

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

LIVERPOOL 30th. June, 1842.

SIR,—I thank you for the information of the Ratification of the Treaties between this Country and Texas, when published it will no doubt give confidence to Traders and encouragement to Emigrants to the Texas.

The Guadalupe is yet in the river completing her outfit, and expected to sail on Sunday next. Her armament consists of two Sixty-eight pounders on swivels—one fore and the other aft. I have tried in vain to procure information as to payment. She is entered in trade list, as the Merchant vessels are, for Corunna and Havanna. The officer in command is E. P. Charlewood who holds or did hold a Commission in her Majesty's Service.

I am very truly, your Obt Servt.

Mr. Kennedy to Mr. Smith.

GREGORY'S HOTEL, ARUNDEL STREET, HAYMARKET,

London. June 30, 1842.

SIR—In accordance with the desire of the Executive of the Republic of Texas, both privately and officially communicated, I have deemed it my duty to recommend the following gentlemen for Consular appointments in this country.

John Atkinson, Esq. to be Consul for Texas in the town of Kingston-upon-Hull, Yorkshire.

T. W. Fox, Esq. to be Vice Consul at the Port of Plymouth.

Having been tendered the Office of British Consul at the Port of Galveston, I have availed myself of the President's kind permission to relinquish the Commission of Texan Consul-General in Great Britain, no farther exercising its duties than by recommending respectable and properly qualified persons to fill Consular Appointments in this country.

Animated by a sincere desire to promote the best interests of the Republic from the conviction that they are identical with the interests of England, I beg leave to suggest the name of Lachlain Macintosh Rate Esq. as that of a gentleman eminently qualified to discharge the functions of Consul-General of Texas in this country. Mr. Rate is a partner in the highly respectable East India House of Rickards, Little and Co., one of whose members, Mr. Little, is a director of the Bank of England. The firm are disposed to form an extensive commercial connexion with Texas, and their means for doing so are abundant. Mr. Rate himself is specially fitted by youth and activity for conducting the affairs of a New Country.

I beg to suggest that until the subject of Mr. Rate's appointment as Consul-General has been considered by the Government of the Republic, it would be advisable that he should be authorized and empowered to act as Consular Agent in London.

I have the honor to be
with sentiments of sincere respect
your Most Obt faithful Servt.

His Excellency the Hon. ASHBEL SMITH.

[Next comes a transcript of Smith to Aberdeen, July 1, 1842.*]

Mr. Arthur Ikin to Mr. Smith.

LONDON, 23 THREADNEEDLE STREET,
July 1, 1842.

SIR,—Referring to our conversation respecting the Grant of Land made to my father, by Congress, I should feel truly obliged by your writing me a few lines stating your opinion as to the probable action of Congress with regard to an extension of the time for the fulfillment of the condition respecting the introduction of emigrants.

We had in Scotland, Yorkshire, and other quarters, at considerable trouble and expense made arrangements with suitable parties, who were to have sailed, as our settlers, last month; when the alleged invasion of Texas by Mexico, naturally induced them to pause; and the more recent accounts, which continue to announce preparations for war on both sides, have equally determined them to wait, until a state of things so threatening to the objects of the peaceable agriculturist shall be finally settled.

We are consequently prevented fulfilling the conditions of the Bill by September, the time specified; and unless Congress were to take into its equitable consideration the circumstances of the case, all our labor and expenditure, including claims upon the Treasury which we gave up in lieu of this Grant, would be lost.

If you will at the proper time aid me in laying this case before Congress and in the interim will favor me with you opinion as to the view in equity which it will be likely to take in the matter, I shall feel much obliged, as I can lay such a letter before my proposed Colonists, and it will I believe prevent them from altogether dispersing and relinquishing the idea of proceeding to Texas hereafter.

I remain, with sincere respect,
very truly yours.

Hon. ASHBEL SMITH etc. etc.

* See Smith to Jones, July 4, 1842.

Mr. Smith to Mr. Ikin.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, *London, July 2, 1842.*

ARTHUR IKIN, Esq.

SIR—It appears to me quite probable that on a representation being made to the Congress of Texas, that the arrangements entered into by yourself for carrying into effect the conditions of an act for the relief of Jonathan Ikin, were delayed and for the time rendered impracticable by reason of the renewal of hostilities by Mexico against Texas and by reason of other unforeseen circumstances over which you had no control, you may reasonably expect that the Hon. Congress will grant you a proportionate extension of time for carrying into effect the conditions of the act above named.

