

LIZARDI & Co. TO PALMERSTON.^a

 HENDERSON TO PALMERSTON.^b

 HENDERSON TO PALMERSTON.^c

 PALMERSTON TO HENDERSON.^d

 PALMERSTON TO HENDERSON.^e

 HENDERSON TO PALMERSTON.^f

 HENDERSON TO IRION.^g

Legation of Texas
Despatch No. 5

LONDON, *January 30th. 1838*

To the Honorable R. A. IRION
Secty. of State

SIR

In despatch No. 4. I mentioned that I had addressed a communication to Lord Palmerston upon the subject of opening the Ports of Great Britain to all vessels belonging to Citizens of Texas, or having clearances from her Customhouses—which was as follows

LONDON, No. 166 ALBANY ST. REGENTS PARK

December 29th. 1837

MY LORD

The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas, has already had the honor in a personal conference to express to Lord Palmerston Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the wish of the Government of Texas to open without further delay, a direct trade between the two Countries; and having received from Lord Palmerston an intimation of the propriety of submitting such a

^a January 5, 1838. See Calendar.

^b January 16, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, January 30, 1838.

^c January 22, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, January 30, 1838.

^d January 23, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, January 30, 1838.

^e January 24, 1838. See Calendar.

^f January 25, 1838. See Calendar.

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proposition in writing, the Undersigned has the honor to make the following proposal. He requests that the Ports of Great Britain be opened to all vessels sailing under the flag of the Republic of Texas, and which shall have clearances from any of her Customhouses; and also that the vessels of all other Nations in amity with Texas and Her Majesty's Government, and having clearances from any of the Customhouses of Texas, be admitted into the Ports of Great Britain, upon such terms as are consistent with the laws and regulations of Her Majesty's Government in such cases. The Undersigned has been influenced to make this proposition on the part of his Government to open the trade between the two Countries, during the pendency of the consideration of the request which he has heretofore had the honor to make of Her Majesty's Government to recognize the Independence of Texas, by the sincere desire which the Government and People of Texas entertain in this regard, and which is strengthened by the conviction of the great advantages which [would] result to the People of both countries from such a measure. Lord Palmerston is aware, that the principal article which Texas now has for exportation, is Cotton. This materiel is at this time ready in that Country for market. The Merchant and Planter cannot as things now are, dispose of it in any other Market than the United States, where they are compelled to pay a heavy duty; and in return for which they purchase in the United States and carry to Texas goods chiefly manufactured in England, upon which the consumer in Texas is compelled to pay the double duty of Texas and the United States in addition to the Commissions and profits of each Merchant and Carrier through whose hands the goods pass. It is not without feelings of anxiety and gratification that the Undersigned looks forward to the opening of this intercourse between the People of the two Countries, heightened by the just expectation, that such a measure will be the means of speedily convincing the People of England, that it is their interest to cultivate a friendly intercourse with Texas; and of satisfying the Government, that Justice demands that they should recognize her Independence, by exhibiting to the one her immense resources, and to the other, her ability to maintain her present Independent position.

The Undersigned deems it unnecessary to accompany the above request with a statemnt of the grounds upon which Texas founds her claim to recognition by other Nations, inasmuch as they have been fully set forth in the communication which he had the honor of addressing to Lord Palmerston on the 26th. of October last; and for the better reason, that the question of Independence is not necessarily involved in the present proposition. The Undersigned regards it as sufficient for the present purpose to remind Lord Palmerston, that the present Government of Texas has been in possession of the sovereignty of that Country for more than two years—that during

the whole of that time (with the exception of a few months in its commencement) they have remained undisturbed by Mexico.

While Mexico could reasonably entertain the expectation of maintaining the War with Texas and Re-establishing her authority in that country, She might have had some reason for objecting to other Nations recognizing the Independence of that country; but even then after she had lost all authority and control over the revolted country, and left it in the hands of those who had assumed the reins of the Government, she could not reasonably object to other countries carrying on a trade with Texas. The Undersigned takes pleasure in informing Lord Palmerston, that British ships are now admitted by the laws of Texas into her Ports on the same terms as the most favored Nations. Lord Palmerston will remember that Texas not only asserts her right to be regarded as an Independent Nation, but she has been acknowledged as such by one of the most powerful and prudent Governments on Earth—A Government too which from its situation is better able than any other to judge correctly of the ability of Texas to maintain her Independence. Some respect is due to the opinion of that Government, which the Undersigned feels assured Her Majesty's Government will readily yield. The Undersigned flatters himself that Lord Palmerston will see the necessity of giving the above request his earliest attention, and of communicating to the undersigned, the determination of Her Majesty's Government upon the subject, in order that he may forthwith inform his Government of the same, and in order that the People of Texas may take advantage of the measure, during the present season.

