

confined to giving the association correct and unbiassed opinions as to the character of the soil climate and position of the country embraced in Mr B's contract and such information as I could correctly give with reference to the fact of its being or not being already located.

I found the Society to consist of Gent. who from their high position I suppose capable of carrying out, by money and influence any scheme of emigration however large, to which they may turn their efforts. I should have given you an account of all this before had I not thought that Mr Bourgeois would as a matter of course do so, and that you would be much better informed by conversations with him on the subject than you possibly could by a letter from me.

Will you favour me in yr next with the address of Mr Rate our Consul at London—would it not be well to forward my despatches to Texas through him—if so be pleased to mention the matter to him in your next communication.

I found on corresponding with Mr Herckenrath the Texan Consul at Amsterdam, that before my arrival he had recommended Mr Barnard as Dutch Consul at Galveston. An exequatur has at my request been extended to Mr I. I Crooswick as Texan Consul at Rotterdam. How comes on the Co. at London of which a Mr. Converse was the head and front. Write to me I pray you at yr earliest leisure, Send me all the journals that contain any thing of interest to Texas. I have caused a letter dated Galveston, and addressed to the "London Times" to be translated into Dutch and inserted in the "Amsterdam Courant." The accounts contained in this letter are quite flattering, and the cotton crop of the present year is estimated at ninety thousand bales. I remain yrs etc.

(Signed) WM HENRY DAINGERFIELD.

HUGHES TO JONES.^a

SMITH TO JONES.^b

No 51

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS
Dec 30, 1843

Hon ANSON JONES
Secretary of State

SIR,

My last communication received from your Department was of the date of Aug 20th.^c

^a November 24, 1843. See Calendar.

^b A. L. S.

^c In Correspondence with Great Britain.

Considerable opposition has been and continues to be manifested by the French Government to the colonization enterprise of Mr Henri Castro, and I had lately some conversation on this subject with Monsieur Guizot, Minister for Foreign Affairs. This opposition proceeds from representations made by His French Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in Texas, to his Govt. concerning the condition of the colonists after their arrival in Texas. He states, that their condition is pitiable, that a large number have died from the influence of the climate, that the survivors apply daily at the French Legation for the means for returning to France; etc. I stated to Mr. Guizot that as the alleged facts occurred in Texas, the Count de Cramayel had doubtless presented them to the Texian Government, who would not fail to take the necessary steps in the premises.

I called Mr Castro's attention carefully to this matter; he stated again to me that he has sent out with his recent expeditions competent agents, and has otherwise made adequate arrangements for the comfortable settlements of his colonists.

I have understood from sources which appear to be deserving of credit that Mr de Cramayel has represented the "grant" of Mr Castro as a sterile plain, not even in the possession of Texas; that the colonists are exposed to the attacks of Mexicans and Indians and to be pillaged by Texian Volunteers. This subject has not however come to my knowledge in such a way as to give room for explanations or to take any other course than that already stated.

Mr Castro recently despatched a vessel from Antwerp with emigrants and proposes to send others successively until the 1st April; at which time, he will himself as he informs me positively proceed to Texas.

As the matters complained of in relation to Mr Castro's enterprise have all transpired in Texas, I wait for information and instructions if deemed necessary, from the Government.*

Mr Bourgeois has made no progress with the Loan since my last despatches.

Notwithstanding the opposition to Mr Castro's colonization, I believe a very friendly feeling exists on the part of the French Govt. towards our country.

With great respect

Your most obed. servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

*The condition of Castro's colonists and the attractions of his colony are set forth at length by himself in a letter of December 6, 1843, to the prefects of the departments of the Haut Rhin and the Bas Rhin, and another of December 26, 1843, to Ashbel Smith. There are copies of these letters on file with the Diplomatic Correspondence which were probably inclosed by Castro to Jones; but the communication with which they came, if it has been found, has not been identified.

SMITH TO JONES.^a

No 52.

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

January 29, 1844

HON. ANSON JONES

Secretary of State

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of despatches from your Department dated September 30th^b with the accompanying documents.

Our relations with this court appear to me to be on an excellent footing; a very friendly disposition is exhibited on all occasions; and, our country is attracting much notice and the public estimation of it here is rapidly advancing.

