

CRAWFORD TO LAMAR.^a

BRITISH CONSULATE
New Orleans July 30th 1841.

SIR

The enclosed letter has just been forwarded to my care by Her Majesty's Consular Agent at Tampico, who having no other means of transmitting it, has sent it to me with a request that I would forward it to your Excellency.

I have the honor to be with great respect, Sir
Your Excellency's
Most Obt. Servt.

JOHN CRAWFORD, *Consul.*

To Gen. LAMAR
President of Texas.

FOREIGN OFFICE,
April 8th. 1841.

SIR,

I have been requested by Lord John Russell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, to convey to Your Excellency his thanks for the communication dated the 12th. of October last, which you were so good as to make to him on the subject of slavery in the Republick of Texas, with reference to the late conviction at Barbadoes of John Taylor for carrying Negroes from that Island into Texas, and I beg to assure Your Excellency that I feel great pleasure in executing, as I now do, this wish of the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

I have the honor to be
Your Excellency's
most obedient
humble Servant

PALMERSTON

COMMISSION OF ELLIOT AS CONSUL-GENERAL FROM GREAT BRITAIN
TO TEXAS.^b

[Charges Charles Elliot with the care of the interest of British subjects "trading in the Republick of Texas," empowers him to appoint vice consul or deputy consuls at Texan ports, and confers on him the usual "pre-eminences, Prerogatives, Liberties, Immunities and Exemptions."]

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 504. The original inclosure referred to (L. S.) is on file.

^b August 20, 1841.

HAMILTON TO ROBERTS.^aLONDON *September 3rd 1841.*

SIR:

I had the honor to receive your despatch of the 5th July, covering Judge Webb's correspondence and detailing the final result of his mission. This result does not surprise me, as I think it was [not] to be expected that Texas [should] move until the British Minister communicated whether the mediation was accepted.

I sincerely trust war will not be declared or any hostile demonstrations made until the meeting of Congress in November, by which time I think I will have placed the whole Loan under investment, and the Government be able to take a calm survey of the relations and positions of the country.

An extra session now would be regretted as nothing definitive can be done or decided on, until my negotiations are finally closed here. The Tories have come in in great strength, but they will be quite as friendly to Texas with greater strength to serve us.

If there should be an extra session of congress the Slave Trade Treaty had better not be brought up to the view of congress until I arrive.

With great respect and Esteem
Your Obt Servt.

J HAMILTON

SAML. A ROBERTS Esqr
Acting Secy of State

RECEIPT OF MOORE TO POWER FOR POWDER.^b

ACCOUNT OF POWER FOR POWDER.^b

JONES TO HAMILTON.

(in Duplicate)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Austin Jan. 26th. 1842

Gen JAMES HAMILTON
Minister Plenipotentiary
etc. etc.

SIR,

The Laws authorizing a Loan to be negotiated for five Millions of Dollars having been repealed by the present Congress of Texas and

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 555.

^b December 6, 1841. See Elliot to Smith, February 27, 1845.

your functions as Commissioner having in consequence transpired, and as you have signified your intention and desire from time to time to return home, His Excellency the President has directed me to inform you that he will at an early day appoint a successor to discharge the various diplomatic functions, in Europe, which were devolved upon you by his predecessor, and to request that you will, return to Texas at the earliest convenient opportunity. As diplomatic relations have not been established with any of the courts to which you were accredited it has not been deemed necessary to send you formal letters of recall for presentation on taking leave of them finally.

I have the honor to be
with the highest respect
Your Obt Svt

ANSON JONES

HAMILTON TO JONES.^a

[Private.]

AUSTIN *Feby 8h. 1842.*

MY DEAR [R] SIR—

The Treaty of Navigation and Commerce the ratification of which was signed last winter I left with Mr Samuel Amory solicitor London No 25 Throgmorton Street. He was the Solicitor of the Republic for such business as Mr. Burnley and myself may have had requiring a legal Adviser.

I enclose a note for Mr. Amory.^b On my reaching Galveston I will give you a full Report of my Diplomatic Mission which I have not time now to complete.

