

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES TREAT

July 15, 1835-September 7, 1839

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of
Southwest Texas State University
in partial fulfillment of
the requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

By

Janie L. Tally, B. S.

San Marcos, Texas

May, 1972

PREFACE

I wish to express appreciation to the Board of Directors and staff of the Rosenberg Library at Galveston, Texas, for making available the James Morgan papers from which the letters in this thesis were extracted. Special thanks are due to Dr. B. R. Brunson, Dr. William C. Pool, and Dr. Richard B. Henderson for their patience and assistance.

I wish also to express appreciation to Mrs. Madeleine T. Manford, who completed a thesis in May, 1971, based on approximately one-half of the James Treat correspondence. This thesis contains the remainder of the letters written by James Treat in possession of the Rosenberg Library. Mrs. Manford's extensive research into the life of James Treat was of great assistance in interpreting the correspondence covered in this work.

I have attempted to identify every person, place, or thing mentioned in the Treat letters. I will not, therefore, comment further on anything I have been unable to identify.

Errors in spelling, capitalization, syntax, and punctuation are found in the Treat letters. In order to preserve the originality of the letters, I have chosen not to comment on most of these errors, but have simply offered them as they appear in their original form.

For purposes of identification, the Rosenberg Library manuscript number appears at the beginning of each letter.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER

I. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS.	1
II. THE NEW WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION AND JAMES TREAT	11
III. JAMES TREAT LETTERS.	21
BIBLIOGRAPHY.	106

CHAPTER I

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

When the Texans declared independence from Mexico in March, 1836, they were "deficient in all the resources requisite for war, except moral energy and courage."¹ The President of the United States considered their action "rash and premature."²

Texas had no money in the treasury, an ad interim government that was moving from place to place ahead of the advancing Mexican armies, and her army was made up of less than 1,000 undisciplined colonists.

Texas did have one resource, however, which helped to overcome these obstacles. She had very good friends in the United States.

The first commissioners sent to the United States by the Provisional Government in 1835,³ received donations of money and supplies. Volunteers from the United States set out for Texas to help in the fight. And the commissioners were able to negotiate a few loans, although some were never consummated because of technical difficulties.

One of those who was a friend to Texas, and who was instrumental in securing a loan for them, was James Treat of New York.⁴ Treat had lived

¹William Kennedy, Texas: The Rise, Progress, and Prospects of the Republic of Texas (Fort Worth: The Molyneux Craftsmen, Inc., 1925. [Reprinted from the Second Edition, London, 1841]), 478. (Hereinafter cited as Kennedy, Texas.)

²Note, the Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress, undated, Series I, Reel 48 (Microfilm Library, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.)

³Stephen F. Austin, Branch T. Archer, and William H. Wharton were the first commissioners to the United States, appointed by the Provisional Government in November, 1835.

⁴Eugene C. Barker, ed., The Austin Papers (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1919), II, 358 (Hereinafter cited as Barker, Austin Papers.)

for a time in South America and in Mexico for seven years. This experience was destined to qualify him for a unique role in the history of the Texas republic, when he became a secret agent for Texas in an attempt to gain recognition for Texas independence.

The correspondence of James Treat with his business associate, Colonel James Morgan of Texas, reveals how the fate of the republic was linked to his interest, both commercially and personally, and how events in Texas and Mexico affected the lives and fortunes of many men in the United States.

The Republic of Texas was established when the colonists from the United States, who had sworn allegiance to Mexico as a condition for settlement, became dissatisfied with the Mexicans and their government. The political tradition the settlers brought with them was incompatible with the Mexican tradition. The colonists called conferences to discuss the revolutionary movements in Mexico that were affecting their lives. The Consultation, which met in November, 1835, established a Provisional Government, with a president and a council, and called for another conference to convene in Washington-on-the-Brazos in March, 1836. In December, the Texans had captured San Antonio from the Mexicans, and had sent General Cos and his troops across the Rio Grande. Until this time, the Texans had been fighting for the Mexican constitution of 1824, but by March, sentiment was overwhelmingly in favor of independence. Stephen F. Austin, writing to the Provisional Government from New Orleans, seemed to favor independence.⁵ The called convention met on March 1, and adjourned 15 days later. During that period, the delegates had written a declaration of independence, a constitution, which was to be submitted to the voters in September, and

⁵ Kennedy, Texas, 504.

elected an ad interim government, with David G. Burnet as president and Lorenzo de Zavala as vice president. They had also appointed Sam Houston commander in chief of the army.

As the Mexican army advanced, defeated the defenders of San Antonio at the Alamo, and the Texans under Fannin at Goliad, the colonists and the army fled before them in what was called "The Runaway Scrape." The army halted at Buffalo Bayou and, on April 21, 1836, defeated the Mexican army at San Jacinto and captured Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, president of Mexico and commander in chief of the Mexican armies. Santa Anna, in return for the sparing of his life, remained a prisoner of the Texans and ordered the remainder of his army to leave Texas.

The Texans and their friends in the United States believed that the war was over, and that Texas was now free to establish an independent nation, or to apply for annexation to the United States. Neither course was open to them because the Mexican government would not concede defeat. It repudiated the agreements made by Santa Anna while he was a prisoner, and others in Mexico took over the government.⁶ The new governors of Mexico announced their intention to reconquer Texas. They were not able to carry out their threats, but their attitude was responsible for the chief difficulties of the young republic. It affected all of the Texans' actions and their relationships with other sovereign powers. It proved to be the chief obstacle to the securing of loans from the United States or from Europe. The republic lasted almost ten years, but was never free from imminent bankruptcy. The Mexican threats kept matters in a turmoil; they prevented the stabilization of the economy of the Texas government, since large sums had to be spent on the maintenance of an army. This caused hardship, not

⁶ Niles Weekly Register, Baltimore, July 16, 1836.

only for the Texans, but also for the many men in the United States who had interests in Texas. The land and town speculators were losing money each day that conditions in Texas remained unsettled.

Speculation in Texas lands had been going on from the first days of colonization. The land laws of Mexico were obscure and contradictory; some of the settlers held their original titles from the Spanish government. The legislature of the state of Coahuila and Texas passed new laws concerning disposition of Texas land almost every year. Many sales of public lands were made which were, if not illegal, very questionable.⁷

Stephen F. Austin deplored this speculation, and taking cognizance of the feeling in Texas that the state legislature was selling off the best Texas lands while it could before a separation was effected, stated it was "all of a piece with general Mexican policy. . . . The Mexicans considered the land valueless. . . the treasury was empty and the sale of land promised the only relief."⁸

The Texans, at the time of the formation of the Provisional Government, disavowed the speculators by passing a law which "declared null, void, and of no effect all grants, sales and conveyances of land, illegally and fraudulently made by the legislature of the state of Coahuila and Texas, located or to be located within the limits of Texas."⁹

After the battle of San Jacinto, and the establishment of the republican government, the Texans, finding their treasury empty, also turned to the

⁷Eugene C. Barker, "Land Speculation as a Cause of the Texas Revolution," The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, X (July, 1906), 77-87. (Hereinafter cited as Barker "Land Speculation.")

⁸Ibid., 88.

⁹Ibid., 93

sale of public lands, and indeed the public lands were the only easily convertible resource that the republic had. Offers of land had been used to lure volunteers to Texas to fight Mexico. Public lands were used as security for the loans recieved from citizens of the United States. After the war, the speculators who did not have sufficient reserve capital suffered from the general financial situation in Texas and the United States. They had bought too much land and, finding they were unable to pay taxes on it, had to dispose of it very cheaply.¹⁰

The floundering economy of Texas, and the failure to gain recognition from Mexico, hampered diplomatic maneuvers during the whole life of the republic. The first order of business after the battle of San Jacinto was to obtain recognition from the United States. This had been expected almost immediately by the friends of Texas. James Treat wrote to Colonel Morgan that the president, the cabinet, and the great majority of senators and congressmen were all for recognition as soon as possible.¹¹ The ineptness of Texas diplomacy in sending a bewildering number of agents and commissioners to the United States without, however, sending official accounts of the declaration of independence or the battle of San Jacinto, delayed matters, but the refusal of Mexico to recognize Texas independence was also a factor. President Andrew Jackson wrote that as long as Mexico fulfilled her obligations to the United States and its citizens, the United States government should commit

¹⁰William Ransom Hogan, The Texas Republic, a Social and Economic History (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1946), 87. (Hereinafter cited as Hogan, Texas Republic.)

¹¹Letter, James Treat to James Morgan, June 4, 1836, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas. The Morgan Papers. All of the remaining letters from Treat to Morgan are from the Morgan Papers in the Rosenberg Library, and will be cited Treat to Morgan, with the appropriate date.

no action that would seem intended to foster a spirit of resistance to the government and laws when they were administered within their own jurisdiction. He added, "A scrupulous sense of these obligations has prevented me thus far from doing anything which can authorize suspicion that our government is unmindful of them."¹² The president, however, found a way to recognize Texas by asking congress to render a decision and that body, after long debates, gave its assent, and as the last official act of his administration, Jackson appointed a representative to the republic of Texas.

The question of annexation to the United States had been considered from the very first days of the Texas government, but by 1837 it was apparent that the Mexican attitude and the subject of slavery would delay if not prevent annexation in the immediate future, and the Texans next moved for recognition from the European powers.

On June 20, 1837, General J. Pinckney Henderson, who had served as attorney general in the first Houston administration elected in September, 1836, was appointed as agent to England and France. He was also given credentials as minister to the two countries to be used if and when recognition was effected.

Henderson reached London in October, 1837, and was received by Lord Palmerston. Although Palmerston seemed to be interested in the affairs of Texas, and offered to bring the matter to the attention of the British government, Henderson was notified on December 27 that recognition could not be accomplished at that time. Henderson was told that the British doubted Texas' ability to maintain her independence, but he reported to his government that the cabinet was reluctant to impair cordial relations with Mexico because of the interests of the English who held Mexican bonds. The fact that Texas was a slave state was also a factor in British politics.

¹²The Daily National Intelligencer, Washington, October 27, 1836.

The British were willing to arrange a commercial treaty with Texas, but the terms were strange. Ships from Texas were to be admitted to English ports on the same commercial relationships as ships from Mexico were admitted under a treaty with that country, even though the ships' papers would show that they came from Texas and not from Mexico. This arrangement was to remain in effect until Mexico recognized Texas independence. Henderson thought this arrangement was undignified, but from what he had learned of the British attitude, he was willing to accept almost any concession.¹³

The agent next traveled to France, and met with greater success. France was not particularly concerned with the slavery issue and did not enjoy cordial relationships with Mexico. France had some claims against Mexico on behalf of some of her citizens amounting to \$600,000, and after receiving no reply to two ultimatata, delivered to the Mexican government, the French navy began a bombardment of the fort standing at the entrance to the harbor of Vera Cruz. This was known as the "Pastry War" and ended in March, 1839, through British mediation and a promise by Mexico to pay the claims. This war delayed Henderson's negotiations with the French government, but made the French foreign minister, Count Mole, more amenable to the cause of Texas. The foreign minister told Henderson that France could not recognize Texas independence until she received a report from a special agent she had sent to Texas, Count Alphonse de Saligny. France was willing, however, to sign a commercial agreement with Texas, and its terms were considerably better than the agreement reached with the British.¹⁴

A favorable report was received from Saligny, in which he stated that Texas was in fact independent and in his opinion Mexico could not reconquer

¹³J. L. Worley, "The Diplomatic Relations of England and the Republic of Texas," The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, IX (July, 1905), 5.

¹⁴Joseph William Schmitz, Texan Statecraft, 1836-1845 (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1941), 68-73. (Hereinafter cited as Schmitz, Texan Statecraft.)

the territory. A financial agent, James Hamilton, had been appointed by the Texas government to negotiate a loan in Europe, and he urged Henderson to make concessions in matters of trade in order to receive a treaty of recognition. After technical difficulties on tariffs were solved, the treaty was signed by France in October, 1839. This was the second foreign power to recognize Texas independence.¹⁵

Recognition did not materially change the situation in Texas, however. The financial panic of 1837 in the United States, which grew worse during 1838 and 1839, caused a halt in the flow of capital from the United States into Texas. Texas put up 700,000 acres of her public lands for sale at fifty cents per acre, but the results were disappointing. The Texas congress authorized the opening of a land office, but the state of land titles was in such confusion, that President Houston refused to open it. There were conflicting claims under titles issued by Spain and Mexico. The ad interim government had granted bounties in land to volunteers during the war, and these tracts had to be located and surveyed, and title established. Under these conditions, Texas' only resource, land, could not be converted into cash for the treasury. The government then turned to the issue of paper money, which proved to be a disaster and by May, 1838, it had depreciated to fifteen cents on the dollar.¹⁶

In 1838, Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar was elected president of the republic on a platform promising to reverse the policies of the Houston administration. During the Houston administration, congress had authorized \$5,000,000 in foreign loans, but Houston had not acted on it. Lamar decided this was the

¹⁵Schmitz, Texan Statecraft, 75-79.

¹⁶Stanley Siegel, A Political History of the Texas Republic, 1836-1845 (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1956), 61-63. (Hereinafter cited as Siegel, Texas Republic.)

only way to put the Texas economy on a sound basis, and he appointed James Hamilton as agent to secure the loans, with Albert T. Burnley, who had been commissioned in the Houston administration as financial agent, to continue in office to assist Hamilton. This action, it was hoped, would alleviate the financial situation of the republic.¹⁷

In March, 1839, Lamar took steps to improve the diplomatic situation. Simultaneous missions were authorized to seek the mediation of the United States in the difficulties with Mexico. Richard Dunlap, who had been serving as secretary of the treasury, was appointed to go to Washington to ask for mediation; and, Colonel Barnard Bee, who had been acting as secretary of state, was appointed to go to Mexico to persuade that country to enter into negotiations with the United States as mediator. The United States government was willing and immediately instructed its minister to Mexico, Powhatan Ellis, to offer his services if Mexico could be persuaded to negotiate.¹⁸ The step taken by Lamar had been strongly urged by Hamilton, who was on his way to Europe to try to secure a loan. He wrote Lamar in June, 1839:

The vast importance of having the fact officially known in London that Mexico agrees to the mediation of the United States. . . cannot be overestimated in the business confided to my hands.¹⁹

Colonel Bee's mission to Mexico, unlike Dunlap's to the United States, was a complete failure. He was received cordially by the Mexican general in charge of the Port of Vera Cruz, but after inquiries were made to the

¹⁷Siegel, Texas Republic, 113.

¹⁸Ibid., 122.

¹⁹George P. Garrison, ed., Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1907-08, Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908-1911), II, 453. (Hereinafter cited as Garrison, Diplomatic Correspondence.)

government in Mexico City, Bee was refused permission to go to the capital to present his case. He did encounter John Vitalba in Vera Cruz, and this meeting was important although Bee was not impressed at the time. Vitalba was acting as Santa Anna's secret agent under instructions to communicate with any representative of the Texas government concerning negotiations. Colonel Bee did not like secrecy in negotiation and was not interested in Vitalba's proposal. He did find that Vitalba sailed for New Orleans in the same ship on which Bee returned.²⁰

In the meanwhile, Joel Poinsett, former United States minister to Mexico, confided to the secretary of the Texas Legation in Washington, that he felt it was wrong to have sent a public agent to Mexico and that a secret agent might have met with greater success. The Texan reported this conversation to his government.²¹

General Hamilton had met James Treat in New York, had been impressed with his ideas of the proper method of procedure with the Mexicans, and reported his ideas to Lamar. In early spring of 1839, James Treat had written to his friend, Colonel Morgan, setting forth his ideas, and Morgan had mentioned it to the Texas president, but at that time plans were underway for the Dunlap-Bee arrangement, and Lamar had displayed little interest in the proposals.²²

The utter failure of Bee's mission, the urging of General Hamilton, and the presence of John Vitalba in New Orleans, caused Lamar to change his mind and set the scene for the entrance of James Treat into the service of Texas as a secret agent.

²⁰Schmitz, Texan Statecraft, 97.

²¹Siegel, Texas Republic, 127.

²²Treat to Morgan, May 8, 1839.

CHAPTER II

THE NEW WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION AND JAMES TREAT

The New Washington Association was formed in New York City on October 23, 1835. The members were Samuel Swartwout, John S. Bartlett, James W. Webb, Thomas E. Davis, John P. Austin, Stephen Sicard, Walter Mead, and James Treat, all of New York; Lorenzo de Zavala, Joseph Avezana, and William Dall of Mexico; and James Morgan of Texas. Swartwout, Bartlett, and Webb had formed an association the previous year, with the express purpose of purchasing lands in Texas; the 1835 agreement confirmed their proceedings during the year, and enlarged the association to include those named in the agreement. There were to be 610 shares in the new Association, \$100 for each share, and they were taken by the members as follows: Swartwout, 150 shares; Bartlett, 100 shares; Thomas E. Davis, Stephen Sicard, James W. Webb, and James Treat 50 shares each; James Morgan, the agent in Texas, 50 shares; de Zavala, Joseph Avezana, Dall, and Mead, 25 shares; and John P. Austin, 10 shares. The subscribers were respectively liable to pay sums into the Association, in proportion to their shares, as directed by the managers of the Association.

James Morgan was named to continue to act as general agent in Texas and was authorized to carry into effect all projects already contemplated and new operations as the company might deem necessary from time to time.

Samuel Swartwout, John P. Austin, and James Treat were appointed as the board of managers and Treat was appointed acting manager, secretary, and treasurer of the Association. He was to consult his colleagues in all matters he might deem of sufficient importance.²³ James Treat thus became inextricably

²³The Articles of Association of the New Washington Association, The University of Texas Library, Archives, the Swartwout Papers. (Hereinafter cited as Articles of Association.)

bound to the affairs of Texas, and finally became its agent in Mexico. He was an unlikely person to be a secret agent.

Treat was born in Wethersfield Village, Connecticut, in 1792, but the month and day of birth is not known. He served in the War of 1812 under a Captain Strickland of Connecticut. He then went to South America to teach school and later lived in Mexico for seven years.²⁴ In Mexico he became well acquainted with Santa Anna and other Mexican leaders, among them John Vitalba, an Italian, who later acted as a secret agent for Santa Anna in negotiations with Texas.²⁵

Treat returned to the United States and became a merchant and financier in New York City. Since the men with whom he was associated in the Texas land venture were prominent men of the city, it is reasonable to assume that he was a successful business man, and had gained their confidence as shown by his appointment as manager and treasurer of the New Washington Association.

The only personal description of James Treat appears in a letter to him from Samuel Swartwout, taking note of Treat's illness. He cautioned, "I am afraid of your health, & beg you to take care of it. Your frame is delicate. . ."²⁶

Treat's correspondence reveals that he was a meticulous man, a slave to detail, but not very methodical. He was verbose, often repeating himself, and his letters rambled. He continually apologized to Colonel James Morgan

²⁴ Madeleine T. Manford, "The Correspondence of James Treat" (Unpublished Master's Thesis, Southwest Texas State University, 1971), 12-13. (Hereinafter cited as Manford, "Treat".)

²⁵ Siegel, Texas Republic, 127.

²⁶ Treat to Morgan, April 17, 1839.

for the length of his letters. Once he wrote:

I have ran [sic] thro' your four long letters, and made such hasty & common place remarks as have occurrd to me - I am sorry to think however that my remarks will hardly compensate you for the trouble of perusal# I deal, as you will say, too much in non-essentials.²⁷

Another letter stated, "Thus you have 2 pages again, a thing I have promised never to do."²⁸

His relationships with Morgan were complicated by the fact that Morgan's son, Koscuisko, was studying in New York and Morgan's associates there had been asked to oversee the son's studies and provide funds for him. Treat was conscientious in handling this charge, but apparently received some criticism from Morgan. Treat's letters to Morgan on this subject were extremely apologetic, but at the same time showed a trace of pique. In one letter he said, "I never said Kos was extravagant -- I only said he had recd all the money he askd for, & when he asked for it, with now & then an exception, which, did not make a rule."²⁹ In another letter he remarked, "If Kos was lonely, (and I believe he was) it was because he would be so, and not owing to any neglect on the part of his or your friends here."³⁰ Treat, however, was usually solicitous of Colonel Morgan, and went into great detail in explaining his actions when the colonel had asked him to do some small favor.

His relations with Samuel Swartwout were also cordial, but strained. Swartwout had been the customs collector for the port of New York, appointed by President Jackson. In March, 1838, when his term expired, it was discovered that his accounts were short approximately \$1,400,000. Swartwout apparently

²⁷Treat to Morgan, June 4, 1839.

²⁸Treat to Morgan, June 6, 1839.

²⁹Treat to Morgan, June 3, 1839.