You must perceive still, that whatever be the justice of your claims, it is impossible to speak with absolute certainty of the future action of any Legislative Body.

I shall take great pleasure in submitting any documents you may furnish on the subject to the proper authorities.

I have the honor to be very respectfully,

Your's etc. etc.

Messrs Fox, Sons & Co to Mr. Smith.

PLYMOUTH, *2 July, 1842.*

ASHBEL SMITH Esq. etc.

SIR,—Our mutual friend W. Kennedy, Esq. having informed us you are the representative of the Texian Government in this Country, allow us to request the favor of your appointing one Thomas Were Fox, Junr., the Vice Consul in this Port, to represent that nation, and the duties of the Office he will fulfil to the best of his abilities.

We are, yours very respectfully,

Mr. Smith to Earl of Aberdeen.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, *London, July 4, 1842.*

The Undersigned Chargé d' Affaires of Texas presents his compliments to the Earl of Aberdeen and wishes to bring the following appointment under his Lordships notice for official recognition.

Lachlan Macintosh Rate, Esq. to be Consular Agent of the Republic of Texas in London.

The appointment of Mr. Rate as Consular Agent is provisional, to enable that gentleman to act until his Commission shall be received from Texas.

The undersigned has the honor to present to the Earl of Aberdeen assurances of his highest consideration.

Mr. Gabriel Shaw to Mr. Smith.

MORRGATE ST. 5 July, 1842.

SIR—Messrs Thomas Wilson & Co. inform me that the whole of the Texian Bonds deposited with them by General Hamilton, were burnt previous to his return to the United States.

I am very respectfully, Sir,
your most Obt. Servt.

ASHBEL SMITH, Esq. etc. etc.
103, Jermyn Street.

Mr. Smith to Mr. Hume.

103 JERMYN ST., July 5, 1842.

SIR,—As you were good enough to promise to Mr. Burnley, to use your kind influence with the Government of this country to procure for the Texian Government, copies of the Estimates, Reports and Journals of the British Legislature, which would be useful to it as a young State, to enable it to select proper forms in its proceedings; I have looked over the list of Parliamentary Papers in the Library of the House of Commons, as you requested, and I have noted such as appear to me calculated to be useful to be placed in the Library of the Republic of Texas. I herewith forward that list to you, with the request you will give us your aid in obtaining copies of these papers, in the same way as copies were furnished to France, Belgium, etc.; and I shall take care that copies of all the proceedings in the two Houses of Texas be sent for the Library of the House of Commons.

I have forwarded the Poor Laws Reports which you kindly sent to the Library of the Republic of Texas.

I have the honor to be with sentiments of esteem, very sincerely yours,

JOSEPH HUME, Esq. M. P.

Mr. Smith to Mr. Lachlan M. Rate.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, London, July 7.

TO LACHLAN M. RATE, Esq.

Consular Agent of Texas.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Government of the Republic of Texas to learn what Bonds of the Republic are held in Europe—their amounts, and the names of the holders. In execution of this part of my duty it appears to me advisable to insert in the London newspapers, a notice requesting the holders of Texian Bonds to report the same at the Consular Agency. I have taken the liberty of sending herewith a form of advertisement for this purpose. I have the honor to be, very truly, your Obt. Servt.

Advertisement.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, *London, July, 1842.*

TEXAN BONDS:—Whereas the act of the Texian Government authorizing the negotiation of a loan in Europe has been repealed—such persons as are holders of the Bonds of the Republic are requested to exhibit the same, between the 24th and 30th July, to Messrs. Rickards, Little & Co, 15 Bishopsgate Street,

By order of the Texian Government.

Mr. Pringle to Mr. Smith.

DEAR SIR,—I just learn that there is no doubt but that Iron Steamer sailed yesterday from Liverpool, under the command of Capt. Charlewood.

yours very truly

3 King's Road, 8th. July, 1842.

ASHBEL SMITH, Esq.

Mr. Smith to Mr. Pringle.

DEAR SIR,—Your note informing me of the sailing of the Iron Steamer under the command of Capt. Charlewood, has this moment been handed in by the Postman. I am truly much obliged to you, and very sensible of your kindness. The receipt of this information is particular[ly] opportune, as I am going this evening to Mr. Everett's the American Minister, whose attention I shall call to this subject as I think the friendly relations of England and the United States may be jeopardied.

