



16th. and 17th inst, I was about addressing (you) another communication, giving some details of the state of things, and my own movements etc, when, I found by my last advices from Gen. Hamilton, and also from Col Love, that the former expected to be in N. Orleans again on his return from Texas, about the 20th inst., and the latter named the same period for his visit to New Orleans, both soliciting my advices, and especially Gen H. who might be on his way to Europe, possibly without knowing anything of my progress since leaving V. Cruz. Under these circumstances, and conceiving it very important for Gen H. to know the exact position of my mission as near as I could give him particulars I resolved to write him at length, which I have done, but under circumstances in which I could not preserve a copy without missing a mail, which would have been to miss the vessel at V. Cruz, which was to convey it to N. Orleans. I cannot, therefore, furnish you with a copy; but I have addressed the despatch to Gen. Hamilton, *absent*, Col. Love, and directed Dr. *Ritchie* accordingly. I have requested *both* (whichever might receive it) to copy *that part* of said letter which they might consider important either to yourself or the Hon. the Secy of State, or to send the *original*, after perusal, that yourself might add the contents of *this* dispatch to Gen. Hamilton, to my former two advices, *in copy herewith*, so that up to 17th. evening, you will know all I could safely communicate. All I can therefore do is to refer (you) to said letter, not doubting that my said letter to Gen Hamilton will find its way to the Govmt. either in copy, or original. I will then suppose you in possession of said letter, and my other two, being all I have written from this City, and proceed on in my narrative, so far as I can speak of facts, and as may be necessary for Y. E. to understand the subject generally. The special committee referred to in my last letter, reported against the powers *politico-militares*, and especially the former branch of said powers, and altho they authorized the Govmt. to proceed with the projected expedition, it was under the ordinary and constitutional powers of the Govmt. And instead of reporting *ways* and *means* promptly and abundantly, they recommended measures that would give the Govmt. some \$250 to 300,000 Dolls and could not be collected (if at all) in less than *three* to 4 months. This report of the Committee was opened for discussion on the 17th. and at the close of the Hour, the House adjourned, after calling on the Secretary of War, Mr *Almonte*, to be present the *next* day to explain the views of Govmt. as involved *by the initiative*, and on the 18th the Minister appeared *in his place*. *December 21st*. The discussion commenced, and the Secy of War, Gen. Almonte, defended the course of the Govmt. Endeavoured to shew, the importance, the urgent necessity of taking immediate and active measures against Texas. That the Govmt. had done, *preliminarily*, all its means and powers had

enabled it to do, and *now* [wished] to carry out their views to some favourable result and prevent the evils that would otherwise ensue, etc etc etc. The Executive calld. on Congress to give him the powers askd. for, and the means (pecuniary) to carry out his policy. His remarks, which I heard, were very common place, and the general opinion was that during the whole discussion, he acquitted himself very indifferently. This, especially, was *my own opinion*. He was repeatedly asked, *what* were the measures contemplated by the Govmt. *military* or *political*; but declined, *as often*, to throw any light on the subject; *remarking* that to state to the chambers the plans of Govmt. as regards Texas would be to say to *the Texans*, "We are going to proceed against you, *thus and so*; therefore, prepare yourselves, etc etc etc etc. This discussion was not *general*, but confined (with one exception) to the *three* members of the Special Committee, who had sent in their report *against* the *initiative* of Govmt. as already explained. These Gentlemen (and especially a *Priest* who is President of the Chambers, (*Speaker of the House*)) defended their report, spoke with great freedom, complained of the Secy of War and the Govmt. who came down with their request for special powers and means, but refused to state *how* they were to use them. The speaker made the *closing speech*, *lashed* the Secy of War and the Govmt. very cleverly, spoke till the Hour had expired, and then adjourned the House, thus preventing Genl. Almonte from replying until the next day, 19th. when the House opened and the Secy *took the floor*. He had, on the day previous assumed a tone of importance, Handled one of the members *uncourteously* (to say the least) and treated the House, *as I thought*, disrespectfully. On the 19th. he appeared differently, and was quite modest and mild in his carriage and his Language, and instead of replying to the Speakers closing speech against him, he commenced by re-iterating his views and those of his Gormt., attaching vast importance to immediate action, and cited authorities and precedents to shew that similar powers had been asked for and granted by Congress on occasions of much less magnitude than the present, etc etc etc. To which the Committee (two of them) replied *at length and I thought, triumphantly*; destroying the precedent cited, and pointing out the enormous evils and abuses which had grown out of said powers. one speaker (of the committee) said, *in substance*: As regards the *naked* question of restoring Texas to the *Union* etc there was probably but one opinion in the House, *but* of what use was even *that unanimity*, unless some one could state *where* the means was to *come from*? whether *this* was the proper time to *undertake* so difficult an enterprize? and what were the prospects of final success. The Committee could not see where the means were to come from. The Govmt. and the Secretary had been calld upon by the Committee, *before* they had reported, and could obtain no light.