³⁰Treat to Morgan, May 8, 1839.

went to England to try to collect some of this money, and when the accusations of embezzlement were made against him, he decided to stay in Europe. There has been some question about his guilt,³¹ but apparently James Treat had no doubts. He wrote to Colonel Morgan:

I do not wonder, my dear Sir, that the defalcations of our friend S. S. were too painful for you to dwell upon - But so it is, there is no doubt about the fact - The amt. may be near a million, certainly over a Half.³²

He added that he would like to see Swartwout return to the United States and pay off the debt, but his obvious disapproval of the embezzlement shows in some of the sarcastic remarks he made about Swartwout. In June, 1839, he wrote, "You will see what friend Sam says about the Stool of Repentance, Atonement for Past Sins &c = Well, let him give a church &c."³³

The New Washington Association started its operation with the purchase of land and eventually owned about 100,000 acres in eastern Texas and the Galveston Bay region. The chief undertaking was promotion of the town of New Washington, and several warehouses, stores, and homes were erected. The town was located on what was known as Morgan's Point, on the south shore of San Jacinto Bay. Almost all the buildings in the town were burned by the Mexican army during the war, and the Association was never able to rebuild the town into a prosperous venture. Swartwout, a town on the Trinity River sponsored by the Association, was prosperous for a time, but as capital in the United States became more difficult to obtain, there was not enough money to invest in buildings or promotion.³⁴

³¹Feris Achile Bass, "The Correspondence of Samuel Swartwout," (Unpublished Master's thesis, Southwest Texas State University, 1970), 18-20.

³²Treat to Morgan, April 17, 1839.

³³Treat to Morgan, June 3, 1839.

³⁴Hogan, Texas Republic, 90.

James Treat referred several times in his letters to the fact that they would like Morgan to sell some land, but surmised that Morgan thought the land would have to be sold too cheaply and the monetary sacrifices for the Association would be too great. By April, 1839, Treat was in very poor financial condition and he wrote the colonel that he hoped the Texas lands could be sold to give him a lift in the way of his advances for the Association. He explained his financial situation:

. . . meantime I will try to get along as heretofore. by ways & means = by aid & Loans of money, & names on the part of some of the subscribers. & some of my friends# Tho' this is a hard way getting along: Such times as these. I do not wish you to make any sacrifices If it can be avoided -35

Undoubtedly Samuel Swartwout's difficulties with the federal government and his exile in Europe contributed to the failures of the New Washington Association. Colonel Morgan had business interests in Texas other than the Association's. The other members exhibited varying degrees of interest. Treat remarked that James W. Webb "cares nothing for Texas, except so far as mere interest goes."³⁶ Stephen Sicard died in February, 1839. Ratcliff was left in charge of the Association's affairs when Treat went to Mexico, but seems to have been more a caretaker than a manager. The other members of the Association received scant attention from James Treat.

The two most important men in Treat's affairs were Swartwout and Morgan. They were men with powerful personalities, active, and engaged in large enterprises. Treat's response to them indicates that he felt insecure

³⁵Treat to Morgan, April 17, 1839.

³⁶Treat to Morgan, May 8, 1839.

in their presence. He was mild, probably soft-spoken, and his letters indicate that he was somewhat meek--until he conceived the idea of going to Mexico as an agent for Texas. Mexico was the one area in which he was an expert. His three letters written on March 16, 1839, indicate that the possibilities intrigued and fascinated him; he was excited and joyous at the prospect that he, and he alone, could do what no one else had been able to do. He had earlier exhibited a liking for the cloak and dagger aspects of diplomacy. He wrote a letter in 1836 to the three Texas commissioners in Washington concerning some muskets which might be obtained for Texas, and signed the letter El Mismo, although there would seem to be no particular need for secrecy.³⁷

Treat asked Colonel Morgan to make confidential inquiries concerning his plans and apparently the answer was that the Texas officials were cool to the idea. Treat revealed a peevishness in his reply to Morgan:

This was the contribution of my mite, but it seems, is quite Superfluous - They are so wise on all Subjects, that, advice from abroad is not needed. Well, I as well as yourself, can save ourselves, time & trouble & we shall see what we shall see as the frenchman said. . .if I could not find out more of the feelings & disposition of that Govmt toward you in one month, than will now be obtained in 6 - I'll be shot dead. If people will be Stupid, let them find out their mistakes, as best they can.³⁸

Treat's plan had been to go to Mexico as an individual, traveling on his own business affairs. His knowledge of the language and of the character of the Mexican leaders would enable him to reach them. His intention was to approach the right people and convince them that the recognition of

³⁷Barker, Austin Papers, III, 355-7.

³⁸Treat to Morgan, May 8, 1839.

Texas was for the greatest benefit of Mexico, and to let them think that the idea came from Mexico, and was the best move they could make in their own interest. He did not want anyone else to do this, since he felt that he was naturally the right person for the job. He wrote to Morgan on March 16 that he wished Morgan to keep the plan confidential. He gave as his reasons,

I have no idea of furnishing arguments & plans for others to carry out & this is another reason. . .that I would not give these views to your cabinet. They would probably be used for someone else to benefit by & not me. I say this because this is the tendency of these matters -- There is always somebody to want the honor and profit.³⁹

It seems apparent that this meticulous man, with the delicate frame, who was probably sincere in his wish to help Texas, also harbored dreams of returning to Texas--and to Colonel Morgan--with a treaty of recognition from Mexico, to be acclaimed as the man who had done what no other man could do.

After the failure of Colonel Bee's mission became known, Treat conferred with General Hamilton in New York. He did tell Hamilton of his plan, and impressed him favorably. Hamilton wrote to Bee in New Orleans that Treat was going there and that he could be of great help to Bee in his negotiations.⁴⁰

Treat went to New Orleans in July, 1839, conferred with his friend John Vitalba and with Colonel Bee. He then went on to Texas, apparently had a brief visit with his associate, Colonel Morgan⁴¹, and conferred with

³⁹Treat to Morgan, March 16, 1839.

⁴⁰Siegel, Texas Republic, 127.

⁴¹While Treat was in Texas, he received a communication from Colonel Morgan apparently advising him that Morgan did not wish to have anything more to do with politics, and thereafter Treat wrote his friend of general political affairs and did not speak often of his projected trip to Mexico. (Treat to Morgan, August 8, 1839.)

President Lamar on board a ship in Galveston Bay. The president agreed to the plan of a secret mission, and commissioned Treat as a private or confidential agent of Texas. He was authorized to spend \$5,000,000 to secure the boundary of Texas at the Rio Grande (this had been in Bee's instructions) and added that any sums he had to spend on secret service work--or bribery--to attain his objective were to be taken from the \$5,000,000.⁴²

Treat did not want to go to Mexico directly from Texas or from New Orleans and he returned to New York in late August. There were some delays caused by arranging for the necessary money for his trip, and perhaps his own habits of life. He did not reach Mexico until late in December, 1839.

The political situation in Mexico was again in turmoil, with the Federalists raising revolutionary armies against the Centralists who were then in power. Treat preferred to start his mission by working through his friends, and in secret, although he did have letters of introduction to both the United States and British ministers, and they had been instructed by their governments to assist him. As the conditions in Mexico were so unsettled, and the government was so weak, Treat's first avenue of approach had to be abandoned, and he appealed to the British minister, Richard Pakenham, for assistance. Pakenham arranged an interview with the Mexican secretary of state, Juan Canedo. The meeting was informal, but the secretary objected to the irregularity of Treat's credentials. The Mexicans wanted Pakenham to guarantee the validity of Treat's credentials, which was done early in February, 1840. In January, Treat believed he was making real progress, and that recognition would come soon.⁴³

⁴²Schmitz, Texan Statecraft, 112.

⁴³Siegel, Texas Republic, 127.

In May, after Treat had submitted a formal memorandum to the Mexican government concerning recognition and the settlement of the boundary, and had received new credentials from the Texas government, the matter was presented to the executive council of the Mexican government. The council handed all the papers over to congress and Treat's mission as a "secret agent" ended, as the whole affair became public.

Treat became ill in May, and was confined for several weeks. Pakenham, who had previously doubted the success of the mission, came to admire Treat's resoluteness, and became hopeful that something might be accomplished.⁴⁴

The Mexican congress delayed action on the Texas proposals, and President Lamar grew increasingly impatient with the negotiations. He decided to send the Texas navy on a cruise near Mexico, to inform Treat of his intentions to help the Federalist uprising in Yucutan, and to tell Treat that if he did not believe his mission could be concluded quickly, he should board one of the Texas navy ships and return to Texas. On the other hand, if Treat thought he might be able to obtain an armistice, he could stay on to negotiate for that. There was a delay in Treat's receipt of the instructions, and he did not receive them until August, 1840. He decided to try to arrange an armistice.

In August, Treat submitted a memorandum to the Mexican government concerning an armistice. He received no reply and on September 5, he submitted another memorandum setting September 18 as the deadline for action. When he had not heard anything by September 21, he asked for his passports. Pakenham urged a delay of one week, while he submitted the Texas proposals to the Mexican government, with terms of an armistice and setting the boundary at the Rio Grande. The Mexican government objected to the boundary line and

⁴⁴ Schmitz, Texan Statecraft, 119.

and on September 29, Treat was given his passports. Pakenham admitted that he then felt nothing was left for Treat to do in Mexico.⁴⁵

Treat wrote to Commander Edwin Moore of the Texas navy that he was planning to leave Mexico and would board a Texas schooner in the harbor at Vera Cruz, if he could find one there, adding, "if not, [I] shall make the best of my way to New Orleans, by Havana, or the shortest route within my reach."⁴⁶

He did board the schooner San Antonio, accompanied by his friend Vitalba, but he died on board ship on November 30, 1840. He had spent almost a year in Mexico, the first few months attempting to put into operation his plan for secret negotiations; when that failed, his mission was made public. Neither plan succeeded and the grand plans of the secret agent had failed..

As stated in the preface, every effort has been made to preserve the 19th century originality of each of the following letters. With the exception of clarification of an occasional incomplete word or phrase, which will appear in brackets, no attempt has been made to provide corrections in spelling, syntax, capitalization, etc. The communications appear as they were originally written, and the attempt has been made to duplicate as nearly as possible the original punctuation. In numerous places, attention has been called to obvious errors in spelling or syntax, but these have been kept to the minimum necessary for clarity, so as not to detract from the readability of the letters.

⁴⁵Schmitz, Texan Statecraft, 125.

⁴⁶Garrison, Diplomatic Correspondence, 731.

CHAPTER III

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES TREAT

31-0900

Stonington 13th July 1835

James Morgan, Esq.

D. Sir.

I have just seen Mr. Brown. He states that since seeing you he has examined the Schooner's Bills and find them to amt. to about \$5400 Dollars. He says he will sell you the Vessel to be delivered in N. York on or about the 1st day of Septr. next for \$5,800 Cash, or approved paper, with interest after that time, provided the Schooner should not be lost before that time -- You will please answer this as soon as possible -- Mr. Brown would not sell the Vessel to be delivered immediately for less than \$6000 --

Respy Yours,

Signed Charles P. Williams#

N York July 15, 1835

My dear Sir,

Above is copy of a letter received this morning's Post addressed to you. As it was Postmarked Stonington I presume I hazarded nothing in opening it. I don [sic] so. and here you have it. Should it reach you in N. Haven. If not, and you are on your way today or tomorrow you will find the original here -- Now after referring you to my letters by Mr. Colli and also by last Evenings Post (which you will receive today) I can only say that, I am willing. You should, as I first stated, do as you think best. Buy, or not. -- The Bargain I think a good one judging from your statements, and under other circumstances I should think ought not be missed or suffered to

slip. But still, myself & Mead⁴⁷ & also Sicard⁴⁸ think that the best policy is to wait a little & see what the result of the present state of things will be.--If the Mexican troops should overrun Texas, it is pretty clear to my mind, those ports will all be closed -- If the Colonists come to unite & fight, in their own proper country & for their own legal rights, they will be able to defend themselves, and the result will, or may be a Separation, or such an attitude as will enable them to set up for themselves. Now is it not best to wait & see what will be result of all this Matter? -- Can you not get the refusal of this Vessel up to the 1st Sept. or to a given day of August? & if you can, will it not be best to do so? I hear indirectly this morning that Zavala⁴⁹ & Mexia⁵⁰ and a Mr. Savage, recently arrived at N. O. from Mexico, are going to Texas-- & what this means, I cannot exactly understand--My letters from Mexia ante 28 June at which time Gavala [sic] had not arrived -- I shall see the Gent who gave me this information (by note I being out when he called) in the morning, and see if he has any further particulars & how he got his information -- If this be true they may intend to set up a local govrmt at S. Felipe & take care of themselves --

Hoping soon to see you or hear from you I am Very

Truly Yours &c

Jas Treat

⁴⁷Walter Mead was a member of the New Washington Association.

⁴⁸Stephen Sicard was a member of the New Washington Association.

⁴⁹Lorenzo de Zavala, a member of the New Washington Association, was a famous Mexican liberal.

⁵⁰General Jose Antonio Mexia was a Mexican Federalist and opponent of Santa Anna. He offered his services to the Texans during the days of the Provisional Government. The council of the Provisional Government passed a resolution stipulating that supplies should be provided to Mexia for the force he was planning to raise to fight for the constitution of 1824. The Provisional Governor, Henry Smith, who was for a declaration of independence from Mexico, vetoed the resolution, but the council passed the motion over his veto. Mexia, realizing he would never receive unanimous support from the Texans, withdrew his offer and returned to exile in the United States. (Siegel, Texas Republic, 26).

31-0902

(Extract from Letter)

Bermuda, Nov. 21, 1835

I have commenced my enquiries about the object of my visit here, but regret to say that my prospects are by no means flattering. The proposition I have made Known to the authorities of the place, while they express a confidence in the integrity of the Company, they think from the unsettled condition of Texas & its bordering on slave holding States a perfect guarantee could not be given to the colored people of their personal liberty & therefore they cannot recommend the plan to the negroes. They say, however that they shall not interfere with the people if they are willing to go. I have not yet had an opportunity of meeting the negroes. I shall do so the first proper opportunity & endeavour to make an arrangement with them alone. I shall give you the earliest information of the result.

Signed. Thos Lee Smith⁵¹

New York Decr. 8th 1835

Jas Morgan: Dear Sir:

Above you have what Mr. Smith writes me as his first impressions, on arrival at Bermuda: & I await, his further advices to learn whether he can do anything in the matter in hand or not; of which I will advise you in course -- I have recd. your letter from Charleston and replied to it 28 Ulto -- Since which I have nothing from you. There was no Boat Saturday. the David Brown by which this goes, having been deferred. until today 4 o clk P.M. I have nothing new to say to you, no news of your Vessels; and nothing difinite [sic] from Texas -- dates from N. Orleans to 21 but no papers later than 19th Ulto. The fate of San Antonio is awaited with great intent and anxiety, many think it

⁵¹The New Washington Association planned to recruit free Negroes in Bermuda to go to Texas as laborers to build the town of New Washington. Thomas Lee Smith was their agent in Bermuda.

doubtful.⁵² Some think Cos⁵³ fate is sealed, and others that Texas will be overrun. So that, until, we know something we shall still be all at sixes and sevens: doubt and alarms. hope & fear, will alternately predominate; we therefore have had no meeting nothing special to do; and thought we had better not have a meeting to revise & correct, that is, to review, the past. I make calculations for the future until we get some men to cheer us up -- not myself, but some other drooping Spirits. Your desk went the other day, per Packet addressed to Messrs. Reed & Co. with instructions to forward according to your directions, Cost \$35. which will be to your debit in acct when paid. I have conversed with Captain Might, fully & in order that he shall not forget the matter, I hand him a letter with my views and have spoken to Mr. Gates about it, and he will on his arrival at New Orleans, speak with Capt. Might, and with his & our friends interested in the Success of Galveston Bay: endeavour to induce Capt. Might to take our place on the Mouth of the Bay in his way. If any direct Encouragement be required, we must see what you recommend to be done.--perhaps we would take some of the Stock if things should come round, right & fair. We must wait & see the fate of Texas, at all events before we can do anything. Genl Mason⁵⁴ still here, not closed his arrangements yet.

⁵²The Texans attacked San Antonio in December, 1835, and under the leadership of Ben Milam, had routed the Mexicans and established an army camp. The Mexicans retreated across the Rio Grande. (Siegel, Texas Republic, 27).

⁵³Martin Perfecto de Cos, brother-in-law of Santa Anna. He was sent to Texas in September, 1835. He dispersed the state legislature of Coahuila and Texas, and declared as his purpose the overrunning of Texas and the expelling of all Americans who had come to Texas since 1830. He established his headquarters at San Antonio, was defeated by the Texans and retreated to Mexico. The Texans released him after exacting a pledge from him that he would "not serve further in the attack on Texas. He broke his pledge, and served with the Mexican army at the Alamo and was captured, along with Santa Anna, at the battle of San Jacinto. (Walter Prescott Webb and H. Bailey Carroll, eds. The Handbook of Texas (Austin, Texas: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952, I, 419 (Hereinafter cited as Webb, Handbook.)

⁵⁴John Thomson Mason, agent of the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Company. He resigned that position and devoted himself to his individual land speculation. (Webb Handbook, 154). The grants he had received from the legislature of Coahuila and Texas were partly responsible for the cancellation of the large land grants by the

S. M. Williams⁵⁵ has gone to Washington to return here in a few days. D. Bealy has arrived and still here, tho' his affairs are not very prosperous: So they say. -- Zavala writes from San Felipe 20 Octo nothing new--family arrived at N. Orleans 8th Novr. & would leave about 25th Ultio; for Brazos as Zavala would want his family at S. Felipe where he will probably remain as it will be the Headquarters of Govmt &c &c. -- I am anxious to hear from you at New Orleans as we get no news from any quarter. Hope your health will be better; and that you will find all right on your arrival there. I shall write your Lady in a day or two, and send the papers, but in fact have been so busy since your departure that I have had no time to do anything; hardly: but will take up all your papers, accs. & matters, fully, and place them all right & straight. Until the first campaign is closed in Texas and San Antonio is reduced, there will be a fluctuation in confidence on the Texas question. Meanwhile I am

Truly & Ever

Yours; Very Truly: all send Compts.

J. Tr.

Address: Care of E. Andrews

Brazoria

Texas

Endorsement:

James Morgan, Esqr. Texas

James Treat

Nov. 21 1835

⁵⁵Samuel May Williams. He served for eleven years as Stephen F. Austin's secretary, but his large speculations in land caused a break in their relationship. In 1835, the Mexican government put a price on his head, but he escaped. He was a partner in the mercantile firm of McKinney & Williams, which helped finance the Texas Revolution. (Webb, Handbook, II, 915).

31-0903

New York December 22d 1835
Evening

My friend Morgan

Texas

My dear Sir:

I avail of a friend going to N. Orleans in the morning by water, to take, this along, to Mr. Reed together with several parcels for Mr. & Mrs. Gavala⁵⁶ [sic] with some papers for you, that you may see the current news, of our city & particular of our late fire &c &c:⁵⁷ But I must here be brief, and again write you, in a day or two, by mail. First: Your favour of 4th inst.⁵⁸ announcing your arrival, at N. Orleans, came to hand yesterday; and this morning I was still more gratified by yours of 5th Inst. covering several slips of news, coming via Charleston: all which [sic] was very acceptable, considering the great length of time which had elapsed, without hearing from that interesting quarter.--I am sorry, you had so severe a time, and the more so since, it was myself who so thoroughly urged that glorious route. I shall be cautious how I do so again--. I am glad your Vessels arrived out so well, and behaved well--and that you have the opportunity of conveying Mrs. Z⁵⁹ to her so long wished for destination. He Z. will be most happy to see them no doubt. I note all the flattering & favourable news you have given in both of your letters & enclosures, and hope your hopes will all be more than realized, above all I trust you will get out safe,

⁵⁶Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo de Zavala.

⁵⁷In early December, 1835, there had been a fire in Washington Place, in which eight four-story dwellings, a lumber yard and several smaller buildings had burned, and one man was killed. (Niles Weekly Register, 4th Series, No. 14, Vol XIII, Baltimore, December 5, 1835, p. 1).

⁵⁸The current month.

⁵⁹Mrs. Zavala.

