

Carlos Bosch García
*Documentos de la relación
de México con los Estados Unidos
(31 de diciembre de 1829-29 de mayo de 1836)
Volumen II. Butler en persecución
de la provincia de Texas*

México

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I

31 de diciembre de 1829. México, Anthony Butler a Martin Van Buren.

Sir,

On the 19th. instant I arrived in this city after performing a long, fatiguing and perilous journey of more than three thousand miles.

Upon my arrival here I found the Government in a state of entire disorganization, and just on the eve of a Revolution. Two days afterwards the city guard assisted by a small part of the regular military force attacked the Citadel where a few troops were stationed from thence to the palace situated in the very heart of the city, and after a slight skirmish conducted in the view of thousands of spectators, a thithe of whom might have crushed the rebels at a blow, the Palace was forced and in three hours a new dynasty had usurped and controlled all the functions of the Government. General Guerrero, the President, was absent, having marched ten or twelve days previous at the head of three thousand men against Puebla, at which place it was understood that the Vice President General Bustamante had established the headquarters of revolt. Information was immediatey communicated to the President of the occurrences in the City after his departure, and his friends hoped it would urge him onward to Puebla where by one decisive blow the head of faction would have been overthrown and the city as a consequence restored to order and obedience under its legitimate chief. By some strange infatuation General Guerrero upon receipt of the intelligence from the City, abandoned the army, retired to his estate and the whole power of Government is now in the hands of his adversaries.

General Bustamante has just arrived and will assume the Government, it is said in a day or two. In such a state of things you would not expect me to present my credentials for recognition; every thing I see or hear advises delay, and

my hopes of affecting any object beneficial to our country is founded on a restoration of the expelled party.

The persons now in power are considered as devoted to the British interests, and hostile as well towards our people as to our Government, a hostility doubtless exasperated by the collisions that have taken place between our late Minister and some of the leaders of that party in the course of the past two years.

Mr. Poinsett will leave Mexico in two or three days and proceed immediately to Washington, to him I would refer you for more and better information as to the state of the parties and the prospect before us, than I can be supposed to possess, and renders it unnecessary for me to extend this communication.

I shall write you again as soon as the Government becomes so far settled as to indicate the policy it means to pursue and remain...

A. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State, Vol. 5, doc. sin núm. NAW.

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31 de diciembre de 1829. México, Lucas Alamán, Pedro Vélez y Luis Quintana al gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América.

El supremo poder ejecutivo provisional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos a su excelencia el presidente de los Estados Unidos del Norte.

Grande y buen amigo:

Encargados provisionalmente del supremo poder ejecutivo por disposición de la ley, hemos tenido el honor de recibir la apreciable carta de V.E. de 17 de octubre último, en que se sirve participar haber dispuesto el relevo del Exmo. Sr. don J. R. Poinsett, que ha residido en estos estados con el carácter de enviado extraordinario y ministro plenipotenciario de los que V.E. preside. En este hecho hemos recibido un testimonio inequívoco de la fina y sincera amistad

de V. E. y de los deseos que le animan porque se estrechen cuanto fuere posible las relaciones de amistad que deben unir perpetuamente a dos países constituidos bajo igual forma de gobierno.

De los mismos ardientes deseos nos hallamos nosotros animados hacia esos Estados y protestamos por lo mismo hacer cuanto penda de nuestro arbitrio para verlos realizados.

Cuando el sucesor del Sr. Poinsett presente sus credenciales será admitido en la forma de estilo y tratado con la debida consideración.

Encomendamos a V. E. a la protección del Todopoderoso. Dada en palacio del gobierno federal en México a 31 de diciembre de 1829, noveno de la Independencia.

Pedro Vélez, Luis Quintana, Lucas Alamán. Por mandato de su excelencia Manuel Ortiz de la Torre.

*Mexico. Notes. December 30, 1821-June 1, 1831. Deparment of State.
Col. I. NAW.*

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5 de enero de 1830. México, Butler a Van Buren.

Dear Sir,

My dispatch by the last conveyance under date of the 31 último contained everthing of an interesting character, that has occurred since my arrival except the fact of appointment and names of the members of the new Cabinet: and as this information may be equally well communicated by a private unofficial letter I have preferred that mode of addressing you.

The President, General Bustamante, yesterday nominated and the Senate will no doubt confirm Lucas Alamán, Secretary of State, —Rafael Mangino, Secretary of Treasury.—General Manuel de Mier y Terán, Secretary of War and Marine.—José Ignacio Espinosa, Minister of Grace and Justice. These gentlemen, with the President at their head, are all of the party considered devoted to British intersts and our political enemies. Whether their hostility towards the United States is the consequence of personal antipathy indulged towards Mr. Poinsett or is the result of dislike to the principles

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and form of our Government, I am not at present able to determine, and shall reserve my opinion until I have more intimate knowledge of the individuals and the party. Of the Cabinet, Mangino and Espinosa are moderate and of upright intentions, on the contrary, Alamán and General Terán are violent partisans, and the most decidedly and openly opposed to us of any belonging to their party. If I fail to disarrange or destroy these prejudices, I foresee that my labours here will be arduous and the progress slow, without taking into the estimate the disagreeable situation in which I am placed of being compelled to negotiate with persons whose minds I know are preoccupied with hostile feelings towards me.

In the late posture of affairs here, you will perceive that it was neither useful or prudent to make any advance towards business —the Executive power was ephemeral and those who held office were constantly passing away— I have employed the interval therefore in acquiring information as to men and parties that may be made useful to me hereafter.

Within twenty-eight days the Executive power has passed through four hands and during part of that period all the Departments were without a chief; from Guerrero, the executive power passed to Boca Negra from him to an Executive Council, and thence to Bustamante where it now is, but how long it may remain none can tell — disquiet is already manifesting itself and the streets already ring with a new grito, *Viva Santa Anna el Vencedor de Tampico*. The pretorian bands of Mexico like those of Rome must have money and indulgences and those who promise fairest secure their aid, until one promise fails or a better is made.

In the course of the next week I shall begin to feel my way, and if vigilance and caution can serve me I will not fail, but the Secretary of State is a British agent and receives a large annual salary from the Mining Company —this is an appeal to the master passion of a Mexican— his cupidity; and if I gain him or neutralize him it must be by discovering and addressing myself to some other passion of nearly equal power, and keeping it awake by judicious applications: — when I can know him better I shall task myself to discover where that passion resides. If he is cold and distant it will be the work of time — but if I can plan myself at ease with him, the labor will not be difficult.

The unfortunate attitude in which Mr. Poinsett placed himself here has greatly embarrassed our affairs with this Government and it is impossible yet to decide what effect

his recall may have upon the temper of the ~~precedent~~ party. *The Sol* of yesterday (the Government newspaper) is full of vituperation against him —It speaks of his departure, and congratulates the country, declaring that he carries with him the execration and maledictions of all honest men. I mention this fact to show you the extent to which their violence and hate is carried, he will himself explain to you the cause which generated, and the steps by which he was led to this direct and violent collision.

As from the President's Message I infer that my appointment with the rank of Chargé was principally designed to place the Agent of our Government here on an equality with the agent of the Mexican Government near the United States, I may hope that on the arrival of the Mexican envoy, now on his way, I shall receive the same rank enjoyed by my predecessor, if my services are worth anything to the Government I ought at least to be indemnified for labor, privations and expenses: and I assure you, Sir, that the pay of a Chargé will scarcely support any man here in the appearance of a Gentleman much less as a public functionary. Besides I have everything to do myself or pay another for having it done, no secretary being allowed me, and not yet understanding the Spanish language as well as I should do, and will do very shortly, I must frequently procure translations that are very expensive.

If the Persident designs that I shall remain, my family must be with me, in this event he may nominate me at once as Minister Plenipotentiary and save the double outfit. If on the contrary some other gentleman is deemed better calculated for the Station and —I declare to you Sir without the slightest affectation that I doubt my powers greatly— in such case my successor may relieve me in time to effect all that I shall be unable to perform. There is much to do —a great unfinished business to conclude as my dispatch has told you — part of this business is minor importance which I shall commence with by way of reassuring the strength, and sounding the temper and inclination of the Government, so as to apprise you of the prospect as it unfolds itself.

After you have received my dispatch and conversed at large with Mr. Poinsett, I presume it may be found advisable to instruct me further and I shall be anxious to hear from you.

Wishing you a pleasant season and great harmony in our

National Councils, I remain, dear Sir, very respectfully your most obedient servant.

A. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, doc. sin núm. NAW.

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9 de enero de 1830. México, El Sol, núm. 193, p. 772 a-b.

Algunos días antes de la salida del señor Poinsett de esta capital llegó a ella el coronel norteamericano Butler, comisionado, según dicen, por el gobierno de Washington, para negociar con el nuestro la cesión de la provincia de Texas, mediante una suma de cinco millones de pesos. Como no sabemos que hasta aquí se haya hecho por el coronel gestión alguna sobre el particular, creemos que su señoría hace a la nueva administración la justicia de suponerla incapaz de prestarse a una transacción tan perjudicial y degradante para la república, como deshonrosa para el ministro que la suscribise.

Entendemos igualmente que el señor Butler vino por tierra desde Filadelfia, y que el cansancio consiguiente a tan dilatado viaje es le motivo ostensible de no haberse presentado a nuestro gobierno entregádole las credenciales que se sabe ha recibido después de su llegada a esta capital, para funcionar como nuestro encargado de negocios de los Estados Unidos del Norte.

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Deparment of State. Vol. 5, doc. sin núm. NAW.

5

10 de enero de 1830. México, Butler a Van Buren.

Dear Sir,

The enclosed papers were placed in my hands a few hours

since, and hearing accidentally of a courier to *Vera Cruz I* forward them for your persual.

The paragraph in *The Sol*, is a very remarkable one: you perceive that they undertake not only to assert that the object of my mission is the purchase of Texas, but they also state a price to be paid for the cession!

I have not time to say much on this matter at present, but I will endeavour to unravel the mystery hereafter.

I remain...

R. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Deparment of State. Vol. 5, doc. sin núm. NAW.

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28 de enero de 1830. México, Alamán a Butler.

El infrascrito, secretario de Estado y del Despacho de Relaciones Interiores y Exteriores, tiene el honor de acusar a Ud. recibo de su nota de 25 del actual y de manifestarle en contestación que a las doce del día de mañana puede pasar a esta secretaría para presentar su credencial y concurrir a la audiencia privada en que le recibirá el Excmo. señor y vice presidente de la república en ejercicio del supremo poder ejecutivo.

El infrascrito aprovecha la oportunidad para asegurar a usted de la distinguida consideración con que es su muy obediente servidor.

Lucas Alamán

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Deparment of State. Vol. 5, doc. sin núm. NAW.

7

1 de febrero de 1830. México, Alamán a Van Buren.

El infrascrito, secretario de Estado y del Despacho de Relaciones Interiores y Exteriores de los Estados Unidos Me-

xicanos, tiene el honor de acusar el recibo a la atenta nota de V. E. de 17 de octubre del año próximo pasado, en que se sirve participar el nombramiento hecho por el Excmo. señor presidente de esos estados en favor del señor don Antonio Butler, para su encargado de negocios cerca de esta república.

El señor Butler ha sido presentado al Excmo, señor vice presidente que ejerce en la actualidad el poder ejecutivo y está en consecuencia en el goce de las funciones que corresponden al carácter con que viene revestido. Al infrascrito le son muy satisfactorios los sentimientos e intereses que animan a esa república con respecto a la de México, y el deseo de V. E. para promover por todos los medios que dependan de su ministerio el que se cultive más y más la amistad que felizmente reina entre estos y esos Estados.

El infrascrito aprovecha esta ocasión para ofrecerle las seguridades.

Lucas Alamán

Mexico. Notes. December 30, 1821-June 1, 1831. Department of State. Vol. 1, NAW.

8

1 de febrero de 1830. México, Manuel de Mier y Terán a la secretaría de Guerra.

Ha recibido una comunicación de esa secretaría en que le dicen que dentro de tres o cuatro días saldrá para el norte y que todas las fuerzas están preparadas. El secretario ha recibido nota del coronel José de las Piedras, comandante de la frontera de Nacogdoches, diciéndole que el paso de anglo-americanos armados por la frontera es constante, desde el mes de diciembre cuando dio aviso de lo que sucedía.

ASREM, 4-25-7381, fols. 3-4.

9

1 de febrero de 1830. México, la sección central de la secretaría de Guerra y Marina al ministro de Relaciones.

El vice presidente, teniendo en consideración la importante situación del estado de Texas como territorio integrante del suelo mexicano y conociendo las circunstancias, cree indispensable formar una expedición que se dirija a aquel estado para conservar la integridad de la república y dispone que el general Manuel Mier y Terán se haga cargo de la expedición. Para el efecto lo ha nombrado general en jefe de la expedición que se compondrá, entre otras fuerzas, de 600 infantes y 300 caballeros, 400 infantes de Zacatecas etc...

Refiere como se formará el cuerpo de ejército y que la federación carece de recursos, debiéndose hacer los gastos a cuenta de los correspondientes estados. Ordena que se comunique a los gobernadores interesados y que hagan marchar las tropas poniéndolas a disposición del supremo gobierno con los recursos necesarios.

ASREM, 4-25-7381, fols. 1-2.

10

17 de febrero de 1830. México, el gobierno a Mier y Terán.

Estimado señor:

Por la secretaría del despacho de la Guerra se ha transmitido a esta a mí cargo el oficio de V.E. de 1º del actual a que acompaña copia del que le pasó el comandante de esta frontera de Nacogdoches participando la frecuente introducción de norteamericanos en el departamento de Texas: lo he puesto en conocimiento del E.S.V.P. y en contestación me manda decirle que las comisiones de ambas cámaras se ocupan de preferencia de tan interesante asunto, y el fruto de sus trabajos será presentar el proyecto de ley, que ha formado, cuyo contenido es en un todo conforme con las medidas que V.E. ha propuesto, para que México conserve ese departamento y prevenir la desmembración que amenaza hacerse por parte de los norteamericanos allí establecidos. Este negocio está bien recomendado, por su importancia, a las cámaras y su despacho se verificará con la misma preferencia, y exención que reclama.

Entretanto se comunica la resolución del congreso general, el E.S.V.P. comisiona a V.E. especialmente para que con

la exigencia que requiere el asunto se encargue de visitar los terrenos colonizados, cerciorándose de las respectivas contratas que han celebrado los empresarios, y del cumplimiento que han tenido: del número de familias que hay en cada población, del de esclavos que tenga cada colonia, de las leguas de terreno que ocupan; y del lugar en que están situadas. Sobre cada uno de estos puntos, quiere el E.S.V.P. informe V.E. detalladamente y con la debida separación, manifestando en los mismos términos las medidas que juzgue oportunas y deban tomarse para remediar los abusos introducidos, sin perjuicio de que V.E. proceda a dictar las que juzgue ejecutivas y del momento poniéndose de acuerdo en este caso con las autoridades civiles.

Como en ese departamento se han introducido norteamericanos, no sólo en calidad de colonos, sino en los términos que expresa el comandante de la frontera, el E.S.V.P. me manda diga a V.E. que con respecto a éstos tome las más eficaces providencias para impedir toda ulterior introducción, hasta el extremo de resistirla con la fuerza armada, si la que V.E. tiene ahí en orden fuere suficiente, y que con los de esta clase ya establecidos y que sean sospechosos como promovedores de inquietudes, los haga salir de la república, si de la ejecución de esa medida no juzgase V.E. que puedan ocaionarse alborotos, poniéndose también de acuerdo para esto con las autoridades.

El E.S.V.P. fía al celo y providencia de V.E. el desempeño de esta comisión y así me ordena decírselo para su satisfacción, en el concepto que con esta fecha se hacen las comunicaciones respectivas al gobernador de ese estado.

D. febrero 17 de 830

(Rúbrica)

E.S. general de división don Manuel de Mier y Terán.

ASREM, Sucesos entre México y los Estados Unidos de América relacionados con Texas y otros estados limítrofes... (2a. parte) fojas 22-23. Clasificación antigua L-E-1056. Clasificación nueva H/200 (72. 73)/1.

Cfr. Bosch, *Historia de las relaciones diplomáticas entre México y los Estados Unidos*. México, UNAM, Escuela de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales, 1961, p. 119, cit. 145.

11

19 de febrero de 1830. México, Butler a Van Buren.

Sir.

