

SMITH TO VAN ZANDT.^a

JONES TO SMITH.^b

ELLIOT TO JONES.^c

ELLIOT TO JONES.^d

GALVESTON *February 7th. 1843.*

The Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'affaires to the Republic of Texas, etc. etc. has the honor to acquaint Mr. Jones that Mr. William Kennedy, bearing Her Majesty's Commission as Consul for the Port of Galveston, and its neighbourhood, arrived here on the 5th Instant.

The Commission is herewith forwarded, and He has to request that the President will be pleased to issue the necessary authority to enable Mr. Kennedy to exercise his functions.

The Undersigned avails himself of this occasion to offer to Mr. Jones the renewed expressions of highest consideration with which, he has the honor to remain,

His most faithful Servant

CHARLES ELLIOT.

To The Honorable

ANSON JONES

etc. etc. etc.

P. S. It is requested that the Commission may be returned at Mr. Jones's leisure, and Capt. Elliot would also feel obliged to Mr. Jones to address the exequatur to Mr. Kennedy, in the event of his own absence from Galveston.

JONES TO ELLIOT.^e

ACT FOR CARRYING INTO EFFECT THE TREATY BETWEEN ENGLAND AND TEXAS FOR SUPPRESSION OF SLAVE TRADE.^f

^a January 25, 1843. See Smith to Jones, July 2, 1843.

^b January 31, 1843. See Calendar.

^c February 4, 1843. See Calendar. With the original is inclosed a lengthy document which it is not deemed necessary to publish, and the title of which is as follows: *Abstract of the Notes and Limits of certain grants of Land claimed by J. C. Beales a British subject and others under him, extracted from the Empresario titles of said J. C. Beales, being the Exhibits of a memorial presented to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain in the year 1842.*

^d L. S.

^e February 16, 1843. See Calendar.

^f April 11, 1843. See Elliot to Jones, November 15th, 1843.

HOUSTON TO ELLIOT.^aEXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, *May 6th., 1843.*To Capt. CHARLES ELLIOT,
Etc. etc. etc.

MY DEAR SIR—In the absence of the Secretary of State, by way of a familiar epistle, I design to communicate some official intelligence which is due to Her Britannic Majesty's government as well as to that of Texas.

I have assured you that no aggressive action would take place on the part of this government against Mexico, beyond our avowed limits, unless it should be rendered necessary by the acts of Mexico towards Texas. In despite of this assurance, our navy has gone to sea. In doing so, I can only say that the Commander has committed the most flagrant outrage possible upon his country and the law of nations.

That you may assure your government that it has not been perpetrated with or by my connivance, I take pleasure in forwarding to you a proclamation and order; and that you may have it in your power to make such representations to the government of Her Majesty as will vindicate the head of this nation from the imputation of insincerity and duplicity. The crime is one of great atrocity and I have availed myself of the first moment to apply the only corrective in my power. All that has been done by Commodore Moore since the 5th. ultimo has been in violation of orders under suspension and arrest. You can now judge of matters.

On the 5th. of April, the order of the Department of War and Marine was placed in his hands, since which time he has ordered a court-martial, approved the proceedings and executed the sentence.

By the copy of a letter of instructions,^b also forwarded, which I delivered to one of the commissioners with orders to proceed immediately to its execution, you will find a clear anticipation of the course which would be attempted by Commodore Moore, and the precaution taken to prevent evil.

Such measures as you may be authorised to adopt for the present, apart from communicating the facts to your government, I trust will be adopted.

I am very truly your friend,

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 40, pp. 245-246.

^b See Calendar of Correspondence with Yucatán, under title of Houston to Morgan and Bryan, March 23, 1843.

JONES TO SMITH.^a

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
GALVESTON *May 8th 1843*

HON. ASHBEL SMITH
Charge d'affaires of Texas

SIR

On my arrival at this place the day before yesterday, I received your Official Dispatch of the 31st March last.^b

* * * * *

I enclose you herewith a copy of the translation of a document etc. (as in the letter of this date to Mr. Van Zandt.^c)

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT.^e

DOYLE TO ELLIOT.^f

JONES TO SMITH.^g

DECLARATION OF THE TEXAN GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENTS OF
ENGLAND AND FRANCE.^h

ELLIOT TO JONES.ⁱ

GALVESTON *June 10th 1843.*

The Undersigned etc. etc. etc. has the honor to acquaint Mr. Jones that H. M. Sloop "Scylla" arrived here last night bringing him despatches from Mr. Percy Doyle H. M. Chargé d' affaires near that Government, an extract from which is herewith transmitted. Mr. Doyle states indeed that General Santa Ana does not seem at present

^a Though no signature is attached, the draft on file was evidently written by Jones himself.

