

SMITH TO JONES.^aELLIOT TO JONES.^bSMITH TO JONES.^cTERRELL TO SMITH.^dLONDON *3rd May 1845*

SIR,

I arrived in this City a few days since from Paris, and found here your letter of 10th Febry, notifying me of the rejection by the Senate of my nomination as Chargé d' Affaires to this Court and that of France. This intelligence did not take me by surprise, as I had seen the fact stated in the American newspapers some weeks ago, and was therefore prepared for the official announcement of it. It would evince a want of candor and a disingenuousness which is, I hope, foreign from my character, were I to affect indifference to this event, or to deny that my feelings are much chagrined at so unexpected a termination of my diplomatic career. The very handsome manner in which the intelligence is conveyed on the part both of his Excellency the President and the Secretary of State however strips the mortification which I should otherwise feel, of much of its poignancy. The regret also, (which has been expressed) of both the Courts to which I have been accredited at my recal, is a source of high consolation to me. The King of the French expressed to me personally the hope that he should again see me at his Court.

I have no complaints to make against the Senate. They acted, I doubt not, from a conscientious sense of duty to the best interests of our common Country, and although I must think from a very mistaken view of our true policy, still entertaining the opinions they did they had a right to act as they did, and I have no right to complain of them.

In accordance with your instructions, immediately on the receipt of your letter, I waited on the Earl of Aberdeen and announced to him the fact. His lordship expressed a desire that I would delay my departure until the arrival of the next Steamer from Vera Cruz (which he is now looking for) by which he expects important new

^a April 14, 1845. See Calendar.^b April 21, 1845. See Calendar.^c May 1, 1845. See Calendar.^d A. L. S. See note *b*, p. 1190.

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from Mexico in relation to our affairs. It is his opinion, based upon despatches received from the British Minister there, since the installation of the New Govt, that Mexico is now willing to recognise the independence of Texas, and that he will in all probability receive intelligence to that effect by the next arrival from there.

Under these circumstances I have concluded it best to remain until this intelligence is received, which I presume will not be longer than one week. I shall then take my departure, and return home as soon as I can get there—from Liverpool to New Orleans I expect to go—as I shall not have means to go by way of New York.

After the writing of my last despatch from Paris^a I obtained much insight into the conduct of the Minister there—his motives for prevarication with me etc.—all of which I will explain to you at a proper time. I had no further difficulty with him, and we separated upon excellent terms.

I have learned enough here to satisfy me that, should Texas determine to maintain her separate national existence, we can obtain from both the Govts, commercial treaties securing to our citizens advantages which few if any other nations possess.

With very great respect
Your obdt Servt

G. W. TERRELL

HON. ASHBEL SMITH
Secretary of State
etc. etc. etc. Texas.

TERRELL TO CLARENDON.^b

LEGATION OF TEXAS
3 St. James St. May 5th 1845

MY LORD,

Returning from Paris to London a few days since, my attention was directed to the following paragraph contained in a speech of your Lordship, made in the House of Lords on the evening of the 4th. ult. "which may at no distant time endanger the peaceful relations of the U States with our country, by affording to the *restless and encroaching people of Texas an opportunity of gratifying their tastes for establishing a boundary quarrel*, and thus creating a cause of war with Mexico which must be viewed with interest in this country."

This statement does so much injustice to the people of Texas that, as the representative of that Republic at the Court of Her Britanic

^a No. 11; March 18, 1845.

^b See note *b*, p. 1190.

Majesty, I feel myself called upon to vindicate them from an imputation so unjust and injurious; and to place your Lordship in possession of facts which will enable you to appreciate more correctly the true character of the people of that country.

Texas has been so much the subject of misrepresentation, and is consequently so much misunderstood abroad, that I am not at all surprised your Lordship should have fallen into the common error in regard to the character of her citizens. I am aware that the general impression abroad is that Texas is peopled with a wild, turbulent set of adventurers, impatient of all restraint, and reckless of all obligation either social, legal or moral, and who are never content unless they have society thrown into convulsions—and yet *I know* the fact that a more mistaken estimate was never formed of the character of any people. This assertion the whole history of the present population of Texas will sustain. The Anglo Americans were invited into that country by the Mexican Government and settled there under a Constitution and laws guaranteeing to them rights and privileges that constituted an inducement to leave the land of their nativity and seek a home amongst strangers, with a view to better their condition and that of their children.

