

HAMILTON TO BEE.^aHAMILTON TO COPLAND [COPELAND].^bHAMILTON TO LAMAR.^c

(Private and Confidential)

NEW YORK *June 28th. 1839*

MY DEAR SIR.—

This will be handed you by the Gentleman to whom I referred in my letter to you by my son—Mr. James Treat of this City—whom I beg leave to introduce to your confidence and acquaintance. Mr. Treat has resided many years in Mexico and is intimately acquainted with most of the leading public men of that country, and withal speaks its language fluently. He is well acquainted with Santa Anna, and is the correspondent of the Italian Gentlemen, the agent of Santa Anna, who had an interview with Mr Bee at Vera Cruz and who is now in New Orleans, and who has invited Mr. Treat to join him there for the purpose of ascertaining what privately can be done to produce a speedy public pacification between Texas and Mexico. As it is due to Col Bee, Mr. Treat distinctly understands he is to act under the instructions of Col Bee, and in subordination to his views. As I think after your Minister has had all the trouble and peril of the Mission he ought to have whatever honor may arise from its successful issue.

The great point to be gained is that Mexico may concur to the mediation of the United States and that the negotiation may be transferred to Washington with as little delay as possible. Mr. Treat or his friend in New Orleans, (Santa Anna's agent) will repair after a proper understanding, with Col Bee on all points (under your instructions) to Vera Cruz if necessary, after all the facts are known between the contracting parties. The vast importance of having the fact officially known in London, that Mexico agrees to the mediation of the United States, and that the negotiation is transferred to Washington, cannot be overestimated in the business confided to my hands. Now as great Secrecy, Vigilance and dispatch are necessary in this highly momentous affair, Col Bee cannot have a more efficient and faithful adjunct than Mr Treat, or a safer counsellor. His character is most highly vouched by gentlemen who have my confidence, and their favorable opinions are entirely confirmed by my own observation. Mr. Treat starts *post*, and will repair to New Orleans, and after seeing his friend, will repair to Texas, to see you

^a June 24, 1839 (extract). See Bee to Webb, July 5, 1839.^b June 29, 1839. See Hamilton to Lamar, June 28, 1838. The inclosure is dated one day later than the letter with which it went.^c See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 407-408.

make the Post Notes payable to my sons order, and so advised President Lamar. On reflection however, Mr. ^a and myself thought it best to make them payable to yours, as some accident on the Boat, might either detain or prevent my son from reaching New Orleans. I wish you would be particular and verify ^b the order from the Texian Government, to deliver the notes, examining whether addressed to the President or Cashier of the Merchants Bank, or to Thomas Lynch Hamilton. You will likewise oblige me by saying to the Texian Agent, that it would be contrary to the understanding under which they were received, that they should be cashed at a discount, or hawked about the market in New Orleans, as they are lent exclusively for the purpose of purchasing supplies for the Indian Campaign, ^c and can be used at par for such purchases, as those selling provisions or munitions of War, will gladly receive them as a cash equivalent. It would be well for you to say to the Texian Agent that he had better, for safety keep the notes on deposit in the Merchants Bank, and merely take them out as he may disburse them.

I remain Sir, with great respect. Your Obedient Servant,
J HAMILTON.

To

R. COPLAND ^d Esqr.

Asst. Cashier of the Merchants Bank, New Orleans.

P. S. be so kind as to address your reply, to the care of Mesers Meckshur Coster & Madfold New York, who will forward your letter to England to me, by the Great Western I embark in the Steamer Liverpool on the 6th proximo.

BEE TO WEBB.^e

ON BOARD BARQUE ROGER WILLIAMS

June 7 1839.

Honl JAMES WEBB

Secretary of State.

SIR,

I left Havana on the 12th inst, in the Roger Williams, for New Orleans, having received every conceivable attention from Admiral Baudin who, I find perfectly charmed with you all. By the bye, he says, if not ordered to France, he will go to Texas, take horses and ride over the country. I have assured him, the President would furnish him with every facility.

^a Probably Burnley.