The Undersigned takes this opportunity of again renewing to Lord Palmerston the assurance of his high consideration

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON

To the Rt. Honble. Lord Viscount PALMERSTON,
Her Majesty's principal Secty of State for Foreign Affairs.

At the time the above communication was made, Lord Palmerston had left London for a short time during the Christmas Holydays. He returned to Town on Saturday (13th. Inst.), and not having answered the above letter, I deemed it my duty to urge an immediate answer, inasmuch as the request was one which did not Require much consideration. Accordingly on the 16th. inst. I addressed him the following note

LONDON NO. 166 ALBANY ST. RTS. PARK,

January 16, 1838

MY LORD

The undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas had the honor of addressing to the Right Honorable Lord Viscount Palmerston, Her

Majestys principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on the 29th ultimo, a communication upon the subject of opening the Ports of Great Britain to Texian Vessels etc. etc.

The Undersigned has now the honor to request Lord Palmerston to inform him of the disposition that Her Majestys Government has made of the same.

The Undersigned takes this opportunity to renew to Lord Palmerston the assurance of his high consideration

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON.

To the Rt Honble. Lord Viscount PALMERSTON,
Her Majestys principal Secty. of State for Foreign Affairs.

On the 22d. Inst, not having received an answer from Lord Palmerston to either of my two last communications, and being anxious to complete the business to which they allude, before I proceed to France and also having learned from a Foreign Minister at this Court, that such delays are very common with Lord Palmerston, I deemed it necessary to follow up my last letter with the following.—

LONDON No. 166 ALBANY ST. REGENTS PARK

January 22d. 1838

MY LORD

The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas, begs leave again to call the attention of the Rt. Honble. Lord Viscount Palmerston, Her Majestys principal Secty. of State for Foreign Affairs, to the communication which he had the honor to make to Lord Palmerston on the 29th. ultimo, upon the subject of opening the Ports of Great Britain to vessels sailing from any of the Ports of Texas, and having clearances from her Custom-houses etc and again requests of Lord Palmerston an answer to the same. When Lord Palmerston is reminded that the Undersigned did heretofore in a personal conference inform him, that it had now become incumbent upon the Undersigned to leave England for a time, to discharge duties with which his Government has intrusted him in another Country, he feels assured, that Lord Palmerston will no longer delay answering the communication alluded to. Nor will the Undersigned, when he recollects that Her Majestys Government is well informed of the present and past situation of Texas—that she has now for nearly two years maintained her declaration of Independence—that notwithstanding she is only separated from Mexico by an imaginary line, Mexico has made no attempt to re-establish her authority in that Country since the capture of Genl. Santa Anna and the expulsion from Texas of the whole army of Mexico in April 1836.—And that the Government of the United States has for twelve Months recognized Texas as an Independent Nation, has received the Minister of Texas at Wash-

ington and has now her representative residing near the Government of Texas, permit himself for a moment to believe that the delay of Lord Palmerston in answering his communication, is caused by a wish or determination on the part of Her Majestys Government to refuse to comply with the request therein contained.

The Undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to assure Lord Palmerston of his very high consideration

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON.

To the Right Honorable Lord Viscount PALMERSTON

Her Majestys principal Secty. of State for Foreign Affairs.

To which I received on the 24th. this reply

FOREIGN OFFICE *January 23d. 1838*

SIR

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th. ultimo, containing a proposal for opening a direct commercial intercourse between Texas and Great Britain, and also of your letters referring thereto dated the 16th. and 22d. Instant. I regret that by an accidental oversight your letter of the 29th. Ultimo should have remained so long unacknowledged; and that I am not yet enabled to give you a definitive answer upon the subject of which it treats. But I have referred the matter to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, and to the Privy Council for the Affairs of Trade, and so soon as I receive the answers of those Boards, I will not fail to make you acquainted with the decision of Her Majestys Government upon this subject

I have the Honor to be Sir

Your Most Obedient Humble Servant

PALMERSTON

Genl. PINCKNEY HENDERSON

I have determined in pursuance of the discretionary power vested in me by the instructions from the department of State accompanying my commission, to proceed to France, after waiting a reasonable time upon Lord Palmerston for an answer; but will first introduce to Lord Palmerston Mr. McIntosh,^a in whose charge I will leave the affairs of Texas at this Court during my absence.

His Excellency the President will readily perceive the difficulty of the situation in which I am placed by the delay of this Government. The question now under the consideration of this Government of entering into a commercial arrangement with Texas, is one in my humble opinion, of vast importance to her, both in a commercial and political point of view. It would indeed be but little less important than an absolute recognition of her Independence, and would very

^a Geo. S. McIntosh, Secretary of Texan Legation for Great Britain and France 1837-1839; acting chargé d'affaires 1839-1841; and chargé d'affaires 1841-1842.

much hasten the consummation of that object by laying open to British enterprise and capital, a wide field for future operations.