Could you furnish me convenient authority *with permission* to quote it to a Member of Parliament who might make it the subject of a question to the Minister?

* * * * *

Very truly, yours—

103 Jermyn Street,

July. 8. 1842

W. PRINGLE, Esq.

Mr. Rate to Mr. Smith.

CONSULATE OF TEXAS, LONDON,
15 Bishopsgate Street, 8. July, 1842.

The Hon. ASHBEL SMITH,

Chargé d' Affaires of Texas.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, informing me that you have been instructed by the

Texan Government to ascertain what Bonds of the Republic are held in Europe, and handing me a form of advertisement in order to obtain the desired information.

I beg to inform you that I have caused the same to be inserted in "The Times", "Morning Herald", "Morning Chronicle," and "Morning Post"—and shall in due course report to the Texian Government the results, handing you a copy of my communication.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
your most Obed't Servant.

[Accompanying Dispatch No. 11, in addition to the above series of copies, were also the documents, given or described, that follow.]

Protocol

of Conference held at the Foreign Office June 28, 1842, between the Plenipotentiaries of Texas and of Great Britain.

The Plenipotentiaries of the Republic of Texas and of Great Britain, having this day met together, proceeded to the exchange of the Ratifications of the three undermentioned Treaties between the Republic of Texas, and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; the time for which exchange had been extended by the Protocols of the 19th. of May and 14th. of December 1841, from the date originally fixed in the Treaties, to the 1st of August 1842.

A Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, signed at London on the 13th. of November 1840.

A Convention containing certain arrangements relative to Public Debt, signed at London on the 14th. of November 1840.

And a Treaty for the suppression of African Slave Trade, signed at London on the 16th. of November 1840.

ASHBEL SMITH
ABERDEEN

CERTIFICATE OF EXCHANGE OF RATIFICATIONS OF CONVENTION AS TO PUBLIC DEBT BETWEEN
GREAT BRITAIN AND TEXAS.^a

The Undersigned having met together for the purpose of exchanging the Ratifications of a Convention between the Republick of Texas and Her Majesty The Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, containing certain arrangements relative to Public Debt, concluded and signed at London on the 14th. of November 1840:—And the respective Ratifications of the said Instrument having been carefully compared, the said Exchange took place this day in the usual form.

In Witness whereof they have signed the present Certificate of Exchange, and have affixed thereto the Seals of their Arms.

Done at London, the Twenty Eighth day of June 1842.

ASHBEL SMITH ABERDEEN
SEAL. SEAL.

SMITH TO JONES.^b

No 12

LEGATION OF TEXAS, *London*
July 12, 1842

HON ANSON JONES
Secretary of State

SIR,

The preceding Dispatch to your Department, no 11. dated yesterday July 11, is concerning the Bonds of Texas held in London.

To day I received a request from the Earl of Aberdeen to meet him at the Foreign Office. At this interview Lord Aberdeen informed me that he had made inquiries at the Admiralty concerning the facts set forth in my Protest of July 1. so far as relates to the officers Captains Charlewood and Cleveland and Mr Wright Master, and had found them to be correct;—that these officers had been instructed that if they went out of England in an *armed* vessel not of her Majesty's Service, or if being out of the country they should take command of any foreign armed vessel, they would be immediately dismissed from Her Majesty's service. The Earl of Aberdeen assured me *most distinctly*, that if these officers should take command of the Mexican Armed Steamers they should be dismissed immediately from the Queen's Service and their dismissal published in the official Gazette. Lord Aberdeen intimated that no obstacle would be interposed to these officers going out in command of the Mexican Steamers, provided these Steamers should not carry any armament;

^a D. S.

^b A. L. S.

but that their armament might be exported in other vessels. Still if these officers should command the Steamers after taking on board their armament, their dismissal would be gazetted.

Lord Aberdeen was pleased to say very kindly that public opinion was becoming more favorable to Texas than it had been, and that this favorable regard was like to increase, if no untoward vexations should grow out of our Blockade, which he feared. He said several legal points had been presented to him against the Blockade, which he had referred to the Lawyers.

I have received no advices or dispatches from Texas of a later date than April 6. Permit me to request your department to keep me informed of all leading facts, for serious awkwardness might result from my being in ignorance of important intelligence.

Mr Lachlan Macintosh Rate Consular Agent will keep the Department advised on all subjects of importance here during my absence at Paris.