The object of the Mexican Government, in holding out the inducements and granting the immunities which they did, to the American population, was to place this hardy and enterprising people as a barrier between their own effeminate population and the various warlike tribes of Indians who infested their frontier and made frequent irruptions into their territories.

In this they succeeded. And as long as this population (who thus became citizens of the country, as *bona fide* as though they had been born on the soil), were permitted to enjoy the rights and immunities guaranteed to them by the Constitution, and laws under which they had settled in the country, they remained quiet and obedient to the laws. But when that Constitution under which they had been invited into the country, and which they had taken an oath to support, was subverted by violence, and a military despotism erected upon the ruins of the Federal Union, the people of Texas met in solemn convention and declared their determination not to submit to this lawless usurpation; and not wishing to sever the federal compact, they invited the other Mexican States to unite with Texas in resisting this encroachment upon their rights and “in defence of the principles of the Constitution of 1824.” Nor did they make any other declaration or take up arms until the military despot of Mexico had invaded the country at the head of a formidable army, breathing vengeance and threatening extermination to the Anglo American race within the limits of Texas; a threat which he fulfilled with most fearful pre-

cision on the only two occasions on which any of these people were so unfortunate as to fall into his hands.

Out of these events grew the revolution of 1836, the result of which is known to the world. Certainly none of these transactions evince that spirit of restlessness and impatience of control which has so often been attributed to the citizens of Texas. The fortune of war also placed the author of all their troubles and calamities—Santa Anna himself—in the possession of the Texans. What was their conduct towards this cruel tyrant? Instead of sacrificing him to a spirit of revenge, as they might justly have done in retaliation for his inhuman butcheries and cold blooded massacres of their countrymen who had fallen into his hands, they not only spared his life but generously restored him to liberty and to his country. They also permitted (by a truce) the shattered remains of his defeated and routed army, to retire unmolested from the country. They likewise set at liberty all their prisoners taken in the war, of whom there was a number greater than the whole force of the Texas army. I do not think your Lordship can discover in all this conduct of the people of Texas, any evidence of that restless and turbulent disposition which you have been pleased to attribute to them. Since that period nine years have elapsed, during which time the people of Texas have remained at home, or at least have made no hostile demonstrations against the Mexicans, except when the latter have made incursions into our territory: And although these incursions have been frequent, both by marauding parties and by authorised divisions of the Mexican army; and although they have invariably been driven from our territories immediately upon the rallying of our citizens, yet have the Texans never, save in one instance, pursued them beyond the limits of their own country.

During these frequent irruptions into our territories the frontier settlements have been subjected to every specie of annoyance, depredation, pillage, and robbery. They have been wantonly despoiled of their property and many of our best citizens, who were quietly pursuing their peaceful avocations, have been forcibly wrested from their homes and from the bosom of their families, thrust into ignominious dungeons, and there kept for years, or bound in chains and manacled as felons, have been forced to labor as slaves and convicts upon the public streets in the cities of Mexico, and many of them cruelly butchered in cold blood. Yet under all these circumstances of aggravated insult, wrong and injury, did the people of Texas forbear to retaliate, except in the manner I have mentioned, and uniformly when the Mexicans have fallen into their hands (which has frequently been the case) they have been treated with the greatest

humanity and restored to their liberty. I do not pretend that had Texas possessed the requisite power and resources to have invaded Mexico with a force sufficient to have penetrated into the heart of the country, she would not have done so; on the contrary I have reason to know that both of the Government and the people would have felt themselves under the strongest moral obligation to have exerted all their energies for the purpose of freeing their countrymen from the galling bondage under which they laboured, could they have done so with any prospect of success. Aware however that such an attempt would have been utterly futile, and not considering themselves at liberty to imitate the example set them by the Mexicans by retaliating those predatory incursions made into their territory, believing them as they did to be not only contrary to the established usages of modern warfare amongst nations professing to be civilized, but violative of the principles of humanity itself, they have confined themselves generally to the simple act of defending their own territory when it has been invaded.

Taking then the whole conduct of the people of Texas into consideration, from the date of the declaration of their independence to the present time, so far from their manifesting that "restless and encroaching" disposition which your Lordship has, from the misrepresentations of their enemies and for want of a knowledge of their true character, been induced to believe them to possess, you will find that under accumulated wrong, injury and outrage, their conduct has evinced a spirit of forbearance and magnanimity never surpassed and seldom equaled in the conduct of even the oldest and best regulated states of the world.

