

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

[Private.]

MEXICO July 4th. 1840.

SIR.

I beg leave to wait on you with a Copy of my last respects, under the various dates of 14th. 19th. and 20th. Ulto, to which I refer you, should this *first reach you* as I was compelled to send the original, with various duplicates, by way of Havana, no other opportunity offering in any direction. I have the honor to hand you *also* herewith Copy of a Communication addressed to the Secretary of State [of Mexico], under date 20th. Ulto, with Copies of the *Extracts* therein referred to, which were taken from a despatch from Col. Bee, dated Washington, April 28th. and received by me on the 19th. Ulto. The Secretary has since informed me verbally that he had ordered them *translated*, and *appended* to the *Documents in Relation to Texas*, for presentation to Congress, *this* being precisely the main object I had in View, in making this communication.

I hope you will approve of the course. I have adopted in relation to Col. Bee's communication, altho' I had long before Spoken to the Secretary, as regards both the points referred to. I have advised Col. B. what I have done in the matter here, for his information and Government.

In the *Post Script* to my last, I anticipated that the days of the present Ministry were *nearly numbered*, and that they would be Compelled to succumb, or that the result of the Existing struggle might produce *Anarchy*, if not a *thorough Revolution*.

Such, indeed, was the aspect of things at *that* time, but I am *now* happy to inform you that during the last fortnight, things have changed for the better, and at present, the political horrizon appears tranquil and favourable to the party in power.

I hope it may thus continue, at least, until I Can get through with my business, for the *ordinary* delays are enough to try the patience of a *Job*, and when these *extraordinary causes* for postponement arise altho' *irresistible*, yet they together produce a loss of time, which is really *frightful*, to one who calculates time, as we are so apt to do.

No further progress has yet been made, or *in other words* our matter is not yet before the Congress, for the Various reasons to which I have before adverted.

The Secy of State however assured me yesterday that within a week it *should* go forward—that the subject had lost none of its interest with him or the Govmt. and *in fact*, I *thought*, seemed to feel an increased interest in the matter, in all which I take it for granted the Secretary is Sincere.

I shall however Verry soon be able to *test* this point, for I know of no good reason *now* why the matter should be *further* postponed, altho', I entirely concur in the policy of the delay *thus far*.

The opposition press continue to *harp* upon me and my mission, and charge the Administration with an intention to recognize Texas, and *now* and *then* attack Mr. Pakenham for *his* interference in *their* domestic concerns.

But as they attempt *no argument*, their object not being in any sense *patriotic* but purely *personal* and levelled *only* against the *ministry*, of course the effect produced is but *momentary*.

The Govmt. Press *denies* the *charges*, and says that the question of Texas is not under the advisement of the Cabinet, and some curious articles occasionally appear, in *strange quarters*, all which is more or less *unaccountable* to me. The ordinary period of the Session of Congress closed 30th. June, and that body was *re-opened* by the President on the 1st. inst. In the Presidents Speech, he speaks of "*The Usurpation of Texas*" as one among the various important matters which will claim the attention of Congress—but *he* goes no further. The Speaker of the House in his reply to the President outstrips him altogether, for *he* Says, in his excessive zeal, "Let us not rest, nor cease to labour for a single moment, in the Reduction of Texas, *that Texas* which is the *head quarters* of the *Anarchists*, "and the *nursery* of Revolutions" etc etc; with other similar and ridiculous Ideas. I had intended Sending you all these various Slips, rather for your amusement than anything else, but I finally gave it up, as a matter merely calculated to excite your laughter.

I consider all these things as amounting to nothing, as against me, or my objects, and *Still* they appear so incomprehensible, inconsistent, and impolitic, one cannot help expressing astonishment, at what appears to be such *absolute folly*. I hope Sir, in my Next, to inform You of the *first impressions* of the *Chamber of Deputies* on this *Question*.

In the meantime, I have the honor to be with the highest Consideration and Respect,

Your Most obedient Servant

JAMES TREAT

To Gen. M B. LAMAR.

*Austin*  
*Texas.*

P. S. I have written the Loan Commissioners in London *fully* this day both via N. York, and *direct* to London pr. British Packet.

I have also advised Col Bee *generally* of my *position and progress*.

Duplicate.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR.

I have the honor to encl<sup>d</sup> received Yesterday from d' Affaires, near the Govt. tract from a despatch fr<sup>m</sup> said Charge d' Affaires, t<sup>r</sup>ality by the President o<sup>f</sup> min H. Johnson, and his del Norte, while return<sup>d</sup> mander of the Federal P<sup>r</sup> of Mexico.

I have thought it my for the information of Y. E, will doubtless dep<sup>t</sup> and his men, who had be<sup>t</sup> the Interests of Mexico, Philanthropy and Mod<sup>e</sup> Texas.

H. E. the President of cations additional eviden<sup>t</sup> sistent and persevering i<sup>n</sup> during the administratio<sup>n</sup> more overtures for a fr<sup>m</sup> ernment of Mexico, and

I avail myself of thi<sup>s</sup> respect and Consideratio<sup>n</sup>

I remain, Sir You<sup>r</sup>

To H. E. Sr. Don Ju<sup>s</sup>  
DE DIOS CAÑEDO, Sr<sup>o</sup>  
State and of foreig<sup>n</sup>

EXTRACT from a comm<sup>unic</sup>

"SIR,

"I received on my  
"my Govmt. relative  
"Proclamation of wh<sup>ich</sup>  
"credited Agent of

<sup>a</sup> That is, the proclamation  
outbreak of active hostilities

Duplicate.

[Copy.]

MEXICO *June 20th. 1840.*

MOST EXCELLENT SIR.

