

Mr. Castro to Mr. Smith.

[Extract.]

PARIS 4 Juin 1842.

* * * Nos Journaux annoncent que St. Ana a obtenu en Angleterre un emprunt de \$15,000,000 pour faire la guerre au Texas. Je n'ai pas contredit le fait, parce que j'ignore ce qui se passe. Il me semble qu'il seroit cependant convenable de ne pas laisser le champ libre au chargé d'affaires du Mexique pour contrarier l'émigration et les expéditions du Texas que je pousse par tous les moyens en mon pouvoir.

Agrées l'assurance de ma parfaite considération.

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Mr. Castro to Mr. Smith.

PARIS, le 12 Juin, 1842.

MONSIEUR,—Je regretterais de ne pas vous voir à Paris si je ne connaissais pas le motif qui vous retient à London. Espérons que vous n'éprouverés pas aucun nouvel obstacle dans l'accomplissement de votre mission.

J'ai besoin de vous voir pour plusieurs objets d'une haute importance.

Le premier est relatif à l'expédition de deux canons à les Texans, dont je traite avec l'administration de la plus forte manufacture d'armes de l'Europe. Ma négociation à cet effet est assés avancée.

Le second concerne M. McIntoch. Sa situation est critique et peut compromettre votre caractère permanent à Paris. Il convient à la dignité du pays que quelque chose d'efficace soit fait pour éviter des inconvénients graves dont j'aurai à vous entretenir.

Je veille les Journaux. Ils sont ingénieux à tirer avantage de tout ce qui peut nuire au Texas. Je connais toutes les manoeuvres de la légation Mexicaine ici. Dès que vous serés à Paris nous combinerons les moyens de contredire tout ce qui ne sera pas exact. Il y a quelques mesures à prendre pour ne pas laisser à la presse le champ libre contre nous.

Le Bateau à vapeur du 1er de Boston doit apporter des nouvelles. Obligés moi de me les faire connaître dès qu'elles vous parviendront.

Comptés sur moi et mon entier devouement.

Recevés l'assurance de ma parfaite considération.

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Mr. Castro to Mr. Smith.

PARIS, 15th (sic) Juin, 1842

MONSIEUR,—Depuis la lettre que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous écrire le 10, en réponse à la votre du 7, que M. Seymour m'a remis, j'ai

une forte somme. Deux mille piastres suffisent à toutes les exigences.^a

Dans cette situation il n'est pas sans importance de veiller à sa protection car la moindre mésintelligence avec ses créanciers pourrait amener un esclandre dans les journaux et vous placer personnellement d'une manière désagréable dès votre début à Paris. Les journaux vendus au parti Mexicain s'empareraient de la question avec d'autant plus d'empressement et d'avantage que le pays a été déjà assez calomnié pour que leurs déclamations ne passent pas inaperçues. Si malheureusement M. M'Intoch était arrêté pour dettes d'honneur contractées comme représentant du Gouvernement les conséquences seraient graves pour le pays, pour lui, mais surtout pour vous.

Il me semble que le seul remède dans cette position critique, est que M. M'Intoch fasse une traite de \$2000 sur le Gouvernement, que vous, lui et moi-même si vous le jugez à propos nous exprimions les dangers de la situation et l'importance de ne pas laisser prise à la malveillance. Il ne faut pas que dans ce moment il y ait un juste sujet de plainte contre le pays. Ne pensez vous pas qu'une traite de \$2000 reposant sur une pareille base sera payée? En provision de paiement et par urgence de position si M. M'Intoch recevait en attendant comme une avance de votre part, la moitié de la somme c'est-à-dire \$1000, il attendrait pour le reste, soit des ressources de son frère soit le paiement du Gouvernement.

Je soumets ces réflexions à votre bon jugement et crois vous rendre un service de véritable ami en ne vous laissant rien ignorer des dangers de la situation

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T. Barbey, Consul of Texas at Paris, to Mr. Smith.

PARIS, ce 28 Juin, 1842.

