

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Austin March 29th, 1841

HON. JAS. S. MAYFIELD,
Secretary of State.

STR,

In reply to your verbal request that I would furnish you with all the information in my possession respecting M. de Saligny, the *chargé d' affaires* of the French Government, having passed counterfeit or spurious promissory notes of the Republic of Texas to a waggoner in his employ and refusing to redeem them, I have to state that about the 30th of July 1840 a Mr. James Latham called at this Department and made some complaint that M. de Saligny had given him spurious promissory notes of the Government in payment for hauling his furniture etc. from Houston, and had refused to redeem them with genuine notes. I afterwards heard the Hon. James H. Starr, then Secretary of the Treasury, speaking of the matter, but do not recollect any thing definite that he said, more than his expressing surprize that M. de Saligny should refuse to redeem the counterfeit notes.

On the 4th of August, I think it was, Mr. Latham called at the Department and handed me a note from the Hon. J. H. Starr, of which the following is a copy, viz:

"Will Mr. Sevey give this gentleman the 300 \$ for the counterfeit notes and take his receipt on the back of the affidavit respecting the notes recd. of Mr. Saligny.

(Signed) JAS. H. STARR

Pay it out of a package from City Lots.
Aug. 4th."

At the same time Mr. Latham gave me six \$50 notes, (which I knew at once to be counterfeit) and an affidavit of which the following is a copy, viz:

<p>"REPUBLIC OF TEXAS <i>Travis County</i> the 31st July 1840</p>	}	<p>This day personally appeared James Latham before me, A. C. Hyde, one of the acting Justices of the Peace for said County, and made oath according to law that on the 30th inst. he reced. from Monsieur de Saligny six fifty dollar bills of the promissory notes of the Government. No as follows—221, 180, 234, 238, 323, 242, making in all three hundred dollars, that the same has not been out of my possession and those now presented are the identical notes received from him. Given under my hand and seal this date as above written.</p>
<p>(signed) A. C. HYDE</p>	<p>(Seal)</p>	<p>(signed) <i>James Latham</i>" J. P. T. C.</p>

I found that the numbers on the notes corresponded with the numbers given in the affidavit, and the notes themselves were marked across the face "Counterfeit—Jas. H. Starr". I immediately obeyed the order given by the Hon. Secretary, (who was in another part of the City at the moment) and paid Mr. Latham three hundred dollars as directed, and took his receipt on the back of the affidavit, as follows, viz:

"AUSTIN Aug. 4th 1840

Received of James H. Starr, Secretary of the Treasury, three hundred dollars in genuine notes for the counterfeit notes described within.

(Signed) JAMES LATHAM."

The originals of the foregoing order, affidavit and receipt, together with the counterfeit promissory notes, are now in this Department.

Mr. Starr afterwards informed me that some of the members of the cabinet had agreed to replace the above mentioned sum of three hundred dollars out of their private purses, in order to avoid any difficulty about the matter with M. de Saligny.

It may not be improper to add that I was, at the time the above mentioned occurrence took place, as at present, chief clerk of the Treasury Department.

I have the honour to be
Your Obt. Servant

WM. SEVEY

CITY OF AUSTIN April 4th 1841.

TO HON. JAMES S. MAYFIELD
Secretary of State,

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note late yesterday afternoon, requesting to be informed relative to aught that has come to my knowledge with regard to the matter at issue between the Chargé d' Affaires of his Majesty the King of the French, and this Government.

In reply, I have to state that M. de Saligny stated to me, as I understood he did to others, that "he had prepared a Document for the French Minister at Mexico, detailing the circumstances of the case, which would meet Judge Webb, upon his arrival—" pointing at the same time to a Packet lying upon his table. The object of which communication, as I understand was to embarrass the negotiations of the Hon. Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico.

I make this communication, under the impression that M. de Saligny could not have intended it as confidential, from the consideration

that he knew my situation towards the Government, and from the fact, that I had heard the statement made prior to my conversation with him.

In conclusion I beg to assure the Hon. Secretary of State that it will at all times afford me pleasure to confer a favor upon the Department over which he presides, as well as to render a service to my country.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully
Your Ob't Srv't.

THOS GALES FORSTER.

AUSTIN *February 24th. 1841*

HON JAMES S MAYFIELD
Secretary of State,

SIR,

In conformity to your instructions dated the 20th of this month I have instituted a Judicial inquiry into the alledged violation of the Laws of Nations said to have been committed by Mr. Richard Bullock a citizen of Austin upon the person of a domestic belonging to the house of the Honorable Charge d'affaires of France at our Government.

