

TREAT TO BURNET.^a

Via New Orleans—

NEW YORK *October 5th 1839.*

SIR

My last respects were under date of 18th. and 21st. Ulto., to which I beg reference, altho' neither of them were important. Since then we have no further news from Mexico, nor from Europe. The Steamer Liverpool, to leave 21st Ulto., will be due about 8th inst, and I anticipate some flattering intelligence for your Country by her, of which I will immediately advise you.

I had thought when I *last* had this pleasure, that my *next* communication would advise you of my *immediate*, if not *actual* departure, but there exist some causes of delay which I have thought justifiable, and I hasten to apprise the President through your Department what they are, trusting that he will approve the *motives* which may induce the little delay referred to, and even the *delay itself*. The ship Ann Louisa which it is was thought would get away on or about the 25th. Ulto. will sail on the 6th. inst for Vera Cruz, being the first Vessel from this port (or any neighbouring port) for Mexico since my arrival here, and by this Vessel I had intended going, and *personally* am now *ready* and *desirous* to *embark*.

But 1st., I have not heard of my friend's actual embarkation from N. Orleans, who, according to the plan we laid down, was to precede me, and tho' *this* was not deemed indispensable, yet it was thought *expedient*. This delay on his part arises no doubt from the detention of the only Vessel which could convey him, viz. the Schr Doric for Tampico, there having been no other Vessel for any part in Mexico since 15th. Augt. Either this, or his *indisposition* (I have no doubt the former) must be the cause of his *unexpected* and *unwished* for delay, and I am left in doubt, in the absence of his letters, *which*, from his usual punctuality I fear have miscarried.

2nd. I thought I was so near the expected arrival of the Steamer Liverpool which would bring Genl. Henderson and his Treaty with France (as is now believed by all) that I should be justified in waiting for them a few days, as the *official* knowledge of the Recognition by France would be an item for an argument which would be very available, and an interview with Genl. Hamilton would be highly desirable *on my* part, and the more so, as he will have left Europe before any of my communications to him will have arrived there, and further by conferring with him I might obtain some information of the *Mexican Bond market*, which would be useful to me at the very commencement of my discussions.

^a L. S.

And 3d. Genl. Dunlap has been in conference with Mr. Forsyth or the President, and the result of the negotiations from the former to the latter, which might be useful *generally* to the U. States should have been made known, but has not yet been able to do so. The President and most of the Cabinet are assembling at *Washington* and I have been myself about *three days* since, and if necessary I will *myself* repeat the same, but only for a few hours or so.

For these various considerations I have determined to take the Vessel of the 6th., as I have no other means to succeed for the same period. I will sail on the 15th. inst., in either of which I have no doubt, as *it were*, some week or so, which I have suggested, as the best means of success.

I trust this plain Statement will be sufficient to show that I thought it my duty to advise you of the *opinion* of the President, and that I was not desiring to *procrastinate* for the sake of my just wishes of the Executive Department, and the objects committed to my care. It is for this reason that I have written you, and I beg your *indulgence*.

As regards funds, I have already drawn a draft on the commission of the United States Bank of Philadelphia, and I will advise the Department of the result.

I have only to say, that I have determined to depart to have these things done, had it been *necessary*, or if it were not (as Hamilton) yet I confess that it is *my part*. I was moreover determined to *absorb*, even temporarily, the wishes of the Government in that instance, and upon the arrangement, and I have prepared and the arrangement, that some arrangement should be made upon his arrival here to release me, and to cancel *that arrangement*, and I have determined, or what is the same thing, that my Bill will be duly passed.

And 3d. Genl. Dunlap has thought it important that he should see Mr. Forsyth or the President, and induce some further communications from the former to Mr. Ellis the American Envoy in Mexico, which might be useful *generally* and *particularly*, in case the mediation of the U. States should be asked for by *Mexico*. And this he has not yet been able to obtain, owing to the absence of the President and most of the Cabinet until *now*, when they are again reassembling at *Washington* and where Genl. Dunlap only arrived himself about *three days since*; and from whom I expect advices, and if necessary I will *myself* repair to Washington, which is very probable, but only for a few hours or a day at farthest.

For these various considerations I am induced to omit going in the Vessel of the 6th., as I intended, but there are two other Vessels to succeed for the same port and [they] will sail from the 12th. to 15th. inst., in either of which I can take passage, and thus only lose, as *it were*, some week or so, and secure as *I hope*, all the advantages which I have suggested, as the *motives* for my *delay*.

I trust this plain Statement of *facts* will justify the course I have thought it my duty to adopt under existing circumstances, in the *opinion* of the *President* and exonerate me from *any* suspicion of desiring to *procrastinate* for a *single moment* the earnest desires and just wishes of the Executive for a speedy result to the important objects committed to my management and which *I duly appreciate*. It is for this reason that I have been so *minute*, for which I crave your *indulgence*.

As regards funds, I have since my last obtained the Cash for my draft on the commissioners for £750 St. from the President of the United States Bank of Pennsylvania at the instance and through the intervention and arrangement of your Minister Genl. Dunlap who will advise the Department by *this mail boat* of the particulars.

I have only to say, that while I did not consider it *essential* to my departure to have these funds (for I should have gone without them, had it been *necessary*, or had I embarked before the arrival of Genl. Hamilton) yet I confess that the funds *were and are desirable* on *my part*. I was moreover reluctant to assent to any arrangement that should *absorb, even temporally* any of the funds, to the credit of the Governmt. in *that institution*, but Genl. Dunlap, wishing to promote the wishes of the Governmt. as involved in my mission, had agreed upon the arrangement, and when I was called in the Drafts were prepared and the arrangement concluded, as I did not doubt for a moment, that some arrangement would be made by Genl. Hamilton on his arrival here to release the funds pledged by Genl. Dunlap and cancel *that arrangement* by assuming my Draft on the Commissioners, or what is the same thing giving the bank satisfactory assurances that my Bill will be duly provided for.

I have thought proper to advert to this transaction, as Genl. Dunlap will address you on the subject. I will inform you, before my departure, how the matter is finally arranged after Genl. Hamilton's arrival; And in the meantime take due note of this monied transaction (as I shall of all others) for the purpose of future adjustment of accounts with your Department. Excuse the length of my Communication, and accept the renewed assurances of the highest respect and consideration of

Your Obedt. Servant,

JAMES TREAT

To the Honble
The SECRETARY OF STATE *Texas*.

P. S. Should the President have directed the funds I asked for, to be placed with *D Ritchie*, or any one else, I Respectfully suggest the propriety of permitting them to remain until you receive my next communication which will be after I have conferrd. with *Gen. Hamilton*, and therefore will inform you *Exactly*, how I am situated, in *this respect*.

