

LAMAR TO CITIZENS OF SANTA FÉ.^aTREAT TO LAMAR.^b

[Confidential.]

MEXICO June 14th. 1840.

SIR

I have the honor to wait on you herewith, with Copies of my last three very hasty despatches, dated of 28th. May, 3d. and 6th. inst., to which, if needful, I beg reference; duplicate of my preceding communication of 7th. ulto. being alredy on its way.

You will perceive by my advices above refered to how matters stood up to the 6th. inst. since when, three or four Consecutive holy-days and their necessary consequences have prevented any further progress, unless it be that the papers to be referred to Congress, in relation to Texas, have been preparing, and if not sent in *yesterday*, which I doubt, may be *today*, or *tomorrow*, when I shall watch their progress with great anxiety, and an interest, which I will not attempt to describe.

Meanwhile, and since the action of Congress, the Matter has gained publicity, as you will perceive by the Slips I enclose you from the opposition papers. The *Cosmopolitic* is the most respectable and called the organ of the federal party. The *Equilibrium* is a more Violent paper, and *also against the Government*. Neither of them is very scrupulous, as regards the *truth* of their statements, as they write to abuse the Gvmt. and make converts to their party. You will therefore credit neither, where their statements *conflict* with my *Despatches*. I send them, as they shew what I have before Stated, that the opposition will oppose the question of Acknowledgement, independently of its merits, and merely to Embarass *more and more* the Government.

Campeche has finally Surrendered to the Revolutionary party, and Some movements have taken place in the adjoining Department of Tabasco, where it is doubtful if the Central forces are sufficient to with Stand the Example and Efforts of Yucatan, *now* entirely free.

At present the Gvmt. are doing nothing towards preparing an Expedition against the *revolted Department*, and it is doubtful if they will, as it would require Some Vessels of war and three thousand men, at least, to Subjugate that Peninsula. They have not means for this, and have too many Cares nearer home.

The Question between the Gvmt. and Conservative Power remains open, Congress not having acted on the question, and Should they decide favourable to the Gvmt., *as is probable*, the Conservative

^a June 14, 1840. See calendar.^b L. S.

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Power would, *as is believed*, declare *Null* and *Void* said law, and these powers would remain in the Same hostile attitude as before.

The fact is they are surrounded with difficulties, and if the present Ministry maintain themselves in power, and can Sustain the present order of things, it must be by *going ahead*, with a *strong hand*, regardless of the clamours of the people, or the denunciations of the press. They must cut the *gordian knot*, and carry through their plans and measures, if need be, at the point of the bayonet. This Conservative power Stands in their way, as it *now* has the power of annulling all Laws, by a plausible argument (very Easy among these people) of *Unconstitutionality*.

As regards the opposition press, the Gvmt. will soon have it in their power to check it, under the Law restricting the liberty of the press, which has, or will *unquestionably*, pass the chamber of Deputies, and, *doubtless*, the Senate also. Should the Conservative power declare it *Null*, the *Executive* will *probably* disobey the Mandate, and execute the Law.

Then there will soon come up the proposed *Reforms* in the *Constitution*, now in Committee of Deputies, who will propose to abolish this Conservative Power, or restrict its powers, and it will be followed by a declaration of Nullity, so that there Seems to be no *pacific* termination of the Matter, *even prospectively*. A compromise was attempted, but it is *now* entirely given up.

Almontes initiative of December last, asking for Means to restore Texas to the *National Union*, has just become a Law, having been under consideration *Six Months*, been *rejected Several times*, and undergone So many *modifications* that it amounts to *Nothing*, so far as *Texas* is concernd.

The Law establishes a Contribution in the Departments, the proceeds of which the Gvmt. are authorized to appropriate to several distinct objects, and the *balance towards* the *Restoration* of *Texas*.

The project Submitted to Congress declaring all Persons *traitors* who espoused the cause of Texas is sleeping quietly with the Committee, who will probably never report thereon.

Congress has recently authorized Gvmt. to take up a Loan of *One Million* and they are now endeavouring to raise Some money under it. They offer 1% per mo., but this premium is merely nominal: it will cost them 2 or 3% per mo., in the way they usually manage such Negotiations here.

This state of things, however deplorable in *itself*, is in many respects favourable to *our object*, for the Stronger the Gvmt. and the more bold and vigorous (*despotic* if You please) its Measures, so much the better for our question; *provided always*, they can Sustain themselves, and their plans; hold the Congress and Council in Subserviency, and keep the Army and the Hosts of Officers under pay, on their

Side. My apprehensions are that the Ministry will Either *fail* in *nerve* to go through with their Measures, or that, before they get through with their difficulties, they will *Strain* the *cords* so *tight* as to produce an *Explosion*, and this will lead to a *Dictator*, at least *pro tem*, who will be *Bustamante* in *one case*, or *perchance*, *Santa Anna*, in the other, according as the balance of military power and influence may prevail.

