

CORRESPONDENCE WITH PRUSSIA.

DAINGERFIELD TO RATE.^a

LEGATION OF TEXAS AT THE HAGUE

Berlin 26th January 1845

To L. M. RATE Esqr. *Consul Genl.*
of Texas at London, No. 15 Bishop Gate Street.

MY DEAR SIR

I had the honor of addressing you last from Hamburg on the 15th instant, and of informing you that having brought the affair of the treaty with the Hanseatic Cities, to the only possible termination so long as the question of annexation with the United States shall continue to embarrass it, I had determined to visit the Capital of Prussia.

In the absence of Genl Terrell who I presume has not yet arrived in London, I deem it my duty to keep you advised, of all that may interest the Republic of Texas, in this quarter of the world and to inform you of my actings and doings as regards the advancement of her diplomatic relations.

On my arrival here I addressed myself to Barron de Roenne, formerly Minister Plenipotentiary of the King of Prussia near the Government of the United States and now one of his Majestys Council of State, and President of the Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce. From my conversations with this Gentleman I became satisfied that Prussia though willing and ready to recognise the independence of Texas, and to establish commercial and dipplomatic relations with her, and such a recognition is of great importance as she stands at the head of the Germans Customs Union or Zoll-Verein, would hesitate to do so as long as the question of annexation continued undecided. My only course therefore under these circumstances was to leave the affair in the hands of Barron de Roenne whose good will I effectually conciliated and to request him to keep the question before the Prussian Cabinet untill the question of annexation shall have been finally decided. This his Excellency has promised to do.

The Prince Frederick of Prussia having sent for me, His Royal Highness who is at the head of the Texan-German Emmigration Association, conversed with me at great length on the affairs of the

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 55, pp. 117-119.

Republic in which he takes a deep interest. The result of this interview with his Royal Highness was a determination on my part, to occupy the time which must intervene between the present moment and the decision of the question of annexation in visiting Vienna for the purpose of conferring with other members of the German Texan Emigration Society who are there and of propitiating the Austrian Government. I shall consequently leave for Vienna tomorrow and should you receive any communications for me or have any information which you may deem it important to communicate, a letter will reach me at Vienna where I shall remain all the month of February. In case you should have any despatches to forward to me at that place or even in that of private letter from yourself greater safety and certainty will be ensured by requesting to have it placed in the Ambassadors Bag a request which is always most readily complied with. I have the honor to remain Yr most obdt Svt

(signed). WM HENRY DAINGERFIELD
Chargé d'affaires
etc. etc. etc.

DAINGERFIELD TO VON ROENNE.*

HOTEL DE RUSSIE BERLIN
January 27th 1845, 10 o'clock. A. M.

To His Excellency
 Baron DE ROENNE

SIR

The departure of the Carrs this morning at an earlier hour than I had anticipated, deprived me of the pleasure of calling at your office to bid you adieu and to press upon your goodness my strong desire, that you should at such times and under such circumstances as to your Excellency may seem most opportune, bring the Texan question before the Prussian Cabinet; so that should the question of annexation to the U S be decided as it must be before the expiration of the Present Congress and Texas remain as I have strong reasons to think it will, independent, I may find myself in proper train to open negotiations with the Zoll Verrein. I had the honour to express my views to Yr. Excellency on this subject on Saturday eveng at your Excellency's Mansion; your Excellency's thorough knowledge of every thing American and consequently Texan enabled you at once to see all the bearings of the question and you goodness induced you to say that you would do any and every thing in your Power. I shall esteem my visit to Berlin amply compensated if I shall have been able to awaken on the part of Yr Excellency an in-

* See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 55, pp. 119-120. Von Roenne had been Prussian minister to the United States and now held a place in the Prussian Ministry. Cf. Daingerfield to Rate, January 26, 1845.

terest in the affairs of our Young State and to ensure your Excellency's good offices towards her; Your Excellency will allow me to say that whether separate and independent, or annexed and hand in hand with her great Sister a luminous path and glorious career lies before her. Should your Excellency's numerous and important avocations allow you the time I shall be most happy to receive a letter from you addressed to the care of the Baron de Rothschild at Vienna where I shall remain all the Month of February. Should circumstances justify my so doing I shall revisit Berlin in the Spring. I have the honour to Remain Your Excellency's most obliged very humble servant

(Signed)

WM HENRY DANGERFIELD
Chargé d' Affaires of the Republic of Texas, to the Hague and the Hanse towns

DAINGERFIELD TO TERRELL.^a

LEGATION OF TEXAS AT THE HAGUE
 HOTEL OF THE GOLDEN LAMB
Vienna 5th February 1845

To Genl GEO. W TERRELL
Chargé d' Affaires of Texas
At London.