^b The copy in the Record Book reads "and verifying."

^c Against the Cherokees. See *Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association*, I, 38-46.

^d Doubtless the copyist's error for "Copeland;" the name appears in the latter form twice in the letter of Hamilton to Lamar with which this is inclosed.

^e See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 222-223.

^f As will be seen from the letter itself, it was written during Bee's voyage from Havana to New Orleans beginning June 12.

The letters I received from the Lizardi's, just as I was leaving, would have justified my remaining, if I had had where to lay my head, but the French Fleet were to sail for Campeachy on Saturday, and there was not an English or American Government Vessel there. There were a few American and Spanish Merchant sloops, but I felt it would neither be compatible with the honor of Texas, or my own respectability that I should be shifting from Craft to craft, and therefore, at once proposed to the Secretary of State of Mexico, that he should appoint an agent to meet me at Washington, if they were disposed to open the negotiation. I wait with infinite anxiety to know the result upon my arrival at New Orleans.

My letter to you written in great haste, the night before I left Vera Cruz, gave you my impressions *then* without having informed you of any preliminary steps! These, you will discover in my letter of the 24th May now sent you. On the whole, "doubt not but success will fashion the event in better shape than I can lay it down in likelihood." Indeed, have no fears,—say to Genl. Johnston prepare *moderately*, but to be assured he will never have a Mexican Army to contend with. They have no Navy: they have not a dollar in their Treasury: they have not paid their Officers or men for years: they owe Great Britain 60 Million of dollars: they are paying France 200 000 dollars every two months: how? by borrowing of the Merchants at 40 per cent discount and giving orders on the Custom Houses. The American Minister Judge Ellis is to receive monthly from the custom house so much,—and if not, then *half* the amount. Where then are they to get money to annihilate Texas? Sir the question is settled.

NEW ORLEANS July 6th 1839.

On my arrival I found a letter from Col. Almonte saying "I was desired by the President to open my views," the very point they had refused. Had I received this letter on board the Fleet, I would immediately have obtained *re*-admission into Vera Cruz, but it is best as it is. I am satisfied Washington will be a better atmosphere, than Mexico. I am hourly expecting the Vessel from Vera Cruz.

Mr Hammekin will be the bearer of this communication. I send him in order that the President may sanction my proceeding to Washington, and extend my instructions should he deem it advisable, but they are so full and so admirably drawn, that I do not think you will have much more trouble.

I found Texas money at 28 cents on reaching here. I instantly went to the Brokers and told them it was intrinsically worth 75 cents, and that there was every probability of our commissioners succeeding in Europe; to day it is 40 cents, and the moment it is known, that you have an advance, as it must be, through the Bank, it will be higher. If the Banks of this city were worth a farthing (and they are not) I

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all our money—for the G
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but many thousand doll
Bryan^a the Consul, might
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I am with great re
Your Obedt

MY DEAR SIR,

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the 23d and 24th June.
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"the 4th July. Do not
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"in time for their advis
"the 1st. August." He
"Mr Treat arrives, as he
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returned I must draw
be enough for the pro
for this Am't through

^a William Bryan, Sec'y

would have obtained One hundred thousand Dollars, and bought up all our money—for the Government—and even now, I would suggest the Secretary of the Treasury sending Col Love by the return of the Columbia, with authority to do so. Of course it will be enhanced, but many thousand dollars will be gained by the operation. Mr. Bryan^a the Consul, might be authorized: I have found him very solicitous to forward the interests of Texas

I am with great respect
Your Obedt Servant

BARNARD E. BEE.

BEE TO WEBB.^b

[Confidential.]

ORLEANS 5th July 39

MY DEAR SIR,

I am in receipt of two letters by express from Gen'l Hamilton of the 23d and 24th June. The last says, "My Son left Philadelphia yesterday Ev'g at 6 o.c'k for New Orleans. He will reach there by the 4th July. Do not let the Steam Boat leave without him, as he has important despatches for your Govt, and ought to return in time for their advices to be forwarded by the Great Western on the 1st. August." He adds,—"*Remain yourself* in Orleans until Mr Treat arrives, as he will convey to *you* very important information from *me*. Mr Treat is the correspondent of Santa Anna's agent *now* in New Orleans and will act in subordination to your views. It may be necessary to send this agent to *Mexico* for despatches authorising you to negotiate under the mediation of the United States. Write me *weekly* that I may use every auspicious *incident* beneficially."