Montezuma to the contrary notwithstanding I think however you run some risk, so long as that cruizer is not captured or driven off the coast for good. If you cannot run you must fight at least so you say. The next news in reserve for us is or will be I trust, that Cos has surrendrd at discretion. Then all will go well. Santana [sic] will have something to do at Tamaulipay before he goes to Texas with his five thousand men. I am utterly at a loss to comprehend what you mean by "tenant at will" and the certain "clause which ranks in your bosom" and await with interest your explanation. Is it anything contained in the papers, or contracts or is it something I have written? I wait with anxiety your further remarks on this head. There seems to be no doubt But Tamaulipay is all in an uproar & Mexia in possession; how long he will keep it will depend on the movements against centralism, around about him & also the movements in the interior. I trust all will be well yet, but shall feel anxious until I hear of your safe arrival. All remain in Statu quo here. Mason still here -- Williams has been at Washington & Baltimore for three weeks -- Expected here to night. Yates gone home via Georgia. Mason to go soon. Swartwout has taken the whole of Joseph's interest in the Mason concern.⁶⁰ You will see by the file of papers I send you, what an awful fire we have had. I send the Presidents message. You see what he says about the Southern Govmts. &c &c. Commissioners are coming to Washington to settle the boundary? and from Texas? what does this mean? So much for my hasty scrawl and

⁶⁰The Mason concern was the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Company organized in 1830 by Joseph Vehlein, David G. Burnet, and Lorenzo de Zavala. They sold scrip for Texas land, but the colonists who went to Texas under the aegis of the company found they had only a permit to settle and they still had to satisfy the requirements of the Mexican colonaization laws in order to secure titles to the land. James Prentiss and Samuel Swartwout were promoters of the company and in 1831 John T. Mason became the company agent. Anthony Butler was also interested in the company. From September, 1834, to December, 1835, titles were issued for over 916 leagues of land. At one time, the company had proposed the purchase of all of Texas for \$10,000,000. In November, 1835, when the Provisional Government closed the land office, the company still did not have the premium lands for all the families it had encouraged to go to Texas. The company went out of existence in 1848. (Webb, Handbook, I, 663-664).

acknowledgement of your letters. I enclose a letter for Burns, please deliver it to him, or send it to him from if away [sic] as it is from his wife. I intend to drop a line to your wife tomorrow, tho I presume you have written her &c. I send this to Messrs. J. Reed & Co. to be forwarded to you. I enclose a Penny sheet within in case the papers should miss you. I hand you a file also independently of the enclosed for your self. care of Mr. Reed. . I also send to your address for Mr. Zavala or [torn] or wife, whichever may be nearest at hand [torn] 1 Large Book Albions and Times & Courier of [torn] New York: which you are free to open if [torn] yours should miss you, or not come to Hand -- Now Sir pardon my scrawl I have been interrupted during the Evening & have much to write pr packet Montezuma to sail tomorrow for Vera Cruz -- All your friends well and as always wish to be remembered. Excuse all for we have not got over our Hurry nor do I know when we shall -- Money Hard -- before the fire but much harder since.

Very truly & Ever

The Same

Address: Velasco 2nd Double

--50

Feby 1836

Liberty Feb. 21

Missent & forwarded

James Morgan Esqr.

Texas

Thro Messrs.

Endorsement: James Treat

J. Reed & Co.

Decr. 2, 1835

N. Orleans

ansd. the 2nd April 1836

31-0904

COPY#

Bermuda Dec. 23d 1835

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of writing you soon after my arrival here by the

schooner Watchman.

I informed you then of the difficulties which prevented my effecting an arrangement with the colored people in favor of your proposal; the principal of which were their apprehension of being deprived of their liberty which had been but so recently secured to them in this island, & their not being offered sufficient compensation for their labour. The of those [sic] however is the most serious & from the conversation that I have had with some of the most intelligent ones, among the negroes, I am inclined to believe that not one could be induced to leave this island & place himself entirely under the direction of an American. They cannot be convinced but that all persons of the United States are either Slave dealers or are in some way so connected it [sic] as to be favorably disposed to it. There are a number who would go if they could be under a person with whom they were acquainted & in whom they could confide. Many told me they would be willing to go with me, to be under my direction, but could not be satisfied with the wages I offered. I think that strong & Healthy men could not be procured here, let all other circumstances be favorable, for less than six dollars a month; they who could be obtained for less are generally not worth having. With these wages they are at the expense of their clothing alone. This is the amount of the information that I obtained before the news was in circulation among them of the invasion of Texas by the Mexicans & the consequent existing disturbances there, which have been noticed by some of the American papers. Now, I suppose, with their present feelings, one could not be induced to go for a hundred dollars a month.

I am very anxious to receive some intelligence respecting the present affairs in Texas on which I can rely; the news that reaches here is very unfavourable for that country. The feelings of the whole republic seem to be roused against that offending state & Santa Anna is to go in person to deal out

vengeance against the Colonists. I sincerely hope success will attend the arms of Texas, but I fear she is a few years too early for effecting her independence.

I am daily expecting some arrival from New York & letters from you. Every information respecting the present struggle in Texas, that You can afford, will be most thankfully received by

Yours &c very respectfully

(signed) Thos. Lea Smith

To
James Treat Esq.

31-0905

via N. Orleans#

New York Jany 4th 1836
Monday morn

Mr. James Morgan

My dear Sir:

Since my last respects, I have received your valued letter of 9th & 10th ulto, which came to hand 28th same month, and was perused with pleasure & satisfaction --The Bulletin you sent me did not come to hand probably owing to the derangement of our Post Office in consequence of the Fire--I am most happy you have taken Mrs. Z & family along with you, as Mr. Z seems most impatient for their arrival out.--I heard from Capt. Collins of ship Shakespeare that your little Fleet sailed from Balize, 13th ulto. and I hope you have had a safe and short passage to your port of destination, where I trust you will find all right, and in good time for continuing & extending your operations--You doubtless know of the result of Mexia's expedition,⁶¹ at the Balize, at which many were, no doubt,

⁶¹The Tampico expedition, led by Jose Antonio Mexia, was an attempt to stir up the liberal forces in Eastern Mexico against the Centralist government. Of the 150 men in the attacking force, 31 were taken prisoner and the remainder including Mexia, reached safety in Texas on December 3, 1835. (Webb, Handbook, II, 704-705).

disappointed. Whatever may be the armament of the Montezuma, I do not think she would dare to molest you, if you were still, in fleet.--The Insurance office here were glad to obtain your list of the Texas fleet safe at S. W. Pass. It appears a matter of course that if the Texians can, equip cruizers at N.O. so, of course: ought the Mexican Govmt to do the same thing.

Evening: Mrs. Morgan & your daughter came down on Friday last to consult your Physician, and have a tooth drawn--I did not know they were here until Saturday. too late to call--Mrs. Treat & myself calld to see Mrs. Morgan last evening and I am happy to say, found her very well--We did not see your daughter, but learned from Mrs. M that she was much better than when you left them--Mrs. M. intended passing the afternoon & evening, or both, with us, at the House, to day, but the weather has been so bad that hardly men could move--Should she not go up in the morning (for she was in doubt last night) we hope for that pleasure tomorrow.--I have enclosed, with a few lines to Mrs. M. copies of the articles of Association & Declaration of Trust, duly certified, as you requested, which I shall leave as I go up this Evening--I mentioned them to her last night--I am thus particular because I understood her to say that she, herself, did not intend writing until after her return to N. Haven. I spoke also of the note for \$2000, which you sent her, which is allright, and understood by her--The quarterly remittance to Mrs. M shall be duly attended to, at the proper time. I think next month. So much added to my unimportant scrawl of today & night. Genl Mason still here--also Mr. S. M. Williams--waiting, the former to close his business here & the latter to receive some further news from Texas--dates to 9th Ultio, & nothing from Texas. This siege of San Antonio proves a very long one.

Jany 9th. Altho' a snow storm, I presume the Charleston Board will go this Saturday afternoon--there fore I must close-- a very stormy week and no papers from N. Orleans & but very few letters--Rumour of a partial surrender of

San Antonio or a part of it, but we have nothing certain of that can be fully relied upon--Rumour of the closing of the Mexican Ports against the Am flag: this tho' not yet fully understood here, has excited much interest & inquiries are Set on Foot. in Congress--on the subject--I do not believe they have closed their ports against us--Perhaps Tampico & Matamoros have been closed--We await with interest further particulars-- I see you have been (spoken) at Sea; and trust you arrived safely on the 17 or 18th Ult to all well & that we shall soon hear from you that you find everything quite, & favourable--We have had no meeting yet--but when San Anto falls and people begin to feel as tho' Texas could & would take care of themselves: we shall have a meeting and I can then write you officially --Mrs. Morgan left the day she contemplated, and when I get any news am to write her--meantime all desire to be remembered, particularly S.S. & the Dr. Williams goes to Washington tomorrow and will let me know how the land lies & I will inform you--The enclosed you will send to Mrs. Z. Very truly & cordially,

J Tr

Four sheets only#

James Morgan Esquire

Galveston Bay

Care of

Messrs James Reed & Co.

New Orleans

James Treat
Jany 4, 1836

31-0906

Via N. Orleans
pr. Packet

My dear Sir:

I avail of Mr. Frederick Radcliff who goes to N. Orleans pr. Packet tomorrow (if the ice will permit) to send you this tho I fear I shall not be able to make it of much interest for want of material. Enclosed, you

have copy of Mr. Smith's second letter from Bermuda; (the copy of the first having been already transmitted to you) by which, you will perceive, that the prospect of succeeding in obtaining Labourers from that Island, as contemplated, is so much assured, that it can hardly leave any hope; at least so long, as the present state of things continue, and until, they (The Texians) have secured their independence--Then we may succeed. I thought I would send you the letter that you could see for yourself the why & the wherefore of the difficulties. Your letter of 10th Nov. left at N. Haven, to be forwarded to me and having reference to remittance of a quarter's interest, &c &c was duly received, and is now before (me). I shall send Mrs. Morgan a check tomorrow for \$140. being one quarters interest on the purchase say \$8000 @ 7 p%.---It would have been sent before say 1st inst. when due; but there is no intercourse direct by steam, all is frozen up, and the roads are in such a state (due to) the snow, that I have delayed this remittance. But it will go to morrow.---I have written Mrs. M. sometime since sending a paper with some Texas news and informed her that you had doubtless arrived safely, about the 20th Decr. and that I would further inform her, when I knew the fact.--I regret that we are still without that information, direct from yourself, nor do we thru the papers learn anything of you, or vessels. I send with this, two packages of newspapers: received from Jas. W. Webb⁶² addressed to you, care of Jas Reed & Co. also one large package for our friend Zavala /same care/ and request Mr. Jas. Reed & Co. to forward them, with this letter for you, and another for Zavala. Should the parcel for Mr. Z. pass thru your hands as is possible & even probable, you will please forward the same to him, either at his place or San Felipe, as the case, and circumstances may require.

⁶²James Watson Webb was the editor of the New York Courier and Inquirer.

There is scarcely nothing doing here--everything very dull: so many things to occupy the attention of the public and individuals. First the Great fire; effects of which are still felt, as the relief does not yet come near enough to do any good; Then the french war, or question, which had for along time been on the Tapis: & still is an open question, notwithstanding the mediation so much talk, etc. Then the Indian War on the Florida & Georgia frontier all together with the scarcity of money: and doubts and fears of worried men produces a state of things, as bad as possible: add to these the extreme cold weather, and severity of the winter, impossibility of travelling, irregularity of the mails, Rivers & Bays full of Ice--nothing to come in or go out: will complete the story--I never saw any thing like it--I hope the ice & snow will disappear; Roads & communications become open--Relief bills come down & help us. Indian & french wars blow over, etc. etc.

We shall then, begin to think feel & act--as formerly: we have certainly been in a sad state, and just now worse than ever. The bundle for Mr. Zavala which I have spoken of & will doubtless go herewith--containing the Times & Courier, to this date: & if you please, you may open the bundle, and peruse either of these files or the [illegible] -- If opportunity offers to send the parcel, you may take out the Courier, or the late ones, & let the bundle go on; and send those you retain, when you have done with them. Perhaps the papers Webb sends you may be his own & if so you may not want them from Zavala's bundle-- I send Z the latest french & Mexican papers and any quantity of them--We have had no meeting, since your departure--having waited to hear from you, to furnish us with something animating, to go upon. Most of us think there will be no difficulty in defending Texas, even against the Grand Army while some fear-- Time must tell the true tale.--I have no doubts myself--Mason still here, to go in a few days by way of Nacogdoches--Jas Fortune⁶³ left 10 days same destination.

--Williams still at Baltimore, waiting Commissioners supposed to be on their way hither.--Whiting gone eastward to Return in a few days, and proceed to Texas via Nacogdoches; Col or Major McComb, is here just arrived & in commission but I have seen no one who has seen him. Pray write, and send papers--all inquire of & for you frequently.

Yours etc # The same

with two
Bundles Newspapers

James Morgan Esquire

New Washington
Texas

James Treat

Feby 8, 1836

with copy letter from
Thos. S. Smith

?? April 1836

31-0908

New York 15 May 1836

Duplicate

James Morgan Esq.

My dear Sir,

Your letters of the 2nd 3d and 4th ulto from New Washington, and of the 8th from Galveston Island, came to hand on the 13th inst., and without noticing more particularly your long and very interesting communications I have only time to inform you very briefly, what was done here.

Last evening the members of the N. W. Association were called together for the purpose of communicating to them the contents of your letter officially, and to consult about and devise plans of future operations. The Board approved of the Extra Credit I had taken upon myself to see [illegible] you to avail of--and also approved of your selling the Flash⁶⁴ to the Texan government, at such price and terms as you think proper. It was also approved that the

⁶⁴The Flash was a privateer, with Luke A. Flavel as Captain, and was commissioned in the Texas navy in March, 1836. It was the Flash that took the ad interim government to Galveston Island in the midst of the "Runaway Scrape."

Kosciusko should continue to be tendered to the Government, for their use as long as she may be required and under such circumstances and in such manner as you might think proper.

The Board also manifested a determination to advance [illegible] Ten Thousand Dollars in aid of the cause, pursuant to your suggestion.

[One paragraph illegible]

Something will, however without doubt be done in this in the course of a few days more or less, in accordance with your views and wishes.

Thus you see we all have the utmost confidence in your prudent and judicious management, and are ready to assent to anything, which you may think under the circumstances, necessary or proper to do to advance the interest of the cause. Notwithstanding our advices from Texas are and have been unfavourable [torn] and your own letters do not afford us much absolute encouragement, yet we still hope [illegible] and in fact have not as yet doubted the ultimate [victory] of Texas arms in the Holy cause [of liberty].

We shall follow the business up and in the [illegible] week, I have no doubt some arrangements will be made by [which] aid will be [sent] Texas to the amount mentioned in some shape or form. In the meantime I may have to go to Washington to have an understanding with the Commissioners⁶⁵ who are on their way to that city as to the modus operandi so as to operate in conformity with them. (at least we wish to act in concert with them, and thus do the greatest possible good with the means we appropriate in this way).

I have no time for more at present in the course [illegible] write you fully and particularly. This goes to a friend [illegible] New Orleans to be forwarded by first conveyance. Meanwhile,

Very truly yours,

Jas Treat

⁶⁵Stephen F. Austin, Branch T. Archer, and William H. Wharton, the agents for Texas sent to Washington by the Provisional Government.

31-0909

New York May 19th 1836

James Morgan Esqre.

Dear Sir

I wrote you hastily on the 15th inst, acknowledging receipt of your letters of 2nd 3d & rth Ult. at N. Washn. & of the 8th at Galveston Isld. Since which on tuesday last the 17th accounts were recd, Stating that Genl. Houston had fought & defeated one of the Divisions of the Mexn. Army, 1300 in number, commanded by St. Anna in person; that 600 of them were killed, & the remainder including Genls. St. Anna & Cos, & all the Officers with the Division made prisoners. This if true to the full extent of the accounts recd. decides the fate of Texas. But they are somewhat confused & require confirmation; particularly the Capture of St. Anna. By accounts this moment recd. it appears that he could not have been in the action, as he was on his way & hourly expected at Matamoros⁶⁶ by the last advices recd. from that place.

I have not time to say more at present, but merely to confirm what I last wrote. I start to day for Washington, to meet the Commissioners, &, make arrangements for sending forward aid as mentioned in my last, & about other matters of interest to us & to the cause. On my return will write you fully, & I will then be able to inform you what has been determined on. In the meantime I hope to receive official accounts of the action, alluded to the material parts of which I doubt not will be confirmed.

Expecting to hear from you again very soon

I remain very truly your's

James Treat

⁶⁶Mexican port at the mouth of the Rio Grande.

31-0910

New York, June 3d 1836

Mr. James Morgan,

My Dear Sir,

I hand you herewith a copy of my last, under date 15th ult., to which I crave your attention. Since which I have two or three times set [sic] down to address you but in point of fact, knew not what to say, and concluded to defer writing again, until your communications per Flash should be received, and we in possession of something authentic, on which we could rely, and which would serve us, as a guide in our determinations. Again, as stated in my last, I have been at Washington, where I passed a week, having returned a few days since. Mail after mail arrives from Georgia and the west, and nothing from New Orleans--No letters from you or Zavala by the Flash, and we now fear they were in the missing mails from New Orleans of 19th & 11th ult. which were destroyed by the Indians. This is a great loss to us, and, the more so, since the public accounts--are so irregular, vague and contradictory.

You will see by my last (copy herewith) that our association lost no time in acting on the suggestions contained in your last communications, so far as an immediate appropriation is concerned. But before any further measures could be taken, we received the confirmation of the action, and total destruction of Santa Ana's vanguard, which was here considered as settling the fate of Texas.

Of course, it becomes then a question how far it would be advisable to act as we had at first intended, at least without consulting the commissioners, then at Washington, who might have further and better information.⁶⁷

⁶⁷During this period, the three agents in Washington complained to the government in Texas that they had not received one word from them since the meeting in March, at which independence was declared. (Barker, Austin Papers, III, 341).

On consulting them, however, we were still left in doubt, what, if any measures would be most proper to take. The Commissioners had no official intelligence, nor any information to guide us, but expressed the opinion, that neither men, nor munitions of any sort, could then be wanted in Texas. That money would no doubt be more wanted than anything else at the present time. Of all this we could only form some correct opinion on the receipt of your letters pr Flash, which we were then, and have been ever since, momentarily and anxiously expecting. Last night the Charleston boat came in, but no letters, news, or later dates. No mail from New Orleans since the 13th; and only straggling dates of 14th and reference to Mobile papers of 19th up to which latter date nothing further is reported from Texas. The Bulletin of the 14th contains what is called St. Ana's official correspondence, that appears in so singular a shape, that many doubt its genuineness. The news of the action, and its results, and the capture of St. Ana and his officers, are, with very few exceptions, considered substantially true and correct, and that this victory will secure Texas its independence. Yet every [one] wonders that in all this interval there has been no bona fide official accounts received. And although the want of these official advices do not destroy the belief in the reports, that have been accumulating by a hundred different channels, yet I must confess that it is passing strange, that as yet the official accounts have not come to hand, not even to the Commissioners; Childress, Hamilton, or Wharton.⁶⁸ Thus you see that while we believe every

⁶⁸George C. Childress and Robert Hamilton had been appointed as agents to the United States by the ad interim government. Austin and Archer had left Washington, but Wharton had remained. He dined with President Jackson on June 2, and the President had asked him, "Where are your letters from your Government? Where houstons [sic] official account of the Victory? Where your President's proclamation calling upon the inhabitants to return to their homes and attend to their crops? Where an official annunciation of the fact that the inhabitants are at their homes and in possession of the Most of Texas?" (Barker, Austin Papers, III, 364).

thing we hear (more or less) yet we are still somewhat in doubt and particularly as regards your situation, and the position of things as regards our interest at New Washington. Nor have we been able to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion, as to the fate of our Town,⁶⁹ whether destroyed or not; and if so, to what extent you have suffered. Nor can we know, until we receive your back letters, or your later communications, which we very much regret, though cannot remedy. Thus you see how we are situated here, from the loss, or absence of your advices. Still we hope every day to be relieved from our present doubts and anxiety.

June 4th

I had written thus far yesterday, and suspended my communication, in the hope that this morning's mail, might give us something more to go upon, either your letters, or papers, or something else; but no mail from any quarter; all we get in addition, is the further confirmation from Gaines⁷⁰ of the result of the battle. No letters from Mason, Fortune, Zavala or your good self. So I will now proceed with my narrative and in the absence of any other important matter, say a word about Washington. I found at the seat of Government Austin, Archer, Wharton, Childress and Hamilton,⁷¹ all agents, or Ministers Plenipotentiaries,

⁶⁹The Town of New Washington was partially destroyed by the Mexicans, the warehouses and other buildings having been burned in the few days prior to the Battle of San Jacinto.

⁷⁰Edmund Pendleton Gaines was in command of the United States Army in Louisiana at the time of the Texas war.