Large shipments of goods from this Country to Texas will immediately follow that act of this Government which will show to England the importance of recognizing Texas, and entering into the most extended commercial arrangements with her. I am the more anxious to complete this arrangement previous to my leaving England for France, inasmuch as the interest of Texas abroad might be injured if I left this Country, without either procuring her recognition or any other advantageous arrangement.

I also received from Lord Palmerston on the 24th. Inst. the following communication.

[Next are transcribed copies of Palmerston to Henderson, January 24, 1838; Lizardi and Co. to Palmerston, January 5, 1838; certificate of Carpizo, August 11, 1837; and Henderson to Palmerston, January 25, 1838. Next follows the closing paragraph of Henderson to Irion.^a]

I have the honor to remain
Your Most obt. Humble St

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

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HENDERSON TO PALMERSTON.^b

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PALMERSTON TO HENDERSON.^b

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HENDERSON TO IRION.^e

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IRION TO AGENT OF LLOYD'S.^f

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
City of Houston, March 8th. 1838

SIR,

Your communication on the subject of indemnity for damages that the British Brig Eliza Russel which was captured in July last in the

^a For all these letters and the closing paragraph of Henderson to Irion, see Calendar.

^b February 12, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, April 12, 1838.

^c February 19, 1838. See Calendar.

^d February 20, 1838. See Calendar.

^e L. S., March 8, 1838. See Calendar.

^f A. J. S.

Gulf of Mexico, by a Texian armed vessel, sustained in consequence of her detention at Galveston, has been received and presented to the President for consideration.

His Excellency directs the undersigned to inform the parties concerned that it is not within his competency to order the payment of the sum indicated; but that, at the next session of Congress which will convene on the second Monday in April next, the matter will be submitted to that body with such recommendations from the Executive that will, it is confidently believed, induce an appropriation for the payment of said claim.

Respectfully

Yr Obt. Servant

R. A. IRION

To Agent's of
Lloyds,^a Havana
Island of Cuba

HENDERSON TO PALMERSTON.^b

IRION TO HENDERSON.^c

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
City of Houston, March 20th, 1838.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 3, and am happy that the present condition of Texas enables me to give the most favorable assurances of our prosperity.

The threatening attitude of Mexico with respect to Texas, which seems to have influenced the British Cabinet on the subject of recognition has been manifested to us in no other manner but vain boasting on paper.

Texas on the other hand is rapidly increasing in strength by an uninterrupted emigration of the hardy, enterprizing and chivalric sons of the U. States, bringing with them their negroes, and every thing necessary for a permanent settlement in this country.

I am confident it would be a safe estimate to state that, during the last fall and winter the number of emigrants to Texas was ten times greater than any that ever arrived before during a corresponding period.

^aThe form intended here must have been "Agent of Lloyd's", which Irion uses in the next letter.

^bMarch 16, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, April 12, 1838.

^cA. L. S.

This is the strongest proof that the people of the U. States, whose contiguity affords them every opportunity of acquiring correct information concerning Texas, have full confidence in the permanency of this Government and the stability of its institutions.

There has been no demonstration of the enemy on the Rio Grande Border since your departure, a circumstance which would justify the belief that the Mexican Government was not serious in its declarations, so often repeated, of again invading Texas. At least if they were serious the means which were placed at the disposition of Government were totally inadequate to the object in view; for all the annoyance which we have received in that quarter have been from the depredations committed by scouting parties of Mexicans who have occasionally occupied the uninhabited territory lying between the Nueces and Rio Grande.

The object of these incursions was to collect and drive the stock, which had been dispersed during the Campaign of 1836, across the Rio Grande into the Mexican territory.

Mexico is now on the eve of another revolution.

The mutations which political parties have undergone since the fall of Santa Anna have led to the conviction among the mass of the population of that country that the re-establishment of the constitution of 1824 is necessary. The Priests are arrayed against this measure; but they cannot *now* control an influence sufficient to sustain centralism. From information that can be relied on I am confident that this result will take place within a few months.

The Californias and Santa Fé still continue independent of the general Government.

General Urea has recently declared for the constitution in the State of Sonora, and General Cos, who is now on the Rio Grande, will do the same, it is believed, in a short time, in Tamaulipas.

Our Indian relations at the present time are pacific.

In November last the Indians generally manifested a desire to enter into treaties of friendship with the Texians; and during December and January treaties were concluded with a number of tribes, among which are the Lipans, the old friends of the Mexicans, who live near the Rio Grande, and are, perhaps, the most intelligent and sagacious Indians in Texas.