Hence their report, *now under* asked for. Before I proceed to t remark *briefly*; that *thus far*, no port the views of Govmt. nor members of the Committee supp (the only *other one* who said a w views, but not on the same gr together. While Gen. Almonte before said, with much greater by expressing a *wish* that the H their Report with instructions to project of the Govmt. that would and such as could be realized p which case the Govmt. would h chambers would have to assum public; and also, all its fatal o the matter, the committee cons much of long shot in the strugg home at once to the House, one which he had *not given why* broader principles than those, that he might explain, at full le he moved that the *discussion* pennd. his resolution, to which two or three members, who had to be *as to the form* or the r resolution itself. The propositi objected to, when the President be in order, and the Galleries must suspend my report (so I I propose to send *this evening* of the proceedings after closing pired *yesterday*; and much given in my *next* dispatch, probably some result, all wh far as my letters are concern transmit my letters to my Cruz, to be forwarded by direct or indirect. I have t arrival at V. Cruz there ha my advices to you: *The St Ashbey*; former for Balize 14th inst; and latter, to sail this communication, will not have thought it expedient

Hence their report, now under consideration, against the powers asked for. Before I proceed to the result of that day, the 19th. I will remark briefly; that thus far, no member had taken the floor to support the views of Govmt. nor those of the Secretary. The three members of the Committee supported their report, and one member (the only other one who said a word thus far) opposed the secretary's views, but not on the same grounds as the committee, who acted together. While Gen. Almonte replied by repeating what he had before said, with much greater earnestness than force, and concluded by expressing a wish that the House would return to the Committee their Report with instructions to report a bill in conformity with the project of the Govmt. that would give them, the Govmt, ample means, and such as could be realized promptly, to carry on their plans; in which case the Govmt. would hold itself responsible—otherwise, the chambers would have to assume that responsibility, as regards the public; and also, all its fatal consequences etc etc. In this stage of the matter, the committee consulted, and seeing that there was too much of long shot in the struggle, and wishing to bring the question home at once to the House, one of them stated that there were reasons which he had not given why this matter should be discussd. on broader principles than those, merely involved in their report and that he might explain, at full length, those reasons, and his own views, he moved that the discussion be continued, with closed doors, and penn'd. his resolution, to which there were some objections offerd. by two or three members, who had thus far been silent; but these seemed to be as to the form or the rules of the House, etc. and not to the resolution itself. The proposition was modified and altered, and still objected to, when the President (Speaker) decided the resolution to be in order, and the Galleries were cleared at once. And here Sir, I must suspend my report (so far as this dispatch is concerned which I propose to send this evenings post) because I am not fully advised of the proceedings after closing doors on the 19th, nor of what transpired yesterday; and much less, the result of today. This will be given in my next dispatch, when I shall know all that occurrd, and probably some result, all which shall be promptly communicated, so far as my letters are concerned; for all I can do is to write often and transmit my letters to my faithful and intelligent friend in Vera-Cruz, to be forwarded by the most available opportunities, either direct or indirect. I have to regret (and very much) that since my arrival at V. Cruz there has been only two opportunities to convey my advices to you: The Sloop of War Erie, and the Brig Frances Ashbey; former for Balize, or Pensacola, via Tampico, and sailed 14th inst; and latter, to sail on the 23d. inst for N. Orleans; so that this communication, will not reach her, but must take its chance. I have thought it expedient not to use the channel, via Tampico, for I

do not consider it, in any degree *safe*. I wish my dear Sir, I could give you something *more positive*; more satisfactory, more conclusive, or even more *indicative* of *final results*. But I do *all* I can, when I inform you of all the movements *here thus far*; or at *least*, all that I can with *propriety* now communicate. Let me secure the *preliminary vantage ground* I am thus far contending for; and I will *then perhaps* be more *explicit*. 21st. 8 P. M. As much from indisposition as from want of time, I cannot extend my remarks *much*; but will try to fill my last *page*. Gen Hamilton, among other matters, urges me to confine *my whole efforts* to obtain the mediation of *G. Britain*, and *merely stipulate* that negotiations shall be forthwith opened in London, under the *above* mediation, having for object *peace, recognition, indemnity* etc etc. You will see what I have said to the General *in my letter*, on receiving it. There are serious objections to the adoption of this recommendation. I have therefore not delivered Gen. Dunlaps letter of introduction, which *discloses* my *character*. Gen. H. informs me that he addressd. him *direct*, and told him I would call and confer with him *confidentially*. *This was very well*, but I have to *regret* that Gen H did not *enclose* these letters to *me*, and *send me copies*; that I might *judge when* to deliver them and know *how far to go with Mr Packenham*. *Then the Cabinet* would not have been *hampered with reiterated proffers* etc etc. *Then I could have followed my own course*, undisturbed by Mr P. If I *failed*, I could *then* approach Mr P. with the *same and greater* claims on his intercession or intervention.

This I shall do *yet if necessary*. Things this evening look *very fair*.

Respectfully Your Obt. Servant

Signd. JAMES TREAT

To Gen. M B. LAMAR }  
Texas. }

LAMAR TO PALMERSTON.<sup>a</sup>

[Letter of credence for James Hamilton as confidential agent of Texas to treat with Mexico, through the mediation of Great Britain for peace and the establishment of boundaries between Mexico and Texas.]

COMMISSION OF HAMILTON TO TREAT WITH HOLDERS OF MEXICAN BONDS.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> December 21, 1839. Transmitted with Burnet to Hamilton December 21, 1839.  
<sup>b</sup> December 21, 1839. See Correspondence with Great Britain.

COMMISSION OF HAMILTON

[Hamilton is appointed a confidential agent to negotiate a treaty of amity, peace, and Texas.]

BURNET

Genl. JAMES HAMILTON,  
SIR,

I have the honor to enclose the part of the Republic of Texas on the part of Mexico for the Republics, etc.

In transmitting this document I have unlimited confidence which I entertain in your ability and in the very delicate and important nature of the business which will involve the honor, or impossibility to frame instructions for the progress of the negotiation, which perhaps conflicting with some united views in small matters and prejudicial to the character. Time also inhibits me from sending you to the accompanying commission Mr. J. T.<sup>b</sup> on the same subject in view of this Government, and I can only cable carry them out.