In a conversation I had the honor to hold with the King on Wednesday last, his inquiries were numerous and showed he had given considerable attention to our affairs.

The annexation of Texas to the American Union, so much discussed in the American Newspapers is viewed in its true light by the French Government.

The colonization enterprise of Mr Henry Castro is as you are aware, not favorably regarded by the French Government. The objections to it are chiefly connected, I believe with Mr Castro; tho' I do not think this Government are disposed to favor any foreign emigration except to their own colonies.

Mr Bourgeois is at this time absent in Germany in relation to his colonization contract and to the Loan.

It has appeared to me for some time to be doubtful whether under present circumstances the contracts for colonizing from the continent of Europe would result in introducing a large and valuable emigration into our country. The English Red River Company appear to be coming to a better understanding among themselves and may now accomplish something.

I am not sanguine of the success of the Loan until peace shall be definitively established.

Agreeably to the intimation in your despatches I shall proceed in a short time to London; but much interest existing here in relation to Texas and the present season being one of great activity in Paris, the Chambers being now in session, I have thought it best to remain here a short time longer, especially as London will present but comparatively little political activity for a month or two to come.

The flagitious attempts made by the Abolitionists to deceive and mislead Her British Majesty's Government in relation to slavery in Texas, by misrepresenting the opinions and wishes of the Texian

^a A. I. S.

^b In Correspondence with Great Britain.

citizens and Government are now, I believe, well understood in Great Britain. I continue to watch the abolitionists carefully, as they are regardless of truth and reckless of the means they employ. I formerly transmitted to you two letters written by Mr Thomas Clarkson, Chairman of the Antislavery Society, one addressed to Gen Santa Anna, the other to General Houston. The impertinence and insincerity of these people will appear in their true light when it is remembered that the same parties furnished means to build the Mexican Steamers in part, in 1842, and otherwise to prosecute the war against Texas.

On my arrival in London every attention will be employed to cultivate the friendly feelings entertained by the British Government towards Texas.

The restrictions recently imposed by Mexico on foreign commerce have produced some unfriendly feelings in France and England towards that country; and there is a rumor seeming to have some foundation, that these two Powers are about to act in concert to compel Mexico to remove the restrictions in question.

The Chargé d'Affaires at the Hague when recently heard from had not accomplished any arrangement with the Hanse Towns or Belgium.

My careful attention has been given to the different matters embraced in your despatches

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your most obed servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

SMITH TO JONES.^a

SMITH TO DE LA ROSA.^b

SMITH TO JONES.^c

53

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

February 26, 1844

The Hon ANSON JONES
Secretary of State

SIR,

The affairs of Spain have been and continued to be in so unsettled a condition, that it has not appeared to me to be an auspicious moment for endeavoring to establish relations with that country

^a January 29, 1844. See Calendar.

^b February, 1844. See Smith to Jones, February 26, 1844.

^c A. L. S.

agrecably to the instructions and powers transmitted to me for this purpose sometime since. In confirmation of this opinion I need only allude in the history of that country for the last twelve months, to the expulsion of Espartero, to the recent flight of the late prime Minister Senor Olozaga, and to the facts that several provinces are now in open insurrection, that Madrid is at this time declared under martial law, and that all journals not favorable to the present administration of the Government have been suppressed. In a few words, the internal affairs of Spain at this time so engross the cares of the persons now in authority that they cannot give their attention to the establishment of relations with a foreign Power. Mr Washington Irving American Minister at Madrid with whom I had a conversation on this subject a few months since when he was in Paris, expressed a very clear opinion that it would not be of any use to present this matter to Spain until something like tranquillity should be restored there. I have however adopted a different course from the belief that it would be more satisfactory to my Government. I have had accordingly an interview with Mr Martinez de la Rosa, Spanish Ambassador at Paris; he gave the subject a favorable consideration, and it has resulted in my addressing him a Note, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. In his reply acknowledging its receipt he has promised to submit it to his Government. If an affirmative answer shall not be received immediately, my communication will nevertheless serve to bring up the subject at some future period of greater tranquillity in Spain; which occasion I shall not fail to embrace when it shall occur.