I am very much in hopes the letters I wrote the night preceding my leaving the French Fleet will accomplish *all* that Genl. Hamilton seems to desire, and I have little doubt that the first vessel from Vera Cruz will satisfy us upon this point. The *calms* at this Season detain her I presume. The *Secret Agent* alluded to by Gen'l Hamilton, and of whom I wrote from Vera Cruz is *daily* with me. I play him off under the plea that I am in *direct* correspondence with the Sec'y of State, Mr. Gorostiza, but he assures me until I make myself *felt* nothing *positive* will be effected. Gen'l Hamilton is so satisfied of this, that he says he had reserv'd money for me, but that as I have returned I must draw upon you. I think Five Thousd Dollars will be enough for the present. I will thank you to send me an order for this Am't through Mr Forstall of the House of Lizardi. I

^a William Bryan, Texan consul at New Orleans.

^b A. L. S.

intimated to Mr Pakenham that what he undertook we could comply with. *He will understand it.* Say to Gen'l Lamar he shall have *Peace* by Novr.! I saw Mr Knight in the Havana, who made a great many inquiries after you. He says Texas must succeed with such men as Judge Webb. You will very much oblige me by seeing the Secy of the Treasury. on turning to his books he will find that in 1838, The Dep't *accepted* but never p'd a dr'ft for \$1500 with Intrst. frm Decr 1836 in favor of the Washington City Bank. It was for money advanced by the Bank to Col. Hockley and myself on the Santa Anna Expedition. It would be very unpleasant to me to go to Washington with this dr'ft *unpaid*. The letter to the Dept. I presume points out when the money is to be remitted. I am very sure you will attend to this for me.

I am with great regard
Sincerely Yours

Judge WEBB

BARNARD E BEE

BEE TO WEBB.^a

[Private.]

ORLEANS *July 6th 1839*—12.0'ck

MY DEAR SIR,

I am anxiously looking out for the Mobile Boat with the Mail and our little ambassador from Gen'l H.^b He writes me ^c and his Son left Philadelphia on the 23d June at 6. o'ck in the m'g^d so that I have little doubt he will be here to day. The Columbia has consented to wait until one o'ck—and I think will 'til 4. I have offered to pay the pr diem expenses of the Boat if they will keep her until tomorrow, should young Hamilton not arrive to day, but they say it will be impossible, The Passengers being restive. Should the Columbia leave, I will procure a Pilot Boat and send him as quick as possible. I write however—for a different reason. I omitted suggesting that until we hear from Vera Cruz that no act of an offensive character should be taken on our part, but I am sure I need not make the suggestion. Peace is too essential to us and the opening too clear to have it marr'd at this moment.

I am Sincerely
Yours

BARNARD E BEE

^aA. L. S.

^b Hamilton.

^c In his letter of June 24.

^d Morning.

MY DEAR SIR

The day previous to my departure for Liverpool, I received an intimation that you would either see or write me before the 1st. August. I received the assurance that Mexico was not to be ceded to the United States. I deemed it prudent to hesitate one moment, but I did not until to day receive your report^b in person. I was in the Liverpool, but goes to France on the 1st. August as I am inclined to think on the occasion of Louis Philippe. I am on a preliminary basis for our purchase of the old and experienced Banker of London and is thorough in his knowledge of your Government, by the way, it is very much depressed by the failure of another harvest, in England. In September we cannot expect to see our friends, and our loan is not so confident hopes of success. We are able to obtain the money, without doubt, with the interest you have received the 1st. August, 80,000\$ likewise the Bank is instructed to leave with the interest on your order.