^b See Correspondence with France.

^c Here is omitted a paragraph referring to Smith's salary.

^d The words in parentheses are intended to direct the clerk who was to copy the letter for transmission. The sentence preceding the parenthesis is a quotation from the letter to Van Zandt, indicating where the copyist was to begin in transcribing it. As the Records of the Department of State show, the remainder was copied. For the letter to Van Zandt, see Correspondence with the United States. For the translation which was inclosed, see *The Morning Star* (Houston), May 4, 1843; *Niles' Register*, LXIV, 97.

^e May 18, 1843 (extract). See Elliot to Jones, June 18, 1843.

^f May 27, 1843 (extract). See Elliot to Jones, June 10, 1843.

^g June 10, 1843. See Calendar of Correspondence with France.

^h June 10, 1843. See Jones to Smith of same date.

ⁱ A. L. S.

at all inclined to give way upon the acknowledgment of the Sovereignty of Mexico by Texas, though the fallacy of that idea was strongly urged upon him.

But the Undersigned sincerely hopes that His Excellency the President will think that this official communication of the President of Mexico's dispositions to himself, and the nature of those dispositions will justify him in agreeing to the proposed armistice, and at once proclaiming it; and in making the necessary arrangements for the early dispatch of Commissioners to the City of Mexico. The Undersigned cannot but trust that these advances will end in an honorable and desirable pacification between the two Republics, and He is assured that no friendly effort will be wanting upon the part of Her Majesty's Government to secure that result.

Her Majesty's Sloop will remain here for any reply that the President may authorize him to make to this communication, but He hopes He may be excused for requesting that it may be hastened as much as possible.

He avails himself of this occasion to renew to Mr. Jones the expressions of his high consideration with which he has the honor to remain

His most faithful Servant,

CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Honorable

ANSON JONES

*Secretary of State
etc. etc. etc.*

Extract from a despatch from Percy W. Doyle Esqr. Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'affaires in Mexico to Captain Charles Elliot etc. etc. etc. in Texas, dated Mexico May 27th. 1843.

"I further stated to him (General Santa Aña^a) how useless I felt
"it would be to send Commissioners to treat on any terms so long as
"the present warfare was carried on; and His Excellency has author-
"ized me to acquaint you for the information of General Houston,
"that He will agree to an armistice, and He told me He would at once
"give orders for a total cessation of hostilities on his part, and re-
"quested that General Houston would send similar orders to the dif-
"ferent officers Commanding the Texian forces; and that in such case
"he was ready to receive any Commissioners which might be sent
"from Texas to treat on the terms proposed by him."

Signed,

PERCY W. DOYLE.

Copy

CHARLES ELLIOT

^a This name was doubtless inserted by Elliot.

JONES TO ELLIOT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington June 15th 1843

The Undersigned Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas, has received the very kind communication which Captn. Charles Elliott Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to this Government did him the favor to address him on the 10th Inst, together with the Extract of a despatch from Mr. Percy W. Doyle Esq H. M. Chargé d'Affaires at Mexico communicating to this Department the intelligence that Gen Santa Anna would agree to an armistice, and give orders for a total cessation of hostilities on his part, and that he requested that Gen. Houston would send similar orders to the different officers commanding the Texian forces etc.

This important communication was immediately placed before the President who has directed the Undersigned to express to Captn Elliott his lively sense of the good offices rendered in this matter by the officers of her Majesty's Government and his high appreciation of the friendly feelings which her Majesty's Government have evinced in its efforts to effect an honorable and a durable pacification between this country and Mexico. Sincerely desiring this object himself, the President has acquiesced in the Measure proposed by Gen Santa Anna and issued a proclamation, declaring an armistice and ordering all the officers commanding the forces of this Republic to observe the same, an authentic copy of which is herewith enclosed for such disposition as Capt Elliott may think most proper to make of it.^a

As the continuance of the armistice was not specified by the President of Mexico Gen Houston, has thought proper it should be during the pendency of negotiations for peace, and that should either Government determine to renew hostilities, that due notice of such determination should be given to the other government through H. B. M. Representatives in Texas and Mexico.