The result of this inquiry contained in the accompanying documents marked (A) (B) and (C) I have the honor herewith to transmit you. The Letter of the Hon. Judge Hutchinson (Doc. C) before whom the investigation was had, gives a full statement of the proceedings and the Judicial order, which he issued thereupon.

As the Honorable Chargé d'affaires did not feel himself at liberty to comply with my request, made through your Department, that his Servant should give his testimony before the Judge in relation to the subject of complaint, the investigation of the Court was directed only to the affray of the 19th. For this offence the result of the Judicial enquiry shows that Mr. Bullock the Defendant, has been strictly dealt with according to the Laws of our Republic provided for such cases.

Trusting that the novel and delicate duties which in this instance have devolved upon me in my official capacity, may have been discharged in such manner as to meet the approbation of His Excellency the President,

I have the honor to subscribe myself,
Your Obt and Humble Servant

HENRY J. JEWETT
Dist Atty 3d Jud Dist

Document. A

Information

THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

County of Travis.

To the Honorable Anderson Hutchinson Judge of the District Court, for the fourth judicial District and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Texas.

In the name and by the authority of the Republic of Texas, be it remembered that, Henry J Jewett District Attorney of the third Judicial District of the Republic of Texas aforesaid, comes before your Honor and brings with him here, certain instructions in writing directed to said Attorney by the President of said Republic through his Secretary of State James Mayfield. That is to say,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

City of Austin, Feby 20th. 1841.

SIR,

Mr Saligny Chargé d'affaires of France yesterday transmitted to this Department, a representation that Mr Richard Bullock a citizen of this City had violated the Laws of Nations by provoking and engaging in an affray with Mr Eugene Pluyette a domestic of his and one of the people belonging to his house.

The President has directed me to instruct you to institute before the proper Judiciary officers an examination into the affair, and adopt such legal measures in prosecution of the same as can be borne out by the laws and usages of nations and our own municipal policy.

It is desirable that the examination be taken in writing. Relying upon your zeal and integrity in sustaining inviolable the usages of Nations and the character of our institutions further or detailed instructions are deemed unnecessary.

I am respectfully your
Obt Servant

JAMES S MAYFIELD

To HENRY J JEWETT Esq
Dist Atty.

Whereupon the said District Atty in behalf of the Republic aforesaid, by virtue of the power and authority vested in him by law, and in conformity to the aforesaid instructions on this 22nd day of February in the year of Christ One thousand eight hundred and forty one, gives the Court here to understand and be informed that one Richard Bullock a citizen of the County of Travis in the republic of Texas, aforesaid on the nineteenth day of Feby in the year of Christ One thousand eight hundred and forty one, then and there with force and arms in said county in and upon the body of one Eugene Pluyette a servant of A De Saligny Chargé d'affaires of France in the republic of Texas then and there in the peace of the

republic being, an assault did make and him the said Eugene Pluyette did then and there beat abuse wound and illtreat and other wrongs and enormities then and there did and committed to the great damage of him the said Eugene Pluyette, in violation of the Laws of Nations and against the peace and dignity of the republic.

Whereupon the said District [Atty] who prosecutes in behalf of the Republic as aforesaid prays the consideration of your Honor, in the premises and that due process of Law may be awarded against said Richard Bullock in this behalf and he be held to answer to said Republic touching and concerning the premises aforesaid and do therein what to Law and Justice may appertain.

HENRY J JEWETT

Dist Atty 3d Jud. Dist Rep Texas

Upon this Information the following process was awarded,

The Republic of Texas to the Sheriff, Coroner, or other Ministerial officer of the County of Travis or in defect or absence of such officer then to the Marshall of the City of Austin Greeting;

Before the Undersigned Judge of the fourth Judicial District and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Information by Henry J Jewett Attorney of the republic for the third Judicial district, predicated on instructions of the Executive through the Department of State, has this day been preferred stating and charging that Richard Bullock a citizen of the Said County on the 19th day of this month with force and arms in and upon one Eugene Pluyette a servant of the Honorable A De Saligny Chargé d'affaires of France at our Republic, then and there being in peace an assault did make and him the said Eugene did beat abuse wound and illtreat, and other wrongs and enormities then and there did and to the great damage of the said Eugene in violation of the Laws of Nations and against the peace and dignity of the Republic.

