

CORRESPONDENCE WITH BELGIUM.

COMMISSION OF HAMILTON AS DIPLOMATIC COMMISSIONER OF TEXAS
TO THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM.^a

LIPSCOMB TO HAMILTON AND BURNLEY.^b

HAMILTON TO LIPSCOMB.^c

BRUSSELS BELGIUM *Sept 10th 1840*

SIR,

I have had the honor to receive your dispatch of the 9th July, addressed to my colleague and myself. Since my last respects I have so far concluded my treaty with the Government of the King of the Netherlands to have left the project of the treaty in the hands of the King. I am promised a conclusion of my negotiation on the 15th Inst. for which purpose, I shall leave this for the Hague tomorrow. I beg leave to report that I have been favorably received by the Government of the King of Belgium, and that Texas has been in point of fact recognized by the Minister of foreign affaires having authorized the Minister at the Court of St James at London to conclude a treaty with me on the basis of perfect reciprocity.

I shall repair to London on the 20th for the purpose of opening this negotiation, which cannot fail to have a powerful influence on the Government of Great Britain. Indeed I have every hope and prospect of obtaining the early recognition of England, whether Mr Treat succeeds in his Mission or not, as the difficulties in Holland will be removed by the recognition of that Government. I think that in Octr Mr Burnley and myself may bring the Loan forward under favorable auspices. This must however depend on the question of War in Europe and the continuation of pacific advices from Texas in regard to your relations with Mexico. If you neither invade nor are invaded, and the difficulty between England and France is adjusted (which is altogether probable) we I think will either negotiate the whole loan or obtain an advance on the Bonds. On my arrival in England and by the Steamer of the 1st. October I will give you a

^a April 18, 1840. See Correspondence with the Netherlands.

^b April 18, 1840. See Calendar.

^c See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, pp. 419-420.

full report of all my proceedings and a sketch of our plans for consummating our object; I mean the financial part of it with the least possible delay. There has not been one moment in which if we had failed in Holland or England, in which we could have hoped for success in France, from the entire absorption of the attention of the Government in the affairs of the East since the adjournment of the Chamber of Deputies. But in the event of our not succeeding in Holland and England, we shall repair to France and in combination with this Government (Belgium) execute a plan which will I think inevitably give us the money. But this must be a last resort, as our success could only be purchased by the concession of commercial advantages which only ought to be accorded in the event of England's refusing to recognize. I perceive with the highest satisfaction that the President still adheres to the policy of taking no part in the factions and internal commotions in Mexico. The adherence to this policy for a short time longer, must place the means in our hands of commanding success.

Present my respectful salutations to him, and be assured Dear Sir of the high esteem, with which I am Respectfully Your Obt Servt.

J. HAMILTON

Hon.

A S LIPSCOMB

Secy. of State.

HAMILTON TO LIPSCOMB.^a

LONDON *January 4th 1841.*

SIR.

Since my last respects to you, I beg leave to inform you that I have visited Brussels for the purpose of signing the Treaty which I had partially negotiated in this place with the Belgian Minister.

The Government of Belgium insisted on a discriminating reduction of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the duties on Linens, woolen and other cloths, and Fire arms as a set off, as they assured me for the discriminations which Texas had made in Her Treaty with France. As I was privy to the formation of that Treaty, when concluded in Paris, and supposed as a matter of course that it contained none of these discriminations, which I knew Gen Henderson had firmly and steadily resisted, I denied the fact alledged, and said that all the favor Texas had granted France, was to take off the duty on French Wines by a proclamation of the President issued after the ratification of the Treaty. I felt strong in assuming this ground, with the Treaty in my pocket.

On my arrival at Brussels, I leave you to judge my surprise and mortification when I found that the Minister for foreign affairs of

^a See Records of Department of State [Texas], Book 41, p. 454.

Belgium, had been furnished from Paris, with a copy of the Treaty as ratified at Austin, which under the 17th article contained discriminations in favor of France, on the important articles of silk and Brandy, although the Treaty as published in the Galveston paper *as ratified* contains no such clauses.

I can only infer that Mr. Saligny persuaded the Government of Texas to grant these favors, against which you will do me the justice to say, I earnestly protested, and warned the Government of Texas against the policy of granting these discriminations, in my letters from Charleston February last, without a fair and stipulated equivalent.

It is a most fortunate circumstance that these after inserted clauses in the Treaty were unknown to me prior to the conclusion of my Treaty with the Netherlands and Great Britain, or I should never have obtained a Recognition from either power without reductions of the duty on articles suited to the productions, which would have brought your tariff down to a *caput mortuum*.