With great consideration and respect,  
happiness,

I have the honor to be,  
Your obedient servant

[With this were transmitted the commission of Hamilton to treat with holders of Mexican bonds,

<sup>a</sup> December 23, 1839. Transmitted

<sup>b</sup> James Treat.

<sup>c</sup> These must have included the commission of Hamilton to treat with holders of Mexican bonds, August 9 and August 19, 1839.

COMMISSION OF HAMILTON TO TREAT WITH MEXICO.<sup>a</sup>

[Hamilton is appointed a commissioner on the part of Texas to negotiate a treaty of amity, peace, and boundaries between Mexico and Texas.]

BURNET TO HAMILTON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Austin December 23rd 1839.*

Genl. JAMES HAMILTON,  
SIR,

I have the honor to enclose you a commission as Commissioner on the part of the Republic of Texas to treat with any commissioner etc on the part of Mexico for the restoration of peace between the two Republics, etc.

In transmitting this document I have pleasure in professing the unlimited confidence which the President and this Government entertain in your ability and inflexible disposition, so to manage the very delicate and important trust committed to you, as will in no wise involve the honor, or impair the interests of Texas. It would be impossible to frame instructions on every point that may arise in the progress of the negotiation, should any be commenced, without perhaps conflicting with some unforeseen contingency, imposing restraints in small matters and prejudicing interests of a more important character. Time also inhibits me from detailing, and I will merely refer you to the accompanying copies of letters heretofore addressed to Mr. J. T.<sup>b</sup> on the same subject. From these you will ascertain the view of this Government, and will I am persuaded as far as practicable carry them out.

With great consideration and sincere wishes for your success and happiness,

I have the honor to be

Your obedient Servant

DAVID G BURNET  
*Acting Secretary of State.*

[With this were transmitted copies of the instructions to Treat;<sup>c</sup> the commission of Hamilton to enter into an agreement with British holders of Mexican bonds, December 21, 1839; a letter of credence

<sup>a</sup> December 23, 1839. Transmitted with Burnet to Hamilton December 23, 1839.

<sup>b</sup> James Treat.

<sup>c</sup> These must have included the two letters of Burnet to Treat dated respectively August 9 and August 19, 1839.

from Lamar to Palmerston, December 21, 1839, accrediting Hamilton as the agent of Texas to treat with Mexico, through the mediation of Great Britain for peace and the fixing of boundaries; and a commission for this purpose, December 23, 1839.<sup>a]</sup>

WRIGHT TO MERLE.<sup>b</sup>

WRIGHT TO BRYAN.<sup>c</sup>

MEXICO CITY Dec 25th. 1839

TO MR WM. BRYAN, *Consul of Texas*

DEAR SIR

Since last I wrote this country has remained much the same, every exertion has been made to increase the army in order to subdue the *Rio Grand Rebels* and Texians. I know not how It is that an alliance has been made between the Federals and Texians, but sometimes think that the Texians who are with Canales Zapata etc have gained the Federals upon their own responsibility, but let this be as it may, The Government of Mexico seems to be convinced that the Government of Texas has an active part in the invasion of Mexico, and will strain every nerve to retake that colony. Since my last dates Congress has voted a bill of loan or invested the President [with power] to raise five hundred thousand per month during the Texian war (by what means I know not).

I believe It is now certain that the Federals and Texians are in possession of Matamoris, that Rhenocero above that has fallen liquise into their hands and the French minister informed me yesterday that the Federal or Texian army was forty miles this side Matamores on their way to Tampico. I think you may rely on this as matter of fact, although the Government party here are as quiet about it as can be possible.

General Arista, is raising his voice in the country of Zacatecas and around that country with the most pathetic strains possible but had not on my last accounts been very successfull. I think from what I can learn that the whole Mexican army on the frontier states have not amounted as yet to 8,000 men having fallen short nearly have<sup>d</sup> their calculation. However every thing is doing that can be done.

I told you some time since that an expected revolution was expected, and I now repeat that it is supposed to be now at the very point of eruption.

<sup>a</sup> These commissions and letters of credence are printed in their proper places as independent communications, not as inclosures.

<sup>b</sup> December 25, 1839. See Wright to Bryan, December 25, 1839.

<sup>c</sup> A. L. S.

<sup>d</sup> Half.

Bustamente appears to be good slow to punish the averred Rob negligent to reward the good. of Santa Ana combined with h able to do much good in the mor

Bustamenta it is now learned army. General Arista is to have officer (Arista) though I am told Ohio, not of fighting but the sad

Poor Filasola, when I see his burlesk written of him and San San Jasinto on a log. But he is strangers speak well of him; he when a friend asks him what of up his shoulders and say "My will never be able to retake it."

I think since the last unfavour lowered much in their sanguine seen muffled up in their morn with faces hanging down as long

Santa Ana to the joy of stran supposed to have quit the world good world where he would ha his rascality numerous as the st been guilty of during the last the disentry, and is brewing so pected at this city as general di take the reigns of Government t Tripple Headed Potentate of regardless of shame or pity th this almost sinking country. black with crime as the accur

DEAR SR

I must beg pardon. I am not unbecoming strains, but I be by this man, his treachery, h redations and his want of me honor, to hospitality indebted t endeavoured to destroy.

Who saved him from the w who fed him? who watched the poisoned him? who waited on tention of Col Bee for this m

<sup>e</sup> Here the writer inadvertently

Bustamente appears to be good a man, but he is short of.<sup>a</sup> Too slow to punish the averred Robbers that infest the country. Too negligent to reward the good. Had he the energy and penetration of Santa Ana combined with his goodness of heart, he would be able to do much good in the moralizing of Mexico.

