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THE AUSTIN PAPERS

EDITED BY EUGENE C. BARKER

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CORRESPONDENCE 1825–1827

Proclamation Creating District of Bravo

Stephen F. Austin Judge Commissioned for the Colony of the Brazos and Colorado in the Province of Texas—Charged by the Superior Authorities with the Municipal Government of this Colony provisionally and [until] it is otherwise regulated, and it appearing to be the wish of the settlers in that part of the Colony heretofore called the District of the Brazos—that the name of said district should be changed to that of Bravo after the distinguished hero and Republican Patriot, Gen[l] Nicolas Bravo the vice President of these United States, Therefor I have thought proper to order and by these presents do order that the said District heretofore called Brazos shall in future be called the District of Bravo, and shall keep the said name of Bravo until the superior Govt. direct otherwise—

Given etc Jany 1– 1825

Stephen F Austin Judge Commissioned for the Colony on the Brazos and Colorado rivers in the Province of Texas—

I certify that at an election held at the house of Andrew Robinson by the inhabitants of the district of Bravo on the 1 day of January of this year for an alcalde for said District for the year one thousand Eight hundred and twenty five John P. Coles was duly elected Alcalde of said district and that he may be respected and obeyed accordingly I give him this document

San Felipe de Austin, Jany 5, 1825

This day personally appeared before me Stephen F. Austin Judge commissioned for the Colony on the Colorado and Brasos the above John P. Coles Alcalde elected for the district of Bravo for the year 1825 and took the oath to support the Constitution of the United States of Mexico and of the State of Coahuila and Texas and faithfully and impartially to execute the duties of Alcalde for said district of Bravo for the year one thousand eight hundred twenty five

Anthony R. Clarke to Austin

Autoyack 2nd Jan[y] 1825

Dear Sir

Since my return home the influence of John I Clarke Monk an others have put Mrs Page quite in favour of moving to the Brassos. it is by her request that I now write you to request that if it is not

too late you will reserve a League of land for us. if proper you may enter it in the name of Mrs Eliza Page widow of the late Wm. A. Page and her three sons or in my name if the above should not be proper Mrs Pages object in that Country would be to make a living by keeping a house of entertainment. for this purpose I should require two lots in Town ajoining as one would be too small to hold the necessary buildings and stables, I should likewise stand in need of a Labour to furnish firewood and timber as well as raise corn and vegetables for the family—If I can arang my business as I have a prospect of doing my plan is to come out and put up the necessary building in the Spring and then move out, I wish you would write me in answer to this which must determin my coming to the Brassos— I wish my Idea of moving to the Brassos may not be made public as it would injure the sale of my improvement here—

ANTHY. R CLARKE [Rubric]

Col Stephen F. Austin

HUMPHRY JACKSON TO AUSTIN

DR. SIR

Agreeable to your [request] of the 22. of Decr. I Cald on Mr. Lynch Mr. Scott and Straing and finding it would be the saim difficulty as before owing to the Pertinaciousness of Lynch I named 6 Men and alowed him to object to any he did not like the other Two agreed to the saim men we appointed the 1st of Janry to Meet Mr. Hughs and Two of the Arbitrators not appiering Mr. L wanted to appoint another day he not greeing to name any Two that was present we proceded to lay of the Labor Mr. L Cald in John Taylor to prove Conditional Lines between Straing and Scoot it also appierd that Lynch extend his claim at different times it was since a falling out betwen him and Straing that he Claimed the spot he was contending for Straing setled by Consent of parties inclosed you have a copy of the decision which in my oppinion is a Just one and have don equal Justice to all parties—I with pleasure inform you this is the first business of any consequence I have don as Alcalde and is in hopes that my time of service will expire more agreable than I expected—I wish to call your attention to setting a permanent ferry on the San Jacinto at the Mouth of Buflow Byo we laibour under a grait disadvantage at present It is the most central place to do business in this district and I expect the main thoroughfare rode will be this way I thinck it ought not to be left at the will of those who taick it in their tract of land and live at a distance I have been thinking of several wais such as laing a Labore or reserveing a place for a Town you are the best Judge I know of no person wishing to settle there but am certain [there

would be some if some] regulations wair made. There has been some taulck of cuting a road from Bufflow B and crossing the San Jacinto at my House it would be much the shorter and perhaps the best but I thinck we have better spend our time in raising Corn as yet

HUMPHRY JACKSON

Jan^{ry} 6 1825

To Corl. Steven F Austin Chief of Austin Colony

Excuse the smallness of this paper I have got very little and can not procure any here

HJ

GASPAR FLORES TO AUSTIN

Bexar 7 de En^{o} de 1825

Sor. D^{n} ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

MUY SOR. MIO Y AMIGO: recibi su grata 23 Diciembre p^{o} p^{o} en la qe. me dice le de noticias y le mande algunos exemplares p^{a} imponerse del estado en qe. se halla nuestro actual Govierno porqe. se halla V. sin saver ninguna cosa, casi en el mismo estado estamos aqui por no haber tropa qe. corra la Balija se pasa un mes y asta cerca de dos sin qe. tengamos correo como ha sucedido en el presente. en principio del mes pasado remiti a V. algunos soberanos decretos y le noticio de haberse pasado en esta Capital la Constitucion Federal delos Estados Unidos Mexicanos y no le remiti a V. un exemplar por no haber venido mas de uno solo qe. se halla archivado en el Archivo de Govierno pero luego qe. di abiso de haberse jurado pedi exemplares p^{a} qe. se repartan a los demas puntos de esta comprencion.

Yo creo qe. en la Bahia deve estar detenida la Corresp^{a} qe. remiti a V. ya hago encargo a José Maria avendaño p^{a} qe. la pida al Alc^{e}. dela Bahia y la ponga en manos de V.

Tenemos por Presidente dela Federacion Mexicana al Sor D^{n} Guadalupe Victoria, y de vice Precidente al Sor. D^{n} Nicolas Bravo, el dia de mañana sale de aqui el correo a traer el correo qe. esta detenido en Riogrande hace mas de un mes Luego qe. venga comunicare las noticias qe. vengan y estamos esperando la constitucion de este Estado.

Suplico aV. me diga sobre el asunto de qe. le escrivo en mi anterior qe, esta detenida en la Bahia qe. como digo a V. lleva encargo dho. Avendaño de reclamar y llevarsela a V. pueda ser qe. ala llegada de mi compadre D^{n} Erasmo a esta Capital vallamos a hacerle aV. una vesita y a darle un abrazo.

GASPAR FLORES [Rubric]

FRANCIS BIGGAM TO AUSTIN

Monroe Missippi January 8—1825

Corn[le] AUSTIN

SIR I now for the first time Cince I left you embrace the oppertunity to write to inform you of my Situation and interest relitive to the brases and the reasons of my Detenshions Cinse I Came home I have been in Georgia and South Carolina and should have started to the Brasses imadeantly on my arival from Georgia if I was not compeled to attend two suits of law which I had instituated some time before I went out to see you one for the killer of my negroe and the oather against a villin for altring a Hog marke which will bee Detarmed in all in Aprile and I then flatter my self that some time in may I shall have the pleasure of seeing you acompined by my brouther and family as it will not bee in Merritts power to Come for a short time as hee has a great Deale of business to sittle but will bring a hand to improve his plase I shall bring my familey by water and am about to start to orlains to procure a vessel for that purpose Mr. Williams the bearer of this has confirmed me in my most sanguin oppinion of the brasses being the most Desirable part of the Continant I have said and Don every thing I Could in its favour but how can I stand against prejudice and folshoods but time will Dispele the hate and I hope I shall live to see it improve and flurish I have been informed that you have Designated my lands and I have now Doubt but there situation in point of advantage is Calculated to please on my arival as I have made loud expetations on that head as I often thinke and speake of the lands on the mile — [illegible] as that seems to bee my favourat spot but shall refar all to my arivale as I flater my self that I shall ever find a Cincere friend in you for if I was not confirmed in that opinion I Could [be] happy and make money where I am you will present my best wishes to all my friends with you Mr Tong Cor[le] Pettes and familey Mr Bell and familey and all acquentences I Could sitt and write a volum to you on the subject of the braces [Brazos] but as the time is short [until] I shall arive I will wave the subject to then and I hope you will accept my best wishes for your health and happiness and that I shall soon bee one to ad to the number of your Contry and as such I will subscribe my self your friend and obt St.

FRA[s] BIGGAM

Do give my love to your brother

ROBERT LEWIS TO AUSTIN

Santa Rosa January 9th 1825

COL. AUSTIN

D. SIR I arrived at this place the 11th Novr the Comisary made many difficuties, respecting the duties, I told him I was not liable to pay duties, as he demanded he would not suffer me to sell without paying. I applied to the Alcalda and got him to witness the taking of an Inventory of the goods and let the sales go on, and for me to go to Saltillo and on my return if I did not convince them I was not subject to pay duties, I would pay them, on my return I offered to pay the duties he refusd to take them, nor would not suffer me to go without leaving my goods in his possession or giving security for the whole amount, stating he had represented my case to the Comisary Gel at Saint Luis Potosi, and that he might order him to take possession of them and from his misrepresentation, he ordered him to take possession of them and to forward my pas-por[t]s or other papers to him stating they must be forwd etc I wold not let him take possession he cald on the Alcalda to assist him in taking possession of them. I cald on the Alcalda, as a Civil Officer to protect me and my goods, and offered him security as if I was liable to pay duties, the comisary objected to the security without, they would put in pawn in money Money pater [plata] or, paster [pasta], to the amount of the goods, I told the Alcalda, I was willing to give security, agreeable to law and would not give security in any other way, and after a few days, the Alcalda took the security. A large mijority of the people of this place are convinct the Comisary's treatment to me are improper, he is very uneasy at this time respecting his treatment towards me, it will be 2 or 3 weeks yet I expect before I git returns from the Comisary Gel The Governor has granted to me and Bynum 10 Leagues of Land which I hope will meet your approbation, as it will not be any thing against your private Interest, or the public good,—I have several times spoke of Nixon, and find he is very unpopular in this part of the Country. I named to Barron, of his threats against you,—sales are very dul owing to the scarcity of money and an over-stock of goods in the country,—I expect it will be 3 months yet before my return,—The Indians are very troublesome they do a grate deal of mischief, killing people and taking of Caviards,—I wish you to forward the inclose to Col Bynum by the first safe op-portunity.

Col S. F. Austin

ROBERT LEWIS [Rubric]

Election Return

The Poles of an Ellection held for Alcalda for the Collorado District at the H[o]use [of] R Alley on the 10th. Jan. 1825

James Cummins	R Alley
W B Dewees—1	
J. Ross—1	
Robert Brotherton—1	
A. W. McClane—1	
Daniel Holoway—1	
B. Beason—1	
George Duty—1	
John Tumbleston—1	
Nathan Osborn—1	
Vincent Rodrigues—1	
James McNare—1	
James Cook—1	
Ignatio Cortines—1	

We the Judges Certify the above is just and true

Robt. Brotherton
James McNair

John P. Coles to Austin[1]

January 11th 1825.

Dear Sir

I rec[d] your of the 6th Instant and Enclosed I found Gaines letter as Respects the Horse Mitchial let him [have] at my House in my absence with a request that I should try and pay Gaines with the Horse and if Gaines did not take the Horse to pay Gaines myself and keep the Horse and If I did not want the Horse he would pay me some other way and take Back the Horse However when Gaines Returned from Saint Antonio I told him of the Horse he said he would take him But we could not find the Horse and consequently believed he had been stolen by some Spaniards who had passed when the Horse Ran sunday after I found the Horse and had him valued Intending to dispose of him as he was Troublesome and constantly trying to Run of he was supposed by Byrd Capt Jones and others to be worth five or six dollars in cash I then saw Mitchal and Told him the Horse would not pay his debt to Gains which was $12— he observed he did not know how he

[1] See Gaines to Austin, November 1, 1824.

should pay it I then Told him I would take the Horse and pay Gains for him which he Readily agreed to this was the first time I have seen Mitchal from the time Gains left the acc^{t} with me and as to his having any claims to the Horse or ever seeing the Horse or my ever Receiving the Horse for him or agreeing to send the Horse or any thing Else to him is a palpable Lye for he has my Receipt and I never should send him any thing Untill my Receipt was presented he Requested me to Collect those debts and Receive Land office money in payment the 12$ which I promised to pay for Mitchal is Ready when my Receipt is presented as Respects Halls Business and Robersons and Gaynes you will find inclosed the original acc^{t} in favour of Gaynes for $14.25 protested by Roberson and an affidavit of J W Hall on the Back of said acc^{t} proving the sum of fourteen Dollars and 25 cts paid to Gaynes by him for Roberson as also you will find Lewis Holloways deposition in the case the petition and affidavit of Hall and Execut^{a} and attachment you will discover from Halls affidavit that he claimed fourteen Dollars and 25 cts in cash and had it not been for an arrangement which I made with Hall myself in Order to favor Gaynes the sum which payed the debt would not have paid the One forth part of it there is an account now in my office for $9—Dollars which is Similar to the above It is claimed by Roberson and proven by Holloway to have been passed by Roberson for Hall to Gaines and afterwards paid by Hall Roberson has been petitioned for an attachment in that case against Gains but I have still put him of upon the whole they are I fear a dambed sett of Rascals and Gaynes the worst of all

JNO P. COLES [Rubric]

[Addressed:] S. F. Austin Political Chief. and Judge of the Colony San F D Austin

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JOHN P. COLES TO AUSTIN

11th January 1825

DEAR SIR

You will find inclosed the Transfer of Brooks to Speers the original or the Coppy that was delivered to Brooks he carryed off Speers has assigned his name on the note given by Brooks for Sixty five dollars, to be paid in Specys It will be due next October the note I will hand to you on sight

JNO P COLES

[Addressed:] Col. S. F. Austin San filipe de Austin or Mr. Berry.

Rawson Alley to Austin

Col. Stephen F Austin.

I send you the returns, of the Land below Eagle Lake with the amount of the Surveying of Each League Set down on the back of the return, which I would be glad you would receive, if the locaters have property that suits you, and credit my account with the same. I was mistaken some in the Quantity of Land in the 13th and 14th Leagues there was no more than the common Quantity with out takeing in the Lake and a Larger portion of the prairie than usual give Andrew and Thomas Rabb their Deeds if they want them I have made an arrangement for the Surveying with them if they want to know the amount of Surveying $129 is the amount of the 8th and 9th Leagues

R, Alley [Rubric]

January 11th 1825

John P. Coles to Austin

12 January 1825

Dear Sir

I left Mr Sims at the Saint Antonio Road yesterday he sends you the Notes of my Hacienda and the notes of Gates Tract the Body of my Survey is in the office and all you want is to connect the oblong or arm that includes the Mill Seat — I know nothing about old Furnash's Improvement I did not know that he had an Improvement of corse agreeable to your Directions Sims split the Two Leagues Between Furnash and Lynch or Byrd or who Ever it may fall to furnash is on the Lower Hall adjoining my line I dont know How to arrange it with him nor what he wants other than the arrangemt allready made I dislike the Trouble of going to see him and having the surveys all altered again However I will doo any ways you wish in order to get it done Sims is going on Rapidly now and will be down with me when I come down which will be in a few days I must go to see furnash before I come down and make some arrangement with him Sims has taken a wife she is a very fine Looking woman and all Tolld that I know I cant get any pork for you in this part of the Country tel Mr Stafford that I can get One Hundred Bushels of corn for him from the Milicans at the ten mile creek no other corn can be had in this part of the country I cannot get any pork for him and if he intends to take the corn from the Milicans he must let me know immediately

Coles [Rubric]

[Addressed:] S F Austin Political chief and Judge of the Colony San F De Austin

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Bexar y En^{e} 12 de 1825.

Sr Ten^{e}. Coron^{l}. D^{n}. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Mi siempre estimado amigo y dueño: Siento no lograr la oportunidad de pasar a saludar a Ud y a todos los amigos ahora que se presenta la conducta del am^{o}. S^{r}. Fran^{co}. Rojo; porque me lo impide la falta del correo de afuera que hace serca de tres meses que no se recibe, y no puedo separarme de aqui sin saber como fue recibido Ntro. am^{o}. Baron en la legislatura, y el estado en que se hallan los asuntos de nuestra prov^{a}. para comunicarselos a Vmd. como tan interesado en el beneficio de ella.

Al tiempo de marchar el dho ntro. amigo Baron me dejo un documento dela parte que a Vd y a mi nos sedio delos derechos que le corresponden delas posesiones que dio a los habitantes de esos Rios, el qual llevare para manifestarselo a Vd en esta primavera, salvo otra ocurrencia. Si para entonces conoce Vd que esos Ciudadanos, ó los que se hayan establecido en San Jacinto y Galveston pueden dar a cuenta de dha pension mil y quinientos, ó dos mil pesos, le agradecere mucho practique esta diligencia á pretesto de que el comisionado los pide p^{a} sostenerse en su destino, con cuya suma puesta en giro segun acordemos yo y Vd si gustan tener parte en ello no hay duda que podremos tener algunas utilidades.

Tambien suplico a Vd se sirva para ese tiempo ó para despues solicitaron una calesita como la que trajo el sitado Baron, con su par de caballos.

Este cuerpo exanimo ya parece que tomara nueva vida pues comiensa a recibir caudales para socorrer sus Tropas.

Tenga Vmd la bondad de ponerme alas ordenes de su hermano el Sr Dn Santiago, primo Dn Juan y Amigos, mandando con toda satisfaccion a su afmo Serv. q. s. m. b.

JOSÉ ANT^{o}. SAUCEDO

WILLIAM LITTLE TO AUSTIN

Fort Settlement 13th Jany. 1825

DEAR SIR

I know so little of the situations of Mr Staffords League that I am unable to say positively that I will make Exchange with him if he has a good situation for stock at the Prairie I think he can be accomodated with two hundred acres (not more.) by his paying all Expenses of surveying Transfers etc and obligating himself to move on to the land he may get of me with his family in the course of next fall. I wish to have one or two *good* neighbours and will

go as far as I can without loss to accomodate an industrious man with a situation—I will be in Town as soon as the roads are so I can get up—we can then have a chat on the subject and no doubt make the arangement to suit all Parties—Your colony Sir, is increasing fast at least this bend of the Brasos. on the morning of the 7th Ins^{t} Mrs Andrews had Two fine Girls in the evening of the same day Mrs. Little had a stout Boy. all doing well—Mrs H Jones had a son on last day of Dec^{r}.

Wm Little [Rubric]

Col S. F. Austin

My Father will go to Town with me to arange our land as soon as we can get up.—he has been very unwell for some time but is getting better yours—W. L.

Please to have the papers arranged so that may not have to stay long in Town—

J. Iiams to Austin

Cedar Buyo Jany 15th 1825

Dear Sir

I have seen Mr Cook and he has the variations of the compass on the same side of the needle that I have and says Mr Hunter is wrong. The Variation is Easterly and Consequently the North point of the needle is on the East or Right hand of the true North, and each line must be run on the left hand of that point of the needle which is foremost on the Course. Now I am ready to give testimony and the lines will prove that Mr Hunter has run my lines on the right hand of the Needle and consequently they are wrong. I have also found some other Errors in the survey as himself has suspected in Closeing the lines, but I wish him not to survey it again as I believe he will still be liable to many Errors. As proper Land-marks between Neighbours are of great Consequence in the preservation of peace and harmony and my future exertions will probably be on this piece of ground, I would desire that my lines be run agreeable to the Customary rules observed in this Province

Therefore I shall proceed to survey the land my self and send you the field notes unless a line from you or some other information should spare me the trouble

As the Timber on my land is extremely scarce and all too short for several of the purposes of building which I contemplate and I shall be under the necessity of Resorting to other Lands for a supply, I will therefore send you the field notes of a Labour where timber is uniformly plenty and no Claimant ne[a]r, I will be ready to make payment according to Custom and hope in some way it will be granted

I have not had the opportunity of seeing Mr Hunter since I saw you but am informed that he declares that he has made no Errors in his survey, I have paid him about $20 and will pay him any other part which he may Justly be entitled to as I stated to you before even tho, I should survey the whole myself.

Dier Sir I write to you with the full assurance of your friendship wishing to give you as little trouble as I can as some of my Neighbours have already given you too much concerning their Lands

A line from you on the above subject will be received with pleasure and all orders promptly obeyed by

J. IIAMS

Col. S. F. Austin

P. S. I have understood that $3.50 will be demanded in cash at your office for my Deed which would have been paid when I saw you had I known the circumstance but I will pay it at the first opportunity.

If I am wrong in the variation of the compass I am willing to pay the cost of proving it J. I.

SETH INGRAM TO AUSTIN

Dukes place Jan. 16th 1825.

Col. AUSTIN

SIR I recd. your communication to Wm. Kincheloe to send you the plat of the Leagues on the Colorado from Kuykendalls League down. I have sent them over, and accompanying them you will find the field notes of several Leagues in the Bay Prairie and one on the Bernard. Mr Selkirk has run off the Leagues on the West side of the Colorado, and from actual survey some of the lines differ considerable from the plat, and those numbers that differ you will find either over or under the others and a bar across them thus, 7720
—8100—
in this way I have corrected all the lines, on the west side of the river Those Leagues where Selkirk run on both sides of the river closed very well, and very little alteration had to be made. Be careful and reccollect that those numbers that have the bar accross them are the right ones—We have run the Leagues as far down as Dukes place and have not yet touched the Lake that Williams lines on. I call it a Lake because, since I left town I have been down to Williams and find that the south end of it is about two miles from Williams. We go into the woods again tomorrow and shall succeed in finishing I think by the middle of Feb. if nothing uncommon takes place—

I understand that Mr Buckner has been to Town and made application for the League taking in the forks of Hunney and Caney

creeks, that is a choice that I made more than one month ago, running it so as to take in the forks and the head of tide if it would do both, I have not yet got any land on tide water and do not think that Mr. Buckner has done quite right in taking that advantage of me, however, I shall leave it to you to make it right.–

I have heard of Mr. Tong at Esqr Bells but have not yet seen him.

I have no more at present, but remain with due respect your friend and humble

SETH INGRAM

Col. S. F. Austin,

JAMES A. E. PHELPS TO AUSTIN

Pinckneyville Mi. Jan 16th 1825

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DR. SIR

Agreeable to mutual promise I have the pleasure of now addressing you by mail, and of informing you that after a journey of 18 days from St Felipe De Austin I arrived safe home: with the exception of some bad weather, and some high water, a pleasant journey. The emigrating, or Texas *fever* prevails to an extent that your *wishes* would no more than anticipate—It has pervaded all classes of the citizens of this state and the adjoining; from the men with capital, to the man that wishes to acquire a liveing—Nothing appears at present, to prevent a portion of our wealthy planters from emigrating immediately to the province of Texas but the uncertainty now prevailing with regard to the subject of slavery—There has been a parragraph that has gone the round of Nuse paper publication in the Middle States, perporting to be an extract from a Mexican paper; which precludes the introduction of negro property into the Mexican Republick, without exception: Subjecting the persons so offending to the severest penalties, and also an immediate emancipation of thos slaves now belonging to the citizens of the province of Texas; and fredom to the *slave* that *touches* the soil of Mexico—

If this be a fact it will check the tide of emigrating *spirits* at once: and indeed it has had its influence already—I have pledged myself to my friends to ascertain the fact if possible; and I know of no other way to satisfy the publick mind on the subject, but by application to yourself for a copy of the new constitution, and a promulgation of the same so soon as practicable—I have ventured to contradict so much of the report and publication as relates to your colony, upon the authority of your self, so far, as garranteeing the right of that species of property under consideration—That por-

tion of the Mexican Republick is becoming every day more and more an object of interest with this portion of the United States—There is not a day passes that I am not calld on to give (the superficial) information that I am in possession of as regards your country: and have to regret that I am not able to satisfy the eager, yet not *idle* curiosity of my friends—If slavery is tolerated by the new constitution I could wish, for the benefit of your self, and others that you would petition the government for extension of territory, and colonial location, so as to comprise the Trinity and its waters: Three Hundred familys more can be settled in less than two years—

A very considerable number of Gentlemen of fortune will visit the colony this Spring, from this section of Country—with a view of becoming citizens—I will inform you further on the subject in due time—

The death of my Father in Law during my absence has deranged my calculations in some degree, as it may cause some delay in the moving of my family but it is more than probable that the whole family of Col Kirby will move when I doo—Please give my best respect to Capt Austin and Mr Williams. Tell the latter that I am anxious to hear from him, and likewise to receive a map of the colony, which he promised—

Be so good as to designate the bounds of my Labours an the Deed so soon as surveyed, and send me a coppy

JAMES A E PHELPS

A. H. PHILIPS TO AUSTIN

Colorado Jany 17, 1825

SIR We have examined the Labours on this river and situated 5th 6th 9th on the west and the 5th on the East sides of the river—Our horses being much worn puts it out of our power to return by your office to make entries in person but hope that you will reserve the land for us

A. H. PHILIPS

Stephen F. Austin Esq

THOMAS GRAY TO AUSTIN

Colorado January 19th 1825

Col^{o} S. F. AUSTIN

Sir I have made choice of the seventh Eighth and 12th Leagues if either of these Leagues are vacant please to enter one for me.

Mr John Demiss also requests one if there are two yet vacant entered for him. I have made choice of the seventh Labour, on the west side of the river.

N. B. those Leagues lies near the head of the Bay Prairie

THOMAS GRAY

JUAN MARTIN DE BEREMENDI TO AUSTIN

Al recivirme del Govierno de esta Capital como Alcalde 1°. y Gefe Civil Accidental en su Distrito, encuentro que el Comisionado qe. fue a esa Villa Baron de Bastróp entregó á los fondos de esta Provincia mil pesos que dieron los Ciudadanos del mando de V. en avono de posesiones que les hizo diciendo de palabra aun quedaban onze mil p°. qe. recaudar en dos plazos, y como de estos no entregó Documento justificado (de que ya le escrivo á dho Sor Baron.) espero me diga V. algo sobre la materia que tanto interesa al mejor orden y desempeño de mi deber é ygualm^te^ el estado de la oferta de granos que hicieron los Ciudadanos de esa Villa para Diputado y otros gastos.

Dios y Libertad—Bexar y Enero 19 de 1825

JUAN MARTIN DE BEREMENDI [Rubric]

Sor. Tente. Coronel Dn. Estevan Austin

KNIGHT AND WHITE TO AUSTIN

Fort Settlement Jany 22^d^ 1825,

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

SIR We are informed by Capt. Chreesman that the Quarter of a league of land we are to receive in right of the late Capt. Singer has been laid off in the rear of a Quarter belonging to Mr. Nelson—

From our intimacy with Capt. Singer we know it was not his wish to have in that way and we assure you it is entirely contrary to ours—We state this to you thinking it must have been represented that we prefered it in the way it is now surveyed and request that you will permit it to be run through from the river to the prairie in the same manner that all the other Quarters have been—

KNIGHT AND WHITE

P. S. Mr. White will leave here next week for New Orleans and will take charge of any thing you may wish to send with pleasure—one of us will be up in a day

K and W

THOMAS GRAY TO AUSTIN

Colorado January 23rd 1825

DEAR SIR I received verbal information from you by Capt Burnham informing me that neither of the Leagues selected by me; as my choice would be entered by you in my name; if I have intrudad upon you by presenting to you in writing the 7th 8th and 12 Leagues as my choice of either please excuse the intrusion. Were I placed in affluence as is the situation of some of your applicants I am of opinion that you would have attended to and recd my Entry by Capt Burnham. I hope you may bestow the Land; or rather sell it to a more worthy than I am; I wish every thing that may contribute to the wellfare of the colony. to your health and happiness

N. B. Sir I would be thankful to you if you would confer the favour upon me of sending me a Certificate Certifying that I have no land in this colony and oblige your friend

THOMAS GRAY

Col. Stephen F. Austin

THOMAS M. DUKE TO AUSTIN

Colorado Janr. 23 1825

Coln STEPHEN F AUSTIN

Sir having been informed by Mr R. Alley that you have allowed me a labor at this River I wish you to enter for me the Seventh as Captain Grey has declined taking any land in this Colony and has resigned that labor in my favor I have the survey as receipt for the surveying of the thirtieth league and will get Mr. Alleys receipt for the labor and would wish to have my deed as soon as it would be convenient as I shall not be in town more than once before I go to Kentucky which will be as soon as the Grass rises in the Spring

Thos M. Duke [Rubric]

ERASMO SEGUIN TO AUSTIN

Mexico 26. de Enero de 1825.

AMIGO MIO: Contesto asu apreciable de 5. de Novr. del año anterior y digo: que he recivido la solicitud q. con ella me acompañó y el villete de banco importante en 100. ps ps los gastos de papel etc; y como yó cesó en mis funciones de Diputado desde el 24. del mes de Dicr. proximo pasado. lá he recomendado ami succesor Licdo Dn. Manl Santivañes y Cevallos, con todo el apoyo necesario ps su mejor exito. El actual estado de dha. solicitud es muy lisongero; todos los amigos diputados estan por ella, y creo q. se vá adespachar

muy breve, y con arreglo a los deseos de V. asi en el permiso p^{a} introducir nuevo numero de familias como dela abilitacion de puerto, y establecim^{to} de una Villa en la Isla de Galbaston.

Como este asunto despues de evacuado aqui ó despachado, se necesita remitirlo ala legislatura del estado p^{a} lo mas q. tiene q. hacer, ya veré quando pase por alli, el modo q. me doy con los amigos, y parientes Diputados p^{a} que no lo demoren, y provean favorablem^{te} enla parte q. les toca; concluyendo loq. tengo q. hablar en este asunto, conq. admito la oferta q. V. me hace, con tal deq. V. sea elq. lo hade dirigir todo.

Me ocurre dar aV. una incomodidad y es: que se sirva encargarme a N. Orleas, una Calesa, ó Faeton p^{a} el uso de mi familia: que sea de los mas bonitos y buenos q. se esten usando; de quatro Ruedas, y de una lanza, p^{a} p. la estiren dos caballos, con sus correspondients guarniciones: que sea nueba y nó vieja, fuerte, bien enyantada, y de muy buen charol; Su valor q. supongo no suvira de 250. a 300. p^{s} podra V. disponer de ellos en Bexar dentro de 3 meses contados desde esta fha. Vea V. si puede servirme este carruage p^{a} el mes de Mayo venidero, ó lo mas pronto q. se pueda, q. quiero darle gusto ami muger enq. se pasee en un mueble de estos, q. tanto le acomodan.

Sirvase V. ponerme ala disposicon. de su familia, y muy particularm^{te}. ala de Ntro. D. Santiago Austin, q. porq. se ha olvidado de su antiguo amigo; vea enq. otra cosa pueda serle util, quien le desea todas felicidades, y es su am^{o} q. lo estima y B. S. M.

ERASMO SEGUIN [Rubric]

S^{r}. D^{n}. ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.

RAFAEL RAMOS Y VALDES TO AUSTIN

Salt^{o}. 27 de En^{o}. de 1825.

S. D. FELIPE DE OSTEN.

Mi muy amado Am^{o}. y dueño de toda mi consideracion: Con el aprecio debido he visto su ultima apreciable en que me recomienda su solicitud sobre avilitacion del puerto de que me acompaña. En qto: dice relacion a ese Departamento se ha conducido este Congresso con qta: generosidad y actividad como podra decirlo aV mi Comp^{o} y Am^{o}. el Sor. Baron; mas no estando en las atribuciones de esta Legislatura el prover por si a la avilitacion de aquel puerto, no se puede hacer otra cosa de nuestra parte que recomendarlo al Gov^{o}. Supremo.

Hoy se ha concluido la discusion de los arts. comprensivos de las atribuciones que ha de tener el Gefe provisional de ese Departamento: se ha decretado que tal nombramiento sea provisional por considerar que la Constitucion no se concluira muy pronto, y qe. hay en esos Pueblos una necesidad suma de una Autoridad, qe siendo sup^{r}.

a la de los Alcaldes sirva como de un Agente subalterno al Gov°. El 1°. de el p°. mes entrante se presentará la Ley de Colonizacion de este Estado, y pronto entraremos en su discusion: actualmente estamos trabajando sobre los medios de asegurar en esta Capl. una Factoria con el objeto de hacer mas fructifera la renta del tabaco, unica con qe. el Estado puede contar p^a. cubrir la mayor parte de sus gastos.

No hay alguna otra cosa digna de poner en su conocimiento; por lo mismo concluyo asegurandole qe. amo a V sinceramente y que tendre mucha complacencia si me impone sus ordenes.

Raf^l Ramos y Valdes [Rubric]

Rawson Alley to Austin

Col S F Austin

Sir I send you the returns of Andersons, Pettys and Tobars, Pettuses, Duty and Eadses, Sitos of Land and De Mosses Labor by Col Pettus My Provisions gave out which prevented me from going any further up the River I intend going down the River as Soon as I can go to the Cane brake and back, to finish my work below, if you wish any more Land surveyed on the West side of the River Opposite the Lake than I have orders for let me know by the first opportunity. My hands will be at my House till I return from the Cane brake if you should write before I return; I think there will be some very good Leagues below if the[y] Can be Laid about four miles on the River as the Timber is very narrow it will not do very well to lay it off in square Leagues; John Tobar only wanted one mile Square where he Lives if he wishes it so after seeing the Lines I will take it off his hands and pay the charges in proportion but no more which word I sent to him; Whiting wished me to let you know that he wishes to take Land below in the Bay Prairie

Jany. 29th 1825

Rawson Alley [Rubric]

Col Stephen F Austin

N B the surveying of Jesse Burnams Land comes to seventy four Dollars 89½ cents R Alley [Rubric]

I gave George Duttys return to him as he said he was going over in a few days

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J. Iiams to Austin

Sanja Cinto January 29th. 1825

Dear Sir

Messrs Henry and Micajah Munson living at present on this side trinity and being somewhat disappointed in their Settlement by the

overflow of that River desire me to enquire of you whether they can be admitted into your Colony and obtain the title of Land

If they can be admitted they wish to have Lands near me on Cedar buyo where there are no other Claims and they will commence settlement Immediately They are men of Respectability having each a family and about 17 Slaves each with good stock of Cattle etc., etc. They also wish to enquire whether more Land can be granted in proportion to the number of Slaves They will in all probability be good pay for whatever Land may be granted them and I shall be happy in having them for neighbours please write me a line on the above Subject and if they will be accepted direct the survey as they are desireous to have it accomplished There are others wishing to apply in the same way if any more grants can be made

J. IIAMS

Col. S F Austin

GEORGE HUFF TO AUSTIN

Woodville January 29th 1825

MY DR SIR

this will Be Handed to yoo By Jacob Huff My Son and Peter Conrad with him I wish them to stay with yoo ontil I get there I Shall start from this Place in ten days Mr Brooks who is with the Boyes is a Good and Honest Man I wish yoo to Settle him as Near the Mill Seat as you Can I wish yoo to furnish Him with tools to git me a set of House Logs on the Bernard ontil I Git there as I Must attend to the Building of the Mills I Shall Be there with A strong force and good work men I think to Have them in oparation in August Next or I Shall Lose My Judgement of Mill Building I think I will not Make Such a Hand of it as [Mr.] Toung did I wish you to show the Cane Brake . . . [on] John Huffs League to Mr. Brooks as he will make [a crop next?] year Mr Jesse H Cartright will . . . he takes About fifty negros . . . to Have Land as he goes on My word I wish you to Let him Have a Good League of Land for he is as good A Man as we have in this Country I wish you to Procure Me two yok of well Broke oxen and About 80 Bushels of Corn for I Shall want them things as Soon as I Git there all the things you Sent for By Me will Be there in Due time Mr Halleman dont go this spring as you saw through him I Shall say nothing About him ontil I see you I have A Great Deal to write But as it will Be But A few days ontil I See you I Shall stop

GEO HUFF

Col S f Austin

J. A. E. Phelps to Austin

Pinckney ville [Mississipi] Jan. 29th 1825

Col. Stephen F. Austin

Dear Sir.

I have the oportunity of complying with my promise to send you some Garden seeds by Mr. Huff I hope they will be to your liking—On the 18th Inst I wrote you by Mail; I hope you have Received the same—

James A. E. Phelps [Rubric]

Archibald Austin to Austin

New York Jan^{r} 30, 1825

Stephen Austin Esq.