M. ASHBEL SMITH, *Chargé d'Affaires de la République du Texas, à Londres.*

Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires,

J'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, pour me transmettre ma révocation de Consul de la République du Texas à Paris.^b

Permettez-moi, Monsieur, de vous exprimer mon étonnement d'une semblable mesure après tous les sacrifices que j'ai faits dans l'intérêt de ce nouvel Etat.

^a With these statements, cf. McIntosh to Smith, May 18, 1842, in this series of transcripts.

^b This was doubtless Smith's letter of May 13.

remarqué dans les journaux l'interpellation de M. d'Israeli à Lord Peel et la réponse à celui-ci, concernant le Texas.

Je ne m'explique pas les assurances que vous me donnez le 7. et la manière ambiguë dont Lord Peel s'exprime le 10. Je vous avoue que je resterai sous de fâcheuses impressions jusqu'au moment où je verrai l'accomplissement de promesses qu'on vous fait, vous savez que ma confiance dans la diplomatie et les diplomates est fort limitée.

L'échange du Traité et le respect du blocus de la part de l'Angleterre, sont des mesures décisives pour l'avenir du Texas. Le Commerce du Mexique interdit aux Grands Pouvoirs, doit amener leur intervention pour la paix. J'écris à cet effet par le Steamer du 19, à son Excellence le Président et à l'honble. A. Jones.^a Je leur exprime à cet égard l'opinion de plusieurs de nos hommes d'Etat, les plus expérimentés, seulement il faut que le blocus soit effectif; dans la rigidité de cette mesure est la paix, rien ne doit être épargné pour qu'elle soit complète.

Je n'espère pas vous voir avant le mois d'Août. Cette circonstance m'engage à vous communiquer la note confidentielle cy-jointe, que je recommande à votre attention.

Monsieur A. SMITH, Esqr.

Chargé d'Affaire du Texas en France.

Note enclosed in above.^b

[Confidential.]

Je regrette pour plusieurs motifs de ne pas vous voir déjà à Paris. Mais il en est un plus pressant que tous les autres et qu'il est de mon devoir de signaler à votre attention immédiate.

M. McIntosh, n'a comme vous le savez sans doute, reçu aucune provision d'argent de la part du Gouvernement depuis son installation à Paris en qualité de Chargé d'Affaires. Confiant dans les promesses du Gouvernement et dans ses propres ressources il a été obligé [de] contracter quelques dettes pour des dépenses de première nécessité. Ses titres de terres que vous lui avez envoyé ne peuvent pas se négocier à aucun prix. L'état des affaires aux Etats-Unis retarde les remises de son frère. Sous la protection de son titre diplomatique et de la confiance personnelle qu'il inspire, ses créanciers l'ont traité avec indulgence, mais le moment d'une crise arrive. Dès le moment qu'il sera dépouillé de son caractère officiel, ses créanciers deviendront d'autant plus pressants qu'il restera à découvert exposé à être arrêté. N'allez pas croire qu'il se trouve dans l'embarras pour

^a This letter has not been found.

^b See note ^a, p. 1375.

Comme la nomination de M. Castro, mon successeur, a déjà été adressée à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères à Paris pour obtenir l'exequatur du Roi, je crois devoir vous informer que par une dépêche que je viens de recevoir de Galveston, j'apprends que déjà M. Castro a été révoqué de ses nouvelles fonctions par le Gen. Houston, Président de la République,^a et comme ce serait donner une mauvaise opinion de la stabilité des pouvoirs qu'il confère à ses Agents, et de leur maintien en place, que de réclamer l'exequatur pour M. Castro si cette faveur doit lui être enlevée aussitôt qu'elle lui aura été dévolue je pense donc, Monsieur, que dans l'intérêt du Gouvernement que vous représentez, il est indispensable de surseoir toute démarche à cet égard, jusqu'à ce que vous ayez été informé officiellement des nouvelles mesures prises par le Gouvernement Texien, si, déjà, vous ne les avez reçues.