I will write you again in a few days. You may be assured of the same. Respectfully and faithfully

His Excellency

MIRABEAU B LAMAR
Pres. of the

P. S. If Mr. Treat does not receive official sanction from the Government, I would strongly recommend the disposition of the Money.

^a See Records of Department of State.
^b To the French Government in France.

HAMILTON TO LAMAR.^aNEW YORK *July 8th. 1839*

MY DEAR SIR

The day previous to my intending to sail in the Steamer Liverpool, I received an intimation from a respectable Quarter that if I would either see or write to Martinez the Mexican Minister privately before the 1st. Augst. that I would receive a pretty unequivocal assurance that Mexico was prepared to accept the mediation of the United States. I deemed this too important a lever in my negotiation to hesitate one moment, about it, more especially as Saligny, did not until to day receive the permission of his Government to take his report^b in person to France. Hence he could not sail in the Liverpool, but goes with me in the Great Western, on the first of August as I am inclined to stick to him until we obtain the recognition of Louis Philippe. As Mr. Shaw has gone over to lay the preliminary basis for our negotiation, and from his knowledge as an old and experienced Banker, is acquainted with all the capitalists in London and is thoroughly in our interest, I will lose nothing, or your Government, by the delay. Besides the London Stock Market is very much depressed at the present, and until the produce of another harvest, in England, is realized, which will not be until September we cannot expect any improvement. We have such strong friends, and our loan is so well arranged and got up, that I have confident hopes of success by the 1st. October, and especially if we are able to obtain the recognition of Louis Philippe, of which I entertain no doubt, with the application of the proper means. I hope you have received the dispatches by my son, with the checks for 80,000\$ likewise the Post Notes by Mr. Treat, which he was instructed to leave with the cashier of the Merchants Bank, subject to your order.

I will write you again, in the course of a few days. In the mean time be assured of the constant esteem, with which I am, Very Respectfully and faithfully, your friend, and Obt. Servant

J. HAMILTON

His Excellency

MIRABEAU B LAMAR

Prest. of the Republic of Texas

P. S. If Mr. Treat should as a private individual without any official sanction from your people go to Vera Cruz to see Santa Anna I would strongly recommend you to let him go, and ascertain the disposition of the Mexican Government.

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, pp. 404-405.

^b To the French Government on Texas. See note ^a, p. 1230, in correspondence with France.

BEE TO WEBB.^aMERCHANTS BANK
Orleans 9th July 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have exerted every nerve to expedite Mr Reily. You had not notified this Bank that you expected funds, and on their arrival, they proved to be post Notes payable at 6 months, which for purchases of supplies etc will prove as good as cash, but for procuring Silver, which was indispensable to Mr. Reily was a different thing. But this was not all. The Bank was only authorised to deliver to the order of Gen'l Lamar the two hundred thousand Dollars, and were he to send an order to Morrow for that am't they would be obliged to pay it. Hence, I had to get them to advance me Twenty Seven Thousand Dollars in their Bills, and with this went into the Market and bought Silver. The Secy of the Treasury therefore in drawing will recollect to do so from the Am't less \$27,000. He will also be good enough to sanction what I have done and to empower the Bank to pay themselves their discount on the Am't advanced, but upon this point the President of the Bank has written to Gen'l Lamar. The Sec'y of the Treasury will also be good enough to forward me a drft to cover the Am't I have paid for Insurance to Nachitoches, for the purchase of Silver, for boxes, and for voyage. Amts to \$250. I will send the receipts. Texas will have to give me a domain at Austin. I am always on the stretch for her. Upon reflection, I determined to keep young Hamilton, as there was little chance of any thing being gained by taking a Schooner. He will be with you by the Columbia—having arrived just too late for her last trip. You will be pleased with the form of the bond sent on by his Father. Mr. Treat arrived to day and will visit you. The Secret Agent has been with me as I wrote ever since my arrival—unknown as such even to Mr Hammeken who knew him in Mexico and saw him daily here. He did not wish to be known unless I acknowledged him, which I did not wish to do until I heard from Mexico, as I was in direct correspondence with the Secy of State Gorostiza. The Water Witch that I have been so anxiously waiting for arrived to day brin'g me but one letter from Almonte, and written supposing I was still in Vera Cruz. He says, "you are authorised to open your views to the Gov't in writing, as I communicated to you in my last letter," and adds "I am requested by the Presid't to say Padre Muldoon was not imprisoned because he accompanied you but because he left Mexico for Texas without authority." Now My dear Sir, I assure you the Padre left expressly with Santa Annas authority—as he showed me his passport. The truth is he was imprisoned for accompanying me, but merely for