Bustamenta it is now learned will not take the command of the army. General Arista is to have the honour. he is said to be a fine officer (Arista) though I am told he learned his trade in Cincinnati Ohio, not of fighting but the sadlery business.

Poor Filasola, when I see him I have to laugh—thinking of the burlesk written of him and Santa Ana making them escape from San Jasinto on a log. But he is a fine old fellow no doubt at least strangers speak well of him; he is General in Command here and when a friend asks him what of Texas, he will shake his head, screw up his shoulders and say "*My Friend Texas is lost to Mexico we will never be able to retake it.*"

I think since the last unfavourable accounts that the Centrals have lowered much in their sanguine hopes of victory, and some may be seen muffled up in their mormans cloaks (of *twelve* yards of cloth) with faces hanging down as long as the moss of a Mississippi cypress.

Santa Ana to the joy of strangers and to the regret of fools was supposed to have quit the world, and gone to Texas or some other good world where he would have received his just reward for all his rascality numerous as the stars and mountain high that he has been guilty of during the last 40 years. But he has recovered of the disentery, and is brewing some infernal schemes; he is soon expected at this city as general dictator of ways and means, and [will] take the reigns of Government into his own hands, and then like the Tripple Headed Potentate of Hell (of Rome) grasp to himself regardless of shame or pity the little wealth of good remaining to this almost sinking country. This character here a God! It is as black with crime as the accursed fiend himself!

DEAR SR

I must beg pardon. I am not in the habit of breaking out in such unbecoming strains, but I beheld before me so much misery caused by this man, his treachery, hypocrisy and ambitious views, his depredations and his want of mercy, of pity of shame accused traitor to honor, to hospitality indebted to a people for his life who has since endeavoured to destroy.

Who saved him from the wrath of the texians when a prisoner? who fed him? who watched the movements of those who would have poisoned him? who waited on him like a brother? Look at the attention of Col Bee for this more than monster in the shape of man

<sup>a</sup> Here the writer inadvertently omitted some word or words.



setting aside the many others that treated him as an honourable prisoner of war.

Yet he was the first to declare war, the first to order Col Bee back from whence he came, when Gen Victoria and others would have been reconciled to a reconciliation between the two countries.

I conclude dear Sir these remarks by informing you that I have but little doubt if the Federals mark their cards aright but that they will gain their point and then I have no doubt but Texas will be declared free and recognized

Please write me and inform me what the war department is doing, that I may not be entirely in the dark

I am Dear Sir your very devoted friend and servant

Mr Wm. BRYAN Esq.

Note you may expect by my next to hear of a change. Write me to this city to care of Eliot & Snyder Vera Cruz, who will remit the same

Mr. J. Merrile<sup>b</sup> pleas be so good as to send this to Mr Bryan Consal and oblige yours respectfully, but be so kind as not to send this by any one who might be careless or neglectfull in despatching the same

From yours etc

MEXICO CITY 25 Dec 1839.

WRIGHT TO BRYAN.<sup>c</sup>

CITY OF MEXICO Dec 27th. 1839

DEAR SIR.

In my letter of the 25th Inst I wrote you that Matamores had been taken by the Federals and Texians. But an express came here to day to the Secretary of War bringing information that Genl Canalisso had driven off the besiegers, and that General Arista had not arived when this took place. This account having arived by express it is presumable is correct, you will however be informed of the truth of this before this letter can reach you.

At heart Mexico is determined to show the Texians fight, let the consequence be what it may.

I am afraid to hold out encouragement, to you owing to my being uncertain as to the feelings of the people at large, and shall only inform you that 2/3rds of the strangers here would be glad to see the country

<sup>a</sup> The signature is in cipher.

<sup>b</sup> Merle.

<sup>c</sup> A. L. S.

in the hands of the Texians. divided in oppinion, much of t and [they] think that they wo Government or Texian as the ment.

I repeat what I wrote the ot is thunder struck at the poor augmentation of the army. G others are appealing to the p rally to the standard of war, traitors, pirates rebels and sav to rob you of your wives your and destroy your property, ch they would the black man."

I might translate you pag would be a waste of time, and

We still await a revolution.

I have conversed with many Congress, and some there are have been recognized for the expensive war. Even in the v bench "Why in the name of thing done e're this for the pac Again was said by the same gade Federals. Federal, did Federals, but that of traitors, view these accursed bands of Christ at their head am of from them." It was plain Texas, etc.

Again Dear

You will excuse my follow

1st. I would propose that head department of neither their religion nor be molested farther then for people;

2nd. That all prisoners and that all who wished to with open arms, and asu exist in the country. And

<sup>a</sup> Meaning  
<sup>b</sup> This wa  
<sup>c</sup> The wor

in the hands of the Texians. The people on Rio Grand are much divided in opinion, much of their patriotism is lost for the *patria* and [they] think that they would live just as well under the Federal Government or Texian as they do now under the Central Government.

I repeat what I wrote the other day that the Mexican Government is thunder struck at the poor turn out of the patriots, and the slow augmentation of the army. General Arista, and General Reyes and others are appealing to the people in the most patriotic strains to rally to the standard of war, in order to save the country from the traitors, pirates rebels and savages whose sole aim (they say) "are to rob you of your wives your children, lay waste your Farms, burn and destroy your property, change your laws, in fine enslave you like they would the black man."

I might translate you pages of the like proclamations. But it would be a waste of time, and be but little benefit to you or yours.