I remain with esteem
Very resptly
Your ob Svt

J HAMILTON

Hon

ANSON JONES
Sey of State

ORDER FOR DELIVERY OF TREATY.^c

HAMILTON TO JONES.^c

HOUSTON *Feby 14h 1842.*

DEAR SIR.—

I subjoin an order to Mr Amory to deliver the Treaty to your Bearer of Dispatches in case he should not previously in conformity with my Instructions have sent it to Lord Aberdeen.

^a A. L. S.

^b This was doubtless a private note. It has not been found.

^c February 8, 1842. See Hamilton to Jones, February 14, 1842.

I am going this evening to Galveston but before my Departure will make you an accurate Report of your diplomatic relations abroad

I remain Dea[r] Sir
 With sincere esteem
 Very respey and truly
 Yours

J. HAMILTON

HON ANSON JONES,
Secy of State

AUSTIN TEXAS *Feby 8h. 1842*

To SAML AMORY Esqr
No 25 Throgmorton St.

London.—Be so kind as to deliver to the order of the Hon. Anson Jones the Treaty I left with you which I concluded with Lord Palmerston for the Republic of Texas

J. HAMILTON

HAMILTON TO JONES.^a

GALVESTON *Feby 18h. 1842.*

SIR.

I beg leave to present to you the following Report of my diplomatic Mission to Europe under the appointment of the Government of Texas.

I held Commissions to treat with the Government of her Britannic Majesty, the King of the Netherlands and the King of the Belgians Also a Commission as special Envoy to treat with the Government of the King of the French for a supplementary Commercial Convention for the concessions of additional Commercial advantages as an equivalent for its guarantee of the Loan which I was authorized to negotiate in Europe for a/c of the Republick.

I repaired to the Hague in June 1840 and in the following Sept. concluded a Treaty with the Baron Verstolk de Solen^b between his Majesty the King of the Netherlands which being ratified in the Jany following by the President and Senate of Texas I exchanged the ratifications in June 1841. The copy of [the] Treaty thus ratified and exchanged was transmitted with my Baggage to Charleston from London and will be transmitted on my return to Charleston to Austin by the first opportunity.

After signing this Treaty with the Govt of the King of the Netherlands, I repaired to Brussels presented my full powers and opened a Negotiation in Oct 1840 with M Lebeau the Minister of Foreign Affairs We concluded on the basis of a Commercial Treaty, but in

^a A. L. S.

^b Verstolk van Soelen.

consequence of this Minister insisting on discriminations in favor of Fire Arms and Linens on the ground of the voluntary Concessions made to French Commerce, I broke off the negotiations as the Belgian Minister offered no equivalent for the advantages he desired.

I repaired to London and in the following Nov after a laborious and anxious negotiation signed 3 Conventions with Lord Palmerston her Britannic Majestys Principal Secy of State for Foreign Affairs.—

1st. A Treaty of Recognition Amity and Commerce

2dly. A Convention providing for the mediation of G Britain for the procurement of a Pacification with Mexico.

3dly. A Convention for the suppression of the African Slave Trade

The first of these Treaties I left with Saml Amory Esqr. Solicitor No. 25 Throgmorton St. London after it was ratified by the President and Senate of Texas. I have requested him to forward it to the Foreign Office to Lord Aberdeen forthwith. That it may be ready for the exchange of ratification. For fear of the miscarriage of my Letter to Mr Amory I subjoin an order for the delivery of the Treaty.^a

The second Convention having expired by its own limitation it has gone with my Bagage to Charleston and shall be returned by the first opportunity to the Archives of State

The 3d Convention duly ratified is in your own possession.

The principal reason why I requested that this last convention should not be acted upon by the Senate until my return was that it involved the delicate question of the right of Search. I desired to be present to afford such explanations of the probable operation of the Treaty as might be required.

