

TERRELL TO JONES.<sup>a</sup>

SMITH TO TERRELL.<sup>b</sup>

[Informs Terrell that the Texan Senate has refused to confirm his nomination as chargé, not through want of confidence in his patriotism or talents, but because that body thinks him hostile to annexation.<sup>c</sup> Terrell is directed to take leave of the courts of Great Britain and France.]

TERRELL TO JONES.<sup>d</sup>

TERRELL TO SMITH.<sup>e</sup>

(Despatch No 3)

LEGATION OF TEXAS

*Paris Febr'y 13th 1845*

To the Hon ASHBEL SMITH  
*Secretary of State etc.*

SIR

I arrived in this City last evening—four days from London. This morning (Thursday) I addressed a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs—announcing my arrival etc.—to which he has replied, appointing Saturday afternoon to receive me.

In the mean time I have concluded to embody in a despatch the substance of a conversation I had with the Earl of Aberdeen the evening previous to my leaving London, and which my limited time precluded me from doing before I left there.

In my instructions from your Deptmt, when I left Texas, I was directed to enter into negotiations with the Govts both of England and France, with a view to the modification of the provisions of existing treaties in such manner as to admit the products of Texan labor into the ports of these Countries upon terms more favorable than are allowed by the present treaties. In obedience to these instructions I sought an interview with the Earl of Aberdeen on the evening of the 8th Inst, and held quite a lengthened conference with him on the subject. At the first introduction of the business his Lordship seemed entirely averse even to the discussion of the matter, and remarked that there was already a treaty existing between the two Countries which Texas had manifested a strong disposition

<sup>a</sup> February 2, 1845. See Calendar.

<sup>b</sup> February 10, 1845.

<sup>c</sup> Cf. Terrell to Daingerfield, January 21, 1845; same to same, March 22, 1845.

<sup>d</sup> February 13, 1845. See Calendar.

<sup>e</sup> A. L. S.

to abrogate entirely—that it would be rather an awkward business to go to making new treaties with a nation which paid so little regard to those already existing etc.—that we would await the result of the negotiations for annexation—which he had been informed were still pending between the U. States and Texas—and a good deal more to the same purport. To this I replied that it was true Texas had negotiated a treaty of annexation with the U States; for this she found her justification in the circumstances which surrounded her, and which I had explained to him in a previous interview; but that I could assure his lordship his information in regard to “pending negotiations” was altogether erroneous. It was true that some action was being had by the Congress of the U. States on the subject, but that the Texan Govt was taking no action whatever on it. In confirmation of which I referred him to the validictory and the inaugural addresses of the late and present Presidents of Texas.<sup>a</sup> I could not, however, give his lordship any assurance if any of the measures now pending in the American Congress for the admission of Texas should pass, and a door be thus thrown open, that she would not enter into the Union—all I could say was that Texas was now acting for herself as an independent nation, as much so as if she had never contemplated admission into the U States; that the very circumstance of her sending new diplomatic agents abroad, and wishing to make new commercial regulations was an evidence of the correctness of this statement. It then occurred to me that something perhaps might be made out of England’s well known opposition to annexation, and I determined to endeavor to avail myself of it. I remarked to his lordship that the project of a new commercial treaty with England, by which articles, the growth or production of Texas, could be admitted into the British dominions upon more favorable terms than were allowed by the existing treaty, was a favorite measure with very many of our citizens; that I could not, of course, insist upon his lordship’s entering into negotiations with me at present upon the subject, but I thought it very probable that if I were authorized to say to my Govt, and let it be made known to the people of Texas, that the Govt of Her Britannic Majesty was willing to modify the existing treaty between the two countries in the manner I had suggested, that fact, coupled with the assurance, which England and France had proposed to give of the speedy recognition of our independence by Mexico, would exert a very salutary influence there—that it would go far to counteract the feverish excitement, on the subject of annexation, that now pervaded the whole community, and would possibly prepare them to reject the measure even if tendered to them by the U States: at any rate it would place in

<sup>a</sup> See *House Journal*, 9th Tex. Cong., 10-16, 27-30.

