

HENDERSON TO MOLÉ.^a

IRION TO HENDERSON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
City of Houston, Sept. 7th, 1838.

SIR,

In addition to what I suggested in my despatch of the 7th. ultimo relative to the French Blockade, the President desires you to convey to the French Government his request that they will extend the operations of their fleet to the coast of Texas as far as may become necessary to prevent the evasion of their blockade of the ports of Mexico.

The peculiar condition of our South-Western frontier and coast owing to the sparse population in that quarter, and the entire absence of any naval force at the disposition of the Government to observe that portion of our coast, renders this measure an act of justice to the French Government.

Up to the latest dates the blockade was sustained by the French. The prosperity of the country continues unabated.

Great efforts are making in opening plantations, building up towns and extending our settlements.

It will not be hazarding much to say that the American and European population of the Republic has doubled in the last two years.

Your despatch of the 2nd. of June is the last received. I mention this under the apprehension that more recent ones may have miscarried.

We shall expect with much solicitude your next despatches.

Accept the renewed assurances of consideration and regard by
 Yr. Obt. Servant,

R. A. IRION

To the
 Hon.

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON,
*Diplomatic Agent of the
 Republic of Texas, near the
 Govmt of France.*

HENDERSON TO MOLÉ.^b

^a August 16, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, October 5, 1838.

^b September 26, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, October 5, 1838.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL [MOLÉ] TO HENDERSON.^a

 HENDERSON TO MOLÉ.^b

HENDERSON TO IRION.^c

Legation of Texas
Despatch No 2.

PARIS *October 5th. 1838*

To the Honorable, The Secretary of State
For the Republic of Texas.

SIR

For some months after my last despatch, I awaited according to the intimation which I then gave you, to see the result of the demand which France had just then made upon Mexico; hoping that the unfriendly feeling which I saw likely to grow out of this affair would dispose France to hear my request with a more favorable feeling than I believed her disposed when I first arrived in Paris. Indeed, I then discovered that unless France and Mexico actually commenced hostilities, I could not expect to obtain the recognition of Texas by the French Government. About the middle of August, it was rumored here in the Ministeriel Circles, that France then saw that she would have much more difficulty in coercing Mexico than she at first anticipated, and that she was then willing to compromise the affair upon almost any reasonable terms. Fearing that the imbecility of Mexico might induce her to accept of such terms as France in her then state of feeling would offer, I concluded that the time had arrived when I ought to press this Government to give me a definite answer. Accordingly I addressed to Count Molé the following Note

“The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas begs leave to call the attention of his Excellency Count Molé, President of the Council and Minister of Foreigns Affairs to the communication which he had the honor to address him on the 1st. of June last upon the subject of the recognition of the Independence of Texas by His Majesty the King of the French, and begs Count Molé to inform him of the determination of His Majesty in that regard. The Undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew to Count Mole the assurances of his distinguished consideration ”

To his Excellency Count MOLÉ *etc. etc. etc.*

PARIS *August 16th. 1838* (signed) J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON.

^a September 30, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, October 5, 1838.

^b October 1, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, October 5, 1838.

^c L. S.

In a few days I received an intimation from him that he was preparing a report upon the subject of my mission, which he would submit when finished to the King and the rest of the Cabinet, and that he would inform me of their determination in that regard, when had. I then again concluded to await their decision with patience. Not however having received any communication on the 26th of September, I addressed him as follows,

PARIS *September 26th. 1838*

“The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas begs leave again to call the attention of his Excellency Count Molé, His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the communication which he had the honor to address him on the 1st. of June last upon the subject of the recognition of the Independence of Texas by His Majesty the King of the French, and begs that he will honor him with an answer to the same.

In addition to the reasons heretofore set forth in support of the claim of Texas to recognition as an Independent Nation, the Undersigned begs leave to add the increased embarrassment of Mexico in her Foreign Domestic and Financial relations, the remarkably rapid increase of the population of Texas for the last six months and her independent financial condition, arising alone from her internal prosperity and resources; which he hopes will be sufficient to convince His Majesty's Government (if they entertained any previous doubts) that Mexico has no prospect of reconquering Texas. And when His Majesty contemplates the present and the past situation of Texas—that the present authorities of that country have held the reins of Government for the last three years—that by recognizing the Independence of Texas, no guarantee is given—that His Majesty is only solicited to acknowledge a *fact* that has existed for three years, and has been recognized for eighteen months by the Government of the United States, viz. that the Government which the Undersigned represents is ‘*de facto*’, the Government of Texas, the Undersigned hopes that his Majesty will, with the same promptness and justice which has ever characterized the Government of France in like cases comply with his solicitations in this case. He cannot however conclude this communication without again insisting that the facts of this case not only warrant that His Majesty shall recognize the Independence of Texas upon the above principal, as the long established usage of Nations in such cases, and that she is capable of maintaining her present position and of performing all of the obligations of an Independent Government, but that they will justify the determination that Texas is ‘*de jure*’ an Independent Nation; for the facts to prove which, the Undersigned begs leave to refer his Excellency Count Molé to his communication of the 1st. of June last, or to so much of it