⁷¹Stephen F. Austin, Branch T. Archer, and William H. Wharton had been appointed by the Provisional Government as agents and had left Texas in November, 1835. George C. Childress and Robert Hamilton had been appointed agents of Texas by the ad interim government, on March 10, and on April 1, Samuel P. Carson, who was the ad interim secretary of state, was appointed by President David G. Burnet, with instructions "to work with the other commissioners." (Garrison, Diplomatic Correspondence, I, 73).

from Texas: -- Austin left Washington via Baltimore & Wheeling 20th ulto, on his way home [to] Texas by way of New Orleans or Natchez. Archer left same day for home Texas via Virginia: Hamilton left for New York and Childress for Philadelphia about same time, leaving Wharton alone at Head Quarters. I am now expecting Wharton here, with or without Mr. Childress, perhaps this evening. I found a very good feeling existing at Washington in regard to Texas: General Jackson, his cabinet, a great majority of Senators and members, all go for recognition as soon as possible, probably, as soon as the full and official accounts have reached here, and the agents are officially received by the Government here which will be soon no doubt.⁷² I think there is but little doubt that recognition will take place, before the present Congress adjourn, and this will or ought to be a recognition on the merits of the case, & without any condition whatever. There are some however, and powerful men, too, who think that a recognition should be accompanied by annexation to the United States. This latter will be conditional, that the people or government of Texas will assent to annexation, within a given time. I am strongly inclined to think that the Cabinet here are totally opposed to your permanent independence, and wish to have it understood (in some way or other) that annexation is to follow recognition, as soon as practicable, but let the Petition or Solicitation, come from Texas, and not go hence, to Texas. This is as near a conjecture as can now be formed, of probable future events. A little time will throw more light upon the Subject. Meanwhile, what will be the opinion of the people of Texas, as regards annexation, will they, by a

⁷²James Collingsworth and Peter W. Grayson were appointed by President Burnet as commissioners and were instructed to present themselves as "duly empowered and instructed by the Executive and Cabinet of the Government ad interim of Texas." The secretary of state of the United States, John Forsyth, would not receive them as accredited agents of Texas, "on account of the informality of the papers conferring our authority." (Garrison, Diplomatic Correspondence, I, 117).

majority, come into the United States, on fair and equitable terms; or will they prefer to remain Independent?⁷³ This is the grand question now. Again, what is or will be, for your and our interest? Annexation or Independence? I hardly know, or rather, I have had no time yet to reflect sufficiently on the subject, to have formed an opinion, which would be worth anything. But I can nevertheless tell you, what seems to be a very general and prevailing opinion here, so general, indeed, that it may almost be called a universal sentiment: and that is, annexation. Both in, and out of Congress; and Individuals interested, almost all think, that Annexation is the only thing, or, at least, the best thing that can be done for the United States, for Texas, and also for individuals. Be this as it may, the thing must take its own course, and we can do but little to change the determinations, or actions of our Govern-ment here. Perhaps more can be done to direct public opinion with you on this point towards a right and judicious action than can be brought to bear here. Of this you can but judge. So much for Washington. Wharton will be off for Texas in a few days, and I may send this by him, or if not, give you a few lines, if anything further occurs, to make it an inducement. So much for my present 2 sheets, which I think I will send by packet, as the usual mail routes are all suspended or broken up, at least for the present.

James Treat

⁷³The question of annexation was on the ballot in the Texas elections of September, 1836, and there was an overwhelming majority in favor of annexation to the United States.

31-0934

pr Ex-Mail & Most Private#

New York, March 16th 1839⁷⁴

friend Morgan

My dear Sir.

On the 12th inst. I wrote you a full sheet in reply to your last rec'd favour of 9 ulto. expecting an oppty to offer ere this to send it by water but that vessel is detained for some days. When it shall go, and with it the documents you requested in relation to the Navy &c with the [illegible] papers. To them I refer when you get them. In the letter above referrd to⁷⁵ I said something in reference to Mexico and an accommodation with her and told you I would address you a separate letter on this Topic. Here you have it, and I think it of consequence, enough to send by fast mail, that is, I deem it of sufficient important tho' you, nor, anyone else may perhaps think so. I attach consequence to it because in a matter of great import it is well to be in time but not before time. Be prepared to act, as soon, as the time comes and then act in the best way, to effect your object; or at least do no harm. Now, I hesitate not to say that the time has arrived when the move which I have so long contemplated can be made with very fair prospects of success. This is in strict accordance with the basis laid down in your last letter, viz. approach the right man or men; at the right time and in the only way in which success can be reasonably expected. Let the suggestion come from some apparently unauthorized source; perhaps, it can be done without any finger being seen in the first instance; it will ^{or should be} so placed before them

⁷⁴James Treat wrote another letter to James Morgan dated March 16, 1839, apparently written after this letter. In it, he asks Morgan to write him his opinion, but to keep the mission confidential. He repeated that he preferred not to have any authority -- "I go down at my own Expense (If I go at all)." (Cited in Manford, "Treat," 142).

⁷⁵The letter referred to here is not in this collection of letters.

(in Mexco) as to appear to be their initiation and for their benefit, and it should be given (them) after full conviction is produced that it is for them, the best move they can make. This done, it will be easy to satisfy them that anything reasonable will be likely to be met in a corresponding spirit & feeling on the other side. But no direct means or official measure will answer until after preliminary arrangements are made. I make these remarks not only to give you my views, but because I apprehend that your folks don't understand the matter well. (It may appear presumptuous in me to attempt to give them light) and as they should, and also because I perceive that, there are various plans under advisement and one of them is that Col Bee⁷⁶ shall confer with Mr. P⁷⁷ at Washington &c &c and I fear they will not adopt the right policy for there is policy in this negotiation and its right manage-
ment be assured. I have lived half my life among the South Americans and 7 years in Mexico, have had much to do with their greatest men, stood often in the situation of projector of plans - adviser of movements, and cooperator in many important matters where great objects were in view - great interest at stake and much money ^{to be} expended - I know how they move; & what will move them. I speak their Language, with ease and I have for 30 years. Now I have a few grains of common sense and having thought more on the subject & written more than every man, woman and child in Texas I say I have a right to give an opinion? and is it entitled or would it be if presented for con-
sideration to any weight? I should think it might until it was shewn to be untenable or impolitic; by better arguments. A proposition thro an official

⁷⁶Colonel Barnard Bee.

⁷⁷This probably refers to Joel Poinsett, former Minister from the United States to Mexico.

source to Mexico, to do or bring about what is desired would probably, 1st not be duly weighed, or considered and hence not succeed or 2nd if it did -- it would cost Texas a million or more greater sum as consideration than to approach them thro a private individual channel where everything as regards Texas, would be hypothetical. The Mexican first to decide and then Texas to follow and carry out the plan.

1st convince the Govt. men in power and perhaps some out, that Texas is out of their reach, is growing so rapidly in population, means and resources &c &c that she ^{Mexico} can never recover it &c &c. This being done, the 2nd is a necessary consequence, If they may say we cannot regain it without very great expense time etc. and then the issue is doubtful, had we not better make some amicable arrangement, and get some thing for the boon while we may? This would be the conclusion. Once get them to this point and satisfy them that a reasonable basis would probably meet the views of the Govmt. of Texas &c &c. Say something about a Bonus of some 2 or 3 millions as a matter likely to be assented to; if prompt action is had and fair & rational limits given, and tell them at the same time how they can set about their object, with a view to its speedy accomplishment, and, the thing is done. To be sure you would have to make an arrangement (of a private character) that some one or more important personages, whose aid was essential should be benefitted individually, this, as you know, is very essential in a matter of this magnitude & importance and should be done in a way, unobjectionable, as well as satisfactory and will always be a difficult task to manage well; and, if so? How much better could it be conducted, and arranged, by one who should move this matter in the way I have suggested above, privately; than by any public or known functionary? It is obvious and clear to my mind, that while the latter would fail - the former might completely succeed & at once. Then, again, there will be many

objections, on the part of Mexico, which must be overcome, and obstacles which must be removed -- Who can do that best? a person who is the open advocate, for Texas? or a person who approaching a man or men in the way suggested shews as above, step by step, what their interest requires -- tell them how the matter is to be undertaken and probably with success and proffers to initiate the negotiation at once. The direct application, might not be listened to nor would the bearer of it, obtain, in fact a knowledge of the difficulty, hence he could not remove them - while the individual who approached, by degrees and in the right way would know, from indications and information, too & appearances how to move. The same suspicion or distrust, would not attend the latter as the former, and he would know from his outposts and flanks when to accelerate & when to retard his advances. Then, if nothing results, if he cannot approach even the source of power, or if he does & makes no impression that is no harm done. Texas remains in Statu Quo - She has done nothing nor made any overtures - no prejudice or injury can reach her and She will have the benefit of any information obtained, and the mere negative should this be the result
 would be worth knowing, particularly under some certain circumstances for it might then shew that Texas could not expect anything from Mexico, voluntarily and therefore if Texas wished to accelerate her issue with Mexico, she could only do it by offensive operations. So that, in any event some good would grown out of even a total failure of the plan. Besides I calculate on knowing in advance how the land lies for my Govtm and I should probably be afforded an opportunity (which would not be a bad one for my object) of being asked my opinions or for information which would give me the best possible oppty of carrying out my plan & scheme. I know St. Anna, [illegible], Tornel [illegible] and they all know me - These may be the men; I can find means of approach to anyone who may have the power or influence to adopt and carry out

such a plan, correctly and secretly until fixed upon and they are ready to close it. These are my & my best views on this important subject.

Not signed

31-0935

Ex Mail

N. Y. March 16th, 1839⁷⁵

friend Morgan,

Dr Sir

I have just closed, very hastily, one sheet of general remarks on the subject of the best means of trying an arrangement with Mexico; in the now present condition of your affairs, respectively. -- I have only given you a crude glance of what I conceive to be the differences be^{tween} one mode of proceeding, and another or indeed any other, whatever. # I dont know how far you will concur or whether you will agree with me, at all, in my views -- I could, if I had time and space give a detail of my plans, and argue their advantages, more at length, and thus then perhaps more clearly on what I base the prospects and chances of success -- This, I could not do, as it would occupy too much space and I wish to get this off today -- This, however, will not be necessary for you as I think I have said enough to satisfy you (if there is anything at all in my view of the subject of any weight) that it will be easy to adopt, a course, not so well calculated to succeed as the one I have adopted or propose. I might also have mentioned, in the other sheet, and among other things, that I have not thus suddenly come to these conclusions, but after long reflection and further, I have been corresponding with a friend⁷⁸ in Texas for more than two years, on kindred topics, and for many months on this particular subject, and who is on the spot, knows men, matter & things

⁷⁸ This may refer to John Vitalba, an Italian who lived in Mexico, was a friend of Santa Anna, went to New Orleans for Santa Anna, and worked with James Treat while there.

and from who I have a letter to the very subject now before me of 24th
 which I answer this day by Ex-press Mail - as we write in cypher we can
 communicate fully -- He will be ready to aid me & co-operate with me,
 and I can use him without any suspicion of my moving, if need be [illegible]

Well, enough of this -- I will now tell you (confidentially as you
 must consider The whole of this communication) what I had thought of doing
 with these views & my belief that something might be done, under all the
circumstances -- I thought the best thing I could do would be to embark for
 N. O. in a Packet. If I could get away, and as soon as I could leave APPRISE
 you of my intention beforehand you could calculate about when you would meet
 me & ask you to run up & see me. If after our interview, it was thought best
 for me to go to Vera Cruz I would run down, hear from my friend, who may
 have made some progress (in obtaining information I mean only) and when I
 saw how matters & things were, run up to the city of Mexico, if necessary.
See, feel & do what I could, This is what I have been concocting & the con-
 clusion I have come to -- The voyage, I trust would benefit my health. I
 could attend to some matters and things in N. O., confer with you on general
matters & things -- and this in particular and then move down to V. Cruz if
advisable, etc. But, this, is with the views that I entertain & have here
 expressed, viz: that a private individual, to go to there (Mexo) on his own
business affairs (and I have enough of that there) and, acting, according to
circumstances, nominally & apparently for Texas Mexico) but in fact for & in
behalf of Texas and for its benefits (as well as for my own benefit, in a
reasonable & justifiable way) would be the best & only means of making the
move safely & beneficially. And so important, have I, and do I, consider it,
that I should be alone and without any direct authority; that were full powers
tendered to me in the premises, I had rather be without them -- Success is more

certain as far as preliminary arrangements go. I would not even, be instructed or authorized, by any official or responsible source nor would I go to Texas first. I would avoid all these, as being superfluous [illegible] much better without them -- stand clear -- above & I have a right to advise, suggest or recommend anything to that Govmts President, that may appear to me beneficial to [illegible]

If I can succeed in inducing them to adopt any step having for its object, any arrangement, They will find means to carry it out, in the way, most practicable & most agreeable to themselves -- If they choose to give me authority written or verbal to approach you I wont, with any formal or informal proposi-
tions or inquiries, either verbal or otherwise -- Your Govmt, would be happy at
least. to listen to them, and, if, they were acceptable, they would be embraced
 & carried out. Then, the Mexican Govmt could send a commission or commissioner
 to N. O. to meet yours, well, then, the matter could be cut & dried & finished.
 If some other & better mode was adopted to carry out the plans it would be the
same thing in the End. I should have prepared the way -- and Broke the Ice, and
 I would take care so to compromise them ^{that} they could not or would not back
out. If I succeeded. Therefore it is, that I would say to you, I should like
 well enough to know, the views of your Govt more or less what they would think
 would answer & meet my views &c - but even then I should prefer, very much
 learning from another source indirectly, than in any other way. I mean through
you -- for this would be in accordance with my whole plan & it would not be
complete, according to my view of the policy of the measure & mode of prose-
 cuting it. If I took any other than absolute and independent ground -- I could
 give my own views freely and fully and fearlessly, if [illegible] and they
would all be mine. Here is a great point, in my opinion -- Now you have my
plan & opinion, of the best mode. My intention to go down to N. O. (If I can

get away) as soon as I can & then to Vera Cruz -- If I don't change my mind; after getting to N. O. & seeing you. But, I must say that I have no idea of furnishing arguments & plans for others to carry out & this is another reason (besides the one above) that I would not give these views to your Cabinet. They would probably be used for, someone else to benefit by & not me. I say this because this is the tendency of these matters -- There is always somebody, to want the honor & profit and I you know an alien & there are prejudices afloat against aliens, and all that. If I found the right men in power, to operate upon, and the Govmt strong enough to carry out, promptly & boldly, what they were convinced was their best policy, I should be greatly mistaken if I was not successful -- entirely so -- But it would not be to open it except your outposts were well prepared, and the "appliances" well & properly made. -- these are objections & obstacles, which I have already anticipated and am prepared to remove. If I stand in the position I think I ought, to occupy -- because I will have their Ear. I cannot now detail them to you, but I am prepared to ^{re-}move the greatest obstacle, I think -- I would have to contend with. & satisfactorily to them, and perhaps one, on which the whole matter may depend -- others, there may be, and no doubt are, who can combine arrange & execute as well. But I think I have thought more about it, than any other man, and ought If (I have not) to have reached, some right points, & conclusions. Now, Sir, all this is for you and you alone -- get all the information you please & can, and from the best sources for my [sic] Govmt. So that it comes from you, an individual, to me, an individual -- mere matter of opinion &c -- I don't want you to say you are authorized to say this or that -- But that you know or believe so & so &c. Your [views] are then ^{for me} your own private views & obvious independ[ent] of what is derived from other quarters &c I should appreciate and very much respect. I assure you, In a few days

I will write you again, meantime, cover your letters for me to Lapeyre - to be forwarded to me here by Express Mail or otherwise if not directed to retain them, for me. I must stop for I have fatigued myself, very much by my scrawl.

(not signed)

31-0937

New York March 22, 1839
(Evening)

Col James Morgan

My dear Sir:

Your favour of yesterday was received this morning and I am obliged for so long and interesting epistle [sic] from you. Had I anything of interest to say to you in view of its contents, or, in the way of further news from any quarters I should have replied to it by todays post. But I delayed thinking I might have a line from you in the mornng in which case, I will kill two [birds with one stone]. There is nothing new or interesting here. I have no letters from Texas; but via a Galveston paper of 1 March which contains nothing special except a panegiric [sic] of Mr. Seth Hunt who was there attending to his arduous duties etc. etc. I note all you say, as requested, the matter with Mr. [illegible] and feel under obligation for the trouble you have had which /as is often the case/ has proved to be much more than I contemplated when I taxed you with the negotiation. I can hardly anticipated any favourable results from your intended interviews with Mr. B & yet I have some hopes you will effect something & if, as I always thought, this would be availed of by Mr. B. to do you, a personal favour. This was the main ground of my hopes from the commencement -- We shall see [illegible] various fronts. I observe your remarks in relation to the Friar⁷⁹ who is or is supposed to be instructed with a secret

⁷⁹Father Michael Muldoon had been curate to Stephen F. Austin's colony beginning in 1829. He was a friend to the Texans in their disputes with the Mexican government and accompanied Barnard Bee on his unsuccessful mission to Mexico in 1839. (Webb, Handbook, II, 247-8).

and confidential mission from St. Anna - I entirely concur in your opinion of the advantage and favourable effect to be produced by any arrangement but I fear he has now powers except such as St. Anna might [give to him] individually & perhaps verbally to talk, promise & learn. The time, he must have left Mexico shows he could not bring anything from St. Anna as president but knowing he was to succeed Bustamante and counting upon means, to continue in power he may have anticipated a letter and sent the wiley [sic] Friar to see what he could do. The only apprehension I have is that anything agreed upon even preliminarily or verbally may not be carried out in Mexico unless [he] is Supreme and this is yet very doubtful. Is it not singular that the boat of the 1st of March brings nothing in relation to the said Friar? Not the papers for they would be silent from policy perhaps, but, other visitors should nothave mentioned this as an important item of news &c so far as I know, the letter I refer? to and [its] partial publication, is the only channel thro which the news comes -- time, time, will shew. I am quite of your opinion in regard to the difficulties of obtaining loans in Europe until the Independence is fully recognized - Unless at great sacrifice. I thank you for your remarks about the great men of your country, President, Secretarys and ministers. Any opinions of mine would be superfluous as I have not the means of knowing but very little of any of them. I have not a word about the loan at N. O. tho I learn that Ellis wrote Morton, that it was taken. I suppose about the same time Hancock wrote Dawson. I think Ten are right & that a contract has been made, such as Mr. Riley thought & had better be submitted to Goymt, and hence so little has been said about Texas money is quoted 58-70 Disct 14th inst. An adjustment with Mexico would aid much in arranging for the Loan or Loans. So much for tonight having hastily glanced at the contents of your letter I will leave the next page to be filled in the morn - If I have anything more to say.

Col. James Morgan

New Washington, Texas

---- by
Capt. Moore

31-0945

April 17th Evening
(1839)

Sunday Extracts#

Our friend Sam⁸⁰ Says, under Date of 20th ulto.#

at Bologne, Sur mer # "Your two letters of 15th & 24th Feby, are before me, and bring the Very unhappy news of the Death of poor Sicard. I seriously regret that one so amiable & worthy should be lost, to you But such is the lot of all of us. -

Your letters from Morgan are truly gratifying, and so is the Extract from Lewis (J. R.) letter. I do not, entertain a doubt, about the Value of the whole country & when the city of Houston, shall be abandoned as it will be, afte the seat of Govmt. is removed, where but at New Washn can the people go for trade and health -- We must continue somehow or other to get, a Rail Road from one point over to the Brazos, and two or three years will do it. You will have in N. York by the 1st June the little Steam Boat, the "Robt. F. Stockton" made of Iron, and propelld. by sculls instead of Paddles. Wheels the sculls, or propellers, as they are calld being fixed in the stem of the Vessel -- Boats upon that construction, and made of Iron would be the Very thing for Texas. & particularly from the Island to New - Washington.#

Henderson⁸¹ is in Paris, so I cannot Shew him your letter but will sent it to him. - I am sorry that the Brute St Anna was not Killed by the Frenchmen. I perceive that the Admiral has contradicted all his lies. - What a miserable devil he must be. The Country. of Mexico is not worth having, Nor never will be. until they get a new race to govern them. No change can present a Ray of Hope for better times until they get a Strong Government,# from some European state. from England or France and that cannot be expected owing to

⁸⁰ Samuel Swartwout.

⁸¹ James Pinckney Henderson, Texas agent to England and France, to seek recognition of Texas independence and loans.

the Jealousy of the powers on this and your continents. [illegible] In another letter of same date, but written afterwards & both recd. by the Western⁸² - He says, as follows - "The mail today, brought me yours of 18 & 19th feby. and altho, I had written you. and sent my letter off, I may as well, let drive at you another, as to do it some time hence. I sent Henderson your letter to him - The progress in Trade, in Texas is truly astonishing and as I suggested, we must have a Rail Road soon from N. W. to the Brazos - I Shall be Blackguarded like the Very devil about the name given to the new town on the Trinity,⁸³ but I have had it already in such large doses, that this will be, a mere mosquito [sic] bite# Morgan, will be a great man there yet, and as soon as we get funds, he, shall make himself distinguished, in his own way. # (After speaking of some of those, he has. had business & monied transactions with, in a tone of displeasure, and want of confidence. He S. S. remarks as follows# "There is conflict however, in all cases of the Kind. If there are false, there are also true friends, and the Knowledge & Fidelity of the latter, is more than sufficient, to overbalance the former. When we meet we will con[verse] over these matters with a [glass of fine wine].

I am afraid of your health, & beg you to take care of it. Your frame is delicate & altho' you have the Spirit of the Lyon [sic] & the tenacity of the Tiger, you must not place yourself where the arrow of the fell destroyed may reach you. # Continue my dear Treat to write to me when the Steam Ships dont come. Send your letters via Havre for two months &c &c I have written by this Vessel to our mutual friend Dr. Bartlett whose delicate & Kindly

⁸²The Western was a ship that ran between New York and London.

⁸³Swartwout, a town on the Trinity River, developed by the New Washington Association.

Express interest in my welfare has deeply affected me. He is not only an intelligent & most amiable Gentleman but a man of the Warmest & most generous affections. Your & his acquaintance, are comparatively of but recent growth & yet, I can declare before God, that I have derived, in these dreadful trials, as much comfort & consolation from you two, as from any other human beings, my wife & child only Excepted. - This it is that Keeps me up. - The mail hour approaches & I will close - Believe me my dear Treat, when this gloom Shall have passed over, I will then give Some instructions, about my Texas & other affairs &c &c. The preceding, is all from his last letters, that can interest, you# #

Price who writes me, from same place & at same time, among other matters this Expresses himself.

