

SMITH TO JONES.^a

47

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

September 20, 1843

HON ANSON JONES

Secy of State

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of the following communications; to wit;

I. A note to the Earl of Aberdeen concerning the attempts making by certain parties in London to procure the abolition of slavery in Texas.^b After mature reflection I decided to make this communication inasmuch as the parties alluded to had addressed themselves to Her Britannic Majesty's Government asking their cooperation, and had represented to that Government that a large portion of the citizens of Texas were disposed to abolish slavery, provided pecuniary means should be furnished to enable them to do so. It was also distinctly intimated that the Government of Texas tacitly sanctioned this scheme. I believe the citizens of Texas as well as their Government were misrepresented and that an attempt was made to deceive the British Government. It was disreputable to our standing in England, to have its great interests *apparently* in the hands of the persons who compose the Exeter Hall meetings, pretending to act in concert with a numerous portion of our citizens and in effect placing Texas in the odious light of proffering to barter for a price for the abolition of slavery. I have added a printed copy of the debate in the House of Lords on slavery in Texas wherein Lord Aberdeen announces the policy of his Government in relation thereto.

II. A note to Lord Aberdeen covering a copy of the Letter addressed to me on the 10th of June from your Department.

III. A note to M^{onsieur} Guizot covering a copy of the same Letter of June 10th from your Department.^c

IV. A letter to Mr Martin du Nord in acknowledgment for some official documents.^d The documents in question will be forwarded by me to Texas by the first safe opportunity.

I have the honor to be

Your very obedient Servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

^a A. L. S. In the margin opposite the date is written "Omitted to be forwarded by last steamer with other despatches."

^b The note of August 1. The reply to his note is also inclosed. It is dated September 11, 1843.

^c The note to Guizot was dated August 23, 1843.

^d Undated, but written probably during the latter part of August or early in September, 1843.

n prob-
ces had
k, that
mpres-
a few
eir own
roduce
ld have
Offices

will be
, either
acts of
what-
under-
ication
it ex-
em.

aptain
as the
. B. R.
ngress
son ten
roduc-

ned by
ary to
simply
f Law.
o alien
f these
assert

aptain
chargé
since,
what-
clusive
t may

Elliot
ch he

NES.

P. S. My last despatches from your department were dated June 15th.

I send no 46 of my despatches by the present steamer but in a separate envelope.

A. S.

Copy.

Ashbel Smith to the Earl of Aberdeen.

MY LORD,

I have received despatches from my Government with instructions to communicate them to your Lordship. These despatches dated June 10th were written in view of a continuance of hostilities between Texas and Mexico. By the same mail which brought these despatches I have received others of a later date informing me of a suspension of hostilities

Since the armistice opens a way to the establishment of peace, it might seem less necessary to make to Foreign Governments the representations contained in my despatches of June 10th. I have however deemed it proper to lay them before your Lordship, in order that Her Majesty's Government may be acquainted with the course Texas will be compelled to pursue in case the pending negotiations for peace with Mexico should prove unsuccessful. I have accordingly herewith inclosed the copy of a letter dated June 10th addressed to me by the Secretary of State of Texas.

I trust that in communicating to your Lordship this letter of the Secretary of State of Texas, it will not be deemed as a menace made by Texas against Mexico, nor as evincing any indisposition on the part of Texas to enter into a firm and cordial peace and oblivion of all past misunderstanding with that country.

I need not recal to your Lordship's knowledge the circumstances under which the Government of Texas have resolutely maintained a pacific policy, notwithstanding a very large portion of their citizens were strongly in favor of active operations against Mexico, and during a period when the enemy were seriously embarrassed by internal dissensions. In adhering to this policy they relied on Mexico's ultimately taking a just view of the relations of the two countries, upon the good offices of Her Majesty's Government and of other mutually friendly Powers; and they have especially desired by this course to place Texas in a true position before the rest of Christendom, to show the world that its objects are those of peace, not of aggression.

