

The French Blockade, the contentions between the Centralists and Federalists, individual and national pecuniary embarrassments (although England may not regard the subject in this light) tend to strengthen Texas. The Eastern portions of Mexico are now anxious to establish friendly relations with Texas. Contempt for the imbecility of that Government, and the confident conviction that its resources will never enable it to operate successfully against the measure, has induced the President to open the Trade with the Rio Grande frontier. The eastern States of Mexico will avail themselves of the facilities which this trade will offer, and an immense quantity of goods will pass from Texas to that country.

Our Indian relations are still pacific. Since my last communication a Delegation from the Cumanches (The Cossacks of Texas) composed of several Chiefs and Warriors visited Houston, according to an agreement made some time since, for the purpose of making a treaty of peace, which was concluded with them without difficulty; and they left well pleased and strongly impressed with the superiority of the Americans over the Mexicans.

The question of annexation may be regarded as settled forever. Our Minister at Washington is instructed to withdraw the proposition (as you have been informed) should the present session of the U. States' Congress adjourn without having acted definitively on the subject. This cause cannot, therefore, continue to operate against us in Europe.

Texas has increased confidence in the sufficiency of her own resources to resist Mexico, maintain her independence and perform all the obligations that appertain to a free Power. Mexico has more reason to apprehend invasion by Texas than the latter has of the former.

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Respecting the time of your return the Executive desires that you will exercise your own discretion, having every confidence that you will act as may be best calculated to subserve the true interests of Texas.

When you shall determine to leave England and France it is the wish of the President that you will appoint Agents at London and Paris to represent this Government.

I have the Honor to be with great respect your

Obt. Servant.

R. A. IRION

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

* For the paragraphs omitted see Calendar under the title of this letter.

PALMERSTON TO HENDERSON.^a

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN RUSSELL'S CLAIM.^b

HENDERSON TO PALMERSTON.^c

HENDERSON TO IRION.^d

HENDERSON TO IRION.^e

BACKHOUSE TO [SWAIN STEVENS & Co.]^f

ADAM TO [NASH].^g

ADAM TO [NASH].^h

ADAM TO [NASH].ⁱ

IRION TO HENDERSON.

DEPARTMENT STATE,
City of Houston, Nov. 28th. 1838.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 8, dated Paris, 5th. of September last.

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I now have the pleasure to announce to you that on the 12th. of October ultimo, Anson Jones, our Minister near the Government of

^a August 24, 1838. See Calendar.

^b September [1], 1838. See Calendar.

^c September 3, 1838. See Calendar.

^d L. S.; September 5, 1838. See Calendar.

^e October 28, 1838. See Calendar.

^f November 1, 1838. See Calendar.

^g November 20, 1838. See Calendar.

^h November 21, 1838. See Calendar.

ⁱ November 25, 1838. See Calendar.

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

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the U. States at Washington City, acting under special instructions from this Government, formally withdrew the proposition for the annexation of this Republic to that of the United States of America.^a The question of annexation which embarrassed our negotiations in Great Britain so much, being now definitively settled, I hope the recognition of our independence by that Government and France will soon follow. Its withdrawal, by destroying the political combinations which its pendency induced, and removing the cause of exciting debates in the Congress of both Republics respecting the propriety of the proposed admission, has had a tranquilizing effect on the public mind of the U. States, and likewise proven satisfactory to the people of Texas.

The news from the interior of Mexico is favorable to Texas. Their intestine difficulties and the French blockade seem to engage the almost exclusive attention of the Government. Several of the States continue to act independently of the central Government, and will obey no orders issued by it.

We learn from a letter said to have been written by a French Lieutenant at Havana, dated 17th. instant, which was published in a New Orleans paper of the 21st. that the French blockading Squadron had commenced bombarding the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa; and had also landed 3000 men for the purpose of attacking Vera Cruz. If this news be true, of which I have no doubt, that City ere this has fallen into the hands of the French.

With respect to the prospects of our own Navy I have not been able here to say any thing encouraging; but now have the gratification to state, that our Navy Agent Mr. Samuel M. Williams, has contracted at Baltimore for the immediate building equipping etc. of a fleet for this Government, which is to be composed of one Ship, two Barques or Brigs, and 2 Schooners; some of which are to be finished in 80 or 90 days from the date of the contract.