We still await a revolution. It would I presume be favourable

I have conversed with many indirectly even among the members of Congress, and some there are sorry very sorry that Texas could not have been recognized for the good of the country instead of this expensive war. Even in the very hall I heard it thundered from the bench "Why in the name of God could there not have been something done ere this for the pacification or subjection of that colony!" Again was said by the same speaker, "I have no faith in those renegade Federals. Federal, did I say? They deserve the name not of Federals, but that of traitors, black as the ruined fiends of hell do I view these accursed bands of Zapata Canalis, and [with] Rey <sup>a</sup> *Jesus Christ* at their head am of opinion that nothing good could procede from them." It was plainly evident that he was a friend to Texas, etc.

Again Dear

You will excuse my following propositions.

1st. I would propose that a proclamation should be drawn by the head department of <sup>b</sup> declaring to the people of Mexico that neither their religion nor their churches in case of invasion should be molested farther then for the essential good and happiness of the people;

2nd. That all prisoners of war would be treated with humanity, and that all who wished to take side with <sup>c</sup> would be received with open arms, and assure them that nothing like slavery should exist in the country. And that every pains would be taken to estab-

<sup>a</sup> Meaning King.

<sup>b</sup> This word is written in cipher.

<sup>c</sup> The word in cipher is the same as above.

lish schools and factories by which they would be able to live happy and learn to read. Something of this kind would have an effect far beyond anything you could expect. The same might by yourself be remitted to me, I am cap[ab]le to have [it] distributed in a far short[er] time throughout the Republic.

I must conclude this with haste as a gentleman for Havana is waiting. I am out of all patience and do not [know] what to think. I have never received a word from you although I have [written] by every opportunity. I have been as active as my means and health would admit of. What have I not undergone, what have I not risk[ed] in a country of enemies, have I not scoured the whole Comanche world, have I not appeared like the evil one in a thousand different places in this bandit country. And for all this, what is my prospect. A prison in this accursed country, without means or friends to fee a lawyer to get me out. Dear Sir I do not complain but I am in the dark. I am even not convinced that I am even known by the Republic. I could do much good had I sufficient funds and authority. Yes Sir had I the authority of Col Bee, I should watch my opportunity in case of change in this Government and some favourable moment ask for a Recognition of the Republic without fear of being disappointed. The people have nothing to say here. A few say and do all, and these few are half convinced that a recognition would be for the best. I do not pretend that I am as capable as many others for the above mentioned, but where is there a man who will come here risking his life as I have done, and I can assure [you] that the danger is not small. The Government has published again and again latterly that every man would be considered a traitor who gave any accounts directly or indirectly to strange or foreign nations or to the enemy.

But setting all aside you may rely on my fidelity and all I ask is that my letters may be answered in a proper way. If my services are acceptable inform me of the same, if not dismiss my services, and I will return from the field.

Note

A runaway Mexican from Texas has brought word that Nacogdoches had been taken by the Cadoes, Cherekees and Choctawes and that 30 Texians had been murdered lately near Behar (San Antonio) by the Comanches leaving not one to take home the unfortunate news of their deaths. I cannot vouch for its truth.

I am Mr. Bryan your very obedient Servant

To WM. BRYAN Esqr  
New Orleans

\*The signature is in cipher.

Private. Duplicate.

MY DEAR SIR.

Since my last respects of [ ] we had a *continued Holiday* mentioned, as a *week's lost time*, *business* of any kind is *traded* leave the city for the *country* (tune) and on Thursday next *usual course*, and progress be *myself*, nor my *friends*, have *public business*, and I am happy *my affairs*. I have, in my *efficient evidence* of the *Up Hill* no more *on this point*, lest *mountable*, and hence, *infer* to be time enough to go into *of taking you by the hand*. *Session*, which continued *for* *forcing* the claims and *desires* *powers*, and ways and means *the Chambers*; and of *course* which *refused* said powers. *made use* of arguments *based* which he *vouched for* as *facts* if known, would excite a *feeling* *cult for me* to describe.

On the *other hand*, the *Government* them and *against* the *Secret* the time to attempt to raise *a* *campaign against Texas*. *Proposes* greatly exceeded *its* *whether this was not rather* *ment*,—some *negotiation* *with* of Mexico than to *oppress* *would probably never be* *a* *direct issue* of opinions, *bro* Enough was of course *a* *might soon be, pending on* *an* *arrangement* honorable and *however before the House* *Committee*, which was *de*

TREAT TO LAMAR.<sup>a</sup>

Private. Duplicate.

CITY OF MEXICO, Decr. 31st. 1839.

Tuesday A. M.

MY DEAR SIR.

Since my last respects of [20th] instant, to which I beg reference, we had a *continued Holiday*, (which, I think I have already mentioned, as a *week's lost time*, for all *public matters*) as no *current business* of any kind is transacted, and many of the *Public Men* leave the city for the country. It is now *almost over* (thank fortune) and on Thursday next, 2d. Jany. everything will resume its *usual course*, and progress be made on the part of Congress. Neither *myself*, nor my *friends*, have been Idle during this interval of *public business*, and I am happy to say, I have made some progress in my affairs. I have, in my former communications, given you sufficient evidence of the *Up Hill Job* I have in hands, and I will say no more *on this point*, lest you should think the difficulties *unsurmountable*, and hence, *infer* that I can *bring nothing about*. It will be time enough to go into *further details*, when I have the pleasure of taking you *by the hand*. My last advices left Congress in *Secret Session*, which continued for 3 or 4 days. The Secy. of War, *enforcing* the claims and desires of the Executive, as regards the *powers*, and ways *and means*, involved in the *project* sent down to the Chambers; and of *course* opposing the *Report* of the *Committee*, which *refused* said powers. To support all which, the *Hon Secy* made use of arguments based upon *his own mere assertions*, and which he *vouched for* as *facts* which I cannot now repeat, but *which*, if known, would excite a feeling of *disgust* and surprize, *very difficult for me* to describe.