the hands of the few (and I admitted they were few) who like myself were decidedly opposed to the measure, the most formidable weapons with which to fight the battle which must be fought, whenever that subject is again brought before the people of Texas. His lordship then appeared quite disposed to entertain the proposition; he said however that the subject being one that belongs appropriately to the Board of Trade—the President of which (as you are doubtless aware) is a member of the Cabinet—I could therefore, at my leisure, bring the subject before him, in writing, and he would lay my communication before the Cabinet. In the mean time, I might inform my Govt that that of her Majesty felt every disposition, as a general rule, to make the most liberal arrangements for the encouragement of trade and commerce—it was probable that important modifications in the existing tariff would be made during the present session of Parliament—and that in regard to Texas they would extend to her the most liberal terms which they could do consistently with their treaty obligations to other nations—that they were disposed to afford her every aid and encouragement in their power. He then asked me what were the principal commodities Texas would be able to export provided the tariff duties upon her products were reduced. I told him that at present her chief article of export to England would be cotton; to the West Indies—provided those ports were opened to us on favorable terms—we could send large quantities of beef, pork and lumber of various kinds; and in a very few years we would export sugar, tobacco and grain in considerable quantities. His lordship then remarked that in regard to their West India possessions he presumed there would be little, if any, difficulty in coming to a satisfactory agreement. With regard to England there would be more, as by existing treaties they could not reduce the duties upon the cotton of Texas without making a corresponding reduction on that of the U. States: if however Texas was prepared to grant to England an equivalent—a *quid pro quo*—and let into her ports British manufactures, at a lower rate of duties, then perhaps it might be done. That in regard to sugar he supposed I was aware they had laid a tariff of discriminating duties upon that produced by slave labor and that made by free labor. I told him I was aware of that fact, but that according to the provisions of our treaty the products of Texas were to be admitted into British ports upon the same terms with those of the most favored nations, which would place us upon an equality with Venezuela, and entitle us to a heavy discrimination in our favor over the Brazils, Cuba etc. His lordship said he had not recollected this feature in the treaty, but readily admitted it would have that effect. He then repeated that I could lay the matter before him, when it suited my convenience, and he would act upon it in the manner already designated.

Connected with this subject a good deal of other conversation occurred, but which having a more direct reference to the President personally, I thought it not proper that it should be embraced in a public despatch, and have therefore detailed it at length in a private letter to his Excellency; and in it I endeavored as nearly as I could recollect (and I paid very close attention) to give the language of the Earl of Aberdeen; in this I have aimed only to embody the substance of what was said by his lordship.

In the course of further conversation the Earl said to me that her Majesty's Govt really felt a strong solicitude in the welfare of Texas; that they had exerted themselves faithfully and honestly to adjust the difficulties between her and Mexico; and this not, as had been charged on the other side of the Atlantic, from selfish and ambitious motives, or with a view to obtain an undue influence in the councils of that Country. It was true England expected to reap the advantage of extended trade and commerce with Texas if she maintained her separate national existence, but that the British Govt wished to see her remain independent for her own sake—she had manifested so much vigor and so much enterprise as gave certain indications of her becoming in time a great nation, and England wished to see her such. I remarked to his lordship that the conversation between himself and Lord Brougham in the House of Lords some time since on the subject of the abolition of slavery had afforded to those who wished to create a jealousy of British influence in Texas, the means of exciting that feeling in a very high degree—that I thought it a source of regret that that conversation had passed, for it had at the time produced a very strong impression in Texas. His lordship admitted that it was to be regretted; but continued he, a question was put directly to me on a subject of national policy, and I was bound to answer it according to the truth. It is well known to be the settled policy of the British Govt to wish the abolition of slavery throughout the civilized world, but she will never attempt any interference with the domestic institutions of any friendly power, farther than her advice and counsel will go. And you may assure your Govt that *we will not bring the subject of slavery into negotiation at all between the two countries.* We might have done so with propriety at one time had we wished to do it; when we recognised your independence we might have said to you, you must first free all your slaves and then we will recognise you as an independent nation; but having recognised you with this institution in force, we would have no right now to interfere with the subject, *nor do we intend to do so.*

This I believe was about the substance of the interview between the Earl and myself. From this and indeed from all that has transpired since I have been here, I am convinced that the sentiments of

the British Cabinet towards Texas are of a very liberal character, and I entertain no doubt that if annexation do not take place we can obtain a highly advantageous commercial treaty from them. You will please therefore forward me definite instructions as to the specific propositions I shall lay before the Cabinet. I shall await (as I was directed to do) instructions from your Deptmt before I take any further action on the subject.