as contains References to this point of the case. When Count Molé recollects that nearly five months have expired since the undersigned first applied to him on this subject, and when he is at the same time informed that the time is near at hand when it will become the duty of the Undersigned to leave France, to discharge a duty imposed upon him by his Government in another country, he is persuaded that he will no longer delay answering his application.

The Undersigned begs leave to renew to Count Molé the assurance of his very high regard and distinguished consideration

(Signed) J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON.

To Count MOLÉ *etc. etc. etc.*

To which I received the following note in reply (Translation)

“The President of the Council, Minister of Foreign affairs has the honor of stating to Genl. Henderson that he would be happy to see him tomorrow Monday the 1st. of October at 9 o'clock in the morning.

He takes this occasion to offer him the assurance of his distinguished consideration.” •

FOREIGN OFFICE, *September 30th. 1838.*

I attended at the Foreign Office according to the request contained in the Count's note, and had a very satisfactory conference with him. He informed me that he had instructed the French Minister at Washington City to send one of his Secretaries to Texas immediately to enquire into and report to this Government the situation of the country in all respects; and that they could not give me a definite answer until they heard from him.^a I replied that I was glad to hear that His Majestys Government had taken that course—that I was sure there was nothing requisite to prepare the minds of this Government to recognize Texas but a full knowledge of her Government, People and resources—that the Govt. at Washington had pursued the same course, which resulted in a favorable report, and was speedily followed by absolute recognition. He then asked me if Texas had a representative in England. I informed him that I had been there, but that that Govt. still delayed the recognition of Texas, but that they had not *refused* to recognize and still had the matter under consideration: that I had brought a letter from Lord Palmerston to Earl Granville the British Ambassador at this Court for the purpose of enabling me to carry on the negotiation through him. I also informed him that I had previous to my leaving London, made a com-

^a A de Saligny, secretary of French legation at Washington City, 1838; secret agent of the French Government to Texas to report on the country, 1839; *chargé d'affaires* to Texas, 1839-1841, for a time in 1842, and again from the end of 1844 or the beginning of 1845 to 1848.

mercial arrangement with the British Government, which would open a direct trade between Texas and the Ports of Great Britain; and that since he informed me of the course which His Majesty had determined to adopt towards Texas—a course which must necessarily cause several months delay before I could expect any final action, I regarded it as important to propose a similar arrangement with his Government to that I entered into on the part of Texas with Great Britain. You will observe that I mentioned to him in my last communication that it would soon become my duty to leave France for another Country. He (I suppose recollecting that) then asked me when I wished to leave France. I candidly replied that I was instructed by my Govt. to use my discretion in that respect and that I was anxious to learn what prospect I had of obtaining the recognition of Texas during the coming winter by France and England so that I might regulate my movements accordingly—That if I discovered that neither would take that step during that time, I would return to Texas—that I wished to satisfy myself upon that point before the winter set in, so that I might have a pleasant passage across the Atlantic if I found it necessary to return without fully accomplishing the object of my mission, but that I would remain with great cheerfulness, if there was a probability of my being able to effect the commercial arrangement I intended to propose with France in a reasonable time, or that I would gladly remain all winter or until the Agent despatched by France to Texas shall have made his report, provided this Govt. would be governed in their future determination upon the subject of the recognition of the Independence of Texas by the report of that Agent. I thought from Count Molés reply to my last speech, that he was disposed to avoid committing himself or his Govt. on the latter point, because he observed in reply that he would be glad that I would not leave Paris as soon as I spoke of because the Govt. might wish to make a commercial arrangement with me, which they would take immediately into consideration.