In connection with the possible resumption of hostilities and in reference to the means which Texas may possess for carrying on a war efficiently I may be permitted to state what is I believe already

known to retaliatory could by : number of the enemy the purpo pursuing : its disposi it may ha accomplishi now a pro

I avail r of the ver to be

Yoi

LEGATIO
August
His Ex
TH

[The va above, as note of At

The Un the Repub note of the value of th

He requ has correct explanation

He will the subject this Gover

^a For Smith for Jones to Smith to Gu response v
^b A. L. S.

39728

known to your Lordship, that were Texas compelled to resort to retaliatory measures against Mexico and to *invade* that country it could by a simple call, procure from another country an unlimited number of volunteers and such other aid as would enable it to desolate the enemy's territory. I beg your Lordship will not misunderstand the purpose of these remarks. It is simply to intimate, that while pursuing a conciliatory policy Texas has been aware of the means at its disposition and that notwithstanding any embarrassment which it may have experienced in its finances, has not been disabled from accomplishing those retaliatory measures to which happily there is now a prospect it will not be obliged to have recourse.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to your Lordship assurances of the very distinguished consideration with which I have the honor to be

Your Lordship's
Very obedient servant

Signed ASHBEL SMITH

LEGATION OF TEXAS

August 10, 1843

His Excellency,

THE EARL OF ABERDEEN etc.

etc. etc. etc.

[The various inclosures mentioned in Smith to Jones of August 20 above, as well as Aberdeen's reply, dated September 11, to Smith's note of August 1, are filed with the original.^a]

ELLIOT TO JONES,^b

GALVESTON *September 28th. 1843.*

The Undersigned Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to the Republic of Texas has the honor to acknowledge Mr. Jones's note of the 16th Inst. upon the subject of the pending claim for the value of the goods forming part of the cargo of the "Little Pen"

He requests to be excused for the misconception which Mr. Jones has corrected in his note of the 16th Inst.: and will forward that explanation to England by the earliest opportunity.

He will also once more refer to Her Majesty's Government upon the subject of this case, and fully sensible of the sincere desire of this Government to dispose of the claim in a just manner, entertains

^a For Smith to Aberdeen, August 1, 1843, and the reply, September 11, see Calendar; for Jones to Smith, June 10, 1843, see Calendar of Correspondence with France; for Smith to Guizot, August 23, 1843, and Smith to Martin du Nord, undated, see Correspondence with France.

^b A. L. S.

no doubt that it will soon be in his power to remove the objections against its acknowledgment.

He profits of this occasion to renew to Mr. Jones the assurances of the highest consideration with which He has the honor to remain

His most faithful Servant

CHARLES ELLIOT

The Honorable

ANSON JONES

etc. etc. etc.

Washington

JONES TO SMITH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington *Sept. 30th. 1843*

Hon. ASHBEL SMITH

Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Texas etc.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two Dispatches Nos. 43. and 44 under the respective dates of the 31st July and 15th August and a private letter of the 2d Ult.

My last communication to you was of the 20th August and was necessarily very brief on account of the severe illness of myself and of the Clerks in my Office.

Enclosed herewith I have the pleasure to transmit for your information copies of all the correspondence, held between this Government and the Chargé d'Affaires of H B. Majesty since the date of my communication above refered to. Messrs Geo. W. Hockley and S. M. Williams have been appointed Commissioners, to meet and confer with those to be appointed by Gen. Woll in relation to the Armistice and left this place for Matamoros on the 26th Inst.

In my dispatch of the 15th. June last I instructed you to "defer for the present communicating the "Declaration etc." contained in my despatch of the 10th June to the Govts of Great Britain and France, but suggested that it would be well perhaps to let Mr. Guizot and Lord Aberdeen read the entire despatch. My intention was that you should suspend all official action in relation to the matters embraced therein unless it might be simply that of continuing to urge upon those two Governments the active employment of their good offices in promoting a pacification between this country and Mexico. From the tenor of your communication of the 15th Augt. I am induced to suppose that I may perhaps have been misunderstood in relation to this subject, and therefore have thought proper to give this explanation of my intentions

In re
late to
abolitic
that the
import
country
properl
in any

It is
France
and an
present
ployme

In r
new di
necessa
ferred
shall l
mission

In y
geois
One M
not co
will b
Europ
export
ficient
of the
immed

In j
appoi
with e
ward
tions
Dumc
this c
instru
establ
a lett
Const
views
cate s
of ou
Th
has g

In relation to those parts of your several communications which relate to the subject of the efforts making in Great Britain for the abolition of Slavery in Texas, it will only be necessary for me to say that the Government desires you will keep it advised of every thing of importance connected with this matter which may occur in that country. The subject as you are already aware and as you have very properly stated to Lord Aberdeen, cannot nor will not be entertained in any shape by this government.