Repty Your obt Servant

JAS. TREAT

TREAT TO BURNET.²

Via N. Orleans

NEW YORK *October 10th, 1839.*

12 O'clock.

SIR,

I fulfil the promise made in my last dispatch of 5th inst, (to which I beg leave to crave reference) and have to advise you of the arrival of the Steamer *Liverpool*, which left on the 21st Ult. Genl. Hamilton, who came passenger, I have just seen for a few moments. He said he should write the Govt. himself today; but the press of calls upon him, together with a slight indisposition, which he always suffers for a few hours after landing, may prevent. I therefore give you the *substance* of the information I have hastily derived from him, in case this should reach you before any communication from the Genl. himself. Genl. Hamilton has *not* effected the loan or any part of it. He left every thing in a *very* fair train and with full hopes that the negotiation will soon be made. He was offered the night before his departure from London to draw for a Million of Dollars, which he declined, as he felt confident ere long a better negotiation could be made,—probably as soon as it was known that England (as was believed) *as well as France* would recognise the

²L. S.

independence of Texas. Genl. Henderson will address you on the subject. I will inform you, before my departure, how the matter is finally arranged after Genl. Hamilton's arrival; And in the meantime take due note of this monied transaction (as I shall of all others) for the purpose of future adjustment of accounts with your Department. Excuse the length of my Communication, and accept the renewed assurances of the highest respect and consideration of

Genl. Henderson would effect the same object the agreed to *in point of price* time may be required by instructions given to Mr. Texas. Genl. H. said *Lo* will recognize, altho' the declined to *recognize*. You will hear from Genl. *themselves* which are *given* from memory and

I shall at an early moment in relation to my position advises me he will have have. I hope to be off by great confidence in my *st* I shall be able to apprise every thing seems propit

The result of my final tion to funds etc—and shall be given in my Mexico.

I send papers, to which from Europe—together the part of the U. States Baltimore. The Banks think will not if they they will succeed.

Please present my *re* I will do myself the *hon*

With great respect

I am Sir

Your

To

The Honl.

The SECRETARY

City of

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independence of Texas. Mr. Burnley of course remained in England. Genl. Henderson had in fact made a Treaty of recognition, but the King, being on a tour through the Departments, could only have it laid before him in Council on his return to Paris, *then soon expected*.

Genl. Henderson would then proceed to England and endeavour to effect the same object there; which Genl. Hamilton thinks is already agreed to *in point of principle* by the English Cabinet, but some little time may be required before they can act, in consequence of the instructions given to Mr Pakenham to mediate between Mexo. and Texas. Genl H. said Lord Palmerston does not doubt that England will recognize, altho' the English presses state that the Govt. had declined to *recognize*. This Sir, is all I can *now say*—and I hope you will hear from Genl. Henderson, as well as Genl. Hamilton *themselves* which are better sources of information than my own given from memory and in haste.

I shall at an early moment explain every thing needful to Genl H. in relation to my position and run on to Washn. where Genl. Dunlap advises me he will have some information for me, that I ought to have. I hope to be off by *Sunday next*, 13th. or 14th. inst. I feel great confidence in my success, and that soon after my arrival *out* I shall be able to apprise the President of my favorable progress as every thing seems propitious.

The result of my final arrangements with Genl. Hamilton in relation to funds etc—and the information I may derive from Washn. shall be given in my next, which will precede my departure for Mexico.

I send papers, to which please be referred for the General news from Europe—together with the *suspension* of Specie payments on the part of the U. States Bank and all the other Banks in Phila. and Baltimore. The Banks here have *not* followed the example and I think will not if they can help it. They will try *hard* and I think they will succeed.

Please present my respectful considerations to the President, who I will do myself the honor to address before my departure.

With great respect

I am Sir

Your very Obedt and Hume. Servt.

JAMES TREAT

To

The Honl.

The SECRETARY OF STATE

City of Austin

Texas.

^a That is, in Mexico.

TREAT TO BURNET.

[Duplicate.]

NEW YORK Oct. 23d 1839

SIR

I beg leave to refer you to my last communications to your Department of 5th. and 10th. inst, in which I apprised you for the information of the President of the position I was then placed in, and that I had deemed it my duty, under the circumstances to postpone my departure in the packet of the 6th inst (The First Vessel for any port in Mexico since my arrival in this City) and await the arrival of the Liverpool Steamer expected by the 8th or 9th inst. She arrived on the 10th, and I received all the information from Gen. Hamilton that could interest me in the prosecution of the instructions of the President. I had previously been urged strongly by Genl. Dunlap to visit Washn. and obtain through him such information as he thought might be useful to me.

I therefore left here on the 14th inst with Genl. Hamilton and accompanied him to Phila., Baltimore and Washn., availing myself of this opportunity to compare notes with him and obtain every information that was desirable. The Genl. left Washn. on the evening of the 16th for the south, and I had a full and interesting conference with Genl. Dunlap during the 17th, and left Washington same evening for N. York. I consider this delay therefore (altho' at first view a matter of great regret) advantageous, as it has given me *important data* which I could not have obtained without waiting for it. Instead of going into further particulars I beg leave to refer you to Genl. Hamilton, who I trust will confirm to yourself and the President the view taken of the subject.

And in the same manner I beg permission to refer you to the communications of Genl. Dunlap in regard to his proceedings at Washington for the purpose of aiding me in the execution of my trust, and doubt not that he also will consider the delay fully compensated by the *strength* I have gained from these new acquisitions of information. It might be improper for me to enter into any further details in matters involving such delicacy and secrecy, since Genl. Hamilton verbally and Genl. Dunlap by letter will furnish the Department and the President with such details as may be thought proper and expedient. I beg you Sir to be assured, and to assure the President, that while I am sorry that so much delay has occurred in my final departure, yet it has in part been imposed upon me by stern necessity, and partly by the deliberate convictions of my duty and I trust that events will prove that the time thus lost *here* will be more than gained on the field of action. I crave therefore the favorable consideration of

the President and the Department that thus far my course will expose of the causes which shall become acquainted with all the further particulars.

While I was in Washington she was a very dull vessel demanded. I could not have stages above adverted to in my opinion have been a conveyance.

I have now the satisfaction of the Department that I leave for Vera Cruz direct; an experienced man. I expect and will probably be in the arrival—say between the N. Orleans in the first week inst, having embarked for be in a few days [] in the

I expect his advices will there, and they may be the feelings of the Govt. in think fail to know some mission a very few days myself of every possibility of my progress as I am to the Govt. I anticipate from and after the 1st month as I may find and other Southern peculiar events because it regards the adjournment Holidays that is in January it expedient to submit to Congress, or what Congress such further advices, may be deemed one be initiated. I excuse these remarks, as being out of the sphere a strong desire on my Country in whose service

the President and the Dept. of the facts here submitted and I trust that thus far my course will be fully approved, if not in view of the expose of the causes which have induced the delay, at least when you shall become acquainted through Genls Hamilton and Dunlap with all the further particulars.

While I was in Washn. a vessel sailed hence for Vera Cruz, but she was a very dull vessel, deeply laden and indifferently commanded. I could not have gone in her without foregoing the advantages above adverted to at Washn. and had I been ready, it would in my opinion have been better policy to have waited for the present conveyance.

I have now the satisfaction to inform the President through your Department that I leave here tomorrow in the Brig Frances Ashbey for Vera Cruz direct; she is a good Vessel and commanded by an experienced man. I expect to land in Vera Cruz in 16 to 20 days and will probably be in the City of Mexo within five days after my arrival—say between the 20th and 25th Novr. My friend V.^a left N. Orleans in the first vessel that sailed for Mexico, say about 1st. inst, having embarked for Tampico. I calculate he is now (or will be in a few days []) in the City.

