

SMITH TO EVERETT.<sup>a</sup>

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EVERETT TO SMITH.<sup>a</sup>

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SMITH TO McINTOSH.<sup>e</sup>

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EVERETT TO SMITH.<sup>b</sup>

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EVERETT TO SMITH.<sup>b</sup>

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SMITH TO BARBEY.<sup>b</sup>

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SMITH TO AMORY.<sup>b</sup>

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AMORY TO TEULON.<sup>b</sup>

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SMITH TO EVERETT.<sup>b</sup>

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EVERETT TO SMITH.<sup>c</sup>

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SMITH TO EVERETT.<sup>d</sup>

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SMITH TO JONES.<sup>e</sup>

[No. 4<sup>f</sup>]

TEXIAN LEGATION, LONDON,  
103, JERMYN STREET,

*May 17th. 1842.*

To the

Hon. ANSON JONES,  
*Secretary of State.*

SIR,

I arrived in London on the night of the 10th. inst., and had an interview yesterday, Monday, the 16th., with Lord Aberdeen, her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Urgent business

<sup>a</sup> May 12, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> May 13, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>c</sup> May 15, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>d</sup> May 16, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>e</sup> L. S.

<sup>f</sup> No. 3 has not been found.

required Lord Aberdeen to postpone seeing me for two or three days, and no indisposition to enter at once on the consideration of the relations of the two Governments. I was introduced by Mr. Everett, the Minister of the United States to this Court, who soon left me alone with his Lordship.

I presented the letter from your Department to Lord Aberdeen, and informed him that I was prepared to exchange the ratifications of the Treaties concluded between the Ministers of the two Governments. He replied that I should soon hear from him. He made numerous inquiries about Texas and our relations with Mexico. Touching the mediation of her Majesty's Government he expressed the greatest readiness to interpose its good offices; but expressed a decided opinion that at this time they would prove ineffectual. 'A voluminous correspondence had been carried on by Mr. Packenham, the British Minister at Mexico'—and I understood his Lordship clearly to say that General Santa Anna had wholly declined the proffered mediation. I mentioned to Lord Aberdeen the condition of the Santa Fé prisoners, some of whom were by birth citizens of the United States and others subjects of her Majesty. He replied that the English Government would very willingly make a representation on their behalf in the interest of humanity; and said that the United States should do so. I replied, I believed that Government had taken some such step, but of the precise nature of which I was not informed.

Lord Aberdeen spoke of Gen. James Hamilton's letter to Gen. Santa Anna—said he had been very imprudent, and that his transmitting such a letter through Mr. Packenham was quite improper. I informed his Lordship that the Government of Texas had publicly disclaimed having authorized Gen. Hamilton's letter or any letter of such a tenor.\* On leaving Lord Aberdeen he renewed to me the assurance that I should *very shortly* hear from him on the subject of the exchange of the ratifications. No promise was made by his Lordship concerning the exchange—but as no objections were started, I do not at this time anticipate any serious obstacle to its prompt accomplishment.

On my arrival here I despatched, by Mr. Teulon, Gen. Hamilton's order, transmitted to me from your Department, for the Commercial etc. Treaty to Mr. Amory, with whom it had been deposited. Mr. Amory in his note of the 13th. May, replies "that on the 23d. ult. in pursuance of a request contained in a letter from Gen. Hamilton, from New Orleans, of the 3d. March, I sent the said Treaty with a letter to the Earl of Aberdeen, Secretary of State for foreign

\* The letter referred to is Hamilton to Santa Anna, January 13, 1842. See Calendar of Correspondence with Mexico.

Affairs." I mentioned this subject to Lord Aberdeen and inquired whether any objection would be made to my having the treaty—he answered, he presumed none. I moreover told him that I did not comprehend Gen. Hamilton's reason for making this disposition of the treaty, when he had given an order for it to the Secretary of State, and was aware of a Representative of our Government being on his way to this Court.

The opinion has been confidently expressed in several of the United States papers that the English Government has been sustaining the Mexicans. Mentioning the subject to Mr. Everett, he told me that he had heard the same statement through a private letter from New-York, which led him to make an inquiry of Lord Aberdeen a few days since. Lord A. assured him that it was wholly destitute of foundation.