On receipt of your communication in dispatch num. 5 I commenced enquiry to ascertain whether the objects of the mission of Colonel Basadre were such as you supposed them to be, and what were the sentiments of the present administration of the Mexican Government in regard to that project. In pursuing the enquiry I ascertained very much to my satisfaction that although report here confirmed the information you had received as to the purpose for which Col. Basadre has left Mexico, that nevertheless the present administration could lend no sanction to othe Agent, the mission or its objects, but on the contrary disapproved of it throughout: whether this disapprobation was produced by better feelings, and more correct views of the consequences to which the pursuit of such a project would lead or was the result of a design to render General Guerrero and his administration unpopular I knew was of little consequence to us. After becoming satisfied that the information acquired through unofficial sources was correct, I tooook occasion to wait upon the Secretary of State, and communicate the information our Government has received upon the subject of Col. Basadre's mission, and to state emphatically and freely the opinions entertained by the President of the United States of the mission and its objects and the deep interest felt by my Government in opposing and counteracting a project so pregnant of mischief and wickedness, as would be an attempt to excite an insurrection amongst the slaves of the Island of Cuba. The Secretary replied to my remarks with great apparent cordiality and frankness, assented to the propriety of the observations I had made and the opinions expressed: Declared that the ~~present~~ administration was ignorant of the objects that Col. Bassadre was commissioned to promote, except only as they had been collected from public rumor for nothing appeared on file in the Department, from whence information could be derived. That Col. Basadre's mission was in so far a secret to the present administration of the Mexican Government, that the instructions must have been verbal, or if committed to writing were confined to Col. Basadre and the former administration alone, and of which the records of the Depart-

ment afforded no evidence. That the Administration giving credit to the reports in circulation had however immediately taken steps to arrest the proceeding as contrary not only to the sentiments of humanity cherished by the Government but alike opposed by every principle of sound policy: He then very frankly produced and submitted to my inspection the book containing the record of foreign correspondence, and permitted me to read the dispatch addressed to Col. Basadre, in which after adverting to the rumors in circulation the Secretary proceeds to say 'that as no record of his instructions are to be found on file, and it was well understood that he had been deputed on some confidential service, the Government was compelled to act on the opinions expressed in common report as to the object he was charged to effect. It then desires him to forward immediately to the Department of State, a copy of the instructions received from the former administration, if he received such instructions in writing, and if on the contrary they were communicated verbally, to detail as minutely as practicable, what these instructions were; and in the meantime to suspend all proceedings under the authority he had received. —That if it was true, as reported, that he has been furnished with blank commissions for privateers— to return immediately all the commissions not already disposed of and to withdraw or revoke such as had been issued, and requiring Col. Basadre to return to Mexico'.

Thus Sir I think we may rest satisfied that the affair of Col. Basadre and the mission to Haiti is disposed of, with the strongest probability that such a project will never be revived, by this Government; for in addition to the remonstrances made against the proceeding by myself I have good reasons for believing that a similar remonstrance perhaps equally emphatic was presented by the British Minister. This serves to show the mexican Government how such a project is received and treated by the rest of the civilized world and will doubtless restrain them in all after times from the renewal of such a mission.

I have had placed in my possession the transcript of a document recently presented by the [empieza la cifra] *Secretary of State to the Mexican Congress in Cónclave*, and which I design forwarding to you by a private conveyance, which leaves Mexico in about a week. This Document exhibits the view of the *Secretary* and suggestions of what he considers the *true policy* which the *Mexican Government* ought to

pursue in regard to the *Province of Texas* upon which I shall remark at length by the same conveyance which brings you the *report* of the Secreary. [termina la cifra]

I have the honor to be very...

R. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5. doc 2. NAW.

12

6 de marzo de 1830. Baltimore, José María Tornel a su gobierno.

Al llegar a Baltimore, el asunto de Texas se debatía con gran fuerza en los periódicos y nadie se refería al problema de los derechos que existieran para ello. Pero al saberse de su llegada todos supusieron que iba investido de los opderes totales para tratar de la venta.

No puede dudarse que se deseé la adquisición por una mayoría de los Estados del Sur y del Este. El de los primeros se funda en el temor de la emigración de sus habitantes, como ha sucedido para el Ohio y la de los segundos, en que aumentados los Estados del Oeste, perderían su influjo en el congreso general. El gobireno a mi modo de ver prepara, a lo lejos, la opinión que es sin duda la del presidente Jackson.

ASREM, 6-19-6, fol. 1.

13

6 de marzo de 1830. Baltimore, Tornel a su gobierno.

Comenta que con el fin de hacer la compra de Texas . . . acaso ha sido nombrado con el carácter de encargado de negocios cerca de nuestro gobierno el coronel Butler, propietario en Texas y amigo del presidente, con quien militó en clase de ayudante del campo en la campaña de la Luisiana.

El sin duda ha llevado instrucciones en este respecto al menos para sondear las disposiciones de nuestro gobierno.

Estos pasos indican que, de México, tal vez se han dado esperanzas, tal vez por el señor Poinsett que he procurado desvanecer por el conocimiento en que estoy de que el gobierno jamás ha de sacrificar su dignidad y la de la nación consintiendo en la desmembración del territorio, esto se conserará por el párrafo del *Dayle Advertiser [sic]* que acompaña.

Uno de los arbitrios que se han currido para la adquisición de Texas y que proporcionaría hacerla sin grande costo, es el de comprar los terrenos que con tan poca discreción reparte el estado de Coahuila y Texas. Varios mexicanos han mandado aquí sus títulos de dominio, los venden a cualquier precio con la seguridad de pronto despacho, porque hay compañías formadas con sólo este objeto. El señor coronel don Juan Domínguez ha enajenado por la cantidad de diez mil pesos su propiedad en Texas según me informó el señor don Ventura Obregón, vicecónsul en New York, como remedio de este mal era urgente libré la orden a los vicecónsules de que acompañó a V. E. copia y que espero merezca la aprobación del señor presidente.

Nada tendrá de extraño que colonizada la provincia de Texas por americanos se pronunciase por la incorporación a estos Estados y aunque este juicio era muy digno de atención, en la espera de las conjeturas, lo es mucho más desde que Austin ha anunciado estas intenciones con motivo del decreto que expidió el Exmo. señor Guerrero para la libertad de los esclavos. A la penetración de V. E. no pueden ocultarse las consecuencias de este sólo hecho.

Creo que atendido el estado de este grave negocio, debe el gobierno establecer en Texas una política severa; debe cerrarse la provincia a la colonización americana y deben adoptarse medidas enérgicas para impedir la transmisión de terrenos a súbditos de esta nación.

José María Tornel

ASREM, 6-19-6, fol. 2.

14

9 de marzo de 1830. México, Butler a Van Buren.

The enclosed document is the one alluded to in my last

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dispatch from which you will perceive what are the views of the Secretary of State in relation to Texas, and the plan he suggests for securing the possession of that province to México. Had his project been adopted as recommended, I am confident that a revolution in that province would immediately have followed and Texas became ours by a movement amongst the people themselves without costing the Government of the United States a dollar. But the modification of the plan suggested on the part of Congress will leave the population of Texas but little to complain of, and tranquillity may therefore continue for a year or two longer.

The difficulties to overcome in a negotiation for Texas have doubtless greatly multiplied within two years past, from the concurrence of a variety of circumstances adverse to our views, amongst these may be counted the knowledge the Mexican Government now possess of the intrinsic and positive value of that section of the country, a knowledge acquired in part from the reports of their officers military and naval, and much aided by the publication made in our own newspapers. To this add the opposition of the British party here who are active on the subject, whether in the hope of acquiring Texas for themselves hereafter or with what other views, it is difficult to conjecture, yet their opposition is direct and unremitting. With all this however and notwithstanding the tone of the Secretary's report on the subject, I have the best grounds for believing that Texas may be had by Treaty. You will perceive that the secretary himself suggests a probability of our claiming territory as far west as the Río Grande and I have so managed as to strengthen that impression on his mind, (without committing myself or the Government), as one means of facilitating the retrocession when we come to negotiate for the country: and the failure to ratify the Treaty of Limits has been in connection with that subject a most fortunate event for us, that may be turned to good account. I have ascertained very satisfactorily that the Mexican Government are becoming anxious on the question of limits and boundary, between the United States and México, and I have more than once been approached on that subject but always found means to evade it leaving them under the influence of whatever their imagination might create to awake suspicion, or alarm their fears.

If instructions were given me to urge our claim to the territory as far west as the Río Grande del Norte or permission to use the pretension as an auxiliary, there is no doubt

of its being made to operate very favorably on the expected negotiation for Texas and the claim could be employed to remove objections which, without some aid of this character, might seriously embarrass the proceeding. I throw out these suggestinos for your consideration.

I have not sent you a translation of Mr. Alamán's report because I should have performed that duty imperfectly myself, and to trust such a document to another would at once disclose the fact, that I had access to the secret proceedings of the Mexican Government, as this repot has been confined to the conclave meetings of Congress.

I have marked certain passages in the report to which your attention is invited although there are other parts equally deserving notice. The newspapers forwarded contain extracts from letters written by persons in the United States to their friends in Mexico, and furnish a sample of the misrepresentations of our Government and people daily made through the presses of this country, and which hitherto obtained all the credence of an official report. The readiness with which credit was given to such communications hitherto was caused in part by the great odium attached to Mr. Poinsett, and the endeavor to transfer that odium to the people and Government he represented. That feeling is fast wearing off, and I indulge hopes that a few months may place his Government and the United States in the attitude towards each other that it is so much their mutual interest to occupy.

The law prohibiting the introduction of coarse cotton goods passed during the last session of Congress has been found on experiment to operate very mischievously upon the interest of Mexico; their manufactures have not as yet reached that period of maturity which will enable them to supply the demand for such articles; this of course invites smuggling, and besides leaves the country destitute of an article of first necessity. A bill to repeal that part of the law which operated on cotton fabrics of inferior quality is now before Congress, it has passed the Chamber of Deputies and the Secretary of State informed me this morning, that it would pass through the Senate, without the slightest opposition: Our citizens may therefore act safely on the subject relying on the passage of that law before any cargo can reach a Mexican port.

From an intimation made to me this morning is a conversation with the Secretary of State, I think it probable that I

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shall commence the negotiation of a Treaty of Amity and Commerce in the course of a week or ten days. The question of limits and boundary I mean to avoid, until I can hear once more from my Government.

I may be deceived but I flatter myself to be able to settle every question committed to my charge in six months, entirely to the satisfaction of the President.

I am anviously expecting to hear from you, and remain . . .

A. Butler

México. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, doc. 3. NAW.

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9 de marzo de 1830. México, fecha de la carta que acompaña este informe, sin fecha, presentado por el secretario de Estado de México, Lucas Alamán, al Congreso de la Unión. Traducción de la época.

Among the subjects urgently recommending themselves to the attention of Government, none is of more importance, or more imperiously calling for proper, and, if possible immediate measures, than the danger which threatens the Department of Texas, in the State of Coahuila and Texas. What I have to say in his respect was to form part of a Memoir, which I propose shortly to submit, upon the general condition of the Republic, in what relates to the department under charge. But from the nautre of the subject, itself, as well as for the purpose of sooner laying it before the Chambers, I have thought proper to make this separate Report to be presented in secret session. With a view more clearly to demonstrate how urgent it is to attend to the subject, and to inquire into this importance and the great difficulties it involves, I deem it necessary to dwell upon the circumstances connected with it, and which are to be considered in determining the question.

The conterminous position of that Department with regard to the United States of the North, and the pretentions now cleary manifested by them to posses themselves of it, oblige us to examine what has been the policy observed by those

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States, with neighbouring possesions. I will first inquire into this policy, and then proceed to describe the present situation of that Department when I will conclude by pointing out the remedies to be applied to the evils which threaten not only Texas, but the whole Republic.

The United States of the North have been going on successively acquiring, without awakening public attention, all the territories adjoining theirs: Thus we find that in less than fifty years, they have succeeded in making themselves masters of extensive colonies belonging to various european powers, and of districts, still more extensive, formerly in the possession of Indian tribes which have disappeared from the face of the earth; proceeding in these transactions, not with the noisy pomp of conquest, but with such silence, such constancy and such uniformity, that they have always succeeded in accomplishing their views. Instead of armies, battles and invasionos which raise such uproar and, generally prove abortive, they use means, which, considered separately, seem slow, ineffectual and sometimes palpably absurd, but which, united and in the course of time, are certain and irresistible.

They commence by introducing themselves into the territory which they covet, upon pretense of commercial negotiations, or of establishment of colonies, with or without the assent of the Government to which it belongs. These colonies grow, multiply, become the predominant party in the population; and as soon as a support is found in this manner they begin to set up rights which it is impossible to sustain in a serious discussion, and to bring forward ridiculous pretensions, founded upon historical facts which are admitted by nobody, such as Lasallie's voyages now known to be a falsehood, but which serve as a support, at this time, for their claim to Texas. These extravagant opinions are, for the first time, presented to the world by unknown writers, and the labor which is employed by others in offering proofs and reasonings, is spent by them in repetitions and multiplied allegations, for the purpose of drawing the attention of their fellow citizens, not upon the justice and interests to be obtained or subserved by their admission.

Their machinations in the country they wish to acquire are then brought to light by the appearance of explorers, some of whom settle on the soil, alleging that their presence does not affect the question of the right of sovereignty or possession to the land. These pionneers excite by degrees

movements which disturb the political state of the country in dispute, and then follows discontents and dissatisfaction calculated to fatigue the patience of the legitimate owner, and to diminish the usefulness of the administration, and of the exercise of authority. When things have come to this pass, which is precisely the present state of things in Texas, the diplomatic management commences: the inquietude they have excited in the territory in dispute, the interests of the colonists therein established, the insurrections of adventurers and savages, instigated by them, and the persistency with which the opinion is set up as to their right of possession, become the subjects of notes full of expressions of justice and moderation, until, with the aid of other incidents which are never wanting in the course of diplomatic relations, the desired end is attained of concluding an arrangement as onerous for one party as it is advantageous to the other. Sometimes more direct means are resorted to; and taking advantage of the enfeebled state, or domestic difficulties of the possessor of the soil, they proceed upon the most extraordinary pretexts, to make themselves masters of the country, as was the case in the Floridas leaving the question to be decided afterwards, as to the legality of the posseesion which force, alone, could take from them.

This conduct has given them the immense extent of country they occupy and which they have acquired since their separation from England; and this is what they have set on foot with respect to Texas. The question, however, with respect to ourselves, is entirely different. The immense territories which, by means of these manoeuvres, have been taken from the European powers to whom they belonged, were to them of but a secondary importance, but in this case the interests to be affected are vital, and intimately connected with the welfare of the nation, nor can Mexico alienate or give away the smallest department without affecting the integrity of the territory of the Republic, as was done by France and Spain, who parted with countries owned by them at great distances. How can Mexico give away her own soil, and how could it be her interest to permit a rival power to locate itself in the centre of her States, dismembering some, and surrounding others? How can she part with two hundred and fifty leagues of coast, where she has the ready means for the construction of ships, the most convenient channels of inland navigation, the most fertile lands, and the most ample means of attack and defence? Should Mexico commit

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such error she would degrade herself from the highest rank among the American Nations, and risk into contemptible mediocrity. In the event of her parting with Texas, we must renounce every pretension to national industry, and to the means of promoting the happiness of her citizens; she would be compelled to receive the most ordinary produce from the foreign harvests of Texas. In effect the situation of that Department is such, that, in the hands of a foreign and ambitious power, the safety of all the States extending from North Mexico and Chihuahua to St. Luis and Guanajuato would be endangered, and all would be supplied with necessaries through the ports of the Gulf, lying between Río Bravo, and New Orleans, or from the products of the industry of Texas itself, which ours could not compete with it, since it would have the advantage of slave labor, and of the freedom from tithes and other burdens to which ours is subjected. By this single blow, the value of lands in all the Republic would be reduced one half of what it is now, and the landed proprietor would see his fortune almost entirely lost, without hopes of ever recovering it.

If we now examine the present condition of Texas brought about by the policy which I have unveiled at Length, we will find that the majority of the population is composed of natives of the United States of the North, that they occupy the frontier posts on the coast, and the mouths of rivers, that the number of Mexicans inhabiting that country is insignificant when compared with the North Americans, that they come from all directions to settle upon the fertile lands, taking notice that most of them do so without previously complying with the requisites of our laws, or in violation of existing contracts. The Mexican population is, as it were, stationay, while theirs is increasing particularly from the number of slaves introduced by them, and whom they retain without manumitting them, as they should do, in conformity with the 2nd. article of the law of 13th July 1824.