St Phillippe,

Dear Sir

I have had the pleasure of two letters from you, in reply to the enquiries, made by me some time since, I was much gratified to hear you had effected arrangements in regard to your Colony, to your must sanguine expectations, and that it was in a flourishing condition—I felt very much disposed to send a Vessel with the articles you stood in need of—I could not make up my mind to go myself, immediately, leaving a situation where I now get $1200. per annum, which enables me to support my family, to venture upon an uncertanty—I represented the advantages that would probably arrive from a commercial Intercourse with your Colony, to John, he was pleased with the project, and expressed a disposition to become interested, we however concluded to wait the arrival of Henry who was soon expected, under the persuasion that he would become Interested, and perhaps go himself—He did arrive and on perusing your letters appeared much pleased and talked strongly of going himself, and so it continued doubtful until a few weeks ago, when he made up his mind suddenly to go to Alvarado with the intention of Establishing himself at Xalapa in Mexico, in the Commission Business, for which place he sailed about Ten days since, and most unfortunately for *me*, he took your letters with him; particularly, as the day after he sailed, John informed me that a Friend of ours, would like to join us in the proposed expedition—Since which, I have seen the Gentleman alluded to, and find he is anxious to enter into the Business, and thinks we can proceed in it, among ourselves without any difficulty—

the principal stumbling Block, is the uncertainty of punctual returns in such articles as will answer, for the Investments we may

make—Cotton of a good staple would of course answer very well, and be perfectly satisfactory, if at a price that would pay a fair profit when brought to this market; to do this it would of course require to be well cleaned, and pressed so as to make good stourage on ship board—this we have no doubt may be accomplished eventually, but we see no immediate prospect of it—when we send a Vessel, we intend to send a Gin, and probably a pressing machine, both which will be very essential with you—perhaps you make a press with you that would answer the purpose for the present, but our patent pump presses I pressume will be important for you, when you get well underway with your cotton plantations—please inform me on this point—Had my own means admitted of it, I would have had a Vessel off long ago, with the articles you wrote for—Hogs, I am informed by a Gentleman who has resided in Mantanzes, are prohibited in Cuba, and Horses would be too cumbersome for the discription of vessel we propose sending—Corn is but a poor article to ship, except to the Western Islands, Tenriffe etc, and there it would probably not answer, so much is shipped from hence—I regret extremely that Henry should have taken the letters away, as it leaves me quite in the dark, in various particulars such as the proper place, for the vessel to run for the courses, signal poles etc the Tribe of Indians that you are at war with, being between your residence, and the entrance to the River is rather against the concern—

It is thought advisable under all circumstances, to write you a gain, and urge your immediate reply to several enquiries, which if tangible, and can be carried into effect, would probably be very important, such as—Is there a road that Goods can be conveyed upon to Mexico. or to the borders, or dividing line between you and Mexico? what is the distance? could not there be an arrangement made, to receive goods calculated for the Mexican market, on your Territory, or on the dividing line of the Mexican Territory?—in barter for Cochineal, Vanilla, Pimento, Indigo, and for Specie—Could they be conveyed without being subject to *Duty*, and without risk? what would be the time required, and what would be the Expense—does your Colony produce Cochineal, or Indigo? or *do* they, or *will* they bring either to it, or *would* they if a temptation is held out?—we should like to send a confidential agent to communicate with you, and to attend to our business; but it will not justify it at present—

We wish you to be very particular in the list of articles that will answer best to send, and the returns, the kind and quantity of Tobacco—the Mill stones I have not forgotten—I should suppose some of our patent corn cleaners would be desirable—are you not in want of many kinds of agricultural Implements? How would the apparatus for a Distillery answer?—If we could once get underway I

have no doubt we might be mutually advantageous to each other with your aid in this business, I promise myself very favorable results; I am confident you will grant it freely, as I am persuaded it would be more gratifying to you, to do business with your connections and friends, than with strangers—I should be much delighted to see you here, but I pressume that is out of the question at present, perhaps your Brother may come, however—

I sincerely condole with you, on the loss of your dear Mother, it must have deprived you, of much joy that you had anticipated in making her happy the remainder of her life—Poor Horace is gone also; I have no doubt he had much to contend with during the latter part of his life—

I observe by last Evenings paper, that the Senate, on Wednesday last, passed by a large majority to a third reading the Bill, authorizing a road to be marked out from Missouri, to Mexico—This I should suppose would be a good thing for you—pressume it must pass very near you—

Mr Honey has arrived at Baltimore from St. Louis, will proceed Mr Dall informs us to Washington, and then make New York a visit—we shall be glad to see him, never having that pleasure, and through him, shall hear I pressume many particulars about our friends, those few that are left, (and of those that are gone) in that quarter, of whom we have heard but very little for years past—we have heard within a few days of the marriage of Mary Holleys Daughter Harriet, to Mr. Brant of Kentucky, I know not whether you ever saw her or not—

Jany 31. from this morning paper—"In the Senate the Bill authorizing the President to cause a road to be marked out between the western frontier of Missouri and the Internal Provinces of Mexico, was read a third time passed and sent to the House for concurrence—" I wish you to state the prices of such articles as you may recommend will command with you—With my compliments to your Brother, I remain with sincere regard, and affection

Your friend

ARCH AUSTIN [Rubric]

A. W. McCLAIN TO AUSTIN

Colorado District 30th January 1825

DEAR SIR

Mr Alley informs me that he informed you Previous of my Being in town that their was but one League of Land in the 14th League and that is for Blienfort and McVain it appears to me that I am not to guit any that I make Choice of as I made Coice of two Places By the Eagle Lake first you gave to Blufort second to Colo Ross I

asked you for Land in June Last you Readyly agreed that to goe and make Choice of a Place and then I was Called on from time to time that I had not time ontill in Septr and then I Made Choice of one that noone hade made Choice of I Lost that and it was Entered in your Booke By Mr. Williams I have Been Ready for two weeks to go to work on it or some Place Else if you intend Letting me have any Land or not I want to noe I Come to the Country for that purpose after seventeen months in the Country I Cant Come on a footing with strangers I Can Return from whence I Came Mr. Alley informs me Mr. Cook and Mr. Osborn has taken ajoining of him on the west side of Colorado and that theirs a vacant Place at the mouth of skull crick Providing you will Let it Be Run as Gabriel Snyders is if you Consent to it you will Please let me no it and oblige yours

A W McClain

Judge S F Austin

NB Col^{n} Pettus [was] Present when Mr Alley said what he did say on the subject

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James Grant to Austin

Camargo 31st Jany. 1825

Coln^{l} Austin

Dear Sir, I take the opportunity of Coln^{l} Milam, passing your way, to drop you a few lines respecting my interest in your Colony, I have been a great deal absent, but it has been completely out of my power to be there, my business in this part of the Country has been in such a situation that I have not been able to leave, I am now doing my best to wind up, and I will be able to do so about June when I will be on with you; I have to appeal to your goodness to protect my interest with you, untill I arrive my absence has not been with my will, but from the circumstance above stated; which I know your knowledge with the mode of doing business in this part of the Country will fully satisfy you in the cause. I have property plenty in the Colony to pay for my land and have directed Captn Jones to do so; by your granting me this request you will confer an obligation on Dr Sir your Respectfully

James Grant [Rubric]

David H. Holstein to Austin

Alexandria Louisiana—[about January, 1825?]

Mr. Stephen F. Austin,

Dear Sir as I have not been able to return to your Colony as soon as I expected I hope you will excuse my Troubling you with this note

which I have got the Favor of Mr. Foster to hand you: the scarcity of money and the Dulness of times has made business very hard to settle in this Parish, not being able to settle my business to my satisfaction has prevented by returning and made it necessary that I should make another crop on Red River, when I hope I shall be able to Leave the Parish without any Difficulty— the prospect of the price of cotton the next crop is Flattering. all state sales of the present crop have been very good from Eighteen to Twenty two cents and still looking up, which has made Considerable of a change in this Parish. I hope that I shall be able to see you again in July or August, there are a number of young men from this Parish talk of going out this summer. Mr. Stewart informs me that he made no selection of Lands before leaving the Colony. I hope sir you will be so good as to make a reserve for me on some part of the Bernard River of some of the unsettled Land. from the number of Travelers that have passed through this settlement going to your Colony I expect you have had a great many applicants for Land. If the one half of them have reached you Colony I believe you have not been Idle. The young man that will accompany Mr. Foster Mr. Grant, I hope you will find a Verry useful man being and excellent workman he is also much Respected in this parish as good member of society—If the Lands of the Bernard are not all Taken, and you have not made any Choice for me, I will get the Favor of Mr. Foster to attend to it and also to make a small Improvement on it for me, I shall be glad to Receive a few Lines from you on Mr. Fosters Return—

I am with Respect yours

DAVID H. HOLSTEIN

[Mr. Stephen F. Austin] Favor of Mr. Foster Province of Texas.

GEORGE ROBINSON TO AUSTIN

Lower settlement February 2nd 1825

DEAR SIR I take the liberty of trubling you with a few lines when the lines of the half leage I gett in this settlement were run they were Extended 13 hundred bars in the prairie if you allow mee anny more I wish itt on the Benard I hope you will allow mee a half leage more and not leave me singular to my self I hope to Bee able to make you some payment this spring and if I can doo no better I will sell you some to pay for the rest Although I should consider my self robing my family to doo so If you lett me have anny more you will have itt in your power to know where there is good land and I will Be satisfied with anny you may designate mee I

hope you will take my sufferings in consideration And allowe what allmost Every other family getts I have heard that my father is on his way to this country and wishes to become a citisen of this colony and wishes to settle where he can have good stock water and ra[n]ge as he has a very large stock if he Ever getts them here I have been Expecting to here from you relative to the business with parker— yours with respect and esteme—

GEORGE ROBINSON

[Addressed:] Col. S. F. Austin San felipe de Austin

AUSTIN TO FATHER JUAN NEPOMUCENO PEÑA

[From Austin's blotter in file of August 26, 1824.]

El oficio que V se ha servido dirigirme fecha 14 de Enero del presento año me ha llenado de regocijo y quitado un peso que sobre mi gravitaba por la incertidumbre en que me hallaba para la direccion de consultas y peticiones eclesiasticas correspondientes á estos nuevos colonos, lo que he hecho saver a estos habitantes segun V me previene, y quedar entendidos.—Todas las familias que han emigrado de otros paises ó naciones á habitar en estas Colonias de mi Cargo, son Catolicos, su conducta cristiana, segun permite nuestro reciente establecimiento, es conforme á la que se observa por todo buen catolico q. se encuentra sin los auxilios espirituales que solo los Ministros del Altisimo pueden proporcionar p[r] lo que suplico á V por mi y todos estos Ciudadanos se digne enviarnos un señor eclesiastico para alivio de nuestras afliciones espirituales y si fuese posible que entiendese algo el idioma Ingles seria aun de mayor consuelo. han nacido algunos niños en estas Colonias, mas como ninguno ha aparecido con sintomas de perder la vida estan sin bautizar esperando que para nuestra mayor felicidad aparezca un Sacerdote que pueda verificar tan sagrada sacramento, solo si la necesidad obligase en el interin, se le administraria el agua del socorro. Los matrimonios que se han executado aqui son cinco:

El modo de hacerlos, espero de su bondad y conocida instrucion lo aprobara atendiendo a las circumstancias se han executado previa las informaciones que se acostumbran por los Curas con la presencia de todos los parientes de ambos, la de testigos imparciales y por medio de una escritura firmada por los partes y parientes en que se obligan los contrayentes á cumplir las penitencias ó multas que nuestra Santa Madre la Iglesia les imponga luego que por medio de su Ministro consolide y autorize el Sacramento. Esta medida me ha sido indispensable tomar, para evitar los escandalos y mayores ofensas á Dios: V se dignara prevenirme para lo sucesivo que he de hacer, hasta que tengamos Cura.

Los entierros se han hecho como es costumbre entre los Cristianos cuando no hay ni sacerdote ni lugar sagrado destinado para el efecto, todos que han muerto en esta Villa y sus inmediaciones estan en un solo punto que le llamamos el Cimenterio, mas no esta bendito, y si se reunen alli para cuando haya proporcion de bendecirlo—

El padron ó censo que U. se digna pedirme no me es posible dirigirselo con la brevedad que deseo porque acaban de llegar nuevas familias y por la gran distancia que media de Colonia a Colonia y de habitacion a habitacion pero tan luego que lo haya tendre el honor de remitirselo segun me lo pide.—En el dia se encuentran dos de los colonos que sus mugeres los han abandonado emigrando con otros á pais extrangero; estos solicitan, en razon de tener sus casas y ser agricultores que todo el dia lo pasan en el campo, casarse de nuevo y segun la costumbre de su verdadera Religion que es la Catolica. Por el casamiento que antes tuvieron que es por la ley civil segun el costumbre en los Estados Unidos del Norte, estan facultados para volver á contraer matriminio luego que se verifica el divorcio, la necesidad de tener una compañera que cuide de su casa é intereses y la ley y costumbre recibida en el primer matrimonio que hizieron, les obliga, á pedir con interes se les permita verificar nuevo casamiento; mas como es materia que no puedo ni debo yo decidir y solo V es el que puede dar su consentimiento ó negarlo, lo, consulto este punto para que me prevenga el manejo que he de observar con estos dos pretendientes y con los que en adelante se encuentra en tales circumstancias.—

San Felipe de Austin 1º de Febrero de 1825—
Dios y Libertad

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN

Sor. Vicario foraneo del departamento de Texas Bʳ Dn Juan Nepomuceno Peña.

THOMAS HOOPER TO AUSTIN

Alexandria February the 2ad 1825

DEAR SIR

I beg leave to introduce to your acquaintance Mr. J. H. Shropsher an acquaintance of mine and who you will find to be a gentleman he is going on to the enteria [interior] on a trading expedishion he will want some infirmation of you which I hope you will give all that you can as I feel much intrusted in his favour and in so doing you will confer a remembered [kindness.] Sir agreeable to promis I expect to come to your cuntry and am happy to informe that Majr. Thomas his father inlaw Majr. Bullard and his brother and Col. Crain of this place and two or three other gentlemen from

this place will accompany me to look at your country I feel sattisfyed that I shall moove to your cuntry and beg leave to remind of your promis to me respecting my land I hope you will be perticular in the choice of the leage down on the tide watter and get it as low down as posable give my respects to Col Gross and family if an opertunity permits

THO^{s} HOOPER

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR OF COAHUILA AND TEXAS.[1]

MOST EXCELLENT SIR:

As soon as I became advised of the organization of our Honorable Congress, and the creation of the respectable authorities of the State, I had the honor to address your Eccellency officially, presenting the respects of myself and the new colonists, in manifesting our obedience to the law, and whatever may tend to the general weal; representing to your Excellency at the same time, the actual state of these colonies, and requesting such orders might be communicated to me, as deemed necessary, in order to enable me to put them into immediate execution. The liberal protection which our government extends to foreigners, who are desirous to establish themselves under our Federal Government; and the fertility of this soil are Such, that new and respectable families are continually arriving here, to enjoy the privileges granted to settlers; but as the number of three hundred, which I engage to Settle, is already completed, I cannot permit them to locate without the permission of your Excellency, nor can I distribute lands to them, in consequence of which the greater part of them have remained on the Rivers Trinity and Neches, beyond the limits of my boundaries. These families being farmers, and of most industrious habits, have no leisure to encourage vice, but dedicate their whole time to the maintenance of themselves, the accumulation of wealth, and the observance of the laws; but they are without any municipal regulations, and consequently suffer considerable inconvenience from the perverseness of turbulent persons, who emigrate from the neighboring nation; and also from our own; and who, although few in number remain there and occupy lands because there is no local authority to punish or restrain their iniquities; the evil effects of such a community, has some influence, even in this colony.

[1] From Translations of Records of Empresario Contracts, 44–45, General Land Office of Texas. There is a Spanish copy in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

The deep interest I take in the prosperity of the State, seeing that the families above-mentioned are wealthy and possess adequate means; that lands have not been apportioned to them; that they will be under the necessity (unless promptly attended to) of returning to Louisiana; in which event, we shall lose these valuable and useful members of society. All this, I say, compels me to submit to the high consideration of your Excellency, the situation of the inhabitants of the Trinity and Neches; and to inform your Excellency of the continual applications they are making to be organized.—Your Excellency will, notwithstanding, determine in the matter, that which may be most suitable. Your Excellency is well aware that the Savage Indians infesting Texas are numerous; that they will use every exertion to prevent themselves from being streightened, or brought under subjection to the laws, by the settlers, and doubtless, we shall feel the effects of this disposition on their part; and as the number of families is only three hundred, we are scarcely able to defend ourselves against them, without attempting offensive operations of warfare; but if your Excellency will grant me permission to settle three hundred families more in the same manner as those already settled I will locate them on the upper Brazos and Colorado, on the San Antonio Road; thereby augmenting our physical force, and by being in communication with the colonists already settled, will at the same time prevent the incursions of the Tehuacanos, and the great depredations which they commit on those roads, and even at San Antonio. Should your Excellency be pleased to accede to the establishment of this new settlement, I guarantee, that, it shall be effected forthwith; and the evils which we are now suffering, will be remedied; I reiterate to your Excellency, that, the only motive which animates me, is the desire to contribute as a true Citizen, to the happiness and prosperity of the Mexican nation to which I have the glory to belong.

I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency, a small map of the Island and Bay of Galveston, a highly interesting Sea-Port and the best in the State, as is evident to your Excellency. The map is not as perfect as I could wish, for the want of proper instruments, but I shall very shortly be able to send you another more correct, and on a larger scale; for the present, I only beg of you to condescend to receive this as an indication of my best wishes.

God and Liberty,

San Felipe de Austin, 4th February 1825.

Most Excellent Sir,

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

To His Excellency the Governor, of the State of Coahuila and Texas.

Austin to Governor of Coahuila and Texas

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 24, 1824.]

Exma Señor—

Diariamente estan llegando á este establecimiento vecinos de la Bahia, Sn Antonio, Rio Grande y otros partes radicandose muchos de ellos en estas Colonias No solicitan terrenos, algunos se dedican a travajar mas otros no tienen ocupacion alguna, Por los reglamentos Municipales provisionales qe. hasta la sancion de las leyes del estado ha sido preciso adoptar y qe. aqui contienen a los malos hemos disfrutado de un orden extraordinario pero desde la llegada de algunos de estos a quienes no se les conoce ocupacion alguna han empezado a advirtirse robos é incomodidades. Estoy seguro qe. el qe. vive ó permanece algun tiempo en un pueblo esta, sugeto a sus leyes particulares, mas no me resuelvo a ponerlos en execucion con estos hasta la decision de V E qe. espero y obedeceré con respeto,

Exmo Señor—El Governador de Coahuila y Texas—Feb. 4—1824 [1825]

Estevan F. Austin

Austin to Congress of Coahuila and Texas

[From Austin's Blotter in file of August 26, 1824.]

Honorable Congreso de Coahuila y Texas:

El Ciudadano Estevan F Austin teniente Coronel de la Milicia Nacional del rio de los Brazos y Colorado Juez interino para la administracion de justicia é impresario de este establecimiento por si y a nombre de todos los colonos hace presente al Honorable Congreso la necesidad y utilidades de abrir el puerto de Galveston para la prosperidad de estas nuevas Colonias y la del estado en que p[e] [pone] las razones, que con todo respeto, tengo el honor de manifestar. El punto de Galviston situado en la costa al Este y entre los rios Trinidad y Brazos proporciona una entrada comoda y muy abrigada Bahia para navios y toda clase de buques, causa por que todo mercante prefiere a este mejor que otro alguno de los conocidos en esta costa que no tiene las mismas comodidades y presenta continuamente infinitas dificultades a los buques de menor porte que procuran dar fondo. Este puerto, en el dia esta dispoblado y naturalmente presenta asilo á pirates y a todo el que solicite haver un desembarco comodo en nuestro estado es conocido por todos los marinos y conocido por bueno: todo indica la atencion Nacional. Estas colonias estan situadas sobre los rios Colorado-Brazos y San Jacinto a distancia de treinta leguas de la del Colorado veinte la de los Brazos y diez la de San Jacinto sobre la misma Bahia de Galviston este ultima. Los colonos todos son Agricultadores y Ar-

tistas—El deseo de mejor estar y la natural aplicacion al travajo les obliga a aumentar sus cosechas siendo la principal la de algodon y lana El comercio en estos establecimientos esta paralizado por falta de puertos: las consequencias son efectivas, la agricultura decae y las artes siguen igual paso.

La enorme distancia a los puertos de nuestra federacion esta patente y tambien lo esta la imposibilidad de progresar si el fruto de nuestro sudor no toma giro lo que nos hará cair en la total pobreza y de consiguientes nos pondra en el estado de no dar a la patria la utilidad que nuestros mas ardientes deseos solicitan. La verdadera riqueza de una Nacion esta en sus brazos industriosos, pero es indispensable p^{r} realizar este principio dar giro a su industria.

El manifestar la situacion geografica de Texas, sus feracisimos terrenos, el hacer sus rios en grandes distancias navigables, la vecindad y buenos caminos, con Nuevo Mexico, el giro general y movimientos Mercantil qe tomaria el estado de Coahuila y Texas el aumento consiguente, de sus riquezas y de su poblacion en estos vastos desiertos alexando ó reduciendo las Naciones barbaras que los havitan seria importunar la atencion del Honorable Congreso—quando no se le oculta que son efectos Naturales de la Agricultura, Artes y Comercio y que por los mas vivos deseos del bien del Estado de la Nacion en General y del particular de estos habitantes de Texas y sus Colonias. Suplica al Honorable Congreso tomé en consideracion esta exposicion para que nos facilite la apertura del puerto de Galviston libre de derechos con lo que estamos convencidos resulta la felicidad General a que solo aspira el Honorable Congreso y no duda conseguir el que con el mayor respeto hace la exposicion

Dios y Libertad

Villa de San Felipe de Austin a los 4 de Febrero de 1825

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN

Honorable Congreso de Coahuila y Texas.

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR OF COAHUILA AND TEXAS

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824]

EXMA SOR — La necesidad que tienen estos habitantes de dar salida a produciones me hace presente a V. E. los reclamos que diariamente oigo para que se los permita extraer, mais manteca, calabazas, algodon, y otros a los puntos del Refugio, Soto la Marina, Tampico, Orleans, y Atacapa, haciendo su exportacion en Piraguas, y Botes Balandres, y Goletas. Las ventajas que son consiguientes a este pequeño trafico se dexan descubrir al primer golpe de vista por ademas de adelantar las riquezas de este estado por los laboriosos Brazos de sus Ciudadanos nos proporciona un exacto reconocimiento

de la costa y el que en adelanto tengamos sondeados nuestros puertos y podemos dirijirnos sin titubear a la que nos convenga. Este trato y sus utilidades no pueden tener efecto sin la orden de V. E. para que sea con[o]cido todo buque y barco por Mexicano es indispensable pasaporte y otros documentos como sobre la materia no tengo instruciones nada puedo determiner hasta su superior decreto el que tambien me instruirá sobre el modo de ser reconocidas por ciudadano Mexicano los que aqui se construin ó se compren en otras Naciones—

Exmo Sor—El Governador de Coahuila y Texas

Villa de San Felipe de Austin—5 de Febrero de 1825

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

BASTROP IN LEGISLATURE OF COAHUILA AND TEXAS[1]

[In margin:] 1.ª Lectura en 10. de Febrero de 1825. 2.ª Lectura el 15 del mismo

Honorable Congreso:

La Comicion encargada de estender el proyeto dela ley de colonizasion ha meditado muy detenidamente y con la mayor circunspeccion sobre la q. podria ser mas propia para lograr en este Estado una Colonia capaz por si sola de hacer la abundancia y riqueza aun de una nacion entera q. es enla q. debemos pensar supuesta la inmencidad y fertilidad delos terrenos q. afortunadamente gosamos aunque sin mas datos ni otras luces q. las q. ha podido mendingar delo poco y muy gral. escrito en una materia q. aun puede decirse nueba entre nosotros se ha decidido y cree q. sus observaciones sino corresponden álas miras del Honorable congreso trasan alo menos el camino por q. conduciendose enlas discusiones su sabiduria podra obtener aquella tan digna y justam[te] apetecida institucion.

La Comicion Sors., hubiera querido dar á esta obra la ultima mano presentando en su introducion las principales razones q. la han determinado adoptar los articulos que la componen, pero conciderando la noble impaciencia con q. algunos interesados desean berla concluida y q. tan largo discurso podria causar la atencion de esta Asamblea Augusta, ha tenido por mejor el sacrificio desu deseo en esta parte y contraherse unicamente alo más substancial ó que puede hacer mas fuerza, q. ensu concepto en el premio señalado álos capitulantes las tierras concedidas á las familias pobladoras la cantidad q. en clase de reconocimiento debe exijirse á estas, los plazos por q. han de verificar su pago, ventas de terrenos á solo los naturales del pais y tiempo de seis años q. hade deja correr la Legislatura del

[1] On this topic see above, November 16, 1824, and January 1, 1825. Bastrop to Austin, March 19, 1825, gives interesting details.

Estado pª inducir variacion en ciertos y determinados puntos de esta ley.

Lo util delas capitulaciones enla materia deq. se trata y lo conveniente desu estimulo, la Comicion creé q. está al alcanze de todos asi como lo está la eficacia de este medio para lograr de un solo golpe y muy pronto una poblacion q. de otro modo no se consiguiria sino al cabo de mucho tiempo despues de muchas incomodid[ad]es y haciendo tal cual ves erogaciones y gastos no poco considerables: Y q. los capitulantes tienen de hacer estos no solo para dar cumplimiento a sus contratos sino aun para celebrar estas, la razon lo persuade y ha acreditado yá la experiencia sino queremos decir q. en su totalidad han sido extraordinarios los q. han tenido de hacer los nuestros q. actualmente se hallan en esta capital. Por estas consideraciones, la q. el hombre jamas trabaja ó se afana devalde ni aventura lo q. yá tiene adquirido y tiene seguro sino por multiplicarlo y teniendo tambien presente q. todos los proyectos y aun leyes coloniales q. la comicion ha podido ver conceden á aquellos por cada familia delas q. introduscan y establescan igual terreno q. á esta, la comicion ópuso q. su premio por cada cien familias aun cosultando el menor gravamen del Estado. no podia bajar de cinco sitios de Agostadero y cinco labores que és el que les ha señalado

Las familias pobladoras si no son del mismo Estado, como las mas no lo seran, tienen q. correr los riesgos todos de un camino quizá muy dilatado y penoso, desterrarse del suelo q. las vio nacer, despidiendose para siempre desus padres, hermanos, parientes amigos y conocidos; privarse delas influencias de un cielo venigno y analogo ásu naturaleza, por venirse aponer bajo las de otro, q. aunque sea muy favorable les és enteramente desconocido, desnudarse si es nesesario aun de aquellos habitos ó costumbres conq. estan mas naturalizados, sujetandose á otras mil privaciones y padesimientos sobre áventurar los estrangeros aun lo mas apreciable q. és su propia existencia enla peligrosa navegacion q. presisamente habran de emprender para trasladarse ¿y tamaños sacrificios Señor querrán hacerlos, gentes regularmente acomodadas? la comicion á creido q. aun las mas infelices no se presentarian á ellos, si el terreno con que seles convida no llegase afundar sus esperanzas sobre mejorar de suerte, q. seria siempre un inconveniente el exijirles un reconocimiento muy subido y q. las retraheria en todo tpo. el pago de este, si por el no se les esperase lo bastante para grangearlo y grangear lo nesesario, no solo á llenar su descubierto con los capitulantes á cuyas espensas se condujeron y establecieron sino á provér y principalmente las nesesidades indispensables de su vida.

Por todo esto y asegurada la comicion como lo está del precio q. se hadado á los terrenos siempre y cuando se han venido por cuenta dela Hacienda publica q. ha sido él de diez pesos álos de agostadero, sesenta álos de riego propio ó corriente y treinta álos q. solo pueden lograrlo por norias y otros artefactos de cuya clase son los de Tejas, que son los mas conq. cuenta el Estado y los que probablemente fijarán la atencion delos nuebos pobladores, ha parecida á esta q. sin distinguir sino tierras de agostadero y tierras de labor es como deben repartirse q. á cada familia no sele pueden dar en menos de un sitio si fuere labradora y creadora, de una labor si solo fuere labrador, y de 24. millones devaras si solo fuere creadora: que en clase de reconocimiento es bastante el de tres pesos por labor, y treinta por un sitio de Agostadero: y q. su pago no debe exijirseles sino hasta los seis años y por tercios, el primero, alos quatro, el segundo álos cinco, y el tercero álos seis.

La venta de terrenos á solo los Mejicanos no puede ser tan productiva al Estado como lo seria permitida con generalidad ó afabor tambien delos extrangeros. Las ventajas de nuestros terrenos respecto de otros y el subido precio de estos enlos Estados Unidos del Norte, la comicion conoce q. nos atraherian multitud de compradores y q. dentro de muy poco tiempo quizá el Estado habria enagenado yá todos sus terrenos sacando de esta enagenacion sumas q. ningun otro arvitrio podia proporcionarle álo menos con igual prontitud, pero tambien podria suceder en concepto dela comicion que su enagenacion fuese para no contar mas con aquella preciosa parte de ntro. territorio por q. una poblacion de estrangeros Anglo-Americanos todos y con muy pocas ocasiones de frecuentarse conlos nacionales, naturalmente propenderia asu emancipacion y de echo seria independiente antes no abia pensado ya la patria natal contando con el amor de sus hijos por naturaleza y bajo el pretexto de impartirles su proteccion en aumentar con ella sus Estados y este mal q. creyó la comicion devia prevenir de todos modos asi como atraher enlo posible á Tejas Mejicanos què en cualesquiera cambio politico pueden ser muy utiles ála nacion, fundó su disposicion sobre que á estos y solo á estos pudiesen venderse Terrenos.

Tres, Cuatro, y cinco años apenas son bastantes para q. circule una ley de colonizacion y q. los empresarios de esta, hallan tomado todas sus medidas afin de poder celebrar con seguridad sus contratas asi és q. porq. la colonia no haya progresado demasiado dentro de este tiempo no se puede decir de mala la ley q. la ha arreglado: el rapido progreso dela misma colonia dentro de igual tiempo quando mas seria una prueba del mayor interes del Estado conq. podria haberse hecho pero este daño no lo es atendido el beneficio dela poblacion lograda y aun cuando lo fuese seria muy leve; No asi el q. podria

resultar de una novacion ó variacion anticipada enla ley colonial por q. esta podria causar sino una cabal desorganizacion dela colonia álo menos un entorpecimiento fatal, y hé aqui por lo q. creyó la comicion q. hasta despues de seis años de publicada esta ley la legislatura del Estado no podria variarla enlo q. dispone sobre el reconocimiento y precio q. se hade pagar por los terrenos, y la cantidad y calidad enq. estos deben repartirse álos Nuebos pobladores y venderse álos Mejicanos.

Los fundamentos desus demas observaciones manifestó la Comicion rasonadamente q. selas reserbaba porlo q, y quedando verificada entodas sus partes la exposicion que se propuso concluye yá reasumiendose enlos articulos siguientes,[1] q. sujeta al juicio y deliveracion de esta Honorable Asamblea.

James F Perry to Austin[2]

Mine a Burton Feby 14th 1825

Dear Sir

We received your letter of the 17th of December last about ten days since and at your request I now address you. Brown Austin started from Herculaneum about the 3^{d} day of November on the 23^{d} of the same month he wrote to us from Natchez— he had got there safe and well and I expect he is with you long ere this. We are anxiously looking every mail for a letter from him from Natchetoches. With respect to your sister and myself moving to that Country we have not yet come to any determination. I have some thoughts of visiting your Colony and if I am pleased with it we may move there but I have some Scrouples to surmount before, I can get my own consent to leave my native Country, to leave the best Government in the world for a strange Country and strange Laws causes cerious reflections, but perhaps on visiting the country and becoming acquented with your Laws and your Government Settles down on Republican principles as there is now every prospect that it will I may become reconciled to change country. I will now state to you our prospects, with industery and econemy I know we can make an independent

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[1] A bill containing 49 articles is omitted. With some verbal differences, unimportant except as indicated, it is the same as the law of March 24, 1825. See Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 125–133 Article 17 of the law, as passed, provides for augmentation by the government, for cause, of the amount of land that could be allowed a family. This is not contained in the bill, but see Bastrop to Austin, March 19, 1825. Article 33 of the bill exempted for ten years farming machinery and tools from the payment of all duties and taxes except the *alcabala*. The law omits this—probably because it might have encroached on federal jurisdiction. Article 42 of the bill specifically fixes the number of officers for ayuntamientos, in accordance with the Spanish decree of May 23, 1813, while the law disposes of the subject in a general clause. The bill and report are signed by Juan Vicente Campos, Baron de Bastrop, José María Viesca, and Santiago del Valle.

[2] Original in possession of Mrs. Emmett L. Perry.

living here but I never expect to be able to live here in affluence or to make a fortune. I beleive it was before you left this Country that Samuel Perry and myself entered into partnership—he had all the capital I get the one third of the profets. We are still doing business, on the same footing, and we have made some money from a rough calculation we made about a year ago I think I may safely state that if a dividend was now made my part would amount to from 8 to 10,000 Dollars in negroes goods money and Lands, which would be a tolarable start in a new Country. Sam[l] and Myself have made no new arrangement since my marage but I expect we will have to soon. I have not purchased a house yet as I dont wish to purchase untill we determine where to settle permantly as I am not fond of moving. Now I have gave you an Idea of our curcumstances and prospects I wish you to write to me your Ideas of that country both with regard to it[s] government and Laws and its natural advantages do you think with what we could take with us and with industry and economy that we could make a fortune in a few years give us your opinion if you advise me I will visit your colony but unless I thought we could better our cituation I would rather live here as I feel much attached to our native country and Laws. it would certainly be my wish to live near you if it could be so for all our benefits. Chester Ashley is now in this country. I have not yet seen him, but expect to see him before he returns and will make inquiery respecting the little Rock Business. With respect to the Mine A Burton Property I can not at this time give you much satisfaction respecting it. Price and Ruggles and W. M and J Perry, has a lawsute pending in the supreme Court respecting 250 acres which your Father conveyed to Ruggles and James Bryan to secure them for being his security in Bank. Bryan sold his part to W M and J Perry. Price obtained a judgment against Ruggles and Perry for 3,500 Dollars it was removed to the Supreme Court and will be tryed I expect in May next— Perry and Ruggles Lawyers say that your Fathers Heirs could recover the whole or Part of the tract so I am told but I intend consulting Judge Cook (who is one of them and Knowes all about the situation of it) as soon as I can see him and I will than give you a more satisfactory ac[t] of it. Our Legislature is now in Session and has been ever since the 3[d] monday in November and is not expected to rise before the 25th or 26th Instant. they are reviseing the whole code of Laws and are making many very material alterations whether for the better or worse time will determine the last ac[t] we had from Sam[l] Perry who is still a member of the senate he states they had passed 140 laws and had 30 or 40 more to act on Your old Friend Judge Benton has been re-

elected to the U. S. Senate not with standing the most outrageous Slander was circulated against him by his enemies Rectors, Benton Govnr Mc Nair and others it is not yet known who will be our next President went to the house of Representatives (Jackson had the highest vote Adams next and Crawford next Clay was left out Crawfords friends have no hopes the contest will be between Jackson and Adams.

There is now here an agent to lease the U. S. Lead mines he has granted some leases. the miners are not willing to Submit he leases under a Law of 1807 which is thought here does not autherise the leasing of them. if his leases are inforsed it will make a great alteration in the Lead business I think for the worse the leases are for 3 years. Mrs Henry Elliott is in this place teaching school from hir present prospects she expects to have a large School against next summer. She wishes to be remembered to you. Your Sister and Children are well Joel and Austin are going to School Guy and Mary Grow finely. Write to us by every oppertunity as we are always anxtious to here from you. Wm and Jnº Perry are well Will has no wife and John has no Children. Mrs Saml Perry has been in St Louis all winter with her Daughter Mrs Farris Saml writes to us offin they are all well a Brother of the Handy which Saml Shot made an attempt to Shoot Saml in St Louis not long since but Saml jumped in on him and took his pistol from [him] prevented him from shooting and let him go again. Old Rissel and Price are Blamed for seting him on. Emily joins me in our Best wishes for your wellfare and prosperity also give our best respect to your Brother Brown and permit me to subscribe myself your Brother

Jaˢ F. Perry

In your next please direct us how to direct our letters if this is not the right

[Addressed:] Colˡ Stephen F Austin Rio Brazos Province of Texas To the Care of Jared Cable Esqr Natchitoches—

William Anderson to Austin

Wilkenson. Coᵘ Miss. 15 Feby 1825.

Stephen F. Austin Esq.