There is however one important fact to which I wish to direct your very careful and prompt attention. Two Steamers of War are building here for the Mexicans—one at Liverpool, the other in the Thames near London. It is expected they will be completed in a month or two from this date. So soon as the ratification shall be exchanged, I shall present a remonstrance to her Majesty's Government. Should this prove ineffectual to arrest the completion and despatch of these vessels to be used against our country, will it not be an act of imperative prudence on our part to maintain an efficient blockade of the Mexican Ports? You will of course duly weigh all points of international law—but I trust it will not be deemed obtrusive in me to suggest that they should not under any circumstances be permitted to arrive within the protection of San Juan de Ulloa, thereafter to be employed against Texas.

I have said that I do not at this time anticipate any serious obstacle to the exchange of the ratifications. It is however proper to state that there are numerous and active enemies of Texas here, consisting chiefly of the Anti-Slavery party and of persons interested in colonizing portions of the British territories abroad, with whose schemes emigration to Texas would conflict. In the interest of the persons hostile to our country a book styled a History of Texas has been published, characterized by a most extraordinary disregard of decency and of truth. J Doran Maillard is the avowed author. He addressed a letter to Lord Aberdeen of the date of Sept. 24th, 1841, in the nature of a caution and remonstrance against the acknowledgment of our independence, etc., by her Majesty's Government. I do not perceive however, that Maillard's letter produced the slightest effect in this quarter. Generally speaking every thing connected with Texas is here regarded with much distrust. It shall be my strenuous endeavour to disabuse public opinion, so far as it can be done with due regard to the strictest propriety.

So soon as the ratifications of the treaties shall be exchanged, I shall notify her Majesty's Government of the blockade of the Mexican ports, and present the other subjects appertaining to my mission near this court.

The Great Western Steamer will sail on the 21st. inst from Liverpool by which I shall forward despatches to your Department.

I have the honor to be

very respectfully

Your servant

ASIBEL SMITH  
*Chargé d'Affaires*  
*in Great Britain*

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McINTOSH TO SMITH.<sup>a</sup>

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SMITH TO ABERDEEN.<sup>b</sup>

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CASTRO TO SMITH.<sup>c</sup>

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SMITH TO COMTE DE STE. AULAIRE.<sup>d</sup>

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COMTE DE STE. AULAIRE TO SMITH.<sup>e</sup>

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SMITH TO ABERDEEN.<sup>e</sup>

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ABERDEEN TO SMITH.<sup>f</sup>

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ABERDEEN TO SECRETARY OF STATE OF TEXAS [JONES].<sup>g</sup>

[Announces the appointment of Charles Elliot, Esq., as consul-general for Texas.]

<sup>a</sup> May 18, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> May 21, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>c</sup> May 23, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>d</sup> May 27 (?), 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>e</sup> May 27, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>f</sup> May 30, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>g</sup> A. L. S. May 31, 1842.

SMITH TO JONES.<sup>a</sup>

No. 5.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON,  
103 JERMYN ST.*June 3, 1842*HON ANSON JONES  
*Secretary of State.*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt on the 26th ult of a communication from your Department of the date of April the 4th.

In my last dispatches, No. 4. dated May 17th, I gave an account of my interview with the Earl of Aberdeen on the previous day, May 16. He then assured me I should hear from him *shortly*. Having received no communication from Lord Aberdeen in the mean time, on the 21st May, I addressed him a note inviting his attention to the relations existing between Texas and Great Britain. And again on the 27th May, being still without intelligence from Lord Aberdeen, I apprised him that according to my impression the period for exchanging the ratifications would very shortly expire. Copies of my notes to Lord Aberdeen are hereto subjoined.<sup>b</sup> He appointed the 31st May for an interview.

On opening the conference with Lord Aberdeen, he read me the protocol signed by himself and Gen. James Hamilton, extending the period from the 1st June, for the exchange of ratifications, and appointing specially the 1st August for this purpose. Having been informed by your Department that this period would expire on June 1,—I was forced to conclude that you had not been duly notified of the extension of the time to August 1. From the language of the protocol fixing Aug 1. for the exchange of ratifications, Lord Aberdeen entertained some doubt, whether it can be properly made at an earlier date. He informed me that any subjects might be presented at once to the notice of her Majestys government, and that they would receive immediate and appropriate consideration.

I then notified Lord Aberdeen that the Ports of Mexico were held in efficient blockade by Texas and mentioned the strength of the blockading force. Lord Aberdeen assured me that the legality of an efficient blockade of the Mexican ports by Texas will be recognized by the British Government. He expressed his regret at the blockade as being likely to interfere with English commerce, and as liable to produce misunderstanding however carefully conducted. He complained that the notice for Europe is too short. He said

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

<sup>b</sup> If the copies were inclosed they have disappeared from the files; but see the series of copies inclosed with Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

notice of the Blockade would be given in the Gazette. In the Times, newspaper, the following morning, the Proclamation of his Excellency President Houston declaring the Blockade, was published officially.