" Swartwout & I have been here for the last fortnight,
 " negotiating his coal & Iron concern in Cumberland.
 " His interest. I rejoice to inform you is sufficiently,
 " Extensive to cancel every pecuniary obligation.
 " either public or private, and leave him a fortune.
 " I am engaged in writing up my affairs with the Govmt.
 " for the last five years, and will I trust visit America
 " in the fall, with an account, which will prove
 " the Govmt. to be my debtor, beyond all doubt,
 " notwithstanding, the Villainous Slanders,
 " lately heaped upon me. Upon a one
 " sided view of the a/c. they might with Woodburys
 " usual precipitancy. prosecute me with distress
 " warrant in my absence, but I will defy them
 " in due Season & all will be right. # &c &c.

" Swartwout & I dined with Henderson before
 " leaving Pairs, and I have had several Very
 " interesting Chats with them - I shall return
 " to Paris on the 25th inst. where write me -- S. S.
 " will remain here for a couple of months - &c &c.

So much my dear Col. for these, Extracts, and If they, should gratify you
 at all in their perusal I shall be repaid for the trouble of copying them. Sam,
 is sometimes gloomy - but is on a/c of his wife & child - he feels more for
 them than for himself# If alone. he would stand it as a true Philosopher
 #adieu--good. night Yours J. Tr.

Continued

So much for my first sheet, containing Sunday remarks growing out of
 your letter of 7th decr. # written with a bad steel pen & half a day around.
 I will now look over your last of 14th decr. and will be more brief, as I have
now been left alone. This letter was written from the Island, where you found
 Sunday letters from me; papers &c &c I am Very glad You got them at last, tho'
 some of them perhaps had been remaining there some time. - I am obliged for
 myself. & those Concerned. for your attention to the Loan papers, and yours
 disposition of them, which I have no doubt will give to us the most favourable
 results. I think you was [sic] Entitled to the full & Efficient services of
 Wm. H. W.⁸⁴ for it was with him the arrangement was made & he received the money
 or the most of it - Knows, all about it. - If he cant advocate, own claims, Who
Can? You may nevertheless present my respects to this distinguished Senator,
 with my thanks &c &c I am not surprized [sic] that the closed/doors of Congress
 created some mismeanings, & might have made a disturbance - It was a singular
 experiment. I must await, the report of Gen. Houstons farewell remarks, which

⁸⁴In April or May 1836, William H. Wharton & Stephen F. Austin had
 negotiated a \$10,000 loan for Texas, and James Treat had handled some of the
 negotiations. (Barker, Austin Papers, II, 358).

I shall be Very much gratified to read. But they will, not when received, give. a just Idea of the Speech -- Sam, talks off hand well# Notes. cannot do him justice.

I have perused & with great satisfaction the Inaugural of your new President⁸⁵ which you will find republished at length in the Star. It is an admirable document, and does, infinite honour to his head & heart -- I sent it to. Henderson & Swartwout forthwith, and by the first packet, when I doubt not it will produce a fine effect. - Of Bee's & Hunts, appointment⁸⁶ I suppose there is no doubt - The papers Give the Secy of the Treasury to Gen or Mr. Dunlap of Tenn⁸⁷ & Johnson⁸⁸ to have accepted the War. -- I have given you my opinion of the character of the new. Cab. . &c - who will be placed at the Head of the Army? Gen Felix H?⁸⁹ This would suit him. I should suppose. I have only read two of Sidney's numbers -- You however will furnish them when in Pamphlet. I am pleased to see the Vote of thanks to Houston.⁹⁰ It is alike creditable to the Congress & to the Country. Whatever may be his foibles, or faults # Who Knows but he may be your Next President? in other words. who Knows but he may become again as popular as ever, or even more so - This is possible. He is as you say, a Very Extraordinary man Indeed.

⁸⁵Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar was elected vice president in 1836 and was elected by a large majority in 1838 as president. (Siegel, Texas Republic, 102).

⁸⁶Barnard E. Bee was appointed secretary of state in the Lamar Administration and Memucan Hunt was appointed secretary of the Navy. (Siegel, Texas Republic, 103).

⁸⁷Richard G. Dunlap of Tennessee was a friend of Andrew Jackson. (Siegel, Texas Republic, 103).

⁸⁸Albert Sidney Johnston, appointed secretary of war in Lamar's cabinet. (Siegel, Texas Republic, 103).

⁸⁹General Felix Huston.

⁹⁰Sam Houston.

I am anxious to see what. course your Legislation will take, since the Inauguration is now over & you must take up business now in Earnest. = I perceive an attempt to recall the Commissioners, failed in the House by two Votes, I think. - The Dolphin had a Very splendid passage. What has become of the Pilot Boat.

#

I do not wonder, my dear Sir, that the defalcations of our friend S. S. were too painful for you to dwell upon - But so it is, there is no doubt about the fact - The amt. may be near a million, certainly over a Half - But what would you think If he were to return here, in the face of day - Head up & a bold front, and, work through with it, and assuming the direction of his own affairs (by permission of Uncle Sam). manage so as to pay off Uncle Sam, in full, and all the world besides? There are not wanting those who think he may pursue this very course. or something like it = on the other hand. it is thought. that if Price finds Sam in England or Europe he will dissuade him from coming over, and will succeed, as Misery loves Company - I should be most happy to find Sam & wipe off this matter (so as possible) in some such way - It would relieve his wife & daughter, to some extent at least, as well as others. You will ere this. have demonstration. occular [sic] of Ikin⁹¹ being with you - I mean the Son or. Brother I forget which? I say this, as I suppose he must be with you by this time, unless some thing has happened to him on his way. - At all Events, you will have my letters, & copy of Ikins to Sam. All Confirming, the fact of sending Ikin [to Texas] I think the Gentlemen, Holford & Hamilton will go down together - Irwin would go with them had he not some object to accomplish, such as you suggest - If so, he will be ahead - a keen shrewd fellow - but very selfish If I understand his character

⁹¹Arthur Ikin was a native of Great Britain who delivered two commercial treaties to Texas, and later became the Texas consul in England. The Ikin referred to here may have been a relative. (Webb, Handbook, I, 874).

at all. We shall see what they will do, when so many wise men get together? will they not Captivate your President & whole Cabinet? What with the ardor & enthusiasm of Gen Hamilton, The Capitalist, Holford - Financier Irwin & Burnley to boot - What can they not (Entrenous) effect - Well if they will only give your Govmt means. and on fair, & reasonable, terms, and Conditions = all well = If they dont want to Gouge too much - Mr. Parker will not reach Texas so soon, I think - He will not belong to the clique - tho he knows Holford - I do not think any of Gen Ss property will be sold - at all - at any rate at present - This will however depend on many circumstances &c I will however Keep you advised, on this point, & soon tell you more about it - Say in my Next. We are anxiously awaiting advices from Mexico which are slow in getting here - & leave us in some considerable doubt & anxiety how things are - This is an interesting moment for Texas - indeed -

Continuation #

I filld my Second Sheet without Knowing, It. almost. at any rate I did not get thro', Yours now under consideration - I will finish, for I never like to do things by Halves = I make due allowance for your Silence by three Boats, & Know where you Was [sic] &c = So long as, you write by Every boat, I will promise not to Complain = Your letter by Judge Lipscomb⁹² I know nothing about, and presume I shall get it, after a while If it was mailed (as I presume it would be) at Mobile for N. Orleans - Then Reed & Co. would, when they thought of it, send it along if it Cost no postage - I trust I shall get it, tho' out of time - I have delivered your message to Kos⁹³ indeed he perused the

⁹²Abner Smith Lipscomb had been chief justice of the Alabama supreme court before going to Texas in 1839. He served as secretary of state under Lamar. (Webb, Handbook, II, 61-2).

⁹³Koscuisko Morgan was James Morgan's son, who was studying in New York and for whom James Treat had accepted some responsibility as to funds and in arranging his studies.

whole of your letter - It is Easy to get Captain's [sic] or passengers. to promise to take letters & place them So & So. But 9 times out of 10, they forget. their promise - I have usually found the bag the Safest place tho' not the most Speedy, always. - I suppose, the Bonds, you speak of came up to Lapeyre by the Columbia, as you say, you could not send them from the [Island] they being at home. If so Lapeyre will send them to me - It is strange I have not got your letters per Columbia, should have had 4 days ago.

I am glad to hear you say you will be able thro' some of your ways & means to give me a lift, here in the way of my advances for the Compy of N.W.A.⁹⁴ & meantime I will try to get along as heretofore. by ways & means = by aid & Loans of money, & names on the part of some of the Subscribers. & some of my friends# Tho' this is a hard way getting along: Such times as these. I do not wish you to make any sacrifices If it can be avoided - I do not know If I can get any money on the Bonds when they get here = If I do, or in any other way, I will at once apprise you - Kos. seems no longer to complain of his back & he was quite well since the slight indisposition of his teeth ache [sic] &c &c. I wont correct your Statement of Col Wharton's death,⁹⁵ but when doing so - it came confirmed, pr the Columbia last trip. Webb⁹⁶ however in all probability would never have noticed it all - He cares nothing about Texas, except, so far as mere interest goes - and it does not seem to comport with his ideas to say much of or about Texas = His paper contains 10 lines in

⁹⁴The New Washington Association.

⁹⁵William H. Wharton was killed in 1839 when a pistol accidentally discharged as he was dismounting from a horse. (Webb, Handbook, II, 889-90).

⁹⁶James W. Webb was publisher of the Morning Courier and New York Enquirer, and was a member of the New Washington Association.

favour of Mexico, to one word in fav - of Texas - So it is - Whatever may be the reason.

Jany 11th '39 = Friday mornng #

I have this morning Glanced over my hurried scrawl of Sunday night last, and tho' not important, I thought I would send it along. for whatever you might deem it worth. as. a Vessel, will sail, tomorrow, & another next day for your Port. - This. will go by one of them & another Sheet, (written some days since and covering a letter from Webb & some newspaper slips) will go by the other Vessel # One of the Vessels is the Courier dispatched by Norton; and the other the Lion, in which goes as passenger a Mr. Collins from Conn. who takes out goods. and will establish himself as a merchant. He is said to be worth some 30,000\$ - a plain Yankee going to seek his fortune - If I was well & could get out I might give him a letter to you & perhaps I may as it is. You must know I write this from my sick room, where I have been confined. for three or 4 days, with inflammation of the Throat, chest & perhaps Lungs = I am now [on a most] vigorous diet, and under a course of medicine. But I must keep quiet & still. for a few days to allay the excitement, &c - shall be out in two or three days I hope - Mrs. Willson is going to Texas herself, with her Son, or perhaps her Father in Law. Mr. Willson's father. - She had recently seen the letter from Patrick⁹⁷ & some one else, about her property, and then my letter on the back of it, induced them to attach great value to this property, probably, & so they concluded to go down themselves directly, or thro' Patrick, the latter will be best [informed that] they, think my application was at your instance; and may be little Sharp. Your last recd letter of 20th ulto (P.S. 21st, pr Columbia, is recd but at the office - I have noted its contents - and will reply to them anon. I will probably write you in a day or two via N. O. If well enough - If not,

⁹⁷ George M. Patrick was a physician in Texas, and later commanded the schooner, Flash, in 1836. (Webb, Handbook, II, 345).

Radcliff⁹⁸ will - Kos well I understand tho' I have not seen him since I have been confined.

Yours, with kind regards to all your family.

J. Treat

31-0947⁹⁹

New York, May 8th 1839
Wednesday Evening

Friend Morgan

My dear Sir. #

I avail of this vessel to sail. in two or three days, to acknowledge, reception of your last two favours, of march 19th and April 6th = both by Ex. Mail former received 22nd and the latter 23rd ulto. both, without any endorsement at N. Orleans where they were mailed. I will remark briefly, on some of their contents. ___ My late communications will inform you how many of yours had been received by me, and will also give you the fact of their delay somewhere on the way, the motives for which I cannot divine. perhaps you can. I perceive you had recd. a good number of mine recently perhaps more than you could well find time to peruse. I thank you for your very just remarks in regard to our departed friend Sicard.¹⁰⁰ He was all you say of him. You must have had a great time indeed on the arrival of the Charleston, and the Shew [sic] you made in Steamers & vessels must have been a gratifying sight. The blow outs &c. were matters of course; and the dinner speeches, we have seen in print, which contained some good things & some not quite so good. How I came to omit writing by the Elizabeth - I do not know - My rule has been to write by the Elizabeth - I do not know - My rule has been to write by every vessels [sic]

⁹⁸ August W. Radcliff was a business associate of James Treat's, and served for a while as Texas consul in New York.

⁹⁹ Letter numbered 31-0946, dated April 19th, 1839, appears in Manford, "Treat," 182-185.

¹⁰⁰ Stephen Sicard, a member of the New Washington Association.

I repeatedly requested Kos to write by Mrs. F.¹⁰¹ and he promised to do so, as I supposed he had done. of course. He was also urged to call on Mr. F. & promised to do so. I am very much indebted for your solicitude about me & my health. I am now getting along, and when we get settled warm weather, hope I shall be quite well. You will have seen that all our anticipated trouble with G. Britain has blown over - Texas cannot be benefitted by a rupture between the two countries yet, nor can Collins. sell his ships. to Govmt. for Sloops of War. Galveston goes ahead? \$3000 pr lot? This is truly astonishing. Not a word from Allen & McCullough in relation to the sale of lumber, altho', the Cargo arrived a day or two Since from your port.# It is quite time it was closed. I suppose it will be a flemish a/c as you remark. I notice by late advices, that the Correo¹⁰² has returned from up the Trinity. and give a favourable account. I infer, from your late silence that you are on Your Sabine, Town Site, and from which I trust we shall in due time, have some information. I will do all I can to induce Emigrants to go to the Trinity,. So far as may be in my power - I have not been able to raise a dollar on the bonds tho' I have tried Every way Everybody. I thought of - I have finally written General Hamilton¹⁰³ but have no answer yet from him. - He is expected here soon & I shall see what he says but do not Expect to get any thing - Nothing would give me more pleasure than to do this, and aid you, as well as myself - It however seems impracticable just now. I suppose you could not realize any sales, without Sacrifice, and are the best judge, whether that sacrifice is too great, or not, to meet your wants. Confidence is increasing & so is Emigration, and Lands

¹⁰¹After the death of Lorenzo de Zavala, Mrs. de Zavala married a Mr. Foch, in New York, and they moved to Texas.

¹⁰²The Correo, a small steamboat engaged in traffic on the Trinity & the Brazos rivers. (Hogan, Texas Republic, 76).

¹⁰³James Hamilton, agent for Texas to attempt to secure loans in England and France.

must be rapidly enhancing, in value of course. There is nothing since my last touching our friend S' position - All remains in Statu quo & will so remain, until he can close his Maryland Contract.¹⁰⁴ I have sent him a full copy of yours of 20th March, to which I am now replying. - The million loan has fallen through and much to the disadvantage of Texas and as some think to her discredit, also-- The 5 million may come,¹⁰⁵ sometime or other, but I fear it will be tardy as things now look on the other side. Hamilton & Burnley¹⁰⁶ will be along this month, I presume & will Embark, and try. I agree with you, not to change the name of our Town on the Trinity - What I said, was from S. S.¹⁰⁷ Friend S will see, by the copy I sent him, that you have "nailed your colony to the mast." I have heard nothing further from the certificates to the Loan, but suppose they are on the way, with your account of the charges thereupon. You need not have troubled yourself with my respects to Gen Lamar; I only mentioned it, supposing it might come apropos. otherwise it is of no sort of consequence. I am surprised [sic], at what is said of him, and do not wonder at his unpopularity if what is said be one half True. The Ambassador will make a splash in Liverpool. I note all you say of Kos (in this letter now under consideration) & my last are so full that it is unnecessary for me now to enlarge. If Kos was lonely (and I believe he was) it was because he would be so, and not owing to any neglect on the part of his, or your friends here. - Wharton¹⁰⁸ and Fisher¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁴Samuel Swartwout was trying to sell some mining properties in Maryland to pay the shortages in the customs house collections.

¹⁰⁵Hamilton had been authorized to secure a loan of \$5,000,000 in Europe.

¹⁰⁶Albert T. Burnley, appointed as commissioner to accompany James Hamilton to Europe to attempt to secure a loan.

¹⁰⁷Samuel Swartwout. The New Washington Association established the town of Swartwout on the Trinity River.

¹⁰⁸William H. Wharton.

¹⁰⁹S. Rhoads Fisher, had been one of the signers of the declaration of independence, and served as secretary of the navy under Sam Houston. (Webb, Handbook, I, 603).

are no more - The former is a loss to the Country - The latter is to be regretted, also from the manner of his death. - Capt. Moore,¹¹⁰ I learn is in the city, tho' I have not yet seen him - He has a letter of introduction to me. - I find him well spoken of. All my efforts, to find Mr. Alexander Cook's residence have thus far, been fruitless, tho' I have written & inquired, over & over again - I will not give it up, & will advise you. I have now, glanced over your first named letter, which I find is dated 20th March. P. S. 21/22nd - I have just, briefly, remarkd on the contents of it, and regret that I have nothing of more interest, to give you. But there seems nothing Else to write about, as things stand. here & with you. I hope, the time is not far distant when, I say, something on the Score of business - untill then - You alone, can write, on matters of interest to our associates - So much for one letter. I come now to your last of 6th April, the perusal of which has given me some pain, and which I will pass over briefly as possible - I thank you for the attention you have paid to their contents, and the opinion you Express: with your remarks thereon. -- This was the contribution of my wife but it seems, is quite Superfluous - They are so wise on all Subjects, that, advice from abroad is not needed. Well, I as well as yourself, can save ourselves, time & trouble# & we shall see what we shall see as the Frenchman said. - I have heard nothing of Bee¹¹¹ except that he had gone to Pensacola to get a passage. Under the circumstances, I am glad you kept my communication to yourself - I would have gone to Texas (Mexico I mean) but for the difficulty of moving from this, and may yet. I should be perfectly willing to go on my own Hook, and if could not find out more of the feelings & disposition of that Govmt. towards you

¹¹⁰Edwin Moore, commodore on the Texas navy.

¹¹¹Barnard E. Bee, secretary of state under Lamar, who was sent to Mexico to try to gain recognition. His mission was a failure, and he was not allowed to go to Mexico City. He returned to New Orleans and worked closely with James Treat in planning Treat's mission to Mexico.

in one month, than will now be obtained in 6 - I'll be shot dead. If people will be Stupid, let them find out their mistake, as best they can I notice your necessary absence & that you would not be able to meet me in N. O. - as things have gone & are going, I don't wonder at your indifference and I feel some of it myself. The operation, if it could have been undertaken under proper auspices, and in the right way, and succeeded, would have been a very beautiful one, indeed. I tell you, small folks cannot be heard, it seems unless they come from certain States. Great men will soon perhaps get tired themselves & abandon the public service to attend to their own affairs. Well Let all run - If the present policy, and management, can save the country, I for one will give the present rulers credit for everything. Time however, will tell, this & some other stories.

Continuation

Friday, May 10th Morn#

Dr. Col# I am brought to a stand still, as it were & must bring my letter to a hurried close, as I am obliged to leave for Providence this Evening 5 P.M. on a matter of Business which will admit of no delay - meantime, the Hermosa is off, or will be tomorrow, and must close, as I best can# I will just glance at the bal of your letter of 6th Apr. and regret that I cannot treat its contents more leisurely. - But I will say what I have time to say. I do most certainly think well of Poinsett.¹¹² In the consulate affair he did but little nothing if you please - But it was not in his power to grant it, & he does not like to interfere in the department of others.

- The Power of attorney for the Govmt Stock is sufficient, I presume & I only wish, I could get some money on the Bonds, but I have a letter from Hamilton yesterday morn^g which says he can do nothing in the way of a Loan &c on the Bonds, &c but will see me here in a week or two -- I know you want money for

¹¹² Joel Poinsett was former minister from Washington to Mexico. During the period of Treat's negotiations he was secretary of war. Barnard Bee had written to the Texas secretary of state that Poinsett was in agreement that Treat's plan was a good one. (Garrison, Diplomatic Correspondence, II, 457).

Clopper¹¹³ &c and If I had any or could get any, you should have it - I now come to that part of your letter which relates to Kos, and would go into detail (altho I have already, said so much in my late letters) If I had time - I will however refer to what I have already said which must be before you ere this, and merely remark that he never has been restricted as regards money, Has had all he asked for, and when he asked for it with one or two exceptions, when I was sick, and Radcliff busy & no money happened to be within his reach. -- But he never has been deprived, in any way, manner or Shape. -- The affair with Radcliff as I have already told you, was a trifling affair in which Kos was primarily in the wrong & gave vent to his feelings, instead of coming to me as He should have done as a matter of course.