I have the honor to enclose Y. E an Extract from a communication, received Yesterday from Barnard E. Bee Esquire, Texan Charge d' Affaires, near the Govmt. of the United States; and also an extract from a despatch from the Secretary of State of Texas to the said Charge d' Affaires, both in relation to the Proclamation of Neutrality by the President of Texas,<sup>a</sup> and the Murder of Lt. Col. Benjamin H. Johnson, and his party, on the East Side of the Rio Bravo del Norte, while returning from a peaceful Mission to the Commander of the Federal Forces, *then* in Arms against the Government of Mexico.

I have thought it my duty to lay these Extracts before Y. E. for the information of H. E. the President of Mexico, who, with Y. E, will doubtless deplore the sad and cruel fate of Col Johnson, and his men, who had been Sent on a Service, alike advantageous to the Interests of Mexico, as it was honourable to the Sentiments of Philanthropy and Moderation, which actuated the President of Texas.

H. E. the President of Mexico will also discover by those communications additional evidence that the Government of Texas is consistent and persevering in the strictly neutral course it has adopted, during the administration of Gen. Lamar, and *especially* since he has more overtures for a friendly adjustment of differences, to the Government of Mexico, and *pending* its deliberation and decision.

I avail myself of this opportunity to offer to Y. E my highest respect and Consideration.

I remain, Sir Your most obedient Servant,

Signed JAMES TREAT

To H. E. Sr. Don Juan

DE DIOS CAÑEDO, *Secretary of State and of foreign Affairs.*

EXTRACT from a communication from the Texian Chargé d' Affaires, dated:

“LEGATION OF TEXAS,  
“*Washington April 28th. 1840.*”

“SIR,

“I received on my arrival here, Some days since, a despatch from my Govmt. relative to the fate of Col. Johnson, and covering a Proclamation of which the Enclosed is copy. There being no accredited Agent of Mexico at the present here, I have thought

<sup>a</sup> That is, the proclamation of December 21, 1839, forbidding invasions of Mexico till the outbreak of active hostilities. See *Austin City Gazette*, January 1, 1840.

"proper to lay the Subject before you, that you may present it to the Authorities of Mexico in Such manner as may be calculable to produce the best impression; and I Extract for your guidance, from the Communication of the Secretary of State of Texas, the following:"

LIPSCOMB TO HAMILTON AND BURNLEY.<sup>b</sup>

TREAT TO LIPSCOMB.<sup>c</sup>

MEXICO July 13th. 1840.

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your communication of 7th. of May, both *original* and *Duplicate* having reached me on the 6th. instant, and I have carefully examined its contents.

The communications which I have already had the honor to address to the President of Texas, and my despatch of *this days date*, will shew to the Department I have the honor to address the exact position which I now occupy, in reference to the execution of the Presidents instructions, with the Govmt. of Mexico.

They will *also shew* that the efforts made by Government to procure from Congress the necessary authority to open formal negotiations with me evince, on their part, (so far as I can judge) a *decidedly favourable* disposition as regards *some* amicable arrangement with Texas, and they have adopted what was deemed the *best means* to carry out their views.

The course adopted, however, has been attended with *great delay* (*yet almost inevitable*) arising from the Very Singular organization of the Govmt.; the peculiar State of Politic's and of parties; and the extreme delicacy and difficulty involved in the *question* at issue.

The Govmt. therefore, being compelled to reach Congress before it could act formally in the premises, and having *now* Succeeded in *that* object, it remains to be seen *whether* the influences which can be brought to bear on *that body* shall prove sufficient to induce it 1st. To authorize Govmt. to treat with me and receive my propositions, and 2d. to approve and ratify the *bases* of these propositions, and direct Govmt to close a Treaty under *said bases*, and such other *general* and *Secondary* provisions as it may deem expedient.

In this position of my affairs, I have deemed it most politic and Expedient *not* to make known my *conditional instructions* to *withdraw*, nor to act under them at the *present moment*, until I see *what* the *Report* of the *Committee*, may be on the *general question* of Texas;

<sup>a</sup> For this letter, see Lipscomb to Bee, February 6, 1840.

<sup>b</sup> July 7, 1840. See Calendar.

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

the consequent action of (being *favourable*) how the when fully and legally and the ence and negotiations on the

I *hope*, and venture to be no unfortunate event should action of Govmt. and Com they have marked out) as your last communication *sticking point* that may *qua non*" or cardinal point pelled, in virtue of my consideration and decision

So long, then, as matter ably, *I shall consider* that favourable" "to our over

"withdraw from your ag But whenever anything an unjustifiable delay; or both parties seem deter can make use of your in action, or remove obsta other incidental argume and *circumstances*, to pr

In adopting this plan present, best fulfilled the and am pursuing a co President and the inter munication, as well as in

Having come to the consult Mr. Pakenham contents of your letter finally co-incided with

I hope, therefore, those embraced in my President will approve

I again refer the D with, for all further

I have the honor to  
Your Most obed

To the Hon.

ABNER S. LIPSCOMB

Secretary

the consequent action of the Deputies; and (in the event of *these* being *favourable*) *how* the Govmt. [will] receive my propositions, when fully and legally authorized by the Chambers *to open* a conference and negotiations on the subject of my mission to Mexico.

I *hope*, and venture to *believe*, that the *latter period* will arrive (if no unfortunate event should occur to suspend or vary my anticipated action of Govmt. and Congress, as regards the policy which I *think* they have marked out) and, *therefore*, I have thought I could *keep* your last communication *in reserve advantageously* to meet any *sticking point* that may arise on the part of the Govmt, on the "*sine qua non*" or cardinal points and conditions, which I shall be compelled, in virtue of my instructions, to present to them for their consideration and decision.

So long, then, as matters shall continue to go on Well and favourably, *I shall consider* that the position of things is *so far* "decidedly favourable" "to our overtures for Peace" that your instructions to "withdraw from your agency" are not to be acted upon.