I expect his advices will be awaiting me at V. Cruz on my arrival there, and they may be worth communicating as an indication of the feelings of the Govt. in relation to Texas—at all events I cannot I think fail to know some thing which will indicate the success of my mission a very few days after my arrival in the City. I shall avail myself of every possible opportunity of apprizing the Department of my progress as I am fully aware that time is *now* all important to the Govt. I anticipate therefore that you may expect my advices from and after the 1st Decembr. and throughout the whole of that month as I may find the facilities of communicating to N. Orleans and other Southern ports. I have been thus particular in anticipating events because it may aid the Govt. in their plans and views as regards the adjournment of Congress. I hope it may set over the Holidays that is in Jany, If as I *now* apprehend the Govt. shall find it expedient to submit the result of my Mission (whatever it may be) to Congress, or what may be the same thing in effect to obtain from Congress such further Legislative authorization as in view of my advices, may be deemed necessary to carry out the Negotiation should one be initiated. I hope Sir the President and Departmt. will excuse these remarks, as in making them I am aware that I am traveling out of the sphere allotted me. My apology therefore must be a strong desire on my part to promote the interest of the Govt. and Country in whose service I am now engaged.

^a Probably Vitalba.

If I succeed promptly in any preliminary arrangement which I may conceive may require the immediate action of the Government through the Legislature, I shall in addition to any advices proceed at once and with all possible despatch to your seat of Govt. provided there is nothing important to be gained by remaining in Mexico. Pardon Sir the length of my communication, and with my respectful considerations to the President

I remain very respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.

To
The Honorable
The SECRETARY OF STATE
Texas

sigd JAMES TREAT

WRIGHT TO BEE.^a

WRIGHT TO BEE.^b

WRIGHT TO BRYAN.^c

MEXICO CITY Nov 21st 1839

DEAR SIR

It is with pain that I announce to you the unhappy news of a declaration of war, and an immediate invasion of that flourishing and promising country called Texas.

Owing to an unhappy transaction^a which took place lately on the Rio Grand must be attributed this precipitate and unlooked for movement of the mexican Government. I was aware that an expedition was fitting out for that Country for the coming spring and that an invasion would be the Result if another internal revolution did not prevent it and efforts have been made by various ways and means in order to consolodate the Republic with harmonious feelings to each other in order to have security and peace at home, while the Enemy was crushed abroad. But owing to the awful fact that their Frontiers upon the R. Grand now swarms^b with enemies of foreign blood^c presents a scene of such magnified danger to the country that every

^a November 10, 1839. See Bee to the Secretary of State, April 30, 1840.

^b November 18, 1839. See Bee to Secretary of State, April 30, 1840.

^c See note ^a, p. 429.

^d [Note by writer.] Canales, firing upon the Mexicans, assisted by Anaya and Texians.

^e [Note by writer.] Report makes out that the Texians not content at home have joined the federals, and thus have caused this unexpected war.

consideration of minor imp country with all its towns w hord who may deluge the rep ment under present circum the robber; she alone is ab strains to lay down their d univer[s]al mass to crush the the more accursed traitors of flag.

The Texians having made a great stimulent in the ha feelings of the people and raised. Genl. Arista left h to draft in every village; s Cavelry and some few pic

Congress alarmed at the Junta relative to ways and ing at once the proclamation

No mail having arrived, ther than that on the pag quiet, conversasions upon the higher classes. The army are to be raised out of eve provisions will be contract

From letters received by New Leon other measures worthy and patriotac camp amount in all to 20,000 m duction of ¼ at least for d I can learn the campaign the last.

The Comanches are political movement, not friends, and much consi to a final conclusion.

Report says that the T with several schooners of are indirectly aiding Tex old adherents (Texians of the U S) have awok beyond the Rio Grand. flag have had their son

^e Chihuahua

consideration of minor importance has been laid aside and the country with all its towns will be left to the mercy of the Bandit hord who may deluge the republic and to the revolting foe. Government under present circumstances cannot stay the depredations of the robber; she alone is able to call upon the people in patriotic strains to lay down their domestic quarles and here in unusual [?] univer[s]al mass to crush the rebel Texian foe and grind to powder the more accursed traitors of their own blood attached to that hatefull flag.

The Texians having made their appearance on the frontier has been a great stimulent in the hands of this Government in waking up the feelings of the people and it is no knowing the forces that will be raised. Genl. Arista left here the 19th. For Matamoras with orders to draft in every village; same day left this city 1,300 Infantry and Cavalry and some few pieces of Artillery.

Congress alarmed at the prognostic storm of measures called a Junta relative to ways and means to support the campaign, recognising at once the proclamation of war.

Nov 22nd.

No mail having arrived, I have no news to give of interest, Further than that on the page of yesterday. This city is quiet very quiet, conversasions upon the present war are only heard among the higher classes. The army which I think will not exceed 15,000 men are to be raised out of every department, and it is presumable that provisions will be contracted for to feed the Troops in New Orleans.

From letters received by way of express from Chichuahua^a and New Leon other measures are making in raising men for this *praiseworthy* and *patriotac* campaign. There is no doubt [the force] will amount in all to 20,000 men but I must be permitted to make a deduction of $\frac{1}{4}$ at least for disertion sickness death etc. and From what I can learn the campaign will be conducted much in the same way as the last.

The Comanches are most confoundedly battered in the present political movement, not knowing which party of Mexicans are their friends, and much consultation will be held by their Chiefs previous to a final conclusion.

Report says that the Texians are already on the River (Rio Grand) with several schooners of war. That the people of the United States are indirectly aiding Texas with means to carry on the war, that her old adherents (Texians who formly^b asserted that Republic citizens of the U S) have awoke up afresh to a new era of speculation even beyond the Rio Grand. That the clustering stars upon the Amercan flag have had their song of joy in hopes of an aditional star, even

^a Chihuahua.

^b Formerly.

that of Texas being added to their member. These reports however far from the point of truth, bring with them that which will cause this people to maltreat the citizens of the U S who are scattered through this republic.

Genl. Urrea is shut up in a doleful prison

A gang of 150 robbers lately nearly swept a whole caravan of their^a goods. But robbers are so common that but little is said about it and stage routs are beset continually.

Nov 26th.

I have been waiting arivals of importance from different parts of this Republic, but in vain.

Every effort is making to raise troops sufficient not only to save Matamores and drive the Federals off of the Rio Grand, but to invade and retake Texas. Of this there is no doubt, that is of the order of Government to that effect. How far they may be able to enter into that country you perhaps know better than I can form an idea.

How under the heavens the mexicans can keep together and support this army of at least 15,000 men which she is raising is unknown to me.

The patriotic feelings of the people according to what has been said and the heads of department out^b by this time to be shining out in splendid offers of presents and loans. But naught is said, even [of] the loan authorised by Congress to the National bank of \$800,000 No one as yet (at least up to Saturday last) has offered to loan the *Junta Government*, of Bank a single dollar. I believe therefore that the Custom houses will be the only resoures of consequences.

The army of course (as usual) will have to wait for their pay until the war is concluded; and then be put off with a shilling, and be even thankful for that.