The Undersigned believes that Capt Elliott will perceive the importance of such an arrangement as it will by giving the Armistice some definite duration better enable the two governments to deliberate calmly and secure from interruption upon the settlement of their difficulties

The Undersigned has therefore the honor to request Capt Elliott should he deem the same proper, as well as consistent with his official duty, to cause to be transmitted to Gen Santa Anna through H. B. M. Chargé d'Affaires at Mexico this preliminary proposition previous to the appointment of Commissioners from this Govt.

^a For the proclamation, which is dated June 15, 1843, see *Niles' Register*, LXIV, 307.

Should the President of Mexico concur in this course, it is then left with him to designate the length of time which notice should be given, by the respective parties as above, before the renewal of hostilities

The Undersigned has the honor further to say to Captn Elliott that Commissioners will be appointed by this Govt. and sent to Mexico immediately upon a satisfactory adjustment of this point.

The Undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to Capt. Elliot the assurances of the high consid[eration] with which has the honor to be

His very Obedient Servant

(signed) ANSON JONES

Capt. CHARLES ELLIOT
H. B. M. Chargé d'Affaires
etc. etc. etc.

JONES TO SMITH.^a

(Copy)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 WASHINGTON *June 15th 1843*

HON. ASHBEL SMITH
Chargé d' Affaires, etc. etc.

SIR

Since my communication to you of the 10th Inst, information has been received from Mexico through H. B. M. Chargé d' Affaires near this Govt. that Gen. Santa Anna has given orders for a cessation of hostilities on his part and that he would agree to an armistice with Texas, and receive Commissioners to treat on terms of peace

Copies of the several documents in relation to this matter together with the Presidents Proclamation of an Armistice are herewith enclosed for your information.^b

As this information somewhat alters the aspect of our affairs, you will defer for the present communicating the "Declaration" which you were instructed to make to the Governments of Great Britain and France in my dispatch to you of the 10th Instant

I have the honor to be

with the highest regard

Your very Obt. Servant

(Signed) ANSON JONES

^a Copies of this were sent both to Smith and to Van Zandt.

^b The documents referred to must have included Elliot to Jones, June 10, 1843, with its inclosed extract from Doyle to Elliot, May 27. For the proclamation, see *Niles' Register*, LXIV, 307.

P. S. There will be no impropriety perhaps in your letting Mr. Guizot and the Earl of Aberdeen have the perusal of my whole despatch of the 10th Inst., as it indicates the course which this Govt may have to pursue in the event of the negotiations with Gen Santa Anna failing.

A. J.

(Duplicate sent to I. Van Zandt Esq.)

SMITH TO DAINGERFIELD.^a

LONDON 3 ST. JAMES STREET

June 16th. 1843

MY DEAR SIR

I have this moment received yours of the 12th Instant from Paris. I am glad to welcome you in Europe I wrote to our Consul at Havre to ask you to join me in London. I am sorry that I have made such arrangements and appointments official and private that I cannot conveniently leave London before the 1st. of July. Can you not immediately on the receipt of this come to London. You would arrive here on the 21st. We should have ten days together here. We would then return to Paris in company or make such other arrangements as may seem best. It costs but a trifle more to travel than to remain stationary. So step into the Diligence or take the Railway to London. Take a Cab for 3 St. James Street, then enquire for my Lodgings, and come with your luggage at once and take your quarters with me. I have many things to say but defer all in the hope of soon meeting you Very sincerely and truly yours

(Signed) ASHBELL SMITH

HON WM H DAINGERFIELD

etc., etc., etc.

You will doubtless see the Texas news brought by the last Boston Steamer. I have an interview to day with Lord Aberdeen and should be glad to see you in London before I leave in view of any new matters which you may suggest.

SMITH TO JONES.^b

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON,

June 16, 1843

HON ANSON JONES

Secretary of State

SIR,

I have had interviews with the Earl of Aberdeen and also with Mr Addington one of the Under Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs.

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 53, pp. 12-13.

^b A. L. S.

As the affairs of Texas fall within the division of Mr Addington who attends to the details of business, and as no difference of opinion was expressed by the two gentlemen, you will perceive that the statements and remarks of Mr Addington possess an official character and are entitled to the same consideration as those made by Lord Aberdeen.