Dear Sir I avail myself of the return of Mr Huff to your Settlement, to acknowledge the receipt of your communication to me through him. I am extremely anxious to visit you and examine the soil of your Lands, of which I have had the most favorable reports, and unless prevented by circumstances beyond control shall have that pleasure, in the course of the coming Spring or Summer,

I shall come prepared to secure to myself your friendly offer of Land and which you will please retain for me

Wm Anderson

Juan Martin de Beramendi to Austin et al[1]

Juan Martin de Beramendi Sqe first judge Constitutional of San Fernando de Bejar, and accidental Political Chief for fault of proprietor
Cordillera
Los Brazos
Trinidad,
Neches
Nacodoches
to
This Tribunal
[Rubric]

To your's the juge's citizen's dependant's to the new colony and town of San Felipe de Austin, Departments of Coahuila and Tejas Estate.—I put in your knowledge in vir tu of this my requerant Letter, that divers robbery made in this City of drove Horses, and Mules Lately instant this citizen's experiment checks mischief's; at the same time I have had the verification before my Tribunal, that the principal author of this excess, was the ingrateful foreigner French, Andrew Valentine with others perverses, they are stealing in differents parts the aforesaid Droves of Horses and Mules, with the intenseness to drive into United States of America, I am informed that this desertion is for that Country, I desire for my part to accomplish with the Laws and oughts of my employ, with what prevents the Laws, and our Mexican Constitution, I order, require, and charge in name of Republica, and for my part I prayer, and request with exaggeration, that immediately you see this requiring, to prepare for reserved way, to all inHabitants of your's comprehension of this new Colony, to take care of straitely and to be with vigilance in all the passages of Brazos River, when thinking can cross the river, the aforesaid thief Andrew Valentin, and his companions, as soon can be see towards of this point, to take prisoner with all his company and put in embargo all what carry on, and to send to me immediately under a safe conduct, and so doing you accomplishing with the will of Superior Governmt, to whom many times it is assures of your honest process, and of your submission, and obedience to Laws.—I trusty in this recommendable circumstances that caracterize you, my heart it is tranquilized, and I believe that the wicked ingrateful.

[1] From Bexar Archives, February 15, 1825 See Austin to Chriesman, April 1, 1825

Valentin will be prisoner in your hands.—And with the object of the assurance, I order for last that be circulated this my aforesaid Letter from juge in juge with the quickness possible until put this in hands of the Colonel Estevan Austin Sq^re. principal chief of this department, he can dispose the more convenient.

Government House of Bejar 15th. Feby 1825

JUAN MARTIN DE BERAMENDI [Rubric]

De Assist^a.

Josef Antonio Navarro [Rubric] De ass^a. Victoriano Zepeda [Rubric]

To the Juges of the Towns and Places noted in the margin

[On margin:]

Martes quince, sale à las nueve y quarto del dia, este requerente. [Rubric]

Recibido á la una de la tarde el dia primero de Abril en este Juzgado en la Villa de San Felipe de Austin.

AUSTIN [Rubric]

a los dos de la misma tarde salieron extraordinarios p^a dar el correspondiente aviso en los diferentes pasos poblados del Rio de los Brazos.

AUSTIN [Rubric]

H. JOHNSON TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, 15th Feb: 1825

SIR

Entertaining for your character the highest respect, I take the liberty, although I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with you, to introduce to your acquaintance Mr. Ira Ingram who will present this letter. Mr. Ingram is a gentleman of respectability, and in every respect worthy your esteem and confidence. Any service it may be in your power to render him will be thankfully remembered.

H. JOHNSON,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.

Col. S. F. AUSTIN.

JUAN MARTIN DE BERAMENDI TO AUSTIN

CIUDADANO ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

Bexar 15 de Febrero de 1825

Amigo mio: desde q. tomé el mando Politico de esta ciudad; no me sesan los quehaceres.

Quisiera cuando se ha presentado esta oportunidad decir á V. mucho y remitirle algunas copias de los progresos politicos en nues-

tro sistema de Govierno, pero no me lo permite el tiempo; solo aseguraré qe. son muchos y buenos nuestros brincos Republicanos, como tendremos el gusto de berlo dentro de poco.

Por hahora aunque nos maltratran en esta Provª los Yndios y Ladrones, como no es un mal Nacional no tenemos qe. aflixirnos y si procurar quitarnos como puedamos á los quatreros inter el Govierno gosa de mejor posicion para qe. les podamos dar una surribamba razera y vivir tranquilos en este Pais de abundancia.

Empeñese V. amigo mio, en pillarme á los ladrones y no tolere V. por Dios, qe. ninguno se cruse sin pasaporte de aqui ó de la Bahia, pues aqui ya nos acaban á ladronicios, y yo no tengo mas esperanzas qe. es su buena gente.

No tengo tiempo pª mas sino pª ofrecerle mis amistades y afectos á V. y su hermano á quien me saludará, no dejando oseosos los deseos de este su S. S.

JUAN MARTIN DE BERAMENDI [Rubric]

CHARLES DOUGLAS TO AUSTIN[1]

Tuscumbia Franklin County
North Alabama Feb 15th 1825

DR SIR

I wrote you a long letter several months ago and have been anxiously expecting an answer for a considerable time past, but thus far my wishes have not been gratified. I am inclined to think from your silence that the letter miscarried and as a good opportunity offers by a Mr Royal who is about starting for your settlement I embrace it to make a second communication. It would afford me much pleasure to receive from you as an old and highly esteemed acquaintance a long letter filled with information relative to yourself and the country in which you reside. Much interest is excited about your settlement and respectable people here are verry anxious to obtain satisfactory information upon the subject. In order to satisfy this laudable curiosity and to gratify my own private wishes I venture to ask you several questions which will be the easiest and best way of satisfying both, them and myself. I wish to know what the feelings of the Govt are at this time upon the subject of religion. Will it wink at liberty of conscience and permit good and worthy inhabitants to peaceably assemble and worship their God in the way most agreeable to their feelings without evincing any disposition to make proselytes or to interfere with the prevailing religion of the country. This is a subject of vast importance to the people of these U States and has a most powerful effect in preventing respectable families

[1] Printed in *Texas History Teacher's Bulletin*, February 15, 1918.

from removing from this to your country. To those who think liberally an exclusive religion presents no formidable difficulties but you are well apprised of the wonderful influence of education upon a subject involving the present and future happiness of Mankind, particularly in a country like this where religious liberty exists in all its purity. The operation of your system [will be alarming?] to our Females whose influence we must submit to in every thing relating to social and domestic happiness. We will not say they renounce the religion of our Fathers or be deprived of the pleasures derived from its doctrines and ceremonies for all other earthly enjoyments. If deprived of these every other object would cease to please and all around would appear dark and dreary. An elysium under such circumstances would be more intolerable than Siberian desserts. You may depend upon it that your exclusive system has a most discouraging effect upon imigration particularly among the more respectable classes of the community. If that first and most obnoxious article could be blotted from your constitution, my word for it, families of respectability and influence would flock to your country from every part of the United States.

Our most valuable inhabitants here own negroes. I am therefore anxious to know what the laws are upon that subject. Can they be introduced as the labouring servants of emigrants? and, when are they free? They are an important species of property here and our planters are not willing to remove without they can first be assured of their being secured to them by the laws of your Govt.

Inform me about the general appearance of your country, its soil, and climate, particularly in that part of it immediately on or near the sea coast. Is it high and dry or is it low and swampy? Do springs abound and is it difficult to produce water by digging wells? and is the country as well adapted to sugar cane as to cotton? Are you subject to severe droughts during the summer? What is the size of the Colorado, will it admit of schooner navigation up to your town: and is the land immediately on the river high or low and subject to inundation? How far is your town from the sea coast and would a store of goods to well in it? What are your most common diseases; are bilious fevers frequent and severe and would a Doctor do well among you? In what way do you dispose of your lands; do you give long credit to purchasers, and how much is the extent that each family can posses? Must they settle it themselves or will you allow them to settle their purchases in the first instance with good and industrious families? My reason for asking this question is that many of our first rate men might be induced to purchase if they were certain that it was not necessary for them to remove untill after their places were well improved and

comfortably fixed with houses etc etc—Is your country well timbered, and what is your most common growth? Please answer these questions and give as much other information as you conveniently can, all which will be very pleasing to me and may probably prove beneficial in its consequences to yourself, as I think, I can be of service to you in procuring settlers that would do honour to any country. A letter coming from you would be considered as official and people would act accordingly. I take the liberty of suggesting the propriety of your having a mail rout immediately established between your Town and Natchitoches, it would verry much facilitate the intercourse and prove advantageous to your settlement. ' I am anxious to procure a good tract of land immediately on the sea coast, if I could do so I would remove to it with a number of good families. If you know of such a situation where the land is good and where it will be healthy write me all about it. The only national news of importance is the Presidential election. The prominent candidates are General Jackson and Mr. Adams. The tug of war commenced at Washington city on the 9th of this month and how it will end is uncertain. The prevailing opinion in this western country is that Genl Jackson will be elected. This present congress have voted Genl La Fayette $200000 and given him a township of land to be selected by the President of the u States. This is as it should be and has proved to the world that republics are not ungrateful. It is now engaged in perfecting a law for the more effectual suppression of piracy. The law as reported provides for the building of 10 additional sloops of war of 20 guns each to be employed on the West India station. To permit merchantmen vessels to arm in their own defence and allows a provision to such as are wounded whilst defending their vessels, and to make prizes of piratical vessels if they can. It also allows the officers and crews of our National Vessels to pursue and if necessary to land in pursuit of pirates and if the authorities of the Towns in which they secrete themselves attempt to protect them or refuse to give them up after a proper demand has been made to blockade such port or place untill compliance is obtained. This law, I hope, will satisfy Mr. Vives of Cuba and the rascally governor of Po[r]to Rico that we will no longer submit to their infamous conduct. The affairs of Europe are in Statu Quo. Poor degraded Spain is yet convulsed with intestine broils . and groaning under the iron arm of her cruel Monster of a King. The French army is about leaving that unfortunate country and what the consequences will be God only knows. I sincerely hope the nation will react, and if it does I hope all those cursed fanatical monks and tyranical villains who have so long oppressed that people will be quickly made to bite the dust. As to Greece every thing appears encouraging. Her

army and Navy have done wonders. The classical ground of Thermopolæ has been lately again and again crimsoned by the valor of her modern heroes with the blood of her infidel oppressors and her navy has covered itself with glory under the direction of her Gallant Canaris and other valient Chieftains and has driven, and is now blockading within the dardanells the few remaining ships of the great Turkish fleet. Do answer this by the very first opportunity and give me all the news. As I have nothing more at present to communicate I close by subscribing myself your sincere Friend and Obt Servt

CHARLES DOUGLAS

Hon STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

The bearer can tell you all about me and what I am doing I received a letter not long since from Doctor Parrot he is still living in Mexico and is doing well—

J. N. DE LA PEÑA TO CURATES.

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Nos el Ber Dn. Juan Nepomeceno de la Peña Vicario Foraneo de las Provincias de los Texas—

A los Curas Jueces Eccos. que al Margen se notan, atodos los Eccos seculares y regulares y a todos los fieles Cristianos vecinos y moradores estantes evitantes en el distrito de este Departamto á quienes este nuestro Edicto en alguna manera toca ó tocar pueda, Salud y gracia en nuestro Señor JesuCristo: hacemos saver: que siendo una de nuestras primeras y mas principal Obligaciones segun las facultades qe. nos son conferidos la de hacer la santa vicita y urgiendo demasiado su desempeño pa la reforma de las costumbres y bien espiritual de los fieles nos hallamos resueltos áverificarla en toda forma en todos los lugares qe. al margen se notan en cuya virtud arreglandonos álo dispuesto y ordeno pr. los canones en la materia y para evitar perjudiciales dilaciones mandamos en virtud de Santa Obediencia y bajo las penas establecidas en Dro á todos los Eccos y religiosos estantes y evitantes en sus respectivos distritos qe. dentro de ocho dias contados desde la publicacion de este presentan las licencias conqe. se hallan de celebrar, confesar y predicar, pa refrendarlos y los Titulos de Capellanos y otros beneficios qe. obtengan, los qe. entregaran a sus Curas quienes los tendran en supoder hta. nuestro arrivo: y bajo las mismas penas canonicas mandamos a todos los alvacias [albaceas] heridores [herederos], Tutores, Curadores ú otros aquines tocar pueda, qe. dentro del mismo termino, y como queda dho. presenten los testametas Codaciles ú otras memorias y ultimas Voluntades qe nos estuvieren vicitadas: y pr. ultimo bajolas dichas penas y dentro del espresado termino—Mandamos alos mayordomos de Fabrica y

Cofradias qe se hayen fundadas en dhas. parroquias qe presenten sus titulos y libros de cuentas qe hayan seguido de los caudales de ellos: limosnas o qualesquiera otras intereses qe. les pertenescan. Y p^{a} que llegua a noticia de todos y nadie alegue ignorancia Mandamos qe. este Ntro. Edicto se lea publicam^{te} en la Misa mayor del primer dia festivo, se asiente en el libro de Gob^{no} se saque una copia exacta y sefixa en la parte acostumbrada, y el original siga—el derrotera qe asigna el Margen—Dada en Ntra Sala Vicarial de Bexar firmado de Nos. y refrendado de Ntro. Pro. Notaria de Gob^{no} y Vicitor a 18 de Febrero de 1825—*Juan Nepom^{o}* Vico. Foraneo de Texas—Victoriano Zepeda—*pro Not^{o}*

P. S. Slocum to J. E. B. Austin

Natchitoches February 20th 1825

Dear Sir:

Permit to introduce to your polite attention Mr Thompson a gentleman of acknowledged Worth and Merit—you will confer a particular favour by showing him every attention in your power—

I am sorry I can not at this time give you something interesting from this quarter: but there is so little matter for news in a little country village like Natch^{s} that not much can be Expected—all that is stiring in the political world you will Learn by the Newspapers which I send you. the result of the Presidential Election has not been heard of. but at an Early hour I will inform you—It is generally supposed Mr. Adams will be Elected Virginia, Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, and New York with New England States will support him consequently Crawford will be out of the question with much propriety—Upon the whole I think the contest a close one involved in much doubt—We shall know the fate of the candidates in a few days—Judge Johnson our late member of Congress has been re-elected to the Senate of the U States in opposition to Mr. Livingston—a striking proof of popularity not originating from Talent but Exalted worth—Mr. Smith a young man of merit will leave here in ten or fifteen days and you shall have a long Letter from me on miscellaneous Subjects be content with the preceding scraps

P. S. Slocum [Rubric]

James B Austin Province of Texas

Kinchen Holliman to Austin

Woodville state of Mississippi Wilkerson County Feby 21st 1825

Dear Sir,

In consequence of the failure of our corn and the want of money it has put it out of my power to go to your country as soon as I

promised you, and cannot possibly go now until the Month of November next—I am sorry to tell you that it is out of my power to send you any money at this time, but will endeavor to do so by the time my Brother Michael and Mr. H. Connell goes over which will be in June next, they are determined to go and have set the first of June to start, The bearer Mr. Lawrence Ramey my friend will give you all the necessary information respecting my intentions etc.

Be so good as to continue to hold the land you promised me for Brother Michael and Mr. Hugh Connell until they arrive Mr. Ramey will leave here in two or three days for the purpose of procuring his and for other purposes and will go with Mr. Huff by the way of New Orleans

K HOLLIMAN

STEPHEN F OUSTIN Esq.

MARTIN DE LEON TO AUSTIN

Villa de Guadalupe de Victoria Febrero 22 1825

Sor Dⁿ. ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

Mi apreciabilisimo Sor y amigo: He tenido la mayor satisfaccion en recivir la q. V. ha tenido la bondad de dirigirme pʳ. el Capⁿ. Roxo: deseaba con todo interes ponerme en contestacion con V. pª ofrecerle mis cortos servicios los q. espero se dignará admitir con toda franqueza ordenandome lo q. guste.

La oferta q. V. me hace de las familias la acepto, suplicandole me envie las q. pueda pʳ. q. en el dia estoy casi solo y me encuentro con pocos hombres q. impongan respeto á los Yndios si tratan de incomodarme. El orden q. sigo pª. distribucion de Terrenos y demas es el mismo q. dicta el ultimo plan de colonizacion.

Me tomo la livertad de encargarle si hay en esas habitaciones algun chochecito pª. camino me dé aviso pª disponer vayan á reconocerlo y tratar de ajuste.

Luego q. los caminos se compongan tendré el honor de pasar ávisitarlo y mientras no dudo disponga del mucho afecto q. le profesa su mui amigo q. B. S. M.

MARTIN DE LEON [Rubric]

H. CONNELL TO AUSTIN

Woodville 26th Feby 1825

DEAR SIR,

On the return of Mr. Holliman and Mr. Huff from your country last fall they informed me that they had got your promise to reserve a League of land for me, on condition that I would agree to settle

it etc—and Mr. Huff has also informed me a few days ago that he had received a letter from you in which you wished to know if It was my intention to take it, if not you would have to let some other person have it; I will now ask the favour of you still to retain the land for me, as I am determined to have it, and will start to your country for that purpose by the first of June next in company with Mr. Michael Holliman who is going also with the same views, and expect there will be 2 or 3 other gentlemen go with us

Mr. George Huff has left here 5 or six days ago for New Orleans, and from there by water to your neighbourhood, Mr. L. Ramey left here 2 days since, who will meet with Mr. Huff in New Orlenas and go with him who you will find an honest man and an excellent Mecanic

Mr K Holliman has written to you by Mr. Ramey the contents of which you will see

I am sending this letter to Mr. Huff in New Orleans, and the bearer Mr. Severson is waiting on me, and have not time to say more at present—

You will please accept my best wishes for your health and prosperity and the speedy settlement of your province which is the sincere prayer of

H. Connell [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Stephen F. Austin Esqr p^{r} Mr. Huff

Freight Charges

Stephen F. Austin

To James Holloway Dr 1825

To hawling the following articles from Nachitoches to the Brazos River 1 Trunk—1 Keg—and 2 Boxes—$40.00

Recd. payment in full Feby 27 1825

James Hollaway

William Johnson to Austin

Woodville February 28th 1825

Dear Sir,

The inclosed letters to my friend Judge Child, were this moment handed to me by Mr. Royall of Alabama, who is on his way to your country—And as Mr. R. has no acquaintance in your country I take the liberty of saying to you that from the respectability of the writers of those letters as well as what I have seen of him, I have no doubt but that you will find Mr. R. a Gentleman of worth and charactor—Within a few days a report has reached us from Wash-

ington City stating that John Q. Adams is elected President—The result is said to be 13 States for Adams—7 States for Gen[l] Jackson and 4 States for Mr. Crawford—I think the report doubtful—Mr. Huff is now on his way to Texas with his family and outfit etc and I am greatly in hopes that he will arrive safe and fulfill your expectations—There are a number of Gentlemen of fortune and respectability who talk strongly of visiting your country this spring—

WM. JOHNSON

Hon. Stephen F. Austin ——

H. CONNELL TO AUSTIN

Woodville March 1st 1825

DEAR SIR,

I wrote a letter to you a few days ago by Mr. George Huff by the way of New Orleans, informing you that it was my intention to procure and settle the League of land that you had promised Messrs Huff and Holliman to reserve for me, and will leave here on the first of June next. for your Country for that purpose, and request the favour of you still to retain it for me as I am determined to procure it if possible and no accident happens. Mr. K. Holliman wrote to you by Mr. L. Ramey who is gone with Mr. Huff informing you that he could not go before the first of November next and his reasons etc which you will receive—Mr. Michael Holliman will go with me together with several others all with the same views—The bearer Mr. William P. Perkins is waiting on me and have not time to say more at present but will write again if an opportunity offers for fear of miscareges—

—— H. CONNELL

WILLIAM JOHNSON TO AUSTIN

Woodville March 1st 1825

DEAR SIR,

This will be handed to you by Mr. William P. Perkins; a respectable and wealthy planter of this country—Mr. Perkins visits your Province with the view of acquiring Land and ultimately establishing a sugar or Cotton farm in your province—Mr. P. has respectable and extensive family connections here as well as in the State of Tennessee—No doubt, should he be pleased with your country and future prospects there, he will ultimately move there and be the means of many valuable citizens mooving there both from this State and from Tennessee— I have been personally and intimately

acquainted with him for many years and have no hesitation in saying [he] would be a valuable acquisition to your settlement—Mr. P. is now waiting and you will therefore excuse this crude Note.—

WM. JOHNSON

Hon. Stephen F. Austin Province of Texas.—

JAMES CUMMINS TO AUSTIN

March 3d 1825

DR FRIEND

I Recd a note from my brother John he States he cald to See moore respecting that land and he told him that he was a bout to let it go to Col. Groce he wished me to See you a mediately respecting it if there is any posibility of Saving it you will please drop me a few lines what I am to do I will go up and bring him down if necessary, my time does not admit of my Coming down at this time

JAMES CUMMINS

Col. S F Austin

THOMAS EARLE TO AUSTIN

Buflou Byou March 5th 1825

SIR

I understand you grant, Lebours to men of fameleys on these waters I in Consequince of not, haveing no timber on my League I hope, Sir, you will grant me timber Land on greens Byoue, I would do myself the honour to Call and See you but Expecting the arivl of the Schooner daley James Early my Son a young man Groing hopes you will grant, him Land the Same as other young men, Should you think proper Sir to grant, me any you will please Sir to give the order for Survey to Mr, Cook

Sir, Alexander Kelpatrick mate of my Schooner requested of me to aply to you for Land on these waters he being continneley on board provents him Seeing to his business, and now at See

THO^{S} EARLE

Col. Austin

AUSTIN TO COLONISTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Is hereby given that in future the orders drawn on me by the Surveyors and accepted commonly called Land Office Money will only be received in discharge of debts due by the Settlers for the surveying

or other expences on their Lands and that I will not be accountable for the payment of such orders in any other way, all persons who hold any of the above paper are notified to present it without delay.

San Felipe de Austin 5th March 1825

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

THOMAS WESTALL TO JARED E GROCE

March 5th 1825

Col. GROCE

SIR Mr. Talley will call on you for the corn and Bacon—you told me you would let me have be so good as to send it by him and I will pay you the money when cald for allso pleas send 4 Bushels for Capt Davis and Sartan too Gentlemen that came with me to this place and I will pay you for it

THOS. WESTALL

Recd of the with in ten dollars in cash from S. F. Austin

JARED E GROCE

Recd. of Mr. Groce ten bushels of corn—for Mr. Westall—which I promise to deliver to him in San Felipe de Austin—

DAVID TALLY

March, 19th, 1825.

ISAAC D. OGLEM TO AUSTIN

Red River Rapide Louisiana March 9th 1825

Col STEPHEN F AUSTIN

DEAR SIR Having been an early visitor of your part of the country and always entertained of it a favourable opinion I have it in contemplation to move to that part of the Country on Condition that I can purchase land of you My Friend William G Grant [is] the bearer of this I have obligated myself to him to let him have two or three hands to build Gins Saw mills or any other building that he thinks proper to build Also I have agreed to furnish all irons Gin stand etc any obligation or contrat he makes or binds himself to you I will be willing to comply with

ISAAC D. OGLEM (?)

N B not having the pleasure of being Personal accounted [acquainted] with you I will refer you to Capt R Jones or James Jones, Randolph and Isaac Foster

PRICE LIST

Bill of Powder furnished on the 12th inst for the celebration of that day[1]

"30 lbs Powder @ $1.00 ..... $30.00

San Felipe de Austin 15th March 1825 paid

JAS. E. B. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR RAFAEL GONZALES

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1924.]

Exmo Sor—En cumplimiento de la orden del primer Alcalde de Bexar dada por el como Gefe Civil acidental de Texas fecha 9 de Dbre p°p°. mandandome tomar el juramento de los habitantes de esta Colonia de mi mando para reconocer y obedecer el Honorable Congreso de este Estado de Coahuila y Texas y tambien el juramento a la Constitucion Nacional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos. estos documentos no llegaron hasta el fin del mes pasado y entonces nombre el dia 12 de este mes para verificar tan importante y solemne acto y en aquel dia la mayor parte de estos habitantes se presentaron y á la media dia bajo la bandera Mexicana les lei la Constitucion Nacional traducida en Yngles y los decretos del Honorable Congreso de este Estado fechas 15 y 16 de Agosto el primero declarandose instalado el dho Congreso y el otro sobre el juramento y acabada la lectura les tome el juramento en la forma prescrito por la ley lo que todos ellos prestaron con el mayor gusto y entusiasmo acabada esto se tiro 23 tiros de una pieza de artilleria de á cuatro es decir un tiro por cada Estado y cada Territorio, entonces se sentaron toda la concurrencia á una comida preparada por las ocasion y tengo el placer de decir que por todo el dia reinaba la mayor orden gusto y entusiasmo general en favor del Gobierno de nuestra Patria adoptiva. todo lo cual comunico á V. E. en cumplimiento con la citada orden del Gefe Civil acidental—Dios y Libertad—San Felipe de Austin 16 de Marzo de 1825

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN

Exmo Señor Gobernardor Rafael Gonzales

BASTROP TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 19 de Marzo de 1825

D^n^ ESTEVAN AUSTIN Ten^te^ Coronel San Felipe de Austin

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO Y DUEÑO: Muy despacio andan todos los negocios en este Congreso, con mucho trabaxo obtube el decreto para

[1] Taking the oath to the Federal Constitution. See next document, Austin to Gonzales, March 16, 1825.

establecer un Gefe en Texas, pero gracias a Dios ya Salio, y hise nombrar a Saucedo, esta ahora delante del congreso la ley de colonisacion hasta el articulo quarente inclusivo passo no faltan mas que nueve articulos en caso que el congreso no hasce algunos aditionales, esperaba que se haberia concluido el Sabado pasado, pero como andan las cosas estare moi contento qe se concluye el Sabado venidero para poder envearle a V con el correo del 26 del en que estamos; hable conserniente lo que medice V en su ultima con el Sor Gov^or. y ha tenido su aprobacion ya havia yo previsto a este quando propuso a mis compañeros de comision el articulo 24 de la ley para establecer un Gefe de Departamento en Texas, él congreso lo ha sancionado con una pequeña adicion pero que no altere de modo alguna lo esencial de la cosa, con el correo de Sabado pasado escribi a Saucedo para que proponga a V avisandole en el mismo tiempo qe tenia ya la aprobacion del Sr Gov^or. Sus amigos los Impresarios Edwards y Ledwigs [Leftwich] que estan aqui, cuyos asuntos pronto se concluiran y pueden volver a los Estados Unidos haciendo a V una visita en San Felipe instruiran a V como se andan los negocios y quanto penoso esta mi comision, hai una grande oposicion en el congreso contra Texas, y para que yo logre alguna cosa beneficial por Texas y las nuevas colonias debe ganar los votos antes de que se proponga en el congreso, si no estoi cierto de mal lograr mi intento. No se quien eligiran en mi lugar quando se levante este congreso que pienso sera para Junio o Julio, pero si no quiden que se cosa interesa en las nuevas poblaciones corre peligro que todo lo trabaxado por mi se pierde V conoce tambien que yo quales son los animos de las gente que suponen en Bexar y quanto odian a los nuevos establecimientos conviene que se entiende V con Saucedo sobre este particular V me dice que vendra su hermano por acca Me alegreria mucho mas que en caso que tenga la edad y los riquisitos necesarios de lo que Saucedo podra enformar a V que le envea V como elector a Bexar y en caso que la constitucion establesca que la eleccion se haga acqui que venga por acca, sugetandolo siempre a los consegos de Saucedo y a ningun otro, porque la futura eleccion decidera de la suerte de Texas, quederan muchos puntos pendientes en favor de Texas, que no me atrievo promover por la granda oposicion que y palpo en mis compañeros, consultere yo tambien a Saucedo y en tiempo avisere a V lo que me paresca lo mejor sujetandome siempre a las luces y conocimientos de V. En esta semana tenemos que nombrar un senador en lugar de Dn Melchor musquis quien ha declenado su servicio en esta representacion alegando que esta sordo pero creo que prefiere ser Gov^or del Estado de Mexico que senador por Cohaguila y Texas. estoi *elexionering* por Ramos Arispe amigo de V., pero temo que perdere mi trabaxo, tiene entre los Saltilleros muchos enemigos, cada dia me confirme mas en

mi opinion, que por que uno sea su enemigo es necesario servirle bien, y lomenos se prueva con Arispe, baxo el antiguo sistema procuro a Saltillo, la intendencia [,] una academia hiva procurarse la trasladacion de la Mitraxe bajo el presente a ser capital del Estado no obstante que Saltillo esta en la frontera, la agregacion de la Provincia de Texas a la de Cohaguila, ala ultima dies votos contra Texas uno etc. con todos estos beneficios y prerogativos que ha procurado a Saltillo los Saltleros le odian mas que al mismo Demonio, no veo otras razones que de haberles procurado su bien estar, Si pierdo el punto no se quien nombraran no ai en todo este Estado un individuo que en politica deserve descalsar a Ramos Arispe.

antes de concluir esta carta avisere a V de mi *elexionering* sucesos. Con el correo de Sabado pasado avisan de Mexico qe Dn Matias Humada estara por la semana santa en esta capital con dos cientos infantes del Regimiento No. 2 y cien dragones para guarescer a Texas el esta nombrada Comd^te^ General de ella pienso que se detendra poco acqui paresce que el Gov^o^ Superior impuse a recordarse de ese enteresante parte de la federacion. Los comanches han empesado a hostilisar a la frontera de Cohaguila, mataron un soldado en Santa Rosa, y llevron cantidad de cavallada en San Fernando Nava y Rio Grande robaron muchos bestias Mulares y Cavallares incueraron diferentes vecinos en el ultimo presidio comittieron excesos contra algunas povres mugeres q estaban solas en un rancho distante del referido presidio. Elosua comd^te^ general de Cohaguila esta restableciendo sobre el pied antiguo las comp^as^ presidiales de su mando el Gov^o^ Superior le ha asignado dies mil pesos mensales sobre las cargos de Zacatecas por este fin y para la mantencion de ellos los cargos de Tamalipas deben fornir mensales la misma cantidad y por el mismo objeto a las de Texas, pienso que encontraran alguna dificultad para completarlas por la falta de gente que ai en estas Provincias, y principalmente de buenos oficiales que nose encuentran. de Witt de quien me hablo V en sus dos cartas esta acqui, no se todavia que pretende, vino con Tylor pero este no es Suegro de Rocha, de Witt me digo que hablaria con migo sobre sus negocios, espera solamente que se concluya la discusion de la ley de colonisacion, le he entregado sus papeles qe. me dirigio V. y que me pidio el mismo dia de su llegada, parece hombre muy fino me dice qe. sus antes pasadas eran *Dutch men*, en caso que le puedo servir de algo lo hare con fina voluntad hasta que V me lo ha encargado. No ai const[it]uciones Federales acqui la que me dio el Sr. Gov^or^ la envie a V. puede que Seguin qe espero llegara cada instante trai algunas consigo, le quieare las que pueda para enviarles a V. Ningunas noticias oficiales de importancia recivimos de Mexico cartas particulares dicen que se teme una invasion de parte de la España ayudada de la Francia y de la Santa liga

es cierta que por si sola no puede hacer nada Si es cierto que puede contar con este auxilio quede que entente algo, el S. P. E. se empeñe mucho a poner el exercito sobre un pied respetable sera por no ser tomado al improvisto: los negociaciones con la Engletierra avancen muy poco a poco, el cabinete Britanico no se resuelve todavia a reconocer nuestra independencia, pero por este sus negociantes no dejan de hacer las suyas, introducen muchos efectos manufacturas en su pais y en cambio llevan, grana añil dinero y plata pasta, para con estos volvernos generos de sus manufacturas en cambio de las mismas cosas y de este modo anda la bola; los comerciantes Americanos se quejan todos que pierden en sus comercios por los excesivos derechos que se les exigen en los puertos, que porque tienen los efectos de segunda mano, con todo esta cada dia llegan algunos como tambien Franceses de la Nueva orleans quejandose de mismo, no les comprende si este comercio era tan ruinoso, algunos nuevos avantureros poderian ser engañados en sus speculaciones, pero los que una vez han mal logrado su intento, no volverian esponerse a sufrir las mismas perdidas. espero que despues que V havera establecido una regular corespondencia entre San felipe y la Nueva Orleans y qe los mercaderes de este reconosean su verdadero interes haran la mayor parte del comercio de este estado. Recivi oi 26 de Marzo por el Monterey su apreciable de 18 del pasado, no comprendo como no ha recivido V mi carta en que digo a V que ha venido acqui por conducto del senador de este Estado el Sr Sevallos la representation qe hizo V al S P E para que le concediese a V permisso para entroducir en el terreno qe ha sido asignado a V dos cientas ó tres cientas familias de mas de las qe V. ha entroducido ya. le digo a V qe reforme V su peticion, y la haga V al Sr. Governador de este Estado Dn. Rafael Gonzales a quien compete esta negocio y si V quiere puede V pedir mas familias. Dn. Erasmo no ha llegado todavia pero pienso qe no tardera. Salio la ley de colonisacion, con el correo pasado he enviado a Saucedo el proyecto de dicho Ley de colonisacion Suplicandole que le dirigiese a V con la primera oportunidad por qe enteresa qe V la ve, ha sufrido poca alteracion a lo menos ninguna de consideracion, dejo la pluma pr. irme al congreso quiero hacer una adicion Pr qe el Sr. Govr. puede dar alos colones qe tenga mucha familia mas toreno que lo que dice la ley no pude lograrle antes, con trabajo hice pasarle como esta, pero voi hacer oi otratentativa convenia dejar que aprobasen la ley, antes de proponerlo; de aqui a tres horas dire a V el successo. no, pudo hacer pasar oi el articulo que queria hacer adoptar por no detener la publicacion de la ley vere que por un decreto particular lo obtenga el martes[1] Seria en beneficio de los

[1] This was passed and inserted in the law as article 17 On the colonization law in general see Bastrop in Legislature, February 9, 1825, above. Compare also November 16, 1824, and January 1, 1825.

nuevos colones pero si no le logre la ley esta bastante favorable mañana en sesion extraordinaria tendremos la eleccion de Senador pero temo que arispe no sera elegido Su competidor esta Viesca hermano de uno de los diputados de Paras, lo qe hasce que no puedo hacer por Arispe lo que deseaba, porque Viesca, Campos, y Gutieres los tres vocales de Paras, son que me han ayudado lo mas a hacer pasar la ley de Colonisacion, y la del Gefe de departamento de Texas, la unica cosa buena qe se ha hecho hasta a hora en el Congreso pero muy buena por Texas, y que le daran su ser y prosperidad futura, tengo muchas cosas qe proponer en favor de Texas, como que sea declarada Capital del Estado de Cohaguila y Texas la Ciudad de Bexar y que el congreso el govierno los diferentes tribunales pasen alla quando Bexar tendra los elementos necesarios para poder recivirles que a mi parescer sera en muy pocos años principalmente quando algunos americanos vayan a establecerse alla y muchas cosas todavia mas importantes si les logre me creere acredor a la gratitud de mis conciudadanos pero qe estoi seguro de no lograr porqe es gente poco agradacedas con el correo venedero le dare a V noticias de todo que sucede sea bueno a malo, la buena noticia que hemos recivido de oficio es el reconocimiento de nuestra independencia por el cabinete de Sn. James este nos dar un Ser politico entre las otras naciones, se espere el ministro engles cada dia, los Americanos se han descuidado en enviar uno, este procurera asqui una preponderancia de los Engleses Salude a su hermano y Primo y a todos los amigos y ponga me a los pies de la Señora Hermana de V y disponga de Su Amigo q S M B

BASTROP.

WILLIAM BRENAUGH TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches
March 19—1825.

SIR

It is my wish to procure land in your country: I am a man of family, have twelve negroes and will improve the same within the time prescribed by law— I authorize Mr Smith to locate it for me.

W^M BRENAUGH

Mr. S. F. Austin
Texas

J. CABLE TO AUSTIN

Cantonement, Jesup March 21st 1825.

DEAR FRIEND,

By Mr. Smith I send you a few news Papers [from] which you will see the Result of the Election of President of the U. S. Mr.

