

ABERDEEN TO PAKENHAM.^aELLIOT TO JONES.^bNEW ORLEANS *Jany. 4th 1844.*

The Undersigned Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d' Affaires to the Republic of Texas has the honor to acquaint Mr. Jones that it is the wish of Her Majesty's Government to be enabled, with the consent of the Government of Texas, to send to Trinidad or Demerara any negroes who may be captured on board Texian vessels on the Coast of Brazil, under the treaty between Great Britain and Texas for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, instead of sending them, as stipulated by the 16th. Article of that treaty, to one of Her Majesty's settlements on the Coast of Africa.

This arrangement already exists in the case of slave vessels, (sailing under the flags of other Powers, with which Great Britain has treaties,) captured on the Coast of Brazil. And it should be stated that it is founded on the consideration that the return of the negroes to the African settlements from that distance would be attended with additional expense, and of course with additional risk and confinement to the people.

Her Majesty's Government is sensible that the case of a Texian Vessel engaged in this traffic on the Coast of Brazil, or it may be added elsewhere, is not likely to present itself. But in the improbable event of such a contingency, they are desirous of having the same faculty as has been consented to by other Powers, and in the hope that the Government of Texas will acquiesce in these views, the Undersigned has the honor to transmit for the consideration of the President the draft of a declaration recently forwarded to him by the Earl of Aberdeen.

The Undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew to Mr. Jones the sentiments of regard and high consideration with which he has the honor to remain

His Most faithful
and obedient Servant—

CHARLES ELLIOT

To

The Honorable
ANSON JONES
etc. etc. etc.

Washington on the Brazos.

Whereas by the 16th. Article of the Treaty concluded at London on the 16th. November 1840, between Her Majesty and the Republic

^a December 26, 1843. See Calendar.^b A. L. S.

of Texas for the suppression of the African Slave Trade it is stipulated that Slaves found on board Texian Vessels detained on the Coast of Brazil shall be carried or sent at once by the Commander of the capturing Cruiser to one of the British settlements on the Coast of Africa; and whereas it has been considered expedient by the Government of Her Britannic Majesty that British Cruizers should be enabled to carry or send to Trinidad or Demerara slaves so captured, instead of carrying or sending them back to the Coast of Africa as aforesaid; and whereas there exists on the part of the Republic of Texas no objection to Slaves so captured being so disposed of; We, the Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d' Affaires in Texas and the Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas being duly authorised by our respective Governments hereby agree and declare that notwithstanding the above cited stipulation of the 16th. Article of the Treaty above mentioned, the Commanders of British Cruisers, duly authorised under that treaty, may carry or send to Trinidad or Demerara Slaves found on board Texian Vessels captured on the Coast of Brazil.

In witness whereof we have signed this declaration, and have hereunto affixed the seals of our Arms.

Done at Washington the 16th. day of February A. D. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty four.^a

CHARLES ELLIOT.
ANSON JONES

ELLIOT TO JONES.^b

ELLIOT TO JONES.^c

[Requests a warrant from the Texan Government for the commander of the British sloop *Hebra* to act under treaty of November 16, 1840, for the suppression of the slave trade.]

ELLIOT TO JONES.^d

JONES TO ELLIOT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington Feb. 16th 1844

The undersigned Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note which Mr. Elliot

^a The draft of this document which, as the order in which it is printed shows, was inclosed with Elliot to Jones, January 4, contained a blank after the words "Done at" above Elliot's signature. This blank was afterwards filled with the date here given by Jones, who added also his own signature.

^b January 8, 1844. See Calendar.

^c A. L. S., February 10, 1844.

^d A. L. S., February 10, 1844. See Calendar.

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H. B. M. Chargé d' Affaires addressed him on the 4th Ulto. acquaint-
ing him with the wish of Her Majesty's Govt. to be enabled with the
consent of this Government to send to Trinidad or Demar[a]ra any
negroes who may be captured on board Texian Vessels on the coast
of Brazil under the Treaty between great Britain and Texas for the
suppression of African Slave Trade

In reply the undersigned has the pleasure to state to Mr. Elliot
that no objection exists on the part of this government to the pro-
posed arrangement, but on the contrary it is believed the proposed
modification to the 16th Article of said Treaty will be advantageous
to all parties who may hereafter become affected by the stipulations
therein contained In accordance therefore with the request of Mr.
Elliot the undersigned will on the part of this government, sign the
declaration forwarded by Lord Aberdeen and accompanying Mr.
Elliot's note^a

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to Mr.
Elliot H. B. M.'s Chargé d' Affaires the assurances of high considera-
tion and respect with which he has the honor to remain