P. S. Friday June 19th. I have delayed my despatches *one post*, which will *still* be in time for the Steamer *Argyle*, Should she, on her arrival *from* N. Orleans, determine to return thither, as I *hope*; if *not*, this must go *via Havana*. I have nothing specially new to add to my remarks of 14th. inst. *Public affairs* Continue to look *Very dubious*. There has been delay in the presentation of the question in relation to Texas to Congress. The Govmt. have been exceedingly occupied with their Complicated and increasing difficulties, and particularly the *Secretary of State*, who, is on the point of despatching the Commissioners, under the Convention with the U. States.^a

They will leave to-morrow, and *if today* my papers do not go in, I have no doubt *they will* next week, *Unless* delayed by the *threatening aspect* of *affairs*. Congress is too busy to take them up just now, even if they had them, for half their time is passed in *Secret Session*, moved by themselves, or called for by the Government. Yesterday, the *whole* Cabinet, *four Ministers*, went to the Chambers, and asked for an immediate *Session* with *closed doors*. *Object* not yet *promulgated*. Rumours of resignation of the Ministry, have been *very general*, for Several days, and every body talks of a "Coup d' Estat" from *some* quarter. What the issue will be, it would be more than *useless* to *Conjecture*.^b

Under these circumstances, it will not be considered a matter of *any surprize*, that I make no immediate progress in the Chambers, or that the Government should desire a moment of *greater calm* than the present, to present this matter before Congress.

So I must await events, which I hope may favour us, and *you*, Sir, must exercise *all your* patience, for the final result.

I am, Sir, with the highest respect
and consideration,

Your most obedient Servant.

JAMES TREAT.

To

Gen. M B. LAMAR

Austin

Texas

^a The convention of April 11, 1839. See *Treaties and Conventions of the United States*, etc., ed. 1889, pp. 676-679.

^b From this point the letter is in Treat's handwriting.

P. P. S.

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P. P. S.

Saturday June 20th.

In closing for the post of *this* evening, I have nothing to add, unless it be *that* You must not be surprized, if in my next I apprise you of a New Ministry, which, I shall *much regret*, And *which* will Suspend my *action*, or compel me to begin *De Novo*; either of them, would be a *most sad disappointment*.

But *I hope* and *wait*, with the most anxious expectation, the development of this most *singular state of things*.

Most Respectfully

Your most obt Servant.

JAMES TREAT.

TREAT TO LIPSCOMB.^a

MEXICO June 19th. 1840.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the reception, on the 3d. instant, of your valued communication of 1st. April, enclosing me authority to draw on the Loan Commissioners in London for a sum equivalent to *Two Thousand Dollars*; and, by the same conveyance, I received the *Duplicate thereof*, the former, through the kindness of R. Pakenham Esquire, and the latter, from Mr. M. Burrough, of Vera Cruz: All of which have been duly noted.

I also received, at the same time, the *original* of a despatch, from the Hon. David G. Burnet, *then* acting Secretary of State, dated 12th. March, enclosing my plenary powers, a letter for R. Pakenham Esquire, and a proclamation by H. E. the President of the Republic; the *duplicate* of which, with the above named papers, with the *exception* of the *proclamation*^b I had already received on the 15th. of April, and recommenced acting under said power, having immediately delivered the Communication to Mr. Pakenham, who was pleased with its Contents, and has since replied to the same.

The Proclamation of the President, I handed forthwith to the Secretary of State, *Senor* Don Juan de Dios Cañedo, who placed it on file with my previous Communications, where it will serve to Shew the sincerity and consistency of Texas, in its present negotiations with Mexico.

Altho' this communication from your Department has already been acknowledged to H. E. the President, and Perhaps Sufficiently replied to, it may not be improper for me to offer a few brief remarks, in reference to its Contents.

I have taken due Note of all that relates, to the objects of my mission, and shall continue to confine my negotiations to the *essential*

^aA. L. S.

^b See note ^c, p. 641.

points of Recognition, (which necessarily involves Peace) Boundaries fixed and defined, if *attainable*, and *Stipulations of indemnity*, together with such further Conditions as necessarily *grow out* of the above provisions, leaving all *minor points* that can be omitted in this *preliminary Treaty* to be entered upon and adjusted hereafter, as may be agreed upon.

As regards any Stipulation to pay a *part* or the *whole* of the indemnity in *Mexican Bonds*, I understand that the Government of Texas is indifferent as it contemplates no direct advantage, if this course Should be adopted. It was originally Suggested merely to meet the anticipated wishes of *this Government*, and to facilitate my negotiation, and *not* because any benefit would accrue to Texas; but further reflection induces me to believe that, if the Mexican Government *prefer* this course, and it Should be thought favourable to the adjustment of the question of indemnity, *I should assent to it*, (but in strict accordance with my instructions) inasmuch as it *might be* of some advantage to the Commissioners in London, in facilitating the Loan of indemnity.