The Cumanches, who are the most numerous tribe in the Republic, have agreed to send a deputation of their principal Chiefs to Bexar, on the 1st. of April next, for the purpose of making a treaty, where Commissioners on the part of this Government will be ready to act.

With respect to the civil departments of the Government, it is pleasing to state, that the laws are as regularly and perfectly administered as in the new States of the North American Union.

As a striking evidence of the efficiency of the civil officers and the promptness in discharging their duties, I will state the fact that the statute prohibiting public gaming has banished that abominable vice from the country.

Two sessions of Congress have sat since your departure without materially changing the laws under which the constitutional Government was organised. The last session, as you are ere this aware, passed a general Land Law requiring land offices to be opened on the second monday of last month for the location of lands; which was done, and our citizens throughout the Republic are now actively engaged in locating their land claims.

The second session of the second Congress will convene on the second monday in April next.

Our financial affairs are in a much more favorable condition than the most sanguine anticipated. Without the aid of a loan from any quarter the Government has created a currency which passes at par in every section of the country.

The promisory notes of the Government, which are based upon a specific appropriation of lands that are now selling, are the only money, except gold and silver, which is received in payment of duties on imports and taxes of all kinds. Those collections return it rapidly into the Treasury.

With regard to the military establishment you know it is not the policy of the Government to keep on foot a standing army; therefore, none is kept in the regular service except a sufficient number to guard particular posts.

The militia are now organised and are prepared and anxious to march at the shortest notice should a mexican army again cross the Rio Grande. Ten thousand Texians at any time can be concentrated upon the shortest notice. The universal enthusiasm which pervaded the whole community a short time since when a rumor stated that the mexicans were advancing upon Texas, was astonishing—all were anxious to go and meet the enemy—none desired to remain at home.

There have been no Mexican Cruisers on our coast since August last. Our carrying trade is performed by vessels sailing under the United States flag.

No one a year ago could have foreseen the surprising increase of our commerce in so short a period. Of late about thirty vessels are often lying in the port of Galveston, seven of which are Steam Boats that ply between the Island and other places.

Commercial facilities are developing themselves in other portions of the Country and Republic in a like manner.

As regards annexation the prospect of success is becoming more and more remote. To-day I have received despatches from the Texian

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Raleigh, North Carolina

Minister near the Government of the United States up to the 9th. instant. The discussion of the Sub-Treasury Bill had prevented Congress taking up the resolutions relating to Texas at the time originally fixed for that purpose. Gen. Hunt inclines to the belief that the Congress of the U. States, at the present session, will not authorize the admission of Texas. This being the case the measure may be considered as entirely lost, for the Government of Texas will never renew the application. When you went to England this Government supposed that this question would have been definitively settled by the time you commenced negotiations with the Governments of Great Britain and France; and that, therefore, no embarrassments would result from that source. Such, however, has not been the case and the consequent delay is unavoidable.

The President having full confidence in your prudence and ability has directed me to furnish you with complete Powers, authorizing you to negotiate and treat with the Governments of Great Britain and France on all subjects connected with the objects of your mission, which are herewith transmitted.

He desires that you will be extremely cautious in your conferences and correspondence with the functionaries of those Governments to give no just cause of offence; and does not wish our application urged in a manner calculated to create a prejudice against us. Of What should be said you, being on the spot and acquainted with the individuals with whom you have intercourse, will be the best judge.

As regards the Debt which Mexico owes the Government of Great Britain, or its citizens, this Government is not disposed to assume the payment of any portion thereof: nor does it conc[e]ive that the domain of Texas is in any wise implicated or responsible for the redemption of said debt. Your views and proceedings on this subject are satisfactory to the President.

The President directs me to inform you that you may appoint a Secretary to our Legation near the Government of France whenever you may deem it expedient.

The letters from the President to the Queen Dowager of England and the Queen of France were forwarded with my despatch of the 5th. of January.^a

The Agent of Lloyd's at Havana has presented a claim of £865 0s. 0d against this Government in favor of the owners of the Brig Eliza Russell as indemnity for damages and demurrage occasioned by her capture and detention by the Invincible and Brutus.^b This Government acknowledges the justness of the claim, and the President in his next Message to Congress will recommend an appropriation for its

^a No copies of these letters have been found.

^b The claim was forwarded in a letter written by Nathaniel Townsend, Texan consul at New Orleans, to Secretary of State [Irion], December 31, 1837, which is on file in Consular Correspondence, Texas State Library.

payment. The Agent of Lloyd's has been informed of the disposition of this Government on the subject.

The relations between Mexico and the U. States seem still to be unsatisfactory to both nations. Diplomatic intercourse has been suspended, and the Mexican Minister returned home. The U. States' Sloop of War Natchez is now cruising on our coast.