They are to be provisioned for a four months cruise, and delivered at Galveston.

In their building we will have the friendly aid of Mr. Henry H Williams, of Baltimore, whose skill and experience in nautical matters are unsurpassed; which circumstance affords the most satisfactory assurances that the vessels will be of the very best quality.

In addition to these, he purchased conditionally the Steam Ship Charleston for the protection of our coast against Mexican Cruisers in the event of the difficulties between France and Mexico being adjusted before our fleet could be in readiness for action, leaving it optional with the Government whether it would take the vessel or not.

^a See Part I, Jones to Vail, October 12, 1838, in Calendar of Correspondence with the United States.

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With this acquisition to our Navy we can command the Gulf, annihilate the commerce of Mexico, prevent an invasion, and force the Enemy into a reasonable peace. Mexico cannot subsist troops on this side of the Rio Grande unless supplies can be furnished by sea.

There is no local news of much interest. Emigration to this part of the country is very great, and improvements of all kinds are progressing rapidly. Two Steam Packet Ships, Cuba and Columbia are plying between Galveston and New Orleans, and a third one is shortly expected to take her place in the same line.

Messrs. McKinney & Williams have a Brig at Galveston sailing under American colors laden with cotton, which they desire to send to France; but is^a apprehensive, inasmuch as there exists no commercial relations between that Government and this, that she would not be allowed to enter a port of that country. They intend sending one or two cargoes during the present season direct from Galveston to Liverpool.

The article published in a New York paper censuring Governor Cass and Mr. Stevenson for their deportment towards you was in accordance with your request, contradicted by the Telegraph.^b

I have the honor to be, Sir,
With great respect your
Obt. Servant

R. A. IRION

HON. J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON, *Agent and Minister of the Rep. of Texas near the Govmts. of Great Britain and France, Paris.*

BACKHOUSE TO SWAIN, STEVENS & Co.^c

SWAIN, STEVENS & Co. TO ARRAGOIZ DROOSTEN & Co.^d

BEE TO HENDERSON.^e

[Announcing the personnel of the new government of the Republic of Texas, installed December 10, 1838.]

IRION TO HENDERSON.^f

^a Are.

^b See *Telegraph and Texas Register* for October 13, 1838.

^c December 1, 1838. See Calendar.

^d December 12, 1838 (extract). See Calendar.

^e December 26, 1838.

^f March 20, 1839 (extract). See Calendar.

VOGELGESANG & Co. TO WEBB.^aCRANFORD TO WEBB.^bJONES TO HUGHES.^cCOMMISSION OF HAMILTON AS JOINT AGENT WITH HENDERSON TO
FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN.^dLAMAR TO PALMERSTON.^e

[Letter of Credence for James Hamilton as agent for Texas to Great Britain.]

WEBB TO HAMILTON.^f

[Transmitting Hamilton's commission as Texan agent to Great Britain and France, and letters of credence to the governments of those nations, all bearing the same date as the letter of transmission.]

HAMILTON TO FOX.^g

WASHINGTON 20th May 1839.

SIR—

In conformity to the wish you did me the honor to express, in our conversation on Saturday last, that I should furnish you with a memorandum in writing of my views in relation to the advantages which might result to Great Britain from the mediatorial offices of Her Britanic Majesty's Minister Mr. Pakenham at Mexico, between that Government and the Republic of Texas, (however private and unofficially) induces me to submit the following succin[c]t statement with a candor and sincerity, I hope equal to the signal kindness and frankness with which you received my Verbal Communications. You are aware that the Republic of Texas has appointed Col. Bee a citizen of Texas an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico, to treat with that Government for peace and Recog-

^a A. L. S., April 16, 1839. See Calendar.

^b A. L. S., April 17, 1839. See Calendar.

^c April 24, 1839. See Calendar.

^d May 20, 1839. See Webb to Hamilton, May 20, 1839.

^e May 20, 1839. Inclosed with Webb to Hamilton of the same date.

^f May 20, 1839. See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 38, p. 104.