There are many more facts connected with the subject of this letter which might have been appropriately introduced, but their enumeration would have occupied too much time and space. I have therefore confined myself to a few prominent points in the history of this people.

Enough however I trust has been said to induce your Lordship to avail yourself of some suitable occasion to do an act of simple justice to a young and enterprising people just struggling into political existence

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Your Lordship's obdt Servt

G. W. TERRELL

To the Right Honorable
The EARL OF CLARENDON
K. G. C. B. etc. etc. etc.

TERRELL TO SMITH.^aLONDON *May 9th 1845*(Despatch No. 7)^bThe Honble ASHBEL SMITH
Secretary of State.

SIR,

I have for some days been so unwell (from the effects of violent cold) as to disqualify me for any business—or even to get out at all. I had received a communication from the Earl of Aberdeen informing me that he had received important news from Mexico which he was ready to communicate to me whenever I could call on him. I waited on his lordship yesterday afternoon; he informed me that the New Govt. of Mexico had announced to the English and French Ministers, resident there, their readiness to acknowledge the independence of Texas, provided Texas would declare against annexation to the U States. Mr. Bankhead stated however, in the same despatch, that an order had gone forth from the War Deptmt for the arming and equipping of ten thousand troops to be in readiness to invade Texas—that when he saw this order he went immediately to the Minister of Foreign Relations to know the meaning of it—that the minister replied it was done to satisfy the clamors of the Congress and the people of Mexico, but that the troops would never be marched to Texas. All these facts however, the Earl of Aberdeen told me had been sent by the French and British envoys from Mexico to their respective Ministers in Texas, to be communicated to the Govt, so that I presume it is useless for me to go more fully into the details of the transactions.

During my first interview with Lord Aberdeen on my return from Paris, he remarked to me that he thought of proposing to the French Cabinet that the two Govts should Jointly propose to Texas and Mexico that they would undertake the settlement of the differences between them, on condition that Texas should pledge herself to reject the proposition of the U. States for Annexation; and asked me how I thought such a joint proposal would be received by Texas? I replied that I was convinced Texas would reject an overture clogged with any such conditions, and reminded his lordship of the conduct of the North Americans in regard to the famous Stamp Act—that

^a A. L. S.

^b Of the numbered series, 1, 2, and 3 appear in chronological order in Correspondence with Great Britain. No. 4 is included in Correspondence with France. The dispatch of Terrell to Smith, dated May 3, 1845, is in all probability No. 5 of the series. No. 6 has not been found, though it is probable that it was a letter from Terrell to Smith, written between May 3 and May 9, 1845, and inclosing the Terrell-Clarendon correspondence. The numbered series takes no account of the letters written by Terrell to Jones, which, though diplomatic in substance, were probably personal letters, and of which no copies have been found in the archives.

when the duty was in effect taken off, they went to war for the principle.

I told his lordship that we were the same people, governed not only by the same great principles, but by the same impulses. I gave it as my opinion, however, that if Mexico could be prevailed upon to acknowledge the independence of Texas at once and without conditions of any kind whatever, with this alternative before them set up against annexation on the terms proposed in the resolutions of the American Congress, the people of Texas would declare in favor of separate National independence.

The Earl then suggested that Mexico appeared to have a great tenacity on the subject of the boundary between the two countries, and that he doubted very much whether she could be prevailed upon to yield to Texas all the territory the latter at present claimed. To this I replied that perhaps the best method to avoid that difficulty would be for them to prevail upon Mexico to acknowledge our independence, unconditionally, and leave the question of boundary to future adjustment by friendly negotiation—that in such a negotiation Texas might possibly yield something to the spirit of conciliation, but that she certainly would yield nothing as a condition precedent. The Earl informed me yesterday that he had made a proposition to the French Cabinet in accordance with these suggestions, the result of which has been the conclusion to offer to the belligerent Nations the joint mediation of these two Govts upon the basis above mentioned: and the Earl submitted to my perusal the despatches he has drawn up for Capt Elliot on the subject—all of which you will of course learn through him.