But whenever anything indicates a *change* in the course of things; an unjustifiable delay; or I shall come to any *Stopping point*, where both parties seem determined *not to give way*; *in fine*, whenever I can make use of your instructions to advantage, either to accelerate action, or remove obstacles, I shall *then* act upon *them*, and such *other* incidental arguments as may be judiciously drawn from them and *circumstances*, to produce the desired effect.

In adopting this plan of procedure, I conceive that I have, *for the present*, best fulfilled the Spirit and even *letter* of your instructions, and am pursuing a course corresponding with the wishes of the President and the interests of Texas, as exhibited in your last communication, as well as in the general tenor of my original instructions.

Having come to the foregoing conclusion, I thought proper to consult Mr. Pakenham, whose *first* impression was to make use of the contents of your letter *at once*, but, after discussion and reflection, he finally co-incided with me, to *hold it in reserve for a future day*.

I hope, therefore, in view of the reasons herein contained, and those embraced in my Various despatches, the Department and the President will approve the course I have *thus temporarily* adopted.

I again refer the Department to my letters to the President, *herewith*, for all further particulars.

I have the honor to be, with great Respect and Consideration,

Your Most obedient Servant,

JAMES TREAT

To the Hon.

ABNER S. LIPSCOMB

*Secretary of State*

*Texas.*

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

[Private.]

MEXICO July 13th. 1840.

SIR.

I last had the honor to address you under date of 4th. inst., enclosing a copy of a communication directed to the Mexican Secretary of State duplicates of which I have the pleasure to hand you herewith, as it is very possible this may be the first received, as my letters now go to the Coast, without [my] knowing of any special conveyance for them, and are sent forward as opty., direct or indirect, may chance to offer; hence they must reach you very *irregularly*.

Since my last, Every thing has continued apparently quiet; but public affairs are far from being firmly settled: nor are the main difficulties of the Govmt. yet surmounted. Both Houses of Congress have Sanctioned a decree favourable to the Govmt. in its pending conflict with the *Conservative power*, and it now remains to be seen whether the latter will declare it *null* or not. The Govmt. have a majority in both Chambers and in the *Council* in their favour, and, thus far, a Majority of the Commandants General and Governors of the Provinces also; while the *Conservative Power* have the Supreme Court and another Corporation called the *Court Martial* on their Side. The Army [is] mainly for the Govmt. The Government seemed determined to carry their points, and in the Reforms of the Constitution already reported by a Committee of the House and soon to be discussed, it will endeavour to *destroy the Conservative power*, or, at least, *restrict its immense prerogatives*, and nullify its Sovereignty over both, the Govmt. and Congress. If in the meantime the Conservative Body and its corporate Supporters before named should *push matters to Extremes* by further acts of nullity (nullification), or by a *dissolution* of their respective Bodies, a State of Anarchy will ensue which may destroy the legitimacy of the Govmt. and terminate in a revolutionary Struggle, which will be decided by the *Military force* instead of *public opinion*, and the probable result of *all* will be the *Elevation* of a *Dictator*, if not *for life*, at least *temporarily*.

I only hope that these Events are yet *so far off* that I may get *fairly through* before they commence, and that the Govmt. will Sustain itself and keep its different branches together until I can obtain *Some Result* through the Action of Congress, which will be decisive, *for the present at least*, of Your Overtures for *Peace*.

This, Sir, is the very uncertain and unsatisfactory State of things, *as apparent at the present Moment*.

The Deputies having Sanctioned the project of Govmt. restricting the liberty of the Press, it is now in Senate, where it will undoubtedly

<sup>a</sup> L. S. The last sentence written by Treat himself.

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be approved. The Govmt. contemplate no movement against Yucatan, for the present. They have no Vessels of war, nor means. If they can retain their authority over the neighboring State of Tobasco, they will do well, and even this is yet very *doubtful*. The Depart. of War and Marine have called on Congress for authority and means to obtain a Navy. The project of Gvmt. says it shall consist of *nothing larger than Corvettes*, and not more than 3 of these, 4 *Brigs*, 6 *Schooners*, 3 *Steamers* and 14 *Gun Boats—armed launches*. The total cost is estimated at 1½ million of Dollars, and the *annual Ex-pense* at ONE million of Dollars. This will be passed by Congress, but the *Ways and Means* will be hard to find *just now*.

Gen. Canaliso has been recalled from the command of Matamoras, and is now on his way to the Capital. Gen. Arista has taken the entire command of the whole of the Northern Division of the Army, and all the frontier Departments. It is said he has under his orders 4000 troops. New Mexico, it is believed, has declared for Federation, or Independence, it is said here by Some, through the aid and co-operation of the Texians. The topic of the intended Recognition of Texas by Gvmt. is still adverted to by the papers, and insisted on by Some, while others have heretofore denied any such plan, or intentions. Of Canales we know nothing positive; he is said to be reorganizing and concentrating his forces. The Million Loan is now being taken up, at the rate of about 80% *Cash*, and 20% *papers*, which cost the parties about 5. to 8% of *its face*. Interest 1. to 1½% pr Month.

So much for affairs *purely Mexican*, but which effect indirectly the interests of Texas. You will now like to hear something of *our own* affairs, in relation to which I have but little to say. On the 3d. July a call was made in the House of Representatives on the Executive, for any and all information and Documents in his possession, in relation to Texas, and on the 6th. inst. the Gvmt. Sent in all the papers, documents and correspondence in its possession, with the *report* and *Action* thereon of the Gvmt. and Council. The papers were endorsed "*Urgent*," to be acted on "*with closed doors*," and the Speaker of the House, in introducing the Subject, Said that "*the Subject was of the highest importance*, and he particularly requested *the most rigid Secrecy* on the part of the Members." The papers were read and passed to a preexisting Special Committee on Texan affairs of *three Persons*. Yesterday, one of the opposition papers announced the fact that the Subject was before the Chambers, on a motion made by *Such* [and such] *a Member*, and that Gvmt. had recommended *great Secrecy* in its discussion. The Committee will not probably *report* sooner, than 10. or 8. days hence. I trust that they will report in accordance with the wishes of the Gvmt. and my own, and I hope the House will sustain the report, and that I shall therefore be called upon, in due form, to open my Negotiation with the Secretary of