In the Autumn of 1841, I repaired again to Brussels and opened my Negotiations with the Govt. of his Majestys the King of the Belgians—but on an entire new basis. I proposed that for a discrimination in favor of the products of Belgium imported into Texas by Belgian and Texian Vessels that Govt. should guarantee a Loan for Texas of 37 Millions of Francs or 7 Millions of Dollars with certain securities on your public Domain, for which I submitted the *project* of a Legislative Compact to Congress. In frequent conversations with the King I am satisfied if this measure had been adopted, by the Congress of Texas and that hereafter on a question of disputed Boundary between Texas and Mexico on a proposed pacification between the two Countries that the Govt of Belgium would have given to Texas 3½ Millions of Dollars for her portion of such disputed Territory for a Colony which might have served as a mutually pacific Barrier between the two Countries and in this event

^a This order had already been sent to Jones. See Hamilton's letter of February 14.

Belgium would ^a all the Commercial privileges she might have derived under the Compact.

His Belgian Majesty sent a highly intelligent Commissioner to examine the Country who embarked with me from New Orleans for Texas and is now making an examination into the state of the resources of the Company.^b But the decision of Congress to negotiate no foreign Loan makes the proposed *projet* with the Belgian Govt a dead Letter.

From The New Ministry of her B. M. I received the most cordial assurances of the friendly dispositions and good will of her Majestys Govt. I have the honor to remain
very respectfully Your obt Svt

J. HAMILTON

The Hon ANSON JONES
Secy of State

JONES TO PALMERSTON.^c

[Letter of credence for Ashbel Smith as chargé d'affaires of Texas to Great Britain.]

HAMILTON TO JONES.^d

NEW ORLEANS *March 4h 1842*

SIR

I find among my papers most carefully put away the Treaty for the Mediation of England. I likewise have ascertained that the British Govt have *not communicated it to the Govt of Mexico and are waiting its ratification. The six Months therefore have not expired.* As the Treaty is highly honorable to Texas I would recommend its being sent with the other Treaty to Lord Aberdeen and the ratifications exchanged whether a pacification results or not.

I will write Genl Houston tomorrow.

With esteem Dear Sr
Yours respectfully

J HAMILTON

The Hon
ANSON JONES.

P S. I will write Genl Houston on the subject tomorrow from Mobile.

^a One word indecipherable.

^b Captain Victor Pirson. See Jones to Pirson, March 4, 1842, in Correspondence with Belgium.

^c March 2, 1842.

^d A. L. S.

JONES TO SMITH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Galveston March 9th 1842

To the Hon.

ASHBEL SMITH

*Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Texas,^a**etc. etc.*

SIR,

You will receive herewith your Commission ^b as Minister Chargé d'Affaires of this Republic to the Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, together with a letter of credence to be presented to Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for foreign Affairs and a copy of the same for yourself.

It is the wish of the President that you should proceed with as little delay as possible to London, and execute the duties assigned you there previous to going to Paris, where your services will be required as soon thereafter as may be consistent with the proper execution of your duties at London and as circumstances will permit.

So soon as you arrive at London you will immediately proceed after the presentation of your Letter of Credence, and reception by the Government of Her Majesty to the exchange of the Ratifications of the three Treaties concluded between Texas and Great Britain viz. "The Treaty of Amity Commerce and Navigation," "The Convention for the Mediation of Great Britain with Mexico," and "The Treaty for the Mutual Suppression of the African Slave Trade." The ratifications of the two last mentioned Treaties you will receive herewith, and those of the first you will receive from the hands of Mr.

^c Amory Solicitor No. 25 Throgmorton Street London, an order for which from Gen Hamilton endorsed by me is herewith enclosed.^d

So soon as the ratifications shall have been exchanged, and you are properly received and acknowledged as the Diplomatic representative of this Government at the Court of St. James, you will in the first place ascertain as far as practicable the dispositions of her Majesty's Government in regard to some prompt and efficient action on its part in relation to her mediation between Texas and Mexico and at the same time urge a prompt determination on this subject. It is very desirable as you are well aware that this matter now so

^a Ashbel Smith, a native of Connecticut, came to Texas in 1836; appointed surgeon-general of the Texan army by Houston; Texan chargé d'affaires to Great Britain and France, 1842-1844; Secretary of State under Jones; after annexation was assured, returned to Europe to close the relations of the Republic with the various courts.

^b No copy of this document has been found.

^c The blank left here was to be filled with Mr. Amory's Christian name—which was Samuel. See Hamilton to Jones, February 8, 1842.