M. McIntosh m'ayant informé de votre prochaine arrivée à Paris, j'aurai infiniment de plaisir, Monsieur, à faire votre connaissance personnelle.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires, l'assurance de la considération la plus distinguée, avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

[T. BARBEY,]
10 Rue de l'Echiquier.

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Mr. Castro to Mr. Smith.

PARIS, le 28 Juin, 1842.

MONSIEUR—La présente a pour unique objet de vous prier de m'envoyer en réponse la Commission de M. Dumon comme Consul à Bordeaux.

Agrées l'assurance de ma parfaite considération.

Monsieur A. SMITH, *Chargé d'Affaires du Texas*

Londres.

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Mr. McIntosh to Mr. Smith.

PARIS, *Rue Richelieu, 36, June 29, 1842.*

SIR,—I have received with pleasure your several letters, and if I have not replied to them, it was only because I had nothing interesting to communicate, and moreover that I was almost in daily expectation of seeing you here. Immediately upon the receipt of yours inclosing a copy of the President's Proclamation,^b I sent a copy of it (the Proclamation) to Mr. Guizot with a formal notification of the

^a Castro's appointment was not revoked till November 1, 1842.

^b Of a blockade of the Mexican ports, March 26, 1842. See *Niles' Register*, LXII, 98.

Blockade. Not having received any reply from him, I wrote him again two days since requesting an acknowledgement of the receipt of my communication. I cannot doubt however that this Government will recognize the Blockade. Having acknowledged us as an independent nation, the only question that remains open to them, is the question of efficiency. I attribute their delay to the fact that the ministry here are at this time quite absorbed in the elections which are just coming on. I attribute to the same cause their delay in sending me Mr. Castro's exequatur, which I have not yet received. While on this subject, Mr. Barbey our ex-Consul here called on me yesterday and stated that he had just received a letter from a friend in Texas informing him that the President had *annulled* Castro's appointment. I paid no attention however to the report.

I trust you will lose no time in coming to Paris as soon as you can finish your business in London. If the English Government are determined upon the ratification of the treaty, I do not see any object they can have in delaying it. I do not wish to present my letter of recall until I present you as my successor, and my position here becomes daily more unpleasant. Yours very sincerely,

Mr. Smith to Mr. Barbey.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, *London, June 30, 1842*

THEODORE BARBEY, Esq. *etc. etc.*

Your letter of the 28th. inst was received this morning. I expect to be in Paris early the ensuing week, when the contents of your letter can be the subject of a friendly conversation. In the mean time it appears to me advisable to retain your letter of revocation^a and to take no steps in this matter until after our interview. I entirely agree with you as to the injudicious policy of frequent change.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect,
Yours etc.,

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HOUSTON TO SMITH.^b

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
City of Houston, July 15th., 1842.

To the Honorable ASHBEL SMITH,
Chargé d'Affaires etc., etc.

SIR—I have been informed of the contemplated absence of the Honorable A. de Saligny, Chargé d'Affaires of France near this

^a See Barbey to Smith, June 28, 1842.

^b See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 40, pp. 117-118.

government, and of the causes which lead to it. His health is now bad, and by his continuance here during the summer and autumnal months, his life might be endangered. His absence, therefore, for a few months, meets with the approbation and advice of his friends and the government. Indeed, there is no existing necessity, within the knowledge of the government, why his presence for a short time might not be dispensed with, without detriment to either nation: but, on the contrary, it may prove advantageous to both, that he should make his expected visit, etc., etc., etc., etc.

I have the honor to be, with entire respect,
Your obedient servant,

SMITH TO JONES.^a

HON ANSON JONES
Secy of State
Texas

SIR

My Dispatches to your Department bearing date 30th July, were closed and forwarded about an hour since. The mail for letters by the Boston Steamer of the 4th Instant will close in 25 minutes.

I can only acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 14th from New Orleans which Mr Bourgeois has *this minute* placed in my hands^b

I shall with great alacrity afford every aid in my power to Mr Bourgeois in effecting the Loan.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Your obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH

LEGATION OF TEXAS
PARIS
Aug 1. 1842.

