SMITH TO ABERDEEN.ª

SMAW TO SMITH.

. SMITH TO HUME,

SMITH TO RATE.

ADVERTISEMENT.d

PRINGLE TO SMITH.

SMITH TO PRINCLE.

RATE TO SMITH.

Smith to Jones.

SMITH TO JONES.

Mr Teulon will leave on the 14th inst for Liverpool to sail in the "Hope" from that port to New Orleans on his way to Texas. He carries out with him the ratified Treaties, an engrossed copy of all my official correspondence, except that addressed to His Excellency

July 4, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

^b July 5, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842. ^c July 7, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

^d July, 1842. See Smith to Rate, July 7, 1842, in Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842.

^{*}July 8, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 11, 1842. † July 10, 1842. See Calendar.

 $[\]sigma$ A. J. S. July 11, 1842. The series of transcripts inclosed with this letter has been divided; those belonging properly to the Correspondence with Great Britain are given here, and those belonging to the Correspondence with France are placed together under the title of this letter in that correspondence.

^{*} For the portion omitted, see Calendar under title of this letter.

the President and to your Department; he also takes with him very valuable books and papers for the Library of the Republic of Texas.

It is the opinion of very intelligent friends of Texas in England, that I ought to make my chief residence at this Court rather than at Paris, in view of the increasing interests of Texas in Great Britain, which interests it is asserted ought to be properly presented to the public. I can clearly discover an increasing good will towards Texas, of late, in this country.

No answer has been received to my Protest No 2, of July 1 addressed to the Earl of Aberdeen, on the subject of the Mexican Steamers.^a

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your obed servant

ASHBEL SMITH

Mr. Smith to Mr. Everett, U. S. Minister.b

Ashbel Smith presents his respectful compliments to Mr. Everett, with a letter from Gen. Houston, and would be glad to know at what time it would be convenient for Mr. Everett to favor him with an interview. (Card inclosed.)

London, May 12th., 1842.

Mr. Everett, U. S. Minister to Mr. Smith.

Mr. Everett presents his compliments to Mr. Smith and begs to inform him, that he shall be at home from 1/2 past twelve to-day till 6 and from 12 till 2 to-morrow, and shall be very happy to see Mr. Smith on either day, as most convenient to him

46 Grosvenor Place,

Thursday 12 May.

[Here follows a transcript of Smith to McIntosh, May 12, 1842.^c]

Mr. Everett, U. S. Minister, to Mr. Smith.

46, Grosvenor Place, 13 May, 1842.

SIR,—I saw Lord Aberdeen last evening, and after mentioning to him your being here and your desire to be presented to him by me, I enquired if it would be convenient to him, that you should accom-

^{*}Transcribed with Smith to Jones, July 4, 1842.

⁵ With this letter begins a series on the manuscript of which is indersed the title "Copies of Correspondence of Honl Ashbel Smith, in London from 12th May to 8th of July, 1842. Recvd. 10th September 42. J. Waples."

See Correspondence with France.

^{39728°-}vol. 2, rr 2 11--12

pany me to the Foreign Office to-day. Lord Aberdeen thought that the business which I have personally to transact with him, and for which the interview was appointed, would take up all the time he could spare to-day; and he intimated that he would prefer seeing you some other time. I will propose to him to-day to fix a time for receiving us.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, your Obedient Servant,

(signed)

EDWARD EVERETT.

A. SMITH, Esq.

Chargé d'Affaires of Texas.

Mr. Everett, U. S. Minister, to Mr. Smith.

46, Grosvenor Place, 13th. May, 1842.

Sir,—Lord Aberdeen proposed Monday at 3 o'clock to receive us. I did not recollect at the time, that I had another engagement, which would interfere with this. I will ask Lord A. to appoint another hour, and give you the earliest notice.

Respectfully yours,

(signed)

EDWARD EVERETT.

[Here follows a transcript of Smith to Barbey. May 13, 1842.4]

Mr. Smith to Mr. T. Amory.

Legation of Texas, London, 103 Jermyn Street, May 13th, 1842.