It is for the interest of the United States Great Britain and France that the war between Texas and Mexico should be terminated and an enlightened public policy should induce them to embrace the present propitious occasion to attain this object, by a more active employment of their friendly efforts in mediating *between the parties*.

In reference to the suggestion made by Col. Daingerfield about a new division of our diplomatic representation in Europe, it is only necessary to inform you the consideration of that subject will be deferred by this government untill after the reports of that Gentleman shall have been received, relative to the progress and issue of his mission to Holland, Belgium and the Hanse Towns of Germany.

In your dispatch of the 16th of June you mention that Mr. Bourgeois would write me at the same time in reference to the Loan of One Million of Dollars. As yet however this promised despatch has not come to hand Should the contract with Mr. B. fail no other effort will be made at present by this government to obtain money in Europe. Our finances are now in a very flourishing condition, the exports exceeding the imports, and the ordinary income being sufficient to defray the expenses of the civil list. Texas is *independent* of the world and at no moment of her political existence were her immediate prospects ever so brilliant as now.

In pursuance of your recommendation Mr. Pierre Brunet has been appointed Consul Gen. of France and his Commission as such is herewith enclosed. You will please obtain his Exequatur thereon and forward the same together with this Commission, and the usual instructions to Mr. Brunet. I also enclose you the commission of Maly E. Dumon as Cons. for Cette. The subject of European Emigration, to this country, becoming a matter of considerable importance, some instructions in relation to the same has been sent to our Consular establishments abroad. Enclosed herewith I transmit you of copy of a letter addressed by this Department to Mr. Lachlan M. Rate, our Consul General for Great Britain, which indicates sufficiently the views of this government on this subject. You will please communicate similar instructions to Mr. Brunet, for his governance and that of our Consular establishment in France.

The conduct of Mr. Rate in the discharge of his Official functions has given entire satisfaction to this government etc. etc.

objections

stances of
main

ELLIOT

E
. 1843

patches
and 15th

and was
self and

r infor-
Govern-
date of
ley and
nd con-
Armis-

"defer
d in my
France,
not and
that you
embraced
e upon
ices in
om the
to sup-
to this
nation

It is with extreme regret I have received an intimation from Capt. Elliot, that circumstances may soon induce him to leave Texas. The exertions of this gentleman in aiding to effect the present Armistice between Texas and Mexico, his being so very acceptable to the government here, his great capacity and intelligence, his high character, enlarged and liberal views of national policy all combine in indicating him as the most suitable person that could be appointed to fill the station which he now occupies and to subserve the best interests of the country he so ably represents, as well as those of Texas to which he is accredited. In view of these facts I do most sincerely hope the British Government, will continue him here, if practicable. If an expression of these views to Lord Aberdeen, will be of any force in inducing him to permit Capt. Elliot to remain here you will make that expression of them, to his Lordship.

This government is not aware however of the views and wishes of Capt Elliot in reference to this subject, and consequently only expresses its own views and wishes upon it.

I have the honor to be,

with the highest respect,

Your Obt. Servant,

(Signed)

ANSON JONES.

EVERETT TO SMITH.^a

ELLIOT TO JONES.^b

GALVESTON *October 28th. 1843.*

The Undersigned Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to the Republic of Texas has the honor to acknowledge Mr. Jones note of the 19th Ultimo on the several claims of British subjects connected with title to land, put forward by the desire of Her Majesty's Government.

The Undersigned has already moved Her Majesty's Government to call upon Messrs. Cotesworth, Egerton, Pryor, O'Gorman etc. to furnish a more particular exhibition of their case than has yet been done; And it does not appear to him that Her Majesty's Government would desire that of Mr. Beales to be pursued, till all doubt has been removed as to the existence of any claim to their interposition, in that quarter.