SMITH TO GUIZOT.^c

SMITH TO ABERDEEN.^c

^aA. I. S.

^bThis letter has not been found.

^cAugust 15, 1842. See Smith to Jones, August 31, 1842.

SMITH TO JONES.^a17.^b

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

15 Aug. 1842

Hon ANSON JONES
Secretary of State
Texas

SIR,

I had an interview with Mr Guizot this morning. He stated that the Government of France will readily act in concert with the United States and England in mediating between Texas and Mexico. He suggested that the unfriendly feelings subsisting between the United States and Mexico might form a reason why that Government would not join France and England in making a triple representation on this subject. He requested me to address him a note on the subject of our conference, and he stated he would instruct the French Ambassador in London to present the subject of joint mediation to the British Cabinet.

I adverted to the Consul Generalship of Texas in France. He remarked, there are great objections to Mr Castro. I replied that my Government cannot necessarily in every case possess all the information that would be desirable in making its Consular appointments; that an intimation from himself that Mr Castro is not acceptable to the Government of France would be followed by my withdrawing his Commission. Mr Guizot stated in reply that of course he was aware that such appointments are often necessarily made from imperfect information; that he was glad to hear my assurance in regard to the withdrawal of Mr Castro's Commission, but still requested me not to do so until after the close of the present short session of the Chambers.

The Consular Office in Paris again becomes vacant. I am not now prepared to recommend any person as suitable for this appointment. My acquaintance with Mr Barbey is of course limited. Mr MacIntosh is very clearly of opinion that he should not be reappointed. I have heard him lightly spoken of by the Secretary of the American Legation here. I must add that the little I have seen of Mr Barbey has not prepossessed me in his favor. I transmitted to him his letter of revocation from your department, in May last; notwithstanding which he retains his Consular functions on assurances from some quarter unknown to the Legation here, that he will be reappointed. In view of all the circumstances regarding the Consulate here, I have

^a A. L. S.; indorsed "Red 20th Oct 42."

^b This should be 16. Smith's last dispatch, that of August 13, is numbered 15, and that of August 31, which is next in the series, is also numbered 17.

not deemed it best to signify to the Foreign Office the revocation of his functions, but I shall do so shortly unless I receive positive instructions from your department. I shall look around for some eligible person to discharge the Consular duties here and send his name for the consideration of his Excellency, in my Dispatches by the Steamer of the 3d September from Liverpool.

I have no reason to recal the commendation with which I mentioned Lachlan M. Rate Esq our Consular Agent at London. The interest which so very respectable house as that of Mr Rate in London takes in our affairs has had a manifestly favorable influence on our reputation in England.

I am not informed that Mr Burgeois has made any progress with our Loan here. I am quite sceptical whether any money can be raised in France for Texas. Unfavorable as would be the money market of London, I believe it better than that of Paris. London and Amsterdam are the *only* money marts in Europe, where a *foreign* loan can be negotiated. American credit is at an *extremely low ebb* and *still declining*. I doubt whether a Loan can be negotiated on any terms for Texas. But if deemed desirable to make a trial; transmit to me a detailed statement of the existing liabilities of the country, its revenues through the custom house and from other sources for the last 18 months, with the projet of a loan, its terms, and the means to be hypothecated for its guarantee; and I will inform you promptly whether the monied men of London and Amsterdam will take it.

Has His Excellency considered the propriety of issuing Letters of Marque, in case war continues to be waged with Mexico? The rigid enforcement of the blockade more than any other measure will impel the European powers to mediate efficiently between Texas and Mexico.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Your obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

WAPLES TO MCINTOSH.^a

[Relating to McIntosh's salary.]

GUIZOT TO SMITH.^b

^aAugust 18, 1842.

^bAugust 22, 1842. See Smith to Jones, November 13, 1842.

SMITH TO JONES.