Queen Christina mother of Queen Isabella left Paris a few days since on her return to Spain with the purpose of resuming in fact the direction of affairs in that country. She goes under the auspices of the French Court. An understanding and agreement relative to the affairs of Spain, it is believed exists between the French and English Governments; and I have reason to suppose that the opinion is well founded that the British Government will consent to the accomplishment of certain purposes of France in regard to the Spanish Monarchy and that the French Government will assent to the abolition of Slavery in the Island of Cuba, if indeed they do not cooperate hereafter with England in effecting it.

The most friendly dispositions, so far as I can judge exists on the part of the French Government towards Texas and a sincere desire that our negotiations with Mexico may result in definitive peace.

I regret to inform you that the contemplated French Trans-Atlantic Line of Steamers^a has been abandoned for the present; on account, as I understand, of the anticipated expenses of keeping

^a See Cramayel to Jones, September 30, 1843.

it in operation; and the vessels intended for this line will be mostly employed in the Mediterranean Service.

I shall leave for England in a very short time. Mr Rate our Consul General at London informs me that Texas is steadily growing in repute in Great Britain.

His Excellency's Annual Message to the Congress^a has been very favorably received in Europe; all parts of the message, and especially those portions relating to our debts and finances, and his suggestion to abolish all laws relating to Loans.

Monsieur Bourgeois is still absent in Germany engaged about the Loan and in endeavoring to carry into effect his contract for introducing emigrants into Texas. I have forwarded him the Message of His Excellency the President and such other information relative to these matters as I possess.

Mr Castro has brought an action for damages against the Editor of a provincial newspaper who has spoken unfavorably of his enterprise. He has taken great offence at me because I refused to write a letter conceived in terms which he dictated and which would have had the air of stamping officially as false some statements attributed, I know not on what authority, to His French Majesty's Chargé d' Affaires in Texas. I perceived too that such a letter might be used, though I cannot assert that such was the intention, in a manner not suitable to the honor and dignity of the Republic. Mr Castro is still intending to visit Texas in a few weeks.

Touching emigration to Texas generally, I have acted conformably to the letter addressed by your Department to Mr Rate on this subject.

I have the honor to be
most respectfully
Your very obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

P. S. February 29.

Since writing the above, American Newspapers have arrived bringing intelligence of the passage of resolutions by the Texian Congress in favor of annexation to the American Union,—of the return of the Commissioners sent to Mexico—and of the very probable resumption of hostilities. I called immediately on Mr Guizot in reference to the last matter, the probable resumption of hostilities; he stated to me that his Government had received no despatches nor any information whatever on this subject. I shall write today to Mr Rate requesting him to call on His British Majesty's Under Secy of State Mr Addington, in order to bring the subject to the notice of that Government. In case the intelligence be confirmed, I shall press

^a See *House Journal*, 8th Tex. Cong., 13-28.

on the very serious consideration of the French and English Governments the consequences of a resumption of hostilities between Texas and Mexico, in order that they may take some efficient steps for the establishment of peace. I think it proper however to state, that although these Governments much desire the establishment of peace they would not in my opinion take any decisive means to effect it.

The resolutions in favor of annexation produces rather an unfavorable impression relative to our country; they are regarded as an expression of our inability to take care of ourselves. The French and British Governments have united in a protest to the United States against the annexation of Texas to the Union.

ASIBEL SMITH.

P. S.

I send this to London by a private hand. I shall write by mail from Paris to His Excellency which will give me two days more.

A. S.

[Inclosed is the letter of Smith to la Rosa referred to. The day of the month is not given in the date of the letter which is simply February, 1844. It was apparently written some days before the 26th.^a]

JONES TO SMITH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington [Texas] March 26th 1844

HON. ASIBEL SMITH

*Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Texas
etc. etc. etc.*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several despatches to this Department to date of the 29th of Jan. Ulto all of which are satisfactory.

The attention of this government being at present principally occupied with the policy of annexation to the United States, there appears to be no particular additional instructions necessary to be given you at this moment further than to occupy yourself in keeping up a friendly intercourse with the governments to which you are accredited and keeping this Department regularly advised of any thing of importance which may occur.

The laws authorizing a public loan having been repealed^b you will inform Mr. Bourgeois of the same, and that his contract for a Loan has expired by limitation and been annulled.

^a See Correspondence with Spain.

^b See Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, II, 954.

