

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

[Confidential.]

MEXICO February 21st. 1840.

MY DEAR SIR:

Under date of 7th. instant, I had the honor to address you a communication, covering *three papers*, No. 1 and 3, being *copies* of letters sent, and intended to have been forwarded to Mr. Cañedo, Secretary of State; with *such explanations* as I deemed necessary to a correct understanding of the position of things here and the motives which induced said Communications; *all which*, with my subsequent and separate advices of 8th. and 15th. instant, will give you the *minute details* of this part of my proceedings, with Govmt.

I have now the honor further to wait on you with Translations No. 4 and 5, and copies 6, 7 and 8, which will complete my letters thus far to Mr. Cañedo. And I beg leave to adopt the same course in transmitting to you *these papers*, as when I forwarded the *first three* of the series—*viz.*, that of brief explanatory comments on each, for the *same reasons* given you in my former letter of 7th. instant, to which, and documents enclosed, I beg reference in connection with *this letter and its enclosures*. No. 4. is a Translation of a *private* letter to Mr. Cañedo, which will *mainly* explain itself. I was *restricted* by circumstances of policy from saying much in my letter sent to and received by Mr. Cañedo, marked No 2. (It being substituted for my own, marked No 1) and I thought that a *private* friendly letter, in which I could say what I pleased without committing Mr. Cañedo as Secretary, Would, or might, produce a good effect, and in no way do any harm. It was well received and verbally acknowledged through Mr Pakenham with satisfactory reasons for *not giving* it a formal reply.

No. 5. Translation of a *private* letter to Mr Almonte, which, in like manner, may sufficiently explain itself. But, permit me here to remark as regards this Gentleman that I had made *two passing* attempts to obtain a *general and friendly* interview with him, which he had avoided, and I knew he would, as a member of the cabinet, know all my movements, and doings with Mr. Cañedo and the Government. Knowing, moreover, that he would be opposed to my objects, *at least*, at the commencement, and in proportion as he found this opposition, met with the support of *some of his colleagues*, and the concurrence of the President; *and further*, being informed how far he had committed himself with Congress in sending down from his Department the *Iniciation of ways and means* to carry on the war against Texas and the *other project*, declaring it *Treason to talk or write* in favour of the Views of Texas or in reference to the dismemberment of the Territory; I say, *aware of these things*, and

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

fearing his influence, I please him; and [so I could do no harm, (even down a little. To it however perhaps because he is still of the above Laws, which along in the chambers; entirely uncommitted with progress will probably take as

No. 6. Is copy of a letter opened to me, (as I then on the 1st. of Feby. with ham, (as he had agreed to of Credentials, as would changed ground and directed to him, as well as the my not having the usual communication with me as Agent Mr. Pakenham.

No. 7. Was adopted and duly signed by me, standing, on handing it not think it would be desired him to try it, and if it, without throwing any object, viz. that of plac Texas, as drawn up by was received, notwithstanding that the Secretary does

No. 8. was written for character to my Exposition for delivery or transmission form of the communication, that I was, (very alter the form, and had and merely dated in Mr

Mr. Pakenham accompanying its contents to the

Nothing since has occurred they should take a little of the President, as well In the meantime I have them all as opportunity of their first impressions of the subject.

fearing his influence, I wanted to do something to conciliate and please him; and [so I wrote] my letter to him, which I thought could do no harm, (even if he exhibited it) and might soften him down a little. To it however, I have received no reply whatever; perhaps because he is still committed with Congress in the passage of the above Laws, which are both still pending, and drag heavily along in the chambers; or, it may be, because he means to stand entirely uncommitted until he sees what course the Govmt. and Congress will probably take as regards the Texas question generally.

No. 6. Is copy of a letter I had prepared, to follow up the course opened to me, (as I then supposed) by the personal interview I had on the 1st. of Feby. with the Secretary, not doubting but Mr. Pakenham, (as he had agreed to do) would remove the difficulty of absence of Credentials, as would have been the case, had not Mr. Cañedo changed ground and discovered that it would be very convenient to him, as well as the Government to avail of the circumstance of my not having the usual credentials to avoid further direct communication with me as Agent, and thus throw all the responsibility on Mr. Pakenham.