To my inquiry of the Earl of Aberdeen concerning the prospect of peace being established between Texas and Mexico through the mediation of other Governments, I did not receive any encouragement whatever to hope that this mediation will be successful. It was added that the British Representative at Mexico had been silent for some time on this subject, as it had been deemed that the further pressing of it upon Mexico could accomplish no good end.

Mr Addington was still more explicit than Lord Aberdeen and appeared to base his opinions in a considerable degree, on the statements and opinions of Mr Packenham, the British Minister at Mexico recently returned to England on leave of absence. Mr Packenham immediately previous to his leaving Mexico had a long conversation with General Santa Anna on this subject. Gen Santa Anna, it was stated, could not retain his power two days, if he should entertain the question of recognizing the independence of Texas. Mr Packenham clearly understood General Santa Anna to be himself personally, utterly hostile to admitting our Independence. General Santa Anna informed Mr Packenham of his intention to make propositions to Texas of the nature of those mentioned by Judge Robinson.^a

At this part of our conversation Mr Addington clearly permitted me to draw the conclusion, without however affirming it, that the "propositions" may be for the purpose of gaining time by Mexico to dispose of Yucatan, with the determination as evinced by other acts of General Santa Anna mentioned by Mr Addington at the moment, to take active measures hereafter to subjugate Texas.

Mr Addington concluded by dwelling somewhat on the "indomitable obstinacy" of the Spanish Character and he reiterated the opinion that we have nothing to anticipate from the mediation of other Governments.

We may rely on the fact that the British Government do not look for peace between Texas and Mexico as likely to be effected by the mediation of other Powers.

The tone of Lord Aberdeen and Mr Addington was very friendly towards Texas, and I have every reason to be pleased with the frank and courteous consideration which they gave to the subject in question; but I do not believe that we possess the sympathies of the British Government in a *greater* degree than Mexico does.

^a See Calendar of Correspondence with Mexico, under date of March 27, 1843.

In regard to the "propositions" said to be made by General Santa Anna agreeably to his intention expressed to Mr Pakenham, I intimated to Lord Aberdeen that they might be a pretext for discontinuing hostilities against Texas preliminary to a peace to be established eventually on another basis; and that these propositions might be the result of the friendly offices of Her Majesty's Government. Lord Aberdeen said he was not aware that they originated from these offices, nor did he appear to regard this possible interpretation of their object as the correct one.

Various other matters connected with Texas and Mexico were spoken of more particularly in my conversation with Mr Addington, who treated them in view of the entire failure of the mediation and of the future resumption of hostilities by Mexico. In relation to Commodore Moore, Mr Addington intimated that having been disavowed by the Texian Government, it would [be] the duty of all to capture him as being engaged in a piratical expedition.

I take the liberty of recommending the subject of this Despatch very respectfully to the attention of your Department, as there was an explicitness in the opinions expressed, which leaves no room for doubt or uncertainty.

I am informed that emigrants are being engaged, that is, soldiers are recruiting for the services of Mexico against Texas. I have not yet obtained such information as would authorize me to mention this subject to the British Government. My careful attention will be directed to this matter.

The Tartar, a vessel laden with guns and munitions of war for Mexico, took fire a few days since in a British Port, blew up and her cargo went to the bottom.

I have just learned the arrival of Col Daingerfield at Paris, and expect to meet him in a few days.

With great respect, your very obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

ELLIOT TO JONES.^a

GALVESTON *June 18th. 1843.*

The Undersigned etc. etc. etc. has the honor to acquaint Mr. Jones that He has just received a despatch from the Earl of Aberdeen dated on the 18th. Ultimo, in which His Lordship instructs him to "assure the President of the continued interest which the British Government takes in the prosperity and Independence of the State of Texas, and of the full determination to persevere in employing their endeavours, whenever they see a reasonable hope of success, to

^aA. L. S.

“bring about an adjustment of the differences still existing between Mexico and Texas, of which they so much lament the continuance.”

The Undersigned entertains the strong hope that the present attitude of circumstances will favor the early accomplishment of these friendly and earnest dispositions of Her Majesty's Government.

He begs to offer Mr. Jones the renewed expressions of high consideration with which He has the honor to remain

His faithful Servant

CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Honorable

ANSON JONES,

Secretary of State

etc. etc.

Washington.