As these were voluntary concessions made to Mr. Saligny for the benefit without a shadow of an equivalent, I presume of his government, he confirmed by the strongest assurances, Marshall Soult's pledge to aid me in the negotiation of our loan. I will go to Paris next week and see what his pledge is worth. Previous to this period such a visit would have been fruitless, as the Noble Veteran was out of power, and Paris itself almost in a revolutionary ferment. Whether the French Government can do anything, is exceedingly problematical in reference both to the power of the Executive under the charter to pledge the faith of the Government, and next with an immense Loan, which France has to Negotiate for her own wants, whether she will have, either the disposition or ability to aid us.

As Texas is now bound by a Treaty for eight years, without an equivalent, to grant these stipulations to France, in common parlance we have paid for the Horse before its delivery, and must now trust to accident for a just compensation for these ^a. I hope however in the next fifteen days to effect a negotiation here, which will supercede all necessity for making an appeal to the French Government.

The sequel of my negotiations with Belgium is briefly told. I refused to extend so injurious a principle to Texas, as to grant special favors without a just equivalent, and therefore declined signing the Treaty, altho the Minister of foreign affairs abated his claim on all the articles except Linens and Fire arms, and I believe would at last have been satisfied if I had given a paltry discrimination of 2/5 on Linens, but with the recognition of England, I did not conceive that Texas was in the condition to purchase the favor

^a Here occurs a blank in the record.

of any Nation, by impolitic concessions which would lead to incalculable mischief throughout the whole foreign intercourse of a commercial Nation.

Nothing could have been more unfortunate than the discriminations you have granted in favor of France, as they have established a precedent we must eradicate with the least possible delay. If France had negotiated our Loan, or endorsed our Bonds, we should have had a fair equivalent, to which no other country could have taken exceptions.

In view of acting on Spain in regard to the Trade with Cuba, I would recommend instantly the imposition of a discriminating duty of 50 per cent ad valorem, on the productions of all nations that have not recognized your Independence.

Referring you to my private letter to President Lamar^a—and to Mr Burnley in person for information both financial and diplomatic, I have only time in conclusion to assure you [of] the great consideration and esteem, with which I am very Respectfully

Your Obt Servt.

J HAMILTON

Hon. ABNER S. LIPSCOMB
Secy of State etc. etc.

* * * * *

HAMILTON TO SECRETARY OF STATE [ROBERTS].^c

[Confidential]

LONDON Nov. 3d. 1841.

Sir,

Referring you to a letter I have addressed this day, to the Secretary of the Treasury, in reference to my *financial*, I beg leave to write you a line in relation to my *diplomatic* negotiations.

I take the occasion to inform you, that it is highly probable, from the arrangements I have made with the Belgian Government, our relations with that Country will become *intimate* and of a highly profitable character.

In this state of things, it becomes important that Texas should be cautious how she enters into the complication and commitments of the Mexican Republic, by taking sides with either of the parties. Such a course would I fear prevent my completing any beneficial compact with Belgium, the basis of which I may now have formed. I do not pretend at this distance to express any opinion, on the policy of such a step, I only speak of its consequences in Europe which would be destructive of the public credit. Whether the Federalists,

^a The reference here must be to some letter to Lamar written near the same date as this to Lipscomb. No such letter has been found.

^b Here is omitted a brief postscript referring to McIntosh's financial affairs.

^c See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, pp. 580-590.

or Centralists of Mexico, are to be trusted, or whether those whom you might help might turn upon you in the hour of good fortune, and whether within the secure limits of your own territorial locality the best interests of Texas would not be consulted by standing on the defensive, and nourishing her resources, are questions I am sure, which those more competent to decide them than myself, have maturely considered.

I would reiterate privately, again the expediency of not sending the Convention for the suppression of the African Slave Trade to the Senate, until my arrival. There are several considerations of policy which concur to make this eminently expedient. As I shall have to return to Europe, with the Belgian Commissioner in March, I desire without salary or emolument, to retain my commission as Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James, until I have exchanged the ratifications of my Treaties with G. B. and closed my negotiations with Belgium.

I have the honor to remain,
Very Respectfully
Yr. Obt.

J. HAMILTON.

The Hon.
The SECRETARY OF STATE
Austin.

JONES TO PIRSON.