Kos is now in Nth Carolina (as you are ere this fully advised) and of course it is unnecessary to say anything about the future unless he returns here which I do not anticipate - Should you think proper to direct his return, here He shall have my attention as heretofore, and every thing you desire shall be done for him, or all he wishes & if I go away I [will] place him with Dr. Bartlett who will attend to him &c -- This is all I can or need say at present -- He writes me that he wants money, and as he names no amt. I have this day (Letter only recd yesterday) authorized him to draw on me for what he may require -- He merely said that he is well and engaged in the study of Law with Mr. Smith, until he hears from you -- I hope you have got the Navy papers and all my late letters pr Oval, and another vessel sailed since (name not before me). So Yates¹¹⁴ heard I was very ill &c. Well such rumours are very apt to get abroad. I can hardly think Yates manner is [illegible]. the

¹¹³Morgan's Point, the site of the town of New Washington, had been purchased in 1828 by Joseph Clopper, and the site was then called Clopper's Point. James Morgan established the first settlement there, later building the town of New Washington. The area is today known as Morgan's Point. (Webb, Handbook, II, 235).

¹¹⁴Andrew J. Yates was a lawyer and professor. He accompanied Austin, Archer, and Wharton on the first commission to the United States to handle legal details. He lived for a time in Liberty, Texas, and later was publisher of the Daily Advertiser in Galveston. (Webb, Handbook, II, 942).

the Navy for any sinister purposes. I have copied to friend S. S. what you say of the Movements of a certain personage at Houston in regard to inquiries &c -- It really looks as if he had some instructions from his Govmt# But having conferred with Ogden we think that [he] cannot touch a farthing of that property any how and particularly without previous judgments.

I hope to hear further from you and know if any further proceedings be had on the subject. I am sorry you did not tell me all you know for in That case if we thought there was any danger, we could authorize some action to prevent any Evil happening to S. S. interest -- They will attempt nothing, unless it be as regards the large Angelina property -- the other interests as small, unknown and not within their reach.

I see what you say about the Zavala &c &c and am very apt to think as you do -- But certain things must go, in a certain [sic] with certain people# I further note all you say about the Big boys becoming Citizens &c. Padre Muldoon & Col' Bee &c &c = & all that so you will please consider this as a reply, in some sort of the contents of your letters to me -- I thought the last boat would certainly bring me something from you -- Old Judge W trudging along as usual. The Genl Power will do - for Bonds, when I can use them. When that will be I know not [and] Were it not for my necessary trip to Providence, I would have added something to this scrawl [but] I have nothing of moment to say. Williams¹¹⁵ expects to leave Baltimore in the first of the Texan fleet (Schooner Viper) in two or three days. -- Jones will go with him, also Austin Bryan his Secy -- and also I believe two Ladies from Washington -- Who they are I Know not. Williams says Dunlap¹¹⁶ is in Washing Capt Moore is here. I have not seen him yet. as he has a letter for me & has not calld

¹¹⁵Samuel May Williams.

¹¹⁶Richard G. Dunlap.

to deliver it yet -- Hamilton & Burnley agreed to meet in Phila. this day -- Whether they are there or not I dont Know -- I do not think they will go to, England till latter part of the month. -- I shall Know more & will inform you on my return from Providence on Monday morn^g -- Hope this will find you well & getting along better than I am here -- Gen Henderson¹¹⁷ is slowly recovering -- S. S. had not closed, his bargain for the Maryland property when the Liverpool left there - 20th April - I refer you to the papers which go herewith for the General news. & as they will not go until tomorrow Mr. Radcliff, will add anything that may occur -- I will write on my return via N. Orleans I think immediately.

Very sincerely Yours,

J. Treat

31-0948

Monday afternoon
[N. Y. June 3, 1839]

Dear Sir.

I had this pleasure by the Express mail today, covering you a letter from our friend S. S. just received by the Western; and one also from Mr. Ikin, both which you will no doubt peruse with pleasure, & to them you have on pretty full Sheet from me for what they may be worth. I [sic] this letter, I acknowledged receipt of your several favours of 25th April recd 14th May: of 6th May recd 24th same; of 10th May at hand 27th same mo. and of 11th May recd on the 30th same. All which were very welcome and perused with great satisfaction - I will now remark upon such of their several contents as may seem to require it at present. 1st yours of 25th April# You say you have not written me very often on a/c of absence &c. I will make all due allowances, and acquit you of any Sole blame during the past month. If you will let me hear from you about once a week, generally, I will let you off and try to get along with, that:

¹¹⁷James Pinckney Henderson, agent for Texas in England and France.

But you may write as much oftener as you please & your time will permit. Much of this letter is taken up in writing about the Town of S.¹¹⁸ on the Trinity & I am happy indeed to have so fine & flattering a description of this young and thriving town. I think its rapid growth is a very strong indication of its advantageous position -- Hence, I think It will continue to look up, until it takes rank with [one] of your towns of older Growth. The navigable character of the Trinity, is so much more extensive than heretofore supposed, that It may indeed, be said, that the recent trips had opened a New Era for Eastern Texas.--- Its effect, will of course long be felt, on all the waters of the Bay. This, & all you say about Trinity. Town of S & & & is truly gratifying & I wish all success -- You will see what friend Sam says about the Stool of Repentance# Atonement for Past Sins & = Well let him give a church &. -- #

With regard to the \$10.000 in Certificates, I was aware you had them, and have been expecting to receive them for a long time. I wish they were here. & I could deliver them to parties & settle your a/c = & have done with it. Please. to see that they come up. as soon as possible. If you recd all my letters & parcels, I am very glad, but I fear some one of my letters missed you, cannot now tell which, or of what date: I may remember# Tod is here, and desires to be remembered to you & &. As I have before told you the letter sent by Judge W was paid -- Give the devil (even) his due you know. I see you have made no sale of any lands & if I could get some money on the bonds, it would not be necessary, just now to do so: We will see anon how the thing goes. -- I was sorry to hear what I have & what you say of [Monroe] Edwards.¹¹⁹ I had heard of the story from N. O. before, you communicated it to me, and regret it# But so it is. as a man makes his bed, So of course he must lie: Harcase. Well our Law Suit against him, is terminated & in our favour - they, the bondsmen here &

¹¹⁸Swartwout on the Trinity River, established by the New Washington Association.

¹¹⁹Monroe Edwards came to Texas in 1827, was a swindler and a slave trader. He fled Texas after being convicted of swindling in 1838. Morgan had a suit against Edwards. (Webb, Handbook, I, 517)

Edwards attorney hung onto the case as long as they could, and seemed determined to collect every inch of Ground to the last moment. They However succumbed last Saturday; and found it was necessary to stop further costs, as the money would not be sufficient, to pay our claims, and their attorneys fees -- I cannot now state particulars but will before I close -- Dana is now out of town & will be in tomorrow when the matter will be settled in full# I have not learned yet who the Gentlemen is, who, had the offer of Consul of this port -- tho' I suppose I might if I had chosen to inquire -- Yates is here, cares but little about it, now he is going to Europe So Soon. Is it not strange that Col. Bee if he desired letters to Mexo from me, did, not ask for them in time? or get some one to do it for him? This, appears to me to be somewhat queer: Like some other things, with you.

Continuation#.

I do not thing [sic] you will have an Extra Session, unless something turns up, to require it, more than can now be anticipated -- There are some reasons why it will not do to have an extra session. If it can be avoided &c. I should think that one session was enough in the Mountains and as you say, it cannot rest there long What folly to be lugging about the Seat of Govmt until you are ready to fix it permanently, why not let it stand as it was -- Why is Lamar so anxious for the Removal? to destroy the influence of the Clique? I expected so myself -- I recd your letter remarking upon Padre Muldoon &c, but some time after, the news reached us thro' other channels; I gave you I think a full list of all the letters I received by that you might know if any were missing & I should like to know myself -- I am aware that they are delayed & often mislaid, but I was in hopes they all finally came. Gen Dunlop [sic] has not reached N. York - Now - In Phila. I believe - I have heard nothing of or from him, directly, - If he comes he may deliver his letter - and may not. --

As he feels at the time. I have not yet directed Lapeyre to retain my letters, because I have not absolutely determined to go to N. O. but I Still Think I shall go & soon -- Whether I go beyond N. O. or not I cannot tell now -- I will advise you the moment I am fixed so that if you can run up & see me &c &c. You can make business enough to induce the trip & it will not take much time -- So look out for my letter of advice &c &c = Never mind the Compensation you refer to - Who cares any thing about it -- If any thing was accomplished, they would be ready enough I suppose to compensate. I can fix that matter If I undertake. I have said before enough about the Loan on the bonds &c. When Gen H.¹²⁰ comes I will see what can be done & advise you -- I should like very much to send you enough to fix off old Clopper and make you Easy -- This I will do If I can. The N. Orleans million Loan was indeed a sad & queer affairs. I could profit by Gen. Hamilton, advice & he could profit more by mine -- If he would talk straight & come out -- I will See by & by How it will be.

I, never said that Kos, was extravagant -- I only said he had recd all the money he askd for. & when he asked for it, with now & then an exception, which did not make a rule -- I paid his Dft, since he has been in No Ca for \$150, at same time you requested me to send him forward that amt. # I have heard of Hunt's¹²¹ resignation & the causes - & I understand he intends to visit here during the summer. & settle off & pay up -- How glad some folks will be? He owes me nothing. I hope Cooke will make a better Secy of Navy, than his predecessors have done. -- You got the Navy papers I see but no letter accompanying them# The letter you must have recd. from some other source afterwards = if not, then It is miscarried# Yates spoke of sending you letters but no parcels -- I hope you got all, safely -- The power of attorney would do no doubt for the

¹²⁰
James Hamilton.

¹²¹
Memucan Hunt, who served as secretary of the navy under Lamar.

for the Stock & if not, the last one you forwarded will be ample. -- If I can get the chance to use it I shall be very glad I have been all about the doings & proceedings of Hamilton, White & Compeers. They have given considerable Eclat to Texas if that was their object# They will however be citizens & reside there, whenever their interests can be promoted thereby. I saw H¹²² so little in Phila (see my letter by Express mail via N. O. of today) that he did not name you, nor did I. So the battle ground could not be had) - It may have been for Gen H. as you intimate# You must have had a fine time in the Steamer - Such glorious speeches - &c I should like to have heard some of them & taken some lessons in Patriotism# We must all live & learn &c -- I can well conceive that the steamer makes a noise: It is I suppose thought to be as superfluous as the 5th wheel of a coach -- Well the people will take by & by, thro' their representatives - & then we shall see, what we shall see -- I had no intent when ever [sic] or any how [sic] - I said what I did - because I thought they were going on different Grounds. I thought the policy a good one, & that they were going all this from Patriotic motives &c &c &c. I am most happy that Dr. Bs¹²³ explanations were all satisfactory -- tho'. they were altogether -- voluntarily given & unsolicited by me -- What I should like to Know is, whether what I have said myself meets your approbation I am glad you can get something from the sale of my Lumber &c & hope it may be cleared up & settled soon for I wish to close it entirely. I note what you say about \$184:80/100 due Williams. It shall be paid tomorrow. as I have before said to you to day, in my letter via N. O. by Express Mail -- So much for the first of your late Series of Letters. Yours of 6th Inst. I will dispose of more briefly as the topics are or probably may be the same, in substance. . As regards Koscuisko

¹²²James Hamilton.

¹²³Dr. John Bartlett was a member of the New Washington Association.

I need hereby say any thing more -- I note what you say & have given him his \$150 and if he asks for more I will try to give it to him as I have told him. I note what you say of Mr. & Mrs. F the former is as you say: I should be sorry to miss Lorenzo¹²⁴ and if he advises me that he is in N. Orleans & waits for an answer, it will all be well# As regards Mexico & peace & all that, I have much to say, but cannot begin just now Shall see by & bye - If I can tell you the story, but more probably when I see you -- It would be long to write. It is easy to tender a resignation but will it be accepted? You will hardly from what you intimate, take any other situations, under the Executive? I should think not. I have heard of some of Hunts management in the Navy, and really wish to hear no more about him, for I do not think, he done, [sic] or could do, anything right any how. I dont Know who Com. R. of this yard means when he says he thinks W will not do. I don't take [sic] you have officers enough until you have something more to do -- When that will be, may depend on Col Bee's success# Officers cost too much money to keep them idle long#.

He is to be here in a day or two or three & I will Know. I dare say that good speculations will be made by those who are in the Secret, and Stand in the right position. You will judge how Sam is from the letter I sent you from him yesterday by Ex mail# I do not think, the Govmt, are as, well disposed towards him as before, tho' I Know not why -- Price is not commiserated like S. S. Nobody cares about P# S has the good wishes of almost all the Community# Sam however will get along. Mrs. S¹²⁵ and daughter Embarkd for Havre 24th Ult. but without any knowledge on the part of Gen. S. They will

¹²⁴Lorenzo de Zavala, Jr.

¹²⁵Mrs. Samuel Swartwout.

surprise him. You shall Know all about Edwards Suit, in my P.S.# It is not very improbable that he will get away from jail. Jim Prentiss¹²⁶ I have but little communion with and Willis Hall, is now the Attorney Gen of the State. and of course a very great man - I see but little of him now. I have apprised Henderson about this Edwards affair & c and also Sam S Judge W. came to apprize me of Edwards arrest, and put me on my Guard about writing to him &c a pretty good joke. indeed. Judge W moreover told me he never liked the man E and would not be seen in the streets with him even in Paris# A pretty fair story don't you think so? I told Gen Hamilton of it. A week since in Phila. He had not then heard of it. This was another queer matter. I learn from Capt Moore that there is no difficulty about officers = She has had numerous applications# As Regards Porter I have some doubts whether he will go or not. But P can see what you say about it, hereafter# He P. would want a good rank. I think he would fill any station well & I note your confidential remarks about the Secy of the Navy His Successor &c. Nous verrons depries. You will not want more than one or two of your vessels in commission unless it is to produce a favourable effect on the Mexican Govmt & people and their influence, the present negotiation, &c &c &c. As you say, the Expense is Very Heavy & cannot be long borne.

The only good to come out of your Navy is to frighten Mexo into a peace, or fight them into peace I think the frightening would be enough with [out] fighting if the matter was well managed as I have before said. I learn also from Lapeyre that the Shares in the Columbia cannot be sold -- I should think it would bring something# I take due note of all you say. under head of

¹²⁶ James Prentiss was a partner of Samuel Swartwout's and others in the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Company. (Webb, Handbook, I, 663).

as you say & I send you the balance by this Vessel, which I trust will safely arrive &c. I observe that you are alone, and without any help. Still you can give me a Sheet or So, now & then: Say -- once a week[#] I am always you Know, glad to hear from you. You Shall have newspapers regularly, tho' not perhaps so numerous as heretofore -- I am curtailing in this and economizing, in all -- These Expenditures = it is time. You must send me your letters to Swartwout -- I will forwd. them promptly -- You will find he says so, I think, to you. I will tell Sam & Price what you Say about & of them. I will get Some money on the Bonds for you & old Clopper if I can possibly do so; and let you Know promptly the result. The deposits of Edwards with the Bondsmen was 1300\$ and They will hardly get Clear even with that -- It takes it all to pay us & his own Exps. & more too, I think likely -- You may find Williams. a candidate for the Island¹²⁸ and Dr. Jones¹²⁹ to represent Brazoria -- I say you may -- I dont Know, of course. Old B. told me he wanted nothing & asked for nothing -- But who believes him? I dare say if H. dont [sic] get the Loan -- he will be unpopular -- If he does Vice Versa -- I think -- Your letters told me about Bee &c but not quite as fully on Some points as I could wish -- However it is too late now for what would then [have] been in good time. Nous Verrons. When will they make any dividends in the Columbia? I should think it time? It should be now if she is paid for? I am sorry that Ufford will not keep cool -- I note the address of Haseltine & Co. for any thing I may have to send &c. Let me have the Loan papers. I say - want them & your a/c' Very much -- So that I can deliver & collect. Saligny¹³⁰ arrived last night -- Shall Soon Know what he will have

¹²⁸ Candidate for representative from Galveston Island.

¹²⁹ Dr. Anson Jones.

¹³⁰ Alphonso de Saligny, one of the secretaries of the French legation in Washington, who was sent to Texas by France to look the Texas situation over and report. (Schmitz, Texan Statecraft, 72).

to say to his Govmt -- presume it will all be right#

Continuation# Smith (M. S.) I learn likes Texas very much, and is coming up here, to return in the fall. I do not wonder that the President¹³¹ presses your continuance in office & that you will Stand with him &c If he has many more desertions, on the part of his former friends. He may be left bare of any support, after a while# I hope not for, the good of the Country# Slacum went down to secure the Secy of Legation - Ship to Mexo with Bee: so I learn, but he was too late Yates is here# dont talk much, except about his own affairs -- & I can hardly make up my mind from anything. I have seen here. how he feels towards you -- I thought you had buried the hatchet but you say you know him to be your enemy. How is this? I am glad if you can get the Lumber business settled. It will make Stone laugh to talk to him about the Edwards Suit indeed? &c. oh what a pucker it would place him in -- I suppose we may see Gen Houston here during the Summer If (as one of his friends said) he can get money Enough to come up &c &c. -- It is not a little Singular that Gen Hamilton Should have opposed you, as a Commr of Loan without Knowing it? This is a post I thought always you ought to have had offerd to you -- But you would have cursed it long Since - I Presume = The present parties have no doubt -- Judge B.¹³² I should think never would agree with your President. You will see by Ikins letter that he sends out his Expedition, next Aug or September. I Think Holford found out that Two great men Holford & Hamilton could not agree -- neither would play 2d fiddle to the other -- The new channel at the Island was no go -- I thank you for your reiterated Solicitude for my health, which is now mending graduatally Not so fast as I could wish -- Pennoyer

¹³¹President Lamar.

¹³²David G. Burnet.

comes up to take the Neptune Bought by Gen. H. to run between N. Y & Charleston this summer & go to Texas in Octr. -- Hope you will sell the Land you are in treaty for If the terms & price Suits you -- Your internal Trade with Mexo will be important. So much for yours of 10th May

I must now briefly notice your last short favour of 11th ulto, recd on the 30th and covering a more formal Power of Attorney than the one before Sent me# I will use this power if I can you may rest assured. I wish you much success. over on the Sabine# Hope you will make another Trinity affair of it, as regards. the hit in your town &c &c# I see in this letter you cede the question of S.M.W.s ¹³³ candidacy for Congress -- Ivery will be a moderate oppo-
sition man? or whole hog against Lamar? I am in doubt -- I dare say, there will be great efforts Pro & Con, in various districts & Sections of Country - an Lamars majority, may be doubtful as well as his Support? But I hope all will come round right &c &c I am glad the Admiral met with so good & warm a reception - It looks well & will produce a good Effect. I notice the death of St. John & very much regret it --

June 4th# Par of this Scrawl. was written this morning tho', it was commenced yesterday - I have ran [sic] thro' your four long letters, and made such a hasty & common place remarks as have occurrd to me - I am sorry to think, however that my remarks will hardly compensate you for the trouble of perusal, # I deal, as you will say, too much in non-essentials - However I cannot help that -- I dont Know when the Elizabeth Nortons vessel will go. She said tomorrow - tho' I doubt it. - If she gets away in three days I shall think it is very well - Well I - have two more pages of Stiff & thick foolscap to fill up - with such matter that I may find= my Express mail letter of yesterday will anticipate some points no doubt -- My family are pretty well - Tho' have not enjoyed very usual health during the spring - They all Thank you & the Ladies for your [kind and] continued remembrances of them & wish to reciprocate all your Kindness &

civilities - In all I join. as regards the Ladies &c&c&c JT.

June 6th Thursday# Well this Elizabeth is forever getting away, and I fear will not sail before Sunday. Well we have got [sic] the suit versus Edwards Settled at last# & got the a/cs today & expect the money tomorrow# Total amt. paid on settlement of the Judgement Exclusive of the Taxable Costs \$1067.59

Deduct counsel fee &c.	\$100.00	
------------------------	----------	--

<u>[illegible]</u> amt paid Judge Burnets		
---	--	--

<u>[illegible]</u> amt for the Commission	50.00	150.00
---	-------	--------

Net amt. to Cr of N.W.A. on my books#		917.59
---------------------------------------	--	--------

Pretty fair result after so long & hard a struggle. and so much resistance also - But their money would not hold out. & hence to save their own fees. they paid up, and saved their own bacon# Thus ends this. I am tired waiting for Gn Hamilton¹³⁴ -- He has been coming daily for 10 days -- & I dont [know] when I shall see him# Hence the loan lays dormant - I took a check to Williams to pay your \$184.80/100 but found some interest due, & the clerk did not know how much - They will send me the bill in the morng. & I will pay it & note the amt at foot. We have heard that Col Bee¹³⁵ was not allowed to land, except as a private citizen; and then, only after some delay - This however was the act of the local authorities, say Gen Victoria¹³⁶ It was I presume not the Act of the Govmt. or St. Anna, tho', that may be the result -- We shall soon see, what is what on that score. Capt Moore, will get plenty of officers Petty officers & men - There is no mistake I think on this point, from what he tells me - Tho'

¹³⁴James Hamilton.