Nothing, however, has passed between the Secretary of State and myself on this point, as we have not yet reached any *official details*, as regards the propositions of Texas to Mexico, the only paper which I have submitted embracing proposals having been transmitted to the President, and, as you will have seen, [it] is *very general*.

If the period should *fortunately* arrive when this question comes up, I shall endeavour to make it *Subserve the interests* of Texas, or if not, omit it *entirely*.

As regards the painful paragraph of Judge Burnet's letter, relating to the Sad fate of Lt. Col. Johnson and his companions, I took early opportunity to read the Statement to the Secretary of State, and, I *think*, with due effect.

In answer to *your* communication, I have to thank the President and yourself, for attending to my request, in relation to funds, but regret they will not be available *here*, as it will be impracticable to negotiate my drafts; perhaps, however, on reaching New Orleans, I can effect my object *there*, and thus replace any sum I may take up here on my *own credit*.

The approbation of the President of my official course here is highly gratifying, and whatever may be the result of my Mission, my humble, tho' unceasing efforts shall not be suspended nor diminished for a single moment, *until I reach some issue*.

I beg leave respectfully to refer the Department I have the honor to address, to my despatches *herewith* addressed to Gen Lamar, to whom I have heretofore transmitted all communications, having reference to my Mission. As I have received no intimation to adopt

a different course, I shall be considered *Somewhat*

I forward this to the left there on the 6th of 25th. and [will] depart they must go *via Havana* Port in the Gulf are

Please present my respects both whom, with yours

I have the honor to be

Your Very Humble

To

The Hon.

ABNER S. J.

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Commodore E. W. Moore
Texas

SIR:

You will, with all care under your command, some safe anchorage for self of the first safe committed to your care. Majesty's Minister at Vera-Cruz:--You will to stand off and on the dispatch has been doing such communications the Agent of this Government, your best sailing vessels

^a June 20, 1847

^b June 20, 1847

a different course, I shall continue to do so, altho' I am aware it may be considered *Somewhat irregular*.

I forward this to Vera Cruz, hoping the Steamer Argyle, which left there on the 6th inst for N. Orleans, will have returned by the 25th. and [will] depart again for the Same destination. If *not*, they must go *via Havana*, as opportunities *direct* for any American Port in the Gulf are *very unfrequent*.

Please present my best respects to Judge Burnet and Mr. Starr, both whom, with yourself, I hope are enjoying good health.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great respect and consideration,

Your Very Humble Servant,

JAMES TREAT.

To

The Hon.

ABNER S. LIPSCOMB

Secretary of State

Texas.

ALMONTE TO BROWN.^a

TREAT TO CAÑEDO.^b

LAMAR TO MOORE.

[Copy.]

GALVESTON 20th. June 1840.

Commodore E. W. MOORE

Texas Navy.

SIR:

You will, with all convenient despatch, proceed with all of the vessels under your command, which are manned and equipped for service, to some safe anchorage not far from Vera Cruz:—You will avail yourself of the first safe opportunity of sending in the dispatches committed to your care, for Richard Pakenham Esqr. Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Mexico to the care of the British Consul at Vera-Cruz:—You will cause one of the vessels under your command, to stand off and on Point Maria-Andrea, for thirteen days after the dispatch has been delivered at Vera-Cruz, for the purpose of receiving such communications as may be sent out to you from Mr. Treat the Agent of this Govt. in Mexico. Should these despatches be for this Government, you will forward them immediately by one of the best sailing vessels under your command. Should you receive a

^a June 20, 1840 (translation). See Wright to Bee, July 1, 1840.

^b June 20, 1840. See Treat to Lamar, July 4, 1840.

despatch from Mr. Treat informing you that he had failed in his negotiations, you will in that event be authorized to cruise against the Mexican vessels, and make prizes of them, taking care to avoid all collision with neutral powers; always respecting the principle, that a Neutral Flag protects the cargo.

You will be particular to avoid all offensive means, and not shew yourself before Vera-Cruz or any other Mexican Port, until after you have heard from Mr. Treat. Should you not hear from Mexico, after waiting the term before mentioned, you will wait at some safe and convenient place, and send to this Government, for further instructions. You will not commence hostilities unless you should be informed by Mr. Treat, of the failure of his negotiations. If you should be attacked, you will of course be at liberty to defend yourself and the honor of your Flag, by destroying, or capturing the enemy's vessel, whether public or merchantman. It is the object of this Government to avoid all hostilities with the Mexican Govt until Mr. Treat can be heard from, and until you receive orders from this Government, unless you should be informed by Mr. Treat that his negotiation had failed, and you are expected to use every precaution to avoid defeating the views of this Government.

You will endeavour to ascertain the condition of the State of Yucatan, and the disposition of those functionaries administering their Government, whether friendly or otherwise to us, any manifestations of friendship from them you will reciprocate.