On the *other hand*, the *Committee*, and others who acted *with* them and *against* the Secretary, insisted upon it; *That this was not* the time to attempt to raise ways *and means* to undertake a *new campaign against Texas*. *That* the wants of Govmt. for *other purposes* greatly exceeded *its means*; and *that the true question was* whether *this was not rather the time* for some *amicable arrangement*,—some *negotiation* which would redound more to the interests of Mexico than to *oppress* the people for Means to *commence* what would *probably never* be carried to an *issue*. *Here you see*, was a *direct issue* of opinions, brought about purposely by *my movements*. Enough was of course *said to shew* that *overtures* were *now*, or *might soon be*, pending on the part of *Texas somewhere* for a *friendly arrangement* honorable and advantageous to *Mexico*. The *Question*, however *before the House was* on the reception of the *Report* of the *Committee*, which was decided in the *Negative*; so the *Report was*

<sup>a</sup> A. L. S.

returned to the Committee for *revision*. That Committee will adopt one of *two* courses. 1st. Let that subject *die on their hands*, and make no *further* report (as is common here) and, in that case, a resolution will be offered, from some *other quarter*, *authorizing the Govmt.* to negotiate such an arrangement of peace and Recognition with Texas as in its opinion is conformable to the honor and interests of the Country (or something *tantamount*, but in their *own ambiguous style*)—or 2dly. The said Committee, if it sends in an *amended report*, will *add* this Resolution (or something equivalent) *to it*, and in *either case* the sense of the Chambers will be known. We *hope* for a *majority* on this question, when it *does* come up, but as we are gaining ground *every day*, we do not like to *accelerate* the vote *too much*. We feel almost *sure* in the *Senate now*, and If we can, get the authorization *from the House*, there is little doubt but the Government will embrace the *negotiations thus* opened by Congress, and the responsibility of *action thereon* thrown upon the *Executive*. This *course* was deemed not only *necessary* but decidedly the *best*, as it was well known that the Executive and Cabinet, would never *move originally* on this question. But it seems *morally certain* that the *Initiatory* being taken by Congress, the *Executive* will *act*. Another advantage in this *course* is that, managed in *this way*, there is no *ratification* necessary on the part of Congress, of the *doings* of the *Executive*; which, being *within* the Sphere of the *authorization* of Congress (and for this purpose it will be ample) *is final*, and can be kept a secret during the *pendency* of the question, and longer if desirable. I trust, I have said enough to convince you that my *first step* (under all the circumstances) has been a safe and judicious one.

Should you doubt however, I can, I think, on a more *full* view of the whole ground, satisfy you that it *was* my *best course*. Perhaps, however, we shall not *try* the *main question* until we are *morally sure* of the result in our favor. If *we fail*, I shall then approach the Govmt. *direct*, and make all the impression I *can* on *them*, which will not be *small*, after *all* that has passed on the subject, and which of *course* I cannot *now* relate. If I find the aid of Mr. Packenham desirable or necessary I will invoke it *at once*, for *thus far* I have not seen him, nor am I aware that *he knows* I am in the city; tho', I am rather inclined to think *he does*, from Gen. Hamilton's letters to him, and the *almost* consequent inquiries he would naturally make *concerning me*. I have abstained from seeing *Mr. Packenham* until *now*; 1st Because I am advised that his proffered mediation of England in the affairs of *Mexico and Texas* has *not* been definitively acted on by this Govmt, which awaits the final action of Congress to reply to Mr. Packenham. 2d. I am afraid that if Mr Packenham, assumes his *mediatorial action here*, or even his *good offices* are in-

voked by *both* parties, the *question of Debt* would be brought up *again* if nothing worse. 3d. I have *heard* of *some* *faction*, what *were* the *conditions* were converted into *new ones* this *new arrangement* to *pay* the *Debt* by *the Sale or cession* of Texas?

This doubt, I have found *of Congress* authorizing it *the Govmt.* acted, and the *proceedings* have *now taken* sufficient *measure*

When I *know*, I shall be *glad* to *take* the question, (if it should appear in the *proceeds* of Sale of Texas) *and* *offer* *my* *own* *plans*, *that is*, some *variation* in *the* *mode*

Gen. Hamilton has *based* his *plan* on *English mediation ONLY*; and *not* on *mediation* in London on the *supposition* that the *holders* will *not* *pay* the *Debt*. It may be true, but I shall soon be relieved from *using* Mr. Packenham's influence *if* I can *do so soon*, or make it my *own* *business* in addition to what I have *been* *doing* in *the* *picture* of the *present posture* of *the* *circumstances*. Of *course* I *shall* *not* *omit* *the* *leading features*; the *rest* you *will* *see* *for* *yourself*. I am *better situated* to *give* *you* *the* *information*

All which is most

Respectfully submitted

Continuation.

Myself and my friends *will* *be* *glad* *to* *subject* under my charge, and *will* *endeavour* to *increase* the *probability* of *success*. I hope I can state *my* *own* *plans* *more* *fully* than I *dare* *now*. At *present* as much ground as I *can* *cover* of *success*. This goes *to* *the* *time* for a Vessel for *N. York*. *post*. If it *does* it will *be* *able* *to* *receive* them *together*. I *will* *send* *them* *thence* to *N. Orleans* *and* *thence* to *N. York*, with a *copy* of *the* *original* not received.

voked by *both* parties, the question of *Texas Quota* of the *Public Debt* would be brought up and produce Embarrassment and delay, if nothing worse. 3d. I have not *yet* ascertained, to my *entire satisfaction*, what *were* the *conditions* on which the *Old English Bonds* were converted into *new ones*; *that is*, whether Mexico is bound by this *new arrangement* to pay to the *Bondholders* the proceeds of any Sale or cession of Texas?