Under all the circumstances of the case therefore the Undersigned will beg leave to defer the continued treatment of these subjects till

^a October 24, 1843. See Smith to Jones, November 29, 1843.

^b A. L. S.

the statement
considered
the Instru

He avails
ances of his
to remain

His

The Hon
A

The Und
the Repub
copies of a
"An Act
"and the F
"Trade."

11th.

the statement and explanation made by Mr. Jones shall have been considered by Her Majesty's Government, and He has received further Instructions.

He avails himself of this occasion to renew to Mr. Jones the assurances of high consideration and regard with which He has the honor to remain

His most obedient
and faithful Servant

CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Honorable

ANSON JONES

etc. etc. etc.

Washington on the Brazos.

SMITH TO EVERETT.^a

GREEN TO ELLIOT.^b

ELLIOT TO GREEN.^c

GREEN TO ELLIOT.^d

KENNEDY TO JONES.^e

ELLIOT TO JONES.^f

GALVESTON *Nov. 15th. 1843.*

The Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d' Affaires to the Republic of Texas has the honor to forward to Mr. Jones two copies of an Act passed during the last session of Parliament, intituled "An Act for carrying into effect the treaty between Her Majesty and the Republic of Texas for the suppression of the African Slave Trade."

11th. April 1843.

^a October 31, 1843. See Smith to Jones, November 29, 1843.

^b November 6, 1843. See Calendar.

^c November 7, 1843. See Calendar.

^d November 8, 1843. See Calendar.

^e November 9, 1843. See Calendar.

^f A. L. S.

on from
to leave
the pres-
y accept-
ence, his
all com-
could be
subsure
as those
do most
here, if
een, will
ain here

l wishes
tly only

JONES.

1843.
aires to
nes note
cts con-
lajesty's

ernment
etc. to
ret been
ernment
has been
tion, in

rsigned
ects till

And He avails himself of this occasion to renew to Mr Jones the expressions of the esteem and distinguished consideration with which He has the honor to remain

His most faithful Servant

CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Honorable

ANSON JONES,
etc. etc. etc.

Washington on the Brasos.

[Inclosed is a printed copy of the Act referred to.^a]

SMITH TO JONES.^b

50

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS,
Nov 29, 1843

HON ANSON JONES
Secretary of State

SIR,

I have the honor herewith to transmit copies of a note from His Excellency Edward Everett, American Minister at London and of my answer thereto. In view of the attention which the efforts making in Great Britain to abolish slavery in Texas, is now attracting, and fearing that my former dispatches may have miscarried, I have thought proper to add copies of my note to Lord Aberdeen and of his Lordship's reply thereto, on the subject in question, although copies of the same have heretofore been transmitted to your Department.^c

Very respectfully
Your obed. servant

ASHBEL SMITH

His Exy Edward Everett to Ashbel Smith

LONDON, *24 October, 1843*

MY DEAR SIR,

The friendly personal relations which exist between us as well as the sincere interest taken by the Government of the United States in the welfare of Texas, induces me to take a liberty hardly warranted perhaps by diplomatic etiquette. I am anxious to ascertain the precise character and present state of the negotiation publicly announced by Lord Aberdeen towards the close of the session of Parliament as being in progress between your Government and that of Great Britain for the Abolition of Slavery in Texas. I am de-

^a See *Statutes at Large*, 6 and 7 Vict. (1843), c. 15.

^b A. L. S.

^c With Smith to Jones, September 20, 1843.

sirous of
any infor
on that su

I shall
sistently
am sure a
I a

ASHBEL

MY DEAR
I have
24th Inst
deen in l
of Great
country.

It is ne
present s
charged
naturally
as the m
ernment.

In Jun
Committe
Aberdeen
Governm
report m
with the
them "H
"mate m
"as the
expressio
meeting
of the Me
lodgings,
his Lords
the Briti
a Loan w
in Texas,
In consec

^e Cf.

sirous of communicating to the Department of State at Washington any information which you may be able and willing to impart to me on that subject confidentially, or not, as you may think proper.

I shall be much gratified if you should have it in your power, consistently with your duty, to comply with this request; if otherwise I am sure at least, I shall have your forgiveness for preferring it.