I have the honor to be  
with very great respect  
Your obdt servt

G. W. TERRELL

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SMITH TO ELLIOT.<sup>a</sup>

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ELLIOT TO SMITH.<sup>b</sup>

GALVESTON *February 27th. 1845.*

The Undersigned Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to the Republic of Texas has the honour to acquaint Mr. Ashbel Smith that he has recently been moved by Mr. Thomas Power a British Merchant resident in this City to recommend the following case to the attention of the Government of the Republic.

His Brother, Mr. Charles Power, for whom he is now acting, received some time in the year of 1841, a consignment of gun powder from Messrs. Mac Calmont & Co. of Liverpool, for sale here. This gunpowder, to the amount of \$1597.60 was appropriated by Commodore Moore for the service of the Navy (as per accompanying receipts;) But the Undersigned is relieved from any necessity of troubling Mr. Smith with further details from the fact that the case has been fully considered, and favourably disposed of by Congress in a joint resolution passed during its late session authorizing the relief of Mr. Charles Power to the aforesaid extent of \$1597.60.

The resolution, however, appears to have been vetoed by the Executive, not, it is believed, upon any doubt as to the perfect justice of the claim, but in accordance with some general principle to which His Excellency had considered it convenient to adhere respecting the claims of Citizens of this Country. The Undersigned is aware, however, that the rule in question has no reference to claims for restitution in which the interests of the subjects or Citizens of other Countries are involved; and he trusts that the particular nature of this case, the length of time that it has stood over, and its admission by

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<sup>a</sup> February 22, 1845. See Calendar.

<sup>b</sup> A. L. S.

Congress will seem to the President to be sufficient reasons for sanctioning this payment without further delay.

The Undersigned believes that the disastrous losses which these English Gentlemen and their agent Mr. Charles Power have sustained in the trade of Texas will be an additional motive with the President for the favourable disposal of this claim, and indeed he collects from Mr. Thomas Power's communications, that the early receipt of these funds would be of the greatest assistance to his Brother in the settlement of his affairs with his agents in England. Mr. Power has also mentioned his conviction of the just and kind disposition of the Government upon this subject, and upon the whole, the Undersigned earnestly and confidently commits it to their favourable disposal.

He avails himself of this occasion to convey to Mr. Ashbell Smith the assurances of regard and distinguished consideration with which he has the honor to be

His Most Obedient  
and  
faithful servant

CHARLES ELLIOT.

P S Will you very obligingly return the enclosures when you are done with them.

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TEXAS SLOOP OF WAR AUSTIN

*Galveston Bay 6th Decr. 1841.*

Received on board this Ship and the Schrs. San Bernard and San Antonio One Keg of 50 lbs and *one hundred and forty* Kegs of 25 lbs each of Powder which was on deposit on board the Brig Archer and the property of Mr. Chas Power

E. W. MOORE  
*Comdg Texas Navy*

Republic of Texas.

GALVESTON 6 Decr. 1841

Bot from Chas. Power

1 Keg ctg	. . .	50 lbs Gunpowder	. . .	\$22. 50
140 Kegs "	. . .	25 " ea. "	=3500 lbs \$11.25	1575. 00
				\$1597. 50

App. E W MOORE  
*Commdg Texas Navy*

TERRELL TO DAINGERFIELD.<sup>a</sup>PARIS, *March 22, 1845*

MY DEAR COL.