No. 7. Was adopted in place of the above, written in official form, and duly signed by me, with my own name merely, and, notwithstanding, on handing it open to Mr P. for delivery, he said he did not think it would be received, because it was signed by me. I desired him to try it, and if rejected on that account, he might withdraw it, without throwing any new obstacle in the way of my primary object, viz. that of placing before the Government the Views of Texas, as drawn up by me and already transmitted you. This letter was received, notwithstanding objections were made, which shews that the Secretary does not always think alike on these points.

No. 8. was written for the purpose of giving an official form and character to my Exposition; but on handing it to Mr Pakenham for delivery or transmission, he was so strongly of opinion that the form of the communication would cause its rejection by the Secretary, that I was, (very much against my inclination) induced to alter the form, and hand the paper without address or signature, and merely dated in Mexico February 13th. 1840.

Mr. Pakenham accompanied it with an official letter, recommending its contents to the particular consideration of the Government.

Nothing since has occurred between us, and I felt quite willing they should take a little time to translate and consider it on the part of the President, as well as the different Members of the Cabinet. In the meantime I have persons in my confidence, who can approach them all as opportunity offers and remove the rough and wirey, edge of their first impressions, (which are apt to be most alarming) on the subject.

If the Secretary intimates a wish to receive the *propositions* to which *all this tends, they shall have them*, after due consultation with Mr. Pakenham, of course. If the Government choose to rest here for a while, I may find it *very convenient*, for in the meantime, I shall *not be idle* in bringing such influence, to bear on parties as shall be calculated to produce a good effect. They are *Slow*; and this is a *frightful subject*. Let them become a little more familiar with it, and let congress *Reject* the two projects before them, and I shall *hope, then, for some action, some approximation* to the subject, and perhaps something like a disposition to arrange the matter on some reasonable basis. Meanwhile, I still remain unknown to the public, as having anything to do with the Government or with Texas; and this enables the Govmt. to weigh and reflect upon the question, without any interference, on the part of public out door opinions, or the criticisms of the Press.

All which is Very respectfully submitted, in the hope that the course I have adopted thus far, may meet with the favourable consideration of the President and his constitutional advisers.

I Remain, Dear Sir, Very Respectfully,  
Your most obedient and Humble Servant,

JAMES TREAT.

To

Gen. M. B. LAMAR  
Austin,  
Texas.

[Translation.]

MEXICO January 24th. 1840.

["Private and Reserved."]

MY DEAR SIR.

In sending you, as the proper organ of the Government, the accompanying communication in relation to an important subject, I cannot do less than to address you a *private note*, in view of the friendship and good feelings which has heretofore existed between us, which, on my part, I have not forgotten, nor shall I soon forget.

If there was a time when you have known me interested in the welfare of Mexico, I am not less so, now. If when you best knew me, you was satisfied that I was a man of honor, frankness, and good faith, you may now repose in entire confidence that you will find in me still the same honourable principles.

I have been much gratified to find that in the fulfilment of the duties which I have assumed, in regard to the subject matter contained in my other communication, I shall come in contact with a person whom, I have before known, and, who has known me; inas-

much as it will thus be even altho' it may not incite.

What I beg of you is that if I have accepted the not been exclusively to my thought I should be rendered. On this point, it would be after.

What I desire is that distinguished Member, Shoul Government of Texas, and an amicable arrangement, If I do not greatly err, is which you may consider

In fine, I wish to have feeble efforts, united to you to the adjustment of the countries, and I believe the can ever present itself to

So much the more wishes be to me, as I mo your country will be pro question. But, be this as with all that regard due to you have honoured me in considerations to which you present friend,

And obedient Serv

To. Mr. J. D. CAÑEDO,

P. S. You will pardon neither my time nor health

No. 5. "Confidential."