The government has no knowledge of the proceedings of Mr. Castro further than it derives from his reports of persons introduced by him under his contract for Colonization, no complaint ever having been made by any of his colonists. The system of colonizing this country by emigrants under contracts of the character of Mr. Castro's has not been so successful as could have been desired, and the Laws authorizing the granting of such contracts has been repealed.^a It is believed that nearly all the contracts with Europeans made by the President have already or will soon be forfeited by a non-compliance on the part of the contractors with the conditions contained in said contracts, within the specified time. Two however had been renewed, previous to the repeal of the law above referred to.

Enclosed herewith I send you a copy of a *proposed* Armistice etc.^b

* * * * *

Gen. J. Pinckney Henderson with Mr. Van Zandt are now engaged in negotiating a treaty for the annexation of Texas to the United States, Mr. Van Zandt will keep you advised of their progress in these negotiations.

I also send you enclosed herewith the Commissions of Thomas Snowe Esq. as Consul for Dublin and of William Henry Crockett Esq. as Vice Consul for New Castle upon Tyne of which you will make the usual disposition

I have the honor to be

With the highest respect
your most obt Svt

Signed ANSON JONES

SMITH TO JONES.^c

No [54]

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

May 6, 1844

The Hon ANSON JONES,
Secretary of State,

SIR,

We have had no recent arrivals from America. I have received no despatches from your Dep. since the meeting of the last Congress. My latest Texian Newspapers are of the 16th March. Since the steps which have been taken in Texas relative to annexation, it has appeared to me desirable that I should at my first interview with the Earl of Aberdeen after reaching London, be possessed of the

^a January 30, 1844. See Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, II, 958-959.

^b Here follow instructions to the copyist to insert a paragraph from Jones's letter to Van Zandt, March 26, 1844, beginning, "Enclosed herewith", and the paragraph immediately following. For the letter, see Correspondence with the United States.

^c The paragraph omitted refers to salaries of diplomatic representatives.

^d A. L. S.

views of our Gov. regarding this subject; and I have accordingly been waiting some time an arrival at Havre hoping it would bring me despatches and instructions from your Department. If however the next arrival brings me none, I shall nevertheless proceed *forthwith* to London. Since the matter of annexation has been so briskly agitated in the United States, I have seen both the King and Mr Guizot, but neither of them has made recently the slightest allusion to this subject. On the 1st Instant, the King inquired about our relations with Mexico and renewed the expression of his gratification at the practical cessation of hostilities under the armistice and his hopes for the establishment of permanent peace. The protests presented by the French and English Govts. to the United States against annexation, as mentioned in a former despatch of mine,^a shows the views of these Governments and the importance they attach to this subject. I think the French Gov. is now waiting with interest for intelligence from the United States, considering that the solution of this question now rests with that country. The pending proposition of Texas to merge itself in the American Union is not calculated to facilitate the extension of our relations with Foreign Powers; the domestic affairs of Spain occupy the almost exclusive attention of its Government; nevertheless if "annexation" be not accomplished or in the process of accomplishment during the present session of the American Congress, I trust I shall shortly be able to execute satisfactorily the mission I have been charged with near the Spanish Government.

May 15.

We have an arrival at Havre, it has brought me no despatches I shall therefore leave for London immediately.

I have the honor to be Your most obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

Private

P. S. Monsieur Castro and Monsieur Bourgeois d'Orvanne are both on their way to Texas. They are not on friendly terms. Each is perhaps a better man than the other would represent him.

Mr Castro's defaults in executing his contract have occurred in Texas, whatever they may have been. At least I have not had any reason to believe that he has used or attempted to use his contract to obtain money improperly in Europe.

Mr Bourgeois has at length got his contract in a good train for execution unless estopped by the late law of Congress on this subject. Persons of very high respectability and *most abundant* means are associated with him and his enterprise seems to be favorably regarded by Monsieur Guizot. I saw and conversed with the Prince

^a No. 53.

of Leiningen—(son of the Dutchess of Kent) who is associated with Monsieur Bourgeois. My opinion of Mr Bourgeois means to execute his contract is decidedly favorable.

I shall inquire about the English bz^a on reaching London. It seems to have been much impeded if not wholly checked in its operations by dissidence among its members.