The season of invasion is now passed, and the planters are making extensive preparations to raise a large crop of corn. The immense influx of emigrants requiring a vast quantity of that article.

The President directs me to assure you that the course you have pursued relative to your mission meets his entire approbation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

With great respect and Esteem

Yr. Obt. Servant

R. A. IRION

Hon. J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON, *Agent and Minister of Texas near the Govmt. of Great Britain.*

HENDERSON TO PALMERSTON.^a

PALMERSTON TO HENDERSON.^b

HENDERSON TO PALMERSTON.^c

PALMERSTON TO HENDERSON.^d

HENDERSON TO IRION.^e

Legation of Texas

Despatch No. 7.

LONDON *April 12th. 1838*

To the Honorable R. A. IRION

Secretary of State

SIR

I have heretofore informed you that since I was informed by Lord Palmerston that the British Government declined recognizing the Independence of Texas, on the Ground that they were not

^a April 5, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, April 12, 1838.

^b April 6, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, April 12, 1838.

^c April 10, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, April 12, 1838.

^d April 11, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, April 12, 1838.

^e L. S.

entirely satisfied of her ability to maintain her declaration, and that they would take farther time to consider the matter, I had laid before Her Majestys Government a proposition to open a direct trade between Texas and Great Britain. The communication which I made to Lord Palmerston on that subject, together with his acknowledgment of the receipt of the same, I had the honor to forward to you in Despatch No 5. After I received Lord Palmerstons letter acknowledging the receipt of my first communication upon this subject, and stating that the whole matter had been referred by him to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majestys Treasury and to the Privy Council for the Affairs of Trade, I waited for some weeks with the daily expectation that Lord Palmerston would inform me, according to his promise, of the disposition which those Departments of Her Majesty's Govt. had made of the subject; and not having received any information from him on the subject, I called at the Foreign Office several time for the purpose of conferring with Lord Palmerston upon the subject, but each time found him too much engaged to give me an audience. On the 12th. February I addressed him the following note

LONDON No. 166 ALBANY ST REGENTS PARK

Feby. 12th. 1838

MY LORD

The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas has called several times recently at the Foreign Office for the purpose of having an interview with the Rt. Honble. Lord Viscount Palmerston, Her Majestys principal Secty. of State for Foreign Affairs, but has found him absent or engaged in business. The Undersigned has therefore to request Lord Palmerston to inform him at what time he can be honored with a conference. The undersigned has the honor to assure Lord Palmerston of the continuance of his high regard and esteem

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON.

The Rt. Honorable Lord Viscount PALMERSTON

Her Majestys principal Secty. of State for Foreign Affairs

To which his Lordship made this reply—"Lord Palmerston presents his Compliments to Genl. Pinckney Henderson, and will be glad to see him at this office on wednesday next the 14th. Instant at 3 oclock"

Foreign Office, February 12, 1838

At the time appointed I repaired to the Foreign Office, where I had a conference with Lord Palmerston upon the subject, of which the following is the substance,—Lord Palmerston informed me that he had received the report of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury upon the subject of the proposed commercial arrangment. which

report he read to me. The substance of it was, that they saw no objection to the *principle* of the proposition which I as the Agent of Texas had submitted, and that they recommended to Her Majestys Govt. to adopt every proper measure necessary to facilitate and extend the Commerce between the two Countries. Lord Palmerston then observed, that the principle of the measure proposed was settled by that report, and that it then only remained for the report of the Board of Trade upon the *details* in order to complete the arrangement. He observed at the same time that he expected very soon to receive the report of the Board of Trade, and that he would not fail to inform me of its import as soon as he received it. At this stage of the affair, I had I thought good reason, to flatter myself that the negotiation would produce a more favorable result than subsequent events show. Between the date of the last mentioned interview and the 16th. Ultmo, I held several conferences with Lord Palmerston upon this Subject, who each time informed me that the Board of Trade had not made their report, and at length promised that he would call personally on the President of that Board and urge him to report forthwith. Not having received any communication from Lord Palmerston, on the 16th Ultmo. I again addressed him as follows.

LONDON, *March 16, 1838*

My LORD

The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas begs leave again to call the attention of the Rt. Honble Lord Viscount Palmerston Her Majestys principal Secty. of State for Foreign Affairs to the communication which the Undersigned has heretofore had the honor to make, upon the subject of opening a direct trade between Texas and Great Britain, and to remind Lord Palmerston that nearly three months have elapsed since the Undersigned proposed that arrangement, to which he has as yet received no definite answer. He begs leave also to remind Lord Palmerston of his promise made on the occasion of the interview with which the Undersigned was honored on the 28th. Ultmo. viz. that Lord Palmerston would speak to the President of the Board of Trade on that day and request him to make his report as soon as possible. The Undersigned has now the honor to ask Lord Palmerston to inform him of the result of Lord Palmerston's application to the President of the Board of Trade. If the Board of Trade have not yet made their report on this business, the Undersigned begs Lord Palmerston to use his influence with that Honorable Body to cause them to report at the earliest time possible. The Undersigned notwithstanding the delay he has met with in this matter still hopes that the British Govt. will find it their interest to realize his expectations upon this subject, and that their measures will derive additional grace from the frankness and prompt-