His Most Obedient Servant

Signed ANSON JONES

To

Capt C. ELLIOT

*H. B. M.'s Chargé de Affaires
etc. etc. etc.*

DECLARATION AS TO DISPOSAL OF TEXAN SLAVES CAPTURED ON THE COAST
OF BRAZIL.^b

JONES TO ELLIOT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington Feb. 19th. 1844

The undersigned Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas has
the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Note of Mr Elliot H. B.
Majesty's Chargé d' Affaires under date of the 10th Inst. accompany-
ing the copy of a despatch from the Earl of Aberdeen to her Maj-
esty[']s Minister at the city of Washington The Right Honorable
Richard Packenham.

The very friendly feelings towards Texas evinced in the despatch
of his Lordship, as well as in the note of Mr. Elliot transmitting it
to the undersigned, and the very frank manner in which the views

^a A duplicate of the declaration was doubtless sent to Elliot with this letter.

^b February 16, 1844. Written by Elliot and signed by Elliot and Jones. See Elliot to
Jones, January 4, 1844.

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of the British Government have been communicated are highly satisfactory to the President who as Mr. Elliot is no doubt well aware has always heretofore entertained as he now does the fullest confidence in the justice of Her Majesty's Government, and the propriety of the course adopted and pursued by it towards this country

The undersigned avails himself of the present opportunity to tender to Mr. Elliot renewed assurances of the high consideration and respect with which he has the honor to remain

His very Obt Humble Servant

(Signed) ANSON JONES

To

Capt. CHAS ELLIOT
H. B M.s Chargé d' Affaires
etc. etc. etc.

JONES TO ELLIOT.^a

[Sends warrants for the commanders of forty-seven British vessels, the names of which are given, to act under treaty of November 16, 1840, for the suppression of the slave trade.]

JONES TO ELLIOT.^b

ELLIOT TO JONES.^c

GALVESTON *March 22. 1844.*

The Undersigned Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d' Affaires to the Republic of Texas has the honor to request that the Government of Texas will be pleased to issue a Warrant enabling Commander Francis Scott of Her Majesty's Sloop "Hyacinth" about to be employed on the North American and West India Station to act under the treaty between Great Britain and Texas for the suppression of the Slave Trade

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

His faithful and most obedient Servant

CHARLES ELLIOT.

The Honorable
ANSON JONES

etc. etc. etc.

Washington on the Brazos

^a A. L. S., February 19, 1844.

^b March 18, 1844. See Calendar.

^c A. L. S.

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ELLIOT TO JONES.^a

ELLIOT TO JONES.^b

ELLIOT TO JONES.^c

GALVESTON *March 22d. 1844.*

The Undersigned Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to the Republic of Texas has the honor to acquaint Mr. Jones that the broken condition of his health has compelled him under strong medical advice, to ask for leave of absence to quit these climates, and he would further wish to state that it will be necessary for him to return to New Orleans by the "New York" and set out to the Northward as soon as possible.

Prevented therefore from having the satisfaction of paying his respects to the President before his departure, he commits it to Mr. Jones's kindness to convey to His Excellency the expression of his sincere desire for the honor and prosperity of the Republic, and his cordial wishes for His Excellency's continued health and happiness.

The Undersigned will remain in the neighbourhood of New Orleans for some weeks, and till Mr. Jones shall hear from him again, he trusts that the Government of Texas will have the goodness to forward any communications to his address, under cover to the care of J. Macdougall Esqr. Galveston.

He requests Mr. Jones to accept his best wishes, as well as the sentiments of regard and distinguished consideration with which He has the honor to remain

His faithful, and most obedient Servant

CHARLES ELLIOT

The Honorable
ANSON JONES

etc. etc. etc.

Washington on the Brazos.

JONES TO ELLIOT.^d

JONES TO ELLIOT.^e

[Incloses a warrant for the commander of the British sloop *Hya-*
cinth to act under the treaty of November 16, 1840, for the suppres-

^a A. L. S., March 22, 1844. See Calendar.

^b March 22, 1844. See Calendar.

^c A. L. S.

^d March 25, 1844. See Calendar.

^e March 25, 1844.

sion of the slave trade; also an authorization to the proper persons in Great Britain, to make necessary corrections in the names of commanders or ships specified in the warrants.]

ELLIOT TO JONES.^a

ELLIOT TO JONES.^b

ELLIOT TO JONES.^c

[Requested warrants from the Texan Government for the commanders of five British ships, the names of which are given, to act under the treaty of November 16, 1840, for the suppression of the slave trade.]