State, by my propositions *in full*. If then, within the Sphere of my instructions and the discretion which I must *necessarily* exercise to *Some Extent*, I can make my propositions so far acceptable, or admissible, on the part of Govt. as to induce it to exercise all its influence in the Chambers in the *Ratification* of the *bases* of the *arrangement*, I think I will then have Succeeded in obtaining a Treaty of *Peace*, *Recognition*, *Indemnity* and *Limits*. If we cannot agree in all the cardinal points, we may in some of them, and I shall, at least, be able to ascertain *how far* they are willing now to go to meet your Views, and *some good* may therefore grow out of my Mission.

Any conjectures *beyond the above*, would appear superfluous. I have ventured to anticipate *thus much*, for your information, and I trust satisfaction, and that of your Cabinet. I must however *again* beg leave, respectfully to remind you, that nothing can be *more uncertain*, than political calculations on Such a delicate topic, in Such a Country, and at Such a juncture, as the present. I beg leave to refer you, to an official letter, I have this day addressd. to the *Hon.* the Secretary of State, which goes with this; and Remain with great regard and Respect

Your obt. Servant.

JAMES TREAT.

To

Gen: M. B. LAMAR—  
*Texas.*

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

[Private.]

MEXICO *July 23d 1840.*

SIR.

My last respects were under date of 13th. instant, copy of which you have enclosed, and to it I beg leave to refer You, as it contains the hopes and Expectations I then entertained, in relation to my pending negotiation.

I *also* crave reference to my despatch of same date to the Hon. the Secretary of State, in reply to his last communication.

Since then, the scene has changed, and the Event I have so long and so much apprehended has occurred: *viz.* a *Revolution*, so far as the Capital is concerned. The movement is on the part of the Federalists against the Existing Central Government, and *as yet* the question of *Supremacy* remains undecided, altho' this is the *ninth day* since the Commencement of the Struggle.

During the night of the 14th. and morning of the 15th. inst. the Federal party and forces made a quiet movement, and Seized upon,

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

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<sup>a</sup> Gomez Farias, a liberal



and took possession of the Palace, and secured the President, Bustamente, and his *Suite*, without firing a gun.

Making the Palace their *Head Quarters*, all those who were disposed to join them *flocked* thither, while the Govmt. troops were organizing at the Arsenal.

Mr Farias,\* the leader of the party, was called to the direction of affairs at the Palace as *President*, with Mr. Rejon as his *Minister* of the *Interior*, the command of the revolutionary forces being confided to *Genl. Urrea*.

On the Govmt. Side, the Troops were commanded by Major Gen. Valencia, and the only Minister that appeared was Almonte, Secy of War, as the organ of Government.

The Govmt. intimated to the revolters a Surrender *in two hours*, or an attack would be made on the Palace; and up to 2 P. M. both parties were marching troops, posting their Cannon, and Securing Such of the Churches, convents, and advantageous positions, as were within the *jurisdiction* of their *respective cannon*.

A negative to the Summons was given; the Hour Expired; and the Govmt. troops commenced an attack at 2 P. M. on the 15th. The firing was very active for an hour or two, both of cannon and Musketry, and the loss of Life on both Sides *probably* nearly equal, tho' *very Small*, as it was pretty much at *long Shot* as usual.

The firing continued, tho' languidly and at intervals from both Sides, during the day and night, and next morning, the 16th. *when*, a cessation took place, and a *parley* was brought about by President Bustamente who had been liberated from the Palace *that Morning*, *as is said*, for the purpose of bringing about an arrangement of differences. Commissioners from both sides met, but could agree on nothing, but to terminate the question by *Arms*.

At midnight the firing *re-commenced*, thus shewing that negotiations were at an end, *for the present*.

This is, in Substance, what has *occurred* during the first 48 hours, of the *outbreak*, and from that period to the present, the Story is a *brief one*.

Bustamente and all his Ministers, and *probably* his Council, have assembled in the Convent of St. Augustin, which is the *Head Quarters* of the Govmt.

They have declared the City in a State of Siege, and under *Martial Law*. They have received, and are receiving, reinforcements or Troops from the surrounding cities and Towns, are extending their lines, as oppty. will permit, increasing their battering cannon, and during the whole of this period of Six days, have kept up an occasional. firing up on the Palace, day and night, which has been as constantly *returned*. The Palace, also, has received *some*

\* Gomez Farias, a liberal leader, who had been acting President of Mexico, 1833-34.

re-inforcements, and their respective forces are *not far* from equal, nearly all those of the Palace being *infantry*; while a majority of the Govmt. forces are *cavalry*. The City was deprived of its usual supply of water for about 48 Hours, by order of the Govmt. which is now restored. One or two Sortie's from the Palace, and three or four *active* attacks from the Govmt. troops, have been the occasion of *some* severe firing, for an *hour* or *two*, generally in the night, and with these exceptions, the firing on both Sides has been casual and desultory; just enough to prevent either party from advancing or Securing any *new positions*.

The Govmt. at the commencement dislodged them from one or two important *outposts*, but latterly they have gained no decided advantages, nor advanced their Posts. So that things remain *essentially* about the same as at the *offset*.

Meantime no movement (so far as we know) has taken place in favour of the federalists, but the Departments, so far as heard from, and according to the Govmt. Bulletin's, respond in favour of Government.

*Gen. St. Anna*, (ever ready to put down the federalists, with whom he has *lost caste*) has arrived at *Perote*, with, *it is said*, about 1000 Troops, whence he will probably *move* and *act according to Circumstances*.