This doubt, I have found *great* difficulty in *Solving*, as the *decree* of *Congress* authorizing it was *general* and *plenary* under which *Govmt.* acted, and the *proceedings* have *never* seen the *light here*. I have *now taken* sufficient measures to *know all I desire* on this head.

When I *know*, I shall be *governed accordingly*, as the issue of this question, (if it should appear that the *Bondholders* are entitled to proceeds of Sale of Texas) may induce some change in my proceedings, *that is*, some *variation* in the *modus operandi*.

Gen. Hamilton has *based* his *recommendation*, that I should go for *English mediation ONLY*; and merely arrange for *opening* the *negotiation* in *London* on the *supposition* that the *money goes* to the *Bondholders*. It *may be true*, but there is some reason to think *otherwise*. I shall *soon* be relieved from *all doubt*. If, then, I am *compell'd*. to use Mr. Packenham's influence or *induced* from *Policy* so to do, I can do so *soon*, or make it my *last resort*. This *statement*, I *think*, in addition to what I have before advised you, will give you as full a picture of the *present posture* of affairs as I *can well draw* under the *circumstances*. Of course I have *not told you all*; only, *some* of the *leading features*; the *rest* you must *guess at* for the *present*, and until I am *better situated* to give *details* than I am *now*.

All which is most

Respectfully submitted.

Continuation.

JANUARY 1ST. 1840.

Myself and my friends are all alive to the *importance* of the subject under my charge, and nothing is left *undone* that can by *possibility* increase the *chances* of *success*. By the 10th. to 15th. inst I hope I can state *my own opinion* of results with *more confidence* than I *dare now*. At present, I will only say that I have gained as much ground as I could have *anticipated*, and I still have *hopes* of *success*. This goes to Vera Cruz, in the hope that it will be *in time* for a Vessel for *N. Orleans* of which I was only advised by *last post*. If it *does* it will accompany *my last respects*, and you will receive them *together*. If not it will go *pr. Eng. Packet*, via *Havana*, and *thence* to *N. Orleans*. I have letters from Mr Burnley, at *N. York*, with a *copy* of his letter *to me* from *London* 5th. Octr.; *original not received*. Please thank him for them, if *with you*, as I

have *not time* nor *health* to write him *now*. I have duly noted the important (in a certain event) contents of his letter of 5th Octr from London, a copy of which you would, I *think*, like to have in the *State Dept.* This is a miserable Winter's climate, and my *health suffers much*. This is the *coldest winter ever known here*. We are daily expecting news from *Matamoras*, last accounts having left *Canales* in the *vicinity* of that place, making some movement, which is here reported as a *withdrawal* of his *troops*. We *know* Nothing but what the Govmt. chooses to publish. It is the strangest place for *news* I have *ever seen*. I hardly know *which party* to wish successful. If by defeating *Canales*, the Govmt. *here* should be *strengthened*, then I say, *let Canales be defeated*. For one of the things I *most apprehend* and an *evil* as much to be *feared* as any other *single one whatever* is the *weakness* of Govmt. which will make them, I fear, when it *comes to the pinch*, *afraid to do* what *their own convictions* assure them is the *best*, the *only policy Mexico can adopt* with Safety or *advantage*. If I had *only to convince* a majority of both Houses of Congress—a majority of the Cabinet and the President—and more than *half the Sensible men* who, *besides the above*, are in office, and the *same proportion* of *intelligent men* out of office whose opinions would be *worth something*, of the *policy advantages*, *nay*, the *necessity* of an *amicable arrangement* now, I would say to you, Sir, "I *will accomplish your wishes*, *only give me a little time*." I should *honestly* believe I could make *good* my word. But when *all this is done*, then comes the *fears*, *doubts*, and *apprehensions*, of *consequences*—*whether* it will prove *unpopular*, *whether* the Cabinet will be broken up and lose *their places*—and *whether* a Revolution, *might not* be the *Consequence*, etc., etc. Hence the *necessity* of *dividing up* the *responsibility* beginning with Congress, and placing the *Executive* and *Cabinet* in an *easy position* to act, while the public and even *Congress itself* may be ignorant of *what is really going on*. It is *only thus*, we *trust*, they will be able to get over the *anticipated difficulty*.

They are *too weak*, *too imbecile*, *too much divided among themselves* and *afraid of each other* to act *straight forward*, *boldly* and *openly*, however *clear* they may be that they are *right* in POINT OF

FACT:

With these *additional remarks*, you can *hardly fail* to see *how things stand now*; and you may, perhaps, *form your own opinion* of *probable results*, even on receipt of *this* and all my *former despatches*. I say *Still*, *my dear Sir*, I have *hopes of success*. I regret I cannot always hand you *duplicates*, but my *health* and *circumstances* have *not* on *this* occasion permitted. The *Extreme* precautions I take will, I *trust*, secure the *safe arrival* of my *originals*, *salvo loss* of *vessels*. Be pleased to look over the *style* of my communications, and

look at the *matter only*. I am *bad*. I wish I could have *been in* the *department*, but have *not* from N. York.

I Remain, Sir, with  
Obedient and

P. S. I hope some *function* have been, *ere this*, placed *in* my *draft*? I am sure, I *shall* You will have seen that I

HAN

SIR

I do myself the honor of the 23rd ultimo, covering the resolutions of the Senate and the ratification for peace with Mexico.

