossibility of their ever assimilating together, if they were again united.

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3dly. The conflicts which must inevitably result from the incompatibility of sentiment, and the injuries which would be done if the Anglo Saxon race now inhabiting Texas were mingled under the same form of Government with the Indians of Mexico.

4thly. The inconvenience and worthlessness of Texas on account of its remoteness from her Seat of Government, the small body of the population; and also, on account of her position in the United States of the North, where in any intercourse must necessarily tend.

5thly. The difficulties which Mexico would be obliged to keep the Indians bordering on Texas from Texas, and to keep them from them.

6thly. The advantages which would result from a friendly intercourse and trade between the two Countries, and a reciprocal kindness and harmony, and a general peace.

7thly. The disposition which Texas has shown at San Jacinto to rely upon friendly negotiations, rather than her differences with Mexico, rather than to break through the confidence which she has reposed in Genl. Santa Anna, made shortly after that battle.

Had Texas been disposed to farther her interests, she had a most inviting opportunity for invading Mexico, and domestic conflicts by which it has been rendered more the embarrassments produced by the French invasion. This forbearance affords the strongest evidence of a desire for amity—a desire which nothing will destroy, and which will do her injustice and wrong.

^a See Bancroft, *History of Mexico*.

part of the Mexican Government which will not be more than made up to that country by the advantages which will result from the establishment of peace and a friendly intercourse between the two nations. Apart from all the obligations which it imposes there are weighty reasons for the acknowledgment of the Independence of Texas by Mexico, and for the forming a general treaty of amity, commerce, navigation and intercourse between the two countries, and these reasons may be urged with peculiar force in your negotiations. Among them are 1st. The entire dissimilarity in education, habits, manners, disposition, and pursuits of the Inhabitants of the two countries, and the utter impossibility of their ever assimilating and moving harmoniously together, if they were again united.

2dly. The total incompatibility of ideas entertained by the people of the two Republics as to the peculiar forms of Government best adapted to the wants and rights of Men.

3dly. The conflicts which must inevitably grow out of this incompatibility of sentiment, and the injuries which would result from them if the Anglo Saxon race now inhabiting Texas should be again commingled under the same form of Government with the Spanish race of Mexico.

4thly. The inconvenience and worthlessness of Texas to Mexico on account of its remoteness from her Seat of Government, and the main body of the population; and also, on account of its contiguity to the United States of the North, where in any state of things, most of its intercourse must necessarily tend.

5thly. The difficulties which Mexico would always experience in keeping the Indians bordering on Texas in check at so great a distance from them.

6thly. The advantages which would necessarily result to both Countries from a friendly intercourse and traffick, conducted in the spirit of a reciprocal kindness and harmony, and

7thly. The disposition which Texas has manifested since the battle of San Jacinto to rely upon friendly negotiations for the settlement of her differences with Mexico, rather than a farther resort to war, and the confidence which she has reposed in the promises of Genl. Santa Anna, made shortly after that battle.

Had Texas been disposed to farther hostilities with Mexico, she has had a most inviting opportunity for invading that Country during the domestic conflicts by which it has been harassed on the one side, and the embarrassments produced by the French invasion ^a on the other. This forbearance affords the strongest evidence of her desire for amity—a desire which nothing will destroy but an evident attempt to do her injustice and wrong.

^a See Bancroft, *History of Mexico*, V, 186-205.

These and other arguments which will suggest themselves to you, may possibly be used with much effect in your conferences with the persons who may be selected to negotiate with you.

The President, aware of the great importance it is to the prosperity of this Country, that its differences with Mexico should be adjusted and a permanent peace established as early as possible, and not willing that any opportunity for the accomplishment of so desirable an object should be lost, has also furnished our Minister near the Government of the United States with plenary powers to treat for peace and Independence with the Mexican Minister at Washington, or with such other person as may be appointed to negotiate with him, should that Government be induced, through the mediation of the United States, to open a negotiation at that City.^a But the authority and instructions given to Genl. Dunlap on this subject, are not intended in the slightest degree to impair the powers given to you, or to lessen the efforts which you are expected to make in Mexico; on the Contrary, it is believed that the double Mission will have a tendency to accelerate the attainment of this most desired object, and that he, by invoking the mediatorial aid and influence of the United States, may materially benefit you in your negotiations.

He is therefore instructed to keep you advised of all important matters which may transpire at Washington, in reference to this subject, after he shall have been informed of your official reception at Mexico.

You will also freely communicate with him respecting the affairs of your Mission, so that either may at all times be apprized of the course pursued by the other, and to prevent the subjects of your respective communications becoming known in the event of the miscarriage of your despatches, you are each furnished with a corresponding cypher, in which all letters of business will be written. You will also cause your despatches to this Government to be made out on the same cypher.

Knowing as little as we do of the real disposition of the Mexican Government in regard to this, or of its feelings in respect to the people of this Country, no positive instructions can be given you as to the performance of the various duties which may devolve upon you. The foregoing views are offered more as suggestions to you, than as positive mandates. The cardinal points of your Mission are, the restoration of peace, the acknowledgment of the Independence of Texas, and the recognition of her limits as defined by the Act of Congress before referred to, all beyond this is left to your own judgment. You are well acquainted with the condition of this Country, its prospects, wishes, and expectations, and also of its ability to sustain itself in the event of a future conflict; and the President relying

^a Cf. Webb to Dunlap, March 16, 1839, Part I, pp. 367-378.

much on your ability to do so, the importance, refers its despatch to you, being well assured, that the negotiation will be safe in your hands.

Wishing you all prosper, and that your entire success may crown your efforts.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
with great respect,
Your obedient servant,
JAMES WEBB.

MY DEAR SIR,

A proposition for Peace is being made under the auspices of the Mexican Govt. Delay upon this subject has been endured—if the road is made direct, the advice would be therefore to proceed. Dunlaps Mission should be supported by you. I have been so charged by Mr. Lamar—(of whom I have a little interest.

I am very sincerely
Yours,
B. E. BEE.