KENNEDY TO JONES.^d

JONES TO ELLIOT.^e

[Incloses the warrants requested in Elliot's letter of May 1.]

SMITH JO JONES.^f

No. 56

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON

June 18, 1844

The Hon ANSON JONES

Secretary of State

SIR,

Nothing of any importance connected with the affairs of Texas has transpired here so far as I know, since the date of my last dispatch to your Department. News from the United States up to the 1st Instant has been received here at which time as you are aware the Treaty of Annexation was still before the American Senate, without however any prospect of its ratification or of the immediate accomplishment of annexation in any other manner. The remarks of several members of Parliament and of other influential men, show me that this matter is still viewed as of great importance to England.

^a March 28, 1844. See Calendar.

^b A. L. S., April 3, 1844. See Calendar.

^c A. L. S., May 1, 1844. Written from New Orleans. Elliot left Galveston soon after his letter to Jones of April 3 was written.

^d June 3, 1844. See Calendar.

^e June 14, 1844.

^f A. L. S.

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I am not informed whether this Government are taking any steps to prevent annexation: I suspect they will do nothing herein until they shall learn the definitive disposition of the annexation Treaty. I have endeavored to impress on the leading men here the opinion that the only means of preventing annexation is by rendering it unnecessary or disadvantageous for Texas:—that tho' the "Treaty" will be rejected for the present by the U. States Senate, owing chiefly perhaps to temporary party considerations, that the American people will not long resist the allurements of so important and desirable an addition to their territory. I have moreover explained how greatly preferable for Texas also, is annexation which will bring peace, to a continuance of the present unsettled relations with Mexico which delay the full developement of our resources;—notwithstanding that Texas may have nothing to fear and in fact fears nothing from the active hostilities of Mexico. On no occasion have I expressed opinions counter to annexation;—my purpose has been to stimulate this Govt. to a more vigorous employment of their influence with Mexico to obtain peace for Texas:—in regard to which matter I see no reason for changing the opinions expressed in my last dispatch. I shall keep your department promptly informed of whatever may transpire here connected with our affairs.

The Mexican Gov. are not as I am aware making any efforts in this country, having relation to Texas.

A vessel arrived at Hull a short time since from Texas:—the Captain complained of the exorbitant port charges of Galveston which he said must impede and damage the commercial prosperity of this port.

I transmitted last year some documents from the Baron de Cetto, Bavarian Minister, of which no account has been yet received.^a

I have the honor to be

very respectfully

Your most obed: servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

SMITH TO JONES.^b

57

LONDON, 42 ST JAMES'S PLACE

June 24, 1844.

HON ANSON JONES

Secretary of State

SIR,

I have had an interview to day with Lord Aberdeen at his request concerning the relations of Texas and chiefly in reference to

^a See Smith to Jones, August 22, 1843.

^b A. L. S.

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the negotiations at Washington in the United States for 'annexation.' The unfavorable impression relative to the course of Texas entertained by his Lordship previously to my late interview with him appears to have been entirely removed; and Her Majesty's Government perceive that Texas in agreeing to treat for annexation has been influenced only by the wish to obtain in this way honorable peace after the total avowed failure of the Mediation of friendly Powers.

Lord Aberdeen observed that Her British Majesty's Government and that of France had communicated with each other touching the "annexation";—that, entire harmony of opinion subsists and that they will act in concert in relation to it:—that, though the rejection of the Annexation Treaty by the American Senate was regarded as nearly or quite certain, nothing would be done by these Governments until the American Congress shall have finally disposed of the subject for the present session. He stated that then the British and French Governments would be willing, if Texas desired to remain independent, to settle the whole matter by a "Diplomatic Act:"—this diplomatic act in which Texas would of course participate would ensure peace and settle boundaries between Texas and Mexico, guarantee the separate independence of Texas, etc., etc.;—the American Government would be invited to participate in the "Act" as one of the parties guaranteeing etc., equally with the European Governments;—that Mexico, as I think I clearly understood his Lordship, would be invited to become a party to the Diplomatic Act, and in case of her refusal, would be forced to submit to its decisions:—and lastly, in case of the infringement of the terms of settlement by either of the parties, to wit, Texas or Mexico, the other parties would be authorized under the Diplomatic Act, to compel the infringing party to a compliance with the terms.

Lord Aberdeen did not as I remember use the word Treaty, but employed the phrase Diplomatic Act. It would however have all the obligations of a treaty, and the rights of all the parties under it would of course be *perpetual*. I say, of course; for the other parties could not be expected to make a treaty of this nature limited for such a period as would suit the convenience of Texas. Such act would too, as you will have already remarked give to the European Governments, parties to it, a perfect right to forbid for all time to come the annexation of Texas to the United States, as also even the peaceful incorporation of any portion of Mexico beyond the boundary to be settled, which might hereafter wish to unite itself with Texas.