MY DEAR SIR.

It is now some weeks not yet had the pleasure cause I apprehended the friendly interview, which the Capital I sent you our friend Commodore

much as it will *thus* be more Satisfactory to discuss this question, even altho' it may not increase the probabilities of its happy termination.

What I beg of you is that you will believe me when I assure you that if I have accepted the mission to which I have referred, it has not been *exclusively* to render a Service to Texas, but *also* because I thought I should be rendering an important *one* to your own Country. On this point, it would be easy to satisfy you, which I can do hereafter.

What I desire is that *the Government*, of which you are a distinguished Member, Should *listen to* the sentiments and wishes of the Government of Texas, and *weigh* the *reasons* there are in favour of an *amicable arrangement*, before you decide upon a question which, *If I do not greatly err*, is one of great interest, in any point of view in which you may consider it.

*In fine*, I wish to have the pleasure of contributing with my *Very feeble efforts*, united to your own, which are *very*, if *not all-powerful*, to the adjustment of the differences which exist between the two countries, and I believe the *present* the most *opportune moment* that can ever present itself to effect this object.

So much the more satisfactory would the fulfilment of these wishes be to me, as I most firmly believe, that the true interests of your country will be promoted by the *peaceful termination* of this question. *But*, be this as it may, permit me to salute you *individually*, with all that regard due to the friendship and confidence with which you have honoured me in times past and to reiterate the respectful considerations to which you are entitled, from your *former*, as well as *present* friend,

And obedient Servant etc. etc. etc.

Signed JAMES TREAT.

To. Mr. J. D. CAÑEDO, *etc. etc. etc.*

P. S. You will pardon the haste with which I address you—neither my *time* nor *health* will permit me to recopy.

[Translation.]

No. 5. "Confidential."

MEXICO January 24th. 1840.

MY DEAR SIR.

It is now some weeks since my arrival in this city, and, if I have not yet had the pleasure of seeing you as I desired, it has been because I apprehended that on *your part*, you was *disinclined* to a *friendly interview*, which I have *inferred*, as soon after my arrival at the Capital I sent you a message with my *personal respects* through our friend Commodore Lopez, to *which* I received *no reply*.

But *whether* this *inference* is correct or not, I take much pleasure in addressing you these few lines, renewing the intimacy and friendship with which you have honored me for so long a time. If I may be permitted *to assume* that there is *no* good reason why we should not now be as good *friends as ever*.

I will, then, be candid, as I am accustomed to be, and say to you without circumlocution that I am here as an *Agent*, entirely *confidential* and reserved for *the present*, of the Government of Texas, to confer with *that* of *Mexico* touching an amicable arrangement which will put an end to the differences which now exist between the two countries in a manner honourable and advantageous to Mexico, as well as Texas.

Today or tomorrow I shall address the Secretary of State in relation to the objects of my visit, soliciting a *private interview*, as, I am inclined to think, is most advisable for the present.

I am aware that this announcement will not surprize you, and I am *furthermore fully* persuaded that the position you occupy in the Government; the particular knowledge you possess in relation to this subject; and the great influence you possess with the President and your colleagues in the Cabinet, will give your opinions much weight in the determination of your Government, as regards the matter in question. I say this, because I *believe* it.

Under these circumstances, and with my opinions already before you, I address you this letter, in the hope that you will, as Minister and an ardent well wisher of the future prosperity of your country, take into consideration, this business, and reflecting thereon with your usual intelligence and patriotism, you may perchance satisfy yourself that the time has *now arrived* in which your Government may *not only listen* to the friendly and pacific views of the Govmt. of Texas; but, also, *when* measures may be adopted conducive to a good understanding with your Northern Neighbors, and thus put an end to your mutual differences, and avoid the inconvenience of a prolonged struggle.