Hon. B. E. BEE
Agent and Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico

SIR,

I herewith enclose the Letter of the Mission to Mexico, Letter of the Govt of Mexico dated the 20th of Feb 1841, Govt of Mexico of 20th of Feb 1841, Govt of Mexico of Feb 20th 1841, to Mexico of Feb 20th 1841, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

^a James Webb, a Virginian, moved to Mexico under Lamar; in March 1841 was sent as plenipotentiary to Mexico; member of Congress, 1841-42.
^b A. L. S.

much on your ability to conduct matters of so much delicacy and importance, refers its details to the exercise of your sound discretion, being well assured, that the honor, reputation and interests of the nation will be safe in your hands.

Wishing you all prosperity, individually and officially, and that entire success may crown your mission

I have the honor to be
with great respect

Your obt. servt.

JAMES WEBB^a

BEE TO WEBB.^b

Confidential

MY DEAR SIR,

A proposition for Peace is infinitely more likely to succeed emanating under the auspices of the U States than by *direct* appeal to the Mexican Govt. *Delay* upon so important a point may well be endured—if the road is made plain which will lead to success. My advice would be therefore that until Mexico was heard from Gen'l Dunlaps Mission should be suspended—but I only throw this out to you. I have been so chagrined that except for the success of Gen'l Lamar—(of whom I have always thought very highly) I should feel little interest.

I am very sincerely yours

BARNARD E BEE

WEBB TO BEE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Houston March 7th. 1839.

Hon. B. E. BEE

*Agent and Minister Plenipotentiary
to the Government of Mexico,*

SIR,

I herewith enclose the following documents relative to your Mission to Mexico, Letter of Credence as agent to the Government of Mexico dated the 20th Feby Ult. Commission as agent to the Govt of Mexico of 20th Feby 1839. Commission as Minister to the Govt of Mexico of Feby 20th 39 Instructions as Agent and Minister to Mexico of Feby 20th 39 Copy of a translation of a Letter of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna to President Andrew Jackson dated

^a James Webb, a Virginian, moved to Texas 1838; served as Secretary of State and as Attorney-General under Lamar; in March 1841 was sent by Lamar as Agent and Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico; member of Congress, 1841-1842; and died November 6, 1842.

^b A. L. S.

Columbia July 4th 36.^a Copy of a secret treaty between the Govt of Texas and Santa Anna Velasco May 14th/36 in English and Spanish.^b Copy of a Public agreement between David G Burnett, President of the Republic of Texas and Santa Anna, in Spanish and English dated May 14th 36.^c

Translation of General Santa Anna's Official letter to President Burnet of Oct 12th 36. and his Memorial to Congress, and accompanying documents, Copy of an act approved Decr. 19th 36 to define the boundaries of the Republic of Texas, and also a Cypher.^d

These it is believed are all the documents which will be required on your Mission at present. Should others be deemed necessary hereafter, they will be carefully forwarded to you

With Great Respect
Your obt Sevt

JAMES WEBB.

BEE TO WEBB.^e

APR 1ST 1839

MY DEAR SIR,

I am just leavg for Pensacola in hopes of procuring a conveyance to Vera Cruz—under Gen. Shubricks orders. I will write you from there.

I am anxious that you should procure for Mr Saligny the Dublin Pamphlet loaned you by Mr Tod.

in great haste
truly Yours

B E BEE.

P. S.—If Mr. Potter^f does not come, I shall send for Mr Armory.^g

BEE TO WEBB.^h

MOBILE 6th April 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

Think of me missing Commodore Shubrick by about 15 hours, he had just left for Tampico and Vera Cruz, the Warren however is daily expected and I have arranged with Capt Dallas to go out in her, as she has orders immediately to follow. The Woodbury too is daily looked for from Vera Cruz, and will return promptly, as she is the mail Boat

^a See Correspondence with the United States in Part I, pp. 106, 107; *Niles' Register*, LI, 336.

^b See *Niles' Register*, LXIX, 98.

^c See *Niles' Register*, L, 336.

^d See Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 1193-1194.

^e A. L. S.

^f Reuben M. Potter, Collector of Customs at Velasco. Cf. statement in Bee to Webb, April 6, 1839.

^g Nathaniel Amory, chief clerk in Department of State 1838-1830; Secretary of Texan Legation at Washington 1839-1842; acting chargé d'affaires at Washington January-March 1842; and Texan Consul at Boston August, 1842.

^h See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 191-192.

between New Orleans and Mexico. Mr Hammeken is in the bow. Mr Hammeken is in the bow, but still fears he may not see Mr Amory come to New Orleans. The Custom House at Velasco cannot be spared.

There is a general belief that has been listened to, and all unite in the move. I enclose you a copy of Col White will forward, having the five Million on his request. He is always opposed and sincere.

Remember me to General
Sincerely Yours,

Honl

JAMES WEBB.

MY DEAR SIR,

Genl Hamilton is now writing to explain every thing in connection with the have become of us, if he had been allowed to impress upon the Congress the combining the inclination with the repeated conversations with the persons here, and all agree if Genl Hamilton had an interview conjointly with the land and France, that infinitely more that he is now known abroad and forward in behalf of Texas in every aspect. Genl Hamilton kept silent on this subject. I do so because of the result from the suggestion of that Hamilton himself urged in communication last year to Genl Henderson great influence he expected to have. He was satisfied he could aid in

^a James Hamilton, a native of South Carolina, was sent by Genl Henderson in securing recognition of Texas to Great Britain, December 1, 1839. He was also agent with Burnley to negotiate a loan from the Netherlands agent to Holland, September, 1840; and was sent to England in 1841; recalled 1842.

^b A. L. S.

between New Orleans and Mexico, so that I have two strings to my bow. Mr Hammeken is in New Orleans, and anxious to accompany me, but still fears he may not be able. You had better therefore let Mr Amory come to New Orleans immediately. Mr Potter who is in the Custom House at Velasco would answer very well, but thinks he cannot be spared.