I likewise acknowledge the communication indicated to your agents, which I have given the most careful attention. For the sake of being attentive, tender to him my most sincere thanks, and in assurance that my best exertions will be made for the honor and prosperity of the country.

I pray you to accept my thanks, and I am respectfully, your

Hon.

DAVID G. BURNETT  
Actg Secy

MY DEAR SIR.

Altho' I have nothing to say, my last advises a few days ago.

January 7, 1840. See  
A. L. S.

look at the *matter only*. I close this in the evening and my sight is bad. I wish I could have the satisfaction of a line from you, Sir, or *the department*, but have nothing to acknowledge since my departure from N. York.

I Remain, Sir, with great respect, Your  
Obedient and Very Humble Servant,

JAMES TREAT.

*P. S.* I hope *some* funds, which I have *before* adverted to may have been, *ere this*, placed in Dr. James Ritchie's hands subject to *my draft?* I am sure, I shall require them or *some portion*, of them. You will have seen that I can get them *from no other quarter*.

J. TR.

---

HAMILTON TO BURNET.<sup>a</sup>

NEW ORLEANS *Jan'y 7th 1840*

SIR

I do myself the honor of acknowledg[ing] the receipt of yours of the 23rd ultimo, covering my commission under the secret resolutions of the Senate and House of Representatives, authorizing negotiation for peace with Mexico

I likewise acknowledge the secret instructions previously communicated to your agents, which shall claim for my own guidance my careful attention. For this new proof of the confidence of the Executive, tender to him my most cordial acknowledgements, with the assurance that my best exertions shall be employed to promote the, peace, honor and prosperity of the Republic.

I pray you to accept my assurances of the high esteem with which I am respectfully, your obt. Servt.

J HAMILTON.

Hon.

DAVID G. BURNET  
*Actg Secy of State*

---

TREAT TO LAMAR.<sup>b</sup>

[Private.]

MEXICO *Jan'y 7th. 1840.*

MY DEAR SIR.

Altho' I have nothing new or interesting to communicate, since my last advises a few days since, *Yet* I avail of this *day's post* to say a

<sup>a</sup> January 7, 1840. See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 409.

<sup>b</sup> A. L. S.



few words, hoping it will reach the U. S. Sloop Ontario, to sail 10th or 11th for Balize or Pensacola, having just heard of her arrival at Vera Cruz, where, it appears, she makes an unusually short stay. All I can now say, in addition to my numerous late advices which are at great length, is, that I am now preparing communications for the Secy. of State *direct*, made in virtue of my *appointment*, as I anticipate that the period is near at hand, when I can do this to advantage, as my other movements are, or soon will be, completed.

The Govmt. *Still* appear to adhere to their *apparent* old plan of preparing an Expedition, *nominally* against Texas, but *not* with a View of ever carrying the new invasion into effect. Their *real plan* is, I am induced to believe, as follows: obtain the means and authorization from Congress to raise an army of 10,000 Men (they have only about 5000 *now, all told*) to place them on, or near, the frontiers, and then negotiate as they think, to greater advantage, and they expect that Congress will give them the *double powers* (Politico-Militares) for this purpose. This is the *real object* of Govmt. tho' it will only be avowed to *some*, while *others*, will be made to believe that the Govmt. are *in earnest* in their Views of *Restoring Texas* to the National Union. They (the Govt.) and all those *enlightened* on the *subject* are fully *satisfied* they can *never reconquer* Texas. But the Govmt. being *weak* and *tottering* (and will be more so, if *Canales* should gain the Victory over the Govmt. Troops at Monterey or Matamoras, as some anticipate) adopt this mode of Gaining strength; *that is, assume* the Texas expedition as their *real object*, when it is only the *pretext*, and the *best*, if not the *only one*, they can now adopt to produce the desired effect on the Chambers. Congress were again in *Secret Session* Saturday on the subject of Texas, but as it has rained all Day I have not yet heard the result.

As soon as I make my *first* communication to the Secy of State, I will transmit you a copy, and keep you regularly advised of whatever may succeed. I am also preparing an *Exposition*, which If I gain a Conference or Succeed in opening a communication with the Govmt. I *may present*. In *preference* to making a *Verbal Expose* of this paper, you shall *also* have a copy in due time.

The position of the Govmt and of parties and of the *frontier* is *embarrassing*, and render it truly difficult for the Govmt. to act without Exposure to the attacks of the *opposition* and of the *public*. They *may be* placed in a position where they *cannot act at all* without *exposing* their places in office; and *Love of office* here is so much stronger than *Love of Country*, they may not be willing to *listen at all*.—Still, I *cannot think* they will refuse me an interview or a conference under all the circumstances of the case. I shall have this

pleasure again in a Very few  
able to report further progress

Meantime excuse this necessary  
closing.

With great Respect, I remain  
Most obt Servant

THE  
[Duplicate

MY DEAR SIR

I have the honor to hand  
three communications of 20th  
to which I crave reference, for  
safety. These advices are now  
to keep up the chain of events  
since my last respects of 7th  
been but temporary) want  
also want of opportunity to  
Even this dispatch goes to V  
duplicate *via Tampico*) with  
New Orleans or Havana; it is  
medium of my active correspond

As regards the action of Co  
my last details, it will be en  
occupying too much space: I  
asking for Ways and means  
has been under discussion, and  
with a few unimportant articles  
to the Govmt. or to my inter  
the Ways and Means, altho  
is, as it were, a nullity, and  
carry into execution, and  
And, 2dly. as regards the  
tion to their being given  
Govmt., when the time arriv  
suggested in my last dispatch  
law, as it ceases to be a m  
formal opposition, even  
which is not probable, as