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itude with which Lord Palmerston will use his exertions with the Board of Trade to procure their report, and bring about a speedy and satisfactory arrangement of the whole subject. If however the Undersigned is destined to be dissatisfied in his expectations by a refusal on the part of Her Majesty's Govt. to agree to the proposed arrangement, or if he is to experience such delay as will be tantamount to a refusal, by preventing his attention to duties which he has to discharge in another Country; then it is not less the duty of Her Majesty's Govt. to give him an early, frank and definite answer to the application which he has, on the part of his Govt. had the honor to submit. The Undersigned takes this occasion again to renew to Lord Palmerston the assurance of his high consideration

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON

The Rt. Honble. Lord Viscount PALMERSTON
Her Majesty's principal Secty of State for Foreign Affairs

To the above letter, Lord Palmerston returned no answer, and on the 5th. Inst. I addressed him as follows—

LONDON *April 5th. 1838*

MY LORD

The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas begs leave to inform the Rt. Honble. Lord Viscount Palmerston, Her Majesty's principal Secty. of State for Foreign Affairs that the great length of time which has expired since he had the honor of submitting on the part of the Govt. of Texas, a proposition to enter into a commercial arrangement with Her Majesty's Govt., and the silence with which Lord Palmerston has treated his communication of the 16th. ultmo. upon that subject, has compelled him reluctantly to conclude that it would be useless for him to remain longer in England with the expectation of being able to complete the proposed arrangement. He has therefore fixed upon an early day in next week to leave London, and he has now to request Lord Palmerston to inform him at what hour he can be honored with an interview.

The Undersigned avails himself of the occasion to renew to Lord Palmerston the assurance of his highest consideration

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON.

The Right Honble. Lord Viscount PALMERSTON
Her Majesty's principal Secty of State for Foreign Affairs

Which letter drew forth the following reply

FOREIGN OFFICE *April 6th. 1838*

SIR,

In my letter of the 23d of January last, I had the honor to inform you that I had referred to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury and to Her Majesty's Privy Council for Affairs of Trade,

your letter of the 29th of December containing a proposal for opening a direct commercial intercourse between Texas and Great Britain. Having received the answers of those Boards, I have now the honor to communicate to you the decision of Her Majestys Govt. upon the subject of your proposal. So long as Texas shall not be acknowledged by Her Majestys Government as a Separate and Independent State, that Country will be treated as a part of Mexico by the authorities of Great Britain as with reference to the operation of such British laws as relate to Trade and Navigation and to Fiscal matters. Consequently a Texian Ship can still import Texian produce from Texas as heretofore, such ship and such produce being covered by the more general character of Mexican; and under the same construction, the trade between Great Britain and Texas will also be continued under the scope of the stipulations of the Treaty with Mexico. In this view of the case no difficulty will occur in the Ports of this Country so long as the National character of Texas remains unchanged by any formal act on the part of Great Britain, provided that the power of the Texian People or the forbearance of the Mexican Govt. shall be such as practically to secure to the subjects and ships of Great Britain, perfect freedom of intercourse with the Ports of Texas. Texian ships and cargoes therefore coming from Texas will be received in the Ports of Great Britain upon the same footing as British ships, so long as British ships shall practically enjoy the same priviledges in Texas; and this state of things will continue until some definitive arrangement shall be made between Great Britain and Texas.

I have the Honor to be Sir

Your Most obedient, Humble Servant—

PALMERSTON

Genl. PINCKNEY HENDERSON

You will observe that the above communication is not a complete answer to the proposition contained in my letter to Lord Palmerston of the 29th. December, inasmuch as no reference is made to the very material circumstance that vessels hereafter coming from Texas will have papers from the authorities of the Republic of Texas instead of Mexico. I therefore called on Lord Palmerston on the 9th. Inst. and asked him to explain how far his communication was applicable to such a case. He said he wished to be understood as having declared by his letter that Her Majestys Govt. would allow vessels coming from Texas in the above manner, to be received in the Ports of Great Britain—that they would shut their eyes to the circumstance of their having Texian papers. I then informed him that I would submit the enquiry in a more formal manner, which I hoped he would answer in writing, so as to prevent any future misunderstanding, to which he consented, and on the 10th. I addressed him the following letter