I called Lord Aberdeen's attention to the fact that two War steamers are building for Mexico in her Majesty's ports, to be employed against Texas; and apprised him that I should present a protest against their being manned and equipped for war here. He waived admitting the correctness of this fact, and said he did not know whether any vessels were building for the Mexicans or not:— but *supposing* such to be the case, he intimated his answer might be that Texas was free to do the same—and that both Mexico and Texas would perhaps be permitted to purchase or procure to be built vessels or any thing else in her Majesty's dominions. Such I am quite confident will be the decision of this Government on this subject. Nothing will be done to restrict English Commerce or Ship building, further than international law shall imperatively require.

The Earl of Aberdeen renewed the statement made at our former interview, that Santa Anna rejects utterly the mediation of England between Texas and Mexico, which was earnestly pressed by Mr Packenham. From his Lordship's remarks I am justified in concluding that her Majesty's Government is not disposed at this time, to press the offer of mediation on Mexico, if indeed to renew it at all.

Lord Aberdeen inquired the probability of Texas becoming annexed to the United States, observing there would be no use in concluding Treaties if Texas were soon to be merged in another country. I replied, I thought not; and that the establishment of diplomatic relations with other states will increase the obstacles to annexation.

On my leaving Lord Aberdeen, he said he would consider the protocol; and if not quite contrary to practice, he would exchange the ratifications immediately. Otherwise I shall be obliged to return from Paris on the 1st August to make the exchange. He will inform me of his decision on this point in a very few days.

Capt Charles Elliott, her Majesty's Consul General for Texas, left on the 1st inst by the West India Steamer for his post at the City of Houston, *via* the Havanna and New Orleans.

The motives of the dilatory and cautious policy of the British Cabinet in the affairs of Texas are natural and obvious. There exists at this time a very good understanding between England and Mexico, which is quite favorable to the interests of British commerce and manufactures. And this Cabinet will take no step which might interrupt this good understanding. Perhaps a still more important reason for deferring the establishment of diplomatic relations with

Texas was to be found in the pending relations between England and the United States. Should the subjects of difference between these two countries lead to a war, Mexico will be dragged into the contest on the side of England and it is deemed important to do nothing which might alienate the predilections of Mexico from Great Britain. But, on the other hand, England desires the separate existence of Texas as a barrier to the United States on their S. Western frontier, and appreciates the importance of Texas as a market and rival producer of cotton etc. to the United States. The Treaty for the suppression of the African Slave trade is view'd very favorably by the English Cabinet especially as France refuses to ratify the Quintuple Treaty.

The cause of Texas is not regarded with favor at this time in England. I have been several times assured that the public sympathy is with Mexico. I have mentioned in a former dispatch the Anti-slavery party and persons interested in colonizing portions of the British territories abroad, with whose speculations, emigration to Texas would conflict. And Mr Joseph Hume M. P. a friend of Texas averred to me that a hostile feeling towards France which had recognized Texas, was among the chief reasons with Lord Palmerston, for concluding the Treaties with us on the part of England.

Other subjects will be embraced in a dispatch which will accompany the present communication. I have the honor to be with the highest respect

Your obedt. servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

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SMITH TO JONES.<sup>a</sup>

No 6.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON,  
103 JERMYN STREET,  
*June 3d. 1842.*

HON ANSON JONES,  
*Secretary of State.*

SIR, I wish to direct the particular attention of our Government to the fact that two Steamers of war are building against Texas. I therefore make it the subject of a separate communication.

One of these Steamers called the Montezuma is lying in one of the India Docks near London. Strangers are not permitted to visit her. I however examined her pretty closely and carefully on the 29th. May. She measures upwards of one thousand tons burthen, draws about 10 feet of water, is very stout and admirably constructed as a vessel of war. I think we have no vessel in our navy,

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

which singlehanded could cope with the Montezuma if well officered and appointed. Her boilers are now in, her two masts stepped; and at the rate they are now proceeding she can be got ready for sea in a month or six weeks. According to information furnished me, she is to be manned and officered by Englishmen; and recruits are now being obtained though in a quiet manner.

The other vessel of war building for Mexico is an iron steamer, the Guadalupe. She is lying near Liverpool, is a large and excellent vessel, and in about the same state of forwardness as the Montezuma.