The Mexican Govt having declared their readiness to acknowledge our independence (I fear however a little the influence of the Congress and populace of Mexico) the question then resolves itself into this shape—will the people of Texas have independence, peace and a lucrative trade with Mexico, commercial relations, upon the most favored terms, with England France and the West Indies, low tariff and low taxes, or will they deliver themselves, bound hand and foot, stript of all they have and are, and manacled in chains of bondage which they never can break (for the U States resolutions are nothing less) into the hands of the U States, there to be dealt with as these justice loving states (who have already dealt with so much liberality towards Texas) shall hereafter determine? Surely the people of Texas will not remain so blinded by their prejudices as not to open their eyes to their true interests.

We are all alike in the dark here as to the course Texas will adopt on the resolutions of the U States Congress. The King of the French manifested much anxiety on the subject, and asked me my opinion as to their probable action on them. I gave his Majesty the opinion

(at the same time stating that I had no information) that the President of Texas would say to the U States, these terms are such as Texas cannot accept. That the President of the U States would then throw himself upon the alternative resolution and propose to Texas to appoint commissioners who should agree upon the terms on which Texas should be admitted into the Union. But to this our President would reply that the Constitution of Texas did not clothe the executive with any power to appoint these commissioners on the part of Texas, and consequently the matter would have to lie over until the next session of our Congress. To this the King replied, that if things took this course it would give ample time, and he thought it more than probable the Cabinets of France and Great Britian would be able before that time to prevail upon Mexico to acknowledge the independence of Texas, and that they would not be wanting in exertion to bring about that measure, for that it was greatly desired by both Govts.

My only dread now is that the agitators in Texas who are so clamorous for annexation will so stir up the people on the subject that it will force the President to convene Congress in extraordinary session; and should this be done, with the present feeling of that body, and before the alternative above spoken of can be presented for their consideration, they will declare in favor of annexation even upon the oppressive terms proposed by the U. States. However I have great confidence in the firmness of our President, and know that he will resist the clamor if possible.

I shall leave for home as soon as I recover sufficient strength to bear the fatigues of the journey to Liverpool.

Please remember me to the President and Cabinet.

With very great respect
Your Obedt Servt

G. W. TERRELL.

Hon ASHBEL SMITH
Secry of State
Texas

CLARENDON TO TERRELL.^a

THE GROVE *May 10th 1845*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 5th inst. and to assure you that I fully appreciate the motives by which, as the Representative of Texas in this Country, you have been induced to remark upon the speech which I made in the House of Lords on the 4th Ult. I beg however to inform you that the extract from that speech which you sent me is an incorrect report. What I

^a See note b, p. 1190.

did say (in speaking of the annexation of Texas announced in the address of the President of the U States) was that "it need not be expected that the restless and encroaching people by whom it appeared Texas was *henceforth* to be inhabited would be long without indulging their national taste for a boundary quarrel or establishing a cause of war with Mexico" etc. etc.

You will perceive therefore that I spoke of Texas in a prospective sense—of Texas no longer independent, but as incorporated with the United States and peopled by American Citizens. To Texas as at present constituted I made no allusion whatever, and so little have I been disposed to regard the character and conduct of your Countrymen in the light you imagine, that I rejoiced in the recognition of their independence by the British Government, although I must confess I did not anticipate that they themselves would view with indifference or voluntarily surrender the rights which they had so long and so painfully struggled to acquire. With regard to Texas however in its future position as a frontier State of the Union, I cannot admit that the expressions used by me were either unjust or misapplied when I consider what has been the course pursued by the United States in respect to the Indian Tribes, to the Canadian Frontier, to the Oregon Territory, and that according to a recent declaration made by the highest authority, it has, for the last 20 years been the settled policy of the American Government to gain possession of Texas.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your very obt. Servt

CLARENDON

To His Excellency

G. W. TERRELL

etc. etc.

No 3 St Johns St

London

ALLEN TO SMITH.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington [Texas] 10th May 1845

HON ASHBEL SMITH

Chargé d'Affaires of Texas

Etc. Etc. Etc.

SIR,

The definite proposition for the annexation of Texas to the Federal Union, having been presented to this Government upon the eve of

* See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 44, pp. 261-263.

your late departure from the country to resume your duties as Minister Chargé d'Affaires to the European Courts, and the promptness with which you have proceeded upon your mission, must have conspired to embarrass your efforts in obtaining the accurate and positive information concerning the domestic relations of Texas and the actual posture of our affairs, so necessary to the efficient and satisfactory discharge of your official functions. This embarrassment has doubtless not only been increased in degree, but rendered peculiarly annoying by the many contradictory reports and idle speculations on the affairs of Texas, and the designs gratuitously attributed to the officers attached to her Executive Government, emitted by the daily press to the excited communities of the Republic and the Union.