I replied that I would await their decision upon that subject with a great deal of pleasure, and that it was my intention to submit the proposition in a more formal manner as soon as I could do so, which would be in a day or two. I then repeated my determination to remain, if I discovered there was a prospect of obtaining the recognition of Texas by France during the coming winter, and that if there was no prospect I would return; and that I wished to satisfy myself upon that point before the last of November. He, after a moments hesitation, observed, that I only gave them two months—that he did not suppose they could hear from their Agent in that short time. This observation induced me to believe, that the course of this Govt. upon the subject of recognition would depend very much upon their Agents report. I saw too that he did not exactly understand what I

intended to say, viz. that I wished to learn before the last of November, whether or not there was a reasonable prospect of obtaining our recognition by France *during the coming winter*. I did not however repeat the assertion or put it by way of an interrogatory, as I had determined to await their decision upon the subject of the commercial arrangement, and then ask another interview with the Count, when I could interrogate him fully upon the course his Govt. was likely to pursue—whether the King would recognize provided his Agent's report on the situation of Texas warranted that course, or whether any other circumstance that might be nameless would influence his decision upon that subject. After some other unimportant conversation, he asked me the nature of the commercial arrangement I had made with England—whether it was in the nature of a convention or treaty. I then explained it to him as it really is. He then expressed a desire to see a copy of Lord Palmerston's letter communicating the determination of the British Govt. upon my proposition, which request I did not deem expedient to refuse, and accordingly transmitted to him a copy of the same, with the following communication.

PARIS— *October 1st. 1838*

When the Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas last had the honor of an interview with his Excellency Count Molé, Minister of Foreign Affairs he expressed his desire to make a commercial arrangement with the Govt. of France, under which a direct commerce may be carried on between her Ports and the Ports of Texas, until His Majesty the King of the French shall have recognized the independence of Texas. He now has the honor to submit the proposition in a more formal manner. The Undersigned would regard it as superfluous to enter into a formal argument, or to cite any part of the laws and usages of Nations to prove that according to that code, a Neutral Power has the right to avail herself of the trade of a revolted State, previous to the recognition of the independence of such State either by the Govt. to which it belonged, or the Neutral Power. In regard to this point of the present case, he deems it sufficient to remind his Excellency that the power of Mexico in Texas has been entirely extinct for three years—that during the whole of that time, Texas has been entirely governed by the authorities which the undersigned has the honor to represent—that a similar arrangement to that which he now proposes to make with the Govt. of France, existed between the Govt. of the United States and Texas previous to the recognition of the Independence of the latter by the former—that Texas has been recognized and treated with as an independent Nation by the Govt. of the United States for more than eighteen months. The only point then to which it seems necessary to enquire is in relation to the *expediency* of such an arrangement as

that proposed. With regard to that, the Undersigned begs leave to inform Count Molé that Texas is not and never can be a manufacturing country. Her climate, the disposition of her citizens, the richness and extent of her soil, together with the nature of its products will forever prevent it, by directing their labor and capital to the cultivation of her lands. Her People then must depend for their manufactured articles upon France and other Foreign Countries, for which she will exchange her Cotton, Indigo, Raw Silk, Tobacco, Sugar and various other articles, which the richness of her soil and the mildness of her climate enable her to produce in great abundance. The United States being the only Govt. which has recognized the independence of Texas, and until lately, the only Country with which Texas could carry on a direct commercial intercourse, has monopolized the whole of her profitable trade, and imposed upon her the highest prices. Under the existing state of things between France and Texas, the People of Texas are compelled to pay double duties, double freight and double profits to Merchants upon all French Goods which they consume, viz. Freight from France to the United States, duty to the Customs of that Country and a profit to her Merchants, with the additional freight to Texas, duty to her Custom-houses and profit to her Merchants. Thus the People of Texas have been compelled to pay an exorbitant price for all Goods manufactured in France, or obliged to use inferior articles of American manufacture at a price beyond that for which they could import French Goods direct. The Undersigned is authorized to say that the largest portion of the Goods which are best suited to the Texian Markets are manufactured in France, and would be imported into that Country, provided it could be done without subjecting them to the taxes as above mentioned. The Cotton of Texas is superior in quality to any raised in the United States except that of the Sea Islands, and consequently, the undersigned is informed is better adapted to the French than any other Market. By the Tariff laws of the United States, all Texian Cotton imported into her dominions, is subject to a tax of three cents per pound, which will force her to seek a Market in other Countries. His Excellency Count Molé will see, that as matters now stand, France is denying herself the benefits of a lucrative trade with Texas, whilst the British and American Governments are enjoying its benefits. The Undersigned proposes on the part of Texas to enter such an arrangement with the Govt. of France, as will admit the vessels of Texas with Texian papers flag and Cargo into the Ports of France, upon such terms as may be compatible with her laws, and the pleasure of His Majesty the King. He has also the honor to inform Count Molé, that according to the present laws of Texas the vessels and manufactured Arti-