This numerical superiority, and the legal supremacy which they will acquire from the act of the legislature, declaring to be citizens all who have resided five years in the State, in consequence of which nearly all these foreigners will become so next year, and their having had it in their power to execute their policy with impunity, and without having been compelled to fulfill the contracts entered into for their establishment, or refrained from locating themselves on the frontiers and other parts, from which they were excluded

by existing laws and orders, and above all the unrestrained introduction of adventurers, all this has given them a preponderance in Texas, which now hardly belongs in fact to the Mexican Confederacy, since the orders of the Government are obeyed or not, according to the choice of the colonists, and the moment seems to be near at hand when that territory will be taken from us and added to the United States of the North.

The independence of the North American in Texas is such and their superiority has arrived at such a point, that notwithstanding the abolition of slavery decreed on the 15th. September last, by the virtue of the extraordinary powers, the commandant on the frontier of that state, has stated that he had no hope of ever seeing that decree obeyed, unless enforced by greater means than he had under his command. This resistance has brought things to such a pass, that it was thought to have been the cause of an insurrection; and in order to avoid this, it was given out that that Department was excepted from the operation of the decree, by authority, not of an express provision, but, which is very extraordinary, by a private letter written by Gen. Guerrero to Gen. Terán, Commandant General of the Eastern States, authorizing him to inform the colonists that the decree in question did not embrace Texas.

It has been said above that a part of the policy pursued by the United States, to make themselves masters of the territories they covet, is their introduction, upon pretense of mercantile negotiations, or the establishment of colonies, with, or without grants from Government. This conduct which they have never pursued without success, is not a theory which we cannot prove. Texas has been successively occupied by the North Americans who have established themselves as colonists, and by others who have crossed the dividing line without any legal authority whatever. The former were bound to submit to the laws of colonization, and comply with the terms of their respective contracts; but the Government of Coahuila and Texas, whose duty it was to see that these should not fail in the fulfilment of their obligations and to prevent fraudulent emigrations, has not only omitted to do so, but even neglected to give information of other grave matters, so that, had not General Terán proceeded to that Department in discharge of the commission entrusted to him of exploring the limits, and to whom we are indebted for all the information we have on that subject, we would

have seen Texas wrested suddenly from the Mexican nation, without perhaps being aware of the means through which so would have been lost.

The violation of the colonization laws, and of existing contracts has continued without any effect having been produced by the orders issued on the 15th July and 22nd August 1826, against the admission of colonists from the conterminous nations, by that of the 2nd June 1827, restricting to those contracted for the number of families in the new settlements, or that of the 23d. . . . 1828 providing that the colonies formed on the lands adjoining the dividing line between the United Mexican States and the United States of the North should be composed of families not natives of the said United States of the North. These provisions which, if faithfully executed, would have checked the execution of the North American policy, and neutralized their projects, have remained without effect, and the colonists coming from those States have located themselves wherever they thought fit, not only for their own interests, but also for that of their fellow citizens generally, the colonization laws and their own stipulations remaining a dead letter. Hence we find that, besides this territory having been occupied by colonists who never ought to have been admitted into it, there is not one among them, in Texas, who is a Catholic: and this is a circumstance which has been attended to in all the contracts which have been formed, as one of the leading articles. Another abuse which recommends itself to attention, is the introduction of slaves, and the number already there. There is one owner who numbers one hundred under his immediate command: others have fewer, but all bring them along with themselves, and keep them without giving them their freedom in compliance with the law enacted for that purpose; which contributes to form a mass of men upon whose support they rely, and of whom they may dispose as they please, whenever it will suit them to excite disturbances insurrections, for although the contrary might be imagined as also that these slaves if set at liberty would be a useful instrument in the hands of Goverment to whom they would be indebted for their freedom, this would be a difficult thing, on account of the state of nullity to which they reduce them.

The provision which prohibits the introduction of colonists from the conterminous nations, had for its primary object the preservation of the integrity of territory of the Republic

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having foreseen that the admission of colonists from those nations would lead to the formation of settlements more dependent of them than of the Republic itself, and that the integrity of the territory could not be preserved if the keys of it were delivered to the very persons whose interests it would be, at some future time to invade it. *But we have in Texas not only North American settlements formed under pretext of colonizations, but others have likewise been established without the knowledge of any authority, and are of considerable extent. Such is that of Aires formed by natives of the United States, five leagues beyond Nacogdoches, towards the frontier and with the adjoining ones of Atoyac and Sabines, numbers near two thousand souls, among whom not one Mexican is to be found. This population of Aires is that among which the indications of insurrection first appeared on the 15th. of September above alluded to, which caused the exception of Texas from the abolition of slavery as above stated, on account of the commandant general not having a sufficient force at his command to enforce the dispositions of Government.* To this it may be added that the introduction of slaves does not stop. In October last there arrived from New York two vessels, bringing twenty seven families and thirteen passengers, with a view to colonization, and there are well founded suspicions, judging from the place of their departure that they are not Irishmen, as they should have been agreeable to the stipulations of the contract. There is no one to see before the delivery of the lands and this neglect is another cause of the continued violations of the law and the increase of the evil.

So has been said further that when the United States of the North have succeeded in giving the predominance to the colonists introduced into the countries they had in view, they set up rights and bring forward pretensions founded upon disputed historical facts, availing themselves, generally, for this purpose, of some critical circumstance, to which they suppose that the attention of the Government must be diverted. This policy, which has produced so good results to them, they have commenced carrying into effect with respect to Texas. The public points, in those states including those which are more immediately under the influence of their Government are engaged in discussing the right they imagine they have to the country as far as the Río Bravo. Handbills are printed on the same subject, and thrown into general circulation, whose object is to persuade

and convince the people of the utility and expediency of the meditated project. Some of them have said: the Providence had marked out Río Bravo as the natural boundary of those states, which has induced an English writer to reproach them with an attempt to make Providence the author of their usurpations. But what is most remarkable is that they have commenced that discussion precisely at the time when they saw us engaged in repelling the Spanish invasion, believing that our attention would, for a long time, be thereby withdrawn for other things. The Government, besides, is informed from a source worthy of confidence, that the subject of Texas is going to be taken up at Washington. That if the President has omitted to mention it in his Message it was in order that it might originate in Congress under a more popular aspect, and that, with the same view, a fifty gun frigate, the Brandywine will soon sail for our coasts, with a few others to be fitted out by the Cabinet of Washington. By way of prelude to these pretensions, the North-american Governor of the territory of Arkansas has already demanded of our authorities the Mexican Arkansas, peopled entirely by citizens from the Northern United States, without a single one of ours. To this conduct, whose end is so evident, and whose execution they have been preparing without swerving from the line of their policy may also be assigned the circumstance of the non execution of the Treaty of limits concluded between them and these States. The cause of this suspension is worthy of notice, and comes in confirmation of all that has been said. This treaty was sent to our Minister plenipotentiary near that Government, confidentially, through Mr. Poinsett, that he might proceed to the exchange of the ratifications, and although there are in the Department under my charge all the proofs necessary to lead to a full conviction that a power to effect that exchange was sent with the Treaty, it was mislaid, and our agent received the Treaty alone, and this was used as a pretext to justify the delay in the ratification at that time, and which it is now announced will only be effected when the treaty of commerce will likewise have been concluded. This treaty secured to us that part of Texas, as it stood as a basis of the settlement of limits, that which had been adopted in the treaty concluded with the Court of Spain, and this circumstance is the cause of all the obstacles to its execution. As we are involved in these difficulties, the negotiations will take a different course, and this Government knows that the

new Chargé d'Affaires of the United States has come with the special authorization of proposing an arrangement for the sum of five millions of dollars, and if this is not accepted, it is very probable that they will propose the appointment of a mediator to determine that affair, thus adopting, as to Texas, the same conduct which has been pursued with regard to some territory in Canada, to decide upon which they have named as mediator the King of the Netherlands. The evil, then is done, Texas will be lost for this Republic, unless necessary measures are adopted to preserve it. I will point out those which, in the opinion of the Government, are most expedient.

Of these measures some are susceptible of prompt execution, and are within the power of the Governments, others will be the work of time, and must be taken in hand without delay. The first will be to send troops and station them at the most convenient points, to place that department in a complete state of defense, in case of invasion, or, as it is apprehended, in case the colonist should attempt any movement, excited, at first, and then aided by their fellow citizens. But to carry these measures into effect, it is necessary that the Chambers should afford prompt assistance to the Government, without which nothing can be done. The others demand the cooperation of the Chambers as to the Legislative measure within their competency, and although their results are not of so violent a character as those of the military movements, they are nevertheless the most essential. Texas may well free herself at a blow, by means of her arms, but its possession can never be secure, so long as the predominating part of her population is composed of North Americans.

Let the first of these measures be the promoting by all possible means, the increase of Mexican population in Texas, and with this view, let the sentenced to the galleys be sent to Tampico and Soto la Marina, to be hence transported by sea to the points fortified and occupied by our troops, where, under their protection they may engage in the cultivation of the lands.

2nd. To colonize the Department of Texas with individuals of other nations, whose interests, customs and language differ from those of North America.

3rd. Encourage the coastwise trade, the only one which can establish relations between Texas and the other sections of the Republic, and nationalize that Department which is

now almost North American.

4th. To commission a person of information and prudence to visit the colonized territories, who after having collected information respecting the contracts entered into by the undertakers, whether their conditions have been fulfilled, the number of families in each settlement, of slaves in each colony, the extent of country they occupy, the location of the colonists, and those who have been introduced without proper authority, may proceed, with the approbation of Government, to take the necessary measures to secure that part of the Republic.

The utility of these measures becomes manifest when it is considered that, although it is true that the Mexicans are but little used to this species of enterprise, it is equally so that the Government has never made an attempt of this description. But let the difficulties be ever so great, they must be overcome, because these measures involve the safety of the nation, and because, either the Government must now occupy Texas or lose it for ever. For we cannot think of reconquering it, when the basis of our operations will be 300 leagues off, while the enemy will fight close to his resources. With regard to the transportation of convicts, we know from melancholy experience that of the numerous gangs of them destined for Vera Cruz the greater part perish, victims of the deadly climate, which would be avoided by transferring them to a healthy country, where, besides, there will be found this advantage, that being without hope of escaping, from their ignorance of the country, they will be compelled to labor, in order to better their condition. Proprietors of lands which will be granted to them, they will devote themselves to their cultivation, and this laborious way of life will change their habits. In general the land ceded to the North Americans is situated near the coast, and as it would be dangerous to abandon it to them, this inconvenience would be prevented by establishing Mexican settlements at the neighboring maritime points of Galveston, and the mouth of Brazos. In order to form an establishment at the mouth of this river it is necessary to alter the contract of the undertaker Austin, to whom were inconsiderately granted the leagues of coast, which the law required should only be given with the approbation of the Federal Executive, foreseeing that the North Americans would seize upon Texas as soon as they should find themselves in possession of the coast. The settlements of Paso and Galveston will occasion

expenditures, their amount is estimated at one hundred thousand dollars to be expended upon the construction of barracks, houses and the purchase of some agricultural implements hardware and supply of provisions for the first months.

In order to facilitate the formation of these establishments that the troops which are to be stationed upon what is there called the frontiers, with a view of repelling the incursions of savages, and that as well the colonists as the troops, themselves, may be sheltered and supplied with provisions, it is indispensable to permit the introduction of wooden houses, and of provisions. The expediency of such measures is manifest, if it be considered that at the River Nueces, a point where it will be necessary to station a few detachments, not a tree is to be found in the neighborhood, and that this absence of vegetation is common to an immense extent of the territory.

With a view to encourage families to emigrate there might be created a *fund to aid, on the score of loans, poor agriculturists in producing agricultural implements.* It would also be expedient for the Government to promote, among the Mexican or foreign capitalists some association for the settlement of those lands but as the Mexicans have no slaves, an advantage enjoyed by the North Americans, such settlement will be slower as well for this reason, as on account of the little inclination they have for agriculture. But this ought to be encouraged by all means, and the object might be attained by *granting premiums to those Mexicans who will most distinguish themselves in that branch of industry.*

Since I have returned to the subject of the slaves retained by the North Americans established in Texas, this seems the proper place to inform the house that their number and the advantages they afford to their respective masters, contribute to increase the preponderance they enjoy: By the fact of their touching the soil of the Republic, they should have been emancipated, by virtue of the law of the 13th July 1824, but as this has not taken place, the attempt to do it now would excite a sedition among the colonists, and the loss of Texas would be certain. So is certainly to be regretted that the circumstances in which that Department is now placed, render it necessary that slavery should be retained there, in the same manner as if the territory were a colony of the United States of the North and independent of Mexico. But as it now belongs to the Republic only of

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right, on account of the abuses which have been tolerated in it, or which could not be remedied, things have come to such a point, that any measure adopted for the emancipation of those slaves, would afford a cause for uneasiness and disturbances, which would become a pretext for others and others again, and perhaps for an invasion. The Government therefore, aware of all the difficulties presented by the subject, thinks it expedient notwithstanding the sentiments of humanity by which it is animated, to suspend the operation of the law of 13th July 1824, with respect to the slaves now existing in Texas, it remaining in force and vigor, as to those who might be attempted to be introduced in the future. Through this means it is believed that the interest of the proprietors of slaves may be reconciled with the dignity of the Government. The same reasons set forth with regard to slaves apply likewise to religion, and therefore lead to the same conclusion.

The colonization of the Department of Texas by persons of other nations, which is another of the measures recommended by Government, has for its principal object to destroy the preponderance enjoyed in that territory by the North Americans. To obtain the desired end it would be expedient that, from this time, their introduction be forbidden, whatever might be their object in going thither, and a scrupulous attention given to stop clandestine introduction.

This measure would check the progress of the evil, but it will be more directly carried with effect by inviting to those colonies subjects of the European nations, whose religion language, manners and customs are in contradiction with those of the North Americans. In order to encourage them and stimulate them to the undertaking, it will be well to grant to them all possible favors, such as giving them lands and open to them the door to other advantages, taking care to locate them along the dividing line between Mexico and the United States of the North. It is important to people that country with men having interests opposed to those of the North Americans, and that the new population may be increased in such a manner as to take away from them that numerical preponderance which they have succeeded in obtaining. With a view to the preservation of the superiority thus to be obtained, it would be expedient to put a stop to the contracts which the Government may be engaged in concluding; and that such as have been concluded to this day, whether with Mexicans or North Americans, should remain

in their present condition; and that the contractors be forbidden to introduce new settlers, and to grant, sell, or otherwise alienate the lands ceded to them, without the previous approbation of the General Executive.

The coastwise trade, as proposed, is of the greatest importance to nationalize the department of Texas whose intercourse is now chiefly with New Orleans; cotton, one of the principal productions, might be brought to Tampico or Vera Cruz in vessels of Campeche, the only ones that carry on that trade to be thence exported to foreign countries now, this produce, prepared by machines in common use among the American colonists, is for want of communication with the ports of the Republic, carried to New Orleans where it has to pay an import duty, as foreign produce. This is a circumstance worthy of being attended to, since it excites the interests of the colonists to seek the means of freeing themselves from a burden which will cease to exist as soon as they can attach themselves to their native country.

The ports of Matamoros, at the north, are not frequented by our coast vessels, and the Campecheans who could undertake those speculations, withdraw themselves, on account of the provisional currency, which does not circulate in that market, and has to pay a discount in New Orleans. This is a difficulty which ought to be removed, and if it is done the trade of our coast will extend itself.

With regard to the expediency of suspending the law of the 18th August 1824, with respect to Texas, and the appointment of a commissioner to be sent by the General Government to the Districts now remaining in an exposed situation, it would seem that the propriety of that measure is recommended by the sole consideration of the abuses practised by granting lands in the districts which said law had reserved to the General Government: The want of punctuality with which the contractors have fulfilled their engagements, and the danger of losing Texas, through those abuses. This measure is the more necessary because experience has proved the repeated orders which have been given to prevent the introduction of colonies from the conterminous nations, or of a greater number of families than provided for by the contracts, and recommending that the colonies nearest to the United States of the North should be composed of settlers not natives of those states, have not been executed. The evil is progressively increasing by means of this neglect. In a word, if there be no one to watch over the fulfilment of the

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obligations entered into by the colonists, and if this Government permit that the laws be violated or eluded, for what cause soever, how can the evil be checked whose entreme will be incurable?