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Austin March 4th 1842

To Captn VICTOR PIRSON,
*Commissioner of his Majesty,
the King of the Belgians.*

SIR,

As you informed me in a recent personal interview with which you favored me that you were about to leave this country on your return to your own, I avail myself of this opportunity, to express the pleasure which it has given the President as well as myself, to have received you as the Commissioner of his Majesty the King of the Belgians. The proof of the regard towards this Republic, which his Majesty has given in accrediting in this capacity to Texas, one who in his personal intercourse has been so acceptable as yourself, is warmly appreciated by this Government.

Should your Mission result in confirming established relations of amity and commerce between Texas and Belgium, and in facilitating the negotiation of a treaty for these objects between the two countries,

the best interests of both will I am satisfied have been most materially subserved by you. It is the wish of the President as early as possible to renew negotiations with his Majesty the King of the Belgians for the conclusion of such a Treaty, and should his Majesty entertain corresponding dispositions, I confidently trust it will be accomplished without unnecessary delay.

Be pleased, Sir, to make these sentiments known to the Government of his Majesty on your return home, and accept the assurances of the very high respect

with which I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedient
and very humble servant

ANSON JONES

JONES TO DAINGERFIELD.^a

[Instructions to Daingerfield as *chargé d'affaires* to the Netherlands, Belgium, and the Hanse Towns]

JONES TO DAINGERFIELD.^b

[Instructions as to negotiation of commercial treaties between Texas and Belgium and Texas and the Hanse Towns.]

DAINGERFIELD TO JONES.^c

NEW YORK *May 16th 1843*

To Hon ANSON JONES
Secretary of State etc.

SIR

I have the honour to inform you that after many delays and difficulties of a private and most unexpected nature I am at last about to sail this day in the Packet Ship *Sylvie de Grafe* for Havre. Yr Department is previously advised of the receipt at the legation in Washington U. S. of the several powers and instructions, in reference to the affairs of the kingdom of Belgium and the Hanse towns. I have endeavoured by every mode in my power to smooth the way for the fullest accomplishment of the objects with which I have been honoured by being entrusted—and it shall be my study strictly to follow the instructions of the State Department. From the Belgian Minister at Washington Mr Serruys I received every possible kindness and facility, tendered I believe not only by reason of his good dispositions toward our country but from feelings of personal friend-

^a January 20, 1843. See Correspondence with the Netherlands.

^b February 20, 1843. See Correspondence with the Hanse Towns.

^c A. L. S.

ship and kindness towards yrself, to whom he begged to be most kindly remembered. From him and from other quarters I have received such letters as will greatly facilitate my affairs abroad.

Hoping that you will do me the favr to present me most kindly to his Excellency the President, with renewed expressions of high regard I remain very respectfully

Yr most humble Svt

WM HENRY DAINGERFIELD
Charge D Affaires etc. etc.

DAINGERFIELD TO ALVIELLA.^a

BRUSSELS, HOTEL DE BELLEVUE
December 14th. 1843

To His Excellency, Lieutenant
Genl. Count GOBLET D'ALVIELLA;
*Minister of his Majesty the King
of Belgium, for Foreign Affairs.*

The Undersigned Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Texas at the Hague has the honour to inform His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count Goblet d'Alviella, that he is the bearer of a letter of credence from the Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas addressed "To His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium" and that he awaits the pleasure of his Excellency as to the time at which it would be most agreeable to receive the communication just alluded to. The Undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to express to his Excellency Lieutenant Genl Count Goblet d'Alviella the sentiments of his most distinguished consideration.

(Signed). WM HENRY DAINGERFIELD
*Chargé d'Affairs of
the Republic of Texas
at the Hague*

ALVIELLA TO DAINGERFIELD.^b

[Makes an appointment for the interview asked by Daingerfield in his letter of the same date.]

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BELGIUM [ALVIELLA] TO DAINGERFIELD.^c

[Makes appointment for an interview with Daingerfield.]

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 55, pp. 62-63.

^b December 15, 1843. See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 55, p. 63. The date given is December 15, 1844, but this is evidently an error of the copyist.

^c December 28, 1843. See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 55, p. 65.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NETHERLANDS.

COMMISSION OF HAMILTON AS DIPLOMATIC COMMISSIONER TO THE
NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM.^a

[To secure recognition of Texas, and conclude commercial treaties
with these two countries.]

COMMISSION OF HAMILTON AS DIPLOMATIC COMMISSIONER TO THE
NETHERLANDS.^a

[To secure recognition of Texas and conclude a commercial treaty
with the Netherlands.]