JONES TO ELLIOT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON *June 28th 1843*

The Undersigned Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of Capt Elliot Her B. Majesty's Charge d' Affaires of the 18th Inst, communicating by instructions of Her Majesty's Government, an extract of a despatch from the Earl of Aberdeen containing assurances of the continued interest which the British Government takes in the prosperity and Independence of Texas etc.

The Undersigned having laid before the President the note of Capt Elliot has been instructed by his Excellency to request that Capt Elliot will inform Her Majesty's Government that he has received with the most lively satisfaction these assurances of the friendly dispositions evinced towards Texas on the part of Great Britain, and that he has at no time failed to entertain the most perfect confidence in the sincerity of these dispositions on her part, and of her earnest desire to interpose and exert her good offices whenever a favorable opportunity offered, to incline Mexico to listen to the counsels of peace, and to bring about an adjustment of the present difficulties between Mexico and Texas.

The Undersigned, unites in the hope expressed by Capt Elliot that the present posture of circumstances will promote the early accomplishment of these friendly and earnest dispositions of Her Majesty's Government. The evils of war are much to be deplored even when necessity impels a nation to that resort, and the Texian Government having on so many occasions manifested a desire for peace will omit

no proper means in her power to give efficacy to the endeavors now making by Her Majestys Government for its attainment

The Undersigned prays Capt Elliot on this occasion to receive renewed assurances of the very high consideration with which he has the honor to remain

His Most Obedient
and faithful Servant

Signed ANSON JONES

SMITH TO DAINGERFIELD.*

3 ST JAMES STREET LONDON

June 28th 1848

MY DEAR SIR

Mr. E L Barnard of Texas now in London has made application through Mr Herckennrath our Consul at Amsterdam for the appointment of Dutch Consul at Galveston. Mr Barnard wishes you to second his application on any proper occasion in such manner as you shall feel authorised to do. Mr. Barnard brings me from Genl Houston a very special and commendatory letter of introduction which I have forwarded to Mr Herckennrath at Amsterdam. The acquaintance I have had with Mr Barnard in Europe has impressed me very favorably in his behalf. I regret very much that you have not come to London. I wish much to confer with you on some public matters. I mean on subjects which concern Texas. You are aware doubtless that the abolition of slavery in Texas is now agitated. Mr. S. P. Andrews of Houston is now in London devising with the Quakers and others the means of effecting this object. They have had an interview with Lord Aberdeen who assured them that the "Government of Great Britain would omit no legitimate means to accomplish this great end." I need scarcely say to you that my opinions are quite adverse to abolition, and I would add, that I have no belief that any considerable European or rather British emigration would shortly flow into Texas as is promised even were slavery abolished. I will not however attempt to consider this important subject in a letter. My departure from London is now delayed untill the 10th. or 12th. of July. Will you have the goodness to enclose any letters you may have for me—no newspapers in a strong envelope, seal and direct it to me *officially* with an [explanatory ?] word in one corner that they are from your Chargé d'affaires at La Haye etc. and ask Mr Pickford British Consul at Paris No 39 Rue St Honore *to forward in the Ambassadors bag*. This is entirely correct and you need

* See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 55, pp. 14-15.

have no delicacy whatever in making this request of Mr Pickford as it is daily done by Foreign Ministers. Do not fail to write to me at the same time and believe me very truly yours

(Signed) ASHBEL SMITH

WM HENRY DALINGERFIELD Esqr
etc. etc. etc.

SMITH TO JONES.^a

No 41

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON
42 St James's Place, July 2, 1843

HON ANSON JONES
Secretary of State

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of despatches from your Department, dated May 8th, inclosing the translation of a document furnished to Mr. James W. Robinson by General Santa Anna.

In my despatches of June 16, No. 40. I communicated to your Department details of interviews I had with the Earl of Aberdeen Her Majesty's Principal Secretary and with Mr Addington Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. In these despatches I stated that in the opinion of the British Government there exists no ground for hoping that peace can be established between Texas and Mexico by the mediation of friendly Powers; and further that the British Minister at Mexico had for some time past ceased to present this subject to the attention of the Mexican Government.

I beg permission to call your notice to the fact that in my despatches written last autumn and winter, I stated my strong conviction that in regard to the establishment of peace with Mexico, Texas had nothing to expect from British mediation, nor from the good offices of France though these were exerted with sincerity and much earnestness. This opinion was expressed with great explicitness in letters addressed by me to the Hon Mr. Van Zandt, Chargé d'Aff: of Texas at Washington on the 25th of January last. As the abolition of Slavery in Texas in connection with the "mediation" was the subject treated of in the letters to Mr. Van Zandt and will also form the principal of the present despatch, and as the copies of the letters in question sent to your Department appear not to have reached you,^b I hereto annex other copies of these letters and wish them to be considered as forming part of the present communications.