SIR,—Please deliver to George K. Teulon, Esq., the Treaty mentioned in the accompanying notes of Gen. Hamilton, and the Hon. Anson Jones, and you will much oblige, etc. etc.

THOMAS b AMORY, Esq., London.

Mr. Amory to Mr. Teulon.

25 THROGMORTON STREET, 13th. May, 1842.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from General James Hamilton with one annexed from the Hon. Anson Jones, and another from Mr. Ashbel Smith, Charge d' Affaires of the Republic of Texas, desiring my delivery to you of the Treaty left with me by the General on his departure from this country. In reference to which I beg to acquaint you that on the 23d ult. in pursuance of a

^{*} See Correspondence with France.

Smith was mistaken as to his Christian name. See note c, p. 948.

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 Affairs.

I am, Sir, your Obdt Servt.

(signed)

SAMUEL AMORY

GEORGE K. TEULON, Esq.

Mr. Smith to Mr. Everitt, U. S. Minister.

103, JERMYN STREET, 13 May 1842

Sir,—I received your Notes of yesterday and to-day and shall be in readiness to see Lord Aberdeen at such time as will suit your convenience.

Very respectfully yours, etc.

[Here follows a transcript of Everett to Smith, May 13, 1842, which has been given above and which seems to have been inadvertently repeated.]

Mr. Everitt, U. S. Minister to Mr. Smith.

Sir,—Lord Aberdeen has appointed two o'clock tomorrow (Monday) to receive us at the Foreign Office. It would be convenient to me, if you could call here ten minutes before two. Lord A. stated that he had so many engagements for the day that he was not sure of being able to see us, but will do his best.

I am, Sir, Very respectfully yours, 46 Grosvenor Place, Sunday 15th. May.

Mr. Smith to Mr. Everitt U. S. Minister.

103 JERMYN STREET, May 16, 1842.

Sir,-I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday and will wait on you at 20 minutes before 2 oClock today. I am Sir, etc. etc.

[Here follows a transcript of McIntosh to Smith, May 18, 1842.a]

Mr. Smith to Earl of Aberdeen.

TEXIAN LEGATION, 103 JERMYN ST.

May 21, 1842.

My Lord,—Permit me to invite your Lordship's attention to the relations between Texas and Great Britain. On the 16th. inst., after the interview with which I was favored by your Lordship, I received intelligence of an important nature.

^a See Correspondence with France.

There are matters to which I wish to call the attention of her Majesty's Government so soon as the exchange of the Ratifications of the Treaties shall be made. May I beg your Lordship to appoint an early day for making the exchange

I have the honor to be, with great respect, etc.

To his Excellency

The Rt. Hon. Earl of Aberdeen, etc. etc. etc.

[Here follow transcripts of Castro to Smith, May 23, 1842; Smith to Comte de Ste. Aulaire, May 27(?), 1842; and Comte de Ste. Aulaire to Smith, May 27, 1842.^a]

Mr. Smith to the Earl of Aberdeen.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, 103 JERMYN St., 27 May, 1842.

The Undersigned Chargé d'Affaires of Texas, had the honor on the 21st. inst, to invite the attention of the Earl of Aberdeen to the relations existing between her Majesty's Government and that of Texas. The undersigned would mention to Lord Aberdeen his strong impression that the period within which the exchange of the ratifications of the Treaties concluded between the two Governments is required to be made, will expire very early in June. If he is in error in regard to the time limited for this purpose he will be happy to be correctly informed by Lord Aberdeen.

The Undersigned respectfully requests the favor of an early personal interview with his Lordship.

The Undersigned take this occasion to express to Lord Aberdeen assurances of his highest consideration.

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen.

Lord Aberdeen to Mr. Smith.

Lord Aberdeen presents his compliments to Mr. Ashbel Smith and will be happy to see him at the Foreign Office tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'Clock.

Foreign Office, May 30, 1842.

[Here follows a transcript of Smith to McIntosh, June 1, 1842.^b]

Mr. R. Russell, for Mr. M. P. Russell to Mr. Smith.

[Extract.]