But before I conclude this letter permit me to take you in amagination to sune towering height near Monterey or durango where meets the various divisions that will compose this campaign. Look to the S. W behold that numerous throng that crowd the high ways, these are the troops from Mexico, pueblo and other central districts of Mexico, they are the best clothed of any you will see, but they are in raggs, many are without hats and many are even without sandals; how slow they move, what an awful spectacle of human misery, their vivacity has fled for want of the necessaries of life; a little further on are hundreds of poor females following their husbands barefooted with their children upon their backs—still further on you may see in the way they come a continual Hospital of dead and dying. To

^a Mexican.

^b Ought.

the North you behold a crowd dressed in tatters than people scene to the South, perhaps perceive of a heroic spirit, do going to take Sampson.

Please writ me to care of E as to inform me if there is an and your oppinion if I had conclusion of the war or not. It is an expensive country in

I am dear Sir your very every prosperity in the present Mr.

Notes. The artilery of Puebla

Congress has given the present carry on the war against T been excepted.

Great alarm exists through

Notes Nov 28.

There are many spies in T ming from them advising M News comes by way of San A lower rout.

Note. I have just learned, be put into immediate effect on all internal importations entered at the sea coast custom the same, but 15 per ct on the thence for internal consumption amount of import duties, this is one of their steps to wants of Government.

Mexico it appears, from succeed in the retaking of T make some arrangement with ner, as fast as she gets hold flag upon the spot, and so far west a snake. It was and died. It might have many years in quiet.

the North you behold a crowd advancing more like burned pilgrims dressed in tatters than people going to war. You may see a similar scene to the South, perhaps a little better conditioned but bereft I perceive of a heroic spirit, do they not remind you of the Philistians going to take Sampson.

Please writ me to care of Eliot & Snyder veracruz, and be so good as to inform me if there is anything in which I might be servasable; and your oppinion if I had best remain in this country until the conclusion of the war or not. I am hard put too to make ends meet It is an expensive country in which to live.

I am dear Sir your very obedient Servant wishing you and yours every prosperity in the present crisis.

Mr.

Nov 28th.

Notes. The artilery of Pueblo has been sent against Texas.

Congress has given the president power to make loans necessary to carry on the war against Texas. The \$800,000, I understand has been excepted.

Great alarm exists throughout the Republic.

Notes Nov 28.

There are many spies in Texas and I see letters continually coming from them advising Mexico of the movement of that Republic. News comes by way of San Antonio and also from Matagorda etc. the lower rout.

Note. I have just learned, that a Law here has been past and is to be put into immediate effect, that of an augmentation of 15 per cent on all internal importations of goods—understand me, not on goods entered at the sea coast custom houses. The duties there will remain the same, but 15 per ct on valuation here on all goods shipped from thence for internal consumption. Before the law was 30 per ct on amount of import duties, goods now must be sold at 15 pr ct higer. this is one of their steps to raise money for the present and future wants of Government.

Nov 28th.

Mexico it appears, from sources not published, will if she does not succeed in the retaking of Texas, and holding the same will if possible make some arangement with England, perhaps in the following manner, as fast as she gets hold of any part of Texas, to place the english flag upon the spot, and so on. I have seen in my wanderings in the far west a snake. It was furious and faught long; at length bit itself and died. It might have escaped back into its den and have lived many years in quiet.

TREAT TO BURNET.^a

[Original.]

ROADSTEAD OF VERA CRUZ.

November 28th 1839.

Thursday night 9 o'clk.

SIR.

I hasten to apprise your Excellency, of my safe arrival, at this Port, at 6 P. M., this Evening, after a tedious and unusually long passage of *Thirty two days*, during most of which we have had to contend with calms, head winds, and gales; having put into Key West for supplies, and on one occasion *laid to*, for *five days and nights consecutively*.

This unexpected long passage has been annoying and mortifying to me *in the extreme*, having counted the tedious hours, as they have dragged heavily along; but it is useless to *complain* of the *Elements*, for the "*Wind bloweth where it listeth*."

My health, (which was by *no means*, good, when I embarked) has suffered somewhat, but I doubt not a day or two of quiet rest will restore me and that I shall be invigorated and fully prepared to prosecute my delicate and arduous duties with all the skill and energy I can bring to bear on so important a matter.

Of one thing, I can *assure* your Excellency, that my *efforts* shall be *proportioned* to the *unexpected delay* I have experienced in *reaching here*. I take this occasion to remark, that I furnished Gen Hamilton with *Copies* of all the letters I addressed to the *Loan Commissioners*, as well as to the *General himself*, none of which had been received before his departure from England; *hence*, they would all be received by Mr *Burnley*. The one dated 6th Sept^r ^b contained *my Ideas*, (hastily given) in relation to the Mexican Bonds, in England, as having a *possible bearing*, on *anticipated negociations*.

I do not *know*, that there is any thing in them, worthy of your *perusal*, but I thought I would mention the *fact*, that Gen H. has the copies, that you *might refer* to them, If you thought proper, *and also*, to shew to Y. E. that I have *thus far*, promptly and fully complied with this branch of my instructions. I found Gen. H. averse to this branch of the operation, for reasons he will undoubtedly explain to the President and which, may be found satisfactory, *altho'*, they were *not so to me*, probably *because* his Views, were not *fully explained* to me.

I trust my last several letters from N. York are already received, with the *duplicate* of *all* my letters to the *Department*; and that H. E. the President, will have accorded to me, in the course I have felt it my duty to pursue, his favourable consideration.

^aA. L. S.^bThis letter has not been found.

I shall address Y. E. on the occasion to which I crave nothing *new*, to communicate.

I beg your Excellency, in the circumstances in which, I

I am, with the greatest respect,
Servant

To the Hon.

The SECRETARY OF STATE

Original.

SIR,

I beg leave to refer Y. E. to the letter I have written to avail of any opportunity I may have next morning, but finding it necessary to depart for Havana, it will accompany the *first vessel* which sails for the Port.

I have been on shore but a few days from the city of Mexico, and on the instant, the writer *my friend* has been absent about *three weeks since*, and has been afflicted with a severe sickness longer than usual.

He writes me *briefly*, of the state of the *subject matter*, by letter, knowing that the *capital*, which he requests, *subject matter* has been *discussed* since the change of the *administration*, *especially*, since that period, and *still* wears a favourable aspect, when the matter comes to the point.

What is here meant, I leave to your *Minutia* for a *Verbal* interpretation.

Whatever it may be, I leave to your *main question*, even now, and at the *junction* or one equivalent.

I shall address Y. E. and also Gen. Lamar, a separate communication to which I crave reference. Having but *just* arrived, have nothing *new*, to communicate in this note.

I beg your Excellency will pardon this Communication, under the circumstances in which, I am *now* writing.

I am, with the greatest respect and consideration, Your obedient Servant

JAMES TREAT

To the Hon.

The SECRETARY OF STATE

Austin.

Texas.

TREAT TO BURNET.^a

[Confidential.]

Original.

CITY OF VERA CRUZ *Novr 29th. 1839.*

SIR,

I beg leave to refer Y. E. to my note of yesterday evening's date, written to avail of any opportunity that *might* perchance offer the next morning, but finding no vessel *soon* for any port in the U. States or Havana, it will accompany this communication, and be forwarded, the *first vessel* which may leave *this*, for *any* neighboring Port.