He tells the Govmt. that he is ready to co-operate in the restoration of order, and maintainance of the existing State of things. It is indeed *reported* that he will arrive here, or in the neighborhood, today or tomorrow, but this is uncertain. It is very probable he will *come*, but *how soon*, is doubtful.

What I have said of recent events is from the best grounded reports and rumours, and a rational deduction from *all* that is Said *pro* and *con*.

*Facts*, we cannot ascertain, as we are all shut up, and unable to Visit any one without the risk of a random Shot or Shell, which are almost constantly flying over and around us.

I fear, my dear Sir, I have already exhausted your patience with my *necessarily dull* and *long report*, of *nine days Revolution* and fighting, without coming to any conclusion.

As regards the final result, and its bearing on my affairs, I will venture to remark that, if the Governmt succeed in putting down the Revolution *without the intervention of St. Anna*, public affairs will re-assume their former position, *more, or less*, and my negotiation will be resumed, and carried forward to an issue, *perhaps more rapidly*, in consequence of late events. *If, again*, the Govmt. are compelled, or induced, to call in, or accept, the aid of St. Anna and his troops, *he* will co-operate to put down the Revolution, *but* all the rest will be for *Himself*.

Should he appear as *Medi- zans*, and *not* in accordance with *the* *may* declare him Dictator *and*

*However* the affair may be administered of the Govmt, is restored, press the object of *nation*. *possible*, and, in the *promptly* and *successfully*, *I* *tions*, *withdraw* from my *M*

*July 27th*. This was intended *to have left on the 24th*. *messenger* until *tomorrow Morning*

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The *Archbishop* professedly *then* went to Govmt. *where* a sort of agreement, *cap* *entered* into between the *two chiefs* were to be found

The officers signed, or *not transpired*, but it is *less* enterprize, and that *was* permitted to escape *the* *Puebla*, and was coming *still advance to the City* *cum*bed, remains to be seen

It is rumoured that, *by* and if so, St. Anna may *the* *Ministry* falls, and St. *Anna*

*In Such Event*, and *is* *probable*, I have an *idea* *and* I may succeed *entirely*

Either *this*, or St *Anna* the question, and use the *to* enable him to reorganize *Views* and *purposes*.

One of these courses, *is* *into* power, (which is *former* the *most* *probable*)

If Bustamante and *he* come in at all, things *will*

Should he appear as *Mediator*, at the call of his *friends* and *partisans*, and *not* in accordance with the wishes of Government, the troops *may* declare him Dictator and the Conservative Power may confirm it.

*However* the affair may terminate, or *whoever* may reach the administration of the Govmt, I shall, as soon as any degree of order is restored, press the object of my Mission to the *most Speedy termination. possible*, and, in the event of my being unable to do this *promptly* and *successfully*, I shall, pursuant to my *contingent instructions, withdraw* from my *Mission*.

*July 27th.* This was intended to go, by the British Cabinet Courier to have left on the *24th.*, but the Minister has detained the Messenger until *tomorrow Morning*, when he will depart for Vera Cruz.

This delay enables me to announce the termination of the Revolutionary movement in the Capital.

On the 24th. and 25th. the firing was kept up among the Belligerents, and at times very briskly, but for the last two days there has been but very little, and since Yesterday noon, not a *single Shot* has been fired.

The *Archbishop* proffered his mediation to the federal party, and then went to Govmt. where, during the last night and this morning, a sort of agreement, capitulation, or at least, *understanding*, was entered into between the parties, and this morning neither of the *two chiefs* were to be found *in the Palace, Gomez Farias, nor Urrea*.

The officers signed, or agreed to, the arrangement. The terms have *not transpired*, but it is believed that Farias escaped from a hopeless enterprize, and that Urrea sold himself to Govmt., and then was permitted to escape also. St. Anna, at last accounts, had reached *Puebla*, and was coming on, with all his forces, and whether he will still *advance to the City* after he hears that the *federals* have *Succumbed*, remains to be seen.

It is rumoured that, by the arrangement, *Bustamante* will *resign*, and if so, St. Anna may be called to his place, *in which case*, the old *Ministry falls*, and St. Anna's friends will occupy their places.

*In Such Event*, and if Congress still occupy their Seats, *as is probable*, I have an *idea* that my business *may be much abbreviated*, and I may succeed *entirely*.

Either *this*, or St Anna will at once *decline* any and all action on the question, and use the *old War cry* of an *Expedition against Texas*, to enable him to reorganize and increase the Army for *his Ultimate Views* and *purposes*.

One of these courses, I think it most likely he will adopt, if he gets into power, (which is yet doubtful!) and, of *the two*, I think the *former* the *most probable*.

If Bustamante and his ministry *resume*, and St. Anna does not come in at all, things will probably move on as before, and my

affairs (as I have before said) progress (I hope more rapidly) to a favourable issue.

*This*, in the absence of any *positive data*, is all I shall now venture to *conjecture*.

So soon as anything is *Settled*, I shall not fail further to advise you. I have the honor to be, with the highest Respect and Consideration,  
Your most obedient Servant

To Gen. M. B. LAMAR

*Austin*  
*Texas.*

JAMES TREAT

*Postscript. July 29th, Mornng.* Since the foregoing, things have settled down pretty quietly, altho' *Martial Law* is *still* in force, and will be until the 1st. proximo. This has led some to believe that this measure is intended to promote St Anna's views, should he come. He was supposed to be at Puebla last evening. The Govmt. tell him *all is over*, and his presence *not* required. His friends, *no doubt*, tell him *how things* are situated *here*, and, whether he will return home under his disappointment at not having a finger in the *Pye*, or push ahead, and compel Bustamante to *resign*, and he go in as President, or Dictator, remains *to be seen*. If he brings *1000 good men*, he can do what he likes, with the aid and co-operation he will find *here*. I am however, inclined to believe that the future administration of affairs, will return to the former parties in *power*, and remain for *a while*, tho' many think the *Ministers*, if not Bustamante, *will resign*. We have no Proclamation from the President *yet*, announcing the restoration of Constitutional order, and convoking *Congress*. They are probably waiting to *hear* from St. Anna.