^d Dated February 8. See Hamilton to Jones, February 14, 1841.

long delayed should receive the earliest attention. The attainment of Peace between Texas and Mexico to the two parties directly and to England herself, in regard to her commercial interests is an object of paramount importance Texas is already fatigued and worn out with the annoyance of a *Quasi War*. Many of her citizens are now suffering in wretched captivity, and in Mexican bondage and unless something effectual is soon done in the matter by Great Britain it may justly be feared that the sword must and will soon again be unsheathed and a warfare commenced the results of which cannot now be calculated. To avert these evils therefore, as well as to relieve our citizens from their captivity it is hoped that an *efficient* mediation may be accorded by G. Britain under the provisions of her Convention with Texas and that this Mediation if accorded may be prompt. Should it even prove unsuccessful and pacification with Mexico not be obtained, Texas will at least have the advantage of knowing what she may depend upon and will be prepared to adopt a policy in accordance with circumstances.

The recognition of this country by Spain and the formation of a commercial treaty with that country, in consequence of her important colonial possessions in the West India Islands is deemed a matter of much interest to Texas. In the present State of European politics it is known that G. Britain exercises a strong control over the councils of that country and Espartero the Chief of the Government You will therefore endeavor to enlist the good offices of Lord Aberdeen in the accomplishment of this object, or at least in ascertaining the views of the Court of Madrid in relation to it For this purpose you will cooperate with Mr. Kennedy Consul General at London^a and Mr. Castro Consul General at Paris, who have each tendered their good offices to this government in the matter and who will be enabled from time to time, probably, to give you useful information in relation to it.

The Colonization Contracts which have been entered into for introducing emigrants from France and England, and others which are now in progress for introducing immigrants from Germany and Belgium are deemed objects of much utility Texas has a surplus of land and wants laborers and Capital. Europe generally has a redundancy of population and more capital than can now be employed satisfactorily and to a good profit. The purpose therefore, of these contracts is to bring population and Money to Texas; from the Storehouses of Europe; you will therefore render every proper aid in your power to the promotion of the success of these enterprizes, by rendering correct information on the subject, and by assuring those who may wish to engage [in them] of the favorable

^a William Kenedy. Later in the year he became British consul at Galveston.

dispositions of the government and people of Texas towards Colonization etc. etc.

You will receive herewith the Commissions of Wm. Kennedy as Consul General of this Republic for Great Britain and Charles Saunders, as Consul, for the Port of Liverpool, England. You will apply for the usual Exequaturs upon these and when obtained transmit them together with their commissions to these Gentlemen respectively.

It is expected you will keep this Department constantly advised of all your proceedings and, communicate any information of importance, which you may obtain, with promptitude and minuteness.

The President relies upon your zeal in behalf of Texas, and as you are well acquainted with every thing connected with her interests, he reposes full confidence in your intelligence and prudence, so to conduct the important missions with which you are charged in Europe as to be instrumental in the effectual promotion of the welfare and honor of our country.

As so many opportunities have been afforded you very recently of knowing correctly the views and wishes of the President and of this Dept. in reference to the foreign as well as domestic policy of the country further detailed instructions for your governance are deemed unnecessary at the present time

I have the honor to be
with the highest respect
Your Obt. Svt.

Signed ANSON JONES

IKIN TO JONES.*

LONDON, *March 15th. 1842.*

SIR

Since I had last the honor of addressing your Department, Genl Hamilton having left this country for Texas, it devolves upon me to present you with such general information connected with the two countries, as may appear of any interest

Some weeks ago in reply to a question from Mr O'Connell in Parliament, Sir R Peel gave an explanation respecting the imperfect character of the relations established with the Republic owing to the Treaty relative to the Right of Search, not having been yet returned.

The delay that has occurred is to be regretted so far as it operates with the public at large in creating the greatest distrust towards the country, and suspicion as to the real intention of the British Govern-

* See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 42, pp. 69-70. Ikin was Texan consul at London.

ment. Had it not been for this, I believe that considerable bodies of the more wealthy and respectable class of British emigrants would have been already in Texas, instead of the miserable paupers whose arrival is only an additional burden to the country, and the accounts of whose distress is the cause of so much misrepresentation as to the unsuitableness of Texas as a country for emigration.