^g May 20, 1839. See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, pp. 401-403. Copy inclosed with Hamilton to Lamar, June 22, 1839, in Correspondence with Mexico.

dition. He sailed about the 1st May for Vera Cruz in Governments Vessel of the United States, and has probably some days since arrived off that Port. He went however, beyond that of a passenger under no safe conduct of the flag of the U. S. but in some degree under that of the late Catholic Bishop of Texas, when he was a Mexican [provincial?] and who is now the Chaplain or Confessor of President Santa Anna, who urged the sending of an Envoy from Texas, the purpose in question, with an earnestness that induced many persons to suppose that it was one of the objects of the recent visit which that Priestate made to Texas, and that he acted in conformity to the wishes of Gen. Santa Anna. Be this however as it may, whilst Col. Bee was detained in New Orleans, an English Gentleman of the name of Forspale,* Member of the highly respectable house of the Lazard's of London (which House you are aware is extensively connected with the trade of Mexico, and holds intimate relations with its Government,) informed Col. Bee, that he had determined in conjunction with several other persons, having a deep interest in the peace and prosperity of Mexico, to write, not only to the Government of Mexico, to listen favorably to the overtures on the part of Texas for peace, but at the same time to address Mr Pakenham a letter earnestly soliciting his good offices immediately between the parties, as he believed the only means by which the Mexican Bond and Share holders would be paid, would be through the indemnity which Texas might be willing to give Mexico, for the disputed territory between the Rio de la Nueces and the Rio del Norte, where it is supposed the point of honor might be saved to Mexico, in treating for a general pacification and Recognition of the Independence of Texas. This at least, might be urged at the present, for such a convention.

You are aware that I have been appointed a commissioner to negotiate a loan of about a Million Sterling for Texas. I propose embarking in the Great Western for England in June, from the manner in which I have strengthened my loan in this country, I have very little doubt of my success in yours. If the Minister of Texas should conclude a Treaty with Mexico, authorizing the former to pay over the amount of the indemnity to the holders of the Mexican Securities in England, nothing could be more gratifying to me, than to promote this object by every means in my power, as it would add another wreath to the glory of the descendants of the Saxon race, that after beating Mexico, despoiling her of one of the finest of her provinces that a handfull of men should come under an obligation to pay her debts on change in London. Should however Mr Pakenham use his good offices in this matter, he will doubtless perceive the policy of keeping out of view of the Ulterior appropriation of the money, unti

* Copyist's error for Forstall.

the main and Substantive object of the treaty is secured. That Great Britain has a direct interest in our immediate pacification between Texas and Mexico, and the ultimate independence of the former, is manifest, from two or three very obvious considerations. In the first place Texas early in the ensuing autumn, will have at Galveston a Squadron of one Steam Frigate, one Corvette, two Brigs, Three Schooners, ready to take post off Vera Cruz, and blockade that Port by the procuring^a of adequate force. This may give rise to a very serious difficulty, as your Government has not internationally recognized Texas. She may not feel disposed to respect any blockade of which She may even make an authentic declaration. She may therefore force the blockade. Bloodshed may ensue, and which from the intimate relations of the Southern people, with the people of Texas, would throw the whole South into a ferment, and we should find ourselves, in spite of our deep interest in the preservation of perpetual peace with Great Britain, in the very unnatural position of allies with the people on your Canada frontier, in their seemingly implacable hostility to your country.

In the Second place, your Government has a deep interest in a pacification between Texas and Mexico, because She has an incalculable interest in the trade of Texas, destined to be an immense consumer of the products and Manufactures of Great Britain. Her tariff is now only 12½ per cent, advalorem, whilst that of the U. S. averages nearly forty per cent. You perceive that the moment the Independence of Texas is recognized, She will not only supply her immeasurably increasing population with British goods, but likewise both the adjoining provinces of Mexico, and a large portion of the Valley of the Mississippi, through the navigation of the Trinity and Sabine Rivers. I will say nothing of the vast advantages, because they must strike you with great force. If Great Britain having her supply of Cotton insured to her from the fertile plains of Texas (destined to be the greatest cotton country in the world) exempt from the caprice of your relations with the United States. In the third place, without Mexico should first recognize the Independence of Texas, Great Britain, from the great delicacy of her situation, in reference to her own North American provinces, might feel great difficulty in recognizing Texas herself, which might have a tendency to throw her whole European commerce in the hands of France. The moment Mexico recognizes, all difficulty is at once obviated, and Great Britain may herself recognize.