Mr. Rate's address in London is
 "Consular Agency
 15 Bishopsgate Street within"
 London
 England.

I leave for Paris to night.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully
 Yours etc.

ASIBEL SMITH.

ABERDEEN TO SMITH.^a

HALFORD AND CO. TO SMITH.^b

SMITH TO JONES.^c

SMITH TO PRINGLE.^d

SMITH TO JONES.^e

^a July 16, 1842. See Smith to Jones, October 19, 1842.

^b July 21, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 31, 1844.

^c July 30, 1842. Mentioned in Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842, as dispatch No. 13, but apparently never received.

^d July 31, 1842. See Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842.

^e August 1, 1842. Mentioned in Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842, as dispatch No. 14, but apparently never received.

DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AS TO TEXAN AND MEXICAN
AFFAIRS.^aPRINGLE TO SMITH.^bPRINGLE TO SMITH.^cSMITH TO JONES.^d

No 15

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

Aug 13, 1842

HON ANSON JONES
Secy of State

SIR,

Since my last Dispatches Nos 13 and 14, dated July 30 and August 1,^e a debate occurred in the British Parliament on the affairs of Texas and Mexico, originating in a question asked by Mr Cobden of the ministry concerning the Mexican Steamers. A Copy of this debate as reported in the London papers is annexed hereto and marked *document A*.

In my conversations and correspondence with the Earl of Aberdeen on the subject of the Mexican Steamers, as appears in my previous Dispatches, Lord Aberdeen took the ground that the building and sale of these vessels and the export of arms are lawful acts, and that if unarmed they cannot be prohibited by the Laws of England from leaving British Ports. I then took counsel whether by a direct application to the Laws I might arrest their sailing and was assured that such application could have no beneficial result. I had, too, before me the case of the two Schooners which were built in New York last year for Mexico, and libelled before the Courts of that City. The libel was dismissed. I have however referred the subject again to the consideration of legal men in England who will not fail to institute such legal proceedings as facts will sustain. Hitherto their opinion has been adverse to the utility of any recourse to the Laws to arrest their sailing altho the important facts seem patent. I subjoin a *portion* of my correspondence on this subject where you will find the opinions of Mr Pringle, a distinguished solicitor, and of Dr. Addams an eminent practitioner in the Admiralty Court.

^a August 2, 1842. See Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842.

^b August 4, 1842. See Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842.

^c August 5, 1842. See Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842.

^d A. L. S.

^e Neither of these has been found. There is reasonable certainty that they were never received.

but that their armament might be exported in other vessels. Still if these officers should command the Steamers after taking on board their armament, their dismissal would be gazetted.

Lord Aberdeen was pleased to say very kindly that public opinion was becoming more favorable to Texas than it had been, and that this favorable regard was like to increase, if no untoward vexations should grow out of our Blockade, which he feared. He said several legal points had been presented to him against the Blockade, which he had referred to the Lawyers.

I have received no advices or dispatches from Texas of a later date than April 6. Permit me to request your department to keep me informed of all leading facts, for serious awkwardness might result from my being in ignorance of important intelligence.

Mr Lachlan Macintosh Rate Consular Agent will keep the Department advised on all subjects of importance here during my absence at Paris.

Mr. Rate's address in London is

“Consular Agency
15 Bishopsgate Street within”
London
England.

I leave for Paris to night.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully
Yours etc.

ASHBEL SMITH.

ABERDEEN TO SMITH.^a

HALFORD AND CO. TO SMITH.^b

SMITH TO JONES.^c

SMITH TO PRINGLE.^d

SMITH TO JONES.^e

^a July 16, 1842. See Smith to Jones, October 19, 1842.

^b July 21, 1842. See Smith to Jones, July 31, 1844.

^c July 30, 1842. Mentioned in Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842, as dispatch No. 13, but apparently never received.

^d July 31, 1842. See Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842.

^e August 1, 1842. Mentioned in Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842, as dispatch No. 14, but apparently never received.

DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AS TO TEXAN AND MEXICAN
AFFAIRS.^a

 PRINGLE TO SMITH.^b

 PRINGLE TO SMITH.^c

 SMITH TO JONES.^d

No 15

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

Aug 13, 1842

HON ANSON JONES
Secy of State

SIR,

Since my last Dispatches Nos 13 and 14, dated July 30 and August 1,^e a debate occurred in the British Parliament on the affairs of Texas and Mexico, originating in a question asked by Mr Cobden of the ministry concerning the Mexican Steamers. A Copy of this debate as reported in the London papers is annexed hereto and marked *document A*.