I have been on shore but *two hours*, found my *anticipated advices* from the city of Mexico, one bearing date 19th and another the 23d. instant, the writer *my friend* having passed thro' here to the capital about *three weeks since*, after being detained at New Orleans by severe sickness longer than the period fixed on for his departure.

He writes me *briefly*, of course, as he would not go into any *detail* by letter, knowing that I would repair, as soon as *possible*, to the capital, which he requests me to do. He says, *in substance*, that the *subject matter* has been kept alive by those friendly to the measure, since the change of the Cabinet, up to *his arrival*; and *more especially, since that period*, awaiting my appearance.* *That every thing still wears a favourable aspect*; and *intimates* that there *had been* a time, when the matter could have been *adjusted* in *half an hour*.

What is here *meant*, I am left to *conjecture*, as he leaves all the *Minutia* for a *Verbal interview*.

Whatever it may be *however*, I am satisfied it does not effect the *main question*, even *now*, or in other words, that the *same favourable juncture* or one *equivalent*, may *again* soon present itself.

^a A. L. S.

It appears also, that independent of General Annaya's movements, the subaltern chiefs of the Federal Party, on the frontiers of the *Rio Grande*, have encountered the Govmt. Troops at, or near, Mier, and *entirely* defeated the latter, and were by last advices following up their success, by marching towards Matamoros, which *post*, it is apprehended by the Govmt. may now fall an easy prey to the federal faction *so called*.

This event, has recently produced, considerable excitement in Mexico, inasmuch as, somehow or other, the impression has obtained *apparent* credence with the Govmt. or the Congress *that this success*, on the part of the *Federalists*, was secured by the *co-operation* of Texas, either *with* the sanction of Govmt. or by *its people*.

A warm discussion, therefore *recently* took place in Congress, in relation to this subject, in which the *impressions* referred to were admitted, *as I am informed*. I have not seen the *report* of the discussion, but will procure it, and if *important*, forward it to the Department.

My friends, however, in the city, wisely anticipating the *incorrectness* of these *impressions*, would *nullify* their effects on public opinion, by some well timed article on the subject, and the affair, *has already*, or will *soon*, blow over, and *leave all* as before. I availed of this morning's Post for the Capital, to assure my friend (among some other matters in reply to his letters) that so far from *aid* and *co-operation* on your part, *all overtures*, from beginning to end, had been rejected by your Govmt. This assurance will, I *trust*, be used in such way as to remove all *asperity* of feeling arising from this circumstance, *provided* it be not already done by the judicious management of my friends there, as already intimated.

Meanwhile the Govmt. are sending troops (it is *said* some 3000 to 4000) to strengthen Tampico, thinking *this aid may be too late* to secure Matamoros.

This is the statement I *have*, which I presume is *more or less, correct*, but I have not *yet* had time to investigate the particulars.

I am *myself* of opinion *that* the negotiation to be proposed stands *now* in a favourable position, and so my friend in *Mexico* assures me; and I shall proceed to the city, as soon as possible, *without* my *main object* being known to any body *here* or *in the city*, with perhaps *one exception* in each place.

I am now however, in the *Roads*, embargoed by a violent norther, on board my vessel, *whence* I had hoped to have *landed* my *luggage* this morning, but the Gale coming up suddenly, I cannot *escape* until it *abates*, as no boat can attempt to *land* until the sea *subsides*. I hope to Land *tomorrow*, however, and leave next day for the city. This is all I can now communicate, which I *trust* will be satisfactory

so far as it goes to H. E. A. I have the honor to address

Rest assured, Sir, I shall have some result, which, together with the above, I shall communicate. Pardon the delay, and believe me, with great respect, Your obedient servant,

To the Hon.

The SECRETARY OF STATE

DEAR SIR

The country is in about the same state as last year. The last Victory of the Texas must be retaken or lost.

A law has been passed by the Congress to power to procure means for the support of that Republic.

I have just received word from the Secretary including several pieces of intelligence from the front for Matamoros. Also the report in favor of Canalis against the Texas.

DEAR SIR

You must not make any mistake. The army now under the command of the General will be raised to 15,000. I have the honor to remain, Sir, your obedient servant.

The country of Chihuahua and Durango are now in the hands of Bravo in Texas north of the Rio Grande. A few reconnoitering parties are now in the country.

Texas has many friends in Mexico (states) would be glad to see the Texas fall into the hands of the Republic. The Republic is now in the hands of the Churches. The Republic is now in the hands of the Churches.

^a A. L. S.

^b Here something is evidently

^c This appears to be simply a copy of the original written in installments.

so far as it goes to H. E. the President, and also to the Department I have the honor to address.

Rest assured, Sir, I shall continue my best efforts, until I reach, *some result, which*, together with all that may intervene, I will duly communicate. Pardon the haste, with which I have the honor to be, with great respect, Your obt Servant

JAMES TREAT

To the *Hon.*

The SECRETARY OF STATE

Austin

Texas.

WRIGHT TO BRYAN.^a

CITY OF MEXICO *December 7th. 1839*

DEAR SIR

The country is in about the same state of confusion, as when I last wrote you Victory or death is the cry in the war department Texas must be retaken or Mexico will be lost.

A law has been past by both houses authorising the president all power to procure means (make loans) to carry on the war against that Republic.

I have just received word from New Leon that 4,000 troops including several pieces of artillery left that country a few days since for Matamoris. Also that 750 of the citizens of Matamoris^b in favor of Canaliso against the invaders.

DEAR SIR^c

You must not make light of what I write you. It is the truth, and the army now under arms amounts to at least 8,000 men, and will be raised to 15,000. I dislike to write bad News, but as I obtain I hand you as a faithful servant.

The country of Chichuchua the upper or Northern parts of Coahuila and Duranga is left entirely defenceless. East of Rio Bravo in Texas north of Lat 30, no enemy except the Indians and a few reconnoitering Spaniards exist.

Texas has many friends in Mexico. The multitude or rabble of Mexico (states) would be half reconciled to the change should all Mexico fall into the hands of the Texians, providing they left alone the Churches. The Inteligent Spaniards and strangers are in a

^a A. L. S.

^b Here something is evidently omitted, but the word is uncertain.

^c This appears to be simply a repetition of the address, due probably to the letter's being written in installments.

measure friends to Texas and many of the heads of this Government are ready to curse their stars and leave for a more tranquil country.

But notwithstanding all this every nerve is strained to strengthen the powers against Texas and nothing but a complete overthrow of the Mexican army will bring them to terms. The first battle will tell the story, and the safety of Texas lays in the management of the first general battle.

I am sorry, very sorry that Texas ever made any conditions with the Federals or Anglo Mexicans, you will find [them] in the end a curse; and my reasons are this; 1st They will never remain loyal to strangers, treachery will ever be found in their ranks; they would aspire to reign over Mexico and should they gain their point, would turn upon Texas with as much fury as the present enemy; I say be careful I like not the movement. Texas was growing strong, Texas was crowding out the Mexicans and no need of bringing on them this terrible and furious war. Had it not been for this present movement with the federal [party] in Texas Mexico would have slept until next summer during which time Texas would have augmented her power and means and Mexico fighting one with the other would have been spending her little strength, and perhaps no invasion would have been made even the following summer, Although preparations are making.