Does prudence dictate this course? Is this according to justice? Will it be possible to preserve the integrity of the territory, which the laws have placed under the care of the General Government? That the Government of that state cannot conveniently attend to this, is clear, from the great expenditures it requires, particularly if the measures proposed should be adopted. These expenditures are incompatible with the scant revenue of that state, and the Confederacy can meet them only through her own agents. It may be said that this should be an encroachment upon the federal system, by diminishing the power of the state: be this as it may it is certain that if Texas is to belong to the United Mexican States, Mexican measures must be resorted to as required by circumstances. A firm attitude which will give the North Americans to understand that Mexico will preserve her territory inviolate, and will not permit it to be dismembered, is now most important. Secure under expedient measures which will cause us to be respected, the conclusion of the Treaty of limits, prevented by the causes above refferred to, may be resumed. Mere reclamations, answered by notes abounding with diplomatic sentences, and either the question becomes embarrassed, or gives time for the execution of the contemplated project. We are now in that predicament, unfortunately, and if it be not taken in hand, Texas, we must repeat it, will cease to belong to the United Mexican States.

What I have stated suffices to show the true state of things in this important transaction, and thereupon, the prudence of the Chamber will adopt such measures as it will judge most expedient, secure that the Executive will sustain to the last, both in diplomatic discussions, and with military measures the honor of the nation and the integrity of its territory.

Lucas Alamán

Méjico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, anexo al doc. 3. NAW.

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1 de abril de 1830. Washington, Van Buren a Butler.

Joel R. Poinsett ya había llegado a Washington y había hecho una exposición de la situación general de México. Esperaban que se hubieran presentado las credenciales del nuevo representante de los Estados Unidos en México.

Todos los cambios que se habían efectuado en los miembros del gobierno y también el cambio de los representantes de ambas naciones, hacían esperar que las cosas tomaran un mejor camino caracterizado por la promoción de los intereses de ambos países, en sustitución de la sopecha y la desconfianza que fueron las bases del gobierno mexicano en el trato con los Estados Unidos hasta la fecha.

Las instrucciones generales podían haberle hecho tomar conciencia de que los problemas habían sido motivados por:

Misrepresentations of individuals inimical to the prosperity of the United States, and mislead as to the interests of Mexico whereby a portion of its population has been taught to look upon us with an eye of suspicion, and to construe every measure of our frank and generous policy towards them into acts of hostility, and as forming part of a settled design, on our side, to impede their prosperity.

El presidente de los Estados Unidos no perdía la fe en cuanto a que hubiera un arreglo y esperaba que ninguna sección de la opinión pública mexicana ni del gobierno mantuvieran afirmaciones contra el gobierno de los Estados Unidos que no se fundaran en la verdad. Había que hacer ver cómo ni el gobierno ni el pueblo tenían ambiciones sobre el territorio de México y que todo lo que se había externado sobre el asunto era totalmente infundado. La política de los Estados Unidos se había apoyado siempre en los hechos y ello podía ser atestiguado por el enviado mexicano en Washington. Vista la forma en que se habían hecho las interpretaciones sobre las intenciones de los Estados Unidos, en el momento ya podían suponer cómo iban a interpretar la salida de la fragata Brandywine hacia México o la ley que acababa de aprobarse en el congreso autorizando al presidente para montar y equipar una parte del ejército de la nación. Pensaba que podía motivarse una serie de nuevos prejuicios en contra de los Estados Unidos y esperaba que explicara al gobierno mexicano cómo la fragata sólo iba con intención de proteger el comercio que atañía a todas las naciones entre la parte norteña de las costas de México y el interior de los Estados Unidos. Resultaba verdaderamente humillante tener que dar explicaciones a causa de las sospechas producidas por

un espíritu malicioso, pero para evitar las malas interpretaciones había que hacer todo lo posible siempre que fuera compatible con el honor de la nación y con sus poderes como presidente.

El mayor general Macomb le había indicado, por carta, la necesidad que había de proteger el comercio interior que tanto por su volumen, como por el capital que en él se estaba invirtiendo, necesitaba de todas las garantías que pudiera darle el gobierno, que hasta la fecha lo había protegido dentro de sus propios límites territoriales. Le comunicaba que una gran fuerza se había establecido a lo largo de la frontera occidental y que de ella se habían desprendido partidas de avanzada que habían penetrado profundamente en el territorio de los indios y de acuerdo con las órdenes que se le habían dado destacaron batallones que acompañaban a las caravanas salidas de Missouri en camino hacia México, llevándoles hasta la frontera. Los resultados obtenidos habían sido buenos y los mercaderes viajaban hasta la frontera con toda seguridad, irán respetando con todo escrupulo las fronteras, los tratados y los vecinos. Pero, en cuanto pasaban la frontera y las caravanas se enfrentaban con las distancias hasta llegar a las primeras poblaciones mexicanas se veían a merced del terrible peligro representado por las tribus que allí habitaban. Una buena colaboración entre los dos gobiernos haría que estas dificultades se arreglaran y que el comercio se pudiera desarrollar con toda la seguridad que requería.

You are instructed to sound the feelings of that [Government] of Mexico, and, if possible, to obtain its cooperation in affording the denied protection. Several modes present themselves of accomplishing these objects. That which would, probably, best meet the views of the Mexican Government, would be, that the caravans escorted to and from the boundary line to the inhabited settlements, by military parties detailed for that object by both Governments, with orders to meet and relieve each other, at stated periods, and at places designated for that purpose. This would obviate the necessity of allowing the troops to go beyond their frontier posts, and thereby, perhaps, to afford a pretext for the unfounded imputations which ignorance has cast upon this Government, of entertaining views of conquest in that quarter.

But should Mexico find it impracticable to dispose of that part; small as it needs be, of her military force in behalf of the proposed object, the next mode would be to obtain

the permission of her Government for our troops to penetrate into the unsettled mexican districts, either in pursuit of their enemies, as proposed by general Laavenworth, or simply to continue their escort to the caravans, until they should have reached the inhabited parts, and placed themselves under the safeguard of the local authorities. The present state of irritation and distrust which prevails in Mexico upon the subject of their northern frontiers renders this one of the most delicate subjects confided to you. The President full of confidence in your discretion, and in your local knowledge and general acquaintance with the subject, feels secure that you will know how to select the proper time and opportunity in ascertaining the feelings of the Mexican Government, and that you will risk nothing which might operate as a bar to the restoration of the friendly and confidential relations which he is so anxious to establish between the two Republics.

La situación agitada de México y las consecuencias que ella planteaba llevaron al presidente a pensar en si el momento sería el favorable para abrir con éxito las negociaciones de que le habló en las instrucciones enviadas por el departamento con fecha de 25 de agosto de 1829. De momento no se esperaba otra cosa que un estudio de las reacciones de la gente y de los principales miembros del gobierno, cuidando mucho de no comprometerse ni en lo personal ni en lo gubernamental. Se le recomendaba prudencia, sobre todo en sus despachos que esperaban llegarán a su destino, pero si se presentara una oportunidad para llevar a cabo los deseos de su gobierno no debería vacilar en aprovecharla.

El despacho termina hablando de asuntos de reclamación de muy poca importancia.

M. Van Buren

*American States. Instructions. Abril 2, 1829-May 27, 1833. Vol. 14,
pp. 176-173, doc. 6. NAW.*

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4 de abril de 1830. México, artículo 11 de la ley de la fecha.

Artículo 11 de la ley de 4 de abril de 1830. En uso de la

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facultad que se reservó el Congreso General en el artículo 7º de la ley de 18 de agosto de 1824, se prohíbe colonizar a los extranjeros limítrofes en aquellos estados y territorios de la federación que colindan con sus naciones. En consecuencia se suspenderán los contratos que no hayan tenido su cumplimiento o sean opuestos a esa ley.

Artículo 1º de la ley de 21 de noviembre de 1833. Se deroga en todas sus partes el artículo 1º de la ley de 6 de abril de 1830.

Decreto de 4 de abril de 1837. El Gobierno, de acuerdo con el consejo, procederá a hacer efectiva la colonización de los terrenos que sean y deban ser de propiedad de la república por medio de ventas, en enfiteusis o hipotecas, aplicando el importe que en las primeras no deberá bajar de 10 reales por acres a la amortización de la deuda nacional contraída o que se contrajere, reservando siempre lo bastante para cumplimiento de lo prometido a los militares que cooperaron a la independencia, y para los premios o concesiones que decrete el congreso a favor de las tribus o naciones indígenas, y de los cooperadores al restablecimiento de Texas, no embarazándose por las leyes dadas hasta aquí, cuyas disposiciones se derogan en todo lo que contrarien a la presente, repitiéndose la prohibición del art. 11 de la ley de 6 de abril de 1830. (Es copia. México enero 4 de 1844.)

Mexico. Waddy Thompson. March 18, 1842-March 25, 1844. Department of State. Vol. 11, doc. sin núm. NAW.

18

6 de abril de 1830. Washington, Van Buren a Louis McLane, ministro plenipotenciario y enviado extraordinario de los Estados Unidos en Gran Bretaña.

Sir,

The unhappy collision between Mr. Poinsett and portions of the population of Mexico, and the extreme violence of its local parties, aided by the unsettled state of the country have produced there a state of feeling towards the United States of the most unfriendly character. There is too much reason to apprehend that some of the high officers of the Government participate largely in the impolitic and unjust

sentiment, and that the bias which is thereby given to their official acts will, if not speedily corrected, influence the relations between the two countries. The consequence of an indulgence in such feelings, has been the most extravagant, not to say ridiculous, suspicion of the U. S. It is our interest and our desire to abstain from the slightest interference in the domestic concerns of Mexico, and to maintain with her no other relations than those of the most amicable and reciprocally beneficial character. To this end, and in the hope of being able to impress that Government with juster views of the motive and objects of this, additional instructions have been given to Col. Butler, our Chargé D'affaires there, an extract of which is, herewith, transmitted to you. From frequent conversations with Mr. Vaughan, I have reason to fear that attempts may be made to impress European Governments, and particularly that of England, with the same groundless suspicions as to the subject of this, which are entertained by the Mexicans. To enable you to defeat that object so far as relates to the British Government, if it be at any time attempted, and to protect the U. S. from the imputations which are cast upon them by portions of the inhabitants and authorities of the Republic of Mexico, I have been directed, by the President to place the enclosed in your hands, with permission to use it according to your discretion. It contains a frank exposition of the sentiments of this Government upon the subject to which it relates, and is, as you know, in strict consistency with our established policy.

It is not intended that you should ask the interference of the British Government in any respect, the only object of this communication being to correct erroneous impressions, and to vindicate the views of this Government from unfounded imputations.

I am with respect your ...

M. Van Buren

Great Britain. Instructions. July 20, 1829-May 5, 1840. Department of State. Vol. 14. NAW.

15 de abril de 1830. Mexico; Butler al presidente Jackson.

My dear Sir,

In my dispatch of the 10 forwarded by the way of Vera Cruz I apprised the Government of the present state of affairs in Mexico, and of the prospect before us. Since the departure of Mr. Poinsett the aspect of things is materially changed for the better as I think and all the public functionaries so far as professions go, indicate the strongest desire to unite the two Governments in bonds of the strictest intimacy.

There seems now to be a probability of my effecting all the objects with which this legation is charged not only in relation to the treaty of Commerce but also the treaty of limits including the cession of part or the whole of Texas. This latter will no doubt be attended with some difficulties, but I am not without hopes of being able to reconcile this Government to an acquiescence in our views upon that most important subject. As yet nothing more [than] shared conversations have passed between the secretary of State and myself, but they have been so frequent as full and explicit and his observations so pregnant of good will towards the United States, with profession of the strongest desire to advance the interests and accomodate the wishes of our Government, and to strengthen by all proper means the relations of amity between Mexico and the United States, that every thing favors the opinion of our settling amicably and to mutual advantage all the questions now open between the two Governments, provided the Executive power remains in the hands of the men who at this time administer the Government.

Continúa haciendo votos por el buen resultado que prevé podrá obtener de su gestión, pues cree que sus instrucciones están a tono con las necesidades de la nación y de acuerdo con ellas resolvió no continuar las relaciones, restableciendo entrevistas, hasta que el gobierno de México se lo indique, ya que el propio Alamán le había dicho que era necesario el fin del ambiente de insurrección existente, para poder dedicarse a la confección del tratado de comercio y para ajustar los límites en lo necesario.

El gobierno de México tenía gran interés, que se había mostrado en una de las conversaciones sostenidas con don

Lucas Alamán, en saber si en caso de que España volviera a atacar a México, éste podría contar con la ayuda de los Estados Unidos y con el cese de la no intervención que los había caracterizado hasta entonces. Butler no respondió a las preguntas que le hicieron en ningún sentido concreto.

I have besides other ground on which I found a hope that the mexican Government may be induced to yield Texas, whenever we come to a discussion of that question. Yet I confess there are great difficulties to overcome and perhaps the negotiation with all my hopes may utterly fail. You have heard already from Mr. Poinsett his opinion, they are no doubt such as he conveyed to me *viz*: 'that Texas never would be ceded to us'. He may be correct, and, my opinion erroneous for I freely admit that during a five years intercourse of the most unlimited character, he had more ample means for forming a true estimate of this people than I can possibly acquire in the same number of months, and with the additional advantage of speaking the language like a native. Yet all this I repeat, my hopes are strong that success will attend me. The result may convict me of error, but at present my impressions are clear that I shall manage this people better than Mr. Poinsett was able to do.

A. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, doc. sin núm. NAW.

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22 de abril de 1830. Londres, Manuel Eduardo de Gorostiza, ministro de México en Londres, a su gobierno. Reservado núm. 10.

En concordancia con las órdenes recibidas de su gobierno en oficio de 28 de enero solicitó una entrevista con Lord Aberdeen que le recibió el día anterior.

Hizo saber que su gobierno no estaba dispuesto a vender o a ceder Texas voluntariamente, cuando era conoedor de que la misión de Butler no tenía otro objeto que ése. No obstante que en otra ocasión el gobierno inglés, por boca del propio Aberdeen, le había dicho que "la desmembración de una parte del territorio mexicano era de importancia gene-

ral, y no podía convenir a los intereses de Inglaterra", deseaba volver a plantear la consulta. En ella obtuvo el nuevo comentario de Aberdeen quien reconoció que Inglaterra se tomaba el mayor interés en la transacción pero que: le parecía que los Estados Unidos, aun cuando deseasen y solicitasesen la venta de Texas, no tenían sin embargo propósitos hostiles: que en prueba de ello me iba a leer una comunicación que acababa de recibir en aquella mañana del enviado inglés en Washington con fecha del 20 de marzo: que éste le escribía que había recibido una nota de Mr. Pakenham en que le avisaba que el gobierno mexicano, alarmado por un aviso que había recibido de su encargado de negocios en los Estados Unidos, de que se preparaba una expedición contra el puerto de Matamoros y con el objeto de ocupar militarmente la provincia de Texas: que en vista de esta nota se había apresurado [el enviado inglés a los Estados Unidos] a explicarse con el secretario de Estado y que éste había tratado de ridícula la aserción del encargado de negocios mexicano asegurándole en seguida que el Gobierno de la Unión no tenía semejante idea de invadir Texas: que además había hablado con el comandante en jefe de las fuerzas americanas, y que éste le había manifestado que las compañías de milicias que estaban prontas a marchar en Nueva Orleans, así como la fragata Brandywine con algunas chalupas cañoneras, iban a la Luisiana a contener el descontento de la gente de color y que por estas declaraciones, así como porque no se había pedido autorización al Congreso para poner las milicias sobre las armas, ni para hacer otra clase de preparativos indispensables a una operación, [la] que suscitaría irremediablemente una guerra entre las dos naciones. Se inclinaba a pensar que realmente no existía aquel proyecto a pesar del lenguaje exagerado de los periódicos y de otros síntomas etc... No obstante Lord Aberdeen añadió que estaría a la mira de tan gran negocio y que me pedía le fuese a ver en cualquiera hora que yo supiese algo tocante al mismo.

ASREM, 5.9-8341, fols. 1-4.

21 de mayo de 1830. México, Butler a su gobierno.

Acababa de recibir el despacho número 6 en que pensaba

que, de momento, no era conveniente dar principio a las negociaciones sobre Texas que tenía encomendadas y dejaban a su discreción escoger el momento propicio para ellas.