We therefore command you forthwith to arrest the said Richard Bullock and bring him before the undersigned at the Senate Chamber in the City and County aforesaid on tomorrow at three o'clock P. M. to be examined of the said charge and to be dealt with according to Law and have then and there this warrant.

Witness A Hutchinson Judge etc., this 22nd day of February 1841 and his private seal annexed.

A HUTCHINSON (SEAL.)

On this warrant the following return was endorsed, viz

Recd 22nd Feby

Served 22nd. 1841

Moses Wood

C. C. T.

The evidence in the case marked (B.) is herewith annexed.

Document (B)

Republic vs Richard Bullock

The defendant appeared and answered by his attorney F A Morris Esq. A motion was made by the Counsel for the Deft that the Deft be discharged on the ground that the warrant was issued without the oath or affirmation required by the Constitution contained in the fifth article of the declarations of rights. Overruled. The defendant pleaded not guilty of the Charge. The following Witnesses were sworn and examined.

Moses Johnson. I was passing up the street and saw Mr Bullock running after some person. As I approached nearer, the person whom Mr Bullock was pursuing appeared to make some resistance. Bullock threw rocks at the man, took up an axe but did not strike. The man picked up a rock, dont know that he threw it, but thought he did. They were afterwards together, saw Mr Bullock strike the man. Did not see whether the man struck Mr Bullock. The man is one who resides with Mr Saligny—rides his horses. I think the Frenchman struck Mr Bullock, but not certain. I think Mr Bullock struck the Frenchman with a rock on the head, afterwards the Frenchman kicked Mr Bullock two or three times and then Mr Bullock pursued the Frenchman with a Club towards Mr Dulong's. This was three or four days since I think on Saturday or Friday last. When I first saw them the Frenchman was running from Mr Bullock.

Cross examined. I do not know the mans name. Know he is about Mr Salignys.

(Signed) MOSES JOHNSON

Jules Dulong. On the 19th. I heard a noise in the street. Went to the window, saw Mr Bullock running after Mr Salignys servant. When Mr Bullock pursued the servant closely, he laid down a basket he had and turned upon and struck Mr Bullock. Mr Bullock retorted on him. They had a fight, they were engaged about two minutes. The servant kicked Mr Bullock twice, the servant's face was covered with blood. When the servant was blinded with blood he ran into my store. Mr Bullock pursued him with a Club. I requested him not to come into the store and Mr Bullock went away. I know him to be the servant of Mr Saligny. His name is Eugene Pluyette. Mr Bullock pursued the servant to the door, but did not attempt to come in—used some abusive language. Mr Bullock had a large club in his hand. The servant had a contusion in the head. When I first saw Mr Bullock pursuing the servant Mr Bullock seemed to be in great anger. I did not see the commencement of the affray.

(Signed) J. DULONG

Reduced to writing by the Recorder, of Austin and signed by the witness in my presence, he having answered and deposed through a sworn interpreter.

February 23d 1841.

A HUTCHINSON

(Document. C.)

AUSTIN

February 23, 1841

HON. JAMES S MAYFIELD
Secretary of State.

SIR

On this 22nd instant Henry J Jewett attorney of the Republic for the third judicial district, preferred before me as one of the District Judges, an official information against Richard Bullock, of Travis county, for committing an assault and battery on Eugene Pluyette, a domestic of the suite of the honorable A. De Saligny, chargé de' affaires of France, resident here, and stating the offence to have been committed on the 19th instant in violation of the laws of nations. I issued my warrant for the arrest of the accused and his preliminary examination at the capitol on this day. He was arrested and brought before me at the hour and place appointed. I requested the Mayor of Austin to sit with me, in order that he might take cognizance if from the evidence, the case should seem more proper for his action. The minister of France did not send any witness to be sworn to testify. Two witnesses on behalf of the Republic were sworn and testified; and their testimony reduced to writing, will be copied and transmitted to you, with copies of the information and warrant, by Mr Jewett. Being satisfied from the testimony that the accused ought to be put upon recognizance with sureties to respond to the prosecution at the next term of the District Court of Travis County for the misdemeanor charged as an offence against international law, I ordered him to give sureties accordingly. He has entered into a regular recognizance, with sureties, so to appear answer and defend. Any other or farther proceeding against him did not seem indicated by the evidence or justified by our constitution and laws and the action had appears to be the utmost the laws and usages of nations in such case require.