These vessels are contracted for by the Lizardis.

Mr. Murphy, the Mexican Chargé d'Affaires, I am informed, is authorizing the raising of recruits for the Montezuma.

Permit me to urge most earnestly that these Steamers should not be permitted to get under the protection of the guns of San Juan de Ulloa. As mentioned in my communication No. 5. Lord Aberdeen said that this Government will respect the blockade if efficient; but I am quite sure that no obstacle will be presented by this Government to the sailing of these vessels.

The official promulgation of the blockade has excited a lively sensation here, and been productive thus far of the happiest effect. It is *very important* it should be maintained in *full force* and *vigor*. It enforces the attention of other powers to the relations of Texas and Mexico. And Santa Anna will not be suffered by his impotent threats of molestation to interfere so seriously with the commerce of other nations.

The Mexican and South American Association have presented to-day a memorial to Lord Aberdeen against recognizing the legality of the blockade. Mexican Bonds have declined on 'Change.

A copy of the Proclamation of blockade has been forwarded by me to Mr. McIntosh at Paris.

My very careful attention has been and continues to be directed to learn whether Mexico in her movements against Texas receives any pecuniary aid or countenance from the English capitalists or the English Government. It is generally believed here that Mexico has not negotiated any recent loan in England but that Santa Anna has obtained funds from the Mexican Clergy. Nor is it supposed that the English Government has any knowledge officially on these subjects, or connection with them. My own suspicions are not wholly put to rest concerning the pecuniary aid Mexico is said to be receiving in England. I shall not neglect this subject.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect,

Your obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH



RUSSELL TO SMITH.<sup>a</sup>

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CASTRO TO SMITH.<sup>b</sup>

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SMITH TO REILY.<sup>c</sup>

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SMITH TO MCINTOSH.<sup>d</sup>

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JONES TO SMITH.<sup>e</sup>

CITY OF HOUSTON *June 7th 1842*

HON ASHBEL SMITH

*Charge d'Affaires of Texas*

*etc. etc.*

SIR,

I embrace an opportunity by Mr. A. Bourgeois who is now on his return to France to forward you this; also twenty Copies of the Laws of the last Session of Congress for distribution among the different functionaries of Texas in Europe.

Mr. Lewis J. Herckenrath has been appointed Consul for the Port of Amsterdam Kingdom of the Netherlands You will please therefore to furnish him with a complete Sett of the Laws, and also with a copy of the Consular instructions for his governance, by the first convenient opportunity which you may have.

Mr. Saligny Charge d' Affaires of his Majesty the King of the French has returned to his Post near this government and resumed his official intercourse with it. The friendly relations between the two governments being thus happily reestablished it is hoped they may hereafter be continued uninterrupted

A special Session of Congress has been ordered to convene at this place, on the 27th June Inst. A call has been made upon the militia of the country for about four thousand men, to rendezvous at a point and time to be hereafter designated and it is the intention of the President to prosecute the war in which we are now engaged with Mexico with all the means at his disposal, untill the final recognition of our Independence is obtained.

Contracts have been concluded with Mr. A. Bourgeois the Bearer of this and Mr Ducos, for the colonizing of two grants of Land with

<sup>a</sup> June 4, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> June 4, 1842 (extract). See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>c</sup> June 6, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>d</sup> June 7, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>e</sup> Unsigned first draft of an autograph letter.

emigrants from France. One grant for twelve hundred families with the privilege of increasing the number to sixteen hundred, is situated upon the head waters of the Medina and Rio Frio immediately above the grants made to Messrs Kennedy and Castro, the other grant for five hundred families is situated at the mouth of the Rio Grande and exten[d]ing up the left bank of that stream to a point opposite the Mexican town of Reinosá. A contract has also been made with Messrs H. F. Fisher and Burchard Miller for colonizing the valley of the San Saba with emigrants from Germany. As far as it may be in your power you will please give facilities to these Gentlemen in the performance of the object the Government has in view in these contracts viz: the introduction of a useful population into the country.

Since the appointment of Mr. Henri Castro as Consul General of Texas for the Kingdom of France,<sup>6</sup> information has been received by the President that this Gentleman is unworthy of the confidence reposed in him. You are therefore authorized, should the facts warrant the course, to remove Mr. Castro from the office he holds and to notify him of the same on behalf of this government. Should any attempt be made to make an undue or improper use of the contract of Colonization made by him and Mr. Jussaud with this Government or attempts made to deceive the people of France by misrepresentations in relation to this matter you will avail yourself of your station at the Court of St Cloud to counteract all such attempts by causing correct information to be given in relation to the same.