Poinsett... Not sufficiently acquainted with the country, or its condition, he imagines at once that a system of looseness and disorder prevades its Government, and persuades himself that a foreign influence opposed to its interests directs the administration, whose tendency was towards aristocracy, a tendency never displayed in this country. Such are the reasons alleged in writing acknowledged to be his, or evidently the production of his pen; and thence forward did he adopt a conduct as unsuitable in a foreign envoy, as it was criminal and deserving of chastisement in all society. His first steps were to create, or at least to give new impulse to the secret society, which supported by seduction and self interest, soon spread rapidly through all parts of the community, and by admitting into its bosom as members without discrimination, persons of all sorts of character, it became at last the ruler of the destiny of the Nation. In vain does the new founder or director of this society pretend that its objects were not political, and that its views were directed to the sole purposes of charity and beneficence, the result has proved contrary. Had the object really been that which is asserted, the menas employed to accomplish the end would have been different. From the moment the course and tendency was perceived every Mexican who loved his country saw the minister of the United States in no other light than the agent of its ruin, and he was designated as the source, and the cause of all the evils produced through the influence of that society which he had taken so active a part in reviving and embodying, and whose proceedings he promoted and encouraged. True it would have been proper to draw a distinction between the conduct of the man in his individual capacity, and the public functions of the minister, (but this metaphysical distinction was not within the comprehension of all). Hence the origin of distrust, of bad feeling: Mr. Poinsett obtains the control of a society he promotes; this Society gets possession of the Government, ruins the finances, disorganizes the army, destroys public confidence, and removes from authority all those whose patriotism would have been the best guarantee for good management; therefore the Government which sent Mr. Poinsett here desires the ruin of the Republic. Every respectable member of Society raises his voice against the minister who by his intrigues and

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interference causes all these evils, and notwithstanding he maintains his post — therefore the Government by who he was appointed supports him, fully satisfied with the manner of discharging his duties. Distrust thus once introduced spreads its baseful influence over every thing; the Anglo-American colonies in Texas increase, some disorderly persons create disturbances in that part of the country; fears are entertained of a repetition and therefore is Poinsett and his Government the instigators. Any fresh misfortune which the Republic, even the Spanish expedition on itself is attributed to the same cause, and this prejudice, once conceived, gives a color to every transaction; hence the indiscret conduct of the minister to say the least of it, has proved injurious to both countries, hence the means employed to destroy a foreign influence that never existed, and to substitute another, produced the effect of introducing an apprehensive distrust of the latter, and hence finally in politics as injustice, in order to obtain happy results, there is no path so safe to follow as that of rectitude. Had it not been for the tortuous course of Mr. Poinsett, the treaties of friendship and commerce, and of limits would have been perfected — but for similar manoevres the natural good feeling which prevails between the two countries would have existed, and the two countries would have improved and extended; no want of confidence would have existed and the two countries would now be connected by treaties strengthening the mutual ties which nature and their institutions have formed and which policy ought to confirm. It would be unjust to attribute to a Government the errors of its representative and to complain that he was not removed when no formal request to that effect had been made, but we must at the same time say that public opinion has not been formed without a plausible foundation and we fear that it may increase from the caustic character of some publications in the United States probably dictated by the same party who has been the primary cause of all our evils.

A. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5. doc 2. NAW.

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21 de mayo de 1830. México, Alamán a Butler.

Los infrascritos, secretarios de Estado y del Despacho de Relaciones Interiores y Exteriores, y de Hacienda, tienen el honor de dirigirse a V. S. y de comunicarle hallarse plenamente autorizados por el Exmo. señor vice presidente en ejercicio del poder ejecutivo para abrir las negociaciones sobre los tratados pendientes entre los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y el gobierno de V. S.

En tal concepto los infrascritos suplican a V. S. se sirva señalarles el día en que puedan tener su primera concurrencia con el objeto indicado, y aprovechan esta oportunidad para protestar a V. S. las seguridades...

Lucas Alamán y Rafael Mangino

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1828-August 12, 1832. State Department. Vol. 5. NAW.

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24 de mayo de 1830. Baltimore, Tornel al secretario del departamento de Estado.

Muy estimado señor:

Tengo el honor de acompañar a Ud. *El Sol*, periódico de México que contiene el mensaje del ejecutivo al cerrarse las sesiones en que ofrece ocuparse de los tratados con los Estados Unidos a los que protesta la más cordial amistad.

Tengo señor el honor de ofrecer a Ud. las protestas de mi singular consideración con la que soy su obediente servidor.

José María Tornel

Mexico. Notes. December 30, 1821-June 1, 1831. Department of State. Vol. 1 NAW.

26 de mayo de 1830. México, Anastasio Bustamante al general Jackson, presidente de los Estados Unidos del Norte.

Palacio del gobierno federal en México.

Señor presidente. Aprovecho la ocasión del regreso a estos estados de la legación mexicana, [entre ella] don Antonio Méjia, para dirigirme a V. E. en particular y hubiera tenido ya esta satisfacción si atenciones del momento no hubiesen debido ocupar todo mi tiempo. Acaso V. E. extrañará la libertad que me tomo, sin haber tenido antes la fortuna de tener relación alguna con V. E., pero espero que disculpe la franqueza de un soldado que no se detiene en fórmulas cuando se promete algún bien para su país. Después de las frecuentes alteraciones a que por desgracia esta nación se ha visto sujeta en los años pasados, la opinión pública altamente pronunciada ha producido un estado de cosas más tranquilo, que promete consolidarse. Los intentos para trastornarlo aunque fomentados por apariencias y nombres hasta ahora respetables han sido varios, y aunque muy a mi pesar me haya visto obligado a hacer uso en pocos casos de fuerza de las armas, la convicción es la que se ha empleado de preferencia y constantemente con buen éxito. La atención del gobierno va a dirigirse ahora a reparar los males que tan larga tormenta ha causado, y abrir las puertas de la prosperidad inagitable con que la Providencia ha dorado a este país extinguiendo las desavenencias que tan perjudiciales han sido. El sistema que para esto me he propuesto es muy sencillo. Empleando muchos años en la profesión de las armas no puedo acostumbrarme a las sutilezas de la estadística, y propendiéndo siempre a la sencillez de mis hábitos militares, prefiero a todo la franqueza y uniformidad de proceder, por tanto una marcha franca en la administración, el olvido de pasadas ofensas y resentimientos, la más estrecha imparcialidad con respecto a los hombres en tiempos menos felices han pertenecido a diversos partidos, es lo que forma mi sistema. Uniendo a esto una severa economía y arreglo en la hacienda y una exacta disciplina en el ejército, me prometo que aún México puede restablecerse y probar que podemos ser felices. Los mismos principios acomodados a los negocios exteriores probarán a V. E. que en particular me dedicaré a extinguir las apariencias de disgustos que por causas que no hay necesidad de referir se han creído exis-

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tentes entre estos y esos Estados. Yo veo en esa república al amigo más antiguo de la independencia de ésta, creo que nuestros lazos recíprocos de amistad deben ser los más íntimos entre ambos pueblos, los juzgo mi primera obligación; así es que apenas los cuidados interiores me han dejado un momento, mi atención se ha dirigido hacia los tratados pendientes con esos Estados y ya que no ha estado en mi mano el que la primera nación que reconoció nuestra independencia política haya sido también la primera con quien nos ligue la fe de los tratados, cuidaré por lo menos que se remueva toda causa de ulterior demora. Esto producirá mil bienes y mucho más en un momento en que anunciándose nueva invasión de nuestros externos enemigos los españoles, México debe contar con la buena voluntad de sus no menos constantes amigos y a este respecto no puedo menos de aprovechar esta ocasión de manifestar a V. E. mi reconocimiento por los buenos oficios que ese gobierno ha interpuesto para que la independencia de ésta y las demás nuevas repúblicas de América sean reconocidas por la España. Si ésta conociese sus verdaderos intereses que es lo que a ella conviene; la continuación de la guerra no puede causarle sino daño y afrenta, pues en esta parte no hay mexicano, cualquiera que sea por otra parte su opinión política, que no esté decidido a sacrificarse por sostener la independencia. Temo que halle V. E. demasiado larga esta carta para una primera comunicación; he manifestado ya mis motivos y por conclusión me atrevo a pedir a V. E. me trate con igual franqueza y me permita contarme en el número de sus amigos, protestándole que soy con toda consideración su muy seguro servidor.

Anastasio Bustamante

Mexico. Notes. December 30, 1821-June 1, 1831. Department of State, Vol. 1, NAW.

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26 de junio de 1830. Burdeos, Tadeo Ortiz, cónsul de México, a su gobierno.

Indica al gobierno que está dispuesto a que le tengan en cuenta —en caso de que el gobierno se hiciera propietario

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de la faja fronteriza de veinte leguas de anchura, que existe desde la bahía de Sabinas hasta el grado 42 de latitud norte que se encuentra entre Texas, Nuevo México y los Estados Unidos y todo el litoral de la citada Bahía de Sabinas hasta la desembocadura del río Bravo— para ayudar a formar en ese lugar colonias militares y particulares y en el litoral las poblaciones correspondientes en los puertos de Sabinas, Galveston, Bahía de San Fernando y demás puntos que por su posición tienen interés especial para la defensa de las fronteras o para cultivar el comercio del norte. Dice que agradecerá que se le nombre para fundar las poblaciones o que le den cualquier otro encargo que convenga al gobierno pues en Coatzacoalcos no cree que sea útil, ya que puede buscar mecánicos en Suiza, Alemania o Francia para llevarlos como pobladores a dichos puntos haciéndose cargo de solicitarlos, conducirlos y llevarlos en derechura a dichos lugares para ofrecerles cierta cantidad de terreno o lo preciso para su transporte y que los gastos no serían grandes debido a que en el mismo Burdeos o en el Havre hay todas las facilidades para fletar buques al propósito.

ASREM, 5-8-7931, fols. 1-2.

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29 de junio de 1830. México, Butler a Van Buren.

The General Congress was convened in extraordinary session on yesterday, and as Mr. Alamán assents to my suggestion that the treaty of amity and commerce should be ratified here previous to its being sent to the United States, in order to obviate the delay hitherto experienced in similar cases, I think that we shall proceed with unusual expedition so as to conclude the treaty and have it acted upon by the Congress now in session. I am promised as much...

A. Butler

México. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, doc. si nnúm. NAW.

13 de agosto de 1830. Baltimore, Tornel a Van Buren.

Honorble señor,

El infrascrito, enviado extraordinario y ministro plenipotenciario en los Estados Unidos mexicanos cerca del gobierno del honorable señor secretario del Exterior, Mr. Van Bren, se complace en anunciarle de orden de su gobierno que, deseando establecer y consolidar las relaciones más amigables, francas y duraderas entre ambas naciones, ha dispuesto que se active la conclusión del Tratado de amistad, navegación y comercio, nombrando con este objeto y como sus plenipotenciarios a los Exmos. señores don Lucas Alamán y don Rafael Mangino.

El ministro infrascrito tiene recibidas órdenes positivas para comunicar al honorable señor Van Buren que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos se halla altamente satisfecho del señor Butler, encargado de negocios de los Estados Unidos, que se ha hecho muy agradable al Exmo. señor vice presidente, quien consideraría como un obsequio al gobierno de México, el que fuese revestido con el carácter de ministro plenipotenciario.

El infrascrito, enviado extraordinario y ministro plenipotenciario de los Estados Unidos mexicanos, tiene el honor de anunciar al señor secretario del Departamento del Exterior que se halla con órdenes e instrucciones de su gobierno, para entrar con el de Estados Unidos en negociaciones de grande interés para las dos naciones y para la causa general de América. El infrascrito se complacerá en recibir las órdenes del señor Van Buren sobre el tiempo y lugar en que puedan abrirse las conferencias.

El infrascrito reitera...

José María Tornel

*Mexico. Notes. December 30, 1821-June 1, 1831. Department of State.
Vol. 1, NAW.*

19 de agosto de 1830. Washington, Daniel Brent (encargado interino del ministerio en ausencia del ministro) a Tornel.

Sir,

I have the honor, in the absence of the Secretary to acknowledge the receipt of your note to him of the 13th. of this month, intimating by the authority of your Government, that, with a view to the reestablishment and consolidation of the relations of Amity and Friendship between these United States and the United Mexican States, you were instructed to inform this Government as you are pleased to do in that note, that the Government of México had appointed plenipotentiaries on its part to hasten the conclusion of the Treaty of Amity, Navigation and Commerce between the two countries. This intelligence will doubtless be received by the Secretary with the liveliest satisfaction from the warm interest which the Government of the United States has always taken, and which the President and he so much cherish, in the promotion of the best understanding between the two States, upon principales of mutually liberal and beneficial policy.

By the same note it appears that the conduct of Mr. Butler has given great satisfaction at Mexico, and had conciliated for him, in as high degree the esteem and confidence of your Government; and you express a wish, by its direction, that he may be advanced to a higher rank in the diplomatic service of this country than he now holds in it. The President and Secretary will be highly gratified by this agreeable intelligence regarding that gentleman, and will consider it as a testimonial of his conduct which cannot be too highly appreciated, and as a new proof of the fidelity with which he has fulfilled his instructions, in availing himself of all suitable occasions to cultivate the friendship and good will of the Government of Mexico towards himself, personally, and towards the United States. I lost no time in communicating your note to the Secretary, under full persuasion that anticipation of his views upon the subjects referred to will be abundantly realised by his perusal of it.

You intimate further that you are empowered and instructed by your Government to enter into negotiations with this upon by your Government to enter into negotiations with this upon subjects of great interest to the nations, and to the common cause of America, and enquire when and where it would be convenient for the Secretary to open the conferences with you in relation to these important concerns. On his return to the sea of Government, which will probably be in the early part of next month, he will no

doubt, take the instructions of the President and be governed by them, upon these overtures on the part of your Government, and will then make you acquainted with the determination of this Government concerning them. In the meantime however, I would suggest for your consideration, whether it would not be convenient and necessary, that the Executive Government of the United States should be made acquainted with the nature, object and extent of the proposed negotiation beforehand.

By another not of the same date, addressed likewise to the Secretary, and received at the same time, you mention that provision would be made by the Mexican Government, to satisfy the claim of the Bank of the United States and the responsibility of this department, on account of the nonpayment and protest of the bill of Mr. Sebastián Mercado the late secretary of the mexican legation in this capital upon the house of Baring and Brothers and Co. of Boston, by paying to Mr. Butler at Mexico the amount of that claim, to be accounted for by him. I can venture to inform you, as I have the honor to do, that this department will be perfectly satisfied with this arrangement, and will take great pleasure in adjusting and settling that claim with the Bank question, as soon as it receives intelligence from Mr. Butler that it has been consummated at Mexico.

Daniel Brent

Foreign Legations. Notes to. March 18, 1828-August 1, 1831. Department of State. Vol. 4, p. 285-88. NAW.

29

26 de agosto de 1830. México, Butler a Van Buren.

We have finished 24 articles of the treaty and are in fair progress for its conclusion; I hope we may place it before the Mexican Congress by October, so as to send it to you by the meeting of Congress or early in January. No difficulty of serious character has occurred, but Mr. Alamán and Mr. Mangino are so much occupied in their respective offices (of State and Treasury) as very much to prolong our negotiations. I have now been waiting more than ten days for a summons to the next conference: it is not yet given. We

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shall provide in this treaty for the inland commerce between Missouri and Santa Fe; at our last conference we decided on that question, and Mr. Alamán requested me to prepare the article alleging his constant engagements as a reason why he could not even promise me the slightest aid; and indeed the whole Treaty so far has been my own work, not a single article having been furnished by the Mexican plenipotentiaries, confining themselves throughout to the adoption of what I prepared, or in discussing, objecting and modifying. In this business the speed of promptness and of liberality both belong to Mangino, for although I would urge no very serious objection to the course pursued by Mr. Alamán, yet I think I could very often discover a lurking partiality for British interests, whenever they were likely to operate.

The British creditors are becoming very clamorous and a law is now under discussion before Congress to liquidate the interest due on that debt by converting it into principal to draw interest hereafter; this is supposed by many as designed to conciliate the creditors towards another loan, which the Government is anxious to obtain, but which I am certain will not advance them one cent towards it, if any reliance can be placed on what the British minister, and their best informed British merchants here say on the subject.

I have never had from you any acknowledgment of the several dispatches addressed to the Department. Nor of any of my private letters related to subjects of much importance to the Government as I conceive, two or parts of two in cipher. It would quiet my anxiety to know that you had received them.

I remain very respectfully...

A. Butler

Méjico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, doc. sin núm. NAW.

Comunica que ha recibido solicitudes de familias francesas que se interesan en la posible colonización de Texas y en vista de que el tema es de importancia les ha recomendado que soliciten las tierras al gobierno mexicano directamente. Por ello pide que le manden instrucciones sobre el problema.

ASREM, 5-8-7931, fol. 4.

31

2 de octubre de 1830. Baltimore, Tornel a Van Buren.