SMITH TO JONES.^b

[55]

LEGATION OF TEXAS, LONDON

June 2, 1844

The Hon. ANSON JONES,
Secretary of State,

SIR,

Previously to leaving Paris, I saw the King of the French and had considerable conversation with him concerning the affairs of Texas and chiefly about annexation. I also had an interview with Monsieur Guizot three days afterwards on the same subject. Yesterday I saw Mr Addington Under Secy of State, and afterwards had a long interview with Lord Aberdeen.

The negotiations for our incorporation in to the American Union and the treaty signed for this purpose at Washington took both cabinets by surprise. Both Governments are opposed to the annexation and will use all legitimate means to prevent its taking place. They have instructed their ministers at Washington, U. S. to present a protest against it to the American Gov. as stated in former dispatches of mine. These Governments have conferred together, and as Lord Aberdeen informed me, will act in concert in relation to this subject. I understood Monsieur Guizot to intimate the same opinion, though he did not distinctly express it: he added that Comte de St. Aulaire, French Ambassador at this Court would be instructed to consult hereon. I informed the King of the French as well as Monsieur Guizot and Lord Aberdeen that I had no instructions from my Gov. relative to annexation, and that my observations must be received accordingly.

Lord Aberdeen inquired what had occasioned this desire on the part of the citizens of Texas to be annexed to the United States. I replied the chief reason in my opinion was to be found in the continuance of hostilities on the part of Mexico, or rather of harassing threats and occasional though inefficient preparations to attack Texas, which nevertheless were sufficient to deter immigration and

^a Business.

^b A. L. S.

prevent those enterprises for developing the resources of our country which can only be executed in times of peace: that our citizens were wearied out with the state of things, which for aught we could see might under present circumstances continue for twenty years or even a longer period. I also mentioned that I had communicated to my Gov. the opinion expressed by his Lordship last year, that Texas could not hope for peace from the mediation of friendly Powers. I added it was not surprising that in view of these things, the citizens of Texas should prefer annexation to a separate existence.

His Lordship alluded to the President's promptness to treat for annexation, adding that Gen Houston had been supposed to be hostile to this measure. I stated His Excellency's declining to listen to the overtures first made by the American Government: that in a representative Government like ours, the wishes of the people clearly and deliberately expressed must be executed; and that the execution of wishes so unanimously expressed as in the matter in question by the members of Congress, in order to be faithful must be prompt.

I stated that Texas might possess or obtain means to carry on a successful war of invasion into Mexico; but that we dreaded the effects such a war would have upon our own institutions and on ourselves.

These considerations were presented as strongly and clearly as I was able to do, to Lord Aberdeen and also to Mr Addington whom I saw the same day; and they had I believe, great weight in removing the dissatisfaction felt by this Gov. at the course of Texas in treating for annexation.

I then entered into a full consideration with his Lordship of another matter. If herein I shall be found to have acted not conformably to the wishes and views of your department, I shall expect of course to be disavowed. I stated however in the *most explicit manner*, that I spoke without instructions or information from my Government.

I stated to his Lordship that in *my individual opinion*, if a solid, permanent peace were established with Mexico and a treaty of commerce with Spain so as to enable us to trade with Cuba, Texas might prefer to remain independent; that if the British and French Govs. would say authoritatively to Mexico you must *forthwith* make a solid and permanent peace with Texas, that Mexico would do so, and that the annexation of Texas to the American Union might not take place. His Lordship adverted to the awkward position of matters in case these two Govts. should take this step, accomplish this object even at the risk of a war with Mexico, and after all Texas should say we will not remain independent but will annex ourselves to the U. S.—It was then intimated that the British Government must be guided

by such assurances and representations of public sentiment in Texas as they should receive from their representative in our country.

This subject was discussed at much length and in all its bearings between Lord Aberdeen and myself. His Lordship did not express any definite conclusion thereon. On my leaving him he inquired if I should remain some days in town, in a way which lead [led] me to suppose he will make this matter the subject of consideration and of further conversation with me. His remarks at this time have induced me to think that were the British and French Govts *assured* Texas would decline annexation on condition of prompt and solid peace with Mexico, these Govts would use *decisive* language to Mexico even at the risk of themselves incurring a war.

* * * * *

He also intimated that in renewing last year the offer of the good offices of his Gov. to Mexico and suggesting that the abolition of slavery in Texas would be a great triumph for Mexico, he did not intend to make abolition an essential condition of peace. I also understood him to say that to this renewal of the "mediation" the Mexican Gov. had never returned any answer.