There is a general belief that our proposition for peace will be listened to, and all unite in according praise to the Administration for the move. I enclose you a letter from General Hamilton^a which Col White will forward, he will undoubtedly get you an advance on the five Million on his reaching New York. The *one* Million loan I always opposed and sincerely wish it had never been contemplated.

Remember me to General Lamar, and believe me,

Sincerely Yours,

BARNARD E. BEE.

Honl

JAMES WEBB.

BEE TO WEBB.^b

SUNDAY EV'G, [April 7, 1839]

MY DEAR SIR,

Genl Hamilton is now writing to our friend the President and will explain every thing in connection with our fiscal affairs. What would have become of us, if he had not come on? I have all along endeavored to impress upon the Cabinet that Hamilton was the only man combining the *inclination* with the *power* of aiding Texas. I have had repeated conversations with Mr Saligny and other well informed persons here, and all agree if Gen'l Lamar will empower Hamilton to have an interview conjointly with Gen'l Henderson at the Courts of England and France, that infinite good to Texas will result. The truth is—that he is now known abroad and *favorably*, and his merely coming forward in behalf of Texas will produce an effect of the most favorable aspect. Genl Hamilton knows nothing of my having written to you on this subject. I do so however from the conviction that good will result from the suggestion of others of its propriety and from the fact that Hamilton himself urged the propriety of it in a long *private* communication last year to Gen'l Houston. He told him then from the great influence he expected to have by his connexions in Europe he was satisfied he could aid Henderson essentially and that it would

^a James Hamilton, a native of South Carolina; Texan agent to Great Britain and France to act with Henderson in securing recognition of Texan Independence, May, 1839; special and confidential agent of Texas to Great Britain, December 1, 1839; commissioner to negotiate with Mexico, December, 1839; joint agent with Burnley to negotiate a loan in France, April, 1840; agent to Belgium, April, 1840; confidential agent to Holland, September, 1840; minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary to Great Britain, 1841; recalled 1842.

^b A. L. S.

insure the Loan. Think of it and consult Gen'l Lamar. He could be considered as the Secret Agent of the Governm't. All unite here in the belief that our Govt are *right* in offering the olive branch, and now that terms are arranged with France Gen'l Hamilton agrees fully into the policy of the measure. If I am only *received* tell the President I will make him a Peace.

I fear Mr Hammeken will not be able to arrange his private business in order to accompany me. I wrote to Mr Potter—from Galveston—immediately to come on to me. He is intelligent, virtuous, and an accomplished Spanish Scholar. If he does not arrive, tell Gen'l Lamar I shall be obliged to take with me a Gentleman recommended here by the Governor and Mayor as every way qualified, and if they receive me as Minister a Secy of Legation from Texas can be sent. My first proceedings will only be as *agent*. You know the Padre Muldoon is still Solicitous and says all that he can do shall be done, but I must have *my own interpreter*.

I give you fair notice I mean to spend money liberally, but *judiciously*. Col. White and Mr Saligny assure me I cannot move a peg without.

With great Sincerity Yours

BARNARD E BEE

BEE TO WEBB.^a

(The following letter is without date.)^b

MY DEAR SIR,

NEW ORLEANS, *Monday Morg*

As yet no tidings of the Warren or Woodbury. Captain Dallas will instantly communicate the arrival of the former and Mr. Breedlove the collector of this Port has assured me the latter shall be at my service the moment she arrives. Say to the President, he must not regret the delay,—it has enabled me to mingle with those having intimate relations with Mexico, and who are all writing to their friends in my behalf; but above all it has secured me the influence of the *Lizardi's*, who are not only powerful in Mexico, but are the *Agents* of the *Bond holders* in *England*. Mr Gordon of the House assures me he had repeated interviews last summer with Lord Palmerston upon the relations of Mexico and Texas, and that he is satisfied the letters he will now give me to Mr Pakenham the British Minister to Mexico will insure my reception. He will call upon him in the strongest terms to urge Mexico to listen to Texas, as the best possible mode of the British subjects being secured in their interests. This you know is always a powerful inducement, and the heavy

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 192.

^b It must have been written April 8, 1839, or possibly a week later.

obligations... slight... Mr... town to... negotiate in... place... Hamilton's success... so much *fore*... will probably furnish me... Minister at Washington... way. Col. White thinks... Governmental influence, but... will be of service. I bear...
purse.

Mr. Forstall assures me... just received a letter from... with a view of its being... power) that any promises... Philadelphia.

Write to me to the care... they will forward it to Mex... ing to them, but they adv... putting myself under Com... Dueplas, and waiting till I... be received.

Say to the President ha... shall be done. I regret Mr... Mr Amory cannot come, I... care of what Nation

I am my Dear Sir with g...
Respectfully Yours

Honl

JAMES WEBB
Secy of State

MY DEAR SIR,

A French Merchant sh... tempted of course to go in... Warren or Woodbury.

^a Padre Muldoon, who had done previous... very friendly towards them.

^b See Records of Department of State (Texas)

obligations under which Mexico is to England will compel her not slightly to treat Mr Packenham. The Lizardi's, (Mr Forstall and Mr Gordon known to Mr La Branch, who see) think too [that the proposal to negotiate is] the *more* highly creditable to Genl. Lamar, and will tend to place him on high ground in Europe, and insure General Hamilton's success. They say they could hardly have expected so much *fore cast* in so young a Gentleman. My delay too will probably furnish me with letters from Mr Poinsett and the British Minister at Washington. The Padre ^a is here willing to aid in every way. Col. White thinks he will be of much benefit; I doubt his *Governmental* influence, but as a Catholic Priest I have no doubt he will be of service. I bear all his expenses, I suspect he has not a full purse.

Mr. Forstall assures me secret money is *indispensable*. I have just received a letter from General Hamilton on his journey (written with a view of its being seen by Santa Anna or who ever may be in power) that any promises I may make, he will see *fulfilled* in Philadelphia.

Write to me to the care of the Lizardi's, and should I have left, they will forward it to Mexico. A vessel sails in a day or two belonging to them, but they advise my going in a National Vessel,—and putting myself under Commodore Shubrick, (my relation) or Admiral Dueplas, and waiting till I hear from Mr Packenham, whether I will be received.