Honorable señor,

El infrascrito, enviado extraordinario y ministro plenipotenciario de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, tiene el honor de acusar recibo a la nota de fecha 28 del mes pasado que le dirigió el honorable señor Martin Van Buren transcribiéndole las quejas del gobernador del territorio de Arkansas, sobre la conducta y pretensiones de los coroneles Milán y Bean sobre una parte del terreno en que se asegura haberse ejercido constantemente, por parte del gobierno del expreso territorio, una jurisdicción no contradicha.

El infrascrito da conocimiento a su gobierno por el paquete que sale de New York el día 5 de este mes de esta ocurrencia, satisfecho de que su resolución tenderá a mantener ilegas las amigables relaciones que felizmente existen entre ambos países, sin comprometer por eso los derechos que asisten a la nación mexicana conforme al tenor del tratado de 22 de febrero de 1819, existente y valedero en todos los derechos que concede y obligaciones que impuso a las partes contratantes.

Con este motivo le permitirá el señor secretario en el Departamento de Estado que le llame la atención sobre las urgentes necesidades de que el tratado de límites concluido entre los Estados Unidos y México se ratifique en la próxima sesión del Congreso, para que conforme al tenor del artículo 3º se nombre por ambas partes la comisión que ha de fijar precisamente los límites y se arregle definitivamente un asunto que interesa a las dos naciones por su buena armonía e inteligencia.

Si el señor Van Buren lo estimare conducente, el infrascrito se compromete a escribir a S. E. el general Terán,

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comandante general de las armas en el estado de Coahuila y Texas y jefe de la comisión científica nombrada por el gobierno de México, para inclinarlo a que mande suspender toda gestión por parte de los coronel Milán y Bean mientras S. E. el vice presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos resuelve sobre este asunto y quede arreglado a satisfacción entera de los dos gobiernos.

Entre tanto le permitirá el señor Van Buren que le recomienda la conveniencia de que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos encargue al gobernador Pope que se abstenga de toda medida violenta, cuyos resultados podrían ser funestos, siendo esta resolución tanto más necesaria cuanto que desde el año anterior causaron alguna alarma en México las opiniones que el citado gobernador expresó en el discurso de apertura de las sesiones de la legislatura de Arkansas, sobre el territorio mexicano de Texas y los que supuso intereses de los Estados Unidos y deseos de su gobierno con respecto a este delicado negocio.

Y como el día 4 del presente mes tendrá el infrascrito la satisfacción de dirigirse a la ciudad de Washington entonces podrán acordarse estos puntos con la facilidad que produce la franca lealtad de los agentes de dos naciones que jamás dejarán de ser amigas.

El infrascrito, ministro de México, reitera al señor Van Buren las más altas...

José María Tornel

Mexico. Notes. December 30, 1821-June 1, 1831. Department of State. Vol. 1. NAW.

32

26 de octubre de 1830. Baltimore, José A. Mexia a Van Buren.

Mi respetable señor,

Mi amigo y compatriota don Lorenzo de Zavala marcha a esa ciudad con objeto de conocer al señor presidente, a Ud. y a la capital de la Unión. Yo me tomo la libertad de introducir a la amistad de Ud. a este amigo de los Estados

Unidos prometiéndome que Ud. lo atenderá con la bondad
que le dispensa a su afmo. amigo...

José A. Mexía

Mexico. Notes. December 30, 1821-June 1, 1831. Department of State. Vol. 1. NAW.

33

29 de octubre de 1830. México, el gobierno a Tornel [oficio reservado núm. 14]

El gobierno se da por enterado de su comunicación de 6 de marzo y está conforme con ella. Considera que la ley de 6 de abril acude a remediar los inconvenientes que causa la emigración de los naturales de esos estados al de Texas; y que su observancia se ha recomendado y recomienda de nuevo, sobre todo considerando que hay empresarios dedicados a arreglar la venta de los territorios. También se ha notificado al general Terán comisionado para la colonización de aquellas tierras de acuerdo con la ley de 6 de abril.

Le recomienda que vigile si la ley se cumple.

ASREM, 6-19-6, fol. 4.

34

1 de noviembre de 1830. Baltimore, Tornel a Van Buren.

El infrascrito, enviado extraordinario y ministro plenipotenciario de México, al dirigirse al honorable señor Martin Van Buren, tiene el honor de comunicarle que se le ha participado oficialmente que las tribus bárbaras de los indios de los Estados Unidos se aproximan a las fronteras de México por la parte de los ríos Rojo y Arkansas y que aun varias de ellas, como las tribus Sevanavos, Kicapos, Delawares y Charequees, han pasado en el todo y en parte al territorio mexicano. Últimamente se ha verificado la intro-

ducción de ochocientas familias de Cherokees y setecientas de Moscogues o Creeks.

Estas noticias y el conocimiento de que los indios antes situados al oriente del Mississippi se remiten a las márgenes de aquellos ríos, ha llamado altamente la atención del ministro de México para hacer al honorbale señor secretario de Estado la debida protesta de que su gobierno jamás consentirá la ocupación del territorio mexicano [sea] cual fuere el motivo que se alegue.

El infrascrito recibirá un favor del señor Van Buren si quisiera franquearle los tratados celebrados por el gobierno con todas esas tribus, porque haciendo justicia a los sentimientos de los Estados Unidos, supone que solamente por una infracción de ellos han podido dirigirse al territorio mexicano. Por este medio se hallará enteramente expedito el gabinete del que suscribe para repeler con la fuerza esta invasión y lo hará sin demora, en el caso de que ella sea acompañada de los desórdenes que son de temer.

El asunto es de tal gravedad que merecerá desde luego la consideración de Mr. Van Buren al que el infrascrito ministro de México protesta sus mayores respetos y es...

J. M. Tornel

Mexico. Notes. December 30, 1821-June 1, 1831. Department of State, Vol. 1. NAW.

35

2 de noviembre de 1830. México, Butler a Van Buren.

Sir,

I have the pleasure of informing you that the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation between the United States of America [and Mexico], is at last concluded. The finishing hand was put to it this day, and leaves me only time to advise you of that fact previous to the departure of the mail.

I indulged hopes of concluding the treaty much earlier, but the movements of these people always slow, have been rendered still more so, by the unsettled state of the country. The Civil War in the south continues with unabated violence, and demands so much of the time of the heads of Depart-

ment (two of whom are as you know the plenipotentiaries on the part of México) that for the last two months we could have but one meeting on the treaty.

We had set apart for discussion at the session of today four of the most important articles, put aside at the previous meetings, in order that they might be taken up after the other parts of the treaty less interesting should be adjusted; and having entered into a consideration of them the discussions were continued until we had fairly finished. As soon as a copy can be made the treaty will be laid before the Mexican Congress now in session and I have great faith in being able to send it to you ratified on the part of the Mexican Government by a messenger who will leave Vera Cruz in the December packet.

In my next dispatch I will give you a synopsis of the Treaty; and may remark at present, that it does not materially differ from that negotiated by my predecessor in 1828. Some of the most important articles have been modified in such a way as I trust will render them more acceptable to our Government, and others have undergone a change in the phraseology so as to explain with clearness the intentions of the parties. The only new articles introduced is that which relates to the interior commerce between Missouri and New Mexico: By this article the trade is recognized and permitted, but the details for regulating the intercourse as regards convoys etc... is deferred to be explained by a convention on that subject to be entered into between the two Governments hereafter. A want of topographical information, is one of the principal reasons for leaving that part of the treaty in an unfinished state. We had no localities to guide us in determining on the points where the convoys on the one side or the other were to halt, nor of the provision it might become necessary to make for the protection of a trade peculiar in its character and exposed to great hazards. But in as much as the question of recognition has been settled and protection secured so far, the parties engaged in that commerce may proceed as heretofore until the proposed convention is concluded.

Throughout the whole of the negotiation the plenipotentiaries on the part of México have continued to profess a strong desire to conclude a treaty with our Government on the most liberal basis, and they have generally conformed to these professions, although I have sometimes met with opposition on points which could not fail to create surprise, as the opposition interposed affected in every instance those

articles of the Treaty which embraced and applied principles that no admirer of free Government could dissent from.

Not hearing from you in reply to my communication on the subject of the debt due by Mexico to the bank of the United States, I have consented to receive the amount from the Government here, and to pay it for them to the bank. A part of the sum has already been advanced to me for which I shall account as my next quarter's salary falls due, and so continue to do until the whole amount principal, interest, damages and costs is discharged. As you sent me in dispatch N. 4 nothing more than the amount of the original draft by Mr. Mercador, I must now request that you inform me what will be the whole sum due, up to the 1st January 1831, inclusive of interest costs and damages.

I remain very...

A. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State, Vol. 5, doc. sin núm. NAW.

36

5 de noviembre de 1830. México Butler al cónsul norteamericano en Santa Fe.

...I am happy in being able to inform you that the Treaty is at last accomplished and that the difficulty hitherto interposed to recognising consuls for the interior is obviated, I have moreover in the treaty expressly provided for the admission and protection of the trade between Missouri and New Mexico which I have no doubt will give a new spring to our inland commerce and eventually make the consular situation at Santa Fe one of the most lucrative within the Mexican Confederation.

The fact of a treaty having been concluded, which I make known for impersonal satisfaction and information you will of course consider as confidential and treat it with all the delicacy and discretion due such a communication. Our Senate will have the treaty before them during the next session of Congress and if approved will be ratified and published I presume during the month of January next.

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, doc. sin núm. NAW.

37

13 de noviembre de 1830. México Butler a Van Buren.

Mr. Alamán and myself have today compared carefully the copies of the treaty in English and Spanish and at his request I have furnished him with notes explanatory of some of the articles which will be communicated confidentially to certain members of Congress thereby enabling them to obviate probable objections that may be urged as were heretofore against certain articles in the treaty concluded by Mr. Poinsett. The treaty will be laid before Congress on Monday and the Secretary tells me that he anticipates no serious difficulty in its adoption by that body. I hope to send it to you by Mr. Brantz a merchant of Baltimore now here, and who proposes to leave Mexico in about four weeks.

I remain...

A. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, doc. sin núm. NAW.

38

20 de noviembre de 1830. Washington, Van Buren a Tornel.

Department of State
Washington 20th Nov. 1830

The undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States, has received the note which Colonel Tornel, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Mexico, was pleased to address to him, on the 1st of this month, stating that he was in possession of official information, that various tribes of Indians from the United States were approaching the frontiers of the United Mexican States in the direction

of the Red and Arkansas Rivers, that several of these tribes, particulary the Shawnee, Kickapoo, Delawere and Cherokee, had already passed, wholly or in part into the Mexican Territory, and that eight hundred families of the Cherokees and seven hundred of Moskoyees and Creeks have also, lately, been introduced and protesting against the occupation of the Mexican Territories, upon whatever pretext, in reference to these incursions, and to the removal of those Indians, heretofore residing East of the Mississippi, to the banks of Red and Arkansas Rivers this information is calculated to excite great surprise, and to inspire much doubt, as to its correctness. It is notorious that the Shawnee, Kickapoo and Delawere Tribes of Indians have resided West of the Mississippi, time out of mind, and that the Cherokees have been settled where they now are, north of the Red River, ever since 1803. Immediately after the cession of Louisiana to the United States, — that the Choctaws have occupied the lands which they inhabit, north, likewise of the Red River, under the provisions of a Treaty between the Unites States and that Tribe, concluded in the year 1820, and that the Creeks are located upon lands still north of them — these extensive incursions into the neighbouring territories of a kindly power must have been entirely overlooked, likewise by the agents of the United States residing with the several Tribes of Indians, from which they are alleged to have been made, as they are altogether unnoticed in their communications to this Government.

And none of these Tribes are, in fact, within the territorial limits of the United Mexican States, as either claimed by Spain during the existence of her sovereignty in that Hemisphere, or defined by the Treaty between the United States and His Catholic Majesty, concluded in this City on the 22 February 1819. The Undersigned cannot but flatter himself that the apprehensions of Colonel Tornel, with regard to their location, or to any late or prospective incursions from them into the Mexican Territories will be entirely removed, and that he will perceive from the other circumstances referred to in this communication, that he has no good ground for the protest which he has thought proper to make to this Government upon these subjects.

The undersigned takes great pleasure in furnishing Col. Tornel, agreeably to his request, with the accompanying printed volume, which contains a collection of the Treaties with Indinas to which the United States are a party down

to the year 1826, and he prays Col. Tornel to accept the renewed assurance of his very distinguished consideration.

M. van Buren.

Col. J. M. Tornel

Envoy Ext. and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Mexican United States.

Es copia

Legation Mexicana Balt. Dbre. 18 de 1830.

José Arroyo

ASREM, Sucesos entre México y los Estados Unidos de América relacionados con Texas y otros estados limítrofes. (Segunda Parte) fojas 106-107. Nueva Clasificación H/200(72:73)/1. vieja clasificación L/E-1056. Cf. Bosch *op. cit.*, p. 131-2, cita 165.

39

30 de noviembre de 1830. Burdeos, T. Ortiz a su gobierno.

Que los envíos de familias a Coatzacoalcos fueron interrumpidos por la poca inteligencia y economía excesiva del señor Laisne de Villeveque que se mezclaron con la ligereza y las bellas teorías de su socio al señor Giordan. Por otra parte, no se había aplicado a este negocio la ley de colonización del estado de Veracruz y las desgracias continuarán con las demás familias que se envíen:

El 19 del corriente se dieron a la vela ochenta familias destinadas a Coatzacoalcos y como en las bases de la organización se encuentran los mismos defectos, estos colonos también se dispersarían de no ser que la administración de las mismas se pase al comisionado de la federación, Laureano de la Torre.

Continúa opinando cómo debería de hacerse la colonización en México.

ASREM, 5-8-7931, fols. 5-8.

40

3 de diciembre de 1830. Baltimore, Tornel a Van Buren.

Tiene el honor de dirigirse al honorable señor Martin Van Buren, secretario de Estado, y le notifica que el bergantín Wanderer ha llegado a Nueva York. Su gobierno, después de canjeados los respectivos poderes, ha comenzado las conferencias entre el señor Butler y los plenipotenciarios mexicanos y en ellas no se había tropezado con ninguna dificultad pues como varios artículos merecieron con anterioridad la aprobación de la cámara de representantes se prometía el gobierno que el congreso mexicano lo tomaría en consideración en sus sesiones extraordinarias.

En la comunicación oficial a que el infrascrito se refiere, que es el resultado de las reiteradas instancias, hechas a su gobierno para la interesante conclusión de un negocio que mantiene en expectación a las dos naciones, el gobierno manda que renueve las seguridades de la más perfecta amistad hacia los Estados Unidos y también que refiera al señor Van Buren que la probidad, circunspección y honradez del señor Butler han contribuido a desvanecer, como felizmente se han desvanecido completamente, las prevenciones que se habían hecho nacer por causas y personas, que no es el caso reproducir, respecto de los ciudadanos de estos estados.

El infrascrito ha visto con mucha complacencia que su gobierno le manifiesta una absoluta confianza en las miras generosas de los Estados Unidos y de su gobierno y que le mande deshacer cualquiera siniestra impresión que algunos hombres de partido hayan querido inspirar respecto de la marcha consecuente y eminentemente nacional del actual gobierno de México.

Con tal motivo, reitera el infrascrito etc...

J. M. Tornel

Mexico. Notes. November 30, 1821-June 1, 1831. Department of State, Vol. 1, doc. sin núm. NAW.

41

10 de diciembre de 1830. Washington, Van Buren a Butler.

Desde el 26 de agosto no se habían recibido noticias de Butler.

Allusion is made in the President's Message, a copy of which is herewith sent to you, to the relations between the

United States and Mexico with regard to their territorial limits upon the borders of Arkansas, and to the apprehension which was entertained here that those relations might have been disturbed during the late summer by the acts of certain claimants under Mexican grants of lands which have, heretofore been within our jurisdictional limits. Herewith I sent you the copy of a correspondence between this department and the Mexican Minister, together with transcripts of two letters to Governor Pope, which will serve to make you acquainted with the footing upon which that unpleasant affair now stands, and may eventually prove useful to you in your intercourse with the Mexican Government. I transmit likewise, the copy of a recent correspondence between department and the same minister, upon the subject of alleged Indian encroachments from the United States upon the Mexican territory in the same region, which may answer the like purpose.