Liverpool 4th. June 1842.

Sir,—My son, Mr. M. P. Russell, having been confined from ill health since his arrival from Texas, feels gratified on learning that the Despatches entrusted to his charge have reached your hands

^{*} For all three, see Correspondence with France.

b See Correspondence with France.

safely. As on the former occasion of my having this pleasure it was as his proxy, so on the present his illness still precluding his entering upon matters of business, I am deputed to reply for him.

But I must cease this trifling and attend to the more important subject of your enquiry, namely the "Guadalupe Steam Frigate." This vessel has been built and equipt by Mr. John Laird here for the Mexican Government for the ostensible purpose of chastizing and bringing back to subjection the Texans and Yucatans. She is a beautiful Iron Frigate, exceedingly well put together, with compartments, so that if a hole or other injury be sustained in one of them the vessel will still float and work. She is about 800 tons register and of 180 horse power, and calculated with all her machinery and fittings on board to draw only from 4 to 5 feet of water. She is splendidly equipt and armed at all points, and has already made an experimental trip on our River, and has sailed faster and in other respects proved herself superior to the Iron Steam Frigates Nemesis and Phlegethon which have been so actively employed and have done so much mischief in China, and which were both built by Mr. Laird. She is in a few days intended to go a short distance out to sea for the purpose of trying her Ordnance,—will return into this Port and sail very shortly afterwards, if her Guns, etc., prove sound and satisfactory, under sealed orders, commanded by an officer (British) who has had promotion conferred upon him for his conduct and gallantly on the Euphrates expedition with iron vessels, so that his experience in Iron Ships is considerable. The crew will consist of Europeans and every exertion is being used for her speedy departure. She certainly will prove a formidable opponent from her shore creeping capabilities and we have only to hope that should she be employed against Texas she may become the property of the latter ere

The above information may be relied on; it has been obtained from a quarter which knows it to be correct, although the utmost secrecy has pervaded all the opperations at this vessel from first to last. * * *

[Here is transcribed an extract from Castro to Smith. June 4, 1842.^a]

Mr. Smith to Mr. Reily, Texian Chargé d'Affaires, U. S.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON, 103 JERMYN STREET,

June 6, 1842.

Hon. James Reiley, Chargé d'Affaires, etc.

Sir,—You will perceive at once the importance of the following extract from a letter I have this moment received from Liverpool.

⁴ See Correspondence with France.

[here follows the extract from Mr. Russels letter, dated "Liverpool 4th. June 1842.—Vide folio 11-12.] *

I have in two separate despatches called the attention of our Government earnestly to the fact that two Steamers of War are building in England for Mexico to be employed against our country. My last despatch was transmitted by the Boston Steamer which sailed from Liverpool on the 4th, inst. and directed to the care of Mr. Brower our Consul in New York.

The foregoing extract informs you concerning one of the Steamers, the "Guadalupe"; the other Mexican Steamer called the "Montezuma" is lying in one of the India Docks, just below London. I have been on board of her. She is a noble stout vessel—measures upwards of 1000 tons, has her boilers in, her two masts stepped—and at present rate of proceeding with the work will be ready for sea in a month. We have no vessel that single handed can cope with the Montezuma, well officered and manned.

These vessels must not be suffered to get under the protection of the guns of San Juan de Ulloa.

I have presented a protest to Lord Aberdeen on the subject. I fear it will come to nothing.

I have found Texas in exceeding bad repute here. We come in for an ample share of the dislike felt for every American—besides our own sins we have to answer for. The Anti-Slavery feeling pervades every class and is very active. The sympathy of the English people and the present interests of English Commerce are in favor of Mexico.

I write to our Government by tomorrows packet from London.

I am with great respect etc. etc.

Mr. Smith to Mr. McIntos'

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON, June 7th. 1842.

Hon G. S. McIntosh, Chargé d' Affaires of Texas.

SIR,—I gave Lord Aberdeen notice of the blockade of the ports of Mexico by Texas. This was done some days since—May 30th. Lord Aberdeen informed me that the legality of the blockade, if efficient, would be respected by her Majesty's Government. A copy of the proclamation of the Blockade appeared in the Gazette next morning.