In the event of hostilities, such captures as you may make, you will send into Galveston, or Matagorda for adjudication as early as convenient.

(Signed) MIRABEAU B LAMAR

WRIGHT-BEE CORRESPONDENCE.^a

WRIGHT TO BEE.

MEXICO, *June 25. 1840.*

DEAR SIR,

Your favor of May 21st. dated in Washington, signed by Mr. N. Amory came safe to hand, and I am happy to find that you have not entirely forgotten me: though it is the first line I have received from any one concerned in the Republic of Texas since my arrival here.

^a June 25-July 2, 1840. These letters are copied on a set of sheets which are fastened together, and the copied matter runs continuously so as to form a single manuscript. Neither letter is signed nor is either addressed to any one by name. The manuscript, however, in its general make up, in the handwriting of the copyist, in the size of the sheets, and in the manner of binding them together resembles closely that containing a similar series transmitted by Bee on April 30, and described as from his secret agent in Mexico, who was A. S. Wright. This fact, together with the matter of the letters themselves, seems to make it reasonably certain that the communications were from Wright. As to their being written to Bee there is no question.

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Mr. Bryan has never written me, or if he has, I have never received his favors; and if he has never written I am at a loss to account for the cause.

I am informed by your favor above mentioned, that you have received several of my letters, and that you had been pleased to note their contents with interest. This is at least some encouragement to me, however unimportant my feeble efforts may have been: my business and particular care has ever been not to deviate from the truth, nor suffer myself to become excited from mere report unless I was otherwise convinced by further demonstrative proof. Nothing can be gathered in this Country in the Streets. No one has the same story as his neighbour, neither do the people in general have a Knowledge of what is to take place, or, in another word what the private councils of Government are doing, or what are their views; perhaps there never was a more contrary body of men at the head of a Republic, than those now composing the two houses of Mexico.

I have been nearly a year in this Country, and I can assure you, Dear Sir, that during said time I have not been idle, in obtaining every essential information possible, and have forwarded the same from time to time as opportunity offered: but, am sorry to say, that I am still a Novice, and have yet much to learn in order to Keep pace with the affairs of Mexico, so as to be able to obtain anything correct. You therefore must excuse my error, wherein I may be deceived and give incorrect information. The affairs of this country are ever changing, and there is no Knowing what a single day may bring forth; for example, when the troops of Arista some months since left here for Rio Grande, no one was aware of the Move, except the few, until the troops were beheld marching out of the City. I wrote you accordingly of said expedition, and of the daily augmentation of the Army, and that the Government had a double view in said expedition. 1st. That of quelling the Federals, and if strong enough march into Texas. A part of Said Army still remains in the Rio Grande Country, but the want of money and the loss of Yucatan has put a stop to the expedition for the present, but Government's intention is still bent on the destruction of that people (the Texans). It is however hardly probable that they will be able under present difficulties to raise an army sufficient for even a trial during the present year, and very possibly never. But we must not however be too certain so as to lay aside the means of defence, in case they should succeed in their intentions; so let not the army be diminished but rather augmented, for reasons which you will hereafter learn, previous to the conclusion of this letter.

In reference to the political state of affairs in Mexico, it stands much in the same way, as when I last wrote, with the exception of a

few changes for the worse; and if I am not much mistaken bears great affinity to that in which it stood in the time in which Iturbide was raised to the Imperial throne, with this exception, that at that time a General was raised to the rank of an Emperor, and now Bustamente would only be a Dictator: this Country twenty years ago was if I am not misinformed in a state of revolution much in like manner as we find it at present.

I have beheld with sorrow for the last six months the great efforts made by the President and his Privy Council to raise themselves to greater power; each Step they take shews this fact in more and more glowing colours, which is now evident. The whole and sole aim of Governmt. at present is to trample on the Constitution, break down the barriers placed in opposition by the Conservative Power, check the progress of the freedom of the press, blast the fluttering dying flame of republican spirit that exists and sink the country beneath a despotic law.

To be able to compete with their enemies, the Centrals find that this is necessary; nothing short of this will answer their views; without this measure their hopes of continuance is diminished and their future glory ruined; without this, they are persuaded with the opposition of many of the Ministry, They never will be able to call to their aid neither Men nor Money sufficient to subdue their enemies.

Poor Mexico, the fairest flower of the Northern World is however to be ruined. Nothing it seems to me can save her. Filled with every national good, her mountains composed of enormous Mineral wealth, her Avenues strewed with gold, her vales with the most delicious fruits and grains, must all be lost, sink, perish, for want of a parental republican intelligent guide. Her mineral wealth it is true will still exist: but to us, to all of the present generation, lost.

I am persuaded, Dear Sir, that Mexico peopled by an industrious intelligent community, acquainted with the arts, and under good and wholesome laws might be made to produce millions instead of the now lingering dragging diminished thousands; for who can tell the wealth of the minerals of this more than Mineral World.