^aA. L. S.

effect. They are a strong
communications from
will be no difficulty—
can only be approached
in vain." Gen'l Ham
Mr Treat of New York
to visit Mexico and
Gov't are only waiting
aware of this at Vera
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mence with.^c My imp
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all objects. I shall offer
accompany Mr Treat b
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with them. Almonte,
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wrote—"that he was
Texas." He failed yo
an interview with a M
has given information

^a See Bee to Webb, July 5.^b José María Tornel, mentioned
referred to see *Telegraph and*
Tornel, June 18, 1839.^c A. S. Wright, a native
Baltimore, lived many years
Texan Government in 1839
the secret agent of Bee in
Texan Government as late
Telegraph and Texas Register.

effect. They are a sharp People. The Secret Agent has rece'd full communications from the person behind the scene. He says—"There will be no difficulty—no matter who is at the head of Gov't—but it can only be approached in *one* way, and it may be tried in any other in vain." Gen'l Hamilton and Mr Poinsett are so aware of this that Mr Treat of New York has been sent to me as the most proper person to visit Mexico and prepare the way. The truth is the officers of Gov't are only waiting for their *fee* to commence operations. I was aware of this at Vera Cruz but I was solicitous of breaking ground without it—fully sensible however, that as I progressed the way would have to be paved with gold. The Presidents best plan is to make up his mind to this at once, and to empower me to use my discretion, tho indeed I think he has long since done so. It was with this view I wrote the other day for authority to draw \$5000 to commence with.^a My impression is that he will have to spend from Five Hundred thous'd to a Million in this way, but still I hope to do it out of the Five Million; in other words to make the Five Million *effect all objects.* I shall offer them *Silver* instead of our bonds. I would accompany Mr Treat but really have nothing to add and am greatly in hopes by going to Pensacola, I shall meet the Constitution, who will bring answers to letters carried out by Judge Ellis. Notwithstanding Tornell's ^b proclamation I pray the President not to incur any very large expense for the Mexican *60 Thousand Warriors* as I assure him he will never be on the field of battle with them again. Santa Anna has only done it as a blind, and to convince them that the "calumny" of his hav'g promised Two Million to Texas for his liberty is unfounded. I have never explained to you why I did not propose an Armistice. I found they were so elated at the departure of the French and the putting down the Federalists, that they would have attributed it to *apprehension* on our part, so that of course, I never named it. On the contrary, I always took high, but *courteous* ground with them. Almonte, as you are aware returned from England, about a fortnight before I arrived at Vera Cruz. I assure you he wrote—"that he was afraid Lord Palmerston would acknowledge Texas." He failed you know in procuring a *dollar.* I have just had an interview with a Mr Wright ^c who says he is a Texian Citizen and has given information to the Scy of War relative to our Indians.

^a See Bee to Webb, July 5.

^b José María Tornel, Mexican Minister of War. For what is doubtless the document referred to see *Telegraph and Texas Register* July 24, 1839, for "A Presentation" by Tornel, June 18, 1839.

^c A. S. Wright, a native of the United States, educated at St. Mary's College near Baltimore, lived many years in Spain, became a trader in Mexico, was employed by the Texan Government in 1838 to give information regarding the frontier Indians, became the secret agent of Bee in Mexico in 1839 and continued to give information to the Texan Government as late as 1841. See *The Red-Lander*, September 29, 1842; *The Telegraph and Texas Register*, June 12, 1839; and Wright to Lamar, March 18, 1841.