Note you need expect no force by sea.

Please write me and give me some assurance that I will be rewarded for my exertions, as I have been at considerable expense and risk and am poor. If you wish me to remain in this country during the war please inform me of the same. Write to me by my proper name to care of Messrs Eliot & Snyder Vera Cruz.

I am

Yours respectfully

(^a)

Note.

I have sent you such papers as I have found worth your notice and shall continue to do so.

Again, do [not] let my land be sold, even if you should have a reasonable offer. With all I see I am not afraid of the little star falling.

To Mr [WILLIAM BRYAN] *Consul*

I would write you more but a friend is just leaving for Vera Cruz by whom I send this package.

[With this letter are filed clippings from *Diario del Gobierno*, December 21, 1839, giving information concerning warlike movements mentioned in the letter.]

^a Signed in cipher.

SEÑOR,

He tenido el honor de recibir el correo dirigido hoy, recordandome que he tenido á consecuencia de las comunicaciones que ha comunicado a V. E. relación.

V. E. se sirve manifestar que he tomado por este Gobierno algunas propuestas amistosas que en consecuencia he hecho; y en contestacion de las contestaciones de los habitantes Mexicanos, bajo la condicion de que se asistiera de la Soberania nacional publica.

Aprovecho con gusto la ocasion.

Firmado,

A. S. E.,

El Señor Don RICARDO

A true copy

JAMES W. MOORE

PAKING

SIR,

I beg leave to refer you to the papers as 7th inst, and their enclosure to the State, of original and duplicate copies from V. Cruz. I have now

^a December 11, 1839. Inclosed in the correspondence with Great Britain.
^b December [12], 1839 (extracted from the whole letter, see Hamilton to Great Britain.)

^c A. L. S.

CAÑEDO TO PAKENHAM.^a

[Copia Confidencial]

PALACIO DEL GOBO. NACIONAL
Mexico 11 Diciembre de 1839.

SEÑOR,

He tenido el honor de recibir la Nota confidencial que V. E. me ha dirigido hoy, recordandome las diversas conversaciones que hemos tenido á consecuencia de las instrucciones que el Gobierno de S. M. B. ha comunicado a V. E. relativamente á la cuestion de Texas.

V. E. se sirve manifestarme su deseo de saber si por fin se ha tomado por este Gobierno alguna resolucion en virtud de las propuestas amistosas que en cumplimiento de sus citadas instrucciones ha hecho; y en contestacion tengo la honra de decirle que los Comisionados de los habitantes de Texas serán oydos por el Gobierno Mexicano, bajo la condicion indispensable de que este no ha de desistir de la Soberania nacional sobre aquel Departamento de la Republica.

Aprovecho con gusto la ocasion de reiterar á V. E. etc.

Firmado,

JUAN DE D. CAÑEDO.

A. S. E.,

El Señor DON RICARDO PAKENHAM

Etc. etc. etc.

A true copy

JAMES W. MOORE

PAKENHAM TO HAMILTON.^bTREAT TO LAMAR.^c

CITY OF MEXICO *Decr 12th 1839.—6 P. M.*

SIR,

I beg leave to refer you to my several letters dated at V. Cruz as late as 7th inst, and their enclosures, and also to my advices to the Secy of State, of orgl. and *duplicate*, which will detail *all* up to my departure from V. Cruz. I have *now* the pleasure to enform you, that I arrived

^a December 11, 1839. Inclosed with Hamilton to Burnet, January 5, 1840. Printed in correspondence with Great Britain.

^b December [12], 1839 (extract). See Pakenham to Treat, November 5, 1840. For the whole letter, see Hamilton to Burnet, January 5, 1840, in Correspondence with Great Britain.

^c A. L. S.

here last evening at 5. P. M. and altho' I have not been out of the House to day (being a *high* feast day nothing could be done), I avail of this evenings post, in the Hope of its being in time to go by the U. S. Sloop, Erie, to say, that so far as I have been able to ascertain the state of things here, they *are*, as I anticipated *from V. Cruz*, favourable—that is, no door is *closed* against me, and I have the *field open* as it were. a conference this evening with my Mexican friend (could not be to day on a/c of the celebration of *Our Lady of Guadalupe*) will give me *further* information and point out the course I am to pursue and which you shall know by next [post.] As you will readily infer from my previous advices, I have to manage with much caution and circumspection and this will necessarily produce greater delay than *otherwise* would attend my movements. My hopes *so far* from being diminished, since my arrival here, are strengthened, tho I am *not* in possession of any *important* fact to give me this confidence, but it arises from many circumstances, which *well examined* and *weighed* shew to a careful observer how things stand. You shall hear from me *every other day* until I can come to *some conclusion*.

Pardon haste, and believe me very Respty and cordially Yours etc

JAMES TREAT.

TREAT TO LAMAR.^a

[Private.]

MEXICO Decr 12th 1839—9. P. M

MY DEAR SIR,

I beg leave to refer you to my hasty lines of 12th. inst, and *now* fulfil my promise of again addressing you, by this evenings post. I beg leave to refer you to the enclosed documents, which you will please have translated by some *confidential* friend, as I have not time myself to hand you a translation, as I should wish, if time permitted. You may infer from the tenor of this *project* of a *Law*, sent to the chambers for its sanction, *how strangely things go here* at the *present moment* in regard to what interests you and your country. This document, *together* with what I have *before said*, will shew you without any *comment how delicately* I am situated, and how extremely cautious I am *comeplld. to be* in all *my movements*. This will prepare you, for *some delay*, as I have already stated. I cannot go into explanations, *now* of the *causes of this state of things*; *But*, I must take them as *they are*, and make the *most of them*. I have only been here *three days*, but it has been long enough to discover *something* of the *difficulty* of my position, in the fulfilment of your wishes. How to *remove these* so as to *proceed* is my *present*

^aA. L. S.

and *immediate task*. This *does not* accomplish something, which is the *business* of the country. *But*, with my sense of *duty* to *you*, I can speak other than *hypothetical* measures) *are*, and *shall be*, they will succeed, or if *unsuccessful*, [I do so] *fore* so that your measures are based on unquestionable facts and *data*, and must of necessity proceed *slowly* and without hazard *all at one throw*. I am *not* failing, I have a *second*, and if *neither* of neither one of which, shall *possibly*, the next in course. I feel *two weeks* will throw further regret that I must still leave *to be*, but Sir, I must write *the* *futurity*. Be *patient* with me, you again hear which shall be *in* manner. I feel as if I was in the proper Department, if so, you know pardon me if you *know* Please present my respects (at proper time)

and believe me cordially
Your devoted Son

TREAT

Private and ENTIRELY }
Confidential. }

MY DEAR SIR

I arrived here on the 11th *in* favour of 18th ulto (covered *very* important, as I had the *same* favours of 5th Novr from *you*. I have noticed very *particular* *attend*, and have already *to* hints and observations *shew* time arrived to *discuss* the

^aA. L. S.