John Q. Adams has been Duly Elected, we have not much news more than Mr Smith can inform you, thare is great hopes of the United States becoming Peaceable possession of the Province of Texas as far as the Rio grande By a letter Mr. Johnson Received from his Farther in Orleans Last Saturday, he advises his sone to not sell his land claims in Texas that in conversation with some gentleman in Orleans he states that our Minister to Mexico is about to conclude a Trety with the Mexican Republic for the Province of Texas— the Rio grande to be the line between the two governments[1] I hope you will Reserve me a League of Land in some good Place on the River Brassos or Colorado, Mr Smith has spoken to me about a league on the colorado Perty low down you would be the best judge of that I shall be out in may and Esqr McGuffin says he will come with me without fail sickness excepted The led [lead], I have tried evry Person to take it out that was going out I may get Mr. Payton to take some out in a week or two, if you should want any thing from our Place pleas write and I will Send it out to you Pleas to give my Respects to your Brother and Pleas to accept my best and well wishes towards you, and blive me

J. CABLE

To Col. Stephen F. Austin St. Felip de Austin Rio Brazos Province of Texas

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GASPAR FLORES TO BASTROP

Bexar 21 de Marzo de 1825

SOR. Dⁿ FELIPE NERI BARON DE BASTROP

MUY SEÑOR MIO Y AMIGO: acompaño a V. la adjunta copia q. me ha escrito el Sor. Dⁿ Estevan de Austin y por ella se impondra V. de las nuevas ideas q. le animan para el fomento de esta Provª. y la dirixo a V. pr. q. como amante de esta desgraciada Provª ponga todo su influxo a qe. se consigan en todas sus partes las propociciones qe. hace el Sor Austin qe. me parese sera el mejor medio qe. hará felices a estos havitantes.

Desde q. V. se fué de esta ninguna de sus amigos han recibido ni una letra consideramos sea la causa las grandisimas ocupaciones q. le rodearan.

No dexe V. de escribirle al Sor Trespalacios y digale que su Coche esta enteramente perdido qe. solo se puede lla contar con el fierro q. Dⁿ Juan de Beramendi dice lo tomará en cuenta del pico qe. le deve que me diga sobre el particular lo qe. devo hacer.

GASPAR FLORES [Rubric]

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[1] Clay's instructions to Poinsett to move for an adjustment of the boundary which would leave Texas to the United States were dated March 26, 1825.

JOHN S. WILLS TO AUSTIN

State of Ohio Brown County Ripley March 22, 1825

Sir

By Mr. Wm Cummings I take the liberty of addressing you, tho: a perfect stranger, this however I hope will not be considered intrusive, in as much as I am very desirous of lerning the general character of your province, as to general Laws and municipal regulations by profession I am a lawyer, and have been in the profession for upwards of twenty five years, and have connected with me a Son in Law of the same profession, a young man of finished education, and in general opinion of much promise. I have also Nephew a phisician, regularly bread, these gentlemen have strong inclination to settle in some New Country, opening to them, prospects, more flattering to their views, than any thing in this section of the United States. By News paper information we *here* are informed, that the Government of Mexeco, will be partially organized and assimelated to the Government of these United States so far as circumstances will permit. should your government, be organized with a Judiciary likened to that of any [of] our states it is presumable some field would be opened for a young [man] of legal acquirements, of which you will be pleased to inform me.

It is not improbable but that upon satisfactory information, of the character of your government, should it be as I have had reason to calculate, I would with some few others become citizens thereof, for myself I could not from age (fifty) expect much, but my object is the promotion of my connections, we could not bring much wealth, with us, but I can say with some confidence, we could, bring that, that would be no loss to your infant establishment, character etc.

At some leisure moment, will you be pleased to devote, a little time in answering this letter, and have it, forwarded to some post office in the United States,

JOHN S. WILLS.

N B

I believe I knew your father, when he resided in Richmond, Virginia I was then studying Law in that place, I saw him afterwards at Cincennati Ohio, on his way to the lower Country

J. S. W.

Colo. PHILIP AUSTIN New Mexico.

JOHN P. COLES TO AUSTIN

March 26th 1825

DEAR SIR

Inclosed you will find the plat of Mr James Hopes Tract of Land he has Exchanged the Tract of Land which was Intended for him

above to Mr. Beauford Brooks for Brooks League adjoining the town Tract as you will perceive So you will arrange the League of Land which was surveyed in the name of King for Mr. Beauford Brooks they wish their deed as soon as you can get them made out and send them up Mr. Hope wishes to get the vacant Land that Lyes below Mr. Williams—adjoining Fisher I suppose there may be a quarter Leage of it If you think proper to let him have it you hav probably an account of its situation in the office so that you can deed it to him without any further survey If you cannot let me know and I will have It Run out— he also understood that there is some vacancy on Mill Creek above the Mill Tract he is desirous to get a Leage there If he can he says that he has a Large family and feels desirous to procure as much Land for them as posible as to the last Request you will doo as you think proper I wish you to make out the Town Tract in Brooks deed or Mr. Hopes which Ever is moust convenient you will find inclosed the survey of the two Labours

JNO P. COLES [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO HORATIO CHRIESMAN.[1]

Having received information at seven o'clock in the afternoon of this day that the within mentioned Andrew Valentine together with his companions Mariano Mora one Chocolatero and others of his associates are stopped on the Trinity River at the Crossing of the La Bahia Road at the House of one Sartuche.

Therefore in compliance with the above order of the Acting Governor of the Department of Texas and in the name of the Mexican Republic I command you to collect a sufficient Number of the National Militia of this Colony to follow and make prisoners the said Valentine and his companions wherever they may be found and to take possession of everything they have with them bringing them and the property taken forthwith to this Town under strict guard that I may send them on to the Superior Authority as Prisoners In compliance with the foregoing order. Useing arms should they make resistance. Thus I Stephen F. Austin Lieu[t] Co[l] of the Militia of this Colony and Judge Commissioner therefor Command and order to be executed.

Given in the Town of San Felipe de Austin 1st Ap[l] 1825

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]
SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS [Rubric]
Secretary of the Colony

To Citizen Horatio Chrisman Captain of Militia——

[1] From Bexar Archives, University of Texas. There is also a Spanish translation in this collection. For the charge against Valentine see Beramendi to Austin, February 15, 1825. Chriesman's report, April 20, 1825.

Austin to Alcalde of Nacogdoches[1]

Con este insierto á V la adjunta Cordellera[2] del Sor. Gefe Civil acidental del departam^to de Texas p^a q^e V. disponga en la parte q^e le toca lo necesario p^a su mas exacto y pronto Cumplimiento.

He mandado al Captn de la Milicia de esta Colonia el Ciudadano Horacio Chrisman en perseguim^to de los referidos Reos Valentin y sus Compañeros y si acaso este oficial llega hta Nacogdoches requiero de V. en el nombre de la Republica y lo suplico de parte mia ayudarle en q^to toca á sus deberes, p^a arrestar los dhos Reos y q^e á la mayor brevedad V devuelva dha Cordellera á la superioridad de este Departam^to de Texas como en ella esta ordinardo.

Dios y Libertad San Felipe de Austin 2° de Abril de 1825

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Al Ciudadano Pedro Procela Alcalde Constitucional del distrito de Nacogdoches

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Humphrey Jackson to Austin

Sir

Inclosed you have the statement of James Strange Respecting the time he was on board the Schooner Mary he has had no opportunity of seeing the Alcalde since you requested me to get it he says he is willing to swair to it any time if requested he being very busay at present I have every reason to belive the within statement of Mr. Strang to be Correct I am certain he would not state any thing but what was true the Settlers on the East of the San Jacinto is unanimous to Continue in your Collony they are willing to sine any Pe[ti]tion for that purpose if you are willing to accept us in your Collony I have not been at the Trinity since I seen you and has not any thing particular to mention

H Jackson

To Cor^l S F Austin San Jacinto April 3rd 1825

Austin Collony District of San Jacinto

James Strange the Constable for said District Recd. an Attachment from H Jackson Alcalde for said District against the Master and owners of the Schooner Mary which Attachment I Executed on the Said Schooner on the first of May 1825 at Red fish Bar for severel days after I went on board the wind blowing a gail at South and South East the Vessel Drifting with one Anchor we put the Cabose out with the small lower Cable it held her a few ours she again Drifted and commenced thumping Capt. Carrico Asked my Advice what was best to do I told him if I give my advice I might be rong he told me no he Asked for it and I could not be rong in giving it if

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[1] From Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

[2] Beramendi to Austin, February 15, 1825. Also Austin to Beramendi, April 4, 1825.

he did not liked it he could let it alone I told him as he had been taulcking of Runing Hir a ground and some times of Cutting a way the Masts if he would now slip the Cable and hoist sail it was most likely we could get hir thru the Pass of Red fish bar and if we could I could bring her into the San Jacinto and lay her safe a long the bánck he then gave orders to slip the Cable Maicking sail the Schooner by this time was so fast a ground she would not mind her helm Capt. Carrico then gave orders to hoist all the sail we could and run hir a ground—at this time there was on board Capt Carrico the Cook Robert Passmon the guard and my self while I Remained on board I took no Command of the Vessel further than preventing hir pulling to say the Guard and I obayed Capt Carrico orders and assisted in every thing he wanted to be don we don the most of the pumping the Vessel being very leaky

JAMES STRANGE

April 3 1825

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR RAFAEL GONZALES[1]

Citizen Stephen F. Austin, Lieut. Colonel of the National Militia, of the river Brazos and Colorado, Judge ad interim for the administration of justice, and Empresario of this Colony.—Most respectfully represents to your Excellency, that:

having already completed the settlement of the three hundred families which the Supreme Government of Mexico authorized me to introduce into this Province of Texas. Application is made to me daily to receive and settle more families, as colonists, some of which have already arrived here, others are on the road, and have written to me, besides a number amounting to nearly three hundred, who have applied to me from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The only reply I have made at present to them, is, that I would make their applications known to the Supreme Government of the State, Stating to them, that it is out of my power to grant them license or permission to occupy or appropriate any land whatever, in the district under my charge, until the resolution of the Government should be known. Among the applicants, are some few of bad repute, these I have ordered to depart forthwith out of the limits of this Jurisdiction; a measure of Executive Police which circumstances required me to take, to preserve good order, and tranquility among these worthy Colonists, in consequence of which, that class of people are very much irritated against me, and

[1] Translation from Record of Empresario Contracts, 1825–1835, pp. 48–50. General Land Office of Texas. There is a Spanish copy in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

under the excitement, disseminating infinite calumnies, and raising false reports, relative to my conduct and authority; but I feel perfectly secure under the conviction, that the Government, taking into consideration the great injury which would result from the introduction of such characters, will approve the course I have pursued in this instance; thereby preventing such persons from incommoding these Colonist hereafter; and at the same time, promote the progress of this section of the State generally.—I request the Supreme Government of the State of Coahuila and Texas, in its acknowledged goodness to authorize me to settle the additional number of five hundred families on the lands which remain vacant upon the rivers San Jacinto, Brazos, and Colorado, and their tributaries, and on the Island and Bay of Galveston, with full power to expel from this jurisdiction, all persons of notoriously bad character, who in future may immigrate hither. The arguments I offer in support of this petition are:

1st—The number of three hundred families already legally settled is very small to sustain itself against the Savage Indians, who surround us.

2nd—It is important that the settlement of the vacant lands contiguous to, and adjoining those already distributed, should be effected through the same Empresario, or authority who surveyed and distributed the lands to the present Colonists, in order to prevent all clashing or dispute between the new and old Colonists, with regard to their lines and boundaries; likewise, by these means, to form in this town a general and minute Record of all the lands distributed within this jurisdiction; a matter of the greatest importance in preventing hereafter, even the possibility of doubts, or disputes, in relation to titles.

3rd—Should the National Government make a port of entry of Galveston, the advantages of sales which would result therefrom, will not be realized from it unless Colonists settle there, and in its immediate neighborhood, and inasmuch as I was the first who proposed this matter to the Government, I entreat the Government of the State to do me the honor of effecting its settlement, and completing its establishment.

4th—Nothing but foreign commerce, particularly the exportation of cotton to Europe, can enrich the inhabitants of this section of the State; and this cannot be expected without an increase of population, and physical force; for without this, Capitalists will not undertake to enter into it, with vessels of sufficient size, for European Commerce; and to obtain these great benefits to the full extent that would indubitably result to the nation, by the enterprise and industry of

these new colonists, it is in my opinion a matter of the greatest importance, to authorize the emigrants to bring in their Slaves and Servants; and that the right of property in these servants so introduced, as well as their descendants, be guaranteed to them by law; for without this security, we cannot expect colonists with large and competent means, nor can we have hands for the cultivation of Cotton or Sugar; and consequently these fertile lands, instead of being occupied by wealthy planters, will remain for many years, in the hands of mere shepherds, or poor people, who will scarcely raise a sufficiency for the sustenance of their families, without any overplus of sufficient importance to give an impulse to active foreign commerce.—Therefore, I pray the Government of the State of Coahuila and Texas, to grant me authority to settle Five hundred families more, at the places above mentioned.

Town of San Felipe de Austin, 4th April 1825.

Most Excellent Sir,

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

AUSTIN TO JUAN MARTIN DE BERAMENDI[1]

El dia dos del presente mes á la una de la tarde recibí el oficio y la Cordillera sobre el asunto de los ladrones Valentin y sus compañeros á las dos de la misma tarde despaché extraordinarios para dar el correspondiente aviso á todos los pasos poblados sobre el Rio de los Brazos á las siete de la misma recibí noticia q[e] el dho. Valentin estaba parado al paso del Camino de La Bahía sobre el rio Trinidad en casa de un tal Sartuche y á las onze del dia siguiente despache el Capitan de la Milicia Nacional Horacio Chrisman con seis hombres p[a] agarar los dhos. Resos, mandando el dho Capitan usar de las armas si hicieren resistencia y al mismo tpo mande la Cordillera de V al Sor Alcalde de Nacogdoches D Pedro Procela p[a] q[e] el haga lo q[e] le toca en la materia y así he hecho todo lo posible p[a] q[e] su orn tenga la mas exacta y pronto cumplim[to].

No recibi los papeles antes por q[e] el q[e] les trajeron de Bejar les dejaron en el Camino de arriba.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 4 de Abril de 1825

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Al Ciudadano Juan Martin de Beramendi Alcalde 1° Gefe Civil accidental de Bexar.

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[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas. Copy also in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1825. See February 15, April 1, 2, and 20, 1825.

AUSTIN TO ALCALDE OF NACOGDOCHES

Villa de San Felipe de Austin
4 de Abril de 1825

Vista el oficio del Sor Alcalde de Nacogdoches D Pedro Procela fha 12 de febrero p° p° relativo a la causa q° aparece p^r^ el antecedente expediente y la orn del Gefe Civil acidental del departam^to^ de Texas D Gaspar Flores fha 18 de Dbre en el año pasado Digo q° sin enbargo q° me parece q° el juez de Nacogdoches es el q° debe juzgar dha Causa p^r^ haberlo principiado en aquel juzgado, en cumplim^to^ con el citado oficio del alcalde de cuya copia esta adjunta, manifiesto q° el dia 12 de 7bre p° p° se presento el referido Jose Maria Averdaño en esta Villa y juzgado de mi mando con su caballada detenido p^r^ los vecinos del Rio de los Brazos al paso del Camino de San Antonio p^r^ falta de pasaporte y bajo sospechos de haber robado dha Cavallada de los Yndios. Hize llamar un Juri de seis vecinos respectables y honorados de aqui q° fueron los Sors Jared E Gros, Juan P Coles, Guillermo Petus, Andres Robinson, Elijah Alcorn y Isaac Best. y despues de haberles tomado el juramento en la forma acostumbrada p^a^ decidir el asunto pendiente segun exigiese la justicia, hize llamar los Testigos de un parte y de otro, oido todos los Testigos bajo el juramento acustumbrado y vista todas las circunstancias del asunto, estuvimos de parecer el dho juri y Yo q° no habia prueba ninguna q° dho Averdaño habia robado dha Cavallada ó parte de ella de los Yndios sino q la havia agarrado dentro las mesteñas sobre el Arroyo Yegua en el Territorio de este Juzgado—Pero como havia en la dha Cavallada diez bestias Cavallares q° tenian las señas Yndianas y q° el mismo Averdaño declaro parecian bestias Yndianas y pensaba pertenecieran á las Huecos tuvimos p^r^ conveniente tomarlas en posesion para volverlas á los dhos Yndios á fin de evitar q° tendrian el mas minimo motivo p^a^ hostilizar á los habitantes de esta Colonia; Esto hicimos no p^r^ q° pensabamos q° fueron robado p^r^ dho Averdaño p^r^ q° un de sus Testigos Antonio Naranjo declaro bajo el debido juramento q° fueron todos agarrados sobre el dho Arroyo Yegua. Mas supimos y es constante á todos estos habitantes q° los Yndios Tonhuas havia poco antes robado bastante Cavallada de los Yndios Huecos, y el mismo Gefe de los Tonhuas me lo dijo á mi y q° havia dejado algunas bestias asi robadas sobre el Arroyo Yegua algunas cansadas y otras estraviadas. dhos Tribus estan en guerra y p^r^ consiguiente no es mi deber mezclar en sus asuntos ni quitar Cavallos robado de una parte ni otra, mas quando estos cavallos se hallan en manos de otros Individuos Sugetos á este Juzgado es cosa muy

diferente p^{r} q^{e} en tal caso en obsequio dela harmonia y paz q^{e} debe reinar conlos Yndios la prudencia dijiese q^{e} se debe tomar posesion de dhos Cavallos p^{a} volverlos alos Yndios quienes pertenecieran

Esto era una medida de precaucion gobernativa q^{e} estaba importantisima en las circunstancias criticas en q^{e} entonces se hallaba esta Colonia hostilizada como era en aquel tpo p^{r} los Yndios Carancahuases de un lado afin de evitar q^{e} los Huecos y Tauacanes nos hostaliza del otro, p^{r} consiguiente tomimos posesion de los dhos diez Cavallos de Averdaño como una medida de precaucion gobernativa necesaria en las actuales circunstancias á la tranquilidad y seguridad publica y bajo el Concepto q^{e} fueron robado de los Huecos p^{r} los Tonhuas y agarrado sobre el Arroyo Yegua p^{r} dho Averdaño. dado el dho dictamen del Juri la aprobé y el dho Averdaño me entrego los dhos diez bestias Cavallares y lo restante de la dha cavallada q^{e} eran veinte cinco bestias Cavallares y un macho y un Burro devolvi á dho Averdaño como propios suyos p^{r} haberlos agarados entre los mesteños en el Territorio de esta Jurisdiccion y le dí una pasaporte p^{a} ir con su partida á los Estados del Norte. segun entiendo las declaraciones de los denunciantes no encuentro pruebas positivas ningunas q^{e} dho Averdaño habia robado la dha Cavallada ni parte de ella, mas al contrario parece por los testigos de parte de Averdaño q^{e} una parte de dha Cavallada fue la misma q^{e} el perdio en una Estampida entre los Rios Colorado y Brazos y q^{e} todos fueron agarados sobre el dho Arroyo Yegua, p^{r} q^{e} asi declaro el dho Antonio Naranjo. Ademas consta p^{r} la misma declaracion de los denunciantes Barrera y Sartuche q^{e} estan interesados q^{e} el dho Averdaño sea Condenado como Reo p^{r} q^{e} reclaman siete bestias de su Cavallada p^{a} indemnificarlos p^{r} aquel numero q^{e} dicen robaron los Yndios, pero no parece q^{e} algunos de los q^{e} tenia Averdaño eran de los q^{e} dicen perdieron—Por consiguiente vista los documentos y circunstancias de este asunto mi dictamen es q^{e} el Sor Alcalde del distrito de Nacogdoches sin demora alguna devuelva la dha Cavallada al Referido Averdaño y q^{e} los denunciantes y demas delinquentes pagan los gastos de esta causa y los daños y perjuicios experimentados p^{r} el dho Averdaño asi digo y declaro Yo Estevan F Austin juez Comisionado para esta Jurisdiccion de los Brazos Colorado y San Jacinto y q^{e} el dho Alcalde en vista de los gastos y atrasos q^{e} ha esperimentado el dho Averdaño determina sobre la Cantidad q^{e} deben pagar los referidos denunciantes y demas delinquentes y disponga lo necesario para ser cobro siguiendo la prudencia y justicia y atendiendo á las circunstancias del asunto en conformidad con lo dispuesto p^{r} el dictamen y officio de la Superioridad de Bexar—entre renglones—quando—

los—y demas delinquentes—Valen—firmado p^{r} mi el Secretario de la Colonia en el dia mes y año antes mencionado de q^{e} doy fee—

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Samuel M Williams [Rubric]
Secretario de la Colonia

Con este inserto á V el adjunto expediente relativo en aberiguacion de la causa q en ella aparece p^{a} q^{e} con arreglo al decreto del Superior Gov^{no} esponga V loq le toca sobre la materia a su continuacion debolviendola p^{a} su finiquito. Dios gue á V muchos años yo el Alcalde Nacogdoches proclamado p^{r} este vecindario y avit^{tes} á 12 de Febrero de 1825. 4 y 3°—Pedro Procelo—A el Ten^{te} Coronel de Milicia y juez Comisionado de los Rios Colorado y Brazos—

Es Copia

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Samuel M Williams [Rubric]
Secretario de la Colonia

Nacogdoches Archives, Original.[1]

Con este insierto á V el adjunto expediente q^{e} V ha mandado á fin de q^{e} Yo disponga lo q^{e} me toca en la materia, y mí dictamen sobre el dho expediente pondra en su Conocimiento todo q^{e} tengo de decir sobre el asunto.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 4° de Abril de 1825

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Al Ciudadano Pedro Procela Alcalde Constitucional del distrito de Nacogdoches

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AUSTIN TO ALCALDE OF NACOGDOCHES[1]

Abril 4 de 1825

MUY SOR MIO Y AMIGO

Enveo a V. la Constitucion Nacional para q^{e} V. pueda trasladarla, pero V. ha de volverme lo luego por la primera ocacion q^{e} ofrece porq^{e} esta es la unica Copia q tengo y pretenece á este Archivo y por tanto es preciso q^{e} V. me la devuelva sin falta por la primera ocasion segura q^{e} ofrece

Su Amigo

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

D. Pedro Procela

Note fue de vuelta como lo pide el anterior

[1] Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

GOVERNOR RAFAEL GONZALES TO AUSTIN

Gobernacion del Estado de Coahuila y Tejas

Entendido de cuanto V. me comunica en oficio de 4 de Febrero ultimo sobre los perjuicios q. causan en ese establecimiento de su cargo algunos individuos q. sin tener ocupacion alguna ni dedicarse al trabajo se han introducido á esa nueva Colonia: puede V. desde luego disponer q. se proceda contra ellos por los Alcaldes del respectivo territorio en los terminos q. previenen los reglamentos municipales provisionales q. rijen en la nueva Colonia siempre q. cometa alguna falta dentro de los limites q. estan señalados por jurisdicsion de V.

Los demas vecinos que procediendo de estos lugares interiores con el fin de establecerse en las nuevas Poblaciones pretendieren verificarlo en terreno enteramente valdio q. este comprehendido dentro de la jurisdiccion de V. los deberá admitir como nuevos pobladores, iniciar sus nombres y el de sus familias si las tubieren en el Registro de la Colonia, y en el del respectivo distrito, imponerlos de las Leyes municipales provisionales q. rigen, y cuidar de q. se les meta en posesion del terreno q. con arreglo á la Ley de Colonizacion q. acaba de dar el H. Congreso del Estado, debe darse á qualquiera nuevo poblador luego q. este Gobierno nombre un Comisionado para este fin.

Al Gefe del Departamento q. reside en Bejar, comunico hoy esta resolucion para su inteligencia y á efecto de q. dicte sus providencias para q. se persiga á todo vago q. se encuentre en su jurisdiccion, entendiendose V. con dicho Gefe en este asunto para q. por su conducto llegue á mi noticia qualquiera resultado q. tenga.

Dios y Libertad. Saltillo 6 de Abril de 1825.

RAFAEL GONZALES [Rubric]

Sor. D. Estevan Austin,

BASTROP TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 9 de Abril de 1825

Dn. ESTEVAN AUSTIN Ten^te^ Coronel etc.

MI ESTIMADO AMIGIO Y DUEÑO no tengo campo para escribir a V (por q. tubremos una Cesion extraordinaria secreta del congreso q. duro desde las dose y media hasta horas q. va a salir el correo conserniente a suplir la falta de cigaros q. hai en el estanco, pienso que no la lograremos porque el daño viene de ante mano y por mi la culpa esta en nosotros por no haver establescido la fabrica de cigaros desde el dia 1 de Noviembre del año pasado q. se nos entrego la renta) Solamente dire a V que sus cartas de 1 de Enero 27 del mismo mes

5 y 18 de Febrero vinieron a mis manos antes a hier inclusos su carta a Dn. Gaspar Flores y la representacion al Congreso de este Estado Se presente oi una peticion para que apoyen su representation para la avertura del puerto de Galveston al congreso general a quien pertenece y este congreso le ha pasado a la comission de comercio y me ha agregado a ella por los conocimientos q. tengo del estado de las Colonias de los Brasos y Colorado no estoi de esta comission, estoi de las de Colonisacion, instruccion publica, Milicia Civica, Agricultura, Relaciones y Coreccion de estilo. Martes presentare el dictamen de la comission a cerca de este asunto, y dire a V el exitu con el correo venidero, me dice V en su carta del 1 de Enero q. me envera V algun dinero con su hermano ya estamos a 9 de abril y estamos esperando todavia este socorro q. me venderia muy bien porque estoi sumamente necesitado vea V como me envea V dinero pero no con su hermano q. debe ser elector por elegir un deputado en mi lugar por la cesion venedera del congreso amenos q. venga pronto y vuelve pronto, sus amigos Edwards y Ledwigs [Leftwich] que piensan salir en ocho o dies dias diran a V quanto he trabajado y quantas dificultades he vencido para lograr lo q. he logrado ya por Texas y q. espera lograr todavia; acabe por q. Padilla q. salude a V me pide las cartas para encluirlas en las del govierno para V. tambien saluda a V Dn. Erasmo q. ha llegado oy ocho dias en dos o tres dias llegara el comandante de Texas con 200 infantes y 100 cavallos de pasto para esa provincia Salude a su hermano primo y otros amigos y disponga V de su amigo y seguro Sirvidor q S H B

BASTROP [Rubric]

Suplico no obstante q. no tengo el honor de ser conocido de su Señora hermana de ponerme a sus pieds

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MRS. EMILY PERRY TO J. E. B. AUSTIN

Mine á Burton April 10th 1825.

MY DEAR BROTHER—

I received your short epistle some time since giving me the pleasing news of your safe arrival at home I had become extremely anxious for you, the letters that you wrote from the diferant towns on the River, for some cause or other were a great while coming to hand— I received a letter from My Dear Stephen dated in December which gave me much more satisfaction, and pleasure, than the one received by Mr. Hale in his last he appears to be reconciled and pleased with my choice of a companion; and I have not the least doubt but when he comes to know Mr. Perry better that he will approve of my choice still more—

Your friends are all well, as far as I know. Uncle Austin's family still remain as they were when you left this, nothing is done towards closing the estate Moses lives at the place, and has the four boys with him, and Eliza the girls, Margaret has never return'd to live with Mrs. S. Perry neather do I know weather they intend to let her, poor Girls through the foolish pride of their elder sister they are prevented from receiving many advantages that they other wise would have— William has got into some kind of business in Georga that brings him in three hundred Dollars a year—and is not expected in this country for two or three years— Cousin Adeline was married on the 23rd of December and commenced house keeping in a short time after, in the house that Lewis had his office; Mrs. Henry Elliot has established herself at this place and has a very good school; and I hope will be much more fortunate than she was at St. Louis— I expect a visit from Mrs. Carr in June, she has had a very long and seviar fit of illness, which come very near terminating her valuable life—

I hope my Dearest James you will exert your self to try and perswaid our Dear Brother to visit this Country; you know very well how necessary it is for him to come on, and their is but one thing that I know of to prevent him, and your exertions *aded* to his own I am sure would overcome that difficulty, for I well know that Stephen will never visit Missouri untill he has it in his power to sattisfy every clame that is against him, and I trust it will not be long before he will be able to realize as much Money as will set him clear of the world, and have something considerable to compensate him for all the fatigue boath of body and mine, that he has suffered for the Last *six years*. O it will be a most joyful period to me, when I shall have the pleasure of embracing my dear Brother, the companion of my Youth, and presenting to him my Young and Growing Family, I still flatter my self that I shall yet live to enjoy many happy days [in the] society of my *Brothers*, and perhaps be a neig[hbor] Mr. Perry wrote a very long letter to Stephen [sometime] since, which I hope will come safe to hand,—I was pleased, and provoked my dear Brown at [your] letter or note, you must have been very [much pressed] for time; for you did not write more than a doz[en Lines] you certainly could not of been at a loss, for [material] when writing to your *Sister* who feels the [greatest] interest in every thing that concerns you; pr[ay] take on all the things that you started with, or did - - - safe, I am fearful that you lost some of your clothes [you] left one of your new shirts at Elias Bates; which [I will] send on to you by Esq. Andrews, who expects to [go in the] Faul, he has sold his farm for five hundred Dollars— The Children are all well, and often taulk of *you* Austin pro-

gress[es] very well at school, they say that [you must] keep their poneys for them;—for that they intend [going] as soon as Uncle Stephen or Brown gits Married— My Dearest Brother I beg of you to write [often] you cannot conceive the pleasure Mr. Perry [and I] feals when ever we receive letters from you. [Be assur]ed that they shall be punctually answered ea[ther by him] or myself, Mr. Perry joins with me and the Children in [praying for] the health happiness and prosperity of your self and Stephen; I [hope you will] not forgit to send Mrs. John Perry the *Seeds* you promised her, she has [gone to] *Orleans*, for a short time—

Your Affectionate Sister, Emily

Col. Stephen F Austin [for J. E. B. Austin] San Felipe de Austin Rio Brazos Province of Texas To the care of Jared Cable Esq Natchitoches Louisianna

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ROBERT LEWIS TO AUSTIN

Schooner May of Orleans, Red Fish Bar
April 11th 1825

COL. AUSTIN, DSir,

If My acquatence are sufficient, I beg leaf to introduce to your acquantence, Mr. Jessie Cartwright, from near Woodville Miss[pi] a planter of hie respectibility. he wishes to become a settler in your coliney, you will no doubt, be pleas[d] with him on acquaitance,—we have had a teadious trip from N. Orleans four weeks yesterday since we left there, we have 36 passengers. I have upwards of $3000 in goods some Grocer[ie]s for this country, and goods for the Spanish Market, I am anctious to git them to your Town as soon as possable, I should like to have waggons enough to take them all at one trip, in weight I have about 7500 or 8000 lbs. If you could send to waggons to Meet Me at the ware house I would take it as a particular favor,—The schooner draws upward of seven feet water she has to be lightened, it will be from 6 to 10 days before we can git to Docr. Hunters, then my good will [be ta]ken [to] . . . [imme]diately . . .

I should like to know by the return of Mr. Cartwright, if I could depend on the waggons, if I can, I will send an express on My arrival at Docr. Hunters to let then now what day to meet me at the warehouse

ROBERT LEWIS [Rubric]

P. S. I have a letter for Mr. William, from his Brother, and a Book a Leger or register, R L

Agreement to Sell Land

JAMES SARVER'S LAND

Know all men by this article that I John K. Williams of the province of Texas now residing in Austins Colony on the south fork of clear Creek known by the name of Taylers Byou have sold and Convayd unto John Sarver and John Dickinson of the said province and colony a fore said my Labour and League of land for the consideration of one hundred dollars paid in Trade and Twelve good Seccond rate gentle Spanish horses well broke not over Eight nor under four years old, the said Williams binds himself heirs and so forth in the sum of two thousand dollars to make the said Sarver and Dickinson a good deed to hold the said land when paid for and also the said Sarver and Dickinson bind themselves in the sum of one thousand Dollars to pay the said Williams again the twenty fift day of May next if posable and if not as soon [as] they posabley can the said William binds himself to give said Sarver and Dickinson possession of the Sed Labour . . . improvements if required when paid for we the said Sarver and Dickinson agrees to pay all the government fees given under our hands this Twelft day of April 1825

Saucedo to Austin

Bexar 14 de Abril de 1825.

Sr Dn. Estevan Austin.

Muy Sr. mio y amº. que estimo. recibi la apreciable carta que V. me escrivio con el Sr. Roxo, y en su consequencia digo que siento infinito el que esos havitantes no puedan pagar por este año los derechos que arreglado á Aranzel deben satisfacer por los derechos judiciales de porcion; bien que creo lo verificaran al tiempo estipulado.

Segun las noticias que he recibido en este correo considero que ya Dn. Erasmo estará en camino del Saltillo pª esta, y lo mismo el Coronel Dn. Mateo Aumada con dos cientos Ynfantes, sien dragones y dies y ocho mil pesos mas como es regular que el govierno cuide de socorrerlos con dinero en lo sucesivo, debemos cree esto en mejor estado.

Si para fin de Mayo que pueden estar aqui las Tropas, se animaren esos habitantes á traer reces gordas para matar, creo que les ofrecera cuenta.

El Baron me escribe que esta bueno y su regreso sera por Agosto. Tengo una copia dela Ley de colonisacion dada por la Legislatura del Estado, se la mandaré a V. luego que la lea voy á proponer á Vmd pasa mi subalterno en su distrito y el de Nacogdaches.

No tengo mas tpo. de escrivir V memorias á Dn. Santiago y alos amigos y V. reciba el afecto de quien tiene el honor de serlo suyo y S. M. B.

JOSE ANTº SAUCEDO [Rubric]

P. D. Ahora le combina ásu amº. el paño que Vmd le ofrecio, y un buen Sombrero.

Si hubiere una resma de papel bueno me lo mandará V. avisandome su importe.

AYLETT C. BUCKNER TO AUSTIN

Colorado 20th April 1825

DR SIR,

The lands I made choice of was never taken by any person previous to my locations one of which I have been informed you have taken from me after having your word which I conceived sufficient I should have one league and a half: I wrote to you to reduce the quantity of my land rather than people should blame you on my account—

Now Sir in 1812 and 1813 I fought for that independence under which we now live Commanded by Guterrez and advanced property for the good of the Expedition; after which I was conserned with Genl Menes [Mina]: after which with Genl Truspilassos and Long and lost considerable property taken by Enatio Paris all of which I believe I can make manifest to the world: In addition I was one of the first men who built a Cabbin on this River, the first man who had a plough stuck in the field I have kept a house ever since I have been settled in your Colony I have never asked the first Cent for a man eating under my Roof and have fed as many and I believe more people than any man in this Colony Yourself not excepted and have not recd the first cent I have lost as much and I believe more property by the depradations of Indians than every other man on this River or perhaps in the Colony with very few exceptions Consequently I consider Myself as Much entitled to be satisfyed as other men ought to be and My impressions were that you would not take away my land even if you did not think proper to give Me what you said you would; but that I might apply to Government for the lands which I located and if I cannot obtain satisfaction from you I shall most certainly loose No time in having recourse to our Government stating all the rights and reasons of my demands—

Now Sir I will appeal to your-self or any candid man whither other men ought to have more land or has a better right to request more than Myself or Not I know no other reasons of their getting

better treated except that they have more Money—I have viewed every thing in as fair a light as I could; from report I know that sum men get half a league and dont pay a cent because the other half is transferred to You or Your Brother I know that lands are unequilly divided I do not considder Myself a perfect simpleton neither am I blind My Eyes are open and I look and watch with vigilence: My demands are small compared to what the demands of others are and in as Much as My sufferings have been great and in the hight of friendship I hope you will grant them which are My two locations I have previously Made if You refuse granting that which I think the Government will generously bestow on me I shall apply to that authority which governs us both for so much as I think in justice I am lacking—

As I shall have Company in a short time to go with and the means of going I wish you to give me a positive and speedy answer so that I May know what to do

Yours Respectfully

A. C. BUCKNER.

DR. JOHN SIBLEY TO AUSTIN

Nachitosh April 20—1825

DR. SIR.