En la postdata del despacho se dice que el general Milán, segun noticias recibidas últimamente del gobernador Pope, uno de los que han recibido concesiones, ha decidido instalarse y vigilar sus tierras y que como ese procedimiento repugna en las relaciones amistosas existentes entre las dos naciones, se supone que va a producir dificultades entre los ciudadanos de ambos países, que pueden llevar a consecuencias mucho más desagradables. Del gobierno mexicano se espera que pondrá inmediatamente todos sus arbitrios en movimiento para detener esas medidas en las tierras que se considera se encuentran dentro de los límites territoriales de los Estados Unidos.

You will therefore take an early occasion to impress the Mexican Government with a due sense of the serious evils which are incident to the purposes ascribed to Col. Milán, if they should be persisted in, and to remonstrate, in an earnest but friendly manner, against his pursuing them to effect, as long as the boundary line between the two countries remains unascertained by the actual survey and designation of the same.

M. Van Buren

American States. Instructions. April 1829-May 27, 1833. Vol. 14, pp. 186-188. NAW.

41

18 de diciembre de 1830. México, Butler a Van Buren.

Sir,

Agreeable to the promise made you in my last I have the honor to transmit herewith a synopsis of the treaty concluded with this government on the first of November last.

I regret to say that circumstances have intervened to prevent the executive from submitting the treaty to the present congress as I had assurances should be done. The new congress will be organized on the 1st. day of January ensuing, and I shall urge the Secretary of State to lay the treaty before them as early as practicable after the session has been opened. I have the honor to be respectfully...

A. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, doc. 8. NAW.

42

18 de diciembre de 1830. México, sinopsis del tratado de comercio hecha por Butler y anexa a su nota de la fecha, núm. 8.

Synopsis of the Treaty with Mexico.

Art. 1. Stipulates, peace and friendship between all persons and throughout all the territories and possessions of the parties.

Art. 2. Establishes the basis of equality and reciprocity.

Art. 3. Stipulates for freedom of commerce, and residence for that purpose in any part of the territories of either — trading in any and all sorts of produce manufactures and merchandise paying duties, imposts and fees with the most favored nation, and enjoying all the privileges and exemptions they enjoy.

Art. 4. No higher duties on our produce and manufactures than is paid by the most favored nation, nor we on theirs.

Art. 5. Provides for our vessels paying the same tonnage,

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harbour and pilotage etc., as paid by Mexican vessels. Reciprocated.

Art. 6. Provides for paying the same duties, and allowing the same drawbacks in the ports of each whether the vessel be of the U.S. or of Mexico.

Art. 7. All merchants captains and agents have full liberty to manage their own affairs, paying no higher charges than citizens.

Art. 8. No embargo to be laid by either party on the vessels of the others nor shall vessel or cargo be detained or employed for any public or private purpose without adequate compensation.

Art. 9. Exemption from compulsion service, and from all charges taxes or contributions except such as are paid by the citizens of the state where the parties reside.

Art. 10. Provides asylum protection and hospitality.

Art. 11. Provides for restitution of effects captured by pirates.

Art. 12. Provides the character and measure of assistance to be given to the vessels of either suffering wreck etc. on the Coasts of the [roto].

Art. 13. Provides for the succession to Estates, placing the citizens of each party on the footing of native citizens.

Art. 14. Provides judicial protection and remedy, the courts of each party open and free to the citizens of the other.

Art. 15. Granting liberty of conscience, and places of sepulture.

Art. 16. Constitutes the flag protector of whatever sails under it.

Art. 17. Prescribes the mode and extent of protecting neutral property on board of enemy vessels.
[Falta el art. 18.]

Art. 19. Provides for and defines blockade.

Art. 20. Provides for searching and detaining vessels having on board contraband articles.

Art. 21. Provides for the base of vessels arriving before a blockaded port or being in a place besieged or after capture.

Art. 22. Provides for the visit and examination of vessels of either party by the other, and liability for misbehaviour in the performance of this duty.

Art. 23. How National character shall be verified and of the cargo, and provides for proceeding in prize causes.

Art. 24. Stipulates for the respect due to vessels under convoy.

Art. 25. Designates the court and the manner of giving judgment in prize causes.

Art. 26. Stipulates for security of person and property of the citizens of each party residing in the territories of the other in case of War between the two nations.

Art. 27. Stipulates equality in relation to public intercourse and public agents, ministers, etc.

Art. 28. Consuls on producing commissions and receiving exequatur shall be treated and enjoy all the privileges of their character.

Art. 29. Consuls exempt from compulsory service, and all taxes or imposts except on account of their commerce.

Art. 30. Their power over deserters from the vessels of their nation, public authorities shall give them aid.

Art. 31. Provides for forming a consular convention.

Art. 32. Provides for the inland commerce between the two nations, and military escort between Missouri and New Mexico.

Art. 33.—Each party shall maintain as far as in their power peace and harmony amongst the Indians and restore captives.

Art. 34. Criminals and fugitive slaves shall be delivered up.

Art. 35. 1st. his treaty to continue 8 years, either party may then give notice to amend and the obligation of the treaty continues for 12 months there after, if notice is given by neither party, the treaty remains obligatory from year to year until such notice shall be given.

2nd and 3rd. Stipulate the proceeding if any article of the treaty is violated by a citizen of either party, and the like if violated by the Government.

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, anexo al doc. 8. NAW.

*18 de diciembre de 1830. Baltimore, Tornel a su gobierno.
Núm. 34*

Reservada
Exmo. señor:

Las prevenciones que contiene la nota reservada de V. E. No. 10 de 2 de agosto han llamado toda mi atención y pro-

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ducido las observaciones que voy a exponer.

El asunto del departamento de Texas tiene una antigua celebridad en esa y esta república y es imposible que un ministro mexicano en los Estados Unidos deje de considerarlo como el objeto preferente de su cuidado.

El mío desde mi llegada ha sido tan incesante como activo para inquirir lo que se piensa, se escribe y hace en este respecto. En todo el curso de mi correspondencia hallará V. E. la serie de mis investigaciones y en esta nota el estado presente de la cuestión.

Para persuadirse que nuestros codiciosos y emprendedores vecinos han abandona[do] el proyecto de poseer a Texas era necesario no conocer su carácter, no meditar sobre sus intereses y olvidar el alto valor de aquella rica porción de nuestro territorio. Así que unos, considerándonos en un estado absoluto de debilidad, concibieron que por la fuerza debía despojársenos; y otros, los más modernos que convenían en la importancia de la adquisición, preferían el arbitrio de la compra al bajo precio que creían fácil para las necesidades de nuestro tesoro.

Es para mí hasta ahora un misterio quién y cuándo dio seguridades de la venta de Texas, porque a ningún mexicano le oí jamás proponer este desatino y las mismas instrucciones que recibí de la anterior administración, tendían abiertamente a resistir el proyecto de enajenación. Pero ello es que aun el gabinete de Washington cayó en el error de su posibilidad y dio sus instrucciones al señor Butler en esta hipótesis. Entre estos ciudadanos hallé generalizada la misma especie según comunique a V.E. oportunamente.

Haciendo justicia a este gabinete me debo callar que nada he descubierto que pueda ni aun remotamente fundar sospechas de que pensó alguna vez apelar al derecho del más fuerte. Semejante conducta [se] hubiera encontrado con el anatema de una no pequeña parte de la nación, y hubiera producido embarazo y dificultades insupreables a su política.

En el curso del año fue preciso al gabinete de Washington descender a terminantes explicaciones, ya por el alarma suscitado en México, ya porque su eco se hizo sentir en Inglaterra. Por el tenor de ellas, por lo que se me repite sin cesar y por la favorable expresión del mensaje, me he fijado en la opinión de que nada se debe temer de una agresión armada y violenta.

Como desde que cambió la administración en nuestra república, ninguno ha dejado de convencerse de que no puede

comprarse lo que no se quiere vender, se han reducido las tentativas a deseos que ninguno explica con más vehemencia que los habitantes del limítrofe territorio de Arkansas.

Pero desde que los señores Zavala y Mexía han vendido por sí y a nombre de otros propietarios lo más bello y mejor situado del territorio de Texas, en estos Estados, a ciudadanos de ellos y bajo la dirección de Mr. Prentiss, también norteamericano, se ha abierto un campo a la codicia y se ha dejado conocer que supuesta nuestra propiedad, y la mayor que todos encuentran para eludir las leyes, las providencias mejor calculadas del gobierno y hasta las antipatías nacionales, Texas llegará a ser propiedad de esta nación, o al menos de sus ciudadanos.

Es muy débil la resistencia que yo he podido oponer al torrente de tantas codicias reunidas y combinadas; y puede estar seguro V.E. de que si no extiende el gobierno un brazo fuerte hasta las márgenes del Sabinas, la nación, el gobierno cederán a los esfuerzos del interés privado. Demasiado conocen los señores Zavala y Mexía nuestras leyes, nuestro genio y hasta nuestra condescendencia, para que no hayan calculado hacer sus ventas conservando aparentemente la denominación de jefes de la colonia, de que formarán parte, sin duda, muchos ciudadanos americanos, contra las terminantes previsiones de la ley de 6 de abril de este año.

A esto sólo el gobierno puede ocurrir, ya reiterando sus más terminantes órdenes para impedir el ingreso de ningún americano al departamento de Texas, ya haciendo cumplir el artículo 11 de la citada ley en cuanto que, y esto sería lo más eficaz, sabiamente previno la suspensión de las contratas que no habían tenido su efecto.

Las comunicaciones del señor Terán de que dé conocimiento a V.E. y la nota que pasé al señor Van Beuren produjeron las explicaciones de éste sobre la irrupción de los indios bárbaros, que constan en la copia que acompaña de su nota. En mi opinión, hasta la conclusión del tratado de límites, permanecerá indeciso este punto y dando lugar a continuos y recíprocos reclamos.

Por separado tengo la satisfacción de acompañar a V.E. copia exacta del viaje de Mr. Lasala, escrito por Mr. Foutels y la m[em]or[ia], de anunciar a V.E. que por un medio que no debo confiar a la pluma, soy dueño del original, que cuidadosamente conservo a disposición del gobierno.

Este hallazgo, sobre el que oportunamente me excitó el señor general Terán, producirá importantísimas investiga-

ciones sobre un viaje que tanto ha dado qué hacer a los especuladores de este país.

Los cálculos que habían formado, con conocimiento del carácter de las instituciones de los Estados Unidos y de su administración, de que las prevenciones del Presidente Jackson a favor de la persona del señor Guerrero, no influirían en desafecto hacia el gobierno de S.E. el vice presidente, han recibido innumerables apoyos en todo el tiempo de mi misión y el último mensaje, nos ha dado el más solemne y satisfactorio que se podía desechar. Créame S.E.; este gabinete ha mejorado sus juicios y es muy de notar que lo ha manifestado en las críticas circunstancias en que la batalla infortunada de Texas, ha debido inspirar fuertes recelos de que era posible un trastorno. Si es muy lisonjero a este gobierno que el de México haya concedido a los tratados el aprecio que merecen, no puede serlo la detención que han sufrido por causa que ignoro; y porque habiéndose dado antes de ahora tantas seguridades que periódicamente se han frustrado teme que lo sean también las que constantemente he reproducido.

Suponía yo que mis informes relativos a la conducta del señor Poinsett se harían tan notables como lo fue para mí un cambio que llamé inesperado en mi nota reservada de 31 de mayo.

No soy ni fui jamás del número de los que dudaron de la perniciosa intervención del señor Poinsett en nuestros negocios domésticos. Sobre este punto me remito a lo que expuse a V.E. en mi nota reservada núm. 14 del mes de agosto.

Ahora que supongo ya en su poder toda mi correspondencia extraviada, me es fácil llamar la atención de V.E. hacia mis imparciales informes respecto de este ministerio: ellos han sido favorables o adversos, según han dado mérito para ello.

Bien conozco que la transformación del señor Poinsett parecerá y es efecto increíble si se trata de sus afecciones respecto del orden de cosas existentes en México. Pero no es éste el punto de vista en que yo he considerado al señor Poinsett. Lo supongo ahora tan enemigo como fue en México de las personas que administran los negocios públicos, de los principios que profesan y de su opinión también. Pero el señor Poinsett debía informar a su gobierno no de lo que él deseaba que sucediera en México, sino de lo que realmente sucedía. El señor Poinsett no mintió en sus informes, ni es fácil mentir a un gobierno que por tantos caminos se instruye en la verdad de los hechos y miraría con desagrado

cualquiera conato para engañarlo. El señor Poinsett aseguró que el gobierno del vice presidente de la república se consolidaría. Esto nada de extraño tiene para mí, cuando él fue testigo de los términos en que se manifestó la opinión nacional después del pronunciamento de Jalapa y cuando le constaba de vista que el pueblo se había cansado de sufrir y padecer por el choque obstinado y sangriento de los partidos. Todo se ha versado sobre los hechos. Es una verdad que el dominio español está muy bien consolidado en la isla de Cuba y aunque lo sienta profundamente, no tengo inconveniente en confesarlo. ¿Y creo buenas las intenciones de Mr. Poinsett? De ninguna manera. Habrá sido buen historiador de las cosas que observó en México; pero su amigo jamás. Este señor Poinsett es una persona muy rara e ininteligible. Gran chasco se han llevado los que en México lo llamaban su amigo. Yo mismo le he oído declamar contra los desórdenes de la última administración y dar por ciertos hasta los escándalos que parecían dudosos o enteramente falsos.

Se engaña al gobierno cuando se le asegura que el señor Poinsett está en desgracia de su gabinete. Recuerde V.E. que el presidente Jackson tomó la defensa de este diplomático en su mensaje del año de 1829, cosa que pareció hasta extravagante y muy ajena de esta clase de piezas. Posteriormente ha sido colocado en la legislatura de Sud-Carolina por el partido de la administración y etá a la cabeza de los amigos de Tarifa que es negocio del mayor interés para el gobierno.

Desde que recibí la nota de V.E. núm. de 23 de junio prescindi enteramente de las pocas relaciones que entretenía con el señor Poinsett, única y exclusivamente para sacar algún partido en obsequio de mi patria. Esté V.E. seguro de que he adoptado sin la menor pena este partido, y que en lo sucesivo me será esta persona enteramente indiferente. La posición en que por ahora se halla en nada puede influir con la relación a nuestra república.

La división de esta república en dos, recibe cada día nuevos impulsos aunque es imposible fijar ni aun aproximadamente la época en que llegue a realizarse. La cuestión de la tarifa es un nuevo motivo de choque entre el sur y el norte. En el estado de Sud Carolina se ha levantado un fuerte partido llamado de *nullifiers* que es amigo del sistema de prohibiciones contra los intereses de los estados de la nueva Inglaterra que se hallan identificados con la libertad del comercio. En Georgia hay también otros *nullifiers* que protestan contra la intervención de los tribunales de la nación,

en la cuestión de los indios sobre despojos de tierras. Los periódicos están marcados con la tinta de los partidos respectivos. No apartaré la vista de este punto tan esencial.

Clay no se ha descuidado en sus intereses en el último verano. Ha recorrido los estados del oeste; arenga al pueblo y les da banquetes que son aquí con poderoso resorte de la política. Ha triunfado en las elecciones de aquellos estados. El resultado va a sentirse en el congreso general, en el que se ha sentado como diputado el ex presidente Adams. El mismo mensaje del año presente ofrece suficiente idea de las dificultades que entorpecen la marcha de la administración.

La de México ha sufrido los más duros ataques a consecuencia del suceso de Texas. Aun el *Daily Advertiser* no le ha sido favorable. He contradecido estas especies; he trabajado con el empeño que debo y con el que desea S.E. el vice presidente. Es necesario que conozca que las ejecuciones sangrientas por delitos políticos, se reproban universalmente y que han contribuido eficazmente las hechas a indisponer los ánimos, a fijar a muchos en la idea de que el gobierno no se apoya más que en las armas.

Nada he de ocultar a V.E. de lo que observe; y convenido de que el mejor modo de servir a un gobierno es el de decirle la verdad, yo la presentaré sin embozo y sin disimulo. Este es el carácter que hallará V.E. en toda mi correspondencia.

Dios y libertad.

Baltimore, diciembre 18 de 1830.

J. M. Tornel

ASREM, Sucesos entre México y los Estados Unidos de América relacionados con Texas y otros estados limítrofes... (segunda parte) fol. 108-114. Clasificación nueva H/200(72:73)/1. Clasificación vieja L-E-1056. Cf. Bosch *op. cit.*, p. 132-133, cit. 166.

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1 de enero de 1831. México, Bustamante al abrir las sesiones ordinarias del congreso.

. . En breve se pasará al congreso para su aprobación constitucional el tratado de amistad y comercio con los Estados Unidos del Norte.