He assures me they are all restive, and require close watching. He thinks the U. S. Indians would't require much to induce them to sweep our praries, but apprehends nothing further at present. He is on his way to Mexico and means to be promptly on the Rio Grande with a view of kn'w'g all their movements. He proffer his services to keep us constantly advised, and wishes to know if we will recompense him. I have assured him he will be compensated according to the importance and *accuracy* of his information. I am indeed not sorry to have met this man, if he is worthy. We ought to have at this moment an individual who will keep us informed of all Mexico's steps.

Every thing ought to be done now to bring our currency at par. It would be a great relief to the officers of Gov't as well as to the Community at large, but on this subject I need not say a word.

I commenced this letter in the Merchants Bank three days ago, expecting young Hamilton would have got off that night. I close it now, as a vessel is to leave to night and *may* arrive before the Columbia.

I am sure you will be anxious to hear from me, and at all events will be gratified to learn that Mr. Riely ^a had left and with the Rhine.

I am with great regard
esteem and respect
Yours

HON JAMES WEBB.

BARNARD E BEE

BEE TO WEBB.^b

[Private]

FRIDAY M^o

Mr. Barker has just called to say he will give you *Specie* for your Post Notes, but he will not say at what? For all *purchases* I have before said they are as good as Gold. I am told a special session is spoken of. Advise the President (instead) to pursue this course. Call the New Congress at Austin accord'g to Law, but let him intimate in his Proclamation the entire *probability* that they will have to *adjourn* to Houston. By pursuing this course no unnecessary removals or expense will be incurr'd. The Public Papers will remain where they are. The People will not be breaking their Necks to make accommodations which it will be impossible for them to accomplish. The expense and trouble of an extra Session in a *most sickly month Sept.*, will be avoided, and the Members of the New Congress will have had an opportunity of seeing the *Spot* and decid-

^a Relly.

^b L. L. S.

ing for themselves as to
I only throw this out to you

The Seat of Gov't for
Sea Shore, but if not I
mediate Spot rely upon it
am afraid by Oct. 1 third
you will be all Sick. Go

Yours Sincerely

Pray send young Hamilton

MY DEAR SIR,

I am happy to inform
facility in settling with
and *discounting* your Post
trifling circumstance to
things it is not so. Forty
days for Texas not only
tomers, but rendered them
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Branche's—would have to
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them at all. For all *purchases*
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was my proposition to the
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expected with important
s'd—as I found your cur
crying it more than Mr

^c Galveston.

ing for themselves as to its advantages as a *permanent* Seat of Gov't. I only throw this out to you. I am told the situation is beautiful.

The Seat of Gov't for the first Ten Years ought to be on the *Sea Shore*, but if not I am for the Mountains. There is no intermediate Spot rely upon it that will afford health. As to Houston I am afraid by Octr. 1 third of the Population will be victims. I know you will be all Sick. God avert it.

Yours Sincerely

B. E. BEE

Pray send young Hamilton to the Island ^a as soon as practicable.

BEE TO WEBB.^b

ORLEANS July 1839

MY DEAR SIR,

I am happy to inform you the Merchants Bank rendered every facility in settling with Mr La Branche by giving their own notes and *discounting* your Post Notes as before. You may suppose this a trifling circumstance to them, but in the present "tight" state of things it is not so. Forty Thousand Dollars in the course of a few days for Texas not only deprived them of accomodating their Customers, but rendered them liable to be called upon for Silver. The Cashier will write to the President.^c The Citizens Bank—Mr La Branche's—would have taken the Post Notes as Silver if they had three instead of six months to run, but we are fortunate to have had them at all. For all *purchases* as I wrote you they will pass as Cash. My last letter by Mr Sanderson will have shewn you that I had no idea of going on to Washington until I heard from Vera Cruz. This was my proposition to them, you know the night prior to my leav'g and as the same thing has been recommended to them from Washington City, I have little doubt it will be acceded to. The *Secret Agency* is a distinct thing. It is merely to let them understand what we require and to assure them that if they enter warmly upon it we will not be wanting in making them ample compensation. It was for this I wanted the drf't to commence with. I wish to give the Individual here a *doceur*, and I am desirous of sending an officer of their Gov't a handsome carriage from this place. His name I enclose you *exclusively* for the Presidents ear.