Fourthly and lastly—The moment England is thus enabled to recognize Texas, She can exercise through the immense value of her commerce with Texas, salutary influence in procuring the cordial concurrence of Texas, in what Great Britain has ten times at heart,

^a The copy has the meaningless word "precurer."

in the suppression of the Slave trade, which Texas has prohibited by a fundamental article in her Constitution. I had the honor to State to your Excellency in conversation the incalculable natural resources of Texas. She possesses at least fifty Millions of Acres River bottom land, better adapted to the cultivation of upland cotton than any other part of the habitable Globe, without interfering with the reservation of those immense prairies which are destined to afford pasturage and substance to flocks and herds, more numerous, than we read of in the records [of] Scriptural antiquity.

Her mineral riches not to speak of the (indications presented in her mountains of the precious metals) are countless, when you take these things into consideration and reflect that in all probability not a spindle will be made for half a century within her limits you may well conjecture what an impulse her commerce will give to power looms, of your own Country. Besides these people are your own blood and kindred, and speak the same language in which Locke and Milton taught the lessons [of] civil and political science. I am aware from the fact of Texas not having been recognized by your Government, you can make no official communication on the subject to Mr. Pakenham, to which I have ventured to call your attention or either Lord Palmerston, it will be for you to decide, whether in the conjecture of the affairs both of Texas and Mexico, when the former is rising with a rapidly and augmenting strength to power and independence of the latter, sinking under the strife and contending faction, a private suggestion to both, in favor of a timely mediation between the parties, may not be of some value to your own Government. I beg you to pardon the entire of this communication and to be assured of the distinguished consideration, with which I have the honor, Very Respectfully—Your Obedient Servant

(Signed) J. HAMILTON

His Excellency

H. S. Fox

*Minister Plenipotentiary of
Her British Majesty at Washington*

FOX TO HAMILTON^a

WASHINGTON [D. C.], 22d. May 1839.

DEAR SIR—

I have been very glad to receive your interesting and valuable memorandum dated from Baltimore, as well, as the two obliging notes to myself which accompany it. I shall not have the communica-

^a May 22, 1839. See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 404. Copy inclosed with Hamilton to Lamar, June 22, 1839, in Correspondence with Mexico.

tion, which I propose to address Mr. Pakenham, in readiness early enough to be dispatched by the opportunities which you obligingly offer, but shall in a short time, have myself a speedy and safe means of forwarding them to Mexico. In writing to Lord Palmerston, I shall not fail to mention that you will seek an occasion of conferring personally with him, or other members of the Government, upon the subject of your communication to me. I believe it will be more proper, according to the customs of our Service, that I should send the dispatch in the usual course, rather than by a private hand.

I remain Dear Sir, with much respect and regard, and the best wishes for your Success, Yours faithfully

(Signed) H S. Fox

To

Gen. J. HAMILTON
Philadelphia

DECREE OF MEXICAN CONGRESS AUTHORIZING THE CONSOLIDATION OF
MEXICAN BONDS HELD BY GREAT BRITAIN.^a

HUGHES TO PALMERSTON.^b

PALMERSTON TO HUGHES.^b

HUGHES TO JONES.^c

HUGHES TO JONES.^d

[Accompanied by copies of Hughes to Palmerston, June 10, 1839; Palmerston's reply of the same date; and Hughes to Jones of the same date at midnight.]

BURNET TO CRAWFORD.^e

^a June 1, 1839. See Treat to Lamar, February 1, 1840, in Correspondence with Mexico.

^b June 10, 1839. See Hughes to Jones of the same date.

^c June 10, 1839, midnight. See Hughes to Jones, June 10, 1839.

^d June 10, 1839; indorsed "Secret correspondence between Mr. Hughes Chargé d'affaires of the U. S. at Stockholm, and Lord Palmerston on the subject of Texas as communicated by the Hon Anson Jones." The letter of transmittal from Jones has been found. For the letter and Inclosures, see Calendar.

^e June 14, 1839. See Calendar.