Say to the President have no fears for me, all that man can do shall be done. I regret Mr Hammekin cannot accompany me. If Mr Amory cannot come, I shall take some competent person I dont care of what Nation

I am my Dear Sir with great regard

Respectfully Yours

(Signed)

BARNARD E. BEE

Honi

JAMES WEBB
Secty of State

BEE TO WEBB.^b

NEW ORLEANS

April 18th 1839

MY DEAR SIR,

A French Merchant ship will be sailing in a few days. I am tempted of course to go in her,—but all unite in my waiting for the Warren or Woodbury.

^a Padre Muldoon, who had done priestly service for the Texan Colonists before the Revolution and was very friendly towards them.

^b See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 196.

obligations under which Mexico is to England will compel her not slightly to treat Mr Packenham. The Lizardi's, (Mr Forstall and Mr Gordon known to Mr La Branch, who see) think too [that the proposal to negotiate is] the *more* highly creditable to Genl. Lamar, and will tend to place him on high ground in Europe, and insure General Hamilton's success. They say they could hardly have expected so much *fore cast* in so young a Gentleman. My delay too will probably furnish me with letters from Mr Poinsett and the British Minister at Washington. The Padre ^a is here willing to aid in every way. Col. White thinks he will be of much benefit; I doubt his *Governmental* influence, but as a Catholic Priest I have no doubt he will be of service. I bear all his expenses, I suspect he has not a full purse.

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(Signed)

BARNARD F. BEE

Honl

JAMES WEBB

Secty of State

BEE TO WEBB.^b

NEW ORLEANS

April 18th 1839

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^a Padre Muldoon, who had done priestly service for the Texan Colonists before the Revolution and was very friendly towards them.

^b See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 196.

It seems indispensable that I should make presents in Mexico. Secret money is indispensable, I arranged with Genl. Hamilton,—but I must have your authority to draw through the Lizardi's.

Yours with great Regard, etc.

Sir, I open my letter to say Mr. Forstall has just read me a communication which goes by this days Express Mail to Washington, to the Mexican Minister there; infinite good will result from it. I have also written by the *same mail* to Mr Poinsett to pretend to know nothing of it; but *accidentally* to give his opinion, both to Mr Martinez and Mr Fox. I have seen General Woll, he thinks it doubtful whether I will be received. I mean to be received and to be *successful*.

Yours etc

BARNARD E. BEE.

Honl

JAMES WEBB

Secretary of State.

BEE TO WEBB.^a

NEW ORLEANS

April 30th 1839

Honl

JAMES WEBB.

SIR,

I received Mr Seabring very courteously as coming from the President. A Secretary however, ought always to have the confidence of the Gentleman with whom he is associated and therefore I wished Mr Amory; since Mr Seabring's arrival, facts have come to my knowledge relative to his affairs in Mexico which compelled me instantly to inform him that it was impossible he should accompany me. The mission is a delicate one, and nothing calculated to mar it in the remotest degree ought to exist. I shall obtain an interpreter through the English or American Legation, which will answer my purpose fully,—and then if Mr Amory can be spared he can follow me. You had better wait a letter from me on my arrival. I have had a letter from Commodore Dallas announcing the arrival of the Warren. I will get particulars tomorrow. I am all ready, tho should have been glad to have taken the Washington letters with me. Mr Forstall will send them to me however. I take with me a letter from his house (Lizardi) to Mr Packenham which will have its weight, warm letters from the Merchants engaged in the Mexican business, and a capital letter from General Gaines to Santa Anna himself. By the bye, the news papers give an account of his instalment as President. Strange Govt! Bustamenta will put down

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, pp. 198-199.

the Federalists He takes it *secret* *promise* is the order of the day, *positive* information that the *mooted* in the higher circles of Mexico me he had received a letter to *secret*.

Your communications had *they* have constant intercourse

Respectfully Your

Obedient Servant

BEE TO

I leave to morrow in the *Wo* get on board Comde. Shubricks *w* the Mexican Gov't.

I send you my son—he is *very* him in your eye. Advise him *as*

I have not yet seen Mr. Slocum Genl Lamars family are all in *the* Columbia.

with great esteem Yours

The Padre accompanies me. *H*

HAMMAKEN

[Giving unfavorable evidence *of* that Hammaken himself was to *be*

BEE TO

UNITED STATES

MY DEAR SIR,

I arrived yesterday after *a* commenced operations, but I *will* read it, as my communication *of* rial points. If I am not received *of* Genl. Victoria I shall avail myself

^a A. L. S.

^b A. L. S., May 1, 1839.

^c As secretary.

^d See Records of Department of State

the Federalists He takes it seems the *olive branch* with him: *Compromise* is the order of the day, so that I still am sanguine. I have positive information that the Texas question has been *favorably mooted* in the higher circles of Mexico. A French Gentleman assured me he had received a letter to that effect. Keep this as a cabinet secret.

Your communications had better pass through the Lizardi's as they have constant intercourse

Respectfully Your
Obedient Servant

BARNARD E BEE

BEE TO WEBB.^a

1st. MAY.

I leave to morrow in the Woodbury for Vera Cruz, where I will get on board Comde. Shubricks vessel, and remain until I hear from the Mexican Gov't.

I send you my son—he is very fond of you—and you must keep him in your eye. Advise him as you would your own.

I have not yet seen Mr. Slocum. I presume he may have a letter. Genl Lamars family are all in this House. They will follow in the Columbia.

with great esteem Yours

B E BEE

The Padre accompanies me. He appears very solicitous.

HAMMAKEN TO LAMAR.^b

[Giving unfavorable evidence as to Sebring's record, and stating that Hammaken himself was to follow Bee.^c]

BEE TO WEBB.^d

UNITED STATES SCHOONER WOODBURY

Vera Cruz, May 9th 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

I arrived yesterday after a propitious voyage, and immediately commenced operations, but I enclose my sons letter and beg you will read it, as my communication to you. It gives you the material points. If I am not received this afternoon I have informed Genl. Victoria I shall avail myself of the hospitality of the French

^a A. L. S.