But, whatever may be your opinions in regard to this question, and altho' I may have erred in thus anticipating your views, I trust you will listen to and weigh the reasons and advantages which may be justly alledged in favour of an honourable and *advantageous* arrangement to both parties.

It would be Very gratifying to me to be able to contribute to the final and satisfactory arrangement of so interesting a question both to Mexico and Texas. You will *yourself* render an important Service to Your country, if *you view this subject as I think you will*. By co-operating with me in the use of your influence for the same laudable and patriotic purpose, and *thus* securing the advantages now attainable by Mexico, and also avoiding the sad consequences which might result from leaving matters *as they now Stand*.

While I submit the  
assure you that, in so d  
act in *entire good faith*  
own country.

You will pardon  
accept the sincere pr

Any reply you may  
me at *No. 10, Vergennes*

I Remain Dr. S

To

Sr. J. N. ALMON

Copy.  
No. 6.

MOST EXCELLENT Sir

In the interview w  
Saturday the 1st inst,  
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satisfactory evidence  
that I am duly appo  
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an adjustment of ex  
Mr. Pakenham, who  
arrange *the Guarant*  
to place before Your  
the Govmt. of Texas  
doing in consequenc  
see Your Excellency  
my very respectful

I am Y. Es. M

To

H. E. J. D. C

While I submit the above remarks to your *candid* consideration, I assure you that, in so doing, I am animated by no sinister design but act in *entire good faith*, and *also* with the *best* wishes towards your own country.

You will pardon the liberty I have taken, if it be undue, and accept the sincere protestations of my friendship and consideration.

Any reply you may think proper to send me may be addressd. to me at *No. 10, Vergara St.*

↓ Remain Dr. Sir Your Most obt Servant

Signed JAS. TREAT

To

Sr. J. N. ALMONTE.

*Copy.*

*No. 6.*

MEXICO *february 4th 1840.*

MOST EXCELLENT SIR.

In the interview with which Your Excellency honoured me on Saturday the 1st inst, at the Department of State, Y. E. adverted to the omission of my *formal credentials* under the seal of Texas, and the remedy was suggested that under the *Guarantee* of H. B. Majesty's Minister resident here, this omission, (arising altogether from accidental circumstances which I explained to Y. E.) might be supplied, Until said Document in due form should be transmitted to me, according to my *Special request* forwarded to the President of Texas, on the day of our conference.

I have now the Satisfaction to inform Y. E. that having conferred with Mr Pakenham, H. B. Majesty's Minister, and he has very kindly offered the Guarantee required, being in possession of satisfactory evidence other than that contained in my instructions that I am duly appointed and constituted *private* and *confidential Agent* of the Government of Texas, for the purpose of Entering into an adjustment of existing differences between the two countries. Mr. Pakenham, who will hand you this note will at the same time arrange *the Guarantee*, so that I can *then*, as agreed upon, proceed to place before Your Excellency in writing the Views and wishes of the Govmt. of Texas, more at length, than I had an opportunity of doing in consequence of my indisposition, when I had the honor to see Your Excellency. I avail of this opportunity, to offer to Y. E. my very respectful considerations, and highest regard.

I am Y. Es. Most Obt and Hble Servant

Signed JAMES TREAT.

To

H. E. J. D. CAÑEDO.

*etc. etc. etc.*

Copy.  
No. 7.

MEXICO feby 10th. 1840.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR.

In the Interview with which Y. E. honoured me, on Saturday the 1st. inst at the Department of State, Y. E. adverted to the omission of my *formal credentials* under the Seal of State of the Govmt. of Texas, and the remedy was suggested *that* under the *Guarantee* of H. B. Majesty's Minister resident here *this omission* (arising altogether from accidental circumstances, which I explained to Y. E.) might be supplied, until *said credentials*, in due form, should be transmitted to me, in conformity with my *Special request* forwarded by duplicate to the President of Texas, on the day of our Conference.