I have been provoked at the appearance in the Houston Star of a letter said to have been rec'd from me. I wrote no such letter, but "that Gen'l Hamilton was sanguine of success and that his son was expected with important despatches for the Gov't"—and this I openly s'd—as I found your currency was sinking daily, and no persons decrying it more than Mr Irion and Mr Beile, who were yet secretly

^a Galveston.

^b A. L. S.

^c Of Texas.

buying it up. Mr Irion knowing perfectly well that Gen'l H.^a would succeed.^b Col. Love ought to know that they are our bitterest enemies. I shall remain here until the return of the Columbia, hoping by that time to hear something of the arrival of the Constitution.

I am My dear Sir,
Very Sincerely
Yours

BARNARD E BEE

HON. JAMES WEBB.

WEBB TO BEE.^c

HOUSTON 11th July 1839

Honl.

BARNARD E. BEE

Agent of the Republic of Texas to Mexico in New Orleans.

MY DEAR SIR,

I received late last night your several letters by Mr. Hammekin, and as the last boat for the Columbia will leave this morning, I have only time to give you a very short and hasty reply. I have had a conversation with the President on the subject of your communications, and he directs me to say, that in the present uncertain state of our relations with Mexico, he knows of no additional instructions which can be given you. He can perceive no necessity for your proceeding to Washington, unless it be under an express assurance from the Mexican Government, that an agent will be sent to that place authorized to treat *with you* directly in reference to the acknowledgement of the Independence of this Country, as every thing that can be done towards securing the interposition of the United States Government and the British Minister has already been done by General Dunlap. They are both willing to interpose, and have already done so, as far as propriety in the present State of the negotiation will permit, and further applications to them at present would be unavailing.

Would it not be better for you to remain in New Orleans until you ascertain *distinctly* what course the Mexican Government intends pursuing? And if they are disposed to send a special agent to treat with you, could you not carry on the negotiation with that Agent at New Orleans better than at Washington? By remaining at New Orleans you would not only have an opportunity of availing yourself of the services of the Lizardi's which might be beneficial, but you could at any time communicate with the Government as to new

^a Hamilton.^b That is, in effecting a loan.^c See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 38, p. 126.

... which might arise by
... time be more com-
... for communication
... from New Orleans the
... regards the money of
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... me pleasure to do any thing
... accelerate its accomplishme
... I am with sincere regard

MY DEAR SIR,

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thought they might attrib
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ever that Peace will be th
been allowed—viz, my open
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points which might arise in the discussion. Besides, it would at the same time be more convenient to the Mexican Agent, as the facilities for communication with his Government would be much greater from New Orleans than from Washington.

As regards the money of which you speak, the President says, until he knows their demands he is wholly unprepared to act; and on that account it would probably be better for your negotiation to be conducted at New Orleans, if they are disposed to negotiate at all.

I am not now the Secretary of State and am only acting temporarily in the absence of Judge Burnet, but it will at all times afford me pleasure to do any thing which may aid you in your mission, or accelerate its accomplishment.

I am with sincere regard most truly and faithfully yours etc.

JAMES WEBB.

BEE TO WEBB.^a

ORLEANS July 24th 39

MY DEAR SIR,

The sight of Mr Packenhams handwriting quite excited me just now. I was in hopes it was in reply to my communication written the night preceding my departure from Vera Cruz and that it would be full of intelligence. It proved however, to be of *old* date June 2d and reached here to *day* via Havanna. It states, that in compliance with my request—"he had taken an interest in Padre Muldoon and had every reason to believe he would be released from confinement in a few days." Mr Packenham—though he does not so write to me,—thinks, we must not despair of reconciliation from Mr Bees first rejection—that we have only to play our cards well to succeed—that strong prejudices are to be over come and that a little patience on our part will effect much. He thinks *hostilities* ought to cease—in other words [there should be] an armistice; this is pretty much the tenor of his letter, and I give it to you exclusively for the President and his Cabinet.