I will now revert to my conversation with the French King for the purpose of stating, that he expressed himself favorably disposed to a joint and imperative representation to be made by his own and the British Gov. to Mexico in regard to a "peace", provided Texas would retain her separate existence.

Your department will perceive that the proposed "annexation" has excited *very great* interest in these two countries, altho' the rejection of the Treaty by the American Senate is here deemed quite certain. My clear opinion is, that in the event of the rejection of the treaty in question, Texas may profit by the present circumstances to induce France and England to compel Mexico to make peace with us; provided Texas will give to those two Powers satisfactory assurances that it will not become incorporated into the American Union. A favorable treaty with Spain would immediately follow; indeed I think it might perhaps be insisted on. The French Government is believed to exercise an almost controlling influence in the affairs of Spain. In the course of the conversation, Ld Aberdeen said that annexation would justify a war against Texas; he also intimated clearly that in his opinion a *decided* representation to Mexico coming from the British Gov. as talked of, would not be unheeded nor unsuccessful.

Having thus presented this subject to the consideration of our Gov. as a possible option in case annexation should be found impracticable at the present time I shall wait for information. It has not

* For the sentence omitted see Calendar of Correspondence with Great Britain.

appeared to me improper to discuss this subject and in the manner above stated, when presented to my consideration and contingently; inasmuch as I declared that the Treaty for annexation indicates the views of my Gov. and that I had yet received no instructions on the subject.

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

ASHBEL SMITH.

—————
GUITOT TO SALIGNY.^a

—————
SMITH TO JONES.^b

59

LEGATION OF TEXAS-PARIS
August 13, 1844.

HON ANSON JONES
Secretary of State, Texas,

SIR,

I have the honor herewith to transmit two printed slips cut from the "Gazette des Tribunaux" of the 2d and 8th Instant,^c concerning Mr Henri Castro; the first containing a notice of a judgment of the Court of Strasburg pronounced against Mr Castro; the second slip is a statement made by Mr Castro's friends of his absence from France and asking a suspension of opinion until his return to this country.

These pieces explain themselves perhaps sufficiently—yet I will add a few remarks.

The judgment of the court appears to me excessively severe, if not wholly unjust; it was pronounced however on *ex parte* statement apparently; Mr Castro not being present either personally or by counsel in his defence. The judgment was aggravated doubtless, by the mere facts of his non appearance, which I have been informed, is regarded as a sort of contempt of court. Some notion of the *real* damage done, in the opinion of the court, may be formed from the trifling amount of the fine of fifty francs imposed on him.

The *gravamen* of the accusation against Mr Castro is, that he did not put his colonists in possession of the lands promised them, after having received one hundred francs (not quite \$20.) from each married adult, and fifty francs (\$10. nearly) from each single adult, as a deposite for the faithful performance of their part of the contract. From the statement *adverse* to Mr Castro, it thus appears as the inclosed pieces will inform you, that he received in all two hundred

^a August 1, 1844. See Calendar.

^b A. L. S.

^c The clippings mentioned are on file with this dispatch.

and ten francs (\$42.) from each adult colonist; to wit, 160 francs (\$32.) for passage from Europe to Texas and 50 francs (\$10) as a deposit.

The amount of \$42. in all, has not appeared to me unreasonable for passage from Antwerp to Galveston, although it may have been imprudent in the circumstances, to have demanded a portion of the sum as a deposit. All the facts connected with the landing of the emigrants and the subsequent attention to or neglect of them in Texas, are better known to the Government than to myself. It will be, too, for the Gov. to decide, if they choose to take notice of this matter, how far it was prudent in Mr Castro or other Empresarios to induce colonists to go to Texas at all, in the supposed exposed condition of the territory wherein the western Grants are situate. For as before mentioned, this is the *gravamen* of the charge that Mr Castro induced colonists to go to Texas, when there were in fact no lands of which they could take possession.

My own course in relation to this matter was formerly communicated to your Department; it has been to answer frankly and fully all inquiries concerning the condition and situation of the "Concessions" and never to persuade or dissuade any person in relation to emigration to Texas.