I regretted, however, to learn from Mr Pakenham, on Saturday last, that he could not with propriety give the Guarantee required by Y. E. to relieve me from the difficulty above cited; Y. E. was pleased to inform me, through H. B. Majesty's Minister, that any written communications I might think proper to address Y. E. on the Subject of my *confidential mission* would be received throught the medium of Said Minister.

I therefore embrace this early opportunity to Salute Y. E. and to remark that I shall have the honor to transmit to Y. E. in a few days, and through this Same channel, the sentiments and views of the Govmt. of Texas more at length than I had the opportunity of doing *verbally* on the occasion of our interview, and in conformity with our understanding at that time.

Meantime, I have the honor to subscribe Myself, with great respect and consideration,

Y. E. most obedient Servant,

Signed JAS TREAT.

To H. E. J. D. CAÑEDO,  
*Minister, etc. etc.*

Copy.  
No 8.

MEXICO february 12th. 1840.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR.

In the interview with which I was honoured by Y. E. on the 1st. instant, my indisposition prevented me from communicating to Y. E., *except very briefly*, the Views and Sentiments of the Government of Texas and Y. E. at my instance was pleased to say that I could present them in writing opportunely: I now therefore have the honour, to subjoin the following:

"Brief Exposition"—(Here follows the paper, which I had prepared for this purpose, and at the conclusion I inserted, *as follows*)

The Undersigned has been authorized by his Government perhaps improper to make present them *in writing*. Shall be pleased to intimate receive them.

*Note.* The *Exposition*, 6th feby. The paper sent important omissions. True copy shall be transmitted tions connected therewith.

MY DEAR SIR.

I have nothing of moment in the accompanying copy of a factory letter from Gen. Pakenham which I have replied to and address him whenever I can.

I am most anxiously awaiting as, if Gen. Hamilton's success Pakenham and myself agree, *ment, then, of course, I have* tions from You. I hope to have the satisfaction to receive them.

I need not again call your late despatches and the instructions; as I doubt if you will place on or near the front of the (can) in the Expectation of advantageous footing, which they can now expect. I do not to do this; but their ability means, I doubt very much, which at the present moment this idea well grounded. At the time I only mention it as a Govmt, rather than any

The Undersigned has omitted to State the propositions he is authorized by his Government to Make to the Govmt. of Mexico, as perhaps improper to make in this communication. He will, however, present them *in writing* whenever his Excy. the Secretary of State Shall be pleased to intimate to the undersigned his readiness to receive them.

*Note.* The *Exposition*, has been forwarded as *No. 3*, under date of *6th feby.* The paper sent in is *essentially the same*, with a few *unimportant omisisions.* True and *Exact Copy* of that sent to the *Secretary* shall be transmitted with *Duplicates* of the other *communications* connected therewith in a *few days.*

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

[Private.]

MEXICO *february 22d. 1840.*

MY DEAR SIR.

I have nothing of *moment* by *this Post* beyond what you will find in the *accompanying* communications. I received a long and satisfactory letter from Gen. Hamilton, dated at N. Orleans, 3d. January, which I have replied to *at length*, on the *20th. inst.*,<sup>b</sup> and, shall again address him whenever I can inform him of *further progress.*

I am most anxiously awaiting to hear from you, or *the Department*, as, *if Gen. Hamilton's* suggestions and recommedations both to Mr. Pakenham and myself are in *accordance* with the *views* of *Government*, then, of *Course*, I must *expect new* and *corresponding, instructions* from You. I hope and trust, it will not be long, before I shall have the satisfaction to receive them *at length.*

I need not again call your attention to the contents of my several *late despatches* and the request for my *full credentials* and *further instructions*; as I doubt not, they will be on their way *ere this* reaches You. I have *heard Very recently* that the *plan* of *Government* is to place *on or near the frontiers* from *5000. to 10,000 Men* (as they *best can*) in the *Expectation* that they can *then, negotiate*, on a more *advantageous footing*, and obtain *better terms* and *conditions* than they can *now expect.* I should *not* be surprized if they should, *desire* to do *this*; but their ability to carry out the *project* on the *score* of means, I *doubt very much*; even if *Congress Sanction* the *measure*, which at the *present moment* May perhaps *be questioned.* If I find *this idea* well *grounded*, I will *further* advise You, and in the meantime I only mention it as a *rumour*, based probably on the wishes of Govmt, rather than any *fixed determination.*

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

<sup>b</sup> No copy of either of these has been found.