MY DEAR TERRELL

Yours from London of date the 21st. January ^b in answer to mine of the 14th idem reached me here, at Vienna, the day after my arrival (yesterday). By my letter of date Berlin the 26th Jany to Mr. L M Rate Consul Genl of Texas at London you will have learnt, that finding the pendency of the question of annexation an insurmountable barrier to any immediate action by the Prussian Government I was forced to restrict my operations at that Court to the mere opening of the question of recognition and to limit my present advances, to the initiative step of bringing it under the consideration of the Govt. of his Majesty the King of Prussia, and that rather through the Agency of others than by any direct and personal efforts. In accomplishing this I had the good fortune to secure the very active and efficient aid of his Excellency Baron de Roenne one of the Ministry and President of the Chamber of Commerce. The long residence of this gentleman in the United States of America as Prussian Minister at Washington enabled him fully and at once to understand all the bearings of the question. No doubt whatever exists that if the project of annexation shall fail at the present session

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 55, pp. 126-131.

^b See Correspondence with Great Britain.

of the Congress of the U. S. Prussia will at once recognise Texas, and consequently grant the usual exequaturs to Such Consuls as may be appointed in her various cities and Sea Ports. At the present moment when so lively an interest exists, throughout all Germany on the subject of Texas it is of infinite importance that men of high character and respectability should be appointed Consuls in order that the numerous enquiries made with regard to her condition resources soil and climate may be properly responded to. Apart from this consideration, the Power and importance of Prussia in a strictly diplomatic point of view is not to be neglected. Standing as she does at the head of the Germany Customs Union or Zoll-Verrein, her good will in a commercial point of view is second to none on the continent of Europe. By virtue of this precedency in the Zoll-Verrein, she exercises a paramount influence over all that part of the Continent from which Texas may expect to derive the greater portion of the capital and population by which her wide spread Prairies are to be brought into cultivation, and covered with a steady industrious and thriving population of German Emigrants, such as have enriched by their capital and their labour Pennsylvania Ohio and Numerous other Western States. If to the recognition of Prussia be added that of Austria Texas will have obtained a most important vantage ground, from which she can advantageously exert her efforts to give a direction to the immense amount of capital and labour which is anxiously seeking employment, towards her unoccupied lands, populating and improving them and causing the desert to blossom like the rose. To the great objects of population and capital, my whole study and labour has been directed since I first landed on the shores of Europe. To turn towards the Shores of Texas these fertilising streams I have spared myself neither labour time trouble nor expence. For the advancement of these objects I have not hesitated to take long journeys at the most inclement season of the year, leaving to others the less arduous duties of eating diplomatic dinners and attending Court festivals. By my treaty with the Hanseatic cities the great outlets of Germany have been opened in the most favourable manner, and nothing remains to be done but to give force and impulse to the current which is ready to flow through them. This leads me naturally to the very gratifying portion of your letter, in which you assure me in terms dear to my heart of the continued confidence and good will of the authorities at home towards me. I thank them for the favourable light in which they have been pleased to regard my efforts and you for the very aimiable manner in which you have made those sentiments known to me. All I ask is to be permitted to continue those efforts and to receive at the hands of the Texan Governmt that support and encouragement which is due to the public officer, who is known to have discharged his duty.

Considering you from the importance of your position as at the head of our Diplomacy in Europe, I shall for that reason, and in obedience to my instructions in that regard make my communications to the Govt at home through you and I shall expect to be advised by you in turn of all that it may be important for me to know. I shall remain here some months continuing that personal and epistolary communication with the very many influential persons here who take a deep interest in Texas, to keep alive encourage and promote which has been the great object of my diplomatic labours. The last accounts from Mexico shew Santa Annas power to be irretrievably lost. What a contrast between the anarchy of Mexico and the order of our own dear country by whose infant cradle you and I my dear Terrell have sat as anxious watchers. The infant is rapidly strengthening into matured womanhood and we will soon have the proud satisfaction of seeing our nursling stand erect among her companions of the earth, free glorious and independent, self sustained in that pride of place, which the patience the moderation and the valour of her Sons have won for her. Count Victor Leiningen is here and desires to be remembered to you. Give me in yr next letter as accurate an idea as possible of the true condition of the Colonization affairs of Texas. How long do you remain in London.

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All I ask is to be sustained where I am as I have had strong opposition on the part of the Mexican Govt. which I wish to live long enough, (diplomatically I mean) to overcome. I will come to you as soon as I can get time. God Bless you. My respects to Mr Rate and write me as soon as the Steamer arrives.

Yrs most sincerely

WM HENRY DANGERFIELD
Chargé d'Affaires
etc. etc. etc.

To Genl TERRELL, Care of L M Rate, Texan [Consul,]
etc. etc. etc. No 15 Bishop Gate St. London

N. B.^o I wrote agen to Genl Geo. W Terrell on the ninth of March 1845 from Vienna and directed my letter to the care of L M Rate Esqr. Texan Consul Genl at London No 15 Bishop Gate Street London. In this last letter I stated to him my intended departure from Vienna for Triest to make some arrangements for a Consul for Texas at that Port.

^oThe matter omitted concerns the personal relations of Daingerfield and Terrell and the appointment of Smith as Secretary of State of Texas.

^bWhat follows is a note in the record book made by Daingerfield long subsequent to the date of his letter to Terrell which precedes it. It should be remembered that, as stated in the introduction, Book 55 of the Records of the Department of State is the original book of the legation to the Netherlands, in which Daingerfield's correspondence, whether relating to one country or another, was copied.