A copy of a document purporting to have emanated from the French Department of the Interior, was shown me some months ago. From that document it appears that the charges against Mr Castro originated in representations made by the late Chargé d' Affaires of France in Texas. The Chargé d' Affaires of Texas in France, being alluded to in that document (in terms of entire respect) I had some conversation with Mr Guizot relative to Mr Castro's enterprise. I have not however had any information or intimation relative to the case of Mr Castro except the enclosed slips from a public Journal.

Very respectfully your obed. servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

SMITH TO JONES.^a

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

October 16, 1844

HON ANSON JONES

Secretary of State

SIR,

Your despatches of August 1. have just reached me—in time to acknowledge their receipt by the Steamer which sails from Liverpool the 19th Instant. I am obliged to you for promptly granting me the leave of absence; and I shall act accordingly. As I must needs

^aA. L. S.

remain here some short time to make the necessary preparations for my voyage as well as to wait the departure of a good vessel, I have deemed it best not to present my letters of leave until a few days before sailing, in order that I may communicate with these Governments should I receive any instructions from you relative to the Diplomatic Act proposed by Ld Aberdeen.

The affairs of Spain continuing in an utterly unsettled state, it does not now appear to me advisable to delay my departure in the expectation of being able to form any diplomatic arrangement with that country.

I should be glad on reaching the United States to spend three or four weeks with my relations in Tennessee, unless you wish me to report in person at the State Department without this delay. May I ask for an answer to this request to meet me in New York—to be kept at our Consulate there until called for by me?

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
your obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

SMITH TO JONES.^a

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

Nov 13, 1844.

To the Honorable

SIR,

The SECRETARY OF STATE OF TEXAS,

The despatches of Aug. 1. from your Department were received only last month as mentioned in my preceeding despatch. There has been some unaccountable interruption of the mails from Texas, no person here having received any letters from our country of a later date than July last, with the exception only of your despatches of Aug. 1. just alluded to.

The absence from Paris of Monsieur Guizot who accompanied the King to England and his severe indisposition since his return, have prevented the presentation of my letters of leave of absence and have consequently protracted my stay here much beyond my expectation. It has appeared to me desirable to have a conference with M. Guizot previously to my departure, relative to the subject of the last despatches received from your Department as well as concerning our relations generally. I called yesterday in person at the Foreign Office and was informed that M. Guizot is recovering slowly, but is still so feeble as not yet to have transacted business with any of the Ambassadors. I was promised an interview so soon as his health will permit.

^a A. L. S.

In consequence of M. Guizot's illness I took occasion a few days since to mention to the King the subject of my last despatches, to wit, the establishment of commercial relations mutually advantageous to the two countries, on the basis of Texas remaining a separate Power. He expressed himself in favor of this policy, and intimated I should see M. Guizot. Mr Rate Consul Gen. at London writes to me satisfactorily in relation to the course of the British Cabinet on the same subject.

I shall leave here on my return to Texas directly after having had the interview with M. Guizot. I am now expecting to sail by the Steamer from Liverpool of the 4th December.

I have to repeat my former statements about Spain. The condition of the Gov. of that country appears to render it unadvisable to attempt any negotiations with it. Violent changes have just been made in the Spanish Constitution diminishing the small measure of liberty and security previously enjoyed by its people. The natural consequence must be ere long another revolution. Nothing is stable there. Mr Washington Irving American Minister to Spain, has just left Paris for Madrid. He will let me know the condition of affairs there, with exactness, and the prospects of our being able to make a Treaty.

The negotiations at Washington U. S. last winter for annexation had an unfavorable effect on our standing in Europe. The Treaty seemed to show great indifference on our part to our national existence and indeed to merge it pending the consideration of the Treaty by the U. S. Senate. If our citizens desire the respect of other nations they will say nothing more about annexation unless the U. States shall do some preliminary act *conclusive* upon themselves herein.

On the whole our relations and standing in Europe are more satisfactory in my opinion than they were at any former period. These Cabinets strongly desire that we should preserve our separate independence, and that we should go on increasing in population, production and commerce; for their own interests will be promoted in a certain degree by our prosperity; and, the new administration will possess the high confidence which they placed in General Houston's.

I am

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

SMITH TO JONES.^a

TERRELL TO JONES.^b

^a November 14, 1844. See Calendar.

^b November 22, 1844. See Calendar