^b A. L. S., May 1, 1839.

^c As secretary.

^d See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 199.

Commodore (Admiral Baudin having sailed). Since writing to my son it has been intimated through the Bishop (Padre Muldoon^a who I assure you has evinced the utmost anxiety) and the American Consul, that upon my stating that this vessel was about to sail, and that I should have no domicil, that General Victoria would inform me I could take rooms in the city. I accordingly informed him I had only to claim the hospitality of the French, or be indebted to him until the Secretary of State of Mexico could be heard from, observing at the same time, I left it entirely optional with him which course was to be pursued, but that if allowed to have rooms in Vera Cruz, I should feel bound to comply with such regulations as he might deem prudent. I wait his reply.

General Lamar will deeply lament the fate of Genl. Mexia!^b it is only however the course he meant to pursue if Santa Anna had ever fallen into his hands. Be kind enough to forward my sons Letter.

I am with infinite regard
Yours Sincerely

BARNARD E BEE

Honl

JAMES WEBB
Secty of State

ON BOARD THE FRENCH FLEET *May 10th '39*

SIR,

Genl Victoria seems so undetermined what course to take that I have availed myself of the hospitality of the Commodore of the French; I am delightfully situated and will probably remain ten days. I wrote yesterday by mail to Secty State of Mexico, and the Bishop left this morning in the Stage.

Sincerely Yours

BARNARD E. BEE

BEE TO WEBB.^c

FRENCH FRIGATE LA GLOIRE
Vera Cruz May 13th 1839

MY DEAR SIR,

My packet of letters were sealed, the Woodbury's sails up, and I on board the French Commodore's barge; when a Mexican boat hailed, saying they had a letter for Don Barnard. It proved to be a formal authority from Genl. Victoria permitting me to land. I immediately jumped on board the Woodbury and replied courteously for the privilege, but stated I was under an engagement to dine on board the fleet, but would pay my respects the next day. I had no

^a It is not meant here that Padre Muldoon was the bishop.

^b See *Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association*, VI, 186.

^c See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 200-201.

June 1839
page
the
the

This is the
a Secret Agent
New Orleans
nature of my
cue might be
informed the
Secretary of
reserve myself
me in New Orleans
But the fact is
tell me here, with
You must understand
With this authority
There is a Vessel
order that I may
Government

I am my dear
Yours etc

Judge WEBB

(Copy)

Genl.

JAMES HAMILTON
Ohio

DEAR SIR,

I left here on
On my return

^a This was probably the
the difficulties between
falling to open commu-
Lamar, June 22, 1839,
December 8, 1840.

^b May 19, 1839. See

^c See Records of Department
latter coming first under

time to write to you, but was assured by Capt Nicholas the Orleans papers should spread it far and wide. It was the more gratifying as the "El Censor" the day before after abusing the Texians said "if the Fellow attempts to land a prison awaits him"

Sunday I waited on the Governor of Vera Cruz and was received with great frankness. The moment he heard of my arrival he assured me he had communicated with Mexico by express, thought he should very soon know the result, and *hoped all would be well!* Thus my Dear Sir, I have got *foothold*. But this is not all—I found a *Secret Agent*^a of the Government here, waiting an opportunity for New Orleans, for the purpose of conferring *there* with me upon the nature of my instructions in order if they proved satisfactory, the *cue* might be given to the Mexican Congress before my arrival. I informed the Agent that having already communicated with the Secretary of State, and my arrival universally known, I should reserve myself for his ear. Indeed I am very glad he did not meet me in New Orleans, I greatly prefer treating *openly* with these people. But the *fact* is important, it proves they are disposed to listen. They tell me here, with money I can do every thing,—without it nothing. You must under your own hand give me power to draw on Genl. H. With this authority I can manage through the Merchants of N. Orleans. There is a Vessel ready to sail. I shall keep this open to the last, in order that I may inform you, should Genl. Victoria hear from the Government

I am my dear sir, with great regard

Yours etc

Judge WEBB

BARNARD E. BEE

HAMMEKEN TO HAMILTON.^b

HAMMEKEN TO WEBB.^c

(Copy)

NEW ORLEANS *May 19th 1839.*

Genl.

JAMES HAMILTON

Charleston S. C.

DEAR SIR,

I left here on the 1st inst went to Texas and returned immediately. On my return I found a letter from Col. Bee dated on board the

^a This was probably Juan Vitalba, an Italian, the secret agent of Santa Anna for effecting a settlement of the difficulties between Mexico and Texas, who co-operated with Treat in his negotiations in Mexico after failing to open communications with Bee, and who returned to Texas with Treat. See Hamilton to Lamar, June 22, 1839, Bee to Webb, July 3, 1839, Treat to Burnet, October 23, 1839, and Vitalba to Lamar, December 8, 1840.

^b May 19, 1839. See Hammeken to Webb, May 20, 1839.

^c See Records of Department of State (TEXAS), Book 41, p. 206-207. It should be noted that the latter coming first under this title is an inclosure in that to which the title applies.

Woodbury 3d inst. of which the following is an extract. "We will be at sea in an hour. On your arrival see Mr Conray of the firm of Gasquet. * * *^a

A fine vessel leaves here to day for Vera Cruz, and I am mortified both on my own and on Col Bee's account not to be able to join him. I have been ready several days, anxiously expecting that Gasquet & Co. would hear from you. Mr. Forstall told me that he had, since the departure of Col Bee received news from the highest authority—that he would be received, and that he (Mr Forstall) felt confident of the success of the Mission. * * *^a

Requesting the favor of an immediate reply, I remain

Respectfully your most Obt Servant

GEO. L. HAMMEKEN

NEW ORLEANS, *May 20th, 1839.*

Honl. JAMES WEBB

Secretary of State.