I am, Dear Sir, with great respect,

faithfully yours

signed

EDWARD EVERETT.

ASHBEL SMITH Esqr.

etc. etc. etc.

Ashbel Smith to His Excellency Edward Everett.*

PARIS *October 31, 1843*

MY DEAR SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 24th Instant, concerning the negotiations mentioned by Lord Aberdeen in Parliament as being in progress between the Governments of Great Britain and Texas, for the abolition of Slavery in the latter country.

It is not in my power to inform you of the *precise* character and *present* state of the negotiation in question, as I have not been charged with the conducting of it. The British Government have naturally employed their Representative in Texas, Captain Elliott, as the medium for presenting any propositions to the Texian Government.

In June last several persons British subjects and others being a Committee of the General Antislavery Convention, waited on Lord Aberdeen for the purpose of asking the cooperation of the British Government to effect the abolition of slavery in Texas. In the verbal report made by the Committee to the Convention of their interview with the Earl of Aberdeen, they stated that his Lordship assured them "Her Britannic Majesty's Government would employ all legitimate means in their power to attain so great and desirable an object as the Abolition of Slavery in Texas;" and that he used other expressions of the same purport. I happened to be present at this meeting which was public and heard the above statement made. One of the Members of the Committee who did me the honor to call at my lodgings, stated to me, that in their interview with Lord Aberdeen, his Lordship made observations which warranted them in saying that the British Government would guarantee if necessary the interest of a Loan which should be raised and applied to the abolition of slavery in Texas, but not of a Texian Loan for any other purpose whatever. In consequence of these statements I asked an interview with Lord

* Cf. Everett to Upshur, November 16, 1843, in *Niles' Register*, LXVI, 169.

Aberdeen, and I afterwards addressed a written communication to his Lordship on this subject. It has appeared to me to admit of question how far it would be proper to communicate what his Lordship then said or to furnish copies of my note to him, and of his reply thereto, until the Texian Government shall deem it best to make these pieces public. Besides I do not know whether they would come within the limits of your inquiry. As however I appreciate most highly the motives that dictated your letter, and as I regard the efforts now making in England to procure the abolition of slavery in Texas as of the highest importance to my country and, though possibly in a less degree, to the United States which have a joint interest in this matter with Texas by reason of the proximity of the two countries, I shall transmit to Mr Lachlan M Rate, Texian Consul General at London copies of my note to Lord Aberdeen on this subject and of his Lordship's reply thereto with the request that Mr. Rate will call on you and submit, if desired, the same to your perusal.

I have written to my Government full accounts of the interview alluded to with Lord Aberdeen and of such other facts relating to the efforts making in England for the abolition of slavery in Texas as on diligent and scrupulous inquiry I could ascertain. I will transmit by the next steamer copies of these accounts to Mr Van Zandt, the Texian Chargé d'Affaires at Washington who will make such use of them as in his discretion he shall deem best. This course will, I trust, fully answer the object of your letter.

I have the honor to be, Dear Sir, with the highest respect,
very truly and faithfully

Yours

signed— ASHBEL SMITH.

[Inclosed are also copies of Smith to Aberdeen, August 1, 1843; and Aberdeen to Smith, September 11, 1843.^a]

ELLIOT TO JONES.^b

[Requests warrants from the Texan Government for the commanders of certain British ships^c to act under the treaty of November 16, 1840, for the suppression of the slave trade.]

ELLIOT TO JONES.^d

[Of the same tenor as Elliot to Jones, December 13, 1843.^e]

^a For both see Calendar.

^b A. L. S., December 13, 1843.

^c The names of the vessels were specified in a list mentioned as inclosed, but which has not been found.

^d A. L. S., December 23, 1843.

^e In this case three ships are mentioned and their names, commanders, etc., are given in the body of the letter.

The U
the Repu
the wish
sent of t
any neg
Coast of
for the
them, as
Majesty'

This e
ing und
treaties,
that it i
to the
with ad
finemen

Her l
Vessel e
added e
able ev
same fa
hope th
the Un
the Pre
by the

The
Mr. Jo
which l
]

To

Whe
on the