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LONDON *April 10th. 1838.*

MY LORD

The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the Rt. Honble. Lord Viscount Palmerston of the 6th. Inst. communicating to him the decision of Her Majesty's Govt. upon the proposition which he had the honor to make on the part of the Govt. of Texas on the 29th. December last to open a direct trade between the Ports of Great Britain and Texas. By referring to the communication of the Undersigned of the 29th. Decr., Lord Palmerston will see that the Undersigned therein proposed to Her Majestys Government that all vessels coming from Texas, sailing under the Texian flag and having clearances from a Custom house of the Republic of Texas should be admitted into the Ports of Great Britain etc. Lord Palmerston will also see by referring to his letter of the 6th. Inst. to the Undersigned, that no express answer is given to the above proposition, that it is only stated therein in general terms, that until Texas is recognized as an Independent Nation by Her Majesty's Govt., she will be treated as a part of Mexico, and that a Texian ship coming from Texas with Texian Goods on board will be received into the Ports of Great Britain under the scope of the stipulations of the treaty between Great Britain and Mexico. When Lord Palmerston recollects that Texian Vessels hereafter coming from Texas to the Ports of Great Britain will have registers from the authorities of the Republic of Texas and clearances from her Custom houses, he will readily see that difficulties might occur with Texian vessels claiming to enter British Ports under these circumstances. Therefore to prevent any future misunderstanding upon this subject, the Undersigned begs Lord Palmerston to inform him whether or not under the decision of Her Majestys Govt., as communicated to him by Lord Palmerston on the 6th. Inst., he is to understand that vessels coming from Texas, with Texian Goods and with registers under the authorities of the Republic of Texas and clearances from her Custom houses, will be received in the Ports of Great Britain in the manner and upon the terms therein specified. The Undersigned begs leave to remind Lord Palmerston that he leaves London on Friday Morning.

The Undersigned begs Lord Palmerston to accept of the assurance of his high consideration.

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON

The Rt. Honble. Lord Viscount PALMERSTON
Her Majestys principal Secty of State for Foreign Affairs

To which he returned this answer

FOREIGN OFFICE *April 11, 1838*

SIR

In reply to the enquiry contained in your letter of the 10th. Inst. I have the honor to state in further explanation of my letter of the 6th. Inst. that a Texian Ship would be admissable into the Ports of Great Britain as a Mexican Ship according to the stipulations of the Mexican Treaty, notwithstanding that the Documents issued for the use of such ship should bear upon their face that they were the avowed acts of a Govt. in Texas, assuming the style of a republic independent of Mexico. The view thus taken of this subject by Her Majestys Government so far as relates to the commercial intercourse between Texas and Great Britain would be changed only in the two following cases,—namely—either if Mexico were to declare the independence of Texas and thus to effect a formal separation between the two countries by the consent of both; or if Great Britain were to acknowledge Texas as an Independent State. In either of these cases, the commerce between Texas and Great Britain could no longer be carried on under the provisions of the Treaty between Great Britain and Mexico; and a separate Treaty would in either of such cases become necessary between Texas and Great Britain

I have the honor to be Sir Your Most Obt. humble St

PALMERSTON

Genl. PINCKNEY HENDERSON

Which leaves no room for future misunderstanding upon the subject. I had hoped from Lord Palmerstons and my own understanding of the nature of the report of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majestys Treasury as reported to you heretofore, that I would have been able to have made a commercial arrang[e]ment with the British Govt. founded on the Independent position of Texas, and I still entertain the opinion that Texas is entitled to such an arrangement. The arrangement which I have made you will readily see, secures to Texas all the practical benefits of trade and intercourse with Great Britain in as extensive a sense as though England had recognized her Independence. On the occasion of my last interview with Lord Palmers-ton I said to him, that inasmuch as I was going to leave England in a few days, I wished him to inform me whether under all the circumstances it would be worth my time to return to England during the approaching summer or fall with the hope of procuring the recognition of the Independence of Texas—that I was anxious to be informed upon that subject, in order that I might report to the Govt. of Texas upon the prospects, and ask their instructions to guide me in my

future course,—that if I was informed that England would *probably* recognize even as early as 12 or 18 months, I had no doubt but that I would be instructed to await the expiration of that time; But if Her Majestys Govt. had determined to delay the matter indefinitely, and there was no prospect of being recognized within that time, they might instruct me to return. He observed in reply that he could not answer me satisfactorily upon these points, as he would be speaking for the whole Government, and that they had already informed me that they could not pledge themselves to that effect. I then rejoined that I did not ask him to give any pledge to do an act—that I only wished an intimation of the probable future course that the British Govt. was likely to pursue towards Texas—that I would not regard any thing which he might say on the subject as *official*, or binding upon the Government of England—that Texas would regard it as an especial favor, if they did not intend to recognize within a reasonable time, to be candidly informed of the fact—that I wished to introduce Mr. McIntosh before I left, who would have charge of the business during my absence, if I could have any assurance which created a hope of success. He then said he would advise me to take a letter from himself to Earl Granville the British Minister in Paris, who would enable me at all times to learn the disposition of the British Govt. upon the point in question. This course I thought plainly indicated the disposition of the British Govt. and that it was resorted to as a polite and easy method of avoiding any further importunity on the subject, and I consented to take that course. I leave England for Paris tomorrow

Your Most Obt. humble Servant

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

IRION TO HENDERSON,^a

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
City of Houston, May 20th. 1838.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 5, dated January 30th.