No 17

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON

August 31. 1842

The Hon ANSON JONES
Secretary of State

SIR,

Agreeably to the course suggested by Mr Guizot in my conference with him on the subject of the triple interposition of France, the United States and Great Britain to mediate a peace between Texas and Mexico, I addressed his Excellency a note on the 15th of August. Having been informed by the Earl of Aberdeen that the British Government had already transmitted instructions to its Minister at Mexico in pursuance of the convention of mediation concluded between Texas and Great Britain, it appeared to me proper to communicate to the English Cabinet the note I had addressed on this subject to the French Cabinet. Copies of my notes to Mr Guizot and to the Earl of Aberdeen are herewith transmitted.

On my arrival in London, the Earl of Aberdeen being absent from town, I saw Mr Addington the Under Secretary of State. Mr Addington stated that Lord Aberdeen had intimated the opinion, that perhaps the *sole* mediation of England promises quite as much as the "triple interposition" proposed. This was the opinion I had myself previously entertained. The most amicable relations subsist between the British and Mexican Cabinets and Mr Packenham is stated to have much personal influence in Mexico. Since the bombardment of Vera Cruz in 1839 by the French admiral Baudin, very friendly feelings cannot exist in Mexico towards France: and the hostility of Mexico toward the United States has been recently manifested in a signal manner, in the notes of Mr Bocanegra to Mr Webster.^a And it may appear to your Department that Mexico would be as likely to make a grace of conceding to the friendly regard she proposes for England what she would be reluctant to yield to a more formal proposition especially coming from the United States and France. If Mexico shall decline the mediation of England already preferred, the triple interposition may then be presented. To perfect the triple representation, the cooperation of the United States is required. Mr Everett the American Minister at London informed me that he has received no instructions on this subject from his Government. Has it been presented by Mr Reily?

Consulate of Texas at Paris. Texas has at this time no consul in Paris. I wished to transmit by the present opportunity the name of some person to be proposed to His Excellency the President for this appointment; but I have yet found no one whom I can confidently

^a See *House Docs.*, 27th Cong., 2nd Sess., V (Serial No. 405), Doc. 266.

recommend. The credit of Texas abroad is greatly influenced by the personal character and local consideration of persons exercising its consular functions. Permit me respectfully to advise through your Department the propriety of deferring for a short time, the appointment of a consul at Paris, until not only an unexceptionable but also the most eligible person can be selected. Our affairs will not suffer much in the mean time, certainly less than by too prompt an appointment.

Belgium. I had a conversation with Mr Firmin Rogier, Chargé d'Affaires of Belgium at Paris, on the establishment of treaty relations between Texas and Belgium, which conversation he communicated to his Government. I have received in reply, very friendly and complimentary assurances of the disposition of Belgium to establish relations with Texas. It was further stated, that a treaty has just been negotiated between Belgium and Mexico, which is not yet ratified; and were Belgium at this time to open negotiations with Texas, it might endanger the ratification of its Mexican treaty. Belgium requires therefore a short delay for the ratification of the Mexican treaty after which it will very readily enter on negotiations with Texas.

General Cass proffered to introduce me to Mr Rumff^a the Minister of the Hanse Towns, immediately on the return of the latter to Paris. General Cass stated that Mr Rumff would be happy to establish on the part of the Hanse towns diplomatic relations with Texas.

Let me ask you to forward at your earliest convenience authority and instructions to negotiate Treaties with Belgium and the Hanse Towns.

The Russian and Spanish ministers were still absent from Paris when I left the City. It has moreover appeared to me advisable to endeavor to establish treaties with Belgium and the Hanse Towns, previously to presenting the subject to the notice of those powers which may be disposed to regard our claims less favorably.

In regard to the Loan, I must repeat that in my opinion it is extremely doubtful whether Mr Bourgeois will be able to accomplish any thing.

Nor do I think our public lands can be made in any manner available in Europe at the present time. While lands can be obtained by the settler on the terms of the contracts made with Messrs Castro, Kennedy and Bourgeois, it is not probable that they will have any available value in the market of London and Paris. While the contest remains unsettled with Mexico, we must not look for many emigrants from Europe. When peace shall be established there will be emigrants who will gladly pay a fair price for the public domain.

^a Rumpff.