It is therefore with sincere pleasure that I, in compliance with the directions of His Excellency, the President, avail myself of the earliest occasion which the current of recently transpiring events would permit, to convey to you information touching the posture of our affairs, and the results of the course of policy determined upon by the Executive just before your departure, and since successfully pursued in relation to the important matters connected with the proposition for annexation, so deeply affecting the interests and sensibilities of the nation.

The benefits of the brief delay for deliberation, which the President deemed it prudent to adopt, before acting upon the overture submitted by Mr. Donelson, on the 30th. of March last, in behalf of the United States, have already become strikingly manifest, in the unanimity and cordiality with which his subsequent measures, adopted in accordance with plain and satisfactory indications of the national desire—measures presenting an unobjectionable mode for the free and effectual expression of the decision of the People, on questions whereof they are the sole and rightful arbiters, have been sustained and approved throughout the Republic. As was at first expected, some dissatisfaction was manifested by the masses, owing to a misapprehension of the motives for deliberation entertained by the Executive, and meetings were held in several counties, the proceedings of which were characterized by excited feeling, and evinced a settled and changeless determination of the Citizens in favor of an adoption of the proposed basis for annexation, and an immediate assembling of Congress. Since that time, popular meetings have been held in all the counties, and the sense of the nation as gathered from these sources is conclusively expressed in favor of effecting the incorporation of Texas into the American Union on the terms of the pending overture.

After the proclamation for assembling the Congress in special session on the 16th of June next,^a had been promulgated, the idea of

^a April 15, 1845. See *The Morning Star*, April 19, 1845.

advising the call of a Convention of Delegates, which you recollect originally suggested itself to the President, on the presentation of the proposition for annexation by Mr. Donelson, was again entertained by him, and being convinced after mature reflection, that such a measure, although it might, when at first suggested, have been premature, was no longer open to objection, he issued a proclamation on the 5th. instant, recommending the meeting of a Convention at Austin on the 4th of July next to act upon the important matters pending before the nation.^a

Both the proclamations referred to, you have doubtless received in the National Register, which is regularly transmitted.

Sufficient time has elapsed since the promulgation of the latter to test the success and wisdom of the measure by the strongest manifestations of approval by the people. Many of our most eminent citizens are candidates for seats in the Convention, and the assembly will doubtless be composed of men capable of wielding the immense interests committed to their deliberations.

Thus, the Executive by adopting a course of conduct during this important crisis sufficiently prompt to meet the exigencies of the occasion, and sufficiently deliberate to coincide with the concurring impulses and actions of the people, has been so fortunate as to secure the support of all parties to his measures—presenting a singular anomaly of reluctant union between parties for the first time seen to blend and harmonize. And I cannot but entertain the opinion that if he had at first adopted either of the measures since so universally approved, his course would have met with a violent and determined resistance from party opposition.

The preceding view of the affairs of Texas and of the events which have recently transpired will suggest to you the necessity and importance of explaining the position of the country and the reasons of this Government for not at present desiring to form any new Treaty relations, with the Governments where you are accredited.

Despatches have been received from Gen. Terrell, our late Chargé d'Affaires at Paris, under dates of the 13th. of February and 18th. of March last, the contents of which have occasioned to the President no small degree of surprise and anxiety. I refer particularly to the apparently discourteous and insulting neglect with which Mr. Terrell was treated by the Government, and especially by M Guizot on, and subsequently to his arrival at the Court of Paris as the accredited Minister of this Republic. The President cannot for a moment entertain the impression that the Government of France, ever distinguished for courtesy, and hitherto preeminent, especially at the Court of her renowned sovereign, in the observance of those principles of comity which belong inseparably to the diplomatic intercourse of

^a See *The Morning Star*, May 10, 1845.

enlightened nations, has wantonly and without a supposed just cause, cast upon this Government the indignities which she has received in the person of her representative. He desires you, therefore, to ask for an explanation of the reasons which occasioned the neglect experienced by Gen Terrell at that Court, and doubts not that upon candid examination, those reasons will be found to have originated in misapprehension or error.