Mr. Sherboneir has just called at my House to inform me he was about setting off for your Country. I was from home, and have but a few minutes to write. If I had have had a longer notice should have written you a longer letter. Should you see Mr. Sherbonier you will find him well informed and intelligent, an Amiable Discreete man Esteemed here by all who know him. you will collect from him very correctly whatever has come within his knowledge. I am sorry I cannot send you a list of the Acts passed the last session of Congress. you will have understood for some time past a considerable trade has been carried on from [St.] Louis to New Mexico, this has Attracted the Attention of Government and a Road is to be opened from St. Louis to Sta Fee. A council is appointed to Reside at Chehuawa and another at Sta fee. this has opened the Eyes of Govt. Relative to the Raft in Red River and Measures are about to be taken to open it. when I believe Steam boats will be able to assend within a day or two's Journey from Sta Fee, if this is done the whole current of the Intercourse with New Mexico will be by way of Red River and the whole valley of it will Soon be settled. and the time may come when more cotton may go out of Red River than now goes out of the mississippi. Cotton was sold in New Orleans as high as 24 cents p^{r}. lb last week the demand in-

creasing. in England they will fall more than 50,000 Bales short of the ordinary supply. they depended on Egypt for a supply which has failed. Such as they have Received is so full of sand it cannot be Worked and the danger of its bringing the Plague is a stronger objection to it, the demand in the United States for our own manufactories increases beyond all calculations. two million Dollars worth of Articles of cotton manufacture of the U. S., were exported to South America in a part of last year:—

Mr. Adams is President. Mr. Clay Secretary of State Mr. Rush Secty of the Treasury. James Barbour of Virginia Secty of War. Mr. Southard of N. Jersey of the Navy. Mr. Wert Atty. Gen[l]. Mr. McLean of Ohio Post master Gen[l]. so that there is no doubt but Mr. Adams has an able Cabinet. Mr. Clinton of N. York was nominated Minister to London but being lately appointed Governor declined accepting the appointment. I do not know who is Nominated in his place. Mr. Everett of Massachusetts is Minister to Spain in place of place of Gen[l]. Nelson who wants to come home. Mr. Poinsette of S[o]. Carolina is Minister to Mexico. Col Forbs Charge of Affairs at Buenos Ayres. Mr. Allen continues at Chili and Mr. Anderson at Columbia. none appointed to Peru. Consuls are appointed for several places.—

Red River is now higher than it has been since 1803 and rising. it Must overflow Alexandria and it will injure the crops in many places Bridges and Roads suffer much Bludworths great Bridge Over Red River is gone—Gen[l]. Lafayette is now in New Orleans in no place has greater preparation been made to Receive him; he goes up the Mississippi and Ohio and is to be at Boston the 17th of June the Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill. Our Congress have given him 200,000 dollars and a Township of Land I believe not yet located.—Congress has under consideration a Bill Reported by the committee on Foreign Relations for the suppression of Pi[racy] which did not pass with all the provisions. If it had it was thought it would have Resulted in a War with Spain. the sections stricken out were the Blockading the Island of Cuba Landing and persuing the pirots. and Reprisals the Bill as it has passed augments our Navy and Leaves some discretion with the President relative to the employing of it. England has Recognized the Independence of all Spanish America. France and Holland will do it.

You will oblige me if you will give me as Early information as you can Relative to Mrs. Robinsons affairs. I want to write to her, her eldest son is a Midshipman in the Navy and with Commodore Porter and of high promise.—

Please to present my compliments to your Brother and to Mr. Cook.—I shall be glad to Receive a letter from you Mr. Poinsette

will as soon as he arrives in Mexico move the Subject of the setling our Boundary Line—I had a severe Pleuretic Attack in March but have got well.—

JOHN SIBLEY [Rubric]

Col. S. F. Austin.

HORATIO CHRIESMAN TO AUSTIN[1]

En cumplimiento con la antecedente orden de V. levante nueve hombres de la milicia y me puse en marcha sin demora para el rio Trinidad en perseguimiento de los referidos reos; y cosa de seis leguas este lado del dho rio encontre con el Sor. Pedro Porcela y otros vecinos de Nacogdoches quien me dieron la noticia q^e^ el dho Valentin y sus compañeros havian salido del paso de la Trinidad siete dias antes para los Indios Tahuacanos. En consequencia de esta noticia y las excesivas lluvias y el mucho crecim^to^ de los arroyos me hallo obligado á volver sin hallar los dhos reos.

San Felipe de Austin 20 de Abril 1825

HORATIO CHRIESMAN [Rubric]

Al Ten^te^ Co^l^ Estevan F. Austin.

NATHANIEL COX TO AUSTIN

New Orleans 21. April 1825

Col STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR The Bearer of this Mr Kerr is from Missouri and moving to your Country with all his family, both [White?] and Black—he has been here some time waiting a passage— As we have never Exactly understood the nature of your laws relative to Slavery I could not answer many of Mr Kerrs inquiries on that head, but have assured him slaves have been taken there and held— I hope will find no difficulty with his, as it would ruin an helpless family should he loose them. Mr Kerr has been only known to me a few weeks but I am fully convinced he is a worthy man, and I hope he will be found a Valuable Citizen of your infant Republic–

Genl. Lafayette has just left us. You will learn from Mr Kerr with what enthusiast he was received among us—he has gone to St Louis I have not heard from Mrs Hawkins very lately—

NATH: COX

JUAN N. SEGUIN TO AUSTIN

Bexar 22 de Abril de 1825.

Ciudadano ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

MI APRECIABLE AMIGO Y SOR: Con fha. 8 de Abril me escrive mi Papá dela villa del Saltillo y me encarga salude a V. de su parte que

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas. See this subject February 15, April 1, 2, 1825.

muy pronto se daran un fuerte abrazo pues el dia 11. del mismo mes salia sin falta para esta, y que dixera que los asuntos de V. se habian ya consiguido para la fha al gusto de V. segun le disen de Mexico por cartas que ha recivido, y que se admira de que no halla recivido cartas sullas quando casi todos los corr^{e} le habia escrito: En fin me dice diga a V. que esta vá en su nombre, saludando de su parte al Sor. Dn. Santiago y al numero de amigos que en ese pais hubiere del.

Sirvase V. saludarme con el afecto de verdadero amigo al Sor: mi amigo Dn. Santiago Austin y al Sor. Dn. Guillermo.

Reciva V. mis afectos de vuena amistad de parte de mi Sora. Madre y hermanita Saludandome de su parte alos Sores. indicados arriba: Con Abendaño mande aV. un Exemplar de la Constitucion Federal con una porcion de Periodicos la primera se la mando regalar p^{o} los segundos despues de inponerse de ellos me hará favor de mandarmelos con la primera conducta.

Deseo aV. la mejor salud que ofrece su Afmo Servidor Q. S. M. B.

JUAN NEP^{mo} SEGUIN [Rubric]

P. D. No dexe V. de decirme si ha recibido la corresp^{a} que he dirigido aV. asimismo esta que mando a V. hahora Vale

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DR. JOHN SIBLEY TO AUSTIN

Nackitosh April 26 — 1825 —

SIR

Your letter of the 10th Inst. was left at my House yesterday. I was from home I have Carefully read it and considered the contents It appears to me there is no doubt but the symptoms yours describes are produced from an affection of the kidneys which I think it probable has been brought on by your Long Sedentary habit, and I should hope that a change in that Respect with a moderate use of some cooling diureticks will Relieve you — Amongst the Vegetable Diureticks those which are Emolient are best (viz) Slipiry Elm Bark Water Melon Seeds. Mauve or Mallows, the Inner Bark of Pine, Casteal Soap. the stronger diuretics are Fox Glove, Nettle, Prickley Pear, Arsmart Parsley Roots.—these are all used in form of tea Sometimes a small Pill of Opium may be Proper. the more Powerful are Muriatic or Nitric Accid. Glaubus Salts Lime Water etc I send you a Vial of the Accid Diluted to save the cork and a vial of Volatille Alcaline Salt. the Salt is a Real and efficatious Medicine the way to use it is, Take about half a Tea Spoonful of it put it in a tumbler and pour the tumbler half full of Vinegar, and drink it off while in a State of evervescence this may be repeated three or four times a day — 30 or 40 drops of the Accid in half a tumbler of water will be a dose — your diet should be more Simple than Ordinary and Wine and Ardent Spirits used more sparingly—

I wrote you a few days ago by Mr. Cherbonier and sent you a bundle of News papers. Since which Nothing has Occurred, but

Capt. Clark Can Inform you — Our River is now higher than it [has been] Since may 1803 Alexandria is in danger [torn] . . . Plantations [torn] My Compliments . . .

JOHN [SIBLEY.]

[Addressed:] Honrble. Stephen F. Austin
Capt. Clark Brassos

PRICE LIST

Colo Austin

Bot of Thos Westall

1825		
10th March		
	7yds domestic 1.00	$7.00
	4 " Bro holland 1.00	$4.00
	Thread	37½
11th	1 lb Tobacco 150 1 skn silk 25	$1.75
15th	1 Doz Segares 25 Thread 50	75
19th	1 Blk Silk hkff 2.00 1 lb Tobacco 1.50	3.50
26	3 yds Blk holland 100 Thd 12½¢	3.12½
27	paid yours to Jack 3.00 Thread 25	3 25
Apl 13th	3yds Bro holland 100	3 00
	1 box boss balls 100	100
21th	paid Jack	8.00
	do do	2.00
26th	4 Doz Glass buttons 50	2.00
		$39.75

James B Austin To T Westall Dr

2 lbs Tobacco @ 1.50	3.00	
1 Comb	75	
pd Abe and Jerry	2.50	
1 Shirt for Jack	2.31½	
1 funnel	50	
1 Skein Silk	25	
1 viol british oil	75	
1 Side Comb	25	
4 Tin Cups	1.50	
		11.81½
1 Doz Skeins Silk	1.50	
2 bottle Antimonial wine	1.50	
Cash	10.00	
Cash for fodder	25	13.25
		24.06½
draft of Saucedo		60.00
Amt. brot. from other side		39.75
		123.81½
discount of 33 1/3 pr. on 53.81 to make it equal to cash		17.97
		105.84½

BASTROP TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 27 de Abril de 1825.

Dn ESTEVAN AUSTIN Tente Coronel en Sn. Felipe

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO Y DUEÑO. Sin duda havera V ya recivido todas mis cartas qe han sido atrojadas por la mala administracion de la estafeta en Rio grande pero a fuerza de reclamasiones mias y del govierno este mal ya estara remediado y por la llegada del Señor Humada Comdte. Principal de Texas Se asegurara la permanencia de las providencias provicionales tomadas pr. el Sr. Losoa. [Elosua.] El Sr. Humada trai la orden de restablecer las tres compañias de Texas Sobre Su pied antiguo, trai consigo dos cientos infantes y cien cavallos, demodo que tenemos la esperanza qe pronto la guarnicion de Texas consistira de quatro cientos septenta cinco hombres de a cavallo y de dos cientos infantes es buen hombre y muestre unos cinceros deseos de ser util a esta provincia: llegaron acqui algunos dias pasados dos hombres de Bexar enveados pr. Berramendi con pliegos al Sor. Govor. estos tragieron la noticia qe la cosecha de mais havia faltado en Bexar y que el mais estaba ya al precio de Seis pesos fanega y qe pronto Subiria a mucho mas: Sus amigos los impresarios Ledwig [Leftwich] Edwards Thorne y de Witt sin duda haveran comunicado a V las fuertas oposiciones que me hicieron los enemigos del Sistema de Colonisacion pr. los Anglo Americanos pr. ser estos una nacion limitrofe con la nuestra Sus temores ciertas ó finguidos de qe por colonisar Texas con Anglo americanos estos un dia podrian levantarse y unirse con su antigua partria ha hecho bastante sensacion hasta en Mexico, por esta razon sin hascer saver que conosce V la malicia y odio de sus enemigos y de los nuevos colones, debe V conducirse de modo, que se convinsa el Supremo Poder Executivo que son falsos y maliciosos los temores que fingen y qe todos sus manuebras son por guardar algun tiempo mas, (ambarasando la colonisacion de Texas) la preponderancia, que esta ultima a poco tiempo debera tener sobre todos los Estados de la Federacion; Se presente a hora una buena oportunidad si es cierto qe hay escasces en Bexar y que la misma cosa no existe en la colonia de los Brasos y Colorado convendria que los habitantes de esa colonia facilitaran a Humada por la tropo nueve cientos o mill Buzels de mais a un precia rebajado y quando mas no puede de valde, llegara a Bexar por medio de Junio trai consigo mulas de Barage y estos poderia el envear de su cuenta a llevar el mais de los Brazos a Bexar avisando le V al tiempo de su llegada, Si V ha avierto el camino derecho para Bexar como me le prometio V estan cerca los rios Brazos y Colorado si V puede lograr de los vecinos de su colonia qe cooperen con V sera un golpe

que hara imprecion y les dara buena opinion con los supremos poderes y desparescer las malas que los enemigos de los nuevos establecimientos han tan malignamente disparamados. Medicen qe Mr. La Baume ha ido establecerse en los Brazos si es el caso me hara V el favor de proveerle de mi cuenta de todo lo que podera necesitar. en que estado esta mi casa en San Felipe? pienso pasar a esa luego qe salga del congreso que no tardera de levantarse mas tarde qe por el fin de diciembre pero temo amigo mio que ningun palo todavia le havera arimado, por experiencia la que es mas facil prometera un amigo presente que cumplir con un absente todo lo que V ha pedido esta logrado, ó en buen camino de ser lo por lo menos he movido todas las teclas que eran en mi alcance. tome V en consideracion mi carta vea V el interesante que es por todas las colonias de estar en buen concepto con los Supremos poder conviene algunas veces hacer pequeños Sacrificios para lograr grandes y duraderos beneficios pienselo V bien y mande a su sincero amigo Q. S. M. B.

BASTROP.

LAND FEES

[April —. 1825?]

Propuesto para un Arancel delos gastos q. deben pagar cada Colono en el Establecim^to^ del Empresario Estevan F. Austin bajo el contrato celebrado por el Gob.^no^ del Estado de Cuahuila y Texas con el dho Austin—

1ª En clase de reconocimiento al Gob.^no^ en conformidad con el Art^o^ 22 dela ley de Colonizacion dado por el Congreso del Estado de Cuahuila y Texas 24 de Marzo de 1825 á saber

	Pesos
Por cada Sitio de Agostadero	30.
idem cada Labor de riego	3.
idem cada idem de tpral [temporal]	2. 4

y asi proporcionalmente segun la clase y parte del Terreno que se les haya repartido, estas cantidades se pagara por tercios el 1° á los 4 años de establecidos el 2° alos 4 años y el ultimo álos 6 pena de perder su terreno el q° faltare á alg.° delos plazos.

2ª derechos q. se ha de pagar al Comisionado en conformidad con el art° 39 de la citada Ley ..... tanto

3ª Los dros de agrimensor se arreglará en conformidad con el art° 39 de la citada ley .....

4.ª derechos q. los Colonos han de pagar al Empresario para las expensas necesarias erogadas por el en su servicio quales expensas estan garantizadas por el art° 9 de la citada ley á saber

Traducir en Castellano las recommendaciones y certificaciones de caracter q. los Colonos han traher segun la ley del pais de su procedencia 6

	Pesos
registrar estas y la rason de la procedencia edad estado oficio familia y demas requisitos q la ley requiere y entregar al enteresado certificacion testimoniada del mismo en la debida forma	6
Traducir en Castellano las Representaciones y pedimientos de los Colonos al Comisionado relativo á sus Tierras y Establecim^tos extenderlas en la debida forma y registrarlas en los libros de Registro	6
Traducir en Castellano de las notas y planes delas medidas de tierras hechas p^r los Agrimensores	4
Registrar los dhos notas y planes en los libros de Registro	4
Sacar copias testimoniadas de dhas medidas y planes para cada Colono	4
Expensas erogadas por el Empresario en reconocer y examinar menudamente las tierras enseñarlas ó dar razon de ellos a los Colonos y otros gastos incidentales en el servicio de los Colonos	5
5.ª gastos de la oficina q. se ha de pagar al Secretario del Empresario incluyendo en estos los salarios de escribientes instruidos en las idiomas Español Frances y Yngles la compra de libros de Registro estacionero alquiler de casa p^a la oficina, Leña p^a dha en tpo de los frios y todos los demas gastos de la oficina qualquiera que sean por cada titulo expedido por el Comisionado y Empresario y las copias testimoniadas	10

Juan Bautista de Arispe to Austin

Monterrey a 1° de Mayo de 1825.

Sor D. Estevan Austin.

Mi apreciable, y amado amigo: Desde mi regreso de Mexico hasta la fha, solo he tenido el placer de ver pr. dos veces letra de V.: en la ultima que fue la que me diriejieron pr. encargo de V. del Laredo, me encarga V. me interese en el buen despacho de su solicitud, sobre avilitar el puerto de Galveston: la recomende en efecto á alg^s. amigos asi en el Saltillo como en Mexico. Se dio cuenta en las camaras, pero hta aora no savemos el resultado, ni si despacharan antes del receso de ellas, y que no sea de las pend^tes. p^a. despues de su nueva reunion. Yo cuidare de encargar de nuevo su despacho, en el caso de quedar pend^te.

Mucho placer he tenido con las noticias del aumento y progresos de esa villa, y de toda su colonia: y de saver pr. varios conductos, que estan bien apreciados sus trabajos, y grande empeño pr. los progresos, y aumento de esa poblacion ¡ Ojala y yo tubiese la satisf^n. de irle á acompañar, y disfrutar de mi terreno, que deve V. haverme separado, y conservame, pues no, pierdo la esperansa de que me dejen en libertad p^a. salir de este Pais. Igual placer he tenido, con la vista de los Amigos Eduardo, y Letwis [Læftwich] que despues de tanto trabajo, gasto, y tiempo, van pr. fin á ser vecinos de V. Yo les deceo prosperidad, y felicidad en todo.

DWitt me ha saludado en nombre de V. y he apreciado mucho sus saludes, asi como el que sea de los que han logrado establecerse en ese lugar, y acercarse áV. pues los auxilios, y mutuos trabajos de tanto amigo les hara prosperar en utilidad propia, del estado, y de la Nacion aque pertenecemos.

Yo logro la oportunidad de la marcha de estos amigos p^{a} felicitar áV. y ofrecerle de nuevo mi amistad y aprecio y toda la consideracion de quien es, y sera spre su mas invc. y afmo amigo y el q. B. S. M.

JUAN BUT^{A} DE ARISPE [Rubric]

CARPENTER'S BILL.

Col. Stephen F. Austin to Berry and Battle Dr

1825			
Feby.		Making a desk for the Office, in trade	$50
		repairs on the new house	12
March	19	Making a rough Door to the Office	2.50
Apl.	12	Making a small book case	10
May,	1	Rec payment in full	$74.50

WILLIAM BLANKS TO AUSTIN

Buffalow Bayou May 1st 1825

Honorable Col I Expect to leave here in a few days for Tuckapaw and I wish to inform you of my oneasiness I met with a young man on buffalow bayou by the name of Clair he was just from tuckapaw came in company with Mr Garner, and I was speaking of my half league at Dickson's Camp and he enquired if it was surveyed and I said nay, and he said he was the first man that improved it, and talkd of contending for it, and I do not know how long it has been since he quit the place, but I Expect two years I told him that the barings of the timber was taken and the beginning corner was establish, and he said he did not know that he should contend—I do not wish to be cut out of that piece by know means for it is all that I think much of, and if you think there is any dainger, I will give Mr. Ingram some thing Cleaver to have it surveyd, or in other words maid safe, if it is not safe, I hope you under stand me;

W^{M} BLANKS

[Addressed:] Col S, F, Austin San Felipi de Austin

Militia Election Proclamation

[About May 1, 1825?]

The militia composing the upper Company on the Colorado are notified to meet at the home of R. Alley at Tuscasite on Saturday next for the purpose of electing a Captain in the place of Jesse Burnam whose term of service has expired.

The term for which the officers of the upper company on the Colorado were elected having expired the militia composing said company are notified to meet at the house of R Alley at Tuscsite on Saturday next for the purpose of electing a Captain one Lieut. . . . and two Sergeants to command said Company for the ensueing year.

[Stephen F. Austin.]

Legalizing the Port of Galveston

CAMARA DE SENADORES.—Sesion del dia 2 Mayo de 1825.—se puso á discusion en lo general con presencia del oficial mayor del ministerio de hacienda un dictamen de la comision de gobernacion sobre q. se habilite el puerto de Galveston.—Se declaró haber lugar á votar en lo general por los individuos presentes.—Articulo 1.° "Se habilita provisionalmente el puerto de Galveston Hubo lugar á votar y fue aprobado por los individuos referidos y ademas el Sor Zavala.—Articulo 2.° Se creará en el una aduana ó receptoria maritima." Habiendose propuesto q. se añadiera al fin del articulo la palabra "provisionalmente", se opusieron algunos individuos diciendo q. era redundante, pues que la aduana depende del puerto y debe correr la misma suerte q. este.—Se suspendio la palabra "receptoria" por haberse echo presente q. no era lo mismo uno que otro, y q. seria embarazoso establecer una receptoria dependiente de alguna aduana.—Hubo lugar ávotar el art.° por unanimidad de los individuos, q. lo eran los espresados.—El Sor. Molinos propuso el siguente art.° adicional. "El Gobierno á la mayor brevedad posible, procurará reunir los datos q. son indispensables p.ª poder fijar el punto donde deba establecerse el puerto perdurablemente." Declarado de obvia resolucion y admitido á discusion, fué aprobado por unanimidad de los individuos presentes.

Austin to Alcalde of Nacogdoches[1]

El Alcalde de la Bahia del Espíritu Santo Ciudadano Juan José Hernandez con fecha 12 de Abril p° p° me dice lo q° Copio.

"El Alcalde Juan Martin de Berramendi, de Bexar con fecha 21 de Marzo p° p° me dice lo que Copio.

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[1] Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

"En el bando publicado en el dia de ayer 20 del corriente en esta Ciudad p.r acuerdo del M Y Ayuntamiento se haya concebido el Articulo 26 de dho bando en los terminos siguientes

"Articulo 26—Todo individuo de qualquiera clasé q. sea q. intenta viajar por la frontera de los Estados Unidos Anglo-Americanos deverá sacar precisam.te su correspond.te pasaporte del Gefe Civil de esta Departamento, ó mientras no haya esta del Alcalde primero Constitucional, a fin de evitar los latrocinios de Cavallada q.e se esperimentan, y a cuyo afecto se ha anticipado aviso a los Jueces del Colorado, Brazos y Nacogdoches p.a. q.e aprendan al q.e pasare sin legitimo pasaporte p.a aquellos puntos.

"Y siendo esta una de las medidas mas aseguibles q.e se han adoptado en la escases de recursos en q.e nos hallamos, espero del selo de Vd. q.e pu[b]licando esta providencia en el pueblo de su mando haga efectiva vigorosam.te dha providencia p.a que se hayen entendidos de q.e deven sacar del Juez de ese presidio el pasaporte Correspond.te losq.e de alli salgan mientras no se provee como esta mandado del Gefe de departam.to q.e existirá aqui.

"No dudo q.e asi lo verificará Vd. como adolorido de los grande males q.e sufren nuestros pueblos y confio igualm.te de q.e en primera ocasion transmitira este oficio al Ciudada.no Coronel Esteban Austin con objeto de q.e lo haga este con los demas Jueces de su dependencia y Nacogdoches.

Lo q.e transcrivo a Vd. p.a su intelig.a y Govierno. Dios y Libertad San Felipe de Austin 5 de Mayo de 1825.

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN [Rubric]

Al Sor Alcalde de Nacogdoches

BASTROP TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 6 de Mayo de 1825.

Dn ESTEVAN AUSTIN Ten.te Coronel etc

Mi estimado amigo y Dueño. pienso que quando esta carta llega a su mano de V se havera V ya visto con sus amigos los Srs. Edwards y Letwich y los Srs. Thorn y de Witt quienes haveran informado a V la situacion de los negocios acqui y han contratado con el Gov.o los primeros por la introduccion de 800 familias y los dos ultimos por 400 cada uno que son 2400 por todo a V se ha concedido la introduccion de 300 familias Si V me havia respondido a mis primeras cartas y solicitado la introduccion de 500 familias en lugar de 300 lo haveria V obtenido pero completando el numero podra V siempre introducir los dos cientos que faltan ó mas si sobra terreno en los limites que han sido señalados a V. La ley de Colonisacion havera V ya recivido era

lo meyor que se pudo lograr, un plan de colonisacion que enveo el doctor Ramos Arispe que se dice echo por Wilkinson por poco trastorna todo Wilkinson es como el perro del hortelano no puede comer el sacate pero tampoco permitta al Boy que le come este maldito plan me dio mucho que hacer. el decreto del Gefe de departamento lo havera V recivido tambien me parece que esta muy bueno la avertura del puerto de galvestown esta delante de las camaras, como se deben tambien estar los de Matagorda y Brazos como la libertad del cultivo del Tabaco en este Estado pero esle ultimo punto me paresce que no se lograra por que en este congreso se pulsa muchos dificultades y si en el punto donde sale la representacion hay dificultades como lo sera en el congreso general creo que nuestro deputado musquis que es uno de los opositores y esta encargado de este negocio no le presentera pero amigo mio es minister tomar paciencia en quatro ó cinco años tendremos 100 [thousand] almas y entonces poderemos dar la ley a estos que nos lo dan a hora ó separarnos de ellos estan encargado los diputados en el congreso general y en el Senado para que se asistan del poder executivo y tratan el asunto de los negros fugitivos y criminales que se refugian delos Estados Unidos a este Estado como tambien que se ponga un impedimiento en el comercio y trafico de los Anglo americanos con nuestros Indios Se solicite tambien que los estafetas se restablescan y que se crea una nueva que pasa por San Felipe a Galveston y difirentes otros puntos de que no me accuerdo a hora he movido todas las teclas que eran en mi alcance en favor de Texas me ha sido imposible de hacer mas. he escrito a Saucedo paraque proponga a V como Gefe de departamento Subalterno el Sr. Govr ha convenido que en caso que Saucedo proponga a V le nombrara V ve que todos sus negocios estan en corriente pero las mias me han dicho que a mi casa no se ha impesado todavia a trabajar si escierto y qe alguno la pide en justicia la debe perder he hecho como comissionado la condicion qe si las casas seis meses despues de la venta de los solares no estaban con construidas los compradores perdian sus propiedades y mal poderia alegar que V tenia la culpa que me havias prometido hacer las y que no la havia V mas acordado de este, tambien me prometio V a nuestra ultima entrevista que V no me dejaria sin dinero y que colecteria V alguna cosa de lo que me deben y me la enviaria al Saltillo Nueve meses se han pasado y no ve todavia el resultado de estas promesas V no puede ignorar que estoy baxo grandes gastos, y si no havia tenido la fortuna que el Sr. Thorn me Diese 430 pesos que he livrado contra V y que espero seran puntualmente pagados me haveria visto en unos apuros muy grandeos pero con esto no estoi desogado todavia y necessita lo menos 2000 pesos mas que envia V el mas pronto posible espero una respuesta catagorica para mi govierno, contando con las

promesas y que estas no se cumplen se mette uno en un atascadero deloqual con dificultad retire uno. Salude V de mi parte a su hermano primo y otros amigos y disponga V de su amigo y servidor q atento S. M. B

El Baron de Bastrop [Rubric]

Bastrop to Austin

Saltillo 6 de Mayo de 1825.

Dn. Estevan F Austin Ten^te^ Colonel

Mi estimado amigo y dueño—Traté con el cap retirado Dn. Francisco Garcia cincuenta fanegas de mais entregarles en la venedera cosecha en los Brasos ó Colorado. Se sirvira V entregar por mi a dicho Sr. en uno de los dos referidos puntos que sea mas conveniente a V los espresados cinquenta fanegas de mais y cargar el importe a mi cuenta pasele V bien y mande a su amigo y seguro Servidor que atento S M B

El Baron de Bastrop [Rubric]

Sam Sexton to Austin

Alexandria 9th May 1825.

Col Stephen F. Austin

my dear sir I shall be out with young Mr. Groce when he returns the latter part of this month in order to locate the land granted to Sexton and Morgan, erect some buildings, and make preparations to remove my family the ensuing fall or winter.

I shall come prepared to pay for the other Leage, and should be glad to secure 2 or 3 three more Leagues for my friends whom I expect on from the north. Mr. Thomas Hooper accompanies me, who will be ready to fulfill the engagements Mr. Morgan made with you concerning the ½ league on the Brasos—I am informed you intend visiting the interior this summer. I expect to arrive before your departure; if I should not, I hope you will have the business in such a train that my land can be surveyed and titles made out so that I can go on to build for the sole purpose of my journey this summer is to make preperations to remove my family in the winter

Mr. James Brown accompanies me likewise, and it is of importance for us all to see you before your departure. I hope you will delay a few days on our account should any accident retard or journey.

Sam Sexton

Governor Johnson to Bastrop

New Orleans, 9th May, 1825.

Sir:

Mr Green D. Caller [Collier], who will present this letter, goes to the Province of Texas in pursuit of ten African negroes which were stollen and carried off from the State of Alabama in the year 1821, and which are said to be in the said Province. The said slaves were captured by Lt. Y. Mckeever at Pensacola in the year 1818, and were at the time of the theft under adjudication in the District Court of the United States for the District of Alabama.

It is said they were stollen by Robert Caller out of the possession of his aunt, who is one of the principals to the bond of $100,000 given for the forthcoming of the slaves at Court. The bearer of this letter, who is recommended to me as a man of respectability, is the son of the lady who had the slaves in possession, and feeling a deep interest in restoring them, has volunteered his services for the purpose.

At the instance of a gentleman of this State of high respectability, who is acquainted with the circumstances of the case, I take the liberty to address you upon the subject, and to solicit your friendly aid and authority in securing the slaves so that they may be restored to their rightful owners. Robert Caller is represented as a desperate character, and may attempt, if not prevented by confinement, to rescue the slaves even at the risk of his life. It might perhaps be advisable, if satisfactory proof should be exhibited of his guilt, to send him back for trial to the place where the crime was committed.[1]

H. Johnson, Gov. of the State of Louisiana.

His Excellency, Baron Bastrop, Governor of Texas.

Austin to Governor Rafael Gonzales

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Me impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fecha 13 de Abril de la gloriosa Noticia del reconocimiento de Nuestra Independencia por la Gran Britania lo que he publicado en esto Establecimento Celebrandolo con salvas de una pieza de Artilleria de a quatro y otras demostraciones de regocijo. Dios y Liberated— San Felipe de Austin 10 de Mayo de 1825[2]—

Estevan F. Austin.

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[1] On the subject of this letter see Gaines to Austin, August 13, 1825.

[2] Identical acknowledgment to Saucedo, May 18, 1825, Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

Me impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fecha 8 de Febrero popo. del nombramiento del Ciudadano José Antonio Saucedo como Gefe del Departamento de Texas lo que he publicado a todos los habitantes en el distrito de mi mando. Dios y Libertad— San Felipe de Austin 10 de Mayo de 1825 [1]— Al Sor Gobernador del Estado de Coahuila y Texas—Rafael Gonzales—

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

Me impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fecha 6 de Abril de lo que V. S. me dice sobre los vecinos que procedientes de los lugares enteriores quieren establecerse aqui lo que sera cumplido exactamente—Dios y Libertad— San Felipe de Austin 10 de Mayo de 1825— Al Gobernador del Estado de Coahuila y Texas Rafael Gonzales—

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

[From Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Me impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fecha 13 de Abril del mando de V. S. por el Exmo Sor Gobernador del Estado como Gefe del Departamento de Texas lo que he comunicado a estos habitantes y quedan entendidos Dios y Libertad— San Felipe de Austin 10 de Mayo de 1825— Gefe del Departamento de Texas—José Antonio Saucedo—

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.

JOSHUA CHILD TO AUSTIN ET AL.

Port. Gibson May 12—1825

GENTLEMEN,

My friend Mr. Hugh Connell of the County of Wilkinson in this state visits the Province of Texas—for the purpose of exploring the country, for his own satisfaction—in the first place. should he be pleased—with the soil and climate, as well as the other prospects and advantages it affords,—his wishes are to obtain lands with a view to a permanent settlement and establishment in the country.

This Gentleman has held the office of high sheriff among us, for many years and discharged the duties of the office with credit and ability—A year or two since he voluntarily retired from office—and has since lived on his plantation—Mr. Connell is a man with a family and large connections his moral character is unexception-

[1] Acknowledgment to Saucedo, *Ibid.*

able—Attentions and civilities conferred on him will be thankfully acknowledged by

JOSHUA CHILD

N. B. I intend to pay you a visit myself this summer—but official duties here require my presence at Home—The reputation of the colonists in Texas—as well as of the country itself—stands very fair in the U. States—And the prospects here are very flattering—in favor of a large emigration of citizens of wealth and respectability—

J CHILD

[Addressed:] Capt Gaines—Nacogdoches Col Austin—San Felipe de Austin Mr. Price—La Bahia Baron de Bastrop Monsieur Le Baume—St. Antonio

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MARTIN ALLEN TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches 12th May 1825

Col. AUSTIN

SIR by this safe oppertunity I must trouble you with another letter as I have wrote to you so often respecting my Land, and other things: I requested you in several of my letters to you to write me a few lines respecting my Land, if you received my Last letter which I think was dated sometime in April I expressed greate uneasiness about by Land from a letter I had just received from Mr. Lynch stating that you had givin away my Labbour,—and he gave me no positive answer respecting by League which I could not conceive how that could be the Case as you entered my Labbour in July last in my name and told me it should be secure to me and named in the same title with my League—and I had allways understood by Mr Lynch that my title was safe in the office I have received a letter since from mr. Lynch by the hand of Mr. Aulsbury that gave me more satisfaction respecting it he informed me that my League was safe and a first rate one by your own information and my Labbour had been taken through mistake, which Can be All rectifyed when I come on which will be amediately, Mr. Aulsbury and his familey and myself and my familey are all Comeing In Companey we will start in afew days

I kneede not write aney thing of the knews of this Country as Mr, Cable will hand you this letter himself directly from this place: You Can ask him what difficulties I have in Countered and what Losses I have sustained in trying to git to my Land in that Country which I hope to afect in next month without some unavoidable accident—I have wrote repetedly to my sons to make aney nessary improvements on my Land that you would direct; if you should go on to the in-

terier before I arrive you will please to give my deede to James Lynch for me. do all you Can for me and you will be amply rewarded by your friend

MARTIN ALLEN [Rubric]

ROBERT LEFTWICH OR HADEN EDWARDS TO AUSTIN.

Refugio 12th. [May] 1825.

DEAR AUSTIN.

I have the pleasure of informing you that my long and unremitted exertions have been finally crowned with success having received a Grant bounded as asked for when you was in Mexico with the exception of the part lying below the San Antonio road in the fork of the Rivers Brassos and Navisote being informed by Baron de Bastrop that this part has already been disposed of I changed my application making the road the line.

Several others have obtained grants of which Capt DeWitt will inform you this being the case it becomes necessary that all the Empresarios should make such disposition of their lands that will not effect the interest of an other and that will be satisfactory to the emigrants and that will promote the immediate settlement of Texas to affect this it will require that some uniform mode be established to Govern the whole which I have no doubt that each of the Empresarios are disposed to agree to.

I presume that you still adhere to your first price established viz 12½ cts per acre the exp^{s} of surveying and making the title which I am of Opinion is low enough when we take into consideration the trouble and hardships we have to undergo in settling a wilderness.

On the subject I wish you to write me by Capt De Witt who can put the letter in the first post Office that he reaches in the United States unless a vessel should sail from your place to New Orleans in a short time.

I will suggest to you that it is very important to the interest of Texas that Baron de Bastrop should be reelected as from what I have seen of him I presume that you can send no person that will use the same exertions for that section of Country or that is as well qualified for your representation. And I can assure you that he is devoted to your interest

I refer you to Capt De Witt for a detail of the news in this part of the Country

Wishing you health and prosperity.

Yours sincerely

[ROBERT LEFTWICH?]
[OR HADEN EDWARDS?]