For my own part, I do not believe they have come to any determination whatever on the general question of Texas. When they overcome their first difficulties, that of making up their minds whether they can safely take hold of the question in earnest, and decide how this delicate matter is to be approached with safety to the popularity of the Cabinet and President, then they will decide what will best suit their purposes.

Then they have to depend on Congress for means to prepare for hostilities, if that be their course, which it will be difficult for them to obtain.

If they are disposed to treat in sober earnest, then, they will require the authority of Congress to negotiate. If, as I hope, they wisely come to the latter determination, I think Congress will grant the powers. If Govt. are so timid that they are afraid to ask openly for powers to negotiate, then we must bring out the proposition from some anti-Administration source, and let enough of the Govt. in, each House go for the measure as, with our friends will carry it through both branches. To some one of these results, the matter will probably come sooner or later. This is my own impression AT PRESENT.

From Canales, we know nothing certain, the accounts place him beyond the Rio Bravo. Arista is, with about 1000 men, at Monterey, Canalizo, with some 1200, in Matamoras, and Ampudia has, say, 600, in the same Vicinity; making about 2800 Troops, say 3000. Two thirds of this force might march to the del Norte in pursuit of Canales, put matters right on the frontier, and be on the Spot in readiness to form the Nucleus of the new invading Army; or the Division to alarm Texas into a liberal peace, and perhaps restricted boundaries: that is, if they can carry through the views attributed to them.

Where the money is to come from, I know not, even to maintain the forces already there; and the Senate has, on the 17th. inst, rejected the bill from the House asking for provision and means to enable the Government to "Restore Texas, to the National Union." It will, perhaps, be modified in the House, and if it obtains a two thirds vote; it can return again to the Senate, otherwise, not. We shall see. The French Minister has arrived, and was received day before Yesterday. His name is, Baron Alleye de Ciprey.

Mr De Lisle, is indisposed.

I Remain, Sir, with regard and consideration  
Your obedient Servant.

JAMES TREAT.

To

Gen. M. B. LAMAR—  
Texas.

SIR,

I have the honor  
Duplicates—viz.,  
copies of papers  
21st. inst. covering  
Duplicates of my  
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TREAT TO LAMAR.<sup>a</sup>

[Confidential.]

MEXICO Feby. 29th. 1840.

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose you by *this day's post* the following *Duplicates*—viz., *Dup.* of my respects of 7th. inst. covering *dup.* copies of *papers* No. 1 and 3 *inclusive: also Dup.* of my respects of 21st. inst. covering *dup.* copies of *papers* No. 4 to 8 *Inclusive: and Duplicates* of my *last two* communications, under dates of 15th. and 22d. *inst;* to *all which* I beg leave to refer you, in case *their originals* respectively should *not* have been received.

I send the above with this letter to *Vera Cruz* by *this evening's post*, but it will depend on circumstances *whether* they all go in *one*, or are divided *between two different Vessels*, bound to *N. Orleans*, and *they* will complete the duplicates of all my letters, up to *the present date*.

I am *still* without any advices from *Yourself* or the department, tho' I am daily expecting them. I learn *indirectly* that *Dr. Ritchie* had received my *despatches*, up to 20th. December, previous to 13th Jany. and I trust my *subsequent letters* have all arrived *safely* and promptly.

I regret that I am not able to report *further progress* in *my affairs* since my last of 22d. instant.