The President regrets to see so much reluctance manifested on the part of the British Government to enter into commercial relations with us.

The pendency of the proposition of annexation, the revolutionary movements in Canada, abolitionism and fanaticism, and the unjustifiable acts of the Brutus and Invincible^b during their cruise of last summer in the Gulf of Mexico, have doubtless had a tendency to make impressions on the statesmen and politicians of England ad-

^a A. L. S.

^b See Irion to Henderson, August 23, 1837.

verse to the interests and character of this Republic. It is now gratifying to reflect that these causes of delay are disappearing. The Minister of Texas near the Government of the U. States has been instructed to withdraw the proposition of annexation should the present session of the Congress of that Republic adjourn without having acted definitively on the said proposition. Under these circumstances it may be regarded as withdrawn, for there is no prospect of success in the U. States' Congress. The question will be either rejected or postponed. To us it is of no moment which takes place—in either event the consequences will be the same to Texas. It will never be renewed by this Government until the dismemberment of that Power occurs. Should that happen, as many suppose it will, a Southern Confederacy may be formed and Texas constitute an integral part thereof.

The excitement occasioned by the Canadian disturbances^a has subsided.

* * * * *

Congress is now in session and no exciting subjects have as yet come up, and I believe none will during this session.

The country is tranquil and the greater portion of the population are industriously engaged in the cultivation of corn. Emigration creates a great demand for this article, and consequently but little cotton is planted.

Our currency is at par with the Mississippi Bank notes. The experiment of issuing the promisory notes has succeed[ed] far better than the most sanguine advocates of the measure anticipated. They are the circulating medium of the country.

The news from the interior is of the most favorable kind for Texas. One of our most confidential spies arrived a few days since from Mexico. He reports that country to be in a state of general commotion. Gen. Urea is in Durango at the head of a formidable force contending for the re-establishment of the federal Constitution of '24.

The troops have been withdrawn from the line of the Rio Grande on account of these disturbances.

Santa Anna is still at his Hacienda in the State of Vera Cruz, and is supposed to exercise a secret, but powerful, influence over the federalists. It is generally believed that Bustamente will fall during the present convulsion, and that Santa Anna will succeed him.

The Blockade of the Mexican ports by France has increased the embarrassments of that miserable nation.^c

^a See Tiffany, *Relations of the United States to the Canadian Rebellion of 1837-38*, pp. 32-37.

^b For the paragraphs omitted, see Calendar under the title of this letter.

^c See Bancroft, *History of Mexico*, V, 186-205.

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Our Indian relations are on a favorable footing. The tribes generally are disposed to peace, and manifest a desire to establish friendly intercourse with the Texians.

With regard to subjects connected with your mission to England and France, no further instructions at the present time, are considered necessary. Your intimate knowledge of our political organization and of the foreign policy of the Government, will enable you to pursue the line of conduct best adapted to effect the objects contemplated by your appointment.

Your course heretofore has been highly satisfactory to the Executive.

The boundary line between the U. States and Texas is still undefined, and a controversy now exists between the two Governments on this subject, which may possibly terminate in a serious dispute in which case this Government will request its reference to an Umpire and the European Government that first acknowledges our independence will be solicited to perform this friendly office.

I have the honor to be, with great respect your
obt. Servant

R. A. IRION

Hon. J. P. HENDERSON, *Agent*
and Minister of Texas near the Govmts of G. Britain and
France

IRION TO HENDERSON.^a

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
City of Houston, June 6th. 1838.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No 7. All your previous ones have been received.

The President is gratified to learn that you have consummated the commercial Arrangement with Great Britain. Your suggestions relative to the subject will be properly observed.

It is hoped that France will not be so hard to satisfy in respect to the capability of Texas to maintain her independence. My two last dispatches (one dated March 21st,^b which I presume you have received ere this) will inform you respecting our relations with Mexico. That nation is now prostrate and can never again even annoy Texas to any extent.

It is distracted by partizan leaders and selfish politicians. Its Government is destitute of that energy, and moral rectitude which are indispensable to preserve republican institutions.

^a A. L. S.

^b This is evidently an error; the date should be the 20th.