Were I permitted to let my poor and ignorant mind, take its flight and dive into futurity, I would have presented to my fond imagination Mexico flourishing in all that pride which Nature has rendered her capable of enjoying. But to what future period do you refer? might be asked. How many generations must pass first? Who shall be the happy people that shall live to see Mexico raised to so flourishing a state? This, kind Sir, is bound to be brought about in time, however unfavourable it may appear at present, and fifty years will not have passed when this shall have taken place; I do not wish to be laughed at, when I thus take the liberty to speak of what I think to be the future prospect of Mexico and the pride of Texas!

Yes Sir, Texas is nothing to prevent shall restore Mexico Mexico will no doubt perity of Texas by territory, give bat her frontiers, end to her aid, and ga to assist them, I and the *Spartan bl* 3d. 650, 4th and will amount to no people, and in two Flag proudly waiv

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Yes Sir, Texas is bound to take possession of this Country, there is nothing to prevent her, and she will be the happy Nation that shall restore Mexico to more than her former wealth and prosperity. Mexico will no doubt from what is now going on, impede the prosperity of Texas by every means in her power, perhaps invade her territory, give battle, lay waste some of her fairest settlements on her frontiers, endeavour to blockade her ports, call the wild indians to her aid, and gather the *United States Indians on the Rio Grande*, to assist them, I mean the *Creeks, Cherokees, Delawares, Shawnees*, and the *Spartan blooded Seminoles*. The 1st. have 13,000, 2d. 10,000, 3d. 650, 4th and 5th. 750 Warriors, mark what I say; but all this will amount to nothing in the end, but their final destruction as a people, and in twenty years may be seen the lonely Single Starred Flag proudly waiving over the palace of the Vice-Kings of Mexico.

Texas as a nation is fast increasing in strength, her laws are wholesome to the settler, strangers behold it and flock to her bosom, many citizens of Mexico see the same, and often in private express a wish that the laws of Texas extended as far as here.

I can assure Col. Bee, that hundreds within the last Six months have changed in favour of Texas, and I am sorry to say, that the Government is so decidedly against taking any measures in order to recognize that republic.

But to proceed more closely with the movements of this Government, I must inform you of the Step that has been taken by the Conservative power which was formed when the Constitution was framed, to see that no violations should be made relative to the Constitution either by the President or his Cabinet. This Conservative power, not from any good that they would contribute either to the Country or the people, have seen fit to declare null and void all such laws as they consider unconstitutional in order that they may acquire, no doubt, some sinister or interested motive in view, for their own aggrandizement, no telling what.

A law was lately passed by both Houses and signed by the President declaring that all thieves should be judged by a military tribunal, and if found guilty, to be put to death without further ceremony. This the Conservative power annulled as unconstitutional; but [it] was not annulled by that power until the time expressed in the Constitution had expired which is two months. They have pronounced it void on the day after the expiration of said time, declaring, from some frivolous proofs that the 1st. day of the 3d. month was not denied them to declare their sentiments, stating in corroboration as evidence that Congress had often acted on the 1st. of January when term of session had expired on the last day of December. This has caused much contention, hard thoughts, and even down to shameful threatenings.

However right the Conservative power may have been, however pure their motives, every good man for the sake of divesting this country of the ten thousand thieves it has, would be glad that the law should remain good and in full force.

Now the President says, if you will not allow me funds, nor means to carry on a war against the enemies of the Country, how is the Government to stand? If you annul my laws and those of both Houses, how shall I be able to satisfy the various demands of the country; no good can arise from such conduct on your part. Therefore my only plan is to pursue my own Course, choose my own Ministers, form my own Council, strengthen the reins of my Government by increasing the number of my friends, and augmenting the army, and then declaring myself Dictator, send you all to the Devil.

And this tho' it may appear improbable is not impossible. Bustamente has lately received an additional help, which is not to be considered in a trifling light, and is that an Arch-Bishop has lately been ordained with great pomp in the Cathedral of this City. His Excellency was the padre Godfather to His Holyness, having presented him previously with a beautiful ring valued at fifteen hundred dollars. I mean that His Excellency the President was the bestower of this valuable ornament to this honorable prelate.

The Arch-Bishop according to custom with religious bodies, when suffered to be connected with affairs of State will use his utmost influence to support the present views of Government; as he is aware that a change would be much to the injury of the Church property, as well as to the progress of the Church in general. You are no doubt aware that the rigidness of the Roman Church is equal if it does not exceed even Rome itself. Yet we are much better off in the City of Mexico, than we would be in Pueblo, a city sixty miles east of this: that City is still envelopped in all the dark shades extant in the time of the establishment of the inquisition: but few strangers are willing to live among them, and it is not long since it was not uncommon to hear of the Stage being heartily pelted with Stones, Eggs, Rotten fruit, etc. by the boys of the town, when filled with strangers. It is a beautiful city highly situated near two volcanic mountains, overlooking it, in romantic, majestic grandeur, the tops covered with eternal snow. This city swarms with a large population, counts its Sixty thousand inhabitants, and will you believe me when I tell you, not a single newspaper is permitted to be printed among them. It is a City composed of Priests, Monks, and Nuns, and Superstitious, ignorant, saucy impertinent people. And this may be applied to them in general—with very few exceptions. Now I would remark that when a people is so deeply buried in superstition, what may not a Bishop, or an Arch-Bishop do among

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Upon this is built the grounds on which rests the hopes of Bustamante's Ministry. Religion I have already said is going down in this country, but notwithstanding this, I do not see that the people are becoming more wise—I mean the lower class.