All we know is that my *Exposition* has been translated and submitted to a *Cabinet counsel*, and *Still* remains under the consideration of the Govmt. without any reply *whatever* to Mr. Pakenham. I presume the Govmt. have been very much occupied on *business* of *preference*, as they have received news from *Yucatan* and other points which is unfavourable to the continuance of tranquility in *that Department*.

Mr Pakenham will press the Govmt. to an early decision on his *own account*, as he is very desirous to *transmit some determination* to *Lord Palmerston*. I presume during the coming week we shall hear *something* from the Secretary.

The advices from *Yucatan* *above referrd.* to State that the revolution that has been on foot there for some time is making serious headway, and it is feared the whole department may concur in the *grito* for federation. It is said that troops are to be sent from *Vera Cruz*. It is *difficult*, to learn *facts here*, but the next arrival will give us something decisive of the *first movement*. *Private letters* speak of the movement as *Very general*. An *abortive* movement at *Perote* and another on the *South Coast* Shew that the elements are in com-

motion. The death of General *Cortazar*, Governor and commandant general of the Department of *Guanahuato*, which State, has always sustained its *independence* and never bowed to *Centralism*, leaves a *Vacancy*, which it is difficult for the Govmt. to fill without some disagreement with the *local* authorities and Troops.

A Sort of *Rupture* [has occurred] between *Arista* and *Canales* who were negotiating an arrangement or an *armistice*. And the continued *labours* of the opposition and St. Anna's party give the Govmt. many unquiet moments.

I regret all these things, for they are *all calculated* to fetter the *hands* and distort the *heads* of Govmt. and render them *more timid* as regards our affair.

The measures before described Still *hang in Congress*. The *Texas*, *bill* has not yet been called up for discussion *since* the committee of the *House*, withdrew their report, and changed the tenor of the contribution.

The Bill declaring it *Treason* to advocate the *rights of Texas*, and that abridging the *liberty* of the *Press*, are both still pending. The *fate* of all three of these measures may be considered doubtful. The *two latter*, the Govmt. will not press. The *former* they would like to *carry*, as it would give them *means*, tho' it is doubtful if much of the amt. would go towards *renewing* the War against Texas.

I have heard nothing since My last *about* the rumoured project of Sending 5000 or 10000 Men on to the frontiers. It has all probably been forgotten in the Multiplicity of *other* Matters of more immediate consequence. It is further Stated, that Mr Almonte, is desirous, to go to *London* as *Minister*; and Mr Cañedo will go to *Washington* as Commissioner, *under* the convention between this Govmt. and the U. States.\* I should not be surprized, if both these reports Should *prove true*—particularly the *latter*, Tho' I wish the *former* might take place *forthwith*, as his *influence* against us would then Cease.

I am Sorry I have Nothing of *greater interest* to communicate, *but* So it is. I hope in my next I shall be able to say *something more cheering*. The *french Chargé* Mr De Lisle will be *obliged* to remain here some *time* with the *New Minister*.

Very Respectfully

Your Most obt Servant

JAMES TREAT

To Gen

M B LAMAR

*Texas*

\* Of April 11, 1839. See *Treaties and Conventions of the United States*, etc., 676-679.

JAMES TREAT Esqr

SIR,

I have the pleasure to  
you directed to the Pres  
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This Government has  
the peculiar delicacy of  
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medium of communication

During the late session  
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temporary charge of the

We have been much  
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\* See Records of De

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

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Austin 12th March 1840.*

JAMES TREAT Esqr

SIR,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge various communications from you directed to the President, the most recent bearing date the 8th Ultio.

This Government has omitted to address you heretofore, because of the peculiar delicacy of your position. That obstacle to a free intercourse being removed by the formal disclosure of your Mission to the authorities of Mexico, It affords me great pleasure to be again the medium of communication between the President and yourself.

During the late session of Congress the President completed his cabinet organization, by inviting the Honorable Abner S. Lipscomb into the Dept. of State. Mr Lipscomb being at present absent, on private business, at the special request of the President, I again take temporary charge of the Department.