Two war Steamers are building here for the Mexican service—the Montezuma—a stout powerful vessel of upwards of 1000 tons burthen. She is lying in the East India Docks near London, has her boilers

[·] Entry by the copyist at the Legation.

in—her masts stepped—and may be got ready for sea in a short time. The other Steamer is an iron vessel—the Guadalupe—is in the Mersey near Liverpool, about 800 tons burthen and of superior workmanship. She has her armament aboard, will make an experimental trip in a few days to sea—and shortly after proceed to Mexico. I have advised our Government on this subject. These vessels must be captured before they reach Vera Cruz.

I have informed Lord Aberdeen that I shall enter a protest against the arming and equipping these vessels in English Ports, so soon as the ratifications shall be exchanged. His Lordship did not lead me to suppose that a protest would result in any effective obstacle to the movement of these vessels.

From very careful and confidential inquiries I cannot learn that any money has been obtained in England for Mexico within a recent period.

Captain Elliot, Consul General of England in Texas sailed for his post a few days since.

The Consulship at Galveston has been offered by the English Government to Mr. Kennedy. He will not sail immediately.

The present interests of English Commerce and English sympathies are in favor of Mexico and adverse to Texas.

I shall remain in England some time longer as the movements of Mexico require to be watched.

I am with great respect, etc.

[Here follows a transcript of Castro to Smith, June 12, 1842.^a]

Mr. Smith to Lord Aberdeen.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON, 103 JERMYN ST.,

June 14, 1842.

My Lord—No impediment existing, that I am aware of, to the consummation of the Treaties between Great Britain and Texas, permit me to state to your Lordship that both for public and personal reasons, I am very desirous that the Exchange of the Ratifications should be made at an early day.

A party in whom I repose special confidence has delayed his return from England to Texas, at my solicitation in order to bear the completed Treaties and such communications as may, accompany them to my government.

May I request your Lordship to name an early day for the Exchange of the Ratifications as will comport with your convenience.

I have accompanied herewith for your Lordship's consideration a Protest concerning the Steamers arming, etc., in her Majesty's Ports

^a See Correspondence with France.

to be employed by Mexico against Texas. I have also added a certified copy of the Proclamation of the Blockade of the Mexican Ports, declared by his Excellency the President of Texas.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect, The Rt. Hon. EARL OF ABERDEEN.

Protest against Steamers.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON, 14 June 1842.

The Undersigned Chargé d'Affaires of Texas had the honor at an interview with the Earl of Aberdeen on the 30th, day of May, to state to his Lordship that two Steamers of War were building in the Ports of her Majesty's Government, to be employed against the citizens of Texas. Subsequently to that interview, the Undersigned has received more definite information which he is prepared, if it is wished, to lay before his Lordship. According to this information, one of the Steamers, the Guadalupe, is expected to sail from Liverpool during the present week—her armament being on board,—with a crew consisting of Europeans and commanded by a British Officer, under sealed orders, but with the known purpose of proceeding to Mexico to be employed against Texas.

Against the sailing of a vessel, armed and equipped in a British Port, with British Seamen, and commanded by a British Officer, to be employed against the Citizens of Texas, the Undersigned presents, to the Earl of Aberdeen, his solemn protest, as an act inconsistent with the friendly relations subsisting between the two Governments of Texas and Great Britain, and eminently calculated to endanger the harmony of the citizens of the two countries, and to destroy the kind feelings entertained by the Citizens of Texas for her Majesty's Government.

The Undersigned takes this occasion to offer to the Earl of Aberdeen expressions of the highest considerations.

Mr. M. P. Russell to Mr. Smith.

LIVERPOOL, 15th. June, 1842.