In my conversations and correspondence with the Earl of Aberdeen on the subject of the Mexican Steamers, as appears in my previous Dispatches, Lord Aberdeen took the ground that the building and sale of these vessels and the export of arms are lawful acts, and that if unarmed they cannot be prohibited by the Laws of England from leaving British Ports. I then took counsel whether by a direct application to the Laws I might arrest their sailing and was assured that such application could have no beneficial result. I had, too, before me the case of the two Schooners which were built in New York last year for Mexico, and libelled before the Courts of that City. The libel was dismissed. I have however referred the subject again to the consideration of legal men in England who will not fail to institute such legal proceedings as facts will sustain. Hitherto their opinion has been adverse to the utility of any recourse to the Laws to arrest their sailing altho the important facts seem patent. I subjoin a *portion* of my correspondence on this subject where you will find the opinions of Mr Pringle, a distinguished solicitor, and of Dr. Addams an eminent practitioner in the Admiralty Court.

^a August 2, 1842. See Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842.
^b August 4, 1842. See Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842.^c August 5, 1842. See Smith to Jones, August 13, 1842.^d A. L. S.^e Neither of these has been found. There is reasonable certainty that they were never received.

The Belgian Minister has been recalled from his functions at this Court; Mr Rumff the Minister from the free towns of Germany; and the Spanish Minister Mr Clozaga are absent at this time from Paris. Early after their return I shall invite their attention to the growing importance of Texas.

It was stated to me on respectable authority that Spain has sent a Frigate to the aid of Mexico. This appears to me quite improbable; but should my inquiries now making confirm the report I shall address a note to the Spanish Minister here and also to Mr Washington Irving the American Minister at Madrid. I repeat however that the report appears to me quite improbable.

Mr Guizot has appointed, tomorrow, an interview on the subject of France uniting with England in the Mediation between Texas and Mexico. I shall endeavor to forward you an account of the conversation by the present conveyance.

Permit me to urge respectfully on your Department the necessity of my being furnished with early and regular information.

What are the means of forwarding Government Dispatches etc. through New Orleans? Is Mr Edmunds discharging the duties of Consul? A box of valuable books and documents which I left in charge of the Consul at New Orleans to be sent to this Legation, have never come to hand.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your obed. Servant

ASIBEL SMITH.

Document A

[Debate in the House of Commons 2d Aug. 1842]^a

Mexico and Texas

Mr Cobden begged to repeat the question which he had put last night, with respect to the vessels fitting out to take part in the Mexican War.

Sir R. Peel said he believed the facts were these—two vessels were fitting out, one at Blackwall and the other at Liverpool, for the Mexican Government. Application had been made to the British Government to permit them to be manned with British Seamen, and that permission had been refused. The Texian Minister had been informed also that no officer in her Majesty's navy would be allowed to serve against Texas. If hostilities should take place it was the intention of the English government to maintain a perfect neutrality. *Mr. OConnell* said there was a law in Texas that no free subject of color should remain there longer than a certain time. He would feel

^a Cf. *Hausard*, 3rd series, vol. 65, col. 964.

it his duty, whenever a convenient opportunity arrived, to call the attention of the house to the subject.

Lord Palmerston said he believed the laws in Texas were precisely the same as the laws in the states of the United States.

Mr. O'Connell said it was only in the state of Carolina that the law existed.

Lord Palmerston said that the Texian government had already secured the recognition of their independence by treaties with the United States of America, with France and the Netherlands, and the question came to this, whether the commerce between England and Texas should be placed on the same footing as the commerce between Texas and other countries or whether we should be exposed to disadvantages to which other states were not subject?

Mr. C. Buller said that he did not think it would be proper to require of a state to alter its internal laws on entering into a treaty with another country.

Mr. Labouchere thought that the House had no business to interfere in such questions as the present. It was a subject for the consideration of the governments of different countries.

Mr. Hume said he should consider it desirable that our government should interfere to prevent hostilities between Mexico and the Texas. Those hostilities would necessarily produce great misery in those states, and would necessarily greatly inconvenience British trade.