I have before explained to you why I did not propose an *armistice*. In the first place, I did not wish to open my views to Gen'l Victoria, and in the 2d I found they were too *elated* at hav'g got rid of the French Fleet, and at put'g down the Federalists, and I therefore thought they might attribute the proposition to *fear* of the *Great Nation* and still rejoice that I did not do it. I am as sanguine as ever that Peace will be the result, and if the first arrangment had been allowed—viz, my open'g the negotiation through the U. S. Gov't at Washington and giv'g *them* as the Guarantee for all we proposed—infinite anxiety (God knows on my part) would have been

^a A. L. S.

saved, but perhaps the question will be sooner settled by the course that has been taken. The *whole nation* knows that we have tendered Peace, and it will have its influence. We have many friends among them, and there is a strong party that would rise in our favor should War unfortunately take place. There are Mexicans here with Silver who have traversed Texas and come down the Red River. They passed near "Austin" and the day is not distant when that place will take the trade. They say they were not interrupted by Texians or Indians. I have sent to ascertain what their feelings are towards us and whether they would be likely to join our Standard. etc. Say to Gen'l Lamar I hope he is quite recov'd. He ought to mount his Horse and go the Mountains, or reside on the *front* beach at Galveston. The "City" is very little better than Houston, and will have Yellow Fever, unless they have a good police. You can *generate* yellow fever very readily.

I am very Sincerely Yours

BARNARD E BEE

P. S. I fear you will find me troublesome. I have no talent for letter writing, and my handwriting is execrable.

Yours

B E BEE

BEE TO WEBB.^a

ORLEANS 26th July.

MY DEAR SIR,

This will be presented you by Mr Treat of New York—a Gentleman intimately acquainted with Mexico and Mexican Politics—hav'g passed much of his time there and enjoyed the confidence of the leading men of the country. Gen'l Hamilton, evidently under the advice of Mr Poinsett—thinks very much can be accomplished by Mr Treats personal presence in Mexico, in which I entirely concur. Mr. Treat has had frequent interviews with the *Secret Agent* here and is armed at all points. He will explain his views fully to the President. The question will arise as to Mr. Treats *immediate* action. Should he receive *favorable* news by the Constitution his visit may be unnecessary. Should they however be *playing off*—as is more than probable until their Agent reports—then the sooner Mr. Treat is in the City of Mexico the better.

Permit me to request you will introduce Mr Treat to the Presid't. I recommend him to your particular kindness.

I am very Sincerely

Yours

BARNARD E BEE

^a A. L. S.

DECREE OF MEXICAN CONGRESS
ISH HOLDERS OF MEXICAN
MENT.^a

BEE

MY DEAR SIR,

I am very much in hopes
Mr. Treats visit to that Country
otherwise however—and they
assurance that we have money
one more adequate than Mr T
man much to be relied on, and
without my object being know
in Mexico, with an unblemish
that the Zavala has been sold
not listen to us. The Zavala
whole Coast in the utmost ex
tous—carrying hundreds of
where—but it is done, and
gratified that the President
silences the Telegraph effect
so essential to a Gov't.^a I w
the Live Oak Custom House
I told them before I came aw
abuse him as much as they pl
selves for the *fact*. The C
yours or Mr. Burnetts—or bot
I learn you have a highly re
it is a most important office re
judiciously managed for the
interfer'g with the Departm't
action, and I am satisfied by
Thousands—particularly, in
will perceive that Santa An

Bravo is entirely under his
tion to Texas. Peace or War

^a July 29, 1839. See Treat to Lamar,

^b A. L. S.

^c See further reference to the Zavala in the *Telegraph and Texas Register*, September 1839.

^d See *Telegraph and Texas Register*, October 1839.

^e This probably refers to Lamar's letter to James Starr, in Records of Department of State, May 26, 1839.

^f James Starr. See *Telegraph and Texas Register*, June 1839.

^g His private estate.