Your two dispatches from New Orleans are the last received from you at this Department, since which I have not heard of your progress except that you had sailed from New York about the 20th April. The President is very anxious to hear from you and to know what course England will adopt in relation to Texas and Mexico. I trust that you will keep this Department promptly and minutely advised in relation to your important and interesting negotiations, as well in London as at Paris. Should England be able to effect any thing under her Treaty of Mediation with Texas it is evident it must be speedily done or the matter will have to be decided by the arbitrament of the Sword.

A triple interposition by France England and the United States in the difficulties existing between Texas and Mexico would appear to be proper as it is consistent with the enlightened character of the present age as well as the interests of those countries severally. And it may with justice be assumed that it is the imperative duty of those Governments, having recognized our independence and thereby in-

<sup>6</sup>A native of France; came to the United States in 1827; Neapolitan consul at Providence, 1828-1830; returned to France, 1833; active in negotiations for loan for Texas in France; Texan agent to sell lands in France in 1841; Texan Consul-General at Paris, 1841; brought number of colonists to Texas, 1843-1846; died at Monterey, Mexico, on his way to France.

duced many of their citizens to emigrate here to protect their lives and property by interfering to prevent the continuance on the part of Mexico of a war of pillage and assassination upon our defenceless citizens, in violation of all civilized rules, and the established usages of Nations. This kind of warfare has now continued for upwards of six years, and no adequate attempt has been made on the part of Mexico to resubjugate this country. It is now time it should be made to cease, by some means or other.

You will therefore in your intercourse with the Governments of France and England suggest the propriety of this course to their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and should such an arrangement be made it will most probably meet with the approbation of this Government.

The Archives of the Nation being still retained at Austin in opposition to the orders of the Executive, and the derangement of this department consequent upon a removal under such circumstances as well as the want of suitable offices for the transaction of public business, and the necessary absence of the Clerks, render it impossible to write you as frequently as would be desirable.<sup>a</sup> These reasons must also in part be an apology for the brevity of this communication.

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

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SMITH TO JONES.<sup>b</sup>

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CASTRO TO SMITH.<sup>c</sup>

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SMITH TO ABERDEEN.<sup>d</sup>

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PROTEST AGAINST SAILING OF MEXICAN STEAMERS.<sup>e</sup>

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RUSSELL TO SMITH.<sup>f</sup>

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CASTRO TO SMITH.<sup>f</sup>

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<sup>a</sup> See note *b*, p. 177.

<sup>b</sup> June 8, 1842. See Calendar.

<sup>c</sup> June 12, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>d</sup> June 14, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>e</sup> June 14, 1842. See Smith to Aberdeen, July 11, 1842.

<sup>f</sup> June 15, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

ABERDEEN TO SMITH.<sup>a</sup>SMITH TO JONES,<sup>b</sup>

No. 7.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON,  
June 18. 1842HON ANSON JONES  
*Secretary of State*

SIR,

I had the honor to make two communications to your Department—dispatches nos 5 and 6—both dated June 3d, and forwarded from Liverpool, June 4th by the Boston Steamer. Dispatch no 5 contained an account of my interview with the Earl of Aberdeen on the 30th May.<sup>c</sup> Dispatch no 6 related chiefly to the Steamers of War building in England for the Mexican Service.

On the 6th June, I received a letter from Liverpool in answer to some inquiries I had instituted concerning the Mexican Steamer "Guadalupe" The following extract appears to me deserving attention.

[Here follows a transcript of Russell to Smith, June 4, 1842, from the words "Your inquiry" to the end.<sup>d</sup>]

The letter of which this is an extract was written by Mr Russell—father of the bearer of Dispatches from your Dept. date April 6.—and he is I am informed a very respectable ship builder at Liverpool. On the 17th inst I received a letter from Mr M. P. Russell—the son) of which the following extract is made.

[Next is transcribed Russell to Smith, June 15, 1842, from "I went" to "about her," omitting from "they have not" to "not nearly completed."<sup>e</sup>]

The information above was generally confirmed in a conversation with me on the 15th inst, by Mr Saunders of Liverpool, the gentleman who was appointed Consul of Texas for that Port. Mr Saunders said the Guadalupe will sail the latter part of this month—June.