¹³⁵Barnard Bee.

¹³⁶General Guadalupe Victoria, the officer in charge of the port of Vera Cruz, treated Colonel Bee with all courtesy, and suggested that instead of asking for recognition, that Texas rejoin the Mexican nation. (Schmitz, Texan Statecraft, 94).

we keep mum of course. The Neptune steamer has been bot [sic] by Hamilton to run on the N. York & Charleston Route until Octr & then proceed to Texas - to Run between Galveston & N. O. - I have said. I could not find out Cooke but will if I have to send a special messenger - I think I will go myself some-time when I go to Connt. on a visit.

The bal of the Lithographs of Swartwout go by this conveyance, and also a file of papers to you which, I trust you will find somewhat diverting tho' there is really nothing very interesting - I will leave this little Niche to close up either tomorrow or next day - Thus you have 2 pages again, a thing I have promised never to do. But four of your long letters brot [sic] me up. Goodnight - Compts to all the family. Yours &c

James Treat

June 8th# Saturday #

This Vessel is off in the morn^g and I must close up my third sheet of scrawls - which you will please excuse for it has been written Piecemeal &c Well I have nothing to add of a general character, that I can think of - I have now taken a step to insure me some information about the Mr. Cook of Colchester which I have been trying to find out about for so long a time & have not been able# You see we have done with Mr. Edwards suit as above# Two Vessels from Galveston & Velasco arrived here yesterday Augusta from Galveston & Wm. Bryant from Velasco. Sayre¹³⁷ and Morgan L. Smith¹³⁸ & ladies & a host of others came in her - I have not seen Smith yet, will do & get his views of Texas - & you

¹³⁷Charles D. Sayre was active in politics leading to the declaration of independence in March, 1836, was a member of the committee of safety and correspondence. He owned a plantation near Columbus and a milling business in Gonzales. (Webb, Handbook, II, 576).

¹³⁸Morgan Smith was a native of New York who migrated to Texas in 1838. He became a merchant in Columbia and developed a large trade in cotton and slaves. He also developed a large sugar plantation in Brazoria County. (Webb, Handbook, II, 625).

shall have them. Is there any Expense on the Commission obtained at NOrleans. If so will you settle it? I have heard nothing about it.# I send you full files of papers and the balance of your Swartwout maps after retaining a few here for distribution here of both kinds# I send them all addressd to you care of Messrs A. S. Haseltine & Co your new Agents or friends# Your a/c to Williams & Co has not been paid, tho' I have sent three times for it - It shall be done today & no mistake# All the family & Mr. R¹³⁹ wish to be remembered to you - I may give you another line# Truly as ever J. Treat

31-0949

New York June 3d 1839 Monday

pr Ex Mail #

My friend Morgan:

I have before me your valued favours of 25th # Apr. recd. 14th May = also, of May 6th recd 24th same month = & May 10th received 27th same month. = and lastly, of 11th May recd 30th May covering, a power of attorney &c: all which were very welcome, and, perused with great satisfaction & pleasure. As I purpose sending this by Express mail today I shall not attempt to reply even briefly, to your above four favours but will dispose of them by Morton's Vessel to sail in a few days - My main object. now is to enclose you a letter I recd. from S. S. for you, which came by the Western arrived day before yesterday. - I was requested to read & forward the same, without delay, - so here you have it, and I have No doubt you will be gratified by the perusal of the same. I thought also. that I should have something to say to you, (considering I had been silent for some time) that might justify. an Express mail. double letter at the Expense of N. Washn = Now then you have Sam's letter. to friend Ikin which I thought I would open & copy in this letter & send his down by Nortons Vessel. So that you would have something in case of Loss of original

¹³⁹August W. Radcliff.

- Then I thought again I had no business to open your letter, & you might not like it - So I concluded to send it within - So here you have it, & also I cannot tell you what it contains - I put it down as worth 1/3 the postage I am incurring [sic] to the Co Say 75 Cts. Now. the next question is whether I can make my Sheet worth it because postage [is so expensive to] use the Express Mail. and trust that you will get them all Safely & promptly and find them worth in all \$2.25#.

I have not written you, very lately, for I had nothing to say of any interest, and have been very busy and jaunting about on business of necessity (not pleasure) Say to Boston. & up the North River, and Phila. to see Hamilton &c: all which has taken up much of my time. So much to apologize for my Silence. Now [nothing can be realized] on our bonds I have already informed you, that I had tried Every way & mode. I could think of and had done nothing - First I had written to Gen. H at [illegible] &c - Now. Hamilton answered my letter promptly & said he could do nothing there but would see when he came on to NYork &c. He and Burnley met in Phila about loth or 12th ulto, and as we all here believed, were coming on to N. York in a day or two. - Genl Hamilton wrote me on some other matters, on the 23rd & as I found they would be detained in Phila yet for some days and I wanted much to Know if Hamilton could do anything for me & thinking he could. if at all, better serve me in Phila than here; I determined to go on. and went 25th Saty. and passd Sunday - and part of Monday - Gen H said he was coming on here on friday last without fail and would, if his power to serve me - I Knew I would be in his power if he was Sincere in his promise But I have waited with great interest for him to come & have expected him every mornng & evening have of course [illegible] until Wednesday - So my patience is put again to the test. I can hardly say that I have much confidence in H [and his ability] in providing much money for the bonds. But. I am Sure he [illegible] it upon him all that I dare do: as

he is a Slight Acquaintance. I will advise you as soon as I know & instanter if I get the money - or make the arrangement. In that case, I can of course, help you, and place the money you may want to pay Clopper - in N. Orleans when it Seems it is over. So much for the Bonds. Now for the Law Suit, which is finally decided & the money paid into Court, [illegible] being out of town * cannot tell you the amt &c. But tomorrow I shall receive the money & will in my next tell you all about it. In the first place, the day I recd your request to send Kos \$150. I had paid his Dft on me for this exact amt. - He wrote me for money - but did not name any amt. I requested him to draw, and he done [sic] so for \$150 - He had before been told & since, that whenever he wants money he can have it. as you have so advised me & requested me to give him - what he wants. This therefore is, then all right - I send him his papers as they come to hand. This occasionally as well as M. Smith¹⁴⁰ I have already informed you that I had paid St. & H their bill, and I would have paid Williams the 184.⁴⁰/₁₀₀ . today but for the bad weather & being alone in the office - It shall be done - tomorrow which will be the same thing - of course & this will be placed to your a/c - of N. Washn. I hardly know which - as I dont know whe whether the Bill be a private one or not When I get the bill from Williams [illegible] - By the Next Vessel for Galveston you shall have the bal of the Plan of Swartwout file of papers & letters or a letter in reply to your four, which I have only here acknowledge - Mr. Tod is at my office and desires his compts. to you - I saw Moore [and I] like him very much - Now in Boston to be here tomorrow. He is getting on quite well I think with officers & men. &c #. Dunlop¹⁴¹ I believe is in Phila. signing Bonds with Hamilton & Burnley -

¹⁴⁰Mr. Smith was Colonel Morgan's cousin in North Carolina, with whom Kos Morgan had gone to live upon his departure from New York.

¹⁴¹Richard Dunlap, special envoy to Washington to seek mediation with the United States.

I write Gen H. today) and hope to see him (day after) tomorrow night - If he dont [sic] miss fire again - this time There is matter enough in your letter's but I have not time to look them over today have mentioned all the points of importance that I thought of. Yates is here & met Mr. duchincloss at my Room the other day. I was not in, but R told me that he was not very cordial. Boy here, as usual - Yates going to Europe in July so he says - gen H. was going via the g. Western 13 inst. but it is now said he wont get ready in time - and will go later, in the month. - The fact is, they dont know themselves yet = They are trying I think to get some funds in Phila as a temporary matter - until they get their Loan in Europe, and they may succeed in getting some small amt of funds for their own purposes - but not enough to aid the Govmt. This I conjecture - it is only for you# Mum.¹⁴²

Truly &c J. Treat

But I will further inform you of this, and other matters when I see you. & before by letters when I am little wiser myself. than I am now Send your letters thro' Lapeyre to whom I will advise to keep them there the moment I have decided to move - He will of course continue to forward them to me until I advise him to return them - Hope this will find you quite well. Compts. to Mrs. M Miss O¹⁴³ and all Truly & Sincerely JTr
P.S. Mr. Saligny¹⁴⁴ arrived. last night - I have not seen him yet but I shall

¹⁴²Hamilton did reach an arrangement with the Bank of the United States in Philadelphia to receive an advance of \$400,000 in exchange for 94,500 pounds sterling in bonds bearing ten per cent interest. (Schmitz, Texan Statecraft, 84).

¹⁴³Ophelia was James Morgan's only daughter.

¹⁴⁴Count Alphonse de Saligny who was sent by France to Texas to report on matters there, and was on his way to France to make his report.

soon - & I hope hear a good account of your country from him. - I shall soon write Lorenzo at N. O. where I suppose he is - I hope he will not leave N. O. without writing me & waiting an answer - for the might miss me & that I should much regret - If I move as I have before intimated to you, I will advise you by Ex Mail, so that I can see you in N. O. which I hope you will be enabled to do - for I should be sorry to miss either you or Lorenzo - in my hasty tour &c &c

31-0950

New York June 8th 1839

Confidential

Saturday 12 o clk#

Friend Morgan

My dear sir

You will have received, I hope, ere this, my communication pr Schooner Hermosa: and I think one letter by New Orleans which make my two last letters. - I have now closed, my general letter of three sheets of common place remarks in answer to your four last letters therein named -- as pr Endorsement on envelop [sic] herewith. I now thought, I would give you, a separate letter, under head of confidential, that in case of your absence it might not be opened - Therefore, I shall endorse it as private.#

We have accounts pr Cuba this morning, but nothing from you, or anyone else - Hope to get something tomorrow - We have advices of Col Bee's arrival had some difficulty in setting on shore, but finally succeeded in landing Vera Cruz, as a private individual, until the pleasure of Govmt. shall be Known - This will soon be, and here I might spin you a long yarn, but cannot well do it at the moment for it would occupy too much time & space, more than I have to spare now. Suffice it to say I have fresh & important news from Mexo which fully justifies me in all the previous, information and calculations & conjectures which I have [communicated to you] on this topic. But for Col Bee's mission, public & of such high rank &c all now, would be in a successful course of

arrangement. This I know Tho' I cannot now give, you any particulars, nor would it be proper to do so, now pending the result of Col Bee's mission and pending some steps, which I have had on foot long since in relation to all this matter - Again, I could tell you, about my negotiations with Gen Hamilton & Mr. Burnley and Kos - I had arranged matters with them (as I thought) and how they are likely to fall through - but for the same reasons as above, I cannot now go into, details, even, if I would.#¹⁴⁵

What I have already said, or may add to this letter, must be in entire & absolute confidence, for the present and until you hear further from me, which will be soon by Ex mail via N. Orleans. probably. you will receive my next before this reaches you, should you be at home -- If Gen. H. had been prompt and decisive, I should have been on my way to N. Orleans now, or ready to go. But Burnley is not here - Gen. H. arrived in Thursday night 12 o clk - I was at his hotel with Tod when he arrived, and only saw him a moment - calld again yesterday mornng found him out - sent him a note. and have not seen him, or heard from him since - I have waited on him enough, and written him letters enough, and now if he wishes to see me, he must look for me. - In other words I do not choose to lessen the value of my information, nor cheapen my services by running after him any longer, after all I have done - He may be waiting for Burnley who is expected from Virginia on Monday next - We shall see what is the upshot of this - & I will let you Know - meantime, keep all this to yourself - all I can say is if your brave General L¹⁴⁶ had adopted the course I pointed out to him, I would have had ere this - something to go upon & Know Exactly, what was what - as it is Col Bee, must creep along slowly, perchance

¹⁴⁵Treat was corresponding with John Vitalba in Mexico, and he probably refers here to a message he had received from Santa Anna's secret agent. He had also met Hamilton in Philadelphia and given him some of his plans for a mission to Mexico.

¹⁴⁶President Lamar of Texas.

he is allowed to communicate with the Mexican Govmt. and, drag along uphill as it were, instead of going at once, to headquarters -- You will comprehend me sufficiently - I cannot say more for the present within, the compass of my sheet, nor is it good policy to do so -- I would say more, but I am confident my next, a few days hence, will reach you before this does - & you will in that, have the upshot, perhaps & know more of my action & movements - I only wish I had been with you some two months ago - I would have fixed matters, nicely#

Gen H & Burnley were to have gone pr the Western to sail 13th inst. the former had his passage [delayed] Now, I do not think, think [sic] they will get away before the Packet of the 25th inst. perhaps Burnley will go on the 16th or 19th in advance# We shall see & I will in my next tell you. Nothing from Koscuisko lately - I had a letter from Smith advising of the Dft for 150\$ which was paid by me on the 29th May - I answered the letter, and have sent him his papers regularly - one goes today# He was very well when Smith wrote last, and I should think was contented. - You are mistaken about his not knowing when he left here That he was not to return - He fully contemplated this and has acknowledged it - This however is of no consequence. I have been badly handled - by the decease of our friend Sicard: His Estate is insolvent, and am heavily in for it - This is bad for me and those I owe but cannot be helped - I mention this in confidence to you - It is, of course, not worth while to say anything about it. now - I should have mentioned it before but we have just heard the worst from Mexico, and now have little or no hopes of getting anything - You shall know all soon - let his suffice - I shall write Sam fully, by the Western 13th inst. also Henderson & Ikin - Hope to have your later letters before then - My health is now better & I am getting along pretty fairly - I have written Lorenzo lately at N. Orleans & also the family, by this Vessel - also to Brigham Ufford¹⁴⁷ [illegible] of Matagorda# So here you have my

¹⁴⁷A. P. Ufford was United States consul in Galveston. This may be to whom Treat refers here.

private sheet, which you must keep to yourself entirely - till you hear from me again - of the Loan with, or through, Gen H. it is pending of course as it is merged in other considerations, to which I have adverted - if one goes the other will, I think also: If the general arrangement falls thro' - The Loan will fail also - undoubtedly - Yours Ever & faithfully - "The Same"#

P.S. I have just paid Williams & Co amt bill \$ 184.80

Interest from Oct 18th 1838 to June 8th/ 1839 3.96

Amt. paid to Debit of N.W.# \$188.76

The above is, I believe the last of your bills or those of the New Washington here - at least so far as I know#

3 P.M. I must close - I expected to have seen Gen H and in that case might have had, something to add - But the Neptune is in from Charleston, with Pennoyer on board. and brings all the Generals family & his Ladies - and of course - this is no time for small chat - I shall see him tomorrow, or Monday, and write you as I said before, via N. Orleans & if important. by Ex Mail - The Vessel closes her Bag, and I make up - tho', lose my dinner - as for accounts, it occurs to me to say, you must Extend your indulgence towards me as I know you would If you could only see how I was situated - I will put all straight - I hope sooner or later, if my life & health is spared - not withstanding any misfortunes &c - Present my continued regards to Mrs. M & Miss O and accept for yourself My - Regards &c friendship - always yours &c

JTreat

31-0951

Private & Confidential

New York June 18th 1839

pr Ex Mail#

2 P.M.

My dear Morgan:

I have to acknowledge reception of your valued favour of 29th May, at hand, on the 17th inst. and note its interesting contents# Mr. Dunlop is

now in Phila. and expected here in a few days = If he should not come, he will probably, drop me a line, and say something about it. and either. send me the acceptance, you refer to, accepted, or without acceptance with his reasons: for so doing - should I not hear from him I will drop him a line - I think this matter looks well, as you state it. - now I must turn to another matter, which is the object of my letter at this date How, and is of great importance - You know from what has already been said, my notions about Col Bee's mission to Mexico, and while I thought the time was a good one, the mode of sending a public agent, was decidedly objectionable. Now we have heard of his arrival, and being allowd. to land & await the decision of the supreme govmt. as regards his reception, & that he Col B/ thought things were favourable to his being received, or at least to negotiate thro' some commissioner who would come down to meet him &c# This was the hope of Col B, and the expectation of his friends here, who wished the negotiation might succeed = for the benefit of Texas. Now while waiting for better news I learn this morning that Col Bee has left Vera Cruz for Havana on the 20th ulto, the Govmt, not having thought proper to admit him up, or open any negotiation with him - beyond this my letters do not say, that is, they give no why or wherefore &c &c Now - these facts, and without any particulars being given. to explain them, and by, or through which, they might be modified, or better understood, and therefore furnish a better ground of argument: I say the facts enable me to form an opinion, which I will give to you, as an opinion forwarded on such general information, as I think will warrant & justify the opinion I shall give: to wit That the rejection of Col Bee, or the refusal to Treat with him or listen to him, on the part of St Anna or his Govmt does not so much surprize [sic] me, as it will, or may many# I think it more than probably that it may be accounted for by saying or supposing that, the Mexican Govmt could not well listen to Col Bee, nor allow him to remain, as he was Known to be a public character representing the Govmt of Texas: and public opinion,

May have been Strong enough, to compel the Govmt to do so, or to prevent them from carrying any arrangement or hearing even, through, that channel - I say this is most, likely to be the fact - nay I think it almost certain - and if so, then it ought not to be considered as an indication that that govmt will neither treat, nor listen, nor hear to any proposal = now I grant you this opinion is necessarily Subject to some change or modification, if on further information it shall appear, that he was insulted or badly or rudely treated - This I do not now believe. Now under this Strong impression, I now write & if My opinion is well grounded, it follows that your Govmt Should not abandon, their hopes of an arrangement, nor prepare hastily for aggression, nor publish any thing, which may aggravate [sic] or irritate the feelings of either the Texians or Mexicans - But Keep cool & quite [sic] Some further steps or Step may be taken now to ascertain all that could have been ascertained before. Say, what are the real views & disposition of the Mexican Govmt & of St Anna &c&c&c&c Others will think, no doubt, that it is a great indignity offerd to Texas, & to its govmt. which ought to be instantly resented & prepare for war & to chantire [sic] their insolence & carry the war to Mexico - This may be necessary at a future day & when Mexico Shall refuse an arrangement on reasonable terms &c&c - But it certainly is not now; The policy, So to do --#

Wait, Keep cool, and see what further Steps I may be able to recommend (for I know more about it, than you are aware of, and of course more than I can now tell you - My present impression is, that I will be off to N. Orleans in as few days as possible & when I can arrange my affairs - and I should like then to meet you. But, I cannot now Speak difinitively [sic]. as I write in Haste and can hardly tell what I can do, or what I may do - But I am clearly of the opinion that I could Satisfy you or any one that I am half right if not right entirely# Now If you are disposed, and think it will do any good you may give this opinion to the President or give him your own opinion, to this effect, ere

make mine your own; and see if you can Keep things in Status quo - until you can hear from me again, when I may say more & particularly whether I will be able to do any good. It ought to be the policy - at least until I can furnish further Explanations which I will do -- In Haste Truly & Ever

J Treat

Dont fail to answer this, under cover to Lapeyre informing me what you have done or intend to do, & what effect if any. is produced, and what you yourself think of it -- for my govmt - If I am off to N. O. as I think, I will advise Lapeyre who will keep my letters -- if not then they will come up to me -- It may involve peace or war -- Therefore most important# I will write again in a day or two or three but dont wait for my next, to answer this - I think, if my information is correct (& I have no reason to doubt it) Good will come from the plan I would adopt = Keep this Secret Except as you may use it with Lamar or a member of his cabinet if you prefer that course.

31-9052

New York June 24th 1839
Monday 2 P.M.

Ex Mail

Confidential

My Dr Colonel#

I refer you to my last confidential letter of 18th inst. by Express Mail, and avail of the Earliest, moment, afterwards to give you my next promised letter, and here you have it -- I am now decided to proceed with all haste to N. Orleans, via Charleston & Pensacola & shall leave the earliest day, between this & 2 next Saturday - probably, by Thursday or Friday - as soon as I can hastily arrange matters - So this is to say further that nothing would give me more pleasure than to find you in N. Orleans - or to meet you there If you are so situated as to enable you to go there - You may Know from what I have heretofore said in my last, & former letters, my main objects - you may know

possibly from some other quarter = But whether so or not, I cannot now say any thing more than that I am off in two or 3 days, & when we meet, will tell you all.. Now if on receipt of this you can run up you will find me probably in N. O. when I get there - I may Know whether 2 [sic] go to Texas. and when I think I shall go down, but cannot now say. how soon. after my arrival in New Orleans. Send your letters, under cover to Lapeyre & co who is this day directed to retain them till I come# Tell me (If you do not come up yourself) How Lamar Stands - How you stand with him now and how public opinion runs on the Mexican Topic - How Col Bee has been received &c&c If gone to Texas &c and every thing else which will be useful to me in N. O. & until I see you - I think I am on the right Track= I will write you the first Boat after my arrival in N. O. & If you are there, before me leave a note for me with Lapeyre telling me where I can find you and it shall be answered instantler Keep my movements to yourself - or if, it is Known say I am to N. Orleans, on my own affairs &c nothing more until you hear further from me.