JACOB BETTS TO AUSTIN[1]

May the 13 1825

Colo S F AUSTEN

SIR I feal myself bound from the treatment I have receivd from you to inform you of my fealings they are Raught to the highest pitch I appeal to your prommises [you] know how for you complyed with them I came to this Colony with every assurance that I would be governd by one of our Countrymen whom I had antispated the grates satisfaction of spendin the Remainder of my days with [With] these expectations I have spent the three Last years of my life in poverty and misery Looking forward for beter times part of the thime fed with soft words and fair promises but sir I appeal to you your own brest to say how fair thay have bin complyed with I am now efferd one half of what some others are that have just arive in the country [and] take this for the begining Reaping the rewards of my Laber and I have to say arangement for me to go to work I have to say all confidence is Lost deceivin one perhaps in another deceivd as I am by my commander I feal it my unbound duty as a free man to exclaim against him it ever has bin my disposition never to harber anything in my brest against any man without leten him know it I therefore consider myself a free man and an injured one if I could got justice I should be settled and attendin to my bisness I therefore thak this methon of informing you Regardless of conciquences it apears all confidence is Lost I feal myself prepard to meat the worst and unless I am plast on an eaquel footing with other men feel it my duty to seek redress to the Last extents now [no] doubt the justis of my cause will bear me out I seek now privat advantage of you but Rest you asured if I commence with you I Leave nothing undon to the best of my skill and ability, though it is not my wish to enter into bisness of that kind it has bin my determination to seek my redress if I distroyed the interest of myself and evry other man in this provence Know I leave it to yourself to gave me justes if you will put me off with a half League of Land I will except of it but you may rest asure I am not satisfyed with one half Leag if you will gave me the half of the 47 Leag and one half of a Leag up this River of half of the 7 or 8 Leag in the bay you will find me disposed to render my services for the benefit of the colony as fair as is in my power but if I am not satisfyed you will find I can do you or the colony as mutch Injury as any other man though it is not my wish I want nothing more than is Reasonable you gave me as you see proper and I think you will gave me justis I shall start for the

[1] See also Betts to Austin, June 27, 1825.

guadalope or further in the morning and perhaps I shall return hear in one or two months I will except of the half Leag of Land you oferd me but perhaps it will better for the Community at larg to deal justly by me you will pleas sen me what you intend to gave me

JACOB BETTS

JOHN P. COLES TO AUSTIN

13th May 1825

DEAR SIR

I Recd yours by Mr. Leonard Dubois and notice Its contents I am not able to get any proof here of Halls Bringing the Negro to the colony which Mr. Dubois is claiming Report says that Hall did assist in Bringing of the Negro he was at Tramels as I understood at the time the Negro was Brot of I know nothing of the sircumstances myself nor neither doo I know any person who does know any thing about It the Negro is Either at Randons near Groces or at Prices or at Halls If he has not been secreted I think It would be well to send Mr. Dubois and an officer to Randons Immediately and sirch for the Negro also to Prices I believe they are all concerned with Tramel

I noticed the Bill of Mr. Jones pocket Book money etc I can not see Mr Hope today and consequently cannot give you an ansa but I dont believe the money found by Mr Hope to be Jones, I will see Mr. Hope and Bring you down Information I shall start down on Sunday Morning and shall be in Town on Monday I shall bring down your Horses

JNO. P. COLES [Rubric]

(Addressed:) Col. S. F. Austin San Felipe D. Austin

Pr Dubois

DEPOSITION CONCERNING STOLEN SLAVE[1]

Department of Texas

District of San Felipe de Austin

Before me Stephen F. Austin Judge of the Colony on the Brazos River in said Department personally apeared William Pryor who was summoned at the request of Leonard Duboys to give testimony *relative to the Negro Gabriel and said Pryor being duly sworn, de-*poseth and sayeth, that some time in the month of January last Nicholas Trammel was at deponents house on the Brazos River

[1] Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. The Spanish original is also in the collection.

near this place and at that time the said Trammel told this Deponent that the Negro called Gabriel who was in dispute between him said Trammel and Maria Louise Veillon at Nacogdoches was then in his said Trammel's possession and was at his House on the Angelina

Deponent further saieth that he has never seen said Negro since he saw him in Nacogdoches at the time of the Law suit with said Maria Louisa Veillon relative to said Negro, and never heard that he was brought to this Colony by any person.

San Felipe de Austin 16th May 1825

Wm Pryor

Sworn and subscribed to before me

Stephen F. Austin [Rubric] Judge

Witness

Samuel M Williams Secy

Deed of Trust

Sello 2° 12 rrs. Habilitado por la Nacion Mexicano pa. el año de 1825

Austin

Whereas William Pettus formerly of the county of Lawrence and state of Alabama in the United States of North America and at present a setler in Austins Settlement in the department of Texas of the State of Cuahuila and Texas of the United Mexican States Heretofore to wit on the sixth day of March in the year 1821 executed to Thomas Bibb and Daniel Coleman a deed of Sale in Trust to certain Negroes therein named to secure the payment of certain monies which will also more fully appear on the face of said deed of Trust and the said William Pettus being disposed to strengthen the security of Said money to Richard R Royall Attorney in fact of the Trustee Daniel Coleman have agreed to convey to R R Royall and Stephen F Austin the Lands herein after described in Trust and upon the conditions herein after expressed

This Indenture made and entered into this 16th day of may 1825 by and between the said William Pettus of the first Part the said Richard R Royall of the second Part and Stephen F Austin of the third part. Therefore witnesseth that the said William Pettus for and in the consideration of the premices and for the further consideration of one dollar to him in hand paid by the said Stephen F Austin before the ensealing and delivering of these presents the receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge hath Granted bargained and sold and by these presents doth Grant Bargain and sell to the said R R Royall and Stephen F Austin the following tracts of land

the uper half of league of Land situated on the eastern Bank of the Brassos River Bounded by William Hall on the uper side and Francis Bigum on the lower side and also the uper half of a league of land on the Western Bank of the Colorado River Bounded on the uper side by Thomas Westall Granted to said Pettus by the Mexican Government by the concession dated the 10th of July 1824— dividing each league so as the fronts on the river of each whole league shall be equally divided and runing thence in a Straight direction so as to divide the league equally to have and to hold the said Tracts of land to the said R R Royall and the said Stephen F Austin their heirs administrators and Executors in Trust nevertheless and upon the conditions following that is to say if said William Pettus shall pay to said R R Royall or in his absence to the Trustee Stephen F Austin on or before the 15th day of September 1826 forty Good merchantable mules of Reasonable age, of Good order for the Road and of a suitable size for the Plough and it is also understood said Royall is not to receive such wild mules as are caught wild out of the Range and the said Royall agrees to accept said mules in discharge of fifteen Hundred dollars in discharge of part of said deed of sale upon Trust executed to Bibb and Coleman and to give full and faithful credit upon the same. But If the said Pettus shall fail to make payment Punctually on or before the 15th day of september 1825 delivering the said mules at San Felippe de Austin then the said Stephen F Austin shall proceed to sell to the highest bidder in the Town of San Felippe de Austin the said half leagues of land giveing fifteen days notice of said sale and the sale shall be for cash in hand which shall be immediately applyed to Pettus credit on said Trust after deducting costs of sale and the said Pettus hereby empowers said Austin to sell Deed and Put the Purchaser in Possession of said Lands without consulting said Pettus thereon and said Royall agrees provided said Pettus shall punctually Pay said forty Mules of Quality etc as expressed to release from the Deed of Trust executed to Thomas Bibb and Daniel Coleman Negroes Edmund, Joe, Anacy and Mima but in no wise to lessen the effect and force of said deed of trust till said delivery of mules is punctually complyed with and then only to the four negroes above expressed and said deed to have full effect in all other relations expressed therein and also the note of hand which accompanys it and was its origin and all parties here present agree to accept of these presents in all its forms and said Austin agrees to execute the Trust hereby reposed in him to the best of his ability, and faithfully to pay over the money arising from the said sale of the Land should it be necessary after deducting the expences of the sale in Testimony whereof

the parties have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals this 16th day of may 1825 as above.

Witnesses Present

Wm Pettus [seal]
R R Royall [seal]
aty in fact of Daniel Coleman
Stephen F. Austin [seal]

Witness
Samuel M Williams
Jno P Coles

To prevent all misunderstanding in relation to the meaning of the within deed of Trust it is clearly understood that the land deeded in the Trust is to be totally released from all lien whatever and reverts to said Pettus on the payment of the forty Mules punctually as stipulated and it is not the intent of this deed to give any other lien on the land except for this payment of the fifteen hundred dollars in case of a failure to pay the Mules as expressed but the negroes shall not be released as If the payment of the mules had been punctually made but both land and negroes be held subject, the land to this and the negroes to the old Trust executed to Bibb and Coleman and all parties here present agree to accept of this with all the force and effect as If it had been incorporated in the body of the deed Given under our hands and seals the same day 16th of May 1825

Wm. Pettus [seal]
R R Royall [seal]
Aty in fact of Daniel Coleman
Stephen F Austin [seal]

Witnesses
Samuel M Williams
Jno P. Coles

Austin to Saucedo[1]

Recibí la orn oficio de V. S. fha 13 de Abril sobre el padron de este establecimiento y luego q[e] lo recibí mandé verificarlo pero por los muchos crecimientos de los arroyos y inundaciones de los Rios ha sido impracticable transitar en ninguna parte, en muy breve tpo sera completado y lo mandare á V. S.

San Felipe de Austin 18 de Mayo de 1825

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Al Sor Gefe de Departam[to] Ciudadano José Antonio Saucedo

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas. Copy in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

AUSTIN TO ALCALDE OF NACOGDOCHES[1]

El Señor Gefe Civil de esta Departam^to de Texas con fecha 20 de Abril p^o p^o me dice lo q^e Copio.

"Tengo Noticia de q^e los vecinos Manuel Quinto, Diego Dominguez Domingo Losoya y otros han pasado con Caballada robada p^r los Estados Unidos y como es regular que los Rios p^r hallarse sumam^te crecidos les embarasen el transito encargo a V. muy eficasmente q^e con toda reserva y la mas posible brevedad destine una ó dos partidas de ocho u diez hombres cada una p^a que por las riberas de esos Rios persiguese a esos perversos, y en el caso de encontrarlos los aseguren y conduscan a esta Capital con la Cavallada q^e llevan y sus equipajes, seguro de q^e con lo q^e sea de la pertenencia de aquellos se le Pagará á la partida q^e los aprendiere y si no el todo de su travajo p^r lo menos hasta donde alcanzan advirtiendoles V. q^e en el caso de resistencia podran rendirlos con la fuerza de las armas y de haberlo asi efectuado, espero oportuno aviso p^a mi Gob^no."

Lo comunico a V. p^a su Inteligencia advertiendole al mismo tiempo q^e el referido Dominguez Losoyo con la Cavallada q^e llevo fue arrestado en esta Jurisdicion y q^e he recibido noticia que Manuel Quinto y Diego Domingues, han pasado con Cavallada p^a Nacogdoches.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 18 de Mayo de 1825.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor. Alcalde de Nacogdoches.

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[2]

En conformidad con la orn de V S fha 20 de Abril p^o p^o en q^e me manda arrester á Domingo Lozoya, Manuel Quinto y Diego Dominguez despache una partida de hombres p^a los pasos de arriba y arrestaron á Domingo Lozoya con su caballada y tambien á Jesus Hernandez, Jose Maria Cardenas y Diego Turche quienes eran en compañia, el referido Lozoya tiene pasaporte del Sor Alcalde D Juan de Beramendi fha 5 de Abril pero como la orn de V. S. lleva la fha de 20 de Abril he considerado mi deber detenerle con su caballada los otros tenian pasaportes y les puse en Libertad para seguir su camino. La caballada de Lozoya consta de 15 bestias Cavallares y una mula todos con el fierro pintado sobre el margen de su pasaporte; la de Jesus Hernandez consta de 8 bestias Cavallares.

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[1] Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

[2] Bexar Archives, University of Texas. Copy in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824. See Saucedo to Austin, June 6, 1825.

La caballada de Lozoya se halle muy cansada por los muchos atascaderos y no está en estado para volver á Bexar y por este razon la he detenido aquí despachando al dho Lozoya para Bexar para qe VSia dispone de el y instruirme de lo q[e] he de hacer con la Cavallada, he alquilado hombres p[a] guardarla prometiendoles q[e] se les paga su trabajo de la misma cavallada.

He recibido noticias q[e] Diego Dominguez y Manuel Quinto pasaron por el Camino de San Antonio hacia algun tpo con Cavallada y mande la citada orn de V. S. al Alcalde de Nacogdoches p[a] su inteligencia.

Si no hay modo de pagar la guardia q[e] va con Lozoya y los hombres q le arrestaron ó por el Gob[no] ó de la misma Caballada yo tendré de pagar todos estos gastos de mi propia bolsa por q así he prometido la guardia.

San Felipe de Austin, 18 de Mayo de 1825.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[To Saucedo.]

GOVERNOR RAFAEL GONZALES TO AUSTIN

GOBERNACION DEL ESTADO DE COAHUILA Y TEJAS.

Siendo de urgente necesidad atender con sus sueldos al Gefe de ese Departamento qe. reside en Bejar y cubrir al mismo tiempo los gastos de su secretaria; y teniendo noticia de qe. V. ha de enterar en fin del presente año una cantidad de dinero correspondiente a las tierras repartidas en la Colonia de su cargo, conviene á tan importante objeto qe. V. haga un esfuerzo por anticipar en lo pronto un mil pesos y otros mil dentro de tres meses remitiendolos con oportunidad y seguridad al Gefe de dicho Departamento para el indicado fin; con lo qual hará V. un servicio particular al Estado : Y lo digo á V. para su inteligencia y efectos consiguientes.

Dios y Libertad. Saltillo 18 de mayo de 1825.

RAFAEL GONZALES [Rubric]

Ciudadano Esteban Austin.

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Bexar 19. de Mayo de 1825.

Sor. D[n] ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

ESTIMADO AMIGO Y DUEÑO MIO: Por el Sor. Dn Pedro Prosela recivi la apreciable deV. fcha. 23. de Abril p. po. y ensu contestacion digo: Que enterado del manejo y conducta observada por el Yndividuo q. en ella me cita lo tendre precente para atender su merito cual corresponde, pudiendo Vmd. bivir satisfecho y tranquilo de q. tanto

por los conocimientos q. de V. tienen las gentes principales del Estado, como por las noticias q. hemos dado, yo y el Baron alas q. no le conocen tiene V. su opinion en el mejor concepto con todos y para q. no decaiga por ciniestros informes de altaneros q. para merecer alguna cosa tratan de infamar álos hombres honrados, he remitido original la carta deV. á ntro. amigo el Sor. Baron, quien con su abilidad y prudencia usará de ella en las mejores oportunidades q. sole presenten.

Esos genios reboltosos q. suelen aparecer enlas sociedades mas tranquilas es necesario perseguirlos hasta hacerlos bariar de conductas ó q. abandonen el pais q. pretenden adoptar para q. su mala Doctrina no corrompa la sana moral delos demas habitantes, suyo remedio estando en manos de Vmd. puede aplicarlo sin temor de ninguna resulta adhersa á aquella clase de hombres, q. no hay duda daran un poco q. trabajar alas autoridades pero nunca podran ofender la conducta de aquel contra quien maliciosamente dirigen sus tiros.

Espero ála mas posible brevedad la Cuenta del papel habilitado en esa Colonia y su producido para remitirlo ála Legislatura del Estado.

Si V. tiene proporcion de mandarme quanto antes dos ó tres Resmas de Papel fino de primera, q. no sea de Algodon selo agradeceré infinito y con su abiso pagaré su importe, pues por falta de el tengo entorpecidos muchos negocios de Gob^no^

Las Yubias continuan aqui con extremo y creo q. en esa colonia susedera lo mismo; Si asi fuere procure V. buscar otro nuebo Noe q. construya una Arca, para q. nos libertemos de este dilubio.

Acaba de llegar el Correo y trai la noticia de q. el Sor. Humada con la tropa Se hallaba en Monclova desde el 6. del corriente con direccion á este Departamento con cuya fha. á escrito barias cartas y pienso estará aqui á principios del q. entra; Enel mismo correo me escribe ntro. amigo Baron, encluyendome para V. las dos cartas q. le dirijo, y aunque me dice q. me imponga de ellas p^a^ q. le aconseje aV. q. haga como le dice, no lo e berificado por benir pegadas, y por q. creo q. V. habrasará el consejo de un amigo.

Tenga V. la bondad de saludarme á su Ermano D. Santiago y atodos los amigos q. de mi se acuerden, y disponga del afecto q. le profesa su amigo y Servor. Q. S. M. B.

José Ant^e^ Saucedo [Rubric]

John Clark to Austin

Hempstead County Ark. T—24th May 1825

Dear Austin

A gentleman has just called at our court house who says he is going to your settlement in Texas, consequently I have but a moment

to write— I have at last got possession of your trunk and I suppose the most of your books but the trunk has been broke open and I expect some articles taken out of it, the trunk was at Vaughns and after his death a notorious scoundrel by the name of Fields married the widow who denied haveing it but it was after discovered by the Adms. of Vaughns estate and taken out of Fields possession. I did not deem it proper to send them to N Orleans as you had some four or five years ago instructed me to do but concluded to keep them till I hear from you again on that subject— please write me the first oportunity I will obey any orders that you may make relative to your trunk send it down the river or keep possession of it till called for— I am sorry I have not time to give you all the news of the country, the local and domestic concerns of Hempstead County as well as the politicks of the country— Give me a history of your country what the prospect is for makeing money there, or what would be profitable taken to or from your country— If you know any thing of Doctor Andrews for Gods sake let me hear of him, I feel interested in Andrews and would like to know that he is doing well If he is with you tell him we have a flourishing little village at the place he was endeavouring to get the seat of justice located at for this county. on the head of the Bodark, called Washington. This is now my residence— tell him his sweetharts are all married etc—

Accept sir my well wishes for your prosperity and happiness

JOHN CLARK

R. M. CARTWRIGHT TO AUSTIN.

Harrisburg Buffalow Bayou May the 25th 1825

STEPHEN F. AUSTEN ESQR. SIR I have been appointed constable to act in the case between cartwright and Nelson and Benjamin Carico on board of the schooner Mary. and am without law or instructions you will do me a singular favour if you would send me written Instructions so I may be able to do my duty I will give you a copy of the Execution and letter from the Alcalde

Messrs, H, Cartwright
" Nelson
Vs
Benjamin Carico &
Schooner Mary

Austins Colony District of San Jacinto the Constable of said District is hereby commanded to seize and Expose to public sale according to law the property of Benjamin Carico the defendant in the above suit or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay Jessie H, Cartwright and Jessie Nelson the plaintiff in the above suit the sum of five hundred and forty two dollars and costs of suit being the amount of a judgement entered in my office on the 21st day of May 1825 against said Carico in favour of Jesse H Cartwright and Jesse Nel-

son and should the said Carico have no property the Constable is commanded to take the Body of said Carico and bring him to me at my office Given the 21 day of May 1825

HUMPHRY JACKSON

MR ROBERT CARTWRIGHT

DEAR SIR Mr, Straing has handed me an advertisment for the property which you have Executed of Capt Carico, I think you are rather too premature I think you ought to have waited to the ten day was expired that was allowed him to find security I have got no law respecting this point I only give it as my opinion it was my intention when it was issued and it is my impression yet that you ought then to go no farther than execute to the ten days was expired that was allowed him to find security for an appeal.

Mr. Strange has stated to me that you wished to know if you ought to have the property valued. I have now [no] law respecting it I give it as my opinion that it ought if you sell at harrisburgh and the property on board of the vessel I think the property ought to be present at the sale if it could be got there it does not look right to me to have them a part when it is possible to have the property present I hope you will not allow or give reason for a slur to be cast on the district it is the first execution that has been Tride before me, I would have been more free to your brother in giving my opinion the other day on the points I did not feel right at my self to do any business at that time I am with Respect Yours

HUMPHRY JACKSON

you will pleas in struct how to act in all cases I expect a part of the property will be claimed by capt. Allin as I have heard he did will enclose an advertisement to you if you think it best I will have a part of the property brought to this place I have kept two young men on board to gard and take care of the schooner and cargo they the captain have ruin some flour and whiskey and other property since the attachment has been served and sold it [Instruct me] whether it is lawfull for me to keep [a guard if ?] I delay the sale longer than is needed [the reason for ?] giving so short a time was to save ex[pense the sale is ?] at this place because there is a gra[te many of people com- ?]ing and I knew if I sold on board [there would be very few ?] biders to bring it here would so of caused [some trouble ?] tobacco and flour and whiskey and whole bo[at . . .] might be brought without much expense . . . [answer] it and forward it to me as soon as possible

your obedient servant

R. M. CARTWRIGHT

Debity Constable [appointed by ?]

HUMPHREY JACKSON

Nathaniel Cox to Austin

New Orleans 27 May 1825

Dear Sir,

You were advised some few weeks ago of the safe arrival of your Box of Books—I have now an opportunity of sending them by the bearer, which I embrace, and hope they will reach you in safety

I have not very lately heard from Mrs Hawkins, but believe herself and family are well—She still lives with her younger sister the only one of that family that is independent and able to give her a support—I hope the time is not far distant when such charity will be unnecessary—From the great numbers of persons passing through to Texas I feel assured your Province will soon fill up and Enable you to make sale of lands.

What is Mr Gross doing with his cotton—The price is now an object—35 Cts. I should suppose it would be well worth getting ginned and shipped immediately.

Nath: Cox

Colº. Stephen F. Austin Texas

William Kincheloe to Austin

peach Creek may the 30 1825.

Dear Sir i receiv your very insulting letter you inform me you was much astonished to hear of my stating you had made apresent of my land that report is fabricated by some bad person who expects to live by fals hood and swindleing as for my stating to the people that i have stated false hood or un truth respecting my land i shall not i never shall Contradit any statement i have mad and i can assure you sir i never shall abuse you for any friendship you have Conferd on me but as for my saying directly or indirectly that you presented me with land or any thing else is false hood i expect sir that i have said less a bout my land or Deed than any other man in the Collony the last line of your letter i cant under-stand and i Conclude wishing you as wish all B M [Brother Masons?] that is true repentence and reformation

Wm Kincheloe

Col Stephen f Austin

N B you will give the auther of these reports by the first opportunity Wm Kincheloe

Col Stephen f Austin

JOHN INGRAM TO AUSTIN

Colorado May 31, 1825

DR SIR

I have made inquiry concerning the land You proposed to let me have near Mr. Williams's, and have been informed by several persons well acquainted with it:

They inform me that the land is of a very indifferent Quality, and almost entirely destitute of timber,—Therefore if it is not inconvenient to you I could wish to make another selection—I had rather have a place somewhere between the road, from Jackson's to town and the upper surveys which have been made on the Bernard, I could wish to have it laid off in an oblong to include both sides of the creek

If you can suit me in this manner, will you please be so good as to let me know by Mr. Jimason

JOHN INGRAM.

Col. S. F. Austin

ISAAC MATHEWS TO AUSTIN

Alexandria May 31st 1825

STEPHEN F AUSTON Esqr

S P D Auston

DEAR SIR there is a gentlemen that lives in your colleney by the name of Mr. Issac House, who lay sick at my house in the Month of August last, several days, during which time he informed me that He was about to trade for a league of land from you, and that his business cald him home (he said that he had been living there for two years) and that he was not able to travel for to get back to attend to his business on foot (which he was travling in that way) and he would give me six hundred and fourty acres of land lying on the watirs of the Burnard for a poney that would ansur for to carrey him home. on the faith and credit of his report I agreed to do so. and at the same time expecting to emmigrate to that country, was the indusement for me to run the risk of the trade with him, he is a single man and he makes his home at Mr. Varnors my wish to procure a title for the said land in my name through Mr. James Browne, who will bee the barer of this to you. and any expences that will occur on the same Mr. Brown will discharge it for me. I will write to Mr. House about the same, your complyance with the above request will mutch oblige your humble servant

ISAAC MATHEWS [Rubric]

I hold Mr. Houses obligation for the sd land which I will intrust with Mr. Browne for the said arrangement

I. M.

Regulations for Immigrants

[May?—, 1825.]

Regulations to be observed by persons who wish to settle in the Colony which the Govt have authorised Stephen F Austin to establish in Texas by Contract dated April [27] 1825 being the second Colony of said Austin

Art 1st Every person wishing to become a settler must immediately after his arrival present himself to me and signify his desire to that effect and leave with me recommendations from the Authorities of the place where he moved from Accrediting his Cristianity morality and good habits which will be laid before the Commr as the Law requires—he will also deliver in writing a statement of his name, whether married or single, his family specifying their number and sexes, the place of his nativity, his age, where from last, and his occupation as prescribed in the 3d article of the Colonisation Law, and he will at the same time take the oath prescribed by the 3d article of the instructions to the Commissioner to support the federal and state Constitution and the General and State Laws of his adopted Country, his name will then be entered in the register book of the Colony and from that time and not before he will be considered an applicant, and as such entitled by Law to the priviledges granted to the Colonists—the oath must be taken before the Commissioner or in his Absence before the Alcalde.

Art 2d after Complying with the foregoing Article and receiving a permission in Writing from the Empresario to select Land as one of the Colonists he will proceed to make his selection on unappropriated Lands and give notice at the office of the Empresario of his selection Within 30 days after the date of his permission in order that an entry may be made of the same and instructions issued to the surveyors to survey it as the Law and their instructions require the applicant will also at this time present his petition to the Commissioner on stamp paper in due form and in spanish.

Art 3d On the presentation of the petition as stated in the foregoing article satisfactory arrangements must be made to the Commissioner for the payment of fifteen Dollars to him, and five dollars into the office to Mr Samuel M Williams and on receipt of the title five dollars more being for his services in extending and copying the title, this is exclusive of stamp paper

Art 4th The Empresario as the general Agent of the Colonists has procured at his own expense and Labor, the priviledge of ennabling them to obtain Complete titles to land without the delay and expense and perplexities of personal applications at the seat of Govt by each individual—he has all the Labor of the translations—the examination of the surveyors returns and translating them, the receiving, registering and locating of Colonists, also heavy responsibilities and

much Labor of a Complicated and perplexing Nature—and as his Whole time must necessarily be devoted to the service of the Colonists, and under heavy expences, he in justice and equity has a right to expect a proper remuneration from them and the 9th article of the Colonisation Law gives him a legal right to exact it. his object is to receive from the settlers a small recompence in Comparison with the benefits he procures and the Labor he undergoes for them.

Every settler therefore who applies for admission into my Colony will be bound to pay me Sixty dollars, if he is entitled to a League and thirty if only to a quarter of a League— Ten Dollars of which sum must be paid at the time of obtaining the permission spoken of in the Second article, Twenty Dollars in Six months after the date of said permission, and the balance Thirty Dollars in 18 months from the date of sd permission.— the payment of which must be secured by Note and lien on the Land granted.

5th In future No respect or preference will be given to any settlement improvement or selection whatever made by any person Who shall not have Previously Complied with the foregoing regulations. (excepting however those who have at this time actually made improvements who are allowed until the first of october to make application as required in the foregoing articles.

The payments on a quarter of a League must be made as follows Ten Dollars on the receipt of the permission as aforementioned and the balance in 6 months thereafter.

6th Should I be absent from this place Mr Samuel M Williams is authorised to receive applications and grant permissions as prescribed in the first and second articles of these regulations

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[Recapitulation [1]]

on making application to the Empr	$10.
on presentation of petition which must be within 30 days after application to the comr	15.
to be paid into the office at the same time	5.
on receipt of title to be pd. into the office	5.
Stamp paper for original and copy	2.
Six months application to the Empro	20.
one year after ditto to do	20.
18 months after do to do	25.
4 years after date of title to the Ayto	10.
5 years after do to do	10.
6 years after do to do	10.
	132.

[1] This is probably not a part of the preceding document, since it provides for a payment of $75 to the empresario instead of $60. The other fees conform, however, and it may have been a preliminary draft by Austin for the preceding document.

The above is exclusive of surveying fees which will be paid to the surveyors at the rate of 4 Dollars p^{r}. mile.

Form of Agreement

[May?—, 1825][1]

We whose names are subscribed in the third Colum of this book acknowledge that on the days set down in the second Column opposite to our respective names We received from the Emp^{o} Stephen F. Austin a permission to select land in his Colony as settlers in the same by which it appears that as married men the Law allows one sitio and one Labor of Land and therefore in Compliance with the foregoing regulations which have been heretofore published and understood by us we do each of us separately hereby covenant and agree with said Austin to pay him Fifty dollars each in two payments that is to say 20$ in 6 months from the date of the said permision as set down in the 2^{d} Column opposite to our respective names and thirty dollars in one year from the s^{d}. date, for the true and faithful payment of which sum as above specified by each one seperately without any defalcation delay or objection whatever to said Austin or order we do each of us seperately bind ourselves our heirs or assigns, and as security for said payment we do each of us seperately hereby mortgage to said Austin or to his assigns the Land which we may each individually receive as settlers in s^{d} Colony, In faith of which we sign this agreement and obligation in presence of the witness whose name is signed in the first column opposite our respective names, and hereby make it binding on us and our heirs it being a fair contract explained and understood by each one of us fully before signing and as such guaranteed to the s^{d}. Emp^{o} by the 9th article of the colonization Law of this state.

Austin to Mrs. Emily Perry

[May —, 1825.]

Dr Sister,

I have lately[2] rec^{d} instructions from the Gov^{t} to attend to the Settlement of five hundred families more in this country and shall set about it immediately—this renders it impossible for me to think

[1] The date supplied is somewhat arbitrary. The document is in Austin's hand. The statement that married men are entitled to a league and labor of land suggests that this fee was meant to apply to the few titles lacking to fill the first contract for 300 families, since a league was the standard grant in subsequent contracts.

[2] The contract was granted April 27, 1825.

of visiting Missouri for some years to come and besides— it will be a long time before I can raise the means of going there as I wish—my labors in this country altho arduous and in every way perplexing will not yield me anything for some years and then not the fortune which some have supposed—I shall benefit others much more than myself in proportion— but thank heaven I am not avericious—

I wish you [to] ask the advice of Barton E^{d} Bates, John Scott, and other Lawyers relative to the mine a Burton property and make any bargain with them you think proper, except as to engaging Money—I can pay no money now or for several years to come—if they will undertake it for an interest of the property I am agreed to give up an interest— do as you please but delay no time—

Also take their advice relative to the Little Rock property and have suit commenced on that without delay, and give them an interest in that also— You are the proper person to attend to that business— and do not delay anytime— See what can be done immediately.—

Send on from the Lawyers the form of a power of attorney for brother and me to sign and instruction how it must be authenticated— it is a long distance to the seat of Gov^{t} to have it executed before the Govr and I am myself the highest civil authority, this side the seat of Gov^{t} there are justices of the peace here, called Alcaldes before whom it might be executed—

Brother started a few days ago to San Antonia and will be absent about six weeks— I have nothing new—The Season has been very wet so far—too much so—tho the crops are very good—Mr Green DeWitt I am told has obtained permission for the Settlement of 400 families from Missouri on a River in this Province called the Guadalupe about 70 miles west of this—it is a fine country, very well waterd and very healthy—he will be on shortly from the interior and I will write by him— in the meantime see the lawyers and set about the Mine a Burton property without delay and also the Little Rock business you need not wait for me— it will be four or five years at least before I shall have the means of going to Missouri—

Remember me to Mr Perry and the children and write often to your

ever affectionate brother

S. F. Austin

Mrs E. M. Perry

AUSTIN TO BUFORD

[May —, 1825?]

Mr. WARREN BUFORD

You state that a number of your neighbors and friends from the Attackapas and Oppelusas wish to remove to this Colony and have requested of me to inform you on what terms they can be rec[d] the quantity of land that will be allowed them etc in answer to which enquiry I have to inform you

1—I am authorised by the Government as a Contractor (Empresario) to introduce and settle five hundred families on the waters of the Brazos and Colorado rivers including also the East side of La Baca and the West side of San Jacinto from the upper or San Antonio road to within ten Leagues of the Sea Coast, no new grants of upland can be made nearer than that distance from the Coast.

2—The 5th Article of the law of Colonization declares that all new settlers shall prove their Christianity morality and general characters by certificates from the authorities of the place where they moved from. If these certificates are satisfactory they will be rec[d] and if not they will be rejected, for the law, contemplates and the instructions of the Government strictly enjoin that none but men of integrity, *Sobriety* and industry should be permitted to settle in the country— Criminals, fugitives from justice and notorious vagabonds proven to be such are ordered to be driven from the State by military force or otherwise punis[hed] for having imposed or attempted to impose them[selves] on the Govt. for honest and industrious men.

2—The 11th article of the same law says that "a Square of land which measures one League or five thousand *varas* (Mexican yards) on each side, or what is the same thing a Superficie of 25,000,000 Square varas shall be called a *Sitio* and this shall be the unit for counting one two or more *Sitios*, and the unity for counting one two or more *labors* shall be a Superficie of one million Square varas, or one thousand varas on each side which shall compose a *labor* of land

3—The 14 article of the same law says that "to each family whose "only occupation is cultivating the earth (labrar la tierra) there "shall be granted one *labor*, if he is also a Stock raiser there may be "added one *Sitio* of land proper for raising stock, and if he is only "a Stock raiser he can only have a Superficie of Said Stock land of "24,000,000 square varas

4—The 15 Article provides that Single men shall only receive the fourth part of what is allowed by the 14 article for married men—

5—The 17 article provides that on the recommendation of the Commissioner the Government can augment the quantity of land above designated in proportion to the size of the family, capital and enterprise of the Settler, but in no instance to exceed Eleven leagues.

6—The said law also says that the Commissioner appointed by the Govt. shall employ Surveyors and lay of the land for such settlers as are rec^{d} by the Contractor (Empresario) and returned to him as settlers, and that he shall issue to each one of them a complete title for his land in the name of the Government—The expences of Surveying—the Commissioners and other office fees and thirty dollars on each league to the Government must be paid by the settler— the 30 Dollars pr. league to the Govt. is to be paid in three instalments the first four years the 2d. five years and the 3d. 6 years after the date of the Grant. the amount of the Surveying fees will depend on the contracts made by the Commissioner with the Surveyors— heretofore a fraction more than three dollars pr. english mile has been given, these fees must be paid when the title is rec^{d} as the Commissioner has not yet arrived I cannot state what his fees or the other expences will be, tho I will insure that all the expences including Government, Commissioners, and all other fees and surveying will not exceed 12½ cents pr. english acre if so much and but a small part of that will be required down I have hereto fore never rejected any man as a settler because he had not the means of paying the expences on his land in such cases I have on my own responsability allowed time for the settler to make his payments even the surveying fees— in many instances of this nature I have been deceived and suffered a total loss, this will compel me to be more particular in future. tho as a genl. rule no settler who has a family and satisfactorily proves his integrity *Sobriety* and industry and who has been reduced by misfortunes, will be rejected by me no matter how poor he may be A settler on his arrival here presents himself to me with his credentials of character, if these are satisfactory a register is made of his name, where he moved from whether married or single— the number ages and sexes of his family: the oath prescribed by law is then administered to support the constitution and no one can get a title to land untill he has actually removed to the Country. Six years is allowed to improve and settle the land, and anyone who moves out of the country forfeits his land unless he had sold it— and if he sells it without improving it as the law requires the sale is void and the land reverts to Govt. but every one who has improved his land can sell it and leave the country and the sale is good provided it is made before he moves away.

[Stephen F. Austin.]

P. S. Le Hicks to Austin

Alexandria June 2d 1825 La

Mr. S F Austin Esq

Sir Having been informed that you are able to give me information concerning the intentions of your Government in respect to those who served under the independent Standard in the late revolution of the Mexican States and whether there has yet been any thing done in Congress concerning the grant of land to such persons I have taken the liberty of addressing this letter of enquiry to you requesting that you would return me an answer by the bearer and also please to inform me what encouragement there is to a Physician in any part of your Province

I hope you will excuse my troubling you with these enquiries when you are informed that it is my wish to receive a remuneration for property expended for provisions and my services as a Capt. for eighteen months and that it is and long has been my intention to settle in your Province if I could obtain a grant of a tract of land sufficient for Payment of Part of my sacrifices and good encouragement to my profession

These reasons I offer as apologies and hope you will accept them as such and deign to give me an answer by the bearer Mr J Brown and you will greatly oblige

P. S. Le Hicks [Rubric]

Saucedo to Austin

El Exmo Sor Gobor. de este Estado con fha. 18. de Mayo ultimo me dice lo q. copio.

" Conociendo la urgente nesecidad de asistir a V. S. con sus sueldos correspondientes desde el dia q. tomó posecion de su Empleo, y q. del mismo modo se Atienda á los gastos de sú Secretaria con esta fha. paso orn. al Ciudadano Estevan Austin para q. delos Dineros q. hade enterar afin del presente año por producto delas tierras desu Colonia, anticipe la cantidad de un mil pesos enlo pronto, y otros mil álos tres meses para con ellos ocurrir al indicado objeto, remitiendolos a V. S. conla oportunidad posible, y con la debida seguridad."

Lo q. traslado a V. para su inteligencia y fines conciguientes persuadido de q. hará por su parte todo el esfuerzo posible pa. q tenga efecto la disposicion preinserta.

Dios y Libertad. San Fernando de Bexar 2. de Junio de 1825.

José Antº Saucedo [Rubric]

Sor D. Estevan Austin

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Bexar y Junio 2. de 1825.

SOR D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Estimado Amigo y Dueño mio: Por los adjuntos oficios se impondra V. delo q. particularmente debia comunicarle, añadiendo ahora q. ntro. Amigo Baron se halla quebrado de salud por un furioso resfriado q. le atacó; y q. el Ten^te Coronel D. Mateo Ahumada marchó de Monclova p^a esta ciudad el 27. del pasado, por lo q. considero q. p^a el dia 15 del presente llegará con su tropa a esta ciudad.