^a A. L. S.

^b See Smith to Jones, January 28, 1843. The surmise that the copies of the letters to Van Zandt had not reached the Texan government was apparently correct. None have been found in the files except those inclosed in this letter and printed below.

The desire of the British Government and of a considerable portion of the British public to procure the abolition of Slavery in Texas, as I have often stated in my despatches, cannot I presume be unknown to the Government and Citizens of Texas. I do not deem it within the sphere of my official duty to suggest any reasons whatever for or against the abolition of slavery. I shall therefore confine myself to the statement of facts bearing on this subject as connected with the efforts made in England, which have fallen under my observation here. It is of the highest consequence, in my opinion, that these facts and considerations should be known and duly appreciated in Texas.

I learned from the newspapers that the abolition of Slavery was agitated in Texas. A letter from Mr A. J. Yates to a gentleman in London which was shown me, mentioned that he had held conversations respecting abolition with the British Chargé d'Aff: Captain Elliott and that this gentleman had made it the subject of a communication to his Government. About a fortnight since I saw Mr S. P. Andrews at a meeting of the "General Anti Slavery Convention" in this town. The abolition of Slavery in Texas was among the objects of his visit to Europe, and I have had several full conferences with him on this subject. He has been and continues to be actively engaged with some parties in London in devising means to effect abolition. He has had interviews on the subject in question with Lords Aberdeen, Brougham and Morpeth and with other persons, all of whom are extremely eager to accomplish this purpose. Lord Aberdeen said 'Her Majesty's Government would employ all legitimate means to attain so great and desirable an object as the abolition of Slavery in Texas,' and he used other expressions of the same purport. These observations were made to Mr Andrews and the Committee of the Anti Slavery Convention which waited on his Lordship. The Anti Slavery Convention gave the subject of abolition in Texas a very full consideration, deem it of great importance, will spare no efforts to accomplish it, and count confidently on the cooperation of the British Government. I was present at this meeting of the Convention and heard Texas described as the hiding place of dishonesty, as the refuge of unprincipled villians, swindlers and criminals escaped from the hands of justice in other countries; and that to this general character our population presented only occasional or rare exceptions.

Different plans or ways of effecting and carrying out abolition have been proposed here. Among the principal is, first, a Loan to Texas to enable the Government to purchase the slaves and emancipate them, on the condition that the introduction of slaves hereafter be prohibited. Lord Aberdeen said the British Govt. would

guarantee the interest of a Loan raised and applied for this purpose but no other Loan whatever. A second plan is the raising of a sum of money to buy large quantities of land in Texas on the same condition, namely the abolition of slavery; but according to the latter plan no credit is to stand open against Texas: the monies proposed to be paid for lands are to enable Texas to abolish slavery, and the lands are to become the *bona fide* property of those who furnish the money and to be held by them in fee simple. A plan similar to the second, is recommended by Mr Andrews. The plan at one time contemplated of encouraging an emigration to Texas which should "vote down" slavery, has been wholly abandoned as tedious, expensive, uncertain and inconsistent with the views of England *which wishes to direct all its emigration to its own colonies*. I am not informed of the nature of Captain Elliott's instructions on this subject from his government.

Among the main inducements urged here, and one which will be strongly presented to the citizens of Texas in favor of abolition and especially on the basis of the second plan mentioned above, is that an immense emigration would thereupon forthwith flow into Texas from Europe. I have deemed it my duty to inquire carefully in reference to the importance of the emigration we may expect from this country to Texas in the event of abolition. Several intelligent gentlemen, themselves abolitionists and with the best means of information on these matters, have assured me after much inquiry and reflection, that Texas ought not to be deceived into the opinion that emigrants would flock there, even were slavery abolished. They add that the parties principally active on this subject can, and if they promise, doubtless will furnish money; but that money alone is not sufficient: that, unless emigration is spontaneous and from a conviction on the part of the emigrants that they will greatly improve their condition, no considerable or valuable population can be thus obtained. I was also assured that in the event of the abolition of slavery at the present time in Texas, the collisions to be apprehended with citizens of the United States proceeding into Texas to reclaim fugitive slaves would prove a more serious obstacle to the introduction of settlers from Europe than the existence of slavery and hostilities with Mexico now are deemed. From the care and fullness of my inquiries touching emigration I rely very confidently on the opinions just expressed.