cles of France will be received into the Ports of Texas upon the same terms as those of the most favored nation. He begs leave to remind his Excellency that the season is now at hand when the People of Texas are seeking a Market for their Crops of the present year, and receiving in return their winter supplies of Goods, and therefore requests his Excellency to inform him at the earliest convenient time of the disposition His Majestys Govt. shall make of this proposition, that he may inform his Govt. of the same. The Undersigned begs leave to renew to Count Molé the assurance of his most distinguished consideration

(signed) J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON.

To His Excellency Count Molé *etc. etc. etc.*

I would gladly have avoided giving to Count Molé a Copy of Lord Palmerstons letter as above stated, but I could have made no sufficient excuse for withholding it since the arrangement has been approved and published by the Govt. of Texas; because that places it so far as its publicity is concerned upon the same footing with public Treaties. If this Govt. will consent to a similar arrangement, it will answer all the purposes of trade; but I am convinced that I could have made a more formal arrangement with them, if I could have withheld Lord Palmerstons letter because I stated to him in general terms, that the Treaty between Mexico and England was continued in force by that arrangement between Texas and England; And inasmuch as the Treaty heretofore existing between Mexico and France is at least suspended by the hostile position which France has assumed towards Mexico, I am of opinion that I could have induced this Government to have entered into a formal compact with Texas independent of her treaty stipulations with Mexico.

I have but little doubt I will be able to effect some sort of an arrangement with them speedily upon what basis I cannot say.

Some difficulty has heretofore existed in regard to Texian Citizens obtaining passports to come from England into France, inasmuch as Texas has no recognized minister in London, and inasmuch as the French Minister in London only had power heretofore to grant passports to French and English Citizens, all others being compelled to obtain passports from the Minister of their own Government.

In July last, there being several Citizens of Texas in England who were desirous of visiting Paris and being unable to do so for the above reason, they wrote to me requesting my interference. I immediately addressed a note to Count Molé Requesting him to cause the French Ambassador at London to grant the several persons therein named the necessary passports to come to France; and also requested him to empower and instruct the Ambassador to grant pass-

ports to all Texian Citizens who should thereafter apply to him, until Texas shall have been recognized by France. To which he replied that he had in compliance with my note given the order and instructions to the Ambassador in London; so that hereafter Texian Citizens in England will meet with no delay in that regard.

I heretofore informed you that upon leaving England, I had been furnished by Lord Palmerston with a letter to Earl Granville the British Ambassador at this Court for the purpose of enabling me to carry on the negotiation with the British Government through him. I called on him a few days since, and held a conversation with him upon the affairs of Texas, and asked him to inform me what the disposition of his Government was at that time in regard to the recognition of Texas.

He said that he had not heard from London upon the subject particularly, but that if I desired it he would write Lord Palmerston upon the subject. I requested him to do so, and informed him at the same time that I was instructed to inform his Government that the Minister of Texas at Washington had been instructed to withdraw the proposition heretofore submitted for the annexation of Texas to the United States.^a Upon that subject I will write you a separate despatch when I hear from him.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most obedient
humble Servant

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

HENDERSON TO JONES.^b

HENDERSON TO SECRETARY OF STATE [IRION.^c]

Legation of Texas
Despatch No. 3.

PARIS, *October 28th. 1838.*

To the Honorable
Secretary of State.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 7th. Ultimo instructing me to "communicate to the French Government, the desire of the President that they may extend the

^a Cf. Irion to Henderson, June 6, 1838, in Correspondence with Great Britain.

^b October 6, 1838. See Calendar.

^c L. S.