I must leave off for to-night. The Chambers will open on the 1st. and from them I may be able to draw something of more weighty consideration.

WRIGHT TO BEE.

JULY 1st. [1840.]

DEAR SIR,

I was this morning in the palace at the opening of the Chambers—when the President was ushered into the House, with the usual military pomp, that of having the way lined with Soldiers from his Rooms to the House of Congress.

His views and that of his privy Council had been drawn up, upon some two sheets of common sized letter paper, rather short but pointed, and of the most urgent nature, 1st. that of bettering the Constitution for the salvation of the Republic; and the good of the people; the reconquering of Yucatan and Tobasco; that of the necessity of punishing thieves—the great necessity of procuring a fleet, and that of an IMMEDIATE EXPEDITION AGAINST TEXAS. Do not be alarmed; tho' I am sorry to inform you that they have procured loans (Cash already at hand) to the amount of Eight hundred thousand dollars, expressly for said expedition, and not a dollar to be taken from said amount, save that of Texas.^a But do not be alarmed so long as you have notice of their movements, which you may always be certain to have in due time when there is any possible chance; but, for Heaven's sake, do not leave me to wait another year without hearing from you, or I will turn Turk or forsake the cause, which would be hard on my side after spending my time and fortune for better than two years. I can hang on and breathe perhaps a year or two longer without any assistance, but I must not be slighted with neglect: however, even that shall have no effect upon my mind, as to my faithful discharge of duty; as I shall I hope to be able to have soul enough to spurn anything like neglect towards ^b a people for whom I have risked so much. In this I have been already tried. This Govt. having learned that an American was in this City who was well acquainted with the Indian frontiers, sent for me, through General Filisola, proposing a rich reward if I would contribute to the information of their Government relative to

^a This seems to mean "save what is to be spent in the attack on Texas."

^b The meaning is rather "from."

those tribes on the frontiers, and by becoming a pioneer or pilot in those regions. To this, I politely returned an answer, that it was not in my power to satisfy their wish, as only having been a Trader in that Country a Short time, and that my information was very limited, respecting the number and feelings of the savage tribes; ^a and further [as] an American Citizen, I could not comply with their request. I have never been further spoken to on the Subject, but have since heard that a (would be) friend of mine in this city, who was in the United States when some of my letters appeared in the Arkansas papers, relative to the frontiers had hinted this to some of the leading men of this Government, in order he says to serve me, thinking that I would have no objection, As my information could do no harm against the United States and from said motive [he] considered the movement in a very favorable light, to assist a friend; but tho' I cannot in conscience give you his name, as he has ever been very cautious in making remarks that might have injured me, yet I must go so far as to inform you that I have lately heard he is one of the disappointed Eleven league men, having claims against Texas for large tracts of land. Some future day I may give you his name, but as I am confident you do not know him, it matters not if you should ever know him.

I would not have related this to you, only to shew you in confidence, what a traitor might do in this country; and be well assured that nothing on my part shall be neglected so long as I have health and means in making every communication to you or the Government which may be of an interesting nature or useful tendency. One thing I would have you bear in mind, and that is to overlook my badly formed sentences: though educated at St. Mary's College near Baltimore, curse me if I can recollect the orthography of my language, owing to the many years of my residence in Spain, during which time I paid very little attention to the English language, and this has even injured me in composition. I mention this in order that you may account for so many errors which I have no doubt you find in my letters.

Again, relative to what was read in the House this morning, and my conversation with a Colonel of the Army, I must inform you that an expedition is ripe for Texas, and that you must believe me, for it is no excited supposition from the spur of the moment. For the sake of the little Republic, believe me Sir, until I inform you to the contrary. It will not I think be made very soon. The troops on Rio Grande are nearly all now at Metamoras. Between three and four thousand men under General Arista. Canaliso is on his way to this City by superior order owing I understand to his having com-

^a The awkwardness of the expression in this sentence will hardly obscure the meaning.

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or Mr. Bryson

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mitted some fault in not having co-operated with Arista when the last battle was fought with Canales. It appears that Canaliso, being the oldest man did not wish to be commanded by a younger General of equal rank. I think I hinted some thing of the kind either to you or Mr. Bryan and I have not been mistaken.