Sir R. Peel said that the dissensions between those states had been undoubtedly attended with the worst effects. They carried on their hostilities with the bitterest animosity, pirates were encouraged to enter into their service; they destroyed each other's commerce; they prevented the growth of their natural prosperity. Those events in addition, interfered with their communication with those countries which were the first to recognize their independence. But it was principally on the ground of the fatal consequences to these states themselves, that these hostilities were to be deprecated. Every effort in the power of the British government would be made to contribute to the restoration of tranquility in those countries.

[Letters accompanying Dispatch to Secretary of State, dated Aug 14,^a 1842.]

Document B.

Mr Smith to Mr Pringle

HOTEL MEURICE

RUE DE RIVOLI 42

July 31. 1842

MY DEAR SIR

Your favor of the 29th Inst enclosing a slip from the Times has just been handed in by the Postman. I am truly sensible of the obliga-

^aThe dispatch is, in fact, dated August 13.

tions conferred on me and on Texas by your attention to our interests. Is it possible to procure such *legal* evidence as would sustain a process for detaining the Montezuma? Would such process detain in fact the Montezuma until the decision of the case, or would she be permitted to sail on giving bonds and thus render the process nugatory? Under the 7th Sec. 59 George III Cap 69 by force of the words "Equip *furnish* fit out or arm" can the export of arms and ammunition ostensibly as merchandise in the hold of the Montezuma be prevented? What advantage can be drawn from the fact of a false destination having been given to these vessels by asserting that the Guadaloupe is intended for the East India service?

The Earl of Aberdeen in conversation with me avowed all the essential facts in regard to the purposes for which these Steamers were built and to their future employment in the Mexican service against Texas. Lord Aberdeen stated Mr Lizardi the Mexican Consul had asked of him permission to arm these steamers in British ports. Could we compel Lizardi to testify in the case by bringing in action against the builders Mess Wigram & Green or by an action *in rem*?

Please weigh this subject and inform me whether Legal proceedings would result in anything but the entailing on us fruitless expense?

It would be inconvenient on many accounts to leave my business at Paris but if necessary I could come to England. I may add too that I do not wish to be in England before next winter unless my presence there should be quite necessary.

Very Sincerely

signed ASIBEL SMITH

Document C

Mr Pringle to Mr Smith

LONDON 4 Aug 1842

MY DEAR SIR

One naturally feels diffident of ones own opinion in a matter of so much importance and I was very glad to avail myself of an opportunity of a little conversation with Dr Adams on the subject of the Mexican Steamers. Dr Adams is a leading barrister in the Admiralty courts. Yesterday evening I stated to him the prominent facts of the case referring him to the discussion in the House of Commons and to day continued my conversation with him, after he had time to reperuse the act. His opinion is that any attempt to stop the vessels under the powers of the 7th clause would not be successful and altho he admits there can be little if any doubt but that the statement of ownership still remaining in British subjects

until the arrival of the ships in Mexico is a mere subterfuge, it would be difficult to get quit of it and he thinks that under all the circumstances of the case if he were called upon to advise the officers of the Customs, he should give it as his opinion that they should not make, the seizure under the act. I am very glad to be able to give this report of my conversation with Dr Adams for he is a man of eminence in that Department of the profession.

I remain my Dear Sir

Yours Very faithfully

(signed)

WM. PRINGLE

Document D.

Mr Pringle to Mr Smith

LONDON 5 Augt 1842

MY DEAR SIR

I have reason to believe the ministers have consulted the Attorney and Solicitor General, on the point whether the Mexican Steamers could be detained or not under the Foreign enlistment bill and that they have given their opinion that they could not. The ships belong to British subjects who send them out to Vera Cruz with a cargo of Guns and Powder and there is nothing to prevent the ships and cargo being sold when they get out. If we cannot stop them here, the Texans must "stop" them there and I trust they will. Although this investigation of the powers of the Foreign enlistment bill has not resulted in the manner it would have been wished, there is a degree of satisfaction personal to yourself and relieves you of responsibility in having ascertained that nothing can be done. I shall continue to do my best to keep you advised as far as I possibly can of the movement of these ships. It is also well to know your presence in London would be of no use in this particular matter

I remain My Dear Sir

Yours Very faithfully

(Signed)

WILLIAM PRINGLE

SMITH TO ABERDEEN.^a

SMITH TO GUIZOT.^b

ADDINGTON TO HAMILTON.^c

^a August [15?], 1842. See Smith to Jones, August 31, 1842.

^b August 15, 1842. See Smith to Jones, August 31, 1842.

^c August 19, 1842. See Hamilton to Jones, November 25, 1842.