^bNovr

and *immediate task*. *This done*, I shall entertain some hopes of *accomplishing something*, which I trust will meet your approbation, and that of the country. But, I cannot, my dear sir, consistently with my sense of *duty to yourself*, and your *Govmt. permit* myself, to speak other than *hypothetically*. I only *know* that the courses I have adopted, and shall hereafter *adopt* (If I *have to change* my measures) *are*, and *shall be*, those in my opinion *best* calculated to succeed, or if *unsuccessful*, [I shall] know *precisely why* and *wherefore* so that your measures may be predicated on certain and unquestionable facts and data. I *hope*, without being *sanguine*. I must of necessity proceed *slow* and cautiously, for I am unwilling to hazard *all at one throw*. I am making progress towards *some* results, which, if successful, will *yet add* to my *hopes*. The first measure failing, I have a *second*, and if *that fails* a *third* and *last*, the failure of neither one of which, shall (If I can prevent it) *effect unfavourably*, the next in course. I feel confident that the events of the next *two weeks* will *throw further* if not *final* light on the subject. I regret that I must *still* leave you in *doubt*, anxious as I know *you to be*, but Sir, I *must* write *thus* until I can see a little further into *futurity*. Be *patient* with me, my dear Sir, and with me *Hope* until you again hear which shall be *soon*. Pardon my letter, its style and manner. I feel as If I was in [the] wrong in not addressing the proper Department, if so, you and the Hon the Secy of State would I know pardon me if you *knew* how I was situated etc

Please present my respects to the members of the Cabinet (at a proper time)

and believe me cordially and *very anxiously*

Your devoted Servant

JAMES TREAT

TREAT TO HAMILTON.^a

Private and ENTIRELY }
Confidential. }

MEXICO Decr. 16th 1839.

MY DEAR SIR

I arrived here on the 11th inst, evening, but did not receive your favour of 18th ulto (covered to Mr Ellis) until 14th. which was not *important*, as I had the same matter, *in substance*, in your two favours of 5th Novr from Charleston and 20th from N. Orleans.^b I have noticed very particularly all you *say, suggest, and recommend*, and have already told you from Vera Cruz, *that* all your hints and observations should have due attention here when the time arrived to *discuss* the question at issue. You will per-

^a A. L. S.

^b None of the three mentioned has been found.

ceive by my letter to you from V. Cruz dated 6th and 7th inst how matters then stood, so far as I could then understand them, and I referred you to my several despatches to the *Secy of State*, and to *Gen Lamar* (the former semi official, and the latter private) for all the details of the position of things as I then could understand them. From these papers, you will perceive the difficulties which momentarily (at least) surround me and the accomplishment of my objects, and at same time you will find enough to hang a hope (upon) that all these, might be overcome, as much as to say, I have hopes, which can neither be confirmed nor destroyed, until I reach Mexico, and see how the "Land lies" I am now here four days and understand something of the difficulties, real and bona fide which I have to remove in order to begin fairly. I have addressd two letters to Gen. Lamar since my arrival here; say 12th and 14th^a inst, one, I hope will reach the Erie (Sloop of War) and the other, a private Vessel for New Orleans. Should you be in New Orleans on your return from Texas, and find them, or either of them, in the hands of Dr. James Ritchie, it has occurrd to me that you might feel authorized to open them, or you might be expressly authorized to open see their contents and forward. Be this as it may, I now propose to give you [such] a view of the present posture of affairs here, as regards my (prospects of) success, as may enable you to be governed in your movements accordingly. I told you verbally, and repeated it in my Vera Cruz letter, that my opinion was and still is that you should not leave N. Orleans for the North, to return to Europe until you knew the result of my mission, by letters from, or interview with me. This opinion is based upon the supposition that whether I fail or succeed you and the Govnt of Texas ought to know it before your departure for England, unless indeed there should be something urgent—in that case letters or a messenger could follow you. Your operations, in my humble opinion, might be changed, the views of the Govmt might be altered, a larger amt. than your present authority \$5,000,000, might be requisite, especially if I should have the good fortune to close an arrangement. You will have seen that the movement of Ross and his party,^b with other volunteers, to which they attribute the success of the federalists, and the surrender of the troops in or near Mier, (some 600 men) have produced much excitement on the part of the Govmt as well as in the public mind. The Govmt. having taken all the measures, in their power, have calld on Congress for special powers to levy taxes to support the war against Texas, and to re-unite that department to the national union, etc. etc. Not satisfied

^a Both dated the 12th, but the one written at "O. P. M." should probably have had a later date.

^b See reference to this in Hamilton to Pakenham, January 2, 1840, inclosed with Hamilton to Burnet, January 5, 1840, in Correspondence with Great Britain.

with this measure initiated in the action of that body, another Secretary of War (Sr. Almon State for any one "to write out intentions of the Texans; or the power having for its object to The Executive is not of the same important matter. The cabinet The counsel of Govmt. often the President and his advisers in congress, even in their favor the greatest efforts. The Secy and one of his colleagues are co initiatory measures above city unsettled, the two great parties all important measures—one in cabinet. Under these circumstances could be accomplished, at the slightest hope of success. But exactly, the difficulties or ones removal. So I am at work. (which I have managed to pro compel the Govmt. to act, and consistently with their existing the Press and the public would charged, with the privacy of Texas, etc. etc. I could not Dunlap's letter introducing Govmt. that is to two or more tion, of his Govmt. and has indifference (at least) on the had disposed of the measure the Secy of War, they must 2d. I have not approached (from all I can learn) that promise the greatest prospects hold in reserve the co-operation other, and cogent reasons (even were it proper) for not or would not sound Mr. letters I sent him up from have not [ex]changed a proaches me, and then, even

with this measure initiated in Congress, and without waiting for the action of that body, another *project of Law* is sent down by the *Secretary of War* (Sr. Almonte) declaring it treason against the state for any one "to write act or speak in favour of the views and intentions of the *Texans*; or in favour of the views of any foreign power having for its object to dismember the territory of Mexico etc. The *Executive* is not of the same mind two days in succession, on any important matter. The cabinet often divided in opinion and action. The counsel of Govmt. often at war with the views and wishes of the President and his advisers, and the Govmt. often in a minority in congress, even in their favourite measures, and when they make the greatest efforts. The Secy of War, who acts with the President and one of his colleagues are compromised before the Public with the initiatory measures above cited and everything, is unhinged and unsettled, the two great parties in congress, opposing each other in all important measures—one in Pro and the other in contra of the cabinet. Under these circumstances one would suppose that nothing could be accomplished, at the moment, nor even undertaken with the slightest hope of success. But I have (always) found, that to know exactly, the difficulties or ones position, is to approximate to their removal. So I am at work. I could not throw off my incognito (which I have managed to preserve until now) because this would compel the Govmt. to act, and to expel me (probably) in order to act consistently with their existing and pending measures; and because the Press and the public would cry aloud; and the Govmt. would be charged, with the privity of my being here, and suspected of selling Texas, etc. etc. I could not approach Mr Packenham, with, Gen Dunlap's letter introducing me officially because 1st. I understand from good authority that three times he has verbally appealed to the Govmt. that is to two or more of the ministers, offering the mediation, of his Govmt. and has met with a sort of negative, or with indifference (at least) on the subject; saying, that until the congress had disposed of the measures recommended by the Executive, thro' the Secy of War, they must decline any acceptance of mediation, and 2d. I have not approached Mr Packenham, because I am of opinion (from all I can learn) that other measures which are now in progress promise the greatest prospect of success; and until they fail, I shall hold in reserve the co-operation of Mr Packenham. There are also other, and cogent reasons for this which I cannot now enter upon, (even were it proper) for want of time and room. Again I could not or would not sound Mr. Ellis, tho' I have seen him, and by the letters I sent him up from V. Cruz he must know my object. Yet I have not [ex]changed a word with him nor will I unless he approaches me, and then, even, I must be cautious. Now, none of these