In great Haste & Truly

Yours &c

J. Treat

31-0953

D Morgan

July 27th 1839

If you are at home, be ready to jump on board the Emblem tomorrow as she comes along and go down to the Island¹⁴⁸ with Gaines & myself & Hamilton -
dont fail

Yours &c

Houston

J Treat

(Thursday
12 o clk

¹⁴⁸ Galveston Island .

31-0954

Emblem friday night
9 o clk.

Dear Morgan

I droppd you a line by the Correo yesterday, which I hope you got, & that I shall find you coming off - If you have not recd it, you will not know that I am here & going to the Island with Hamilton-Lee-Zavala¹⁴⁹ &c - I shall spend some days at the Island, and not go until the return of the Columbia - I wish very much to see you & would stop now, but for the Steamer which sails in this mornng & I must write by her - Pray come down the very first Boat & stay a few days = I recd your note pr this friend just as I left Houston - If you must go [to] Houston Monday, come down from there as soon as you can & advise me before, when &c&c - present my respects to the ladies & believe me ever

Yours &c

JTreat

31-0956

Constitution¹⁵⁰ Aug. 3rd 1839Saturday 9 a. m.

Dr Col.

We arrived here safely. and found all very snug & comfortable: only regretting that you may not visit us, but still more so, the cause of your detention at Home. -- I hope Mrs. M. has recovered from her indisposition of day before yesterday, and now in her usual Health, - also that Miss O. has left her complaints, out of sight. -- The gentlemen, all join me Mr. H & Z in regards to Mrs. M. Miss O & Seaife to all whom we feel indebted. for the agreeable time we passed under your hospitable roof - -

¹⁴⁹Lorenzo de Zavala, Jr.

¹⁵⁰The Constitution was a steamboat running from Galveston to Houston. (Hogan, Texas Republic, 72).

Well we found the President¹⁵¹ and family on board the Correo: also Judge Burnet¹⁵² & Mr. Starr¹⁵³ They are all here, and I make respects to Gen L. this morning by Special invitation - at 10 oclk - - He held a conference with his cabinet (Judge B. & Mr. Starr) and I suppose the result was. the invitation to confer with me this morning - - what it will result in is more than I can tell - - I hope you are all well enough to enable you to come down pr the Emblem - or if not, by all means by the Return of the Correo - come directly on board the Steamer Constitution & Capt B will make you comfortable --

desiring soon to see you, I am Dr Sir

Very truly yours &c J Treat

31-0957

Galveston Augt 8th 1839 --

My dear Morgan,

I have before me your valued favr of -- July (suppose about the 10th) which was recd on the 15th at N. Orleans; together with another communication. recd at same time, date not recollected. conts a statement of the Bonds for the \$10,000 Loan. The latter has gone forward, to N. York, with my directions. in relation thereto, and the latter I merely acknowledge, now to own its receipt, and remove it from my unanswered files - I have also before me your notes of 24th ulto. from N.W.¹⁵⁴ and 28th from Houston; contents duly noted & requiring no particular reply = I am advised from N. York that your letter to me covering one for Swartwout, had been received & latter forwarded to Europe. - - I notice by your letters. that you are now entirely averse to taking any step in politics, or moving, in any way in the matter I have referrd to - To

¹⁵¹President Lamar.

¹⁵²David G. Burnet, was vice president under Lamar.

¹⁵³James Harper Starr, who was secretary of the treasury in the Lamar administration. (Siegel, Texas Republic, 147).

¹⁵⁴New Washington.

this I cannot object, for you certainly Know best your own position, and your personal & associate interests.# You will ere long, receive my back letters, in one of which you will find the particulars of the result of the lawsuit, with Edwards. amt. # Recd and pretty full explanations.# Should you desire further details you have only to ask for them. and they shall be forwarded. Dunlop's bill. or Dft will be collected at maturity & you will advise, whether it goes to the Credit of the association -- your bill to R. S. Williams & Co was paid long since & you advised thereof. I have debited this to the association. I think# Kos will find money. if he draws for it, on me, or requests it to be remitted - - The a/c sales of lumber &c, has gone to N. Y. by Mr. Swett, where I shall find it, and see how it looks - - Bad enough. of course# So much for your letters & my brief reply. It may be deemed sufficient, under the circumstances Mr. Radcliff will own receipt no doubt, of such of your letters as may reach him direct, past & future. Here I rest. hoping to see you, here. today.#

JT

31-0958

D. Morgan

I have only a moment to say adieu - I am off this morn^g for Pensacola, & N. York, where I shall hope to hear from you - I have given your order to Mr. Hearst, in exact copy & he has promised to give it his best & prompt attention, & I have no doubt he will do so. He will reimburse himself by drawing on me at Short, or regular, sign. & I will give due honor to his Dfts - He will write you by this Steamer, 2 [sic] enclose you this letter - He will also execute your order about the newspapers & advise you whether he can do as you wish or not - I think of nothing else in the way of Business, that I can throw any light upon here - I will write you more fully from NYork -

I am sorry we saw so little of each other; but you know the causes - My best regards to Mrs. M. Your Daughters & Miss S & say that I regret much that, I could not again see them as I intended, and was sure I should, when I left them - Hamilton and Bee left day before yesterday I May see them in Pensacola. If not shall not see the former at all & Hamilton only on arrival at New York. Keep mum & I will tell you a story after awhile -

do you take

tell me what any body Guesses or says about me & my objects - That is if any suspicion of object &c&c&c

Remember me to friends

Yours &c Truly

J Treat

31-0959

New York September 7th 1839

pr Brazos #

My friend Morgan.

Dear Sir:

I am happy to apprise you, of my safe arrival here, on the 29th ulto. after remaining 3 days in N. O. - 2 in Mobile = one in Pensacola - 1 in Norfolk - & 2 in Phila# or say 9 days travelling time, which is pretty fair - left Col Bee and his sons at Augusta quite well, and had a pleasant time, tho' sickly enough everywhere - I trust this will find you & family & inmates [sic], all well - not a word from Kos or his couzin [sic] Smith. since I left till now. I refer you to my hasty scrawl from N. O. which I perceive you have recd by your favour of 21st ulto recd 4th inst. & for which, I thank you - I have several of your favours, recd during my absence, and before my departure, and while in Texas - all which shall be regularly replied to. by the Brig George to sail tomorrow mornng for Galveston dispatched by Mr.

Ellis. - I think that letter will be there, about as soon as this, which I shall send to Baltimore today to go by the beautiful new Brig of War. so say they who have seen her. I have only seen her passing - She certainly appeared very well. Capt Moore is at last I suppose half way & [illegible]

Private & Sacredly Confidential. - What I say now, may or may not be of any use or service to you but I will mention it as above - Confidentially - The last advices from Europe, just recd Shew that Gen Henderson¹⁵⁵ had nearly reached the desired point, with the French Govt. That is brought them to the recognition so nearly, that I confidently expect a confirmation by the Western out now 14 days & of course due any hour - I will when it comes communicate it instanter by mail - I am too late now for the Columbia of the 15th as this should go by mail to N.Orleans as it is the Brazos is the next but chance being a Clipper & sails the 10th inst positively as I understand - By the Western hope [we] shall also hear what Gen H¹⁵⁶ may say. after 8 days in London - for myself - I can tell you in my next, what my movements will be, than I can now - Everything looks very well -- all the news from Mexico as well as Europe is favourable, and also, the news here at Washington - I may be delayed little to obtain that, as all the cabinet, & particularly my member is staying away - soon be along however - I am expecting an arrival here daily from V. Cruz which will bring up our dates to 15th or 18th ulto. Then a visit to Washn & news by the G. Western. will make me ready - & I will be off as soon as possible - I will write you again. before hand of course - Continue writing as usual to me - Radcliff will be here & will attend to your requests so far as he can. The nett [sic] proceeds of lumber is \$629.42 - & not \$705.34. as you stated in one

¹⁵⁵J. Pinckney Henderson who negotiated the treaty of recognition with the French government. Actually recognition did not come until October, 1839.

¹⁵⁶James Hamilton, who was loan agent for Texas in Europe.

of your letters - you say charge is from this and to the N.W.A. at the ratio [sic] of Texas money in N. O. which was say 33 /3 % or 66 2/3 % discount. I had thought, that If I charged it at 50 %, according to custom in Texas it would be about right - tell me what you think it ought to be & I will not enter it until I hear from you - I of course want nothing but what is right: give me your views & I will adhere, tho' I lose like Sack upon the cursed Shipt. No time for more Compts to all the ladies of the family from Mr. Ratcliff as well as from your friend & Servant

Cordially as always

J. Treat

31-0960¹⁵⁷

I must, my dear Col use a Second Sheet, and I fear the perusal will tire you more than the writing does me. I do not understand what you mean by "french influence" but I have no hesitation in trusting you with all my secrets which are very few indeed - I note your reception of 3 Sections Land Script for my a/c and your New Washn. Script, which is all very well -- I will of course place to cr. of N.W. the 1000\$ from Dunlop, when it is paid -- The amt from Edwards is already to credit - I paid Dr. Jennings \$50 which he was requested to call for. being Expenses on the Execution of the Commission - &c - This was, deducted like the other charges from amt of Judgement obtained & the nett [sic] amt. credited to the Co N.W. I note the Enterprize [sic] had brought you a full batch of Letters from [me] all too old to be of much interest I presume. Your commissions will be to your credit, when collected as I am now making up the a/cs. There is nothing testy in any thing I say about Kos - all I have fought for is to justify myself - Let us drop it. like

¹⁵⁷This letter appears to be a continuation of the first letter written on September 7, 1839. Another letter of same date follows.

a Hot potatoe [sic]. The Funded debt if sold - will be without interest until [illegible] after the sale will this be all right? If Reed charges any thing for the commission why you must let me know - & we will change it in a/c here - I am sorry very sorry that I can give you no tidings of the stray carpet Bag. I had none myself. and therefore remember nothing about it - Zavala & Hamilton both had carpet Bags - The latter I know brought his along home with him - I truly hope you will find it on board the Correo. or thro' Zavala - So much for your last & now I must tell you the result of my inquiry about The corn mills - Mr. Radcliff calld on Mr. Freeborn, and could learn nothing of Mr. Forward, or least nothing Satisfactory - But Freeborn himself says that he can furnish corn mills at - from \$60 to 150\$ each & warrant they will pirform [sic] well - one at \$60 will grind with two Hones about 70 Bushels corn pr day. The Gearing for Horse power. is made in the best & most improved manner may be furnished at 75\$ - He recommends however the best & most improved Kind that being cheapest in the End - Mr. F. does not Know, what particular Kind of mill Mr. Forward alludes to -- This is the report I have recd. & thus I give it to you - it appears to me If you want any-thing of this Sort. why not tell Freeborn what you want, & let him get it for you. If he can find just, what you want - I think he can be trusted - Well I have given you a long yarn & brought all up to a point. I refer you to another general Letter of this morning of date [sic], pr Brazos, to go to Balt/[imore] directed by the 10th when the Vessel sails present regards to Mrs. M & Misses O. & S. and regards to all friends believe me Dr Sir cordially & ever & truly

Yours &c in

Haste, wishing you & yours better health
& much happiness from Yours

J Treat

31-0961

pr Brig George#

New York Sept 7th 1839

Evening

Col James Morgan

My dear Sir

I have before me, a good number of your communications recd just previous to my departure for the South - while there, and during my absence; and altho' some of them have been acknowledged, and perhaps answered, Yet, I have thought it best, to glance them over in the order of their dates, and say very briefly just what their contents call for more or less - Yours from Galveston of 25th March was recd June 28th & introduced me to Gen. Dunlap¹⁵⁸ who was quite well a few days since when he left here for Phila on his way to Balt/[imore] & Washn# Yours of June 8th at Galveston, was at hand on the 29th same N. Y. having come along by Capt Wright. I trust enough has been said, in regard to Kos. to Satisfy [torn] all of us. that, there should not be any unpleasant feelings among any one - am satisfied & hope & believe you are, here let it drop - I have not heard a word from him nor has Mr. R. during my absence. If he calls for money - he shall have it - This is all I can, or need now say - I take due note of Bal of this letter but it requires no comment - I will inform S. S. of what may concern him, tho' I think I have already done so.

Next comes yours of 12th June from N. W. which is noted. I misssd Cruizer & Moore, tho' the latter has gone to get a wife, I understand, & will be here soon - Col Wells did not deliver me any letter from you, nor refer to any tho' I have made his acquaintance, & like him very well - He is now here & will

¹⁵⁸Richard Dunlap, who was appointed to be agent in Washington to achieve United States mediation at the same time Barnard Bee went to Mexico. Dunlap was instrumental in obtaining funds from the \$400,000 advance from the Bank of the United States for James Treat to take on his trip to Mexico on behalf of Texas. (Garrison, Diplomatic Correspondence, I, 449).

await still a few days. - You speak of your letters - You will find here some dozen or so accounted for, before I get through & I presume you will find them all safely in hand tho' many of them long, on their way - Gen Dunlap accepted the bill of \$1000 - due 1st Jany & I will get the money out of him If I can, before it is due - You have already information about Cook - the man who owes you. - The \$10.000 Bonds are Safely received - So also are the a/c sales Lumber - The balance of the Contents of your Letter is duly noted. Next in course is your favr 27th June at Galveston City, which crossd me on its way - 26 days for an Express mail letter is outrageous - cannot understand it. This letter I had not before perused- It is full of interesting items altho' I have just come from your country - I need not however comment upon it - your letter to S. S. was forwarded 15th July day after its receipt by Mr. Radcliff. Next in course is yours of ____ July. I suppose about 10th July - and which I stoppd in N. Orleans. on the 15th July. and askd no forward, on the 8th August at N. O. I have read this letter & it required but little remarks from me, having been ventilated before# You have the a/c of Edwards suit - The amt &c in a former Letter.# R. S. Williams is paid, as you are already informd# I have not seen Mr. Swett who brought the Loan certificates, but am much indebted to him &c. Next comes July 25th recd by me in N.O. 26th & acknoweldged 8th Augt - It is from N.W. to me at Houston & requires no answer now - having been replied to fully already - - - - Now yours of 28th at Houston to me at the Island, is of the same tenor as the last, therefore pass to yours of 8 Augt handed me personally on the 10th and answered by me from N. O. very briefly. I now remark that Mr. Hearst to whom I committed the Execution of your order, had an exact copy of it, word for word & letter for letter and I requested him to Execute it to the letter - as you said nothing about when. They Should be Shippd nor whether in the Steamer, or Sailing Vessel. I left him to do as he

pleased, Expressing a preference however of a Sailing Vessel to deliver the goods at your place. rather than pay two Steamer freights - He Knew all about the Bee,¹⁵⁹ and promised to [give] all your wishes prompt attention. The, order for weekly Herald pr mail - Shall have attention - today the today's paper goes - to begin with, and a Series of Back papers Herald, Com[mercial] Adv[ocate] English Papers &c with them, a full file - as for the order I gave to Hearst for you - He writes me under date of 28th Augt recd yesterday in which he says "the goods have been Shippd" and the Vessel sailed 17th inst. The Schooner Naiad and of Invoice is \$237.82 - say Two Hundred Thirty Seven 82/100 to which add \$12 for the Bee. making in all \$249.82, to your debit in a/c or rather to debit of New Washington - as it is stores this will be the most proper, and correct I think & Lastly I have your Welcome letter of 21st Augt at N.W. recd 4th inst pr Columbia, and I thank you for its contents, to which I will glance. Had you said in your order "let these come by the Columbia - There would [have] been no difficulty except that Mr. Hearst would take his own time to pick them up - I hope the order will have been executed in a satisfactory manner to you - and have arrived safely. and in good time - I note all you Say, about Weighty matters & things in general but I have no room left for remark. Hope all will come right, By & bye - but cannot say - time will tell I thank you for your opinions & remarks but you will excuse me for not giving you mine now in fact they would be good for nothing if I did. - Gen H. must take care of himself - I need not take care of him. If it be a relief to you to omit giving me the public, political, or current news, why I suppose I must Exonerate you, from continuing to Supply me, in this way - Tho' I confess, I rather you would continue as usual than to Suspend altogether - I would not betray any of your Secrets, or the information you might communicate

¹⁵⁹The New Orleans Bee, a newspaper.

to me. - However as I may be in Europe, it is no great matter, anyhow - I will give you a respite.

31-0962

New York Septr 21st 1839

Saty 2 P.M.

via N. Orleans

under cover

to Jas Hewitt

My dear Morgan

I can now only refer you to my letters written since I arrived here, noticing, all your various letters, and writing up a little.

The object of this, is to hand you the Enclosed recd this morning pr Queen arrived yesterday. It will give you some news no doubt [torn] perhaps all I can give you, tho' I think I will however very hastily tell you my story, which I think looks pretty well for Texas - Tho' I do so mainly for your own Govt & satisfaction & not for any one else - As I am situated You know, I don't wish to be known as giving news, from confidential sources. You however, my dear Sir, are more than welcome to all I know & if it is of any service to you you are welcome. - So I will go ahead.

Well, the French treaty, we are told is well nigh finished or was on the 1st Septr - This will recognize in its best possible form I suppose -- I think it very likely that Henderson himself embarks with it today, in the Liverpool Steamer from Liverpool - snugly in his pocket. This so far is very well -- They think that England will not be reluctant to do the Handsome in the matter soon if not forthwith That will, ere long, I have no doubt at all Gen Hamilton is also coming pr Liverpool Steamer, whether, Henderson comes or not. He could not, of course, in the present State of things, expected to have done more with, his bonds than to have put them, on a good footing, with his friends in London & then rest until the tide turns and things come round

easy, again. - Then, say between Octo & Jany, it is thought there is a fair chance of the Success of the Loan. meantime. it is believed, an advance will be had (perhaps in Paris) on the Bonds to answer all temporary purposes, until the main Loan is effected# This will do very well if Effected -- I suppose Burnley remains there, tho I have not so heard - McIntosh¹⁶⁰ will I suppose also remain if - Gen Henderson comes with the Treaty -- this is the Substance of the news -- I think it favourable - and ought to give some activity to Texas Securities.

Here every thing is very Severe - nothing can be done -- Specie going out alarms every body -- one million by the Western today -- bad news of money market from the other Side# Crisis not yet arrived there as is believed -- So we go -- nothing can be done in our Matters till things change. Since the Columbia has stoppd I hoped to have heard from you by the Alexander the last arrival - & still hope soon for this pleasure - Dr. well. Dr. B¹⁶⁰ I mean - sends his regards - was here today - not a word from Kos or Mr. Smith.

I intended to have written him but really with my many many occupations I have not but I will.

This is all I have time for today - Please remember me to Mrs. M & Miss O & also [illegible] Miss S. Very especially to all & I am & believe me Very truly & ever

Yours as ever cordially

James Treat

I shall leave last of this mo.

say 25 to 28th but will of course write you

again before that takes place

¹⁶⁰George S. McIntosh served as secretary of the Texas Legation for Great Britain and France from June, 1837 to 1839, became acting charge d'affaires and charge d'affaires in 1841. He served in Europe without salary and when Ashbel Smith went to France he assumed McIntosh's debt to avoid embarrassment to Texas (Webb, Handbook, II, 114).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

- Barker, Eugene C., ed. The Austin Papers, 3 vols. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1919.
- Garrison, George Pierce. Texan Diplomatic Correspondence: The Annual Report of the American Historical Association, 1908. 2 vols. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1911.
- Hogan, William Ransom. The Texas Republic, A Social and Economic History. Norman, Oklahoma: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1946.
- Kennedy, William. The Rise, Progress and Prospects of the Republic of Texas. Fort Worth: The Molyneaux Craftsman, Inc., 1925 (Reprinted from the Second Edition, London, 1841.)
- Parkes, Henry Bamford. History of Mexico. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Company, 1950.
- Schmitz, Joseph William, Texan Statecraft, 1836-45. San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1941.
- Siegel, Stanley. A Political History of the Texas Republic, 1836-1845. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1956.
- Webb, Walter Prescott, ed, The Handbook of Texas. 2 vols. Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952.
- Williams, Alfred M., Sam Houston, and the War of Independence in Texas. Boston: The Riverside Press Cambridge, 1893.

Articles

- Barker, Eugene C. "Land Speculation as a Cause of the Texas Revolution." The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, X (July, 1906), 76-95.
- Barker, Eugene C. "The Finances of the Texas Revolution." Political Science Quarterly, XIX, (September, 1904), 612-635.
- Worley, J. L. "The Diplomatic Relations of England and the Republic of Texas." The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, IX. (July, 1905), 1-40.

Manuscript Collections

The Rosenberg Library, The Morgan Papers.

The University of Texas, Archives, Swartwout Papers.

Library of Congress, The Andrew Jackson Papers. (Microfilm Library, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.)

Newspapers

Daily National Intelligencer, Washington, D. C., October 27, 1836.

Niles Weekly Register, Baltimore, July 16, 1836.

Theses

Bass, Feris Achile, Jr. "The Correspondence of Samual Swartwout." Unpublished Master's thesis, Southwest Texas State University, 1970.

Manford, Madeleine T. "The Correspondence of James Treat, June 9, 1836-April 19, 1839." Unpublished Master's thesis, Southwest Texas State University, 1971.