I have the honor to be, Sir, yr
Obedient etc.

A. HUTCHINSON ^a

^a Here ends "Document C". A letter from Jewett to Mayfield, December 11, 1841, on file with the correspondence, states that Bullock's case had been called in the district court of Travis County that week, but that it had been continued to the next term by the defendant, who had been put under bond to appear at that time.

[Next come translations of three letters of Saligny to Mayfield, dated respectively, February 28, March 21, and March 25, 1841.^a]

ADVERTISEMENT OF TEXAN BONDS.^b

AMORY TO HAMILTON.^c

HAMILTON TO LAMAR.^d

(Private)

LONDON *May 17th 1841.*

MY DEAR SIR:—

My despatches to your Secretaries of State and of the Treasury^e will inform you how our business is progressing in Europe and of the unexpected check I have received from the French Minister of Finance; but as I feel assured of the good dispositions of the King, I trust my visit to Paris will set all things right. Without the Minister of Finance should positively refuse to allow us to sell our Bonds on the Bank, Mr Lafitte is resolved with all the courage and firmness which belongs to his character, to carry the Loan triumphantly through. The French Government cannot without a breach of faith unexampled even in the treachery of modern diplomacy, refuse us this privilege; if they do, I shall have to let Messrs. Lafitte & Co off their contract, and denounce the conduct of the French Government in the face of all Europe. I think they will find old Lafitte and myself rather troublesome customers. If however, he is compelled by the perfidy and injustice of his own Government to quit the field, I think the Loan under the excitement, will stand a fair chance in England and Holland of as good a contract. But Messrs Lafitte & Co wrote me, that they are resolved to go it, if they are only allowed the privilege of selling the stock on the Paris House.^f I subjoin the advertisement they have published in the French Papers.

My letter to the Secretary of State, will inform you of my diplomatic proceedings. I am gratified at the delay in the ratification of the Slave trade treaty; as it will enable me to vindicate and sustain this compact to the Senate in person; and before November such events will occur in regard to the exercise of the right of search be-

^a See the originals under their proper dates and titles.

^b May 14, 1841. See Hamilton to Lamar, May 17, 1841.

^c May 15, 1841. See Amory to Mayfield, May 31, 1841.

^d See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 509.

^e See Hamilton to Mayfield, May 18, 1841, in Correspondence with Great Britain; Hamilton to Chalmers, of the same date, in *Austin City Gazette*, July 14, 1841.

^f Copyist's error for Bourse.

tween England and the United States as will demonstrate the necessity or expediency of Texas becoming a party to such a Treaty.

I shall I hope return in September. In the mean time it will be unnecessary to send any other Minister or Chargé as he would not be received or recognized and would have nothing to do, and be an expense to the Republic, and as I cost you nothing, I am a safe Minister, at least, in this respect.

Our friend Judge Burnet I am told simultaneously with my appointment, appointed Genl Green to supersede me; which would now be of no avail. I am too well assured of the kindness and friendship of the Judge, to believe it was done with any intention to hurt my feelings; although it would have been regarded before my return home and [completion]^a of my Mission as a public mark of disapprobation. I am delighted to hear of your recovery and remain My Dear Sir, with esteem yours faithfully and respectfully.

J. HAMILTON

His Excellency
President LAMAR.

Mr. Lafitte's advertisement in all the Paris papers on the 14th May. "General Office of Commerce and Industry" Notice—

Messers James Lafitte & Co have taken upon themselves to issue a Loan of 37 Millions of Francs on a/c of the Texan Government upon the following understanding, which is expressed in their agreement viz:

Article 10.—The present contract is concluded upon a formal assurance given by the Texan Envoy that he has obtained the consent or admission of the French Government to the above Loan, and a further assurance that the said Government will facilitate with its moral aid the negotiation of the said Loan of which assurances the Texan Envoy has furnished us with the documentary proofs. The remarks published on the 6th Inst ^b and the Messenger which are the usual organs of the French Govt. being of a nature to inspire the public with doubts as to the security offered for the Loan, opening of the subscription which was [fixed] for the 15th Inst is deferred until further notice

AMORY TO MCINTOSH.^c

AMORY TO HAMILTON.^d

^a Here the copyist left a blank as he was unable to decipher the original.

^b Blank left by copyist.

^c May 30 [?], 1841. See Amory to Mayfield, May 31, 1841.

^d May 30, 1841. See Amory to Mayfield, May 31, 1841.