I have the honor to remain, with sentiments of high respect,
Your Obedient Servant

EBEN ALLEN
Secretary of State ad interim.

SMITH TO ALLEN.*

Despatch

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON

No 1.

May 17, 1845.

The Hon. E. ALLEN

Secretary of State

SIR,

I reached this place on the 14th Instant and called the same day at the Foreign Office where I had an interview with the Earl of Aberdeen, Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. I called again today on Mr Addington Under Secretary of State. The following is a summary of my interviews.

I adverted to the State of affairs in Texas and especially in reference to our relations with the United States, with all which Lord Aberdeen was of course previously acquainted in a general manner. Referring to the Resolutions of the American Congress for annexing Texas, I stated that if these alone were presented to the people they would probably be acceded to;—that, we had been led to believe in Texas that the Mexican Gov. having entertained the question of recognizing our independence, they might be now induced to do so forthwith, coupled with no other condition than that Texas should remain independent;—that it was desired by my Government to present for the consideration and action of the citizens of Texas at one and the same time the option of independence recognized by Mexico, or of annexation. Under these circumstances and in view of the known wishes of the British and French Governments that Texas should remain independent, it was suggested that these two Governments should take such measures as they should deem proper to induce Mexico to make the recognition in question without delay.

Lord Aberdeen's remarks may be summed up as follows.—His Lordship read a despatch sent out by last Steamer, (3d Instant I

* A. L. S.

believe) to Mr Bankhead wherein the recognition of Texas by Mexico is strongly pressed upon the Gov. of the latter country by all those arguments and considerations which having been frequently stated need not be repeated. In the dispatch it was intimated, and, as I understood his Lordship, confirmed to me in conversation, that no more stringent measures would be used by these Governments towards Mexico than the earnest pressing of the policy of immediate recognition as hitherto advised. General Terrell had been informed by this Gov. previously to my reaching here, that only *moral* means would be used. Lord Aberdeen intimated that he would by next Steamer again urge this matter if there would be any use in it.

In view of the fact that the persons at the head of affairs in Mexico, whatever their individual opinions may be, are obliged to have regard to the public opinion of their own citizens, which is known to be adverse to recognizing Texian Independence, this Gov. think it doubtful whether a prompt recognition by that country may be anticipated. I believe this Gov. incline to the negative opinion; nor will they under present circumstances, resort to any new or stringent measures to operate on Mexico.

As to a settlement by a treaty between all the parties interested, the Earl of Aberdeen had already mentioned to my predecessor the previously to my arrival, that the British Gov. were willing on their part to enter into a Diplomatic Act embracing the stipulations and guarantees as set forth in the accounts of my interviews with Ld Aberdeen last year, particularly that of the 24th June (I believe), but that the French Government were unwilling to enter into such obligations or to employ any other than *moral* means towards Mexico; and finally that the British Gov. deemed it inexpedient to pass a diplomatic act, without the cooperation of France. General Terrell informs me that he has already communicated to your Department the details of this conversation of his with Ld Aberdeen, and also his Lordship's remarks on the inexpediency of attempting to negotiate a commercial treaty at this time, whereby our products should be received into the ports of Gt Britain and France on more favorable terms than at present.

On my mentioning to his Lordship our desire to negotiate a treaty with Spain, he replied in effect that he should be unwilling, if a Spanish Minister, to treat in the present State of Texian affairs; alluding, as I understood, to the measure of annexation being now under consideration in Texas. I could not after this remark, request his Lordship to advise the Spanish Gov. to enter into negotiation with us.

As there is a clear and full understanding between England and France in relation to all the affairs of Texas, it seems obvious that no advantage could be anticipated from my repairing at this time to the latter country.

In my interviews with this Gov. I have endeavored to place clearly before them the fact, that nothing less than the recogn. of our independence by Mexico without *delay* will satisfy our people, and that such recognition if accepted by us, will be faithfully adhered to and observed.

It hence appears that Mexico is in fact left to the influence of those counsels and considerations already presented to it. The good offices of friendly Powers do not seem likely to accomplish any thing more. If the Mexican Gov. see fit to acknowledge our Independence, it will be for our citizens to determine whether they will remain so. If they decide to pursue the policy of annexation and annexation be accomplished, the drama is closed—at least the present act of it.