*This is all* I can now add, for your further information but you shall hear again from me *soon*.

I am, Verry Respectfully and in great haste  
Your Most obedient Servant

JAMES TREAT

WRIGHT TO BEE.<sup>a</sup>

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

[Private.]

MEXICO 11. August 1840.

SIR.

I have the honor to hand you herewith Copy of my last respects of 13th. Ulto., to which I beg reference, should the original not have reached the Department.

<sup>a</sup> July 27, 1840. See Wright-Bee Correspondence July 27-August 18, 1840 (using last date for reference).

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

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I beg leave, most respectfully, to refer the Department I have the honor to address to my despatch to Gen: Lamar, of this date, which goes herewith, for the particulars of what has transpired since my last advices of July 23rd. to 27th. *inclusive*, copies of which are now transmitted.

In addition to which, I have only to remark that, as soon as the Govmt. had become a little settled, Say on or about the 1st. of August, I thought it opportune to advert to your contingent instructions of 7th. May, in an interview I had with the Secretary of State, hoping it would produce accelerated action on his part, in relation to my Question.

The Conversation that took place undoubtedly produced an impression on the mind of the Secretary, and especially when I informed him, that my late instructions would not permit me to remain much longer without Some *decisively favourable progress*, in the question of Texas, then fully before him.

But the peculiar position of the Cabinet, and particularly of the *Secretary himself* has induced a suspension, for the time being, and until the question of *Extraordinary Powers* asked for by the Govmt. shall be decided, as will more fully, and at length appear, by my communication of today, to the President, to which I again respectfully refer the Department. Without anything further of Moment I have the honor to be, with great respect and consideration,

Your Most obt and Verry Hble St.

JAMES TREAT.

To the Hon. ABNER S. LIPSCOMB  
*Secretary of State*  
*Texas.*

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

[Confidential]

MEXICO August 11th. 1840.

SIR

I have the honor to hand you herewith Copies of my last despatch bearing dates from 23rd. to 27th. ult., inclusive, by which you will perceive that the Revolution, which broke out here on the 14th., and continued until the 27th. ulto., had put a stop, for the time being, to all ordinary public business, and of course, to mine.

I had hoped, and it was generally believed, that the Govmt., having completely triumphed over the Federal party, would, after a few days, restore things to their accustomed tranquility, and proceed, in the affairs of Gvmt. with more Strength and popularity (*at least nominally*) than before.

But the reverse has been the fact, and their course (certainly a very difficult one under existing circumstances) has been marked with a timid and constantly vascillating policy, up to the present time. For some days after martial Law had expired, they apprehended another movement, on the part of some of the military of high rank, having for their object to bring in Sta. Anna, or, at least, to put out Bustamante and his Ministry; and it was 8 or 10 days before Santa Anna, by countermarching his troops, and retiring himself to his residence, relieved the Gvmt. from any immediate apprehensions, as regards his course of policy.

Many, however, still think he makes a *Virtue of Necessity*, and only waits a fit opportunity, which he has recently lost by mismanagement, to draw his sword, to *Save the Republic*; or be invited by circumstances, again to take *the Helm of State*. The Ministry then attempted a Resignation feeling their Situation rather weakened than otherwise by the Revolution, and public opinion seemed rather to mark out to them this course, as the terms of the capitulation with the Federal Revolution were neither popular, nor, as many thought, creditable to the Gvmt.

Bustamante could not make up a new ministry to his mind, and of course opposed the resignation. Mr. Cuevas however, the Minister of the Interior, has resigned, and his place remains open, altho' it is reported, to have been offered to Several persons, who, it [is] stated would not agree to the *conditions annexed*.

The Cabinet, as a final measure, and one on which their continuance in office would depend, agreed to ask, in the mode pointed out by the Constitution, for *Extraordinary powers*; and the initiative of the Law, has already passed the Chamber of Deputies, and sent to the Senate for concurrence, where, if concurred in, it goes to the *Conservative Power*, for confirmation.

Its fate in the Senate is somewhat doubtful, tho' it is generally thought it will pass in some form, perhaps with modifications. In the Conservative Body it is impossible to conjecture the result, depending entirely upon intrigue and ulterior Views. This corporation is composed of five members only.

If the Gvmt. do not obtain the *Extraordinary Powers*, in Some Shape, or to Some Extent, the Ministry will then *resign*, at least the Secretaries of State and Treasury, for it is believed that, in that Event, Bustamante will retain Almonte as a *Nucleus* of the new Cabinet.

Thus you see, my dear Sir, how easily a month may be lost, and one finds himself *rather retarded* in his progress, than otherwise.

It has been painful to me in the extreme to witness these delays, and it is even more so, to be compelled to relate them to you, as I know they will be anything but Satisfactory to yourself and your advisors.

I have said this much to stand my exact present during this interval, appearances, he has felt, and expressed in

He declines, however, to urge the Committee, Report, and thus bring discussion, and *especially* asked for remains und

If the powers are granted, he quits office, successor. I shall, in that favour of our question, my negotiations with a moment, in bringing the

I write without knowledge unless *via Havana*.

I send herewith a State, to which I have communicated.

I remain very truly

Your most

and

To Gen. M. B. LAMAR

THE

DEAR SIR,

You will no doubt has been for the last

<sup>a</sup> That is, come to an end

<sup>b</sup> August 18, 1840. See last date for reference).

<sup>c</sup> July 27-August 18, 1840 together, and were possibly

of November 12, 1840. See

<sup>d</sup> See note <sup>c</sup>, p. 461.

I have said this much, however, that you might the better understand my exact present position. I have seen the Secretary repeatedly during this interval, and must do him the justice to say, that, from all appearances, he has lost none of the interest, which he has uniformly felt, and expressed in our question.