On the 14th inst. having been informed that the Guadalupe would probably sail during the present week, I addressed a Protest to the Earl of Aberdeen, of which the following is a Copy.

[Next comes a transcript of Smith to Aberdeen, June 14, 1842, protesting against the sailing of the Guadalupe and Montezuma.<sup>f</sup>]

<sup>a</sup> June 17, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> A. L. S.; indorsed "New York Consulate Recd and forwd. July 6/42 J. M. Brower." On the inside of the sheet used as an envelope is written "P. S. I changed the envelope for despatch No. 7, so as to enclose despatch No 8."

<sup>c</sup> In dispatch No. 5, it is stated that May 31 was the day appointed for the interview.

<sup>d</sup> See copies of correspondence inclosed with Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

From the observations of Lord Aberdeen, in our interview of May 30th on the subject of these steamers—his observations will be found reported in my Despatch No 5.—I am not sanguine of any important result from the Protest. And the Govt. of Texas will hence probably deem it of the highest moment to strengthen our naval force on the Gulf of Mexico, particularly off Vera Cruz for the purpose of intercepting or capturing these Steamers. I have not yet been able to learn when they will cease to have a claim to the protection of the British Flag. They may be expected in the Gulf about the 1st August. Permit me to press this subject on the consideration of our Government.

Lord Aberdeen has appointed 4 o'clock this afternoon to receive me at the Foreign Office. There will not be time before the Departure of the mail to furnish your Dept. an account of the interview.

The inclosed slip being portion of a report of proceedings in the House of Commons on the 13th inst clearly indicates the determination of H. M.'s Government to observe the Blockade if efficient and to exchange the ratifications;—and informal information from Lord Aberdeen justifies me in believing the exchange will not be long delayed.<sup>a</sup>

Mr Saunders has declined the Consulship at Liverpool, he being interested in the mercantile house of McCalmonts, Greves & Co in Mexico. The Consulship at Galveston for England has been offered to Mr Wm. Kennedy which will leave vacant the Consul-generalship of Texas in England. Mr Kennedy will appoint a Vice Consul for the present.

Permit me to ask to be furnished with early information from your department concerning the movements against Mexico. I have the honor to be with the highest respect

Yr obed Servt.

ASHBEL SMITH.

SMITH TO JONES,<sup>b</sup>

No 8.

LEGATION OF TEXAS.

LONDON

*June 18, 1842*

HON ANSON JONES

*Secy of State.*

SIR,

In order that this dispatch may be in time for the Mail, I am obliged to write in the Foreign Office.

I have just left the Earl of Aberdeen who wished to make a representation to the Government of Texas in regard to the Royal Mail

<sup>a</sup> The clipping is from an English newspaper.

<sup>b</sup> A. L. S.; sent under same cover with No. 7, which bears the same date. See note to title of that dispatch.

Steamers which ply between the Ports of the Gulf of Mexico and Great Britain. He requests that they be exempted from the operation of our blockade of the Mexican Coast. Lord Aberdeen informed me that during the French Blockade of Mexico, this exemption was granted by the French Blockading Force to these "royal mail steamers"—that these steamers carry only passengers and the mails, and no merchandize.

I replied that I have no instructions on this subject and cannot therefore give him any certain assurance;—but that I will make it the subject of a communication to my Government and that from my knowledge of the friendly dispositions of the President, I entertain a strong persuasion he will issue orders for this courtesy and the exemption desired, to be extended to the Royal Mail Steamers—as was done by the French Blockading Force.

Lord Aberdeen said the ratifications will be exchanged, and that he will inform me day after tomorrow at what time it may be done. He said the only reason for delay had been to observe a perfect neutrality between Texas and Mexico.

In regard to the Protest, he said if any officer of the Queen should take command of these steamers, it would be at the risk of his dismissal from the service;—that otherwise it was a private contract in which the Govt took no part;—that permission to arm these steamers had been asked of the Govt and refused.

Permit me to urge on the Govt to press the Blockade and capture the Mexican Steamers.

The Department will please recollect the haste and other circumstances under which I have the honor to be

Very resy

ASHBEL SMITH.

SMITH TO McINTOSH.<sup>a</sup>

SMITH TO RUSSELL.<sup>b</sup>

SMITH TO ABERDEEN.<sup>c</sup>

ABERDEEN TO SMITH.<sup>d</sup>

TEULON TO JONES.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> June 20, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>b</sup> June 22, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>c</sup> June 24, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>d</sup> June 25, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

<sup>e</sup> June 25, 1842. See Calendar.