Sir,—I have now to inform you that I went on board the "Guada-lupe" yesterday expecting to find her on the point of sailing, but from observation of what was passing, suspect she will not get to sea for perhaps a week or ten days yet; they have not yet succeeded in finding a proper position for the compass, where it can traverse without impediment from the attraction of iron; and the berths for the crew which are round the bows as in a Ship's forecastle are not nearly completed. Her two deck guns are on swivels—fore and aft—and

68 pounders, and I observed on the deck a row of balls as large as a good sized pumpkin. She has small windows all round the forecastle which I suppose will be intended for musketry. The rudder, compass and paddles are the only vulnerable points about her.

I shall continue to watch the progress of the Guadalupe and imme-

diately inform you when her day of departure is fixed.

And am respectfully your Ob't. Serv't, [Here follows a transcript of Castro to Smith. June 15, 1842.^a]

Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Smith.

Lord Aberdeen presents his compliments to Mr. Ashbel Smith and will be happy to have the honor of receiving him at the Foreign Office tomorrow afternoon at four o'clock.

Foreign Office

June 17th. 1842.

Mr. Smith to Mr. McIntosh.

103 JERMYN STREET, June 20, 1842.

Hon. GEO. S. McIntosh, etc. etc.

Sir, I had an interview with Lord Aberdeen on the 18th. inst. Lord Aberdeen made a request that the "Royal West India Mail Steamers" should be exempted from the Blockade of the Mexican Ports;—Lord Aberdeen said the exemption had been extended to the Steamers by the French forces during the French Blockade of Mexico;—that these Steamers carry the mails and passengers only and not merchandize. I replied that being without instructions on this subject I could give no certain assurance, but from my knowledge of Gen. Houston's friendly disposition, etc., I entertained a strong persuasion that he will issue orders to the commandant of our blockading force, so soon as he should receive my representations on this subject, to extend the courtesy and the exemption requested to the "Royal Mail Steamers". I addressed a dispatch on this subject to the State Department by yesterday's Steamer to Boston.

Lord Aberdeen enquired if the French Government had been notified of the Blockade. I told him that it has,—and presume I was correct.

Lord Aberdeen will inform me to-day at what time he will be ready to exchange the ratifications.

The Steamers for the Mexican service building here, will sail at the latter end of this month. I have earnestly and repeatedly called the attention of our Government to this subject and urged the rigid enforcement of the Blockade.

I have the honor to be, etc. etc.

^a See Correspondence with France.

Mr. Smith to Earl of Aberdeen.

Mr. Smith presents his compliments to the Earl of Aberdeen, and wishes to remind his Lordship of the promise to inform him on Monday last, June 20th, at what time his Lordship would be prepared to exchange the Ratifications of the Treaties concluded between Texas and Great Britain.

Legation of Texas, 103, Jermyn Street, London, 24th. June, 1842.

Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Smith.

Lord Aberdeen presents his compliments to Mr. Ashbel Smith, and will be happy to receive him at the Foreign Office, at Three o'clock on Tuesday next, for the purpose of exchanging the ratifications of the Treaties between Great Britain and Texas, which were signed by Lord Palmerston and General Hamilton in November, 1840.

As the respective acts of Ratification should be collated previously to the exchange taking place, Lord Aberdeen requests that Mr. Ashbel Smith will come to the foreign Office at Two o'clock on Tuesday for that purpose;—and also that he will bring with him his seal which will have to be affixed to the certificates of the exchange of Ratifications.

Foreign Office,

June 25, 1842.

[Here follows a transcript of Barbey to Smith. June 28, 1842.^a]

Mr. Smith to Mr. M. P. Russell.

103 JERMYN STREET, June 22, 1842.

Dear Sir, I am greatly obliged to you for the information concerning the Guadalupe, contained in your letter of the 15th. inst. Have the goodness to keep me informed of every thing connected with her arming, sailing, etc. etc. Lord Aberdeen mentioned to me on Saturday last, that permission had been asked of this Government by the Mexican authorized Agents here—Mr. Murphy, the Chargé, and Mr. Lizardi, the Consul—to arm these Steamers in the Queen's Ports; and that this permission had been refused:—and Lord Aberdeen remarked, in reply to an observation of mine, that one of the Queen's officers taking command of this Steamer would do so at the risk of dismissal from the Queen's service.