He declines, however, in the present agitated State of Affairs, to urge the Committee, who have charge of my papers, to make up their Report, and thus bring the matter at once before the Chambers for discussion, and *especially* while the question of the *extr. powers* asked for remains undecided.

If the powers are granted, he has an accession of Strength, to carry the Texas question forward with more eclat, and if they are not granted, he quits office, and I must understand myself <sup>a</sup> with his Successor. I shall, in that case however, count upon all his influence in favour of our question. If I am compelled to re-open, or continue my negotiations with a new Secretary, I shall adopt a *very brief plan*, in which I will endeavor to avoid any further procrastination of any moment, in bringing the matter to Some conclusion.

I write without knowing of any opportunity to forward my letters unless *via Havana*.

I send herewith a *dupl.* of my last to the *Hon* the Secretary of State, to which I have nothing to add, except what I have herein communicated.

I remain very truly and Respectfully,

Your most obedient

and Verry Hble Servant

JAMES TREAT

To Gen. M. B. LAMAR

*Austin*

*Texas.*

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

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THE WRIGHT-BEE CORRESPONDENCE.<sup>c</sup>

[WRIGHT TO BEE.<sup>d</sup>]

MEXICO *July 27, 1840.*

DEAR SIR,

You will no doubt be surprised when I inform you that this city has been for the last ten days the scene of bloodshed and war. The

<sup>a</sup> That is, come to an understanding.

<sup>b</sup> August 18, 1840. See Wright-Bee Correspondence, July 27-August 18, 1840 (using last date for reference).

<sup>c</sup> July 27-August 18, 1840. The copies making up this correspondence are transcribed together, and were possibly transmitted by Amory to the Texan government in his letter of November 12, 1840. See Correspondence with the United States in Part I, p. 466-467.

<sup>d</sup> See note <sup>c</sup>, p. 461.

long expected revolution of which I hinted, has at length appeared in a most horrible form—but it is over.

On the morning of the 15th. at one o'clock General Urea escaped from the Ex-Inquisition,<sup>a</sup> by the assistance of three officers on guard for the night. The greater part of the troops of the Palace were bought over, and the same night the palace with the President General Filasola and a number of other distinguished characters were in the power of the Federals. The Citadel<sup>b</sup> which is out of the City was not taken. At ten o'clock said day, the towers of the Cathedral, the Cuartel of Santo de Domingo, the Government house, (Cabildo) with other houses around the Palace were fortified in order to defend themselves against an attack. In the palace was a great quantity of arms and ammunition; they counted at 12 o'clock some two thousand men, of which six or seven hundred were organized soldiers, and the rest made up of volunteers from the street. Such an opportunity of conquering, the Federalists will never have again; they also found upwards of Three hundred thousand dollars in money. The Custom house fell into their hands which had in Cash \$60,000; the National Bank and other deposits in the palace furnished the balance. Some Forty or fifty thousand dollars of this money belonged to the President. With all these means the Federals capitulated on yesterday, The Centrals conceding only life. Urea and Gomas Fareas, dastardly cowards, run away, leaving the soldiers to shift for themselves. This morning the soldiers more spunky than their run-away leaders, refused to Surrender: but under promise of an immediate change in the Constitution have retired from the palace some ten miles distant under the guaranty of the Central Leaders that they shall not be molested. The Government is bound by treaty to send them their cannon (6 or 8) pieces from Six to Eight pounders, and to furnish them with provisions. The change they ask is not exactly Federal, but it has not yet appeared, and therefore I am unable to say what the change they ask may be. If Government does not comply these six or eight hundred men will have to rob their way to some Federal town. The Militia that were with them and some French and Americans early this morning slipped out and have been lost among the crowd. Strangers in general curse the Federals for their chicken-heartedness, not having made a rush upon the enemy: but the officers are the cowards of this people; and a more pitiful set of cowards I have never seen. The Centrals were afraid to make an assault likewise, and thus they fought from behind walls of houses, banks of sand, and bales of cotton, until the principal houses above the Square have been much injured. Some

<sup>a</sup> The prison used by the Inquisition in the days of its activity in Mexico, known in the city as the Acordada.

<sup>b</sup> Chapultepec.

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parts of the palace is much broken, in fact the injury sustained by the citizens by the havoc that has been made, including loss of goods pilfered will call for a Million of dollars to place the city as it was before this war. The battle commenced at ten minutes before *Two* on the 15th. and the firing of muskets, the thundering of cannon, and whistling of bombs, have continued more or less every day and night until yesterday 10.<sup>a</sup> Nearly all the windows are shattered to pieces in Eight Streets leading to the palace, every man's sign is riddled, the City Lamps shattered, and store doors splintered to pieces. I cannot describe to you the awful state in which the city has been, during this time; only imagine to yourself the state in which a crowded city must be in, with two enraged armies firing at each other from every house and through every street. The citizens had no time to escape, many were killed in endeavouring to fly from houses which were unable to withstand balls of the cannon; others dies from shots received in crossing streets or their flight to safer retreats, and some out of curiosity to see what was going on.

Among the soldiery owing to their fighting from behind walls, they have not I presume lost from their lists, wounded [and] killed over four hundred men. This affair I am almost certain will put an end to their marching against Texas; even of thinking of it. No means left now—all at loggerheads, pulling and hauling robbing and killing. How is it possible that this people should be able to do anything. Let the Texans take courage, there will be no danger; You may invite emigrants to go and Settle, giving them every assurance that they will not be molested by the Mexicans. Why, Dear Sir, I am from what I have seen in this Siege, fully confirmed in the belief, that a wise and experienced American General with ten thousand brave American Riflemen, with Eight Sixteen pounders, may with ease march to this City, take it, and hold it, in spite of all the Mexicans could do.

1st. Such men would bring a formidable terror with them.