I have this day received your two letters from Vienna, forwarded to me by Mr Rate of London; I am glad at all time to hear from you and especially to learn as I have from various sources, that you have made good impressions both for yourself and Texas wherever you have gone; I doubt whether you have any friend who rejoices at this news more sincerely than I do;—I was greatly in hopes that I should have the pleasure of seeing you this spring, and that together we could have concerted some measures for the advantage of poor Texas but alas I fear her doom is sealed; Our shortsighted run mad politicians are so bent on the ruinous policy of annexation, that I much fear it will carry—apropos, the sword of Damocles. It has not only been suspended over my head but the hair has actually been slipped and it has taken off my diplomatic head and Reilys also. I see by the papers altho it has not yet been announced to me by the Government, that on the 24th Jany both Reily and myself were rejected by the Senate; our opposition to annexation is the cause assigned; for me to say that I do not feel this stroke and that keenly would be an affectation of indifference which I do not feel nor covet; As to the simple fact of having to leave these Courts as Minister that I can say most sincerely is a matter of no consequence with me—for in deed it was my intention and I so informed your friend Baynard near a month ago to have offered you the situation here as I supposed it would be agreeable to you and I really cared nothing about it; But to be rejected by the Senate a body in which I did not think I had a single enemy is really very mortifying to my pride; It is no more however than has happened to other and much greater men than myself to wit Albert Galatin Martin Van Buren and others; I shall submit to it with all the Philosophy I can command; and even if I am to suffer political martyrdom for my opposition to the doctrine of national annihilation, I shall go to the stake with as much resignation as old Polycarp did for his religion; I cannot yet tell when I shall leave or what I shall have to do before leaving untill I receive despatches from home; if I had money to defray my expences I would come and see you before going as I should like much to see that Country; I shall be hard run to get back home unless our Congress in their great liberality have made some provisions for me; can you not come over to London; I shall go there as soon as I receive despatches from Government; I will write you agen when I get the news; the packet that left on the 1st brought nothing of consequence I can tell you however who will compose Col Polks cabinet; Mr. Buchanan will be Secretary of State;

<sup>a</sup> See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 55, pp. 134-137.

Cave Johnson my old neighbor Post Master Genl, Robt J Walker and Butler will divide the treasury and Law Departments, and Govr. Marcy or Mr Bancroft will be Secretary of War, the Navy not determined upon; There will be changes throughout the almost entire diplomatic corps in Europe; Your friend Jennifer<sup>a</sup> will return home and indeed I do not know one except Col King<sup>b</sup> here who is an old personal friend of the President who will remain; Mr Calhoun comes to England, and he will perhaps be the mos[t] unacceptable man to the British Cabinet, they could send; You wish to know what is the present condition of Colonization in Texas. It is literally dead, as dead as it was possible for Legislation to kill it; this is also the consequence of the run mad annexation excitement. By the labours of red hot annexationists a jealousy of foreign influence was excited and the people were actually made to believe that the foreigners wished to get a foothold in the country for the purpose of abolishing Slavery if not of overturning the institutions of the Country. You have no doubt seen the Act which made it the duty of the Attorney Genl to rept. the condition of all these contracts, and declared all forfeited the conditions of which were not strictly complied with; and which also repealed all laws giving to the President power to make or extend contracts. The late Congress did grant to Mr. Castro an extension of time in consequence of the exertions he had made and the money he had expended and an attempt was made to extend Fishers grant. I do not know how it resulted. Your old friend John W Smith and Gus Parker both died during the session. Write to me at this place if you get this immediately if not direct to London

Yr Sincere friend

G W TERRELL

My kindest regards to Count Leiningen I liked him much when in Texas—

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JONES TO ABERDEEN.<sup>c</sup>

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ELLIOT TO JONES.<sup>d</sup>

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ELLIOT TO JONES.<sup>e</sup>

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SMITH TO JONES.<sup>f</sup>

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<sup>a</sup> Daniel Jenifer, minister to Austria.  
<sup>b</sup> William R. King, minister to France.  
<sup>c</sup> March 31, 1845. See Calendar.  
<sup>d</sup> April 3, 1845. See Calendar.  
<sup>e</sup> April 5, 1845. See Calendar.  
<sup>f</sup> April 9, 1845. See Calendar.