The troops now under Arista, being composed of his former [force], and now that of Canaliso, will remain on the Rio Grande until every thing is ripe for crossing the river: so that you may rest contented for the present, and perhaps for three or four months, as they have concluded not to be too hasty in the affair, and have ordered a halt in what was considered to be the present troops designed to go against Texas. I have often said that this Country is very slow in its movements; So are all Spanish Governments, and it may be probable that this third effort to reconquer Texas may not be ready for this twelve months to come. But there is no Knowing, and I would rather you should believe the danger nigh, than to view it too far off. That it is the determination of Mexico to make a grand effort, and that they have \$800,000 to commence with, is I believe without a single doubt; and you have my request that you take measures accordingly. I can say no more for the present on this subject and shall now give you some account of the Indian frontiers which I am persuaded you nor the Government cannot have, which is of the highest importance to Texas, and I have obtained it through a series of difficulties, and under the most peculiar circumstances, but in order not to tire out your life by reading my never ending communications, I shall proceed at once to give you the Most important in as few words as possible, As follows: At the time of the battle of Arista with Canales, there were present several Indians from the Arkansas territory who had just arrived, and were resting from the long voyage they had had over the plains of New Mexico; among these were several Indian chiefs or Captains on business of importance, which was to obtain permission from the Government of Mexico to settle on their vacant lands, in order to become citizens, and be removed as far from the Americans as possible, having they said, understood that Mexico was willing and anxious to receive them. This I Knew in 1839. All but one of these Indians returned after the battle, and after conversing with Arista, Except one a Cherokee and he having authority from the Chiefs of his Nation and others was dispatched by Arista under the protection of a Lieutenant Colonel (Teniente Colonel) to this City of Mexico strongly recommended by the said Arista to head quarters as a personage of the highest consideration. Said Indian arrived. I procured his confidence, found him quite intelligent. Can read and write—is nearly white—has been at Wash-

ington, and is no doubt a man of consideration among his people. He was immediately despatched; ^a obtained permission to remain in the Rio Grande Country with all the tribes who under friendly views wished to accompany him. He asked for California, having understood it to be the best country, this however was denied him: the Rio Grande Country however is at the service of all the United States Indians from Chichuachua ^b down as low as Tamaulipas, including the former and latter States, north of those of Coanala y Nuevo Leon. This is to be accomplished as soon as circumstances will admit. They are to move as soon as they see proper. Here is what you saw hinted at on a preceding page, and carries with it matters of the highest consideration to Texas. ^c I will not comment upon it; you see the views of the Government, you have only to be wise. I have informed you of it and I hope you will take measures accordingly.

While in the Minister's room today with this Indian and the Colonel that attends on his business, in conversation upon the present proposed campaign against Texas (he having the utmost confidence in me) I remarked (to find out his mind) "You would no doubt be glad if this Chief with his neighboring tribes were now on the Rio Grande, they could no doubt be serviceable to you." "Would to God—would to God they were, they would be of great help to us." I add the above to show you the views of Government, more strongly, in regard to this matter. The Indian informs me, that they cannot get out under Eighteen Months, or two years, with their families, but that the young Men will no doubt come immediately, he says, further, that they do not wish to take any part with Mexico, in their quarrels, but however sincere he may be, he nor no other man of his tribe can prevent them; ^d and I find some three or four of the same party, belonging to the Chief's company, actually took part with Arista against Canalis and fought for Arista, merely to show themselves.

I will now go on to mention something further on this subject, when I will proceed to give an account of the Indian frontiers.

[Here follows a translation of Almonte to Brown, June 20, 1840. ^e]

Note.—Please be so good as to keep this as dark as possible, from whom it should have come, as it is not Known that the secret has leaked out, so as to be thus used. Make your own remarks on this, it may prove a bitter pill to Texas, but it can be swallowed.

^a That is, his business was dispatched.

^b Chihuahua.

^c This may refer to the endeavor of the Mexicans to get information concerning the Indians from the writer of this letter.

^d The statement "but however sincere . . . can prevent them" is not that of the chief, but of the writer.

^e See *Senate Docs.*, 32d Cong., 2d Sess., III (Serial No. 660), Doc. 14, p. 54.

DEAR SIR,

Owing to my leaving a few days, am unable to reply abruptly. As it was the Indian frontiers during the most interesting were in January, some and Children, then said, they were in the Texans; but we learn further from appeared to be afraid

The Cayeways ^a were Braosos, not far from supposed at this time down on Texas, as the The Pawnee tribes Camanches are on the Braosos, and emptied Friendly (but thieving at present I shall be

The news of Col. ———, as I have seen a prisoner there who was not the duty of the no, I forget—it is about American prisoners French Government

Some few weeks ago some fifty Americans Devil or some one of Americans were found God only knows what the United States will have never had a considered any better

^a At San Saba.

^b Klowas.

^c Wichita.