We have been much gratified with the zeal and prudence you have manifested, in the discharge of the very important and delicate duties committed to you, and the President requests me to assure you of his cordial approbation.

A commission as Agent with plenary powers is herewith transmitted, authorizing you to negotiate a treaty of Recognition, amity and boundaries, and to stipulate for the future making a more ample Treaty of Commerce etc, It is not thought advisable to embarrass the present preliminary negotiation with any of the little but often vexatious questions relating to the commercial intercourse with Nations so situated in juxtaposition as are Texas and Mexico. If Mexico is sincere in desiring peace, the Government of Texas will always be disposed to reciprocate every benefit which the respective intercommunications of trade may confer, but these must be adjusted as between independent powers.

I enclose you an official Letter to Mr Pakenham, to whom we feel under many obligations for the very frank and honorable manner in which he has assisted your efforts. That the Government of Great Britain will eventually realize important benefits from the separate independence of Texas in the hands of the Anglo Saxon race is a fact too obvious to escape the discernment of so intelligent a Gentleman as Mr Pakenham, and he has wisely anticipated events by imposing essential obligations upon this infant Government, which it can never cease to recognize and appreciate.

<sup>a</sup> See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 54, pp. 14-17.

I do not know that any further specific instructions are necessary. The future and permanent harmony of the two powers requires a well defined line of demarcation. The Rio Grande presents one and is eminently adapted to the purpose.

You will freely consult with Mr. Pakenham and so far as may be practicable without jeopardizing the ultimate objects, you will conform to any suggestions he may make relative to the final disposition of the consideration to be paid to Mexico.

This Government can have no objection to the British holders of Mexican bonds deriving an incidental benefit from the negotiation in which you are engaged. But we believe that even great Britain has an eventual beneficiary interest in the success of your efforts, which will be paramount to any present advantages that can accrue to those bond holders, and that therefore the appropriation of the instalments to *their* benefit should not be permitted to embarrass seriously your principal operations.

You are informed that certain Chiefs of the Federal Party are in arms in the vicinity of the Rio Grande, and that some Anglo-Americans have united with them. The President, in strict conformity with his professed desires for peace, very promptly issued his proclamation, enjoining all Texian citizens to abstain from hostilities against the Government of Mexico,<sup>a</sup> a copy of which he transmitted to the Chief of the Anglo Americans who were understood to have joined the Federalists, by Lieutenant Col. Johnson the Assistant Adjutant General of our Army. That gallant Officer with his escort, was intercepted on his return by a large party of Mexicans, and cruelly put to death. This is an event not calculated to assuage the feelings of a people already provoked by unwarranted and unchristian Massacres, or to soften the rigors of the War should it be actively renewed. But in as much as this atrocity is reported to have been perpetrated by a desultory band of ruffians without the express authority of the Government, the President will not regard it as an insuperable obstacle to the proposed negotiation. But it may be considered as an infallible assurance, that if hostilities are to continue, they will be conducted with increased animation by an indignant people who know how to avenge a wrong which they would never commit.

With great regard I have the  
honor to be your Obedt Servant

DAVID G BURNET  
*Acting Secty of State*

P. S. Your letters were received on Yesterday.

<sup>a</sup> See note <sup>a</sup>, p. 551.

To  
His Excellency  
RICHARD PAKENHAM  
*Minister of State  
to the*

SIR, The President has  
interest you have been  
by this Government, this  
Mr. James Treat to arrest  
of a Treaty of peace and  
of Mexico.

Mr Treat is now furnishing  
enter upon such negotiations  
may afford him will be the  
guarantee which you may  
of Mexico will be fully and  
Government.

General James Hamilton  
by this Government to treat  
a negotiation might possibly  
pleasure in assuring you  
has made or may make to  
The President requests  
ments.

With great consideration  
to be Your Obedt  
Obedt

Be

To  
His Excellency,  
R. PAKENHAM,  
SIR, I pray you will  
your address despatches  
ment at the City of Mexico

<sup>a</sup> See Records of the