DEAR SIR,

The foregoing is a copy of a letter addressed to General Hamilton. I hope that before I can receive a reply to it, the funds mentioned by Col. Bee will have arrived. I will avail myself then of the first opportunity to reach the City of Mexico—as there will probably not be a vessel for Vera Cruz very soon, I will go either to Tampico or Matamoras, if I should think I can gain time by doing so.

Mr. Forstall is the active partner of the House of Lizardi & Co highly influential in Mexico, and his co-operation will have a great tendency to bring about an arrangement between the two countries. He told me that he had paved the way for Col Bee, and that no doubt an arrangement could be effected on the basis of the acknowledgement of our independence. He has allowed me to inform his Excellency Genl. Lamar, that he had just received news from the highest authorities to that effect.

I forwarded by the vessel which sailed yesterday a letter received some few days ago from yourself to Col Bee. Should you have any further commands, I am afraid that the return of the Columbia will still find me here, waiting an answer from Genl. Hamilton.

I am sorry to see June so near, as the rainy season commences in that month, making travelling in Mexico excessively tedious and disagreeable. I want to be off. * * *^a

With sentiments of high regard, I subscribe myself

Your Most obdt. Servt

GEORGE L. HAMMEKEN.

^a The matter here omitted relates to Bee's financial affairs.

Honl

JAMES WEBB

Secretary of State

MY DEAR SIR,

Repeated communications and the Government allowed to present myself communications from Texas, was unanimously rejected, letters were received In the mean time General attention, and I have just says the acknowledgment that Zacatecas, Sonora replied we were a difference while these states with then urged, that Texas Mexico, that she should gotten. I replied, that Mexico was now a Central a Federal. He said she a Department would have him, Texas was valueless tion, Slavery could not Congress would assent could exceed his desire went on, The French qu reform about to take place mand, Mexico would be Texas, That companies ready to locate, only wait us, unless we came in. Millions of people, that But to his people in the that a laurel could not remote—to get his soldiers chains,—that the war was and that after all we were floated in the breeze, the

^a See Records of Department of State along with Bee to Webb, dated August 2, 1839.

BEE TO WEBB.^a

VERA CRUZ, May 24th 1839

Honl

JAMES WEBB

Secretary of State

MY DEAR SIR,

Repeated communications have passed between General Victoria and the Government since my arrival. My letter requesting to be allowed to present myself at Mexico clothed with important communications from Texas, was immediately laid before the Council, and unanimously rejected, "if independence was my object". Private letters were received stating I would be ordered to the Castle etc etc. In the mean time General Victoria continued to treat me with marked attention, and I have just left him after an hours conversation. He says the acknowledgment of our Independence is out of the question; that Zacatecas, Sonora etc would soon be asking the same thing. I replied *we* were a different people, speaking a different language etc, while these states with a *good Government* would seek no change. He then urged, that Texas should at once propose to be *reunited* with Mexico, that she should be received with open arms, the past forgotten. I replied, that his proposition was a flattering one but that Mexico was now a *Central Government*, when Texas was attached to a *Federal*. He said she was a *Representative Republic* that Texas as a Department would have a right to be represented etc etc. I told him, Texas was valueless without Slaves, and that under his constitution, Slavery could not exist. He replied, that can be got over. Congress would assent to Texas holding them etc. In fine nothing could exceed his desire that we should come into the *fold*. He then went on, The French question is settled, the Federalists are put down, reform about to take place, and that with the great resources at command, Mexico would be compelled to wage an efficient War upon Texas, That companies from Europe with arms in their hands were ready to *locate*, only waiting the word, that utter annihilation awaited us, unless we came in. I replied, we were aware of their power, eight Millions of people, that for defence, I had no doubt of their prowess. But to his people in the aggregate, Texas offered not an inducement, that a laurel could never be gained there, that the province was remote—to get his soldiers there he would have to take them in chains,—that the war would cost them more than Texas was worth, and that after all we would retain it,—for the moment our standard floated in the breeze, the young of all nations would flock to it, and

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, pp. 207-209. This letter seems to have been sent along with Bee to Webb, dated simply June, 1839, the only communication from Bee written that month, p. 2.

that with an exhausted Treasury and a heavy debt, I thought they had better listen to my proposals. We of course did not convince each other and I only give you the conversation to show how strenuously devoted to the reunion the old gentleman is. He even asked if I did not think I could persuade my Government to alter her views. "Remember", said he, "what an old man tells you. Mexico is the finest country in the world; avail yourself of its advantages, at a future day *your son* may be at her head."

But as to Santa Anna, we must give him time,—at this moment he does not *dare* take a move openly in favor of Texas. He is playing a great game. The press is put down. The Militia of the country disarmed. Soldiers are pressed into the Service. Mexico's followers made to fall in the ranks, Captains reduced to privates. Bonapart's conscription adopted. Despotism covers the land, and until he is firmly seated as *Emperor*, nothing will be done. In the mean time he will *hector* about Texas, (and *in secret* will negotiate with her), keep Bustamenta at the head of the Army etc—thus the mission has failed.

Texas must prepare for war, but with little probability of ever being invaded. I would not call a single farmer from his plough; let the soil be cultivated; you want population. Volunteers from all nations will flock to you. Ten thousand Germans, ten thousand French,—give moderate bounties in land, have a good *Commissariat*, and you need not give a *dollar pay* during the time they are in service, and with a moderate navy you have nothing to fear. All this will be the duty of the Government,—but I tell you the question is settled; Texas will be heard. I ought not to have come here; Washington was the place to open the subject. While I write, the *secret Agent* is in my view. I have had nothing to do with him except to gather all I could. The British Minister at Mexico will say to Santa Anna, you are going against the Wind Mills in Texas, pray pay us before you start etc etc

I leave by the first opportunity, my services you know are at the disposal of the President, from a volunteer in the army to a fireside counsellor. I will proceed on my reaching Orleans to Pendleton S. C. and will expect to hear from you there, as there will be ample time to return to Texas.