2nd. Strangers of every nation would join them, with as many Mexicans; therefore you may consider Texas free from danger, and receive my sincerest wishes, etc.

#### Notes.

Santa Aña was sent for but has not arrived; is within thirty miles. General Valencia is Commander in Chief. Filasola is at liberty, the President was set at liberty the 2d. day as Conciliator. It is supposed that Bustamente will not be permitted to retake the chair. Valencia will take advantage of the present, and the worst is to be feared.

<sup>a</sup> That is, at ten o'clock yesterday.

Tonight, the mob has been very troublesome, and all afternoon, only to steal. What a people! they ought to have an Iron hearted King to rule them. Fit, do you say, this people to live under a Republic of their own; so am I fit to be a second *George Washington*. Santa Aña is going to be a sore eye here. The palace alone has sustained an injury of \$50000. The Captain of the Steamboat Argyle had nearly sold his boat to the Government the 2d. day previous to the Revolution. Urea and Fareas, are no doubt still in this city, hid: they have made their thousands, but they acted honorably in reference to the safety of private property, and were so mild in their requests from the Central party, that almost every Stranger loved them, but their cowardice has bereft them of many friends. The Federals offered a five hundred dollars to each good American Rifleman—four thousand (query "forty"<sup>a</sup>) dollars is set apart for said purpose, and I have understood that a few Americans have lined their pockets in shooting Centrals, but they must now look out for breakers. Poor Mr. Treat! I have not seen him for the last fifteen days, owing to the accursed firing in the streets. I know nothing of Canales. Arista was in Tampico it is said, when the news of the Revolution reached there, and he fled to Matamoras, having narrowly escaped a trap set to catch him. The republic of Mexico will be a greater scene of havoc and war, from this out, for some months or years, than it has been since the Revolution of their Independence.

The Indian Cherokee is gone home by way of Vera Cruz;<sup>b</sup> he says that he will not fight for the Mexicans, and that all he wished for, was their lands. Valencia, it is thought, will have Bustamente put down, and be *Lord* himself. Valencia wishes a military power; this was communicated to Urea and Fareas; they discovered themselves betrayed, as the petty officers began to think they would do better under a Military power than a Federal power. This we are given to understand was the cause of Urea and Fareas' disappearing. The people expect the worst, and three different parties, it is expected, will soon be up in arms. Today 28th. 12 o'clk. The Nobility paraded in procession to the Cathedral in great pomp, with Bustamente at their head, bells were rung, Cannons fired and thanks offered to God or some imaginary Saint for their victory.

JULY 29. 9 O'CLK. AT NIGHT.

The 800 men who left the palace and who were to have capitulated five leagues from here stopped short four leagues from this City, in a thick walled Stone Mill with one piece of Artillery. Today I

<sup>a</sup> This is probably an insertion in the copy. The query intended is doubtless whether "forty" should not be substituted for "four."

<sup>b</sup> See Confidential Agent in Mexico to Bee, July 1, 1840.

understand the Government arms, when lo the Federals were routed. They have themselves, some say Andrad said to be at Something City in such a state of brought in from all quarters for Urea, particularly so several have already been Americans.

No provision has been made for the Federals, and no mercy will be shown to them in the Revolution if apprehended. They made their escape. The Government if they show any resistance here I think he will not bother himself. He will be able to pass through to suffer only for being kept from some other power. I kept me waiting at his house, and at last only con-

This is the last note, I am leaving. We are yet all rendered, they remain fighting with the Cent. ago when I could hear hundred tales are going Urea and Fareas is ne head of two hundred

Several of the Am. likewise. The French be protected or he will

Give us such a Minister is very slow to practice

I have sent you the harsh and boasting. The other is more fit to deal with conquerors

I cannot give you killed than I expected and the heads missing ing the dead.

understand the Government troops went (2. or 300) to receive their arms, when lo the Federals let loose upon them and the Centrals were routed. They have some one at their head some Say Urea himself, some say Andrada has come back to them. Santa Ana, is said to be at Something the Centrals do not like. Never was this City in such a state of Consternation and wonder. Prisoners are brought in from all quarters. Strangers of all Nations have been for Urea, particularly so the French and Americans, of the former several have already been taken, and I fear the worst for some of the Americans.

No provision has been made in the meagre capitulation for strangers, and no mercy will be shewn to those who have taken part in the Revolution if apprehended. I have understood some Americans have made their escape. The French Minister swears wrath against the Government if they shoot his people—but what can he do? Our Minister here I think holds his head a little too high, and I believe he will not bother himself much about us. For my part, I hope to be able to pass through and have no need of him; but in case I have to suffer only for being a stranger, which we dread, I will seek refuge from some other power. I called once on Ellis, our Minister and he kept me waiting at his door so long as to shake my confidence in him, and at last only could see him by chance as he had to pass out.

JULY 30. 12 O'CLK. A. M.

This is the last note, I shall be able to give you, owing to the Mail leaving. We are yet all consternation. The Federals have not surrendered, they remain still in the Mill four leagues off. They were fighting with the Centrals all this morning, and it is not an hour ago when I could hear the firing of Cannon in rapid Succession. A hundred tales are going the rounds. Andrada I believe is in the mill. Urea and Fareas is no doubt not far off. Some say Urea is at the head of two hundred Cavalry in an adjoining Mountain.

Several of the Americans are said to be in jail, several French likewise. The French Minister has declared that his people shall be protected or he will leave for France.

Give us such a Minister, we might crow, but it is said our minister is very slow to practise with rigor.

I have sent you three papers; that of the Government is I think harsh and boasting, and many things in a great measure untrue. The other is more fair, but has been afraid to speak, as they have to deal with conquerors.

I cannot give you the amount of the dead; I find there were more killed than I expected. Some were found with their heads cut off, and the heads missing; Even the dogs yesterday were found devouring the dead.