Ordnance and munitions of war may be exported but not in a condition to be used on the vessel offensively. What is the condition of the armament of the Guadalupe? Who is the Officer who goes out in command—and what is his position in the Mexican service?

^{*} See Correspondence with France.

The building, destination, etc., of these Steamers were spoken of by Lord Aberdeen as fully avowed by Messrs. Murphy and Lizardi, the Chargé and Consul; nor do I anticipate that any real obstacle will be opposed to their sailing. My dependence has from the first been wholly on their being captured off Vera Cruz. And with this view I have kept the Government of Texas fully advised of the real position of matters in relation to them.

It would be of importance to learn when the Steamers will cease to be under the protection of the British Flag—in other words, when

they shall have been paid for.

In regard to the recognition of the Blockade and the exchange of Ratifications you doubtless saw Sir R. Peel's answer to Mr. D'Israelli in the House of Commons on the 13th. inst. See the Report in the Morning Herald—that of the Times contains an odd blunder of the Reporter.

Lord Aberdeen told me on the 19th, inst. that the Exchange of Ratifications would certainly be made and that no reason exists why it should not be done immediately.

The last intelligence from Texas is of a very favorable character. Have you any recent Galveston papers?

Your own discretion will of course make it clear that what I write is in some degree confidential—and the same discretion will be used in regard to your communications.

Some matters touching the mediation of England, between Texas and Mexico, I will mention so soon as any thing shall be definitively settled.

I have the honor to be, etc.

[Here follows a transcript of Castro to Smith, June 28, 1842.a]

Mr. Joseph Hume to Mr. Smith.

Bry. Sq. b 29 June 1842.

DEAR SIR—I am pleased to learn that the Treaties have been exchanged, and trust that the influence of that transaction will be to convince the Mexican Government, that peace ought to be forthwith made between them and Texas.

You want the security of peace only to have in a few months 1000ds of Emigrants from this country, that would soon add to your population and industry, and enable you to soon rise superior to all the difficulties of your infant State. I can only repeat to you what I stated to my friend Mr. Burnley, that I shall be pleased to forward any object that can promote the wellfare of your young Republic.

You have only to intimate the manner in which I can forward your views towards the formation of your State Library, or in any other thing.

^{*} See Correspondence with France.

I shall be at home on Sunday next at 1 to 2 o'clock and should be pleased to see you here that I may know how I can be useful to you.

I remain, your Obt. Servt.

ASHBEL SMITH, Esq.

etc. etc.

Mr. Rate to Mr. Smith.

DEAR SIR, The information contained in the enclosed memorandum I have received from a source which leaves little doubt of its authenticity. I am unable to give you my authority—but you will make what use you think proper of the Report.

I remain, Dear Sir, Your Most Obt. Servt.

3 St. James St., 29 June 1842

A. Smith Esq.

Memorandum.

Two Men of War Steamers have been built in England for the Mexican Government—one by Messrs Greens and Wigrams, the other by Laird of Bickenhead.

These steamers were built under the auspices of Lord Melbourne's Government and under the directions of the British Admiralty who supplied the model, plans for arming, etc.

Officers of the British Navy have been appointed to the command of these Steamers, with the permission of the British Government.

The Steamers have been built and constructed expressly to act against Texas,

Mr. Pringle to Mr. Smith

[June 29 (?), 1842.]

20 minutes past 10.

SIR,—The names are Captain Cleaveland, Commander R. N.; Capt. Charlewood, Commander R. N.; and Mr. Wright, Master R. N. The time of sailing is not fixed but probably from this to the 10th. August or thereabouts.

The Montezuma is 1200 tons. Two engines of 140 horse power each. Will have 6 Carronades and one Paixhan Gun 10 inches. Draws 13 ft. water.

The iron Steamer draws 7 to 8 ft water. When all her stores are aboard it may be 10 or 12.

Yours very faithfully,

Ashbel Smith Esq.

[Here follow transcripts of McIntosh to Smith, June 29, 1842; and Smith to Barbey, June 30, 1842.^b]

^a Birkenhead.

^b For both, see Correspondence with France.