I have communicated with Mr Packenham and expect to hear from him. I have yet to tell you of the fate of the Padre Muldoon. As soon as he reached Mexico, I am told he was incarcerated, for coming with a Texian. He is said to have been imprudent on his journey, praising the Texians, and saying their Minister must be received, but I rather apprehend his difficulty has arisen from having left the palace against the consent of Bustamenta. He obtained, it seems a passport from Santa Anna.

I wrote you a hasty letter to sail for New Orleans; this on board the French Frigate the Steamer Phaeton, and he the first vessel.

I remain with esteem,

SACRIFICIOUS

MY DEAR SIR,

I have just received your letter to write a line, though I have not had time to move in coming so suddenly. I am a true one. It ought to have been most courteously received by me, but I cannot recognize me, so that I have written a polite note from the Secretary of the Secretariat. I have also received a letter from Washington. They will either be sent to Mr Martinez.

As yet the letters from the Secretary (Martinez) at Washington have not arrived to day. The House of Representatives is in session at the factory. If I had where to go, the Steamer goes in the morning. There is neither an American ship nor a truth, we must give Santa Anna the whole Govmt.

General Victoria told me he would only come into the field.

I will furnish you with copies as soon as possible; I had no knowledge of it. Captain told me he was bound for the Balize for 500\$. If on my way ready for Orleans, I will pay for Charleston as I have named in my letter to Washington. Tell Genl. L...

28TH MAY 1839

I wrote you a hasty letter by a vessel which had just determined to sail for New Orleans; this will have informed you that I am again on board the French Frigate Comt. Lainé. I leave for Havana in the Steamer Phaeton, and hope soon to be in Orleans, as I shall take the first vessel.

I remain with esteem, Yours

BARNARD E. BEE.

BEE TO WEBB.^a

SACRIFICIOS. FRENCH STEAMER PHAETON

28 May 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have just received your letter of the 6th May. I havnt time to write a line, though I have very much to say. We made a merry move in coming so suddenly upon these people, the first plan was the true one. It ought to have opened at Washington. I have been most courteously received by General Victoria, but the Government cannot recognize me, so that *Mexico* has denied me. I have received a polite note from the Secretary of State headed *particular and confidential*. I have also recvd. one from Mr Packenham saying nothing can be done at *this moment*. I have proposed to open my views at Washington. They will either send Almonte to me there, or refer me to Mr Martinez.

As yet the letters from the British Minister and the Mexican Minister (Martinez) at Washington, have not reached Mexico; they arrived to day. The House of Lizardi write me they are most *satisfactory*. If I had where to lay my head, I would not leave yet, but the Steamer goes in the morning, the fleet follow on Saturday, and there is neither an American or English vessel of war here. But in truth, we must give Santa Anna a *little time*,—not alone Santa Anna but the whole Govmt.

General Victoria told me he would receive us with open arms, if we would only come into the fold again,—be reunited with Mexico!!

I will furnish you with copies of all I have written, but cannot possibly now; I had no knowledge of a vessel for New Orleans. The Captain told me he was bound for New York, but would take me to the Balize for 500\$. If on my arrival at the Havana, I find a vessel ready for Orleans, I will pay you a visit in Texas, if not I will go to Charleston as I have named the 1st July for opening the subject at Washington. Tell Genl. Lamar I will carry it through, but if not we

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 215.

can whip them! Vera Cruz is full of their Soldiers. The Planters of Georgia might as well expect to conquer that state with their *Slaves* as Mexico to reconquer Texas.

With great consideration Your
Obedt Servt

Honl

JAMES WEBB
Secty of State

BARNARD E. BEE

POINSETT TO HAMILTON.^a

PAKENHAM TO BEE^b

HAMILTON TO LAMAR.^c

PHILADELPHIA 22nd. June 1839

MY DEAR SIR,—

I deem it proper to apprise you, of my movements here to second Col. Bee's movements in Mexico, which I consider for obvious reasons suspended not broken off. The truth is that the negotiation could not have been conducted in Mexico, but must from the troubled State of Mexico be transferred to the United States. With several provinces in a state of revolt, Santa Anna could not set the example in his own capital of a recognition of the Independence of one which they are pleased to consider in a State of Rebellion. On my arrival at the North I repaired to Washington and immediately commenced a series of operations to get the Government of the United States warmly enlisted in co-operating in effecting peace between Mexico and Texas. The President gave Mr Ellis special instructions and carried his courtesy so far, as to order the Frigate Constitution detained five days, to take out Mr Pakenham's dispatches from Mr Fox. These dispatches earnestly recommending to Mr. Pakenham the policy of his using his best efforts with Santa Anna, to consent to a recognition of Texas and Treaty of peace, were in consequence of my addressing to Mr. Fox, a letter of which the enclosed is a copy.^d I also have sent you a copy of Mr. Fox's reply.^e Mr. Poinsett, who is the decided and warm friend of Texas, has been industriously occupied in getting Martinez the Mexican Minister at Washington earnestly

^a May 31, 1839. See Hamilton to Lamar, June 22, 1839.

^b June 2, 1839. (extract). See Bee to Webb, July 24, 1839.

^c See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, pp. 400-401.

^d See Hamilton to Fox, May 20, 1839 in correspondence with Great Britain.

^e See Fox to Hamilton May 22, 1839 in correspondence with Great Britain.

engaged in urging peace
send you a copy of Mr. P
has done. There is a C
Texas, named Treat,^a w
mately acquainted with
friend of the Mexican Pr
letters lately, translation
represents that he is am
the secret articles of a p
with Col Bee, in Novr.^b
Treat, to go down to Ne
be done. He may essen
be transferred to Wash
States. You see now ho
comparatively [will be m
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a better currency than
closed in Mr. Burnley's
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indorse your approval o
directed to me, to the cas
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of success, and this can
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point as a matter of dip
hope to obtain your Ser
and Independence with
of peace, which money
you to dispatch my Ser
haste, as Mr. Burnley
tiation of the loan until

^a Concerning James Treat, little is known. He came from New York to Texas in 1836. (See Records of Department of State, Texas, 1836-1840.) He is "intimately acquainted with Mexico" and "enjoyed the confidence of the leading men in 1836" (See *Telegraph and Texas*, 1839-1840. He died on his passage to Texas in 1840.)