Added to this—the English papers have been filled for some time past by advertisements of the Mexican Government warning people from obtaining land under the “usurping Texian authorities”, as such would not be recognised by those of Mexico; which absurd notice has had considerable influence, though I have endeavored to counteract it, by every means short of an official counter-notice, which I could not make while the Treaties remain unratified.

A book has also lately issued from the press under the auspices of the Mexican and Colonial interests attacking Texas and the Texians in a manner the most false and virulent.*

Notwithstanding all this attack, the country is becoming better known and appreciated among commercial men—and as regards the emigrating classes—when the rumours respecting Mexican invasion and British recognition shall have been put to rest, there will be a gradually increasing and eventually an immense emigration. And this indeed our *Colonial* interests already foresee, which is the main cause of the efforts now making to villify the country.

Were any suitable part of upper Texas, protected by the establishment of a Fort and a few troops, duly surveyed and sectionized, and then offered to the English and European emigrant at a price not exceeding 5s/ to 7s/ sterling per acre, I do not hesitate to say, (on the strength of overtures and representations already made to me) that a considerable and rapidly increasing addition of revenue might be realised to the Government, with little more expense here, than that of Commission to Agents, and some advertising.

Within the last week, the subject of annexation, mooted in your Congress, has been noticed and discussed by some of our leading Journals, who think it by no means improbable that the United States would now incline to it. It is of course viewed as giving her the command of the Gulf and of so strengthening Southern interests that the north might be tempted to seek a counterbalance in Canada; consequently Lord Aberdeen's attention is urgently called to the question.

There are, it appears, several British subjects among the prisoners of the unfortunate Santa Fé expedition. Some of them were unconnected with the military, and I have advised their friends to endeavor to procure Lord Aberdeen's interference in Mexico, after the

* This doubtless refers to Mallard's *History of the Republic of Texas*. Cf. Smith to Jones, May 17, 1842.

example of the United States, as the only means likely to obtain for them common humanity.

A change of Tariff is contemplated by the present Government of this country, which if effected will I think enable the Live Oak of Texas to be advantageously imported. The proposal is to reduce the duties on Foreign timber from 30% to 10%. It will meet with much opposition from the colonial interests.

I am greatly at a loss to answer enquiries etc. etc. as to the laws of Texas, owing to my never having received those of the congress of 1840-41. May I be allowed to hope that you will direct that I shall be furnished with a copy, including those of the recent Congress. I should presume they might be most readily forwarded *as freight*, in a vessel from either N. Orleans, or Galveston

With great respect I have the honor to be sir
Yr. Mo. Obt. hble. Servt

ARTHUR IKIN

The Hon
ANSON JONES
Secretary of State Austin

JONES TO [SMITH].

(Copy.)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Houston, April 4th. 1842

SIR,

Mr. Gassiot of this city has just called to inform me that his friend Mr. Russell is about to leave for England and that he would be the Bearer of any communication for you. I avail myself of the occasion, though in much haste to write you a few words.

The event which I anticipated in the instructions I had the honor to address you on your departure has arisen, and war with Mexico is now pressing upon us. It has been met on the part of the Government and people of Texas with a firm, cheerful and unanimous determination to meet the issue, to cross the Rio Grande, and never to lay aside the arms which we are now compelled to assume until Mexico shall have been forced to accord us an acknowledgment of our independence.

I have recieved from various quarters assurances of the most positive character that England has been instrumental in inducing the move which Santa Anna is now making, but have not as yet been informed of any positive *facts* which would justify such a suspicion, nor am I willing to believe that She could be induced from any motives of policy (and I do not know of any which now

exist) to act with the dissimulation and bad faith towards Texas which such a course would necessarily imply You will however have an opportunity soon of ascertaining the truth or falsehood of this imputation, and I have to request your earliest, and most assiduous attention to the matter.

The President has for greater safety ordered the Archives and the Officers of the Government to this place where the Seat of Government is now temporarily established and where you will direct all your dispatches.