I communicated in a former Despatch a request from the Earl of Aberdeen that the West India Mail Steamers be exempted from the operation of the blockade of the Mexican Coast. I have received no reply from your Department. I have recently learned that Gun Brigs are shortly to be substituted for the Steamers. The same reasons would exist for exempting the Gun Brigs as the Steamers—both being Mail Boats.

Through the politeness of Mr Hume M. P. I have procured a large number of valuable Parliamentary Papers for the Library of Congress. They will be forwarded to Texas in the course of the ensuing month. In return for those Papers, the Congressional Papers of Texas are expected for the Library of the House of Commons.

The Vicomte Jules de Cramayel who succeeds M de Saligny as Chargé d'Affaires of France in Texas, expects to leave France on his way to his post in the course of the month of September.*

Mr. Packenham, English Minister at Mexico has leave to visit England. His place will be supplied by Mr Adams, formerly Chargé d'Affaires of England at Bogota. I am unable to express any opinion concerning the influence which this change of representatives at Mexico will have on the Mediation undertaken by England between Texas and Mexico.

My last despatches from your Department were of the 7th of June.

I shall make up a separate despatch tomorrow concerning the Mexican Steamers.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH

Mr Smith to Mr Guizot.—Copy.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS,

August 15. 1842

The Undersigned, Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Texas, has received instructions from his Government to invite the Government of His Majesty the King of the French, to act in concert with the Governments of Great Britain and the United States of America in mediating a peace between Texas and Mexico.

The Government of Texas makes this proposition without any apprehensions that motives unworthy her national honor and dignity can be imputed as its cause.

In the further prosecution of War with Mexico, the Republic of Texas has nothing to gain. Texas possesses her territory entire, and has done so without interruption, since the evacuation of the country,

* He was, in turn, succeeded by Saligny at the end of 1844 or the beginning of 1845.

after the defeat of the Mexican Armies, in April, 1836. Nor have all the efforts made by Mexico since that period, succeeded either in regaining any portion of the Texian soil or in preventing the full exercise of Sovereignty in all its attributes by the Texian Authorities.

In the mean time Texas enjoying stable institutions at home, has been and continues to be rapidly increasing in population and all the elements of strength. Adverting to the above facts, to the efforts made by Mexico in 1836, and to the efforts she is capable of again making to subjugate Texas, Texas can have no fear of any contest with Mexico.

Texas has no wounded pride to heal, the disgrace of no defeat to be repaired by prosecuting War with Mexico.

The policy and the wishes of Texas are for peace. She expects and desires to become an important Nation by domestic industry and the cultivation of her soil, and not by aggressions on the territory or depredations on the commerce of other Nations; and whatever griefs Texas may have to allege against Mexico, she is willing to bury them all and henceforth to contend with Mexico, only in good offices of friendly intercourse.

The war between Texas and Mexico is now carried on chiefly by sea and in its efficient prosecution, Texas is forced to blockade the ports of her enemy. A blockade is extremely liable to produce misunderstanding between the blockading power and neutrals trading with the blockaded country. France, the United States of America and Great Britain, Powers with which Texas desires to cultivate the most amicable relations, have a large commerce in the Gulf of Mexico, which may be seriously interrupted by the blockade of the Mexican Ports.

Under these circumstances, the Government of Texas invites the mediation of France, in concert with Great Britain and the United States, to put an end to the war between Texas and Mexico—a war in which Texas has nothing to gain however little she may fear the result—a war forbidden by all the high considerations of humanity, by the respective good of the contending parties, and by a regard to the commercial interests of other nations.

The Undersigned avails himself etc.

signed ASHBEL SMITH.

[Next follows a copy of Smith to Aberdeen, August 15, 1842.^a]

GUIZOT TO JONES.^b

[Asks credence for Viscount Jules Édouard de Cramayel as chargé d'affaires of France to Texas in the place of Count Dubois de Saligny, who has been recalled.]

^a See Correspondence with Great Britain. Smith to Jones, August 31, 1842.

^b L. S., September 13, 1842.