^b There is certainly an error in the name of Burnley's puzzling chirography. The meeting in New Orleans took place in July, 1839.

^c Hamilton and Burnley to Lamar, June 22, 1839.

engaged in urging peace in his distracted and infatuated country. I send you a copy of Mr. Poinsetts letter to me disclosing what Martinez has done. There is a Gentleman in New York, a cordial friend of Texas, named Treat,^a who has been many years in Mexico is intimately acquainted with Santa Anna and corresponds with a close friend of the Mexican President, from whom he has received several letters lately, translations of which, I have seen, in which this person represents that he is amply empowered by Santa Anna, to conclude the secret articles of a pacification. This person has communicated with Col Bee, in Novr.^b in New Orleans, and I hope to induce Mr. Treat, to go down to New Orleans, early next week, to see what can be done. He may essentially aid Col Bee and the negotiation may be transferred to Washington under the mediation of the United States. You see now how affairs stand. I believe very little money comparatively [will be needed] for the attainment of such an object. Your administration may be illustrated by the recognition of France, England and Mexico, and a negotiation of the five Million Loan, and all this before the meeting of your congress, and next winter through the instrumentality of the Bank of the United States, you may have a better currency than United States now possesses. I have disclosed in Mr. Burnley's and my official letter ^c the importance of changing the bonds and the sinking funds basis, but we cannot negotiate them without we can obtain your concurrence in the sinking fund act. If you approve of the same you will be so kind as to indorse your approval on the transcript, and forward it by my son, directed to me, to the care of Palmer's, McKellop, Dent & Co London. Without the recognition however, of Great Britain, we can have no hope of success, and this can only be obtained by getting that of France first, which for money we can accomplish. We have pressed this point as a matter of diplomatic Service, and your consideration and hope to obtain your Sanction. What New Country can win Empire and Independence without the use of Sinews of War, and the Currency of peace, which money may well be called. Let me however entreat you to dispatch my Son back to New Orleans with all imaginable haste, as Mr. Burnley and myself cannot proceed a step in the negotiation of the loan until we get your sanction of the sinking fund act.

^a Concerning James Treat, little further can be stated here than is learned from this correspondence. He came from New York to Texas in the summer of 1839 bearing letters of recommendation from N. T. Jennings, James Hamilton and Barnard E. Bee to Burnet; and John T. Mason and R. G. Dunlap to Lamar (See Records of Department of State, Texas, Book 41, pp. 297-298). One of these letters states that he is "intimately acquainted with Mexico and Mexican Politics, having passed much of his time there, and enjoyed the confidence of the leading men of the Country." He gave material help to Texas in New York in 1836 (See *Telegraph and Texas Register*, December 16, 1840) and was its confidential agent in Mexico, 1839-1840. He died on his passage from Vera Cruz to Galveston, November 30, 1840.

^b There is certainly an error in this date, which must be due to the copyist's inexperience and to Hamilton's puzzling chirography. The interviews of Bee with the secret agent of the Mexican government in New Orleans took place in July. See Bee to Webb, July 5, 1839.

^c Hamilton and Burnley to Lamar, June 22, 1839 in correspondence with France.

Hence it is infinitely important that we should receive it by the 15th August in London by the Great Western. Mr. Burnley sails on Tuesday the 25th. in the Sailing Ship Garrick, and I follow in the Steamer Liverpool on the 6th July. I shall probably reach England first. God bless and prosper you, with esteem, Respectfully and truly your friend

His Excellency
M B LAMAR

J. HAMILTON

[Copy.^a]

WASHINGTON 31st. May 1839.

MY DEAR SIR

I did not receive your letter until late last night, and therefore could not reply to it by return of Mail as desired. I received from our mutual friend Col Barnard Bee a letter requesting that I should furnish him with letters to my friends in Mexico and take an interest in the success of his Mission, the object of which he explained to me. The real interest I have felt for Texas induced me to decline giving him letters, as they could be of no service to him, and might have excited suspicion among the most suspicious people on earth, both with regard to the views of this Government, and the part I might take individually in the recognition of Texian Independence. In an interview which I had subsequently with Mr. Martinez, I found him very favourably impressed with the views of mutual advantage to Mexico and Texas, likely to result from the proposed arrangement. In consequence chiefly of his own reflections and enlightened views of the subject, he wrote a pressing letter to Señor Gorostiza, which he communicated to me, urging the acceptance of the offers he understood Col Bee was authorized to make.

I have not time to detail to you the arguments adduced in the letter, but they were such as would occur to the friends of both countries and especially of Mexico, and were ably and cogently urged, so much so, that I entertain great hopes, they will have produced beneficial results, and lead to the favorable termination of the Negotiation. I will take up the business you left me here next week, and dispatch it

(Signed) J R. POINSETT

To

Gen. J. HAMILTON
Philadelphia

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, pp. 404.

CORRESPONDENCE

HAMILTON

HAMILTON

HAMILTON

(Private and Confidential)

MY DEAR SIR.—

This will be handed you in my letter to you by my friend Treat has resided many years with most of the leading people speaks its language fluently Anna, and is the correspondent of Santa Anna, who had an interview with him there for the purpose of producing a speedy publication. As it is due to Col Bee, Mr. Poinsett, under the instructions of the Government, As I think after your Mission to Mexico the Mission he ought to have been a successful issue.

The great point to be gained by the mediation of the United States has been transferred to Washington. Treat or his friend in New Orleans after a proper understanding of the instructions) to Vera Cruz. The fact officially known in London of the United States, and the Government of Washington, cannot be put into my hands. Now as great importance is necessary in this highly momentous and efficient and faithful adjustment. His character is most highly respected and confidence, and their favor is most to my own observation. Mr. Poinsett, Orleans, and after seeing the

^a June 24, 1839 (extract). See Bee to Poinsett.

^b June 29, 1839. See Hamilton to Lamar, letter with which it went.

^c See Records of Department of State (Texas).