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Lord Aberdeen observed that France will be guided in this matter by the counsels of England he suggested therefore that if such diplomatic act shall be passed, it shall be done at London.

I remarked to Lord Aberdeen in reply, that I had received no instructions from home since our interview a few days ago; that I had transmitted a memorandum of our conversation at that time to my Government with a request for instructions and information; and that until I should receive these I did not well see what further observations I could make. To avoid all possible misconception, I again stated that my remarks at our late interview were intirely inofficial.

The permanent perpetual character of a diplomatic act of the nature spoken of by Lord Aberdeen, appears to me as it will doubtless to you, worthy of our gravest consideration before acceding to it; and the inviting of European Governments to make compulsory settlement of dissensions between the countries of America and the conferring on them of the right to interfere in our affairs may lead to the greatest inconveniences on our side of the Atlantic; as such interference and settlements have been the pretexts for inflicting atrocious wrongs and oppressions on the smaller states of Europe. I have believed that the objections to a Diplomatic Act as mentioned above will be deemed by our Government greater perhaps than the inconveniences of our unsettled relations with Mexico.

I am clearly of opinion that these Govts. will not urge on Mexico to make peace, except in some such manner as I have stated above or on such conditions and guarantees as shall insure the permanent independence of Texas. Further, I should not be surprised were they to counsel Mexico not to make peace under present circumstances except with such conditions and guarantees, lest by so doing annexation should be facilitated by removing one of the obstacles to its accomplishment on the part of the United States.

Lord Aberdeen more than once made observations to the effect that he regretted the agitation of the abolition of Slavery in Texas, as it had created so much feeling and dissatisfaction on our side of the Atlantic; and that hereafter he would have nothing to say or do in relation to this subject.

The tone of Lord Aberdeen's remarks towards Texas was very friendly; and I believe a sincere desire exists on the part of his Government to foster our interests provided we remain independent; and, that Lord Aberdeen is prepared to adopt any proper course and to take promptly and efficiently all proper steps to bring about a peace with Mexico, if he felt assured that our annexation to the American Union would in that event be prevented.

For this purpose he would be satisfied with nothing less than a diplomatic act, the stringency of whose terms would be settled by negotiation.

I shall keep your Department promptly advised of whatever transpires here.

I have the honor to be
most respectfully
your obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

P. S. I have just received July 1st. your despatches of March 26, with the accompanying documents, also letters from Mr Van Zandt.^a

JONES TO SMITH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington July 14th 1844

SIR

My last despatch to you was under date of the 26th March last^b Since then I have had the pleasure of receiving your several communications to the 2d. June Ult^o.

The views you have expressed in your conversation with Lord Aberdeen as detailed in your letter of the 2d June^c are approved by the Department.

The Treaty for the annexation of Texas to the U. States having been rejected, the attention of the government is again turned to the subject of our relations with Mexico. The absence of the President at this time prevents me from giving you his views in detail at the present moment on this matter. The intelligence of the British and French Governments will not fail to make them perceive the importance of an early and decisive action on their part in reference to a settlement of the difficulties between this country and Mexico, and the establishment of our *unconditional* independence through their influence.

You will bring this matter at once to the consideration of both Cabinets, and ascertain what offers (if any) they are disposed to make based upon an assurance from Texas, that she will maintain her National unity; and upon an advantageous reciprocal commercial arrangement, between Texas and either or both of those countries. Should England or France singly or in concert, be disposed to enter into any negotiations on this subject it is the wish of the Government to be informed of it through you as early as possible and that their

^a These letters have not been found.

^b In Correspondence with France.

^c *Ibid.*

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agents here should be instructed to enter at once upon those negotiations with full powers to conclude the same.

You will also ascertain the substance of the correspondence which has taken place between France and England on the subject of Texas, and communicate the same to this Department with as little delay as practicable

Enclosed herewith I send you a copy of a letter from Gen Murphy U. S. Chargé d' Affaires giving some information lately recd by him from Mexico. I also enclose you the copy of a letter addressed to the President by Gen Adrian Woll, announcing the renewal of hostilities on the part of Mexico. The complaint set up by Gen Santa Anna that Texas has acted perfidiously in not sending Commissioners to Mexico agreeably to the terms of an *armistice* proposed at Sabinas by the Commissioners who were sent there is without any just foundation in fact. As it was one of the expressed and agreed conditions upon which those Commissioners were sent that any agreement which might be made by them should not be of any force unless confirmed by the Supreme Govt of Mexico on the one part and Texas on the other.