El contenido dela carta del Sor. Gobernador del Estado deve dirigirse á q. por áhora me remita V. mil pesos por cuenta del dinero q. deven pagar esos Colonos enfin del presente año, por los terrenos q. seles han dado, y otros mil dentro del termino de tres meses: Con esto sele presenta áV. una ocasion muy oportuna para servir a un Amigo con tal cantidad q. le pidio en carta escrita por conducto del Sor. Rojo, y para q. con mas facilidad lo pueda V. hacer le propongo q. la mitad recibire en efectivo y en 25 o 30 Reces de bientre y Nobios Gordos al precio q. es corriente en esa colonia, y tambien en azucar, café, Tabaco, y algunos Generos de ropa blanca é Yndianas, medias, etc. etc. y la otra mitad en dinero para tomar algun jiro y cubrir el credito q. tengo pendiente, por q. el sueldo q. disfruto como Gefe de este Departamento limitadamente me alcansa p^a comer.

Quatro Empresarios han contratado con el Gob^no la introducion de dos mil quatro cientas familias en el territorio de este Departamento. No tengo lugar de escribir con mas detencion, por eso concluyo diciendole áV. q. me haga el honor de saludar á su Ermano y mandar q^to guste asu Atento amigo y servor. Q. B. S. M.

JOSE ANT^o SAUCEDO [Rubric]

J. E. B. AUSTIN TO MRS. EMILY PERRY.

Pro^r. Texas

Groces Retreat June 3d 1825.

MY DEAR SISTER.

I receiv^d your welcome letter under date of 10th of April, while on a visit to this place and hasten to answer it, before I leave *this;* as opportunities more frequently occur from here, than San Felipe

Not long since I wrote you; and Stephen at the same time forwarded an answer to Mr. Perry's letter, which no doubt you will receive in due time— You mention that a letter from Stephen dated in Decem^r. last which you received, gave you more Satisfaction (with respect to his reconciliation, of your choice of a partner) than any before received, on that subject. Let me assure you My *dear Sister* that he is not only reconciled but pleased, much pleased, with your Choice—knowing as *he* does, that *you* would not take so impor-

tant a step without consulting *your happiness;* The only objects dear to us on this Earth being yourself and lovely *little* family, rest assured whenever you are happy we shall be perfectly so—Our Brother seems to think, owing to the yet infant state of the Settlement that it would not be altogether advisable, for Mr. P. to remove to this country, at present—there is nothing he could do, that would be advantageous to him, for some years to come—tho I hope the country will so far improve in the course [of] a very [few] years, that it will attract the attention of Mr. Perry—and be so much to his interest that he will be induced to relinquish the *cold* and unfriendly Climate of Mo. for the more mild and salubrious one of Texas, where I think the mildness of the Climate tends in some degree to Soften the feelings of *Man* and render him more like a natural *Being*—Indeed my dear Emily it certainly, will be "*the most joyful period of our lives*" when we can embrace our Sister with "peace and plenty" smiling around us after the many vicissitudes we have passed through for the last Six years—The time is not far distant, if our lives are spared, when the fond *vision* will be realized.

I am happy to hear Cousin Adeline has changed the name of Bates for that of Lewis, and also that she has so soon commenced housekeeping, may her life be long—prosperous and happy—and may "*misfortune not mark her for her one.*" You will greet her with a *kiss* for me when you meet her—You were "pleased and provoked" at my *brevity* in one of my last letters, and think that I can never be at a loss for a subject when writing to my Sister—You will please to excuse that letter and I will try and be more prolix in future. I must have been in one of my *Lazy Moods* when I wrote—Stephen has not gone to the City of Saltillo, probably he will not go untill fall, as he is fully determined to close the affairs of the Colony before he makes his return to Gov^{t}. he can obtain the settling of *500* or *600* families more, by making application—Everything goes on finely; not withstanding the unfavorable season we have had, good crops will be made—*The Priest* will be on in a few days to organize a *church* and attend to our spiritual affairs—Draw no conclusions from the date of my letter I am merely on a visit of a few days, because I pass my time so heavy at home—and also, because it is a pleasure to visit a family I esteem so highly as I do this. Present my respects to Brother James—and kiss my charming *little niece*, tell the Boys to study hard, and uncle will not forget any of them Brother sends his love Your Affectionate Brother

JAS. E. B. AUSTIN

I forgot to mention in one of my former letters that Robt Andrews was dead He has been dead nearly a year

(Addressed:) Mrs. Emily M. Perry Mail Potosi, Missouri.

BENJAMIN CARRICO TO AUSTIN

June 3—1825

To the Honorable Judge STEPHEN F AUSTIN

I have this moment received a few lines from you and do hasten to make a fair statement in writing of the case as my health will not admit me to Come over—we left orleans on 13 March last with Fr[e]ight and passenge[rs] for this place Capt Allin the first offisser or mate and experience[d] Ship mate we made a shipment of tobaco and Flour whiskey and other goods on board where the profits were to Be divided when sold—we arrived at galveston 26 march and sent the boat ahead of the Schr to Sound and to keep her a head a sufficient Distance to tack if Shoal water, when the signal was not seen in time and finding the water too shoal and in the aim of tacking took the ground and stopt all night—we hove of[f] the next morning without receiving any damage; the weather being fine permitted the passenges to go on shore and to find the Channel wich they did but the wind rising so hard that they Could not return with the large boat they tarrying so long on shore we made an attempt to go off and in so doing we stopt on the ground we let go our anchor and waited for the tide the wind rising and the Sea making the Schr Began to beat on the bottom very hard and it was with much difficulty that a man Could stand and it being high water and it was impossible to go off without lighten her—if i had made the attempt and failed again the vessel must have been lost and all the property and some lives if not all for it blew hard that night.

i gave order to clear the Deck and to save what we Could if it had been washt over abourd by the act of god i should have nothing to say—but when it is the act of men and don Conciancinosly with the intention to save as much as Can be don i do believe that every[body] ought to bear a propotion of the loss the [schr] was not over loaded and all the good on deck Could be put below—but to accomodate our passenges we kept them on Deck to give them room below wich passengers was to com on deck Suppose i had gave orders to take all the goods out of the whole and leave those on deck and pass over them that was so near at hand and so convenient would it not appear partial Surely my Conscience would condemed me and every one on board—therefore it must be left to the master['s] judgement and discretion under Such circumstances if he err the under writer suffer and do not think that there is any law that point out a master duty in all Circumstance and in all Cases and in all Climes and parts of the world—to take the boat ahead and keep her a distance from you 100 Or 150 yards is a very safe and Continually practiced—I have been condemned to pay for goods that was not in my bill of lading

and wich i had no knowledge of being on board and to pay for an anveil that cost $10 or 12$ at orleans one hundred dollars Mr. Cartwright waggon one half is been delivered with the harness the harness he keep the two wheels and side he refuses—and my vessel to be sold here [for cash ?] and since they have had hir in their [hands ?] She has been driven on shore and no pains taken to git her of and there beating by every hard wind up higher on the bar of red fish so called where she will never be got of when she is lost I Cheerfully submitt the Case to your Decision pray that if the vessel and goods is to be sold that she will Sold for Country pay

this is a danger of the Seas and unavabl [unavoidable] occuren.

BENJAMIN CARRICO

BENJAMIN CARRICO TO W. B. ALLIN

June 3—1825

Capt ALLIN I have this day Rec[d] a few lines from Col[o] austin stating that the Sale is stopt and requesting me to Come over or state the case in writing or appear by agent my health is bad i am a[t] doctor hunters and have been here a week i wish that you could forward a few line to me concerning your property and the business, and what you have lost at the Brasses

BENJAMIN CARRICO [Rubric]

if the vessel is to be sold pray that she will be sold for the produce of the country according to law and the tobacco next

I do appoint you W B Allin as my agent to transact any bussiness of this Suite between me and the passenger[s] of the Scooner mary and this Shall Stand instead of a full Power to all intent and purposes

June 3rd—1825

BENJAMIN CARRICO [Rubric]

JACKSON'S MEMORANDUM CONCERNING THE SCHOONER MARY

Memo. from H. Jackson relative to Carrico when Nelson and Cartwright applied for a process J. went down to Hunters to see Carrico and Allen and try and compromise—Allen agreed that they were liable for the things lost but contended that they ought only to pay the orleans price—and finally the parties went on board the Mary to receive as much property as would secure N. and C. leaving it for future determination at what price the lost property should be rated at but when they reached the mary C. and A. told them that if they got any thing it must be by law and refused to come to any settle-

ment—afterwards they agreed to pay for the Goods at the Orleans price.—The Mary was aground on red fish bar when she was attached and was got off by the assistance of the Constable and guard and run on by Carrico in trying to bring her into the San Jacinto—the Alcalde demanded before tryal wheither they had any objection to any of the Jury and furnished them with a list, and stated that if they had any objection others would be summoned on the morning of the tryal they agreed that they were liable for the property lost but only differd as to the price, so that the only thing for the Jury to decide was the price of the property.

JUAN ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 4 de Junio de 1825.

Sr D. ESTEBAN AUSTIN.

Mi apreciable Amigo y Dueño: Contesto con el mayor agrado la atenta de V. de 5 de Abril ultimo diciendo: qe animado yo constantem^te^ de los mas ardientes deseos por la prosperidad y aumento de las nuevas poblaciones en ese pais, no hé perdido ocasion medio ni diligencia de promover su pueble y colonizacion bajo de bases arregladas al mejor sistema del dia.

Por fin tengo la satisfaccion de ver á V. colocado al frente dela primera Colonia que se proyectó y asi como á V. le toca el laurel de esta empresa por su heroica constancia en sufrir todo genero de fatigas y privaciones, yo tengo la complacencia de haber dado la primera plumada en la admision del proyecto y practicado los demas tramites hasta la casi total conclusion.

Por lo que respecta á los dos objetos que ocupan por ahora la atencion de V. y me insinua en su citada carta, tengo la mas completa satisfaccion al anunciarle que el 1°. sobre la habilitacion del Puerto de Galbeston, está concedido, aunque no hemos recibido el Decreto del congreso gen^l^ como V. lo verá por la adjunta copia de la sesion dela camara de senadores,[1] y confirmado en un documento oficial que es el discurso del Presid^te^. al cerrar las sesiones el congreso, que vá inserto en la Gazeta adjunta.

Está hecha ya la felicidad en ese pais, y debe completarse si se aprueban las proposiciones hechas por el Senador Ceballos en que instruirá á V. nro Amigo el Sr. Baron, sobre la habilitacion de el puerto de los Brazos y el de Matagorda con libertad de dros pr. 7 años en confirmacion de esta gracia que estubo concedida por el Gob°. de España.

El asunto de las Escuelas es uno de los que mas han ocupado al Gob°. en estos dias: yo considero que si V. propone las bases conque

[1] Above, May 2, 1825.

admitirá un profesor de idoneidad y conocimientos yo le solicitaré por todos los medios que esten á mi alcanze pues desco la ilustracion de mis semejantes y particularm^te^ de la juventud qe. es la que nos ha de reemplazar.

V. sabe que tengo la mejor disposicion para complacerlo, y seguro de esta y de mi ingenua amistad, espera sus ordenes para cumplirlas su affmo Amo. que S. M. B.

JUAN ANTONIO PADILLA [Rubric]

MARTIN F. MAHER TO AUSTIN

New Orleans June 4th 1825

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Esqr.

Sir Being appointed Agent by the widow of the Late David J Marple (Deceased) to settle up his concerns in your Colloney, and my Business here, not permitting my leaveing Home this season, I have appointed Mr Mathew Adams my Atty to act for Mrs. Marple in my place, and forward by this Gentleman Mrs Marples Power of Atty to me, and mine to him, together with a letter from Mrs M to yourself, and sundry letters from Mr. Cummings and Mr. Tomblison to her, relative to her late Husbands Personal Effects, Mrs. Marple, as also myself, rely with Implicit confidence on your friendly aid and assistance in seeing that Justice is done hir and Three Orphan Children, in Leequidating, the Accts of her late Husband, with these Gentlemen—I have instructed Mr Adams to be soly guided by your instructions in all his movements with Mr Cummings and Tomblisons

The Widow is very desirous to have the Deed of the Lands Granted to her late Husband executed in doing of which her wish is to have it so that an Equal Share will be comeing to each of his three Children and that part allowed for herself separate—as her Object at present is to get more settlers on it for a term of years untill herself and Children Can move on to it—I have promised Mrs Marple to procure a number of settlers from Urope to go on to it next seoson—Which shall Be Complyed with as soon as the Deeds are Received, and I am Justafied in sending over for them; all of which I trust will be accomplished on the return of Mr Adams.

I would also wish to have a statement from yourself, the terms on which famileys w^d^ Be admitted to settle on your lands—the articles of produce that can be raised there, the Laws that you are Governed by, if any Taxes are to be paid, what Mechanicks are most wanted, with any other Information you think proper to communicate as on sending for settlers for Mrs. Marples tract and the terms you admitt settlers on will Justify me in encouraging twenty or thirty

additional Families to accompany them, I will do so And I have very little Doubt, if once the Ice is broke there will be a number of Families over every year. If on the receipt of Mrs. Marples Documents and your Information on the subject of New settlers are satisfactory, I calculate by next spring to accompany A number of New Settlers to yr Quarter and spend afew weeks there untill they get fairly under way—

I beg leave once more to call your attention to Mrs. Marples affairs as I assure you she is Left very destitute, and is wholly depending on her friends—which must be very distressing to a woman, who never new before her Husband left home what it was to want for any thing necessary to her comfort.

Hoping Shortly to hear from you and by that means, be instrumental in forwarding her agreeable News. I Remain Sir yrs. very Respectfully

MARTIN F MAHER

MARTIN F MAHER & COMPANY TO AUSTIN

New Orleans 4 June 1825

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Esqr

Sir We beg leave to introduce to your acquaintance Mr. Mathew Adams whom our M F Maher has empowered to transact some buiseness with you and whom we have assisted in getting a vessel to convey some settlers that have been waiting for some time Here to find a Conveyance to your place.

Mr Adams intends with the assistance of his friends, to form an establishment with you, and Keep a vessel runing regularly to your town if the buiseness will Justify It. any Civilities or services rendered him will be thankfully acknowledged by use and when Ever our services here can be useful to you or friends. It will offer us pleasure to promote your or their Interest. We remain sir yr Obt Servts

M: F: MAHER & Co

P. S. we send you by Mr Adams the price Current of this date and a file of News Papers—

THOMAS HOOPER TO AUSTIN

Alexandria June the 4th 1825

DEAR SIR

I am happy to have it in my power to write to you by a safe hand in which I acknowledg the recd of yours informing me that I could not get but one leage of land which was very contrary to my ex-

spectations for I was very much lifted with you cuntry and had the most exspliscit confidence in your promis to me with respect to the two leages of land that I felt safe and if it had a been in my power to have went and have chose it you would have made no objections and sir pardon me when I insist on your complying with your promis I was on the virge of starting out with Mr L W groce but on the recept of your letter I declined coming untill I heard from you Dear sir I have this day made arangements with Mr Morgan for the part leage provided it meets your approbation he will let me have that place which I hope you will do me the favour to grant— and if you cant let me have but one leage I hope it will be that as but one leage above town would be no enducement to moove to your country but if you let me have that I will moove to it this winter that is I will have a crop made on it next year and moove in the spring or fall— and sir if you do me the favour requested write by the first opertunity and I will come out by the last of september bring on some hands to go to worke and pay you your money for the land and improvement sir I hope you will answer this by the [first] opertunity as I shall be very ansious to hear from you Dr Sexton wants that leage but Mr. Morgin has given him up the leag on the Bernard

Sir this from yours with patints

THOS HOOPER

Colo Ostin

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR RAFAEL GONZALES[1]

Having received and duly considered the articles of contract, and terms stipulated in the foregoing official communication of his Excellency, citizen Rafael Gonzalez, Governor of the State of Coahuila and Texas, relative to the colonization of three hundred foreign families, on the vacant lands remaining within the boundaries of the Colony which I have already established in Texas—I hereby accept and confirm them, binding myself to fulfil them in all their parts, under the penalty of forfeiting all the rights and priviliges indicated in the third section of these articles of agreement.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto sign my name, with my own hand, in the town of San Felipe de Austin, 4th June, 1825.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

To His Excellency, the Governor of the State of Coahuila and Texas.

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[1] Translation from Record of Empresario Contracts, 1825–1835, p. 46. General Land Office of Texas. There is a Spanish copy in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

Austin to Governor Rafael Gonzales [1]

Executive Department
Free State of Coahuila and Texas

Herewith I remit signed by myself the articles of agreement proposed by Your Excellency, relative to the Colonization of three hundred families within the limits designated for this Colony already established. These boundaries were designated by His Honor, the Political Chief of Texas, when he was at this place, by the order dated 20th May 1824, the original of which I herewith hand to Your Excellency. His Honor the said Political Chief subsequently made an official communication to me under date of 21st September 1824, relative to colonizing on the River San Jacinto a copy of which I herewith remit, in order that with these documents present and keeping in view the grants made to the other Empresarios Your Excellency may determine the exact boundaries of the respective settlements, to prevent all doubts as respects the respective boundaries. The Chocolate Creek spoken of in the order of the Political Chief is situated between the Rivers Brazos and San Jacinto.

God and Liberty,

San Felipe de Austin 4th June 1825.

To His Excellency Rafael Gonzalez Governor of the State of Coahuila and Texas.

A Copy, Signed, Padilla.

Cartwright to Austin

HarrisBurgh June 5-1825

Col Steven F. Austin

Dear Sir I am informed that Capt Carrico has taken a part of a bail of Domestick from on board of the Schooner wrapt in his Bed and a part of it in his trunk Say about 300 yds also has taken the long Boat on shore and top Sail which was all under execution I am informd the guard dont know of the domestick being gone and before the trial they Sent off 5 barrels of flower and one of whiskey this will show to you that they are making way with their property to avoid the payment of their just debts and I wish to decide as quick as possible and if you confirm the judgment I wish you to order the Captains to be brought forward under execution and hired out to pay the balance of the debt and cost of them should there be a Balance as I find that to be the law I find it impossible to get a guard to doo their duty as they dont [like?]it they wont do as they are directed we are all kept here litterally speaking in a State of

[1] From Translations of Empresario Contracts, 242. General Land Office of Texas. Translation of a copy.

starvation without Bread and waiting to get our rights, I came to cultivate the Soil and the Season is fast expiring that we can be benefited by it,—this will be handed you by a coloured man which was Steward on board of the Schooner and you can ask him about what I have stated.

JESSE H. CARTWRIGHT [Rubric]

P S there is one Barrel of flower on board and we intend to make use of it—

Please to send me an answer by the first opportunity and oblige yours

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JOHN P. COLES TO AUSTIN

June 6th 1825

DEAR SIR

Inclosed I send you an account of the Census of this District I have been as correct in it as circumstances would permit you will also find Inclosed the plot of James whites Tract of Land I have not seen any of those Phillips's since I saw you nor neither has Keer selected any Land that I know of I have not found the young Mare that was Lost I am fearful that she is Intirely Lost Either stolen or Drownd in attempting to Recross the River I have sirched for her diligently in Every direction but cannot find her I want to come down shortly

JNO P. COLES [Rubric]

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN[1]

Por el oficio de V. fha. 18 de Mayo pp. he visto q. en cumplimiento de mi orn. de 20 de Abril destinó V. una partida de hombres en persecucion de Domingo Lozoya, Manuel Quinto y Diego Dominguez, la cual solo consiguió la aprehension del primero y tercero, y no la del segundo q. es el principal criminal, quedando en guarda la caballada q. bajo pasaporte del Alc.e 1.o de esta Ciudad conducía Domingo Lozoya.

No siendo justo q. V. satisfaga á los aprensores de estos Yndividuos y á los q. destinó al Cuidado de la Caballada de Lozoya el cargo q. demanden por su trabajo, espero lo verifique de mi cuenta con alguna moderacion, y me remita noticia circunstanciada de la cantidad q. les ha pagado por su trabajo para tratar de reponerme de ella de algun fondo, ó sufrirla yo si no hubiere otro adbitrio, pues el Yndividuo q. resulta con algunos indicios culpables no tiene con q. sufragar costos ningunos: para no aumentar estos convendrá q. la caballada del citado Lozoya la entregue V á su familia para q. cuide de

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas. See Austin to Saucedo, May 18.

ella interin este regresa á recibirla, de lo q. no podrá ni deberá escusarse supuesto la sospecha q. en el se encuentra por haber admitido en su compañia aun hombre q. la justicia persigue por fundados indicios, y q. á mas de esto marchaba sin pasaporte alguno, y por binculos de admistad y parentesco no lo presentó ni al alcalde de La Bahia ni á ninguno de los Juesces de ese distrito, por cuya falta se tiene bien merecida la mortificacion q. ha padecido.

Fran^co^ Ramirez conocido por el Chocolatero se halla cerca de esa Jurisdicion en el servicio de los Sres. Ybarbos, de cuyo poder me dicen á pasado al de un Habitante del Rio Colorado, y como este individuo es complise en los robos egecutados por el Frances Valentin y sus compañeros convendrá q. V. lo solicite y remita á esta ciudad donde está pendiente la causa formada sobre el asunto y para q. de este modo queden libres esos habitantes del perjuicio q. uno ú otro dia pueda hacerles el referido Ramirez, pero q. esto sea por medio de un servicio gratuito q. deben prestar esos habitantes en consideracion á la falta de fondos de donde poderselos remunerar. Dios y Libertad.

San Fernando de Bexar 6 de Junio de 1825.

J. A. S.

Sor. Ten^te^ Cor^l.^ D. Estevan Autin.

Note for Payment of Land Fees.[1]

In Equal installments of Twelve and Eighteen Months we promise to pay Stephen F. Austin or order Two Hundred and seventy dollars in good property subject to a deduction of 33⅓ per cent if paid in cash being amount due on one League and one Laber of [land] granted to us by Concession dated 9th August 1824 being amt of Fees imposed by the Political Chief of the Province in the Fee bill published by him 20th May in the same Year for the full payment of which we do hereby obligate ourselves our Heirs and assigns and do hereby pledge and Mortgage the said Land.

San Felipe de Austin 6th June 1825.

Hamilton N Yett
Alex^r^ Calvit

Austin to Saucedo

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

En este momento he recibido noticias que los hombres perversos y centenciosos A. C Buckner y Alexandro Jackson han puesto avisos en varios puntos sin el conocimiento ó previa aprobacion de las

[1] There are hundreds of such notes. This is printed as a type.

autoridades de esta Colonia llamando una junta de los habitantes con el fin de hacer representaciones al Gobierno contra V. S. por haber publicado el Arancel de 20 de Mayo del año pasado sobre los dres [derechos] que tienen de pagar por sus Tierras—Contra mi por haberles cobrado segun me mando el Gobierno y contra el Comisionado y yo por que hemos mercenado mas tierras á unos y á otros. Este es una medida de insubordinacion que trastornara todo buen orden si no esta castigado por el Gobierno por que si se permite que tales gentes se constituyan en dictadores á enseñar á las autoridades del Gobierno sus deberes y las denuncian con desprecio en este modo siempre que no se les Conceda todo que sus ideas perversas y codicia desean nunca habra tranquilidad ni subordinacion ni Gobierno. si yo he hecho mal el Gobierno no [sic] me castigara con rigor pero la misma existencia del Gobierno exije que se castiga tales revoltosos con todo el rigor de la ley, por que el paso esta muy corto y derecho desde quejas sin fundacion á la Rebeldia abierta contra todo autoridad y particularmente no se debe permitir el principio en los nuevos pobladores que al momento de llegar en el pais que pretenden adoptar tienen el derecho de oponerse abiertamente a las autoridades constituidas del Gobierno y insultar sus oficiales. Voy arrestar los promotores de este desorden y mandarlos en Clase de Reos á Bexar para que el Gobierno disponga de ellos y al mismo tiempo pido del Gobierno una examinacion de mi conducta á fin de manifestar á los buenos habitantes de esta Colonia si he seguido las ordenes del Gobierno ó no y si no les he seguido que me castiga segun exije la ley y el bien de la patria y si mi Conducta esta aprobada que asi se declara por el Gobierno a fin de que los buenos habitantes no queden en duda sobre un punto de tanta importancia al buen orden y tranquilidad de este establecimiento

Dios y Libertad 6 de Junio de 1825

E. F. A.

Al Gefe de Departamento.

AUSTIN TO COLONISTS

To the Inhabitants living within the limits of this jurisdiction—.

FELLOW CITIZENS, I have regretted to see that a Spirit of discontent and contention has manifested itself in a few individuals of this colony since its first commencement.—A rigid adhereance to the instructions of the government would have compelled me long since to have noticed such disturbances of the public peace; but actuated by a hope that reason and reflection would lead them back to that path of subordination to the laws from which passion had

unfortunately drawn them, I forbore to exercise the authority vested in me in such cases.—Unfortunately, my forbearance has been misconstrued, and has produced the opposite effect to that which was hoped for and expected.—It has been attributed to timidity, to a consciousness that I lacked authority, or, to a conviction that I had violated the instructions of the Government and to many other things of this nature.—.—

The public peace is now disturbed, and the minds of many of the settlers publicly disquieted by the acts of these contentious men. It has therefore become an imperious, tho' a painful duty, to change the mild course which has heretofore regulated my conduct, and to bring them before the tribunals of the Government to answer for their conduct.—.—So many misrepresentations, (arising probably from misconceptions,) have been propagated relative to my acts, as well as to those of other officers of the Government who were united with me in the organization of this new colony, that, I owe it to myself, as well as to every quiet and well-disposed settler, to request a public investigation of all my acts and conduct of a public nature, since I came to this Nation.—.—I approve of the principle that every public officer is amendable to the law for his official acts.—It is the only solid basis upon which free institutions can rest.—I hold myself responsible for mine, and have already requested, and shall again, and again request of the Government, that they should be publicly examined. I recognize also, as one of the dearest privileges of freemen the principle, that, every person has a right to seek redress of grievances, and, *lawfully* to meet, and petition the Government for that purpose, and I would ever be ready to lend my feeble aid at any such meeting.—properly convened for the public good.

An invitation for a Meeting has been made and secretly circulated by an individual whose turbulent and refractory disposition has long disturbed the peace and public order, purporting to have for its object an investigation of my authority, and with a view "to shake off the Yoke and disperse that dark cloud that has so long kept the settlers in darkness."

As regards this Meeting, I will merely observe that, it has been proposed in open violation of the laws of the land, and particularly that of the 10th January 1824, for those laws require an application to the constituted authorities; and no such application has been made. This invitation proposes "*to shake off the yoke.*" What yoke? the words have but one meaning—they are plain, and the inference direct, which is the Yoke of the Government.—.—

Fellow Citizens, are you prepared to join any man in an open rebellion against the government under which you have voluntarily

sought a settlement? Which has received you with every public mark of confidence and favour? Are you aware of the fatal influence it will have on your future prosperity, as well as the obstacles it will create against the admission of new settlers, to impress on the Government the idea, that, the Americans are disposed at the very moment of their entrance into the country,—while yet at the threshold and even before their full reception is completed and they are received in all the rights of Citizenship, to *array themselves* in opposition to the authorities placed over them? and to doubt, suspect and distrust the good faith of the Government, by declaiming, that, the officers appointed by it are without authority, and therefore ought not to be obeyed?.—.—

I know that it is unnecessary for me to caution you against compromiting yourselves in any such acts, for I know, that, you will never do it unless misled or drawn into error without reflection, and this is the only reason why I now allude to the subject, and not because I ever believed that any well disposed man would knowingly engage in any act not sanctioned by the laws of the Country. If the object of the discontented persons be an investigation of my conduct by the Government, I hope they will be gratified, for, as I before said, I have petitioned the Government for such an investigation; and I now declare that I will give a pasport to any person who applies for it who wishes to proceed to the Government for the purpose of entering complaints against me, and that, I will myself sign any petition respectfully drawn up requesting an investigation of my conduct by the Government, and that such investigation may be *public* and at this place in order to give every man an opportunity to come forward and exhibit his proofs.—

My duty, however, and the positive orders of the Government, relative to such cases, imperiously demand, that, open acts of insubordination tending to disturb the public peace should be noticed.—I have therefore issued an order for the arrest of the turbulent individual before alluded to and shall send him to the Government to be disposed of as it may deem just.—

As regards the fees ordered to be paid by the settlers on their lands, I have to state, that, they were fixed by the official order of the Governor of Texas, published on the 20th May 1824, and sanctioned by the most Exc^{t} Provincial Deputation, who ordered them to be exacted as will appear by their official letter dated 21st Sept. 1824, A translation of which is hereto annexed.—The Governor informed me that they were in conformity with the *fee bill* established by the ancient audience [audiencia] of Mexico, and other laws then in force; Whether they are legal or not, the establishment of them was not my act; it was the act of the highest authority of the then Province of

Texas, and that authority most positively commanded me to collect them, and my duty as an officer compelled me to obey the order.—

As regards the quantity of land to be distributed to individuals, very great discretionary powers were lodged by the Government in the Commissioner and myself, as will appear by reference to the original concession, which, together with all the documents relative to my authority, are at all times open in my office for inspection, and an extract of which is annexed to this communication.—

Whether any person who applies to be received as a settler, has a right to dictate to the officers of Government how much land they are to receive, and in what way the discretionary powers vested in those officers are to be exercised—and whether I am bound as the founder of this colony, (Empresario) to receive every foreigner who applies, and satisfy all his desires, or, submit to their unreasonable complaints and misrepresentations.—And whether those who, for such causes disturb the public peace of the settlement by their disorganizing clamours, are not *liable* to the severest punishments of the laws—and whether the colonization Law itself, and the authority granted to the commissioner and myself, as the legal organs of the Government, do not, of themselves make a distinction; and contemplate that a very great one should be made in the distribution of land to the new settlers, according to their respective situtions, *are questions*, which *reason*, and the *Laws* must decide.

The investigation of my conduct already solicited by me, and which I now invite, will however elucidate these as well as all other points. If, in my official capacity I have done wrong the remedy is in the law—if those who have questioned the legality of the order of the Government of Texas relative to the fees required of them on their lands, and who refuse to obey it, have done wrong, the remedy is also in the law—and an opportunity is now presented to apply this remedy as justice may require. The investigation sought for by me will therefore at once show the settlers the nature and extent of the authority vested in me. All they have now to do is to support the authority of the Government, *discountenance* the *turbulent*, and separate themselves from them, and quietly wait the result, under the firm assurance, that, the Government will be equally prompt in protecting the rights of every good Citizen as in punishing the refractory.—

By doing this, no one implicates himself in any manner, the public order is not disturbed by illegal meetings, and the Government must acquit every peaceable settler of any participation in such disorganizing acts—and also by adopting this course, even the discontented will obtain what they profess to seek, which, is, an investigation of my conduct, and obtain it legally without incurring responsibility or blame.—.—Therefore in virtue of the authority vested in me by the

Government as the civil and Military chief of this jurisdiction I call on all the Inhabitants and other persons within its limits, to unite in the support of the laws and protection of the constituted authorities of the Government, and I command them to hold themselves in readiness at all times to suppress any acts of insubordination, or *others*, tending to disturb the public peace; *hereby* forbidding all meetings unauthorized by the laws, or unsanctioned by the proper authorities, under the penalties prescribed by the laws of the state and of the nation to which we belong.

San Felipe de Austin, Jun 7th 1825.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Translation]

The supreme executive Power appointed provisionally by the Sovereign Mexican Congress to all who shall see these presents, *Know Ye*, That considering the great evils resulting to the people from the abuse of unpopular Meetings, "*Juntos*," to treat of subjects which are deemed by them of importance when each one of the constituted authorities has its limits, and attributions designated, and the course which they are to pursue in the different cases that may occur pointed out *We Have Thought Proper* to resolve as a general principle.

1st That all meetings, "*Juntos*" or unions of whatever class they may be which are not authorized by the laws are positively prohibited, and those who in violation of this decree, form them, altho' they may have been invited to attend them, whether private citizens, "*paisanos*" Military or Ecclesiastics shall be punished severely, and without reprieve for having committed a crime according to the respective laws.—.—.—

2nd Also it is prohibited [that] the Corporations and authorities whose powers are designated by the laws shall meet in one Body to deliberate for the purpose of making representations, and to take resolutions which are without the scope of their Power.—.—

3rd Also when in the case provided for in the last article a corporation exceeds its powers, it shall be responsible agreeably to the established laws.

4th This Decree shall be communicated to the General Staff, and commandants, Generals and local commandants, and to the Political Chiefs for its exact and punctual comp[l]yance.—

Therefore, We command all persons to Execute and obey this Decree in all its parts.

Mexico January 10th 1824.

Signed ALAMAN

[Translation of an official letter from the most excellent deputation of Texas.[1]]

The Baron de Bastrop commissioner of the Government of this province for the organization of your Colony and to issue the titles of possession to its inhabitants, has paid to this Provincial Deputation One thousand dollars which he collected from some of those individuals on account of the payment which they must make on the lands they receive; declaring, that, two years had been granted to those inhabitants counting from the first of next December for the payment of Eleven thousand Dollars which remains due for the value of said lands, (which is the $30 each League mentioned in the fee bill,) and also for the fees belonging to him as the commissioner, the whole payable in two anual installments within the time above specified, and also for the amount of Sealed paper.—Although this arrangement is not in conformity with the orders that were communicated by the Government to the said Commissioner; this corporation accepts of it under the positive requisition, that the said Commissioner [is] responsible for the collection of that sum, and when it is concluded his commission shall cease, for which reason it is indispensible that at the time of delivering the letters to those inhabitants you exact from each one of them an obligation for the sum total which they are to pay as well for the value of the lands granted them, as also for the fees of the commissioner and other expences securing them by the lands they receive for which object you will form a Book in which the said Mortgages or obligations must be entered.—

God and Liberty San fernando de Bexar 21st [September] 1824

JOSE ANTONIO SAUCEDO

MIGUEL ARSINIEGA, *Secy.*

To D. Col. Stephen Austin.

A true Translation from the original.

AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Translation of the Treasurers Receipt.[2]]

As treasurer of the Public funds of this Province I have received of the Baron de Bastrop Commissioner of the Government for the same Province for the organization of the Colonial establishment undertaken by Stephen F. Austin on the Colorado and Brazos Rivers—One thousand dollars which he collected of the inhabitants on account of the fees they are bound to pay to the aforementioned funds

[1] Original above, Sept. 21, 1824.

[2] Original above, Sept. 16, 1824.

for the value of the sitios of land which have been granted to them, and for the security and acknowledgement of the sum I give the present receipt signed with my own hand in this district of San Antonio this 16th day of September 1824 Acknowledged by the chief of the same Province.

Signed MIGUEL ARSINIEGA.

$1000 Acknowledged Saucedo
True Translation

AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Extracts from the Decree of the Emperor of Mexico dated 18th of February 1823 and confirmed by the Sovereign constituent Congress and supreme Executive Power of the Mexican nation on the 11th and 14th of April the same year after the dethronement of the Emperor.]

"That in conformity with the law of colonization there may be "distributed to each colonist the head of a family one *Labour*, or "one *sitio*, according to the industry he may profess, offering to in- "crease the quantity of land for all those who may have a large "family, or who may deserve it by the establishment of any new "species of industry, or the perfection of those already known, or "by other circumstances that may be useful to the Province or "Empire, understanding that to the Colonist who, besides occupy- "ing himself in farming, also dedicates himself to the raising of "stock, there may be given one *sitio* and one *Labor* in conformity "with the eighth article of said law.—. —.