things could I do, or attempt to do, without risking too much on one throw and hazarding the better prospect of other preliminary measures, which, tho' they fail, would not destroy the chances of the other steps, or measures which I have for the present only deferrd. This is about all I can say, for it would be improper to detail too much. Suffice it to say that my first effort has been and is, to destroy, or neutralize, the two measures of the Govmt. (the two Initiatives), The first asking for ways and means to, bring Texas into the Union, (That is, go to war with Texas) and the second, is declaring it treason etc. to speak write, or act etc.^a If I can cause these projects to be rejected by the Deputies, the Govmt. will perceive that its views are not supported by the chamber, and then will change their ground (probably) and can be approached. And here I must explain what I have omitted in its proper place that you will comprehend the whole ground. The first initiative referd. to has two counts—1st, The Govmt. asks for ways and means to carry on the war as above, and the second count asks congress for authority to adopt all necessary measures, Political and military. This word political (in the original Politico-militar), it is believed, is intended, by the Govt. to mean authority to negotiate; That is to say, the Govmt. has asked congress for means to carry on the war and at same time to negotiate. The expression, politico, is indeed very narrow, To base authority to negotiate, either for a sale, session, or recognition; but this is one way of doing things here, as they can amplify and interpret anything to suit their views. With this explanation, you have the whole proposition of the Govmt. to congress. Tomorrow I may be able to add the report of the Committee on both points, tho' not the final action of the House. Now, the Govmt. has been induced to ask for the second power (to negotiate) from one of two causes—viz. 1st. in consequence of Mr. Packenhams repeated proffer of mediation, which has been constantly declined (at least until the result of the action of the chamber should be known etc) or 2d. in consequence of some of the members of the cabinet having been approached on the subject of re-cognition, limits and compensation, by my direction, and thro' my friends here, before and since my arrival. One or both of these motives have induced the Govmt. to ask for powers to carry on the war, or make a peace, as we will call it, for shortness and clearness. The responsibility is thus thrown on congress, and in any event, the President and Govmt. will escape censure. If the chambers refuse the supplies the Govmt. will say we asked and urged the ways and means; congress refused them; we have done our duty—theirs is the blame. If they refuse the powers political (or to negotiate), the Govmt. will say, we asked for both, powers to make war or peace. Congress would grant neither. Now the Govmt. has done its duty,

^a See the reference to Almonte's measure in this letter, above.

let congress dispose of the whole, you will perceive that the Govmt. having for object a recognition of their weakness and unpopularity, congress, would pounce on the President to change his mind, if congress (the Deputies) should and hamper the views of the President's nullity (which is probable) and under consideration is given up, may emanate from the chamber, giving full and clear powers to negotiate and close, an arrangement induced to listen to me, or to a proposition, without the responsibility, them, and if we can agree on the scope of the powers conferd. can be closed without any further require the ratification in due binding on both Govmts. All the pecuniary stipulation is fulfilled.

These, my dear Sir, are some round us, and compel me to ask to risk all on the main question, two in the locker, so that my The ground I occupy and the thing is to see how the question of recognition how far I am right, and modify my measures or not. My friend Love, who I suppose will have a hard row to hoe; so You have undertaken too much, a able result etc. To this I refer, and they are active in their efforts at last. I must judge and I can borrow, move cautiously here only a sketch of the situation already, and am now hoping is essential, tho' not a moment await the result. In a weak (favourable) progress. But conviction and persuasion are only two ways here.

^a The last two words are obliterated in the Records of Department of State (1845).

let congress *dispose* of the whole *question* etc. etc. as it pleases. So you will perceive *that* the Govmt. are *afraid* to move *any* negotiation having for *object* a *recognition* or an agreement in consequence of their *weakness* and *unpopularity*, as the *opposition* in and out of congress, would *pounce* on the Govmt. and try to make it a *pretext* for the *President* to *change* his *cabinet* or *produce* a *revolution*. But if congress (the *Deputies*) *throw* out the *whole* matter, or *so* *modify* and *hamper* the views of the Govmt. as to render the measures a *nullity* (which is probable and so I *hope*) *then* the *whole* matter under consideration is *given* up, and the field is *open*, and a resolution may *emanate* from the *chambers* and be adopted by the Senate giving *full* and *clear* powers to the Govmt. sufficient to enable Govmt. to *negotiate* and *close*, an arrangement. The Govmt. *then* may be induced to *listen* to *me*, or to *my* *propositions* for *peace* and *recognition*, without the responsibility which would otherwise attach to *them*, and if we can *agree* and the arrangement falls *within* the *scope* of the powers conferrd. by *Congress* on the *Govmt.* the *matter* can be *closed* without any further legislative *action* here; I will, only require the *ratification* in *due* form of the authorities of *Texas*, to be *binding* on both Govmts. Altho' the *exchange* may be *delayed* until the *pecuniary* stipulation is *fulfilld* by *Texas*, say *soon*.^a

These, *my dear Sir*, are *some* (not *all*) the *difficulties* which surround us, and compel me to adopt a *prudent* and *cautious* course, not to *risk* all on the *main* question, at the *first*, *start*, *reserve* a *shot* or *two* in the *locker*, so that my *first* *defeat* shall not be exactly *final*. The ground I occupy and the course I am *now* *preliminarily* *pursuing* is to see how the *question* stands, and confirm by *further* *observation* how far I am *right*, and if I have to *change* my *ground*, or modify my *measures* or *not*. I think I *hear* you say (and also our friend *Love*, who I suppose may be with you in *N. Orleans*) *well*, you have a *hard* row to *hoe*; so *hard* that you *never* will get through. You have *undertaken* too *much* and I have no hopes of any favourable result etc. To this I reply *that* I am *here*. I *know* my friends, and they are *active* in their steps, and I *hope* *something* will come out *at* last. I must *judge* and *act* for *myself*, with all the *light* and *aid* I can *borrow*, *move* *cautiously* and do my *best*. I have given you *here* only a *sketch* of the *state* of *things*, omitting the measures I have *already*, and am *now* *hourly* taking to *secure* my *ends*. *Time* is *essential*, tho' not a *moment* shall be *lost*. You *must* be patient and *await* the *result*. In a *week* I can I think *further* *report* (and I *hope* *favourable*) progress. But *formidable* *obstacles* must be *overcome* by *conviction* and *persuasion*. I trust you will *understand* *me*. There are *only* *two* ways *here*.

^a The last two words are obliterated in the original and are supplied from the copy in Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 399.