HAMILTON TO LIPSCOMB.^b

HAMILTON TO LIPSCOMB.^c

LONDON *July 3rd 1840*

(Private)

MY DEAR SIR

We wrote the Secretary of the Treasury by the Queen of our financial progress. I now write to urge you, to send me letters of credence to treat with the King of the Netherlands for recognition and a Treaty of Commerce. This may be essential to a part of our Loan in Holland Keep every thing quiet at home, avoid if possible invasions Indian Massacres and domestic Comotions, and we will succeed in all matters before many weeks.

with high ésteem

Very Dear Sir

Respectfully your Obt Sevt

J. HAMILTON

Hon

Judge LIPSCOMB

^a April 18, 1840.

^b June 6, 1840. See Calendar.

^c This is one of a series transmitted from the Department of State to the House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas on November 16, 1840. It has been found in no other form. The remainder of the series are published in *House Journal*, 5th Tex. Cong., Appendix, pp. 277-293.

HAMILTON TO LIPSCOMB.^a

HAMILTON TO LIPSCOMB.^b

LIPSCOMB TO HAMILTON.^c

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
15th. September 1840

To
HON JAMES HAMILTON

SIR

Agreeably to your request, of the 6th June, but just received, the President has directed me to forward a commission authorizing you to form a Treaty, with the King of Holland. I have no special instructions to give you, in relation to the provisions of such Treaty as you may be able to make; but depend on your sound judgment and known prudence.

I have the honor to be with
great Respect Your obt. Servent

ABNER S. LIPSCOMB

COMMISSION OF HAMILTON TO TREAT WITH HOLLAND.^d

[Empowering James Hamilton as commissioner or agent to negotiate with Holland concerning commerce, navigation, and amity.]

TREATY OF AMITY, COMMERCE, AND NAVIGATION BETWEEN TEXAS AND
THE NETHERLANDS.^e

HAMILTON TO LIPSCOMB.^f

LONDON Octr 3rd 1840

SIR

Since my last letter to you, I have the honor to report my having concluded and signed a treaty with the Government of the Netherlands recognizing the Independence of Texas, on the 18th Ult. This convention is founded on the basis of the most perfect reciprocity,

^a July 28, 1840. See Calendar. The copy in the archives varies slightly in expression from that of the printed copy.

^b September 1, 1840. See Calendar.

^c September 15, 1840. See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 38, p. 157.

^d September 15, 1840. See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 38, pp. 150-151.

^e September 18, 1840. See Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, II, 905-912. The original is in English and Dutch in parallel columns, with the autograph signatures of J. Hamilton and Verstolk van Soelen. The treaty was transmitted with Hamilton to Lipscomb, December 3, 1840, in Correspondence with Great Britain. There is in the archives an engrossed copy presented by the government of the Netherlands to that of Texas, when ratifications were exchanged, which is bound in velvet. It is signed by King Willem, and the signature is attested by van Soelen.

^f See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 420.

and is calculated most beneficially, to promote the freedom of trade in all respects. I am happy likewise to add, that I am now treating with the Minister of the King of Belgium at the Court of St James, which Government has authorized its Minister here to open the negotiation at this place.

I shall in the course of a few days, have an interview with Lord Palmerston and entertain a sanguine hope of procuring likewise the valuable and important recognition of the Government of Great Britain. Whatever treaties I conclude shall be sent home for ratification by Mr Burnley. Referring you to our letter to the Secretary of the Treasury for advices in relation to our financial negotiations, I have the honor to remain Sir, with great esteem, Very Respectfully yr. Obt Servt

J. HAMILTON

The Hon.

ABNER S. LIPSCOMB

MAYFIELD TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NETHERLANDS.^a

[Asks credence for James Hamilton as diplomatic agent of the Republic of Texas to the Government of the Netherlands, with authority to exchange the ratifications of the treaty made between the two governments.]

JONES TO DAINGERFIELD.^b

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Houston, March 26th. 1842.

To the Hon.

WM. HENRY DAINGERFIELD,
etc. etc. etc.

Sir,

Enclosed herewith, I send you a properly authenticated copy of an order of Blockade this day issued by His Excellency, the President.

You will have the goodness to have the same made public in the newspapers of New Orleans, and inform this Dept. of the day and date of the publication there.

I have the honor to be,

With the highest respect,

Your most Obt. and very humble Svt.

ANSON JONES.

^a February 12, 1841. See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 38, p. 162.

^b See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 44, p. 53.