^d The name originally in the story that obtained some time in the issue of that paper killed at the Alamo, but at Guadalajara, where William Erased. The word

JULY 2D.

DEAR SIR,

Owing to my leaving the city in the morning for the interior for a few days, am under the necessity of closing this letter rather abruptly. As it was my intention to give a full statement of the Indian frontiers down as late as January, I shall now only speak of the most interesting particulars. 1st. Near the old Spanish fort^a were in January, some five or six thousand Camanches, Men, Women, and Children, then moving on slowly towards San Antonio; they said, they were in pursuit of Buffaloes, and did not intend to molest the Texans; but appeared to be hostile toward that people, but I learn further from my informant that they (the Camanches) appeared to be afraid of the Texans.

The Cayeways^b were high up on the North or Main fork of Braosos, not far from where I left them, when out. They were not supposed at this time, (December) to have much notion of sallying down on Texas, as they said they were going to do, when I saw them. The Pawnee tribes very hostile, but fearful. Some five hundred Camanches are on the little Witchytaco,^c a stream heading nearly at Braosos, and empties in the Red River some twenty miles above the Friendly (but thieving) Maives; this was in November, and is all at present I shall be able to say on this subject.

The news of Col. ———^d being in the Mines of Guadalahara is ———^e, as I have made every enquiry; there may be some American prisoner there who would pass himself off for Col. Crockett. Is it not the duty of the United States to enquire into the affair? but no, I forget—it is not the custom for them to bother themselves about American prisoners in strange lands, it is the English and French Governments who condescend to do that.

Some few weeks since an unhappy affair took place at California, some fifty Americans were taken prisoners and delivered over to the Devil or some one else by the Mexican authorities, stating that said Americans were found engaged in a plot of revolution; poor fellows, God only knows what will be their end! and as I have said, the United States will not see to it. And furthermore the United States have never had a Minister nor a Consul in this Country, that was considered any better than a Jack-Ass and respected and feared about

^a At San Saba.

^b Kiowas.

^c Wichita.

^d The name originally written here, but erased, was doubtless Crockett. There was a story that obtained some currency in Texas, through a letter written from Camargo, February 6, 1840, by William C. White to the editor of the *Austin City Gazette*, and published in the issue of that paper for March 18, 1840, to the effect that Crockett had not been killed at the Alamo, but that he had been captured, and was imprisoned in the mines of Guadalahara, where White, not long before the letter was written, had seen him.

^e Erased. The word was probably "untrue."

as much, with the exception of Poinsett. My opinion is so good, and so well confirmed in what I have said, that I would sooner in any serious matter throw myself by three hundred pr. cent on the English or French.

The Delegates appointed for Washington will leave by first Vessel; much trouble has it cost this Government to get them ready.^a

Don Pedro Fernandez del Castillo is one, a Lawyer.

Don Joachim Velasquez de Lion is the other, and you will no doubt see their honors at your public halls; no great scratch I can assure you, have travelled some, know how to bow, be very polite, smoke cigars and perhaps waltz round a ball room with tolerable grace.

I must inform you before I leave off, of my calling on Mr. Treat, but not until very lately: poor fellow, I was sorry to find him so ill. This climate is not good for him; it is too high and the air is too much rarefied, and owing to the want of oxygen [he] is ever liable to take cold. I found him polite and friendly and am much pleased with him, and sorry that I had not called on him sooner. The letter you were pleased to send me, first fell into his hands, owing to the absence of Mr. ^b; you will however please direct your next letters in the same way as my ^b will know whom to send them to.

Take no rapid measures, from what I have told you of Mexico. For Mexico will move so slow that you may always keep ahead of her.

I am Dear Sir Yr. Most humble
and obt. Servt.

TREAT TO LIPSCOMB.^c

MEXICO July 4th. 1840.

Evening.

SIR,

I have the honor to wait on you with copy of my last respects of 19th Ulto.; and at same time beg leave most respectfully to refer the *Department* which I have the honor to address to my despatches *herewith* directed to Gen. Lamar for particulars of my *present* position, and of my Expectations.

I have the honor to be with the highest Respect and Consideration,
Your most obedient Servant

JAMES TREAT

To the Hon.

ABNER S. LIPSCOMB

Secy of State

Texas

^a See note ^a, p. 648.

^b Erased.

^cA. L. S.

SIR.

I beg leave to the various da should this *free* with various d offering in any with Copy of [of Mexico], u therein referred dated Washing The Secretary them *translated*, for presentation had in View, in

I hope you will to Col. Bee's con Secretary, as re Col. B. what I h Government.

In the *Post* Se present Ministry pelled to succumb produce *Anarchy*

Such, indeed, happy to inform changed for the tranquil and fav

I hope it may my business, for of a *Job*, and arise altho' *irres* is really *frightf*

No further p matter is not y which I have be

The Secy of week it *should* interest with h feel an increase granted the Sec