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Genaro Estrada, *Un siglo de relaciones internacionales de México (a través de los mensajes presidenciales)*, México, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, 1935, p. 33. (Archivo histórico diplomático mexicano, 35.).

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12 de enero de 1831. Baltimore, Tornel a Van Buren.

Recuerda al ministro de Relaciones su solicitud relativa a la declaración del "Draw Back" a beneficio de los negociantes con los estados limítrofes de México que dirigió desde el 17 de agosto y que no ha tenido respuesta todavía.

Que la resolución del presidente será pronta y conforme a sus deseos, "la que favorecerá el comercio entre las dos naciones que ha recibido tan considerable aumento en el año anterior."

México. Notes. November 30, 1821-June 1, 1831. Department of State. Vol. 1, doc. sin núm. NAW.

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21 de enero de 1831. México, Butler a Van Buren.

In my dispatch No. 7, I informed you that the Secretary of State had made payment to me of part of the Debt due the Bank of the United States on account of the bills negotiated by Mr. Mercador, and that I had consented for their accommodation to receive the whole sum from this Government in Mexico, and make payment for them in the United States, requesting you to furnish me with the amount of principal interest and damages up to the 1st. January 1831 so that I might be able to effect a final settlement. I have never as yet received this account nor any acknowledgement of that communication.

Out of the amount due me by the Government of the United States up to the 31st. December 1830. I have drawn for \$ 650, in favor of Mr. Lewis Daniell leaving a balance of \$ 1164: 62½/100 to be carried to the credit of the

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Bank of the United States as part payment of the debt due to that institution by the Mexican Government; and as soon as I can ascertain the whole amount due, the balance shall be immediately remitted and for this purpose I beg leave to respect my application that a Statement of the account may be sent me as early as practicable. The Mexican Government profess a readiness to pay the debt as soon as I shall be able to inform them what is the sum due.

The Treaty of Amity Commerce etc. is still in the hands of the Mexican Government and although the Acting President in his speech to the two chambers at the opening of the session brought it specially to the notice of the Congress as a subject on which they would be called early to act, I nevertheless entertain great doubts from the present state of parties in the body whether the question will be decided before the latter part of February. I have apprised to Secretary of State that the present session of Congress in the United States is limited to the fourth day of March, and that Congress will on that day separate unless there is some question pending for the decision for which the Senate may be kept on together, and he promises that he will use all his influence to obtain an early ratification of the Treaty, and that he does not apprehend any difficulty. I have myself ascertained indirectly the opinions of several of the leading members of the opposition who express a desire to see the two nations united by a Treaty of Amity and Commerce.

The army of the Government have been signally successful against the partisans of General Guerrero during the last month, having beat them at all points and entirely dispersed the opposing force. As however the field of contest is the home of General Guerrero's partisans, a reunion will not be difficult I look for a renewal of the struggle therefore, in a very short time, the Administration will however maintain themselves so long as they have majority of Congress and the Army with them; a defection of either of these and they fall.

I sent to the Editor of the *Telegraph* through my friend Major Barry a copy of the [report of the] Acting President of this Government to the New Mexican Congress, with the reply of the President of the Chamber of Deputies; in order that it may be published in the United States if though fit.

A. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, doc. sin núm. NAW.

2 de febrero de 1831. Matamoros, comandancia general, inspección de los estados internos de oriente. [Terán a Tornel.]

Exmo. señor:

Hace seis días que recibí el duplicado de la nota de V.E. de 8 de octubre último acerca de las cuestiones suscitadas entre el ciudadano coronel Pedro Elías Bean y Benjamin Maylan a las inmediaciones del Arkansas, las cuales causaron algunas sensaciones al gobernador, Pope.

Para que V.E. se sirva obrar con los conocimientos debidos en este asunto, debo comunicarle, que el coronel Bean fue de orden mía al lugar de punta Pacana a hacer una descubierta necesaria en el servicio mexicano y reconocer la situación de las naciones agrestes e impedir la introducción de aventureros, y en la práctica de la comisión no ha ocurrido cosa alguna que haya debido llamar la atención del señor gobernador del territorio de Arkansas, ni deba promover cuestión política, a menos que no se tome por motivo bastante la simple presencia de un destacamente de doce hombres en puntos que inconcusamente están en la frontera mexicana. Aquel jefe dio conocimiento a su regreso de que al empresario Mayland le había notificado el señor gobernador referido de Arkansas que suspendiese la formación de su establecimiento de colonización y lo mismo por diferentes causas se le ha prevenido de mi parte. Supuesto el tratado de límites de 1819 que de hecho sirve actualmente para la determinación de los puntos de la frontera, el lugar de punta Pacana está en territorio mexicano sin que en ésto pueda haber duda; pero suponiéndola se puede prescindir por ahora de toda discusión con tal que el territorio permanezca en el mismo estado; mas allí se está formando una población de norteamericanos que se apoderan del terreno sin intervención de autoridad alguna mexicana, por lo que se parece equitativo, que puesto que el señor gobernador de Arkansas se opone al establecimiento mexicano de Mayland, se oponga también a que se establezcan y se introduzcan familias de Norte América reservando la propiedad y uso del terreno para la nación a quien se declare que pertenece, después de verificadas las operaciones astronómicas que han de determinar los puntos citados en el tratado de límites. Para que a V.E. le sirva de gobierno le aseguro con toda certeza que punta Pacana está

en el territorio de la república mexicana sesenta leguas por lo menos retirado del punto de demarcación en que sería racional una duda; de modo que en el acto de prescindir como ha hecho V.E. de toda discusión, la nación mexicana es la que pone parte de sus derechos por un acto de prudencia y en obsequio de la armonía. En aquel lugar se ha formado hace algún tiempo una reunión de familias que va creciendo cada día y hoy se encuentran ya quinientas cuyo establecimiento no ha sido convenido precisamente por las autoridades mexicanas.

Dios y libertad. Matamoros. Febrero 2 de 1831.

Manuel de Mier y Terán

Exmo. señor plenipotenciario de la república mexicana, coronel don José María Tornel.

Copia hecha en la legación mexicana en 14 de marzo de 1831.

Mexico. Notes. November 30, 1821-June 1, 1831. Department of State. Vol. 1, doc. sin núm. NAW.

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14 de febrero de 1831. México, Butler a Alamán.

My dear Sir,

I have looked over the articles of the Treaty which you sent me, and without pretending to such accurate knowledge of the Castilian tongue as would justify me in criticizing the translation, I would merely call your attention to the words *franquicias* and *descuentos* in order that you may determine whether these are the most appropriate terms to designate *bounties* and *drawback*. I will not undertake to say that there are words in your language more technical in their import, or that will more clearly express the meaning designed to be conveyed; but it seems to me that there are other words of clearer signification. This is however a mere verbal criticism of no great importance, and I willingly submit it wholly to yourself: But I confess frankly that your marginal notes and suggested alterations of the Treaty strikes me as a very different question.

This Treaty was concluded on the part of the Commissioners upon the 1st. day of November last, after having gone through it, and discussed and deliberately settled each article in succession — You then expressed yourself fully satisfied, and a fair copy in English was made and delivered to you for the purpose of translation, and this you promised me should be completed in a week and immediately laid before the Congress then in session; and from all that passed between us my impressions were clear, that all discussion had closed, and that so far as the plenipotentiaries were concerned the question of the Treaty was ended. It is true the translation was not made as I expected, nor was the treaty prepared for the last Congress as you promised, but the reasons assigned to me at various times for the delay, I accepted in so far as not to demonstrate: it was matter of regret certainly because I perceived that the expectations created in the United States by my letters would be disappointed, and I knew as you also knew that a combination of circumstances had been operating on the Government and people of the two nations for several years past to create distrust of each other — that prejudices and jealousies had been engendered, and that the two peoples were at one period fast advancing towards that point which must end in the suspension of amicable intercourse.

I labored from the outset of my career to dispel such feelings, and to restore the harmony which I desired to see reestablished between Mexico and the United States, and which I sincerely believed would promote the best interests of each — that I did so labor, and that so far as regards my own Government, had labored successfully; is amply proved from the manner in which the President of the United States, speaks of our relations with Mexico in his last Message to Congress — How long the impressions I have been able to make on my own Government may remain, will depend on the course which the Government of the United Mexican States will be disposed to pursue.

I return to the treaty and repeat that when I delivered it to your charge, it was for the sole purpose of effecting the translation [and] of preparing and having it laid before Congress for their approbation. Now at this late hour I am met with objections of various character, and modifications and alterations proposed — and amongst other reasons advised to support the intended changes, is the one, that a certain article in our Treaty does not correspond with the article on the same subject to found in the Treaty with England

This may be all very true, but affords no satisfactory reason to me for the change. When we discussed and arranged the articles of that Treaty, I had no other object than to establish principles, which in their application would reciprocally and equally protect and promote the interest of each; and such as were calculated to sustain that liberal system in regard to Commercial intercourse which the United States had promulgated in the dawn of its Revolution, and which they had unceasingly continued to assert until the assent of the whole civilized world had been gained to its support with one solitary exception. I believed that sound policy would induce Mexico to unite with the great majority of the commercial world to sustain this system without invoking to its aid the sacred principles of free government so deeply involved in its success; and I was gratified to see that no serious difficulties should now rise up creates surprise no less than regret my course, is however both, direct and simple. The Treaty has been concluded, my Government have been so advised, a synopsis of its contents forwarded and full communication made of what the plenipotentiaries have done; and that I should now consent to any alteration that would materially affect the provisions of the Treaty without better reasons for the change than I have heard, would justly dishonor me in the estimation of my Government as well as in my own eyes — verbal changes or any modifications that will render more clear or give better effects to any article of the Treaty I am prepared to concede, further than this I cannot go.

What you remark in favor of a proposed change, that a similar provision is found in your Treaty, with England. I can reply no otherwise than by observing that the Government of the United States is an Independent one; influenced in all its acts solely by a conviction of what is First — How Great Britain * may decide or what Great Britain may do on a particular subject is therefore no guide to the United States only in so far as the principles she may advocate or the policy she may adopt is wise and just — and we will always be prepared to follow such a lead emanated from what source it may.

The expressions in the discourse addressed to Congress by the Vice President at its opening, and the observations in

* I thought proper to make these observations in relation to Great Britain, because there appears on the part of this Government a desire to copy with perfect servility whatever is said or done by England — and to believe that other Governments do the same.

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your report to the same body made but a few days subsequently — created a belief that they would long since have passed upon the Treaty we had prepared: — unfortunately as I think for both Nations, this is not the case. The subject is however in your hands and you will dispose of it as you deem proper.

I use the mode of communicating with you by private note in preference to a formal official dispatch as best calculated for the purpose, from the greater freedom which it enables one to use in addressing you. I shall be happy to hear from you as early as convenient, and remain, very respectfully my dear Sir, Your Most Obed. Serv.

A. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State, Vol. 5, doc. anexo al 9. NAW.

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17 de febrero de 1831. México, Alamán a Butler.

My dear Sir,

I could not answer yesterday your favor of Tuesday, which I did not receive until the day after, and will now do so in Spanish in order that it may be done more expeditiously.*

Permit me to say that I do not think the complaint you make a very just one, relative to the delay that has occurred in concluding the Treaty. If this had happened in time of peace, when the Government could have given all its attention to the subject it would have been so, without doubt; but you who having been living amongst us have witnessed the critical state of the country, and know that its peculiar circumstances have obliged me to dedicate myself entirely to curb the civil War, that we have not been able to do as much as our good wishes have led us to desire.

At the very time you delivered me the copy of the Treaty, (the beginning of November) the unfortunate battle of Tezca,

* He has generally addressed private and familiar notes to me in English, as I have done also to him in Castilian, for the purpose of Exercise — He expresses himself in English very imperfectly.

had just taken place and the circumstances attending it occupied in an extraordinary degree all the departments of the Government — You may believe therefore that if the Treaty has not been finished, it has not been from a want of desire on our part to have it concluded.

It is certain that we have agreed on its bases generally — but this ought not to prevent me from making suggestions and observations on parts of any particular articles — Not but what Mr. Mangino and myself are of the same opinion with you, and are possessed of the same liberal ideas — but because it is necessary to accommodate them, to the way of thinking in this country, for the purpose of avoiding difficulties on the part of Congress. I have also in this way cited the Treaty with England, not with the intention of obliging you do imitate it but because it has been approved and is in force and it is therefore certain that no Treaty similar to it would meet with opposition.

I have no objection to the part of the third article (which I struck out) remaining — please tell me if the variation in the word territories is agreeable to you. As respects the introduction of the words *Comercio de Escala*, in Union with *Cabotaje*; I have only to say it was in the Treaty made with Mr. Poinsett — that it is in all our other treaties — that it is a principle established amongst us, and in consequence cannot be dispensed with — The words Bounties and Drawback do not exist amongst us, we have no words whose meaning is adequate to them and we have therefore chosen those that exist in our other Treaties, and that use has sanctioned. If in consequence of these explanations we can proceed I will thank you to return me the accompanying sheets, and I will send you others, so that all which depends on us may be finished by next Monday.

Lucas Alamán

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State, Vol. 5, doc. 2, anexo al 9. NAW.

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19 de febrero de 1831. México, Butler a Van Buren.

Sir,

The Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation between

the United States of America, and the United Mexican States, is not yet ratified — nor has it up to this date been even laid before the Mexican Congress.

This Treaty was concluded on the part of the Plenipotentiaries as early as the 2nd. November last, as you already [have] been informed, and assurances were then given me that translations would be made forthwith and the Treaty submitted to the Mexican Congress immediately — this was not done: — and notwithstanding that I advised the Secretary of State more than once during the month of November of the propriety, nay, the necessity of having the Treaty approved here as early as practicable, so as to be in time for our Senate, and the repeated promises which he made to me that it should be done; the subject was nevertheless postponed from week to week upon various pretexts until the last session of Congress was suffered to expire: The new Congress assembled on the 1st. January and by the speech of the acting President you perceive he communicates to them the fact of a Treaty having been concluded between Mexico and the United States which will be immediately submitted for their approbation and I was given to understand that this would take place during the first week of the session — that the Translations were made, and would be laid before me for my approval, when the subject would immediately thereafter take the Constitutional course. After all this and a continued delay for weeks my surprise may be readily conceived when on the 14th. instant I received from the Secretary of State a translation of several articles of the Treaty with alterations from the original draft, and a private note requesting my concurrence in the alterations, and stating that the shape given to the altered articles would render them more agreeable to Congress and the Nations, and that they were conformable to articles on the same object in the Treaty existing between Mexico and England.

To this private note I immediately replied and the Secretary rejoined, as you will see by the documents enclosed marked No. 1 and 2, and by the result of this brief correspondence it would seem that the difficulty is disposed of; and Mr. Alamán yesterday informed our Consul here that the Treaty would be ready for Congress during the present week.

Mr. Montoya will return to the United States in April next as successor to Colonel Tornel; I think it probable that the treaty will be ratified so as to be sent by him; — But I

confess that there have been so many unnecessary and unexpected delays — and so much vacillation displayed by this Government that I am left without the means of judging when this business is to terminate — I have their promises now again repeated and my own hopes that we may very soon bring the subject to a close.

The seizure of Gen. Guerrero's person, and his immediate trial, sentence and execution by a Military Court, has created a strong sensation, and I incline to the opinion, that it will prolong the civil commotion that has prevailed for the last 12 months instead of suppressing it as the Government supposed, the better opinion seems to be that nothing is wanted but a leader of popularity to secure the overthrow of the present administration — such however is not my own opinion: The Government still have the Army, and I cannot doubt that so long as they are able to secure the attachment of that body, by paying them regularly and extending to the officers rewards and indulgences suited to their tastes and habits, power will be continued in the hands where it now remains.

Our Consul at Tampico has informed me of dispatches received from the Department and placed under the care of Mr. Dall a merchant of San Luis Potosí; I expect them hourly.

I send this despatch under care of Capitan Newton of the United States Ship Natchez, believing that it is not only a more safe a conveyance than the packet, but will arrive much earlier than by the latter.

A. Butler

Mexico. A. Butler. October 17, 1829-August 12, 1832. Department of State. Vol. 5, doc. 9. NAW.

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28 de febrero de 1831. Burdeos, Tadeo Ortiz a su gobierno.

Tadeo Ortiz propone que las familias europeas que se lleven a Tejas sirvan en la colonización para compensar las de origen americano que tarde o temprano procedan a la segregación si se les deja solas.

ASREM, 5-8-7931, fols. 39 v.