operation of their fleet to the Coast of Texas, so far as it may become necessary to prevent the evasion of their Blockade of the Ports of Mexico." The circumstance of the late occupation of Corpus Christi, a port within the limits of Texas, by the Mexicans, had not escaped my observation; and I had reflected on the propriety of naming it to this Government, and informing them that the Govt. of Texas would not be averse to their Blockading that part of the Texian Coast, previous to the receipt of your instructions upon that point. I had however come to the conclusion that it would not be compatible with the interests of Texas to do so, inasmuch as the main ground upon which I have founded my application to the French Government for the recognition of Texas as an Independent nation is *her ability to maintain her independence*, unaided by other Nations; and that Mexico has not the power to invade or again subdue any part of Texas; and that by requesting this Government to Blockade that part of the Coast of Texas, would be a contradiction of that important position, and tantamount to saying to France, that Texas is not able to defend her territory against Mexican aggressions and therefore she solicits your assistance. I was strengthened in that determination by the knowledge that Texas has the ability, and the belief that the Government would exercise their power to remedy that evil. I had also come to the determination that should Count Molé allude to the matter and ask leave to extend the operation of their fleet so far as to prevent its evasion through that Port, I would deem it advisable to say to him, that the Government of Texas would have no objection to their doing so; that that Port is in a region of Texas that is not inhabited by our Citizens and remote from her frontier settlements, and therefore she had not regarded its occupation as in the least degree important to her present peace and safety; and in that way avoid the reflection, which the possession of that Port by Mexico within the limits of Texas, might cast upon the strength and energy of the latter. I beg that you will not suppose that I have made these observations in a dictatorial spirit. I only offer them as reasons to *justify* my conclusion in that regard.

When I received your communication on this subject, my first impression was that I could use no discretion when my instructions are in the positive. I was led however again to review the reasons upon which my former conclusion was founded, the result of which was, to strengthen my conviction of its correctness. The same vessel which brought your despatch, brought also news of a more recent date from Texas, which informed me that a Company of Texian troops had marched against the Mexicans at that place,^a who upon hearing of their approach, had abandoned it. Under these circum-

^a Corpus Christi.

stances, and with the full conviction that I am acting as the President would have me act, if he could be present to instruct me, I have determined not to make his request known to the French Government. I now avail myself of the earliest opportunity to convey to you that determination, and ask the President further instructions on the subject. Altho' the information which has reached me in regard to the abandonment of Corpus Christi by the Mexicans is not official, yet under all the circumstances I have deemed it most prudent to regard it as true. Certainly when the *cause* upon which the Presidents request was founded, ceases, the most positive instructions may be disregarded. I am not one of those who believe that I am vested with authority to disregard in any case I may see proper the positive instructions of my Government. I consider that I am sent here to do that, which the President would do if he were present; but suppose I had learned since the receipt of your communication, that all differences between France and Mexico had been amicably settled. No one would doubt I presume that I would be at liberty under such circumstances, to disregard the most positive instructions. If I have erred in my course in regard to this matter, I can only assure you that it is the result of the want of a proper understanding of the interest of Texas, and not a disposition to disregard the President's will because it happens to differ from my own.

I think that it would even be better that Mexico should be permitted to keep possession of that Port, than that Texas should ask another Nation to dispossess her. But I hope it is true that the Government have not only shown that they have the disposition, but the power, to drive the Mexicans from their territory.

I will anxiously await your reply to this communication; but should this Government refer to the subject, and *propose* to extend their Blockade to that Port, I will speak of it as a matter of indifference to Texas, and inform them, that I am at liberty to consent to their desire, if in their opinion it will become necessary to take that step.

I have heard nothing from Count Molé, since my last despatch upon the subject of the commercial arrangement which I proposed. I will not urge the subject again until I suppose he has received the report of the Agent which he informed me he had ordered to be sent to Texas, as I have some reason to believe, that the true cause for his requesting me not to leave Paris as early as I had intimated was my design, is a wish to keep me here until they hear from that Agent, and more of their position before Vera Cruz, and not as he alledged, a wish to enter into a commercial arrangement with Texas previous to their final decision upon the question of recognition. That however may not be the case. It would be well for you to keep me

informed of the movements of the Agent of this Government, who I suppose is now in Texas, so that I may urge matters here, as soon as his report is received.^a

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most obedient
Humble Servant

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON

HENDERSON TO IRION.^b

PARIS *October 28th 1838*

DR SIR

Accompanying this letter you will receive my despatch upon the subject of the operations of the French blockading squadron etc. etc. I hope soon to have your reply and the opinion of the Government upon the same.

* * * * *

I hope to hear from you soon after the arrival of the Agent in Texas who has been sent by this Govt. and also please inform me of his subsequent movements, particularly of his return that I may know when to urge this Govt. to a descision upon the question of recognition

Your Obedient Servant

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

HENDERSON TO LAMAR.^b

PARIS *October 28th 1838*

MY DEAR SIR

I presume that you will by the time you receive this be in the full exercise of the Chief Executive Office of Texas and upon your appointment to which allow me to congratulate you most heartily. You will see by refering to my former despatches (one will accompany this)^d how I have conducted affairs with this and the British Government and how matters now stand here. I wrote a long letter a few weeks since addressed to "the President"^e which may find you

^a This report did not reach France until late in the next year. See Hamilton to Lamar, July 8, 1839, in Correspondence with Mexico.