This Government immediately on its receipt rejected this proposed Armistice information of which was informally given to Capt Elliot, the medium of Communication between us and Mexico. On the other hand the Supreme Govt of Mexico failed to give us notice that she had approved the acts of her Commissioners. So that both by the act of rejection on the part of this Govt and the omission on the part of Mexico to notify Texas that she had approved and confirmed the Armistice the same was void, and utterly null.

It is scarcely possible for Mexico to invade this country and it is more than probable that this vamping on her part is only to give color to her pretended title to Texas, for the purpose of making better terms for herself, in any arrangement she may feel disposed to make for its final relinquishment

The condition of the country is at this time highly prosperous, the revenues are now being collected and disbursed entirely in gold and silver, the present crops promise to be abundant and the people are fully prepared and willing to meet the issue of peace or war, as destiny and the honor safety and welfare of the nation may determine or require

I have the honor to remain
with the highest respect
Your Most Obt Svt

Signed ANSON JONES

To,
ASHBEL SMITH Esq
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[Inclosed were Woll to Houston, June 19, 1844;^a and Murphy to Jones of uncertain date, but probably written only a few days before July 14, the date of Jones's letter in which it is inclosed. The information it transmitted was probably that contained in Green to Murphy, dated Mexico, June 17, 1844,^b or another letter mentioned therein that was previously sent. Green states that he has written that Santa Anna is about to renew the invasion, with expectation of foreign aid; that an order from Santa Anna to Woll to the effect that anyone found a league east of the left bank of the Rio Grande is to be shot as a traitor has been published in the *Diario del Gobierno*; and that he has asked the British minister to join him in a remonstrance against the order, but the minister has declined to interfere except by requesting verbally that the order be not enforced against British subjects.]

HOUSTON TO SANTA ANNA.^c

HILL TO WOLL.^c

ELLIOT TO JONES.^d

[Requests warrants for the commanders of four British vessels, whose names are given, to act under the treaty of November 16, 1840, for the suppression of the slave trade.]

HOLFORD AND CO. TO SMITH.^e

SMITH TO JONES.^f

[58]

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

July 31, 1844.

The Hon ANSON JONES
Secy of State.

SIR,

Nothing of any importance has occurred here or in England connected with our affairs since the date of my last despatches. I visited the King a few days since at Neuilly; he was kind enough to take

^a See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States, in Part I.

^b See *The Morning Star*, July 11, 1844.

^c July 29, 1844. See Jones to Smith, August 1, 1844.

^d A. L. S. July 31, 1844.

^e Undated. See Smith to Jones, July 31, 1844.

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me into a private room where we spoke at length about the annexation of Texas to the American Union and of our affairs generally. The tone of his observations was very friendly. The French Gov desire that annexation may not take place, but they care much less about it than do the British Gov. I believe both these Govs. would make great commercial concessions in favor of the products of Texas, conditioned that we remain independent. Should any new circumstances determine Texas not to accede to the annexation, the present occasion to obtain commercial advantages ought not to be neglected. Accordingly I am waiting for an answer from your Department to my former communications, in order, if authorized so to do, to propose to Lord Aberdeen a great reduction of the duties now levied in British Ports on our cotton and other products; which reduction to continue not less than a term of years, should operate as an inducement to the citizens of Texas to decline annexation. This would be done by an order in council and would impose no obligation on Texas. This as well as my former suggestions to your department on this subject, are made not as reasons of any weight whatever against annexation, but in the event that annexation from any circumstances should be impracticable or not desirable.

I herewith enclose copies of letters received some time since from James Holford Esq stating the amount of Texian Bonds in his possession. I also herewith send a letter to a resident of Galveston, which letter was handed me by the Chargé d' Affaires of Tuscany with a request to forward it.

His Excellency Mr Everett stated in one of his communications to his Government that I was present at an interview of the Antislavery Convention's Committee with Lord Aberdeen. I wrote to Mr Everett to correct this error—he has informed me that he has done so in a communication addressed to his Government.

I am

Very respectfully
Your most obed. Servant

ASHBEL SMITH

(Copy.)

LONDON.

ASHBEL SMITH Esqr
Chargé d'Affaires Texas

SIR,

We beg to annex a copy of a letter addressed you on the 21st July 1842 which we regret to learn from our Mr Holford has never reached you.

We remain

Sir,

Your obedient Servants

signed.

HOLFORD & Co

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