I send you herewith a copy of the Laws of the last Session and have the honor to be with the highest respect Your Obt Svt

Signed ANSON JONES

P. S. Your dispatches (Nos. 1 and 2) of the 15 and 16 March were duly recd. A. J.^a

FISHER TO JONES.^b

TEXAS SLOOP OF WAR AUSTIN
off Campeche 25th. April 1842

Hon

A JONES

DR. SIR

Previous to my departure from Houston in Septr. last, Mr F Gassiot called on me to translate certain Documents from Spanish into English, relative to the claim of Mess F. de Lizardi & Co of London upon the Govern. of Texas, for spoliations committed upon the Cargo of the Br. Sch. the Little Penn, wrecked at the Alacranes, near the Coast of Yucatan, in 1839, by the armed vessels of Texas the Brutus and Invincible. I have read all the documents now in the Department under your charge before they were submitted to the Executive in Texas, last year, and by them, I am in possession of the knowledge relative to the claim of Mess de Lizardi, who have charged the Government of Texas with the whole amount of the Cargo of the Little Penn, except the part which was saved by the wreckers, after deducting Salvage, which claim amounts to somewhat \$15 @ 16000.

Since I am in this Country, I have made a voyage to the Island of Cozumel for which purpose I had occasion to charter a Bungo, and in course of conversation on our voyage the Captn. (owner) of the Bungo remarked, that he with several other Bungos (Canoas) went

^a In the copy on file this postscript is written above the signature. For the dispatches, see Correspondence with France.

^b See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 42, pp. 87-88. This letter, while of a private nature, has been recorded with the Diplomatic Correspondence and seems, from its contents, to deserve a place in the series.

from Sisal to the Alacranes after the wreck of the Br. Sch. and have taken away sundry goods belonging to her cargo, and after entering them at Sisal Custom house they were sold and the proceeds distributed, (after paying the impost duties) among the Captors, or Salvors. That the amt of goods thus sold was upwards of \$3000.

Among the papers I saw attached to the claim of the Mess de Lizardi, I have seen no a/c sales of goods at Sisal or entered at that Port, only in Campeche by John L McGregor (if my memory serves me) as the Cargoes of the Mexican Schooners "Abispa" and "Telegrafo" which were chartered as wreckers from Campeche to go to the Alacranes to save all they could. It appears that the goods saved by those two Droghers were sold in Campeche at Auction, and after paying the expenses (including duty and salvage) the net proceeds of those a/c sales were credited to the general Invoice of the goods composing the Cargo of the Little Penn, when she left Liverpool and the whole Balance, or deficit of the amount of the said Invoice is charged to the Government of Texas as having been plundered by the Brutus and the Invincible, but [the accounts] never mention anything of what the then Mexicans, and the now Yucatecos have plundered among whom Jose Maria Lara, the proprietor and Captain of the Canoa "Joaquina" was and which circumstance he stated to me as already above mentioned

Upon the receipt of this news, and being cognizant of the particulars of the claims of Mess de Lizardi, as set forth in the documentary evidence above referred to, and which from the Communication from your predecessor is now in the State Department, and laid before the Congress at the last Session, as I have discovered in the Report of the Secy of State published in the "Weekly Texian" of Decr 8th. 1841, which came to my hand since I am on board of this ship, I am induced to state to you particulars, as I am of opinion that by proper investigation at the Custom houses of Sisal and Campeche, some data may be had, by which several thousand dollars may be saved to Texas, by proof being had that these spoliations have not been made by our armed vessels, but by the Mexican fishermen and Coasting traders, who by nature and practice are "*Pirates*". I should not have meddled into this business, inasmuch as the documents went through my hands, "*officially*" as Translator, had not I considered that my duty as a Citizen of Texas, made it incumbent upon me to make the disclosure, whereby perhaps a large amount may be saved to my Country. And in this opinion I was fully borne out by Com. Moore to whom I have made known the circumstances and to whom it appeared to be very proper that I should communicate to you these facts, that the interest of Texas may be properly guarded against unfounded claims.

I am very truly yours

GEO FISHER