^b A. L. S.

^c A part of the matter here omitted relates to Henderson's salary. For the remainder see Calendar of Correspondence with Great Britain.

^d Dispatch No. 3, Henderson to Secretary of State [Irion], October 28, 1838.

^e This letter has not been found.

occupying that station when it reaches Texas. That letter together with my Despatch to the Secy of State of the same date will inform you of my position at this Court. I had asked and obtained leave of your predecessor to return home this fall provided I concluded that I could obtain no advantage for Texas during the coming winter or spring in France or England. You will have learned from my letters and despatches that I have concluded to remain this coming winter in Paris and the reasons which influenced me to come to that determination. I have a strong hope that this Government will recognize Texas as soon as they receive the report of the Agent which I heretofore informed my Government they have ordered to Texas for the purpose of enquiring into her situation etc. etc. I cannot avoid believing from Count Molés whole manner and expressions, on the occasion of my last interview with him on the subject of Texian Affairs that they really wish me to remain here until they hear from that Agent and also from their squadron before Veracruse and that if the report upon our affairs is favourable as it seems to me it must be and their situation in regard to Mexico is not different from that at present I believe they will immediately recognize Texas. Their true object in requesting me not to leave Paris as early as I intimated was my intention *may* be as Count Molé expressed it viz, a desire to consider the question of a commercial arrangement but I think otherwise. I will not urge that matter but await the receipt of the Agents report when I will immediately press the question of recognition

I hope the *Secy* of State will keep me regularly informed of the movements of that Agent that I may judge rightly of the time to press matters here. The despatch which will accompany this letter will inform you that I have *postponed* acting upon the instructions of the Secy of State under date of the 7th of September last until I have further directions and my reasons therefor which I hope will meet your approbation. My opinion is that a Minister has no right to delay acting upon *positive* instructions from his Government; that is a genl rule to which I apprehend there are some exceptions, such as a thorough conviction on the part of the Minister that some important points involved have been over looked by his Government which if called to their attention would convince them of the propriety of countermanding their orders in regard to the matter; or a change in the situation of the thing involved, which appears to be the case in the present instance. It does seem to me that the reason which dictated those instructions has ceased and that there is no longer a necessity of acting upon them even supposing that they were at the time issued founded on good reasons. It appears to me to be acknowledging too much to admit that Texas is not able to drive a few hundred vagabond Mexicans from her territory. It would cer-

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tainly be contradicting what I have heretofore solemnly alledged viz that Texas is not only able to defend her own Territory against invasion from Mexico but that she has the power to invade her enemy. I was very much relieved by the receipt of the news (soon after I received the despatch alluded to) that Corpus Christy the port alluded to had been abandoned by the Mexicans on hearing of the approach of a body of Texian troops, as that (though not official) afforded as I conceive a good reason for my course.

If the French Government thinks it important to their interest to have the liberty of cutting off the Mexican trade through any of our ports which are unoccupied by our citizens it seems to me that it is most proper that they should name it. In such an event I could see no good reason for refusing to give the Governments consent provided it only extended to such of our ports as are not settled by our citizens

I think however that it would be more compatible with the interest etc. of Texas to prevent the Mexicans from occupying any port of her Territory. I am aware that the want of the necessary funds has prevented Texas from acting against her enemy as efficiently as her *physical* ability would warrant.

I informed the Secy of State in my last despatch that I had held a conference with Lord Granville the British Ambassador of this Court upon the subject of Texian affairs and that he had promised me that he would inform his Government of the same. I received a communication from him a few days since conveying the answer of his Government to my inquiries upon the subject of their disposition at that time in regard to the recognition of Texas. The substance of it is that they have not yet come to the determination to recognize Texas. If France recognizes upon the receipt of their Agents report I will immediately repair to London and urge the matter before that Government. I hope that Congress and the Government will dispose of the claims of the British subjects (for goods etc. captured) at an early day. I have heretofore communicated my views upon those claims fully.

I have the honour to remain your Most
Obedient Servant

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

Genl LAMAR

HENDERSON TO JONES.^a

MOLÉ TO HENDERSON.^b

^a October 28, 1838. See Calendar.

^b November 2, 1838. See Henderson to Secretary of State [Irion], November 12, 1838.