If the next arrivals from Mexico bring no change in its attitude towards Texas; I shall then pursuant to the tenor of my instructions, respectfully intimate that Texas will no longer look for a settlement of its affairs from the mediation of the friendly Powers, but relying solely on the resources it possess within itself, pursue its welfare and honor by such means and in such manner as it shall deem best;—and that if we choose to remain a separate independency, we will by force of arms compel the people of Mexico to acknowledge the same at their cost and peril.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Yours obed: serv.

ASHBEL SMITH

3 St. James's Street.

SMITH TO SECRETARY OF STATE [ALLEN].

No. 2.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON

June 3, 1845

To the Hon

The SECRETARY OF STATE,

SIR,

I received this morning by the Packet Ship, Henry Clay from New York a letter from Dr Bowers^a stating that he has an order of recall addressed to me. I shall therefore leave this country by the first opportunity and I hope to reach Texas in a short time after you shall receive the present despatch. Indeed I have been only waiting to hear from your Department as I conceive my longer stay in this country would be unnecessary.

^a Possibly meant for Brower. John H. Brower had been appointed Texan consul in New York, 1841, and, so far as the Consular Correspondence in the archives shows, continued in that office till Texas was annexed to the United States.

The news by the Steamer Hibernia came to hand yesterday, bringing American dates up to the 16th Ultimo. After taking note of the American news I called on Mr Addington at the Foreign office.

I think I may safely assert that this Government regard annexation as certain, that they will not use any efforts to prevent its consummation, nor take any exception to it afterwards. A principal objection to annexation on their part is alleged to be the increased danger to Mexico which will arise from this approximation of the Union to the inhabited districts of that country; and they think Mexico showed a great want of wisdom in not listening to their friendly counsels and in not recognizing our independence long since.

General Terrell leaves today or tomorrow on his return to Texas. He will give you detailed information concerning our affairs here. I should have accompanied him had my private letters (from Dr Bowers) reached me three days earlier.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your obedient Servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

ELLIOT TO JONES.^a

ELLIOT TO JONES.^b

ELLIOT TO ALLEN.^b

ALLEN TO SMITH.^c

ALLEN TO SMITH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, 2. July 1845.

SIR,

Since conveying the instructions for your return contained in my note under date of the 26th. Ultimo, this Department is in receipt of your Despatch of the 17th May last; the contents of which are highly satisfactory and evince the importance and useful results of your mission.

^a June 12, 1845. See Calendar.
^b June 13, 1845. See Calendar.
^c June 26, 1845. See Calendar.

From its tone, the President is led to infer that the Courts of Great Britain and France, though opposed in principle to the annexation of Texas to the Federal Union, are not inclined to interfere beyond the use of such moral considerations as they may deem advisable to present to the good sense and sound discretion of the Governments and the communities, to prevent the consummation of the measure.

The course thus indicated and which those renowned sovereigns have determined to pursue, is justly entitled to great consideration, and their opinions must exert an appropriate influence, upon the action of the high interested parties, and upon the measures yet to be adopted for carrying out the relations pending between them.

The people of Texas, however, have decided in favor of annexation in every form devised to give expression to their choice. The Executive as those enlightened Courts fully understand is bound, by paramount obligations arising from the Constitution of his Office and of the government he was elected to administer, to give effect to the will of the nation thus expressed.

But the friendly dispositions ever manifested by the Governments of England and France towards this Republic; the courtesies and benefits attending their amicable intercourse with her, continued for a series of years;—the high sense of justice evinced by them in every step of the diplomatic relations hitherto subsisting between this government and theirs; and especially the elevated and equitable ground now assumed by them on the subject of annexation, justly entitle them to be remembered with feelings of respectful and grateful consideration by the Texian authorities and people.

With such expressions as will suggest themselves to you as most proper in taking leave of those Courts, you will communicate those sentiments as well as the high regard, entertained by His Excellency the President for those sovereigns, with his sincere wishes that the life and reign of each may be long prosperous and happy.

On your departure, please collect and bring with you to this country the Archives of the Legation both at London and Paris. You are requested also to write to Mr. Daingerfield and communicate to him the instructions of the Executive for his return as soon as convenient and practicable, requesting him also to bring the Archives of Legation in his charge.

I shall anticipate the pleasure of seeing you at an early day in this country, and in the mean time, I beg you to accept renewed assurances of my high regard.

EBENR ALLEN.

Hon. ASHBEL SMITH
Charge d'affaires of Texas
etc. etc. etc.