It has been distinctly intimated that slavery being abolished in Texas, the British Government would interpose more efficiently with Mexico to obtain from that country an acknowledgment of the independence of Texas. From the paramount influence of England in Mexico I doubt not the British Government might without difficulty procure this result. We once promised to pay them for their good

offices in our behalf, unfortunately in our financial embarrassments we did not possess the means. From my observation here I cannot advise the making of concessions by Texas for a more vigorous employment of the good offices formerly stipulated.

There is a considerable party in this country who desire the abolition of slavery in Texas, in order that it may become a refuge for fugitive slaves from the United States; persons who anticipate its becoming in the event of abolition a sort of continental Hayti, populated chiefly by blacks; persons who do not expect or desire that it should ever be the resort of European emigrants except merely in sufficient numbers to guide the operations of the black population. This is not a recent project. I quote from a letter written in 1839 by Mr. Daniel O'Connell a leading abolitionist and possessing very great influence especially in Ireland, as follows:—"That an address be presented to Her Majesty praying that she may be pleased to give directions to her Ministers to endeavor to make such an arrangement with the Government of Mexico as would place at their disposal such a portion of the unoccupied territory of that Republic on or near its *northern boundary*, as should be sufficient for establishing an asylum, or *free state of persons of color*, her Majesty's subjects, who may be desirous to emigrate to and establish such free state."

Your department will fully understand that I do not introduce the following topics as if it were the duty of Texas to look after the interests of the United States, but that Texas may not be misled into becoming the willing instrument to injure the United States for the benefit of others to its own great inconvenience and harm. The abolition of slavery in Texas by itself considered, is not regarded in England as of any great importance, but it is ardently desired as preliminary to its abolition in the United States and for the purpose of placing Texas in a rival if not unfriendly attitude towards that country. Besides motives of philanthropy, the British people wish the abolition of slavery in America in reference to the culture of sugar and cotton, in which there exists a rivalry with their colonies, and in reference to the advantages which the production of cotton in America gives to its manufacturers and the employment which these staples afford to American shipping. You will not hence be surprised to learn that on several occasions indeed generally, where the abolition of slavery has been discussed I hear it mainly advocated for its anticipated effects on slavery in the Southern U. States and eventually on the agriculture, manufactures and commerce of that country. I have alluded to this topic as the nature of the motives should lead to a careful scrutiny of any propositions.

Having expressed my opinion so clearly of some of the motives which influence parties in England aiming to effect the abolition of

slavery in Texas, I deem it proper to add that nothing has fallen under my observation which should lead me to suppose that the British Government were insincere in undertaking to mediate a peace between Texas and Mexico or that they now entertain any sinister purposes in regard to Texas. Their policy in relation to slavery in all other countries is avowed, and they will cooperate by all legitimate means with any parties in their own country having for their object the abolition of slavery in Texas.

I trust that your Department will not perceive in this Despatch any disposition to discuss the question of the abolition of slavery in Texas. That subject I leave to the country. But it seems to be within the limits of my duty to state to your department my clear conviction that there are parties here of considerable influence which are endeavoring to abolish slavery in Texas indifferent to the consequences to that country, that they are prepared to profit by our supposed difficulties and to hold out inducements and make promises that will prove illusory. I will also add my well matured opinion that there do not exist any grounds for believing that an increased emigration would flow from Europe into Texas upon the abolition of slavery.

I have felt some doubt respecting the course I ought to pursue in relation to the efforts making in England on the subject in question.

I have determined for the present time to confine myself to the silent and careful observation of facts and their transmission to your department.

The attempt made a short time since to recruit two regiments here for the Mexican service, has been suspended by a disagreement between the parties respecting the advancing of funds to meet present expenses.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
your most obedient servant,

ASHBEL SMITH.

(Copy.)

ASHBEL SMITH TO ISAAC VAN ZANDT.

PARIS PLACE VENDOME

January 25, 1843.

Confidential

SIR

I never omit writing to our Government by the Liverpool and Boston Steamers. Some of my despatches are surely of considerable importance; yet from the tenor of the news from Texas, it appears that several of them have not been received.