"as regards the second point Austin is authorized, accompanied "by the Governor of Texas, or a Commissioner appointed by him, to "divide, and mark out, and put each of the new Colonists in posses- "sion of the quantity of land above indicated, and to issue to each "one his title in the name of the Government, for which purpose and "the others indicated in the concession,—certified copies shall be "remitted to the said Governor.—.—

"And finally, He is authorised to organise the Colonists in a body "of National Militia to preserve the interior tranquility, giving "an account of all things to the Governor of Texas, and acting under "his orders, and those of the Captain General of the Province, and "until the Government of the settlement is organised, he is also "charged with the administration of justice Settling all differences "which may arise between the inhabitants and preserving good "order and tranquility giving an account of any remarkable event "that may occur, to the Government.—

Note The documents containing the authority and Power vested in me, and the instructions of the Government, are very lengthy, they

were fully explained at the meeting of the 5th June last year[1] and are at all times open for public inspection

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

SUBPOENA FOR WITNESSES

Department of Texas Jurisdiction of the Colony on the Colorado Brasos and San Jacinto—

The Sheriff of said Colony is hereby commanded in the name of the State of Quahuila and Texas to summon William Rabb, Andrew Rabb, Thomas Rabb, Joseph Newman, Robert Keykendall, William Kincheloe, Alexander Jackson, John Clark and Eli Hunter, to appear before me at my office in this place on Saturday the Eleventh day of this Month between the hours of Ten O Clock of the fore noon and two o clock of the afternoon then and there to give evidence as to any thing they may know relative to the disorderly and Seditious Conduct of A. C. Buckner, against the Authorities of the Government or the public peace of this Colony, and you will make a return of this summons, on Friday evening the 10 inst

Given in the Town of San Felipe de Austin June 7th 1825

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Judge of the Colony

To the Sheriff of Said Colony

ORDER FOR MILITIA

The Public peace being endangered by the refractory and seditious practices of Aylett C Buckner and others Connected with him and it being necessary for the Common tranquility of the Settlement that an investigation of such disorderly Conduct should be had. Therefore In order to protect the Authorities of the Government and preserve good order, you are hereby Commanded to raise a body of Twenty Men from your Company and hold them Subject to my orders at this place on Saturday next the Eleventh day of this Month

San Felipe de Austin June 7 1825.

STEPHEN F AUSTIN *Lt. Col. of Militia*

To Capn Horace Chrisman

ORDER FOR ARREST OF BUCKNER

To the Sheriff of this Colony

You are hereby commanded to take the Body of A. C. Buckner and bring him before me at my office in this place on Saturday the

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[1] See above.

11 day of this month between the hours of 10 o clock of the forenoon and two o clock of the afternoon then and there to answer charges of disorderly and seditious conduct against the Authorities of the Gov^{t} and against the peace and tranquility of this Colony

[STEPHEN F AUSTIN]

AMY WHITE TO AUSTIN

Col STEPHEN F AUSTIN

SIR I have been informed that Mr Isaac Hughs the survayer has returned my survey. he has not finished it he has taken in an improvement whare John Jones lives it was not done by my direction but my suninglaw told him to do so I wanted to pay Jones for his improvement and he would not sell it wishing to hold the land it is not my wish to take any persons right from them and would willingly take my land so that it would not interfer with him say lower down the riever as I am a lone Woman would you be so good as to inform me if I am to hold the land if not will I have to pay the survayer for what he has done before I get my right I wish my land to be survayed complete

San Jasinto June 7th 1825. AMY WHITE

AYLETT C. BUCKNER TO AUSTIN

Sir I appears that I am called here for undertaking one of the most just causes in my opinion imaginable that which is not only admitted of under free Governments but even under the most despotic Governments Now sir as it respects myself I disregard rigid measures but sir you probably are not apprised of the bad effects it may have I do assure you sir it will enrage the people beyond all calculation and it will be the downfall of your-self and I believe the Colony—These are the reasons why I make the following proposition which is this—

That the whole colony shall be called togather and if there is a majority in favor of the petition it shall go on if not it shall fall The people in every direction have herd of your irons for my imprisonment, as it respects myself I disregard all you can do I ask no favors. but for the prosperity of the Colony is the reason why I make the above proposition It is a proposition that every man in the Colony will approve of with few exceptions

AYLETT C BUCKNER

Mr Austin 10th June 1825

William and Andrew Rabb to Austin

Colorado June 10. 1825

Sir

Agreeably to your request I have posted up the address which you sent to the people of this nieghborhood, also the Documents accompanying it

Wm Rabb

To Col. S. F. Austin:

This is to certify that I read the above mentioned address and documents at the houses of Mr. Buckner and Jackson in presence of most of the people of theis nieghborhood—June 10 1825

Andrew Rabb

Big Bernard June 11—1825

Sir

Agreeably to Your summon I have proceded thus far but on account of the complaint with which I am afflicted, I am unable to ride any further: If however my evidence should be material, I shall perhaps be able in a day or two to come to Town—All I know in this case is what almost every other person knows, with, perhaps, this exception—A few days ago, when in company with Mr. Buckner, he observed, that If you prosecuted Jackson, it would only be thro' malice, and that he (Buckner) would fight for Jackson "as long as he had a drop of blood in his veins"

Andrew Rabb

To Col. S. F. Austin

Jared E. Groce to Austin

Groces retreate June 11, 1825

Dear Austin

I received yours of 7th and immediate attended to it and sent to Col° Coles and he has wrote to you I think you are takeing a stand now that will releave you of Much difficulty as to your success it is with you for you have the power to do as you please, for every man is bound to Obey; you will excuse me for not coming down as I intended to do so but last night there were gentlemen from the united States come on here and as I think and know every man is bound to obay you I omit coming.

Jared E Groce

Austin to James Cummins

The matter has been investigated which induced the summons of A. C. Buckner before me, and the result of such investigation has satisfied me that the acts of said Buckner which were deemed

exceptionable proceeded from misconception, and the said Buckner having manifested a submission to the Laws and authorities of the Government—Therefore in order that the public may be satisfied as to the result of this matter it is directed that the whole affair be dismissed, under the belief that his deportment will be such as to merit the approbation of the authorities of the Government and the more effectually to avoid any excitement which a reference to the subject in private conversation might create it is recommended that it be totally forgotten and consigned to oblivion.[1]

San felipe de Austin 13 June 1825.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

To James Cummins Esqr

[On the reverse:]

La hospitalidad y amistad qe. hacia los extrangeros caracteriza los Mexicanos, con q. este sujeto fue tratado en lo interior, há producido tal efecto sobre su orgullo propio qe. piensan qe. tiene influxo pa. trastornar un Estado y ahora segun me dice el va llevar sus quejas al Congreso del Estado—estas consiste en esto[2]—

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[3]

Por mi oficio fha 6 del Corriente dí parte V. S. del arresto de dos Yndividuos y en efecto les llamé delante de mi el dia 11 del presente y despues de una averiguacion de su causa parecía q estuvieron engañados por los falsos rumores y representaciones que algunos malvados han circulado tocante á las Autoridades de esta Colonia y sus facultades, y luego q^e^ les espliqué el error q^e^ habian cometido sumetieron enteramente á las autoridades del Gob^no^ y declararon q desde entonces quedarian contento y obedeciente, y en el Concepto q se debe usar de la suavidad y la razon siempre q^e^ estas basta para mantener ó restablecer la tranquilidad les puse todos en libertad, advirtiendolos por lo futuro su conducta ha de ser enteramente arreglada con las leyes y con lo q exije el buen orden y así tengo la satisfacion decir q^e^ se ha tranquilizado este dificultad.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 15 de Junio de 1825

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Al Sor Gefe del departamento de Texas Ciudadano D José Antonio Saucedo

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[1] See Buckner to Austin, August 10, 1825.

[2] Whether this fragment refers to Buckner is uncertain, but likely.

[3] Bexar Archives, University of Texas. Copy also in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824. The copy is dated June 18.

AUSTIN TO JUAN JOSÉ HERNANDEZ[1]

San Felipe de Austin 15 de Junio de 1825.

Muy Sor mio y amigo de mi estimacion:

Despues de saludarme á V y á la Señora pido el favor molestar á V en favor del portador de esta q. es D Eliseo Ootley q. va en solicitud de permision de entrar á tomar consejo de V sobre algunos quintales de Tabaco q[e] tiene. Hace cosa de seis semanas q llegó el Sor Otley en este Rio con algunos efectos entre ellos algo de Tabaco. Yo no he recibido ordenes ni instrucciones qualquiera sobre este articulo del Gobierno, pero de rumor he sabido q havia ya publicado un bando en esa contra la introducion de tabaco, pero quando el Sor llegó aquí no hubo prohibicion ni aun rumor de ella y el Sor ahora no quiere hacer una introducion clandestina de su Tabaco en esa pero quiere saber si no puede sacar permision para su introducion ó venderlo al Gobierno me hará V un gran favor facilitar el referido Sor Con su Consejo para su mejor gobierno. Manda V Con Confianza á su aff[mo] Amigo Q. S. M. B.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Ciudadano Juan José Hernandez Alcalde 1° En La Bahia

JUAN ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 18 de Junio de 1825

Sr D. ESTEBAN F AUSTIN.

Mi estimado Amigo y dueño: He leido con bastante detencion la apreciable de V. de 3 de Mayo anterior, en que me consulta algunas dudas sobre introduccion de esclavos á las nuevas colonias; y aunque mis conocimientos en estas materias son bastante limitados para dar una solucion satisfactoria, haré quanto está de mi parte en obsequio de nuestra amistad: entro en materia.

El art. 46 de la ley de colonizacion dice asi: "Los nuevos pobladores en quanto á la introduccion de esclavos se sugetarán á las leyes establecidas, y que en adelante se establecieren sobre la materia." En su consecuencia V. me pregunta ¡"Quales son las leyes establecidas sobre la introduccion de esclavos pr. los nuevos colonos?" El art. 30. de la ley de colonizacion dada en tpo de Yturbide permitia la introduccion de esclavos por los colonos p[a] suproprio uso. ¿"Esta todavia vigente el art° de dha Ley"?

En primer lugar diré áV. que el art. 46. dela ley de colonizacion es tan generico que nada significa, y de consiguiente inutil: Sus autores p[a] no rozar sus opiniones con los poderes generales, ni com-

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

prometerse a variar la ley de esclavitud de 13. de Julio de 1824 reducida á prohibir absolutamente el trafico y comercio de esclavos sobre la costa de Africa, y las demas en que ha hecho hasta ahora, quizá por la expresion que enbuelbe el art. 4°. con relacion á los esclavos que pudieron introducirse al istmo de Huazacualcos á virtud dela ley de 14. de Octubre de 1823. tomaron este partido Como V. puede advertirlo por la copia que le acompano de la referida ley de 13. de Julio ultimo.

El Art. 30. de la ley de colonizacion de 2. de Enero de 1823. qe. V. me cita aunque no puede alegarse que está vigente, por que fué hecha pr. la junta instituyente que nombró Yturbide, para por virtud de esta disposicion escudar la introduccion de esclavos á las nuevas colonias, lo estubo si para la colonia de V. compuesta de las 300 familias ya establecidas, tanto mas quanto con arreglo á dha ley se mando arreglar la colonia por el Congreso genl. despues dela caida de Yturbide, y pr. el Supremo Poder Executico lo qual es inquestionable. Mas para poder seguir introduciendo los esclavos en los nuevos establecimientos posteriores cuyo arreglo debe practicarse segun la ley ultima de 24 de Marzo, y cuyo art. 46. habla de esta materia, sin faltar á las disposiciones legales se puede ocurrir a un principio de nro. dro civil, bastantem^te^ usado por nuestros Abogados en el foro: y es este: " lo que no está prohibido, se entiende permitido." Por este principio se puede desde luego decir: la ley de 13 de Julio que es la que habla de esclavitud, y una Rl Cedula del ano de 1817 prohiben absoluta y expresamente el comercio y trafico de esclavos, no su introduccion porlos nuevos colonos como propiedad suya para labrar la tierra cuidar el ganado etc. y no siendo dha introduccion de negros extrahidos de las costas de Africa ni p^a^ objeto de comercio como un articulo mercantil, es clara á mi modo de ver que la introduccion que hagan los colonos no estando en los terminos que la ley prescribe, pueden hacerla, como cosas desu propiedad.

Si con el tiempo consideran el congreso q es necesario abolir la esclavitud en toda la extension de la Republica, será indemnizando previam^te^ á los propietarios, por que si es respetable y sagrado en toda sociedad regular el dro. dela libertad, no lo es menos el dela propiedad; y hé aqui la dificultad para que enla ley de 13 de Julio no se tratase de este punto como quisieron muchos miembros del congreso bastante filantropos, pero sin medios de recurrir al pago dela propiedad que representaban luego otros de parte de los dueños delos esclavos. De aqui se concluye que entre nosotros no está abolida la esclavitud sino el com^o^ de negros y este es cosa muy diferente de aquella, y compatibles entre si: por tanto me parece que no hay inconveniente para que los nuevos colonos traigan sus esclavos como no

sean pr. via de trafico pues esto esta severam^te^ prohibido, lo demas nó; y con sugecion á lo que en lo sucesivo establescan las leyes, que será con el tiempo, y se verá lo que mejor conviene salvando spre el dro. de propiedad que nadie está autorisado p^a^ atacar sin previa indemnizacion y pr. un objeto del bien comun y general. No sé si habré acertado á satisfacer las dudas de V. por falta de explicacion ó por exceso de hablar, pues su bondad disimulara los defectos.

Hoy hemos recibido noticias pr. los papeles publicos en que se trata de convocar las camaras del congreso á sesiones extraordinarias; no se nos dice el objeto pero se segura que se abrirán estas en el mes de Julio: yo creo que puede ser el arreglo que debá darse al Congreso de Jalisco que hà mendado poner en practica y se ha executado con desagrado general la contribucion directa de uno por ciento como unica del Estado: se han hecho embargos prisiones etc. y han llovido las quejas al Presid^te^ de la Republica: ya sabremos si esta ú otra son las causas dela convocatoria, y yo tendré el placer de comunicarselas.

El Sr Baron saluda á V. cariñosamente, y me previene le diga que no le escribe por estar falto de salud, cuyo achaque me consta por estar viviendo en mi casa.

Le remito á V, una guia de Hacienda que es una coleccion delas leyes decretos y ordenes que rigen en la Republica bajo el nuevo sis tema de Hacienda que se ha planteado desde que se entregaron sus rentas a los Estados y la Union quedó con las suyas: sirvase V. aceptar este pequeño obsequio que le consagra mi amistad, y vea enque cosa le puedo servir de alga utilidad.

JUAN ANTONIO PADILLA [Rubric]

PHILIP T. DIMMITT TO AUSTIN

Sant. Antonia 19 June 1825

MY PARTICULAR FRIEND

SIR I Take this oppertunity of writing you etc. we have no news of Importance on Yesterday arived The Solders and many Strangers Mr. Westall informed me he expected you and Mr Williams. The Gudge and many of your friends have maid particular Inquire of you sir

I am once More Engaged in Busness and have Some hopes of Suckseading in My wishes and expectations. I am at this Time wating for my brothers every Day sir

I hope to see you in a short Time in This Place and sir you May be assured nothing would Give me more Pleasure

I am Desirous in having the news of The Settlement etc etc

My Best wishes to Mr. Williams and your Brother [cousin] John Austin

P. T. DIMMITT

Mr. DEWITT

Sir if there is any Goods to be purchased in your settlement let us know and oblige

WESTALL & Co.

[Addressed:] Col° S. F. Austin en los Brassos
The Polightness Seno° Americanos

PASSPORT[1]

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN Juez Ynt.no de esta Jurisdicion de los Brazos y Colorado

Concedo libre y seguro pasaporte al vecino de esta William Pettus para q. con una partida de 67 Caballos y Yeguas y 12 Mulas pasa al distrito de Nacogdoches para venderlos, llevando en su compania 2 hombres por tanto suplico á los Autoridades Civiles como Militares p[a] donde transita no le pongo embarazo en su viaje antes bien dandole los auxillos necesarios el verificando justo valor.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

S[n] felipe de Austin 20 de Junio de 1825.

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR RAFAEL GONZALES

[Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.][2]

En cumplimiento con la orden de V. E. fecha 18 de Mayo en que me manda entregar un Mil pesos al Sor Gefe del departamento de Texas, y otros mil pesos en el termino de tres meses del dinero qe deven pagar estos colonos segun el arancel del Gefe Politico de Texas, he hecho un esfuerzo forzado para cobrar dicho dinero pero no ha sido posible verificarlo sin usar del dinero recibido para el papel sellado con este y algunos emprestitos sobre mi Credito particular he mandado mi hermano con los primeros Mil pesos para entregarles al Sor Gefe del departamento—no sera posible cobrar los otros mil pesos en el termino indicado porlas razones que sigue—La mayor parte de los primeros Colonos que emigraron fueron pobres y padecieron mucho en los primeros años desu establecimiento—y este año han perdido las primeras siembras porlas inundaciones—los ricos que se Comprometieron emigrar de la Louisiana en la primavera pasada no han podido verificarlo por las aguas y ahora quedan tan desanimados por el temor de perder sus esclavos que han abandonado la idea [de] establecerse aqui, de modo que el auxilio

[1] Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.
[2] Copy also in Bexar Archives.

que esperaba de ellos tanto por el pagamiento de las tierras mercenadas a ellos, como por el dinero que pagarian á los otros colonos para comprar de tierras de estos esta todo cortado—hasta que se empieza la siembra de Algodon estos Colonos no tiene modo de conseguir dinero y este no sera verificado hasta que está habilitado un puerto para sacarlo—Por la nueva ley de Colonizacion se ha dado seis años á los Colonos para pagar los treinta pesos que corresponde al Gobierno por cada sitio, motivo que estos colonos quejan que se le cobre de ellos en tan corto tiempo—las representaciones y rumores de algunos Contenciosos y particularmente los exparsidos por un tal Jorge Nixon Comerciante Anglo Americano a su vuelta en el mes de Marzo de tierra afuera han causado dudas entre muchos de los Colonos si el Gefe Politico de Texas tenia autoridad para establecer el Arancel que publico 20 de Mayo del año pasado sobre los dres. de las Tierras, motivo que he tenido Muchos dificultades con ellos—para cortar este mal y otros de igual naturaleza me parace importante que el Comisionado para esta Colonia el Sor Baron de Bastrop regrese aqui para presenciar las cobranzas y acabar los asuntos del Establecimiento. Con lo que contesto el citado oficio de V. E.—Dios y Libertad—San Felipe de Austin 22 de Junio de 1825—Estevan F Austin—

Austin to Saucedo

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.][1]

He mando mi hermano Santiago Austin como extraordinario para entregar á V. S. mil pesos en conformidad con la orden del Sor Gobernador del Estado este dinero es todo que he cobrado de estos Colonos por el impuesto del papel sellado usado para sus titulos de tierras. he convenido pagar al dicho extraordinario 12 reales diario para su trabajo lo que espero V. S. le entregara—No sera posible cobrar el otro mil pesos que pide el Sor Gobernador en su oficio en el tiempo indicado por las razones mencionado en mi oficio al dicho Sor cuya copia va inclusa con este—Dios y Libertad—San Felipe de Austin 23 de Junio de 1825—

Estevan F. Austin

Austin to James E. B. Austin

Con esto entrego a V un Mil pesos para entregar al Sor Gefe del Departamento de Texas del dinero cobrado de estos Colonos por el imp^{to} del papel sellado usado porlos titulos de tierras lo q V pondra en manos de dho Gefe tomando de el, el Correspondiente recibo para

[1] Original in Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

mi resguardo y al mismo tpo el pagará á V el costo de su trabajo en llevar de dho dinero de aqui a Bexar—

Sanfelipe de Austin 23 de Junio de 1825

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

A. D. SANTIAGO AUSTIN

JAMES E. B. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Consta por esto qe Yo el susfrascrito he recibido del Empresario Estevan F Austin un Mil pesos qe Yo como extraordinario tengo de entregar al Sor Gefe del departamento de Texas en Bejar, obligandome por el presente sacar del dho Gefe el Correspondiente Recibo para el reconocimiento dela entrega de dha Cantidad de dinero, con lo qual este, sera nulo al mismo tpo cobrando los gastos q me corresponde en conformidad con el trato celebrado con el dho Empresario Austin q son 12 rrs diarios.

SANTIAGO E. B. AUSTIN [Rubric]

San Felipe de Austin 23 de Junio de 1825 firmado en duplicado

[Saucedo's receipt]

Por disposicion del Exmo. Sor. Govor del Estado de Coahuila y Texas D. Rafael Gonzales, y como Gefe Ynterino de este Departamento hé recivido del Ciudadano D. Santiago E B Austin los mil pesos q. expresa el documento antecedente en esta forma, ochocientos treinta, en moneda de plata y ciento setenta en ocho y media onzas de oro á veinte p^{s} cada una, cuya cantidad me remitio el Empresario D. Estevan F. Austin en virtud de orden del mismo Exmo. Sor Gobernador de este Estado y de ella é pagado al dho. D. Santiago E. B. Austin veinte y un pesos por catorce dias q. ha invertido en el camino de benida á esta ciudad y regreso á la Villa de San Felipe al respecto de doze reales diarios segun el contrato q. celebró con el propio Empresario: Y para q. haga constar la entrega de aquella cantidad le doy el precente recivo firmado de mi puño en dha. Ciudad de San Fernando de Bexar á primero de Julio de Mil ochocientos veinte cinco años

JOSÉ ANTo SAUCEDO [Rubric]

Son 1000 p^{s}.

DAVID W. PRICE TO AUSTIN

Colorado June 25 1825

DEAR SIR In consequence of having the fiver I depetise Mr. Beard to sell the cattle for me You will take the whole stock cows and calves at $12 the young stock averaging in proportion. One

cow and calfe at Mr. Parkers you will also receive let me have specie for paper will not answer where I am going I send you back A ten Dollar note in paying Mr. Beard deduct $20 for what I owe you My hands trembles so I canot write more

DAVID W. PRICE [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Colnel Stephen F Austin St philipa de Austin

MORGAN A. HEARD TO AUSTIN

Natchez. June 26th. 1825

DEAR COL°

At the request of Mr Richard C Langdon I address a few lines to you to know your opinion: on. the policy and propriety of establishing a Printing office at St. Felipe. De Austin. Mr. Langdon—has for many years followed printing, as a profession and is well qualified to take charge of a press. on the receipt of this I beg you—will address him fully on the subject at this place.

Mr Francis Keller of Wilkerson County of this State will hand you this letter. he visits your settlement with the intention of settling if he likes the country I am Informed by Judge Childs he is a gentlemen of very Independent circumstances and irreproachable character. he has a large family—citizens like him will form a desirable acquisition to the settlement; I know it is your anxious wish to have men of character, and Independence in the country, and of course will give him evry aid, in making a purchase of Land.—I shall leave here in a few days for Pearl river, present my respects to your brother Brown, Col° Gross and family and *Mrs. Long.*

MORGAN A HEARD

P. S. I seald this letter before delivery and broke it myself—

MA H

AUSTIN TO MRS. JOHN HALL

SIR.

Major Isaac Thomas of Rapide has sent me a Memorandum to the following effect—

"Mrs Mary Hall exchanged with Archival P Williams a tract "of land on the Bayou Robert of two hundred arpents, one half "of which was the property of the heirs—I have a twelve month "bond against Mrs Hall for $700.—Now if the heirs will all go "before Judge Austin and relinquish all their claim to said two "hundred arpents of land in favor of Williams he will pay my bond "and discharge Mrs Hall therefrom—one of the heirs is a minor and

"must [be] represented in the sale or relinquishment conformably "with the laws of Texas. after the title is there made it must be "sent to the Govr to get his certificate that the act of Judge Austin "in receiving the conveyance is comformable to the laws of Texas"

(Signed) J. THOMAS

The above is Thomas's memorandum, I presume you understand the nature of it and if you wish to have the business done, I shall be at Bells on the 5 of July at which time you can bring forward all the heirs

June 26. 1825

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Mrs. JOHN HALL

J. CHILD TO AUSTIN

Natchez June 26, 1825

Col. AUSTIN DR SIR.

The Bearer Mr. Francis Keller a respectable citizen of this State, visits your Colony with a view to make a permanent settlement for himself and family, if he should be pleased with the country.

Mr. Keller has resided at Woodville for the last 10 or 12 years—and justly merits the character he sustains—of an honest industrious citizen—Should he be able to procure lands in your settlement—on the Brassos—he intends removing with his family and property and connections soon enough to make a crop next year. His force will be no inconsiderable acquisition to the agricultural interests of the Colony. Mr. Keller is a countryman of the Baron de Bastrop—I think you may afford to grant him a choice reserve— on account of the strength and capital he will add to the country.

Remember me to your brother—and tell him there will be a plenty of plump girls— in *the Arms* of *God—los Brassos de Dios* [The Brazos River] by next spring. I see most of the respectable travelers who are passing to the *Brassos* both as they go out and return—They for the most part come back highly pleased—Teizer, Wood Hurd Thompson &c are delighted with the soil and climate—as well as the growing prospects—hastening the future importance of these delightful regions.

God preserve you 1,000 years

J. CHILD

Col AUSTIN

I wish I was out of this sickly country, and well settled among you

J. C.

JACOB BETTS TO AUSTIN

June the 27 1825

Col STEVEN F AUSTIN

Sir I Rote you a few Lines some day after I saw you—perhaps at time when not calculated to compose any thing it may be possible you are Right in your statement to me and me wrong if so I hope I shall discuver it I shall not Return as soon as I expected when I Rot to you though I shall not be gon Long if you think proper to Let me have the half Leag of Land and no more you will pleas arange the metter for me and when I Return I shall endeavor to settle with you you stated to me perhaps you could be of servis to me in securing other Land I suspect you can if you are dispose to do me the favour and I am convinst of my error you will find [me] submisive as fair as is Reasonable if you Let me have the Land I shall depend on you to arang the matter for me

JACOB BETTS

R. C. LANGDON TO FRANCIS KELLER

FRANCIS KELLER, Esqr.—

Dear Sir: As you are about to visit the Colony of Colonel Austin, I shall take it a particular favor if you will make enquiries respecting the prospects of establishing a printing Press in that place. Should Col. Austin be of opinion that a well conducted Journal would aid his views and assist in peopling that interesting section of country I can remove with an entire new establishment, which I lately selected in Cincinnati, and is at present here—The original cost, with paper sufficient for one year, and all expences of transportation from this to Texas, will cost not quite $1000, or at most would not exceed it.

A paper established there at this period would more materially aid the improvement of that country than any thing I know of.—Various and erroneous opinions have gone abroad in Ohio and Kentucky, respecting the soil, climate, products, etc. and if a paper was printed there it would receive a wide circulation in the United States—In Ohio, several families would have moved over but for fear of the truth of what they had heard against the country—I endeavored to do away with those impressions and promised to write to them—they are persons of easy circumstances, and respectable character, you can acquaint Col. Austin with my situation, etc., etc.

Request him to write to me on the subject—

R. C. LANGDON.

Natches, June 28, 1825.

Juan Antonio Padilla to Austin

Saltillo 2. de Julio de 1825.

Sr. D. Esteban Austin

Mi estimado Amigo: En la sesion del 21 de Mayo dela Camara de Diputados, al ir á votarse el asunto de la Habilitacion de puerto de Galbeston entró el Presid^te^ de la Republica en el salon y interrumpio aquel acto dando principio á la lectura del discurso que ya llevaba prevenido para la ceremonia de cerrar las Sesiones. Este accidente impidió que saliese la sancion de un Decreto que ya debia estar publicado. pero que nro senador promovera en la camara de Diputados pr. medio de sus Amigos su conclusion pr. el mucho interes que há tomado en esta asunto, luego que se reunan las camaras pa congreso extraordinario segun le tengo anunciado.

Con este correo dirijo al Gefe de ese Departamento una instancia mia decretada pr. el Gob^or^ del Estado en solicitud de comprar onze sitios de tierra sobre la margen derecha del Rio delos Brazos entre este y la embocadura del Rio de S. Andres arriba del camino de Bejar á Nacogdoches; y siendo probable que dho Gefe en uso delas facultades que p^a^ este asunto le confiere el Gob^or^ del Estado, nombre á V. para comisionado que practique las diligencias hasta ponerme en posesion de dhas tierras y expedirme los titulos correspondientes. le anticipo esta noticia para su gob^o^ y que envio de esta comision haga V. pr. su parte quanto fuese posible por que sea en el mejor terreno y que tenga buenos ojos de agua y tierras de labor etc Es regular que á V. sele faculte para elegir agrimensor y medidores, para qe. se practique la operacion cientificamente: V. proveera de todo seguro de los costos y emol[um]entos seran satisfechos por mi á su disposicion. Como yo no puedo tomar posesion por mi mismo hé nombrado á D. Migl. Arciniega vecino de Bejar quien entrará en correspondencia con V. sobre el tpo que sea mas aproposito p^a^ emprehender esta comision sobre cuyo particular instruirá V. á mi Apoderado.

Tengo la confianza de que V. aceptará este encargo y de disculpar esta libertad que sin merito me tomo, disponiendo como gusto de su invariable Amigo q B S. M.

Juan Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Bill of Sale for Cotton Gin

Know all men by these presents that I George Huff do bargin and sell to John Austin a cotton Gin stand with every thing belonging to it now at the House of Said (Austin) on Buffaloe Byou, which (Gin,) I warrant to be of a good quality and without fault—for the sum of Four Hundred and Fifty Dollars, all of which I have received Head of Buffalo Byou July 3rd 1825—

Geo Huff

PHILIP DIMMITT TO AUSTIN

Sent Antonia—6 July 1825

Col AUSTIN

SIR I am sorry to address you on a subject so degrading and below the Honourable feelings of a gent[l] but so unfortunate have I bin as to fall under a Report of Dishonourable reput feeling fulley satisfid that I am able to vindicate and satisfy you and all my friends on that point which shall not leave a stain on my reputation in the minds of my friends and acquaintances

Sir I have Inclosed to you a few certificates which you will be so good to examine and I hope thay will satisfy you, and show to you the malevolence of Men, It appears to me that men are composed of malignancy and malice for at the time I was arrested, The Alcalde in Person went to avery family of Respectability in this Place to inform the Inhabitants for what I was arrested and the cause, and not for aney acqusition or suspicion in aney manner whatever of being Interested with Valentine[1] etc

Sir I am not able to say aney thing more on this subject that could satisfy my mind so much as to now who those persons are one that spook of me, let them Gent[l] be who thay may, If thay say any thing Derogatory to my reputation thay are Liers and Rogues, and I hold my self responsible for aney assertion that I should insert in this letter Sir I am well aware of your not wishing me evil (?) If any News that has falling into your possession Discratible to my conaction or standing in Society you will confer on me the Favor of inform me How and in what manner you rec[d] it, and I will give you such Authenticated Documents as I hope will satisfy your mind and all my friends and acquaintances

Sir I was in hopes some day or other of finding myself a citizen of your coloney, but very possible for some informous reports which was afloat against me may have lost me my land Sir I am not Like maney If you are not willing to confer on me Citizen ship in your coloney, or you have disposed of my intended land—that is neve[r] to make a coolness between me and yourself I was informed by the Baron and John Austin you had asign me a League of land on the Brassos but time has brought about other appearances and Things unforseen, I remain at your command etc. etc. You will write me and give me your opinion of those certificates etc etc and a short description of your coloney and the Inhabitants and thare Progress. Your Bror. Has all the News—

P. DIMMITT

[1] Andrew Valentine, horse thief. See Beramendi to Austin, February 15, 1825.

JOHN CARR TO JOHN SPROWL

Nachitoches 11th July 1825

DEAR SIR

The bearer Doctor Le Hicks came here recommended to me by the Parish Judge of the parish of Iberville as a physician of talents who wished to establish himself in this parish, or on your side of the Sabine. Judge Dutton says he has known him for two years past, one of which he practiced in his family "with more than common success, and that as a Citizen he gained the friendship and Esteem of all who knew him" He states also that he was aboard the Steam boat Tennessee when she sunk, and lost considerable property, and concludes by observing that he thinks him deserving of the esteem and assistance of all persons who consider merit and talents essential to the forming a physician.—

This is all I Know of this Gentleman

My Respects to your family

JOHN CARR [Rubric]

Capt. J Sprowl

Dist. of Aysh Bayou, July 13th 1825

DEAR SIR

the within Letter of Recommendation was sent from Judge Carr to my self—but on the bareers manifesting a desire to go on to Clo. Austins Colony I beg leve to recommend him to your faivour—thare is no doubt of Judge Carrs being a man of Honour Honesty and Probity—I am with the highest sentiments of Esteem your Cincear friend—

JOHN SPROWL

Clo J. T. Gross,

JAMES BARNETT TO AUSTIN

Mentoco River 13 July 1825—

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Esqr.

Will you do me the favor to write me and give me the infomation which I now ask of you— I see in the northern papers, that the Mexican Government has passed a Decree recognizing all the Public Debts of the country, and will pay them all, under whatever system they were Contracted. I presume you must have this intelligence on this your self. When Genl. Trespelassis took the command at Galveston and on the faith of his promises and for the welfare of mankind—I advanced the different officers and soldiers to the amount of about Eight hundred Dollars. I have the paper issued by the General for about four hundred Dollars. If you think this Law in

the Mexican Congress imbraces all the expenditures which I am sure they do)—I will come out next spring and see you, and settle in your Colony.—

Will you please write me and direct your Letter to the care of William Taylor on Trinity, and and you will greatly oblige your friend and Hmble. Servt

JAMES BARNETT

I will take Land for the debt—on either the Brasis or the Colorado—

Direct the Letters James Barnett Mentoco River Care of Alexander McLane Bayou Que Tortoc—

BASTROP TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 16 de Julio de 1825.

Sr. Don ESTEVAN AUSTIN San Felipe

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO Y DUEÑO. por una carta de V de Enero p°p° me recomende V mucha a su amigo de Witt; para cumplir con su encargo me empeñe con el Sr Gov^or lo que fue admittido como Empresario sobre el rio Guadalupe pero ahora le ha acusado Pedro Elias Bean habitante de Nechas, como un profugo de los estados unidos, por haver defraudado los fondos publicos en el Misuri, conviene que con empeño averigue V. este negocio, y si es verdad haga V que traspase su contrato al colonel Mayland, que es su compañero en ese asunto, y que no venga a Texas, que mas antes le interne y que vaye a las californias, ó Tabasco, donda estan haciendo nuevas colonias. V conoce las consequencias de este asunto, V y yo tenemos muchos enemigos, que no buscan otra cosa que el flanco que podriamos presentar para batirnos, y hacernos perder nuestro influgo, no tengo necesidad de estenderme mas, V es hombre instruido y me entiende. Desde muchos meses no he tenido carta de V ni respuesta a deferentas que le he escrito. He seguido siempre a empeñarme (como es de mi obligacion) a procurar el beneficio de Texas, y de las nuevas colonias, viendo que acqui no pude lograr por la rivalidad que existe entre Cohaguila (o por mejor decir Saltillo) y Texas cosa alguna, me dirige a Mejico donde todos los negocios presentados por mi y que no quisieron tomar en consideracion, han sido debatidos en el senado y algunos han pasado otros quedan pendientes y los restantes reservados hasta la secion de Enero venidero, tendre la satisfaccion de haver procurado el beneficio de la parte del estado que represente. Sin sus cooperacion de mis compañeros en este Honorable congreso; conviene que en tiempo pienzá V, a hacerse un partido en su colonia, para que se asegura la eleccion de mi sucesor en un buen sujeto, porque

dela secion venedera, depende el Ser de Texas y de las colonias. Si no de los ——(sic) estan nombrados lleve el diablo la cargade miel y los mieleros, son sus enemigos, y mortal de todo extrangero, porque estos les hacen sombra, en sus negocios particulares. Salude V a su hermano y a todos los amigos y disponga V de su afectisimo.

S M B

BASTROP.

JUAN ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 16. de Julio de 1825.

Sr D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO: Por el correo de hoy se remiten á V. los docum^{tos} relativos á la Nueva colonia: los costos de pap^{l} sellado en que se ha extendido el Testimonio delas Capitulaciones lo expensado yo mismo aunque no tenia ordenes de V. para hacerlo, pero lo hé verificado en obsequio de nta amistad: dros ningunos adeuda V. en esta Secretaria lo que le Servirá de gob^{o} siendo mi mayor complacencia ocuparme en cosas de su servicio.

Consta porlos papeles publicos de Mejico que el Congreso general se reunirá en secion extraordinario el dia 1° de Agosto entrante, mas no se expresa la causa ni objeto de esta reunion.

Yncluyo á V. gazeta del Gob^{o} de Mejico en que consta una Carta del Papa á los Arzobispos i obispos de America p^{a} que hagan que estos pueblos ya libres por sus propios esfuerzos se sometan otra vez al tirano y despota Fernando; como si fuesemos manadas de obejas.

Deseo á V. la mejor salud y que mande como guste á su constante Amigo.

Q. B. S. M.

JUAN ANTONIO PADILLA [Rubric]

DRAFTS

Robt Lewis
to S F Austin Dr

To League of Land exclusive of surveying		165.00
To Seal and paper on same		3.50
To wagon and Mule		180.00
		348.50
Cr. By account	52.45	
Surveyors order 64.93 equal in cash to	42.97	95.43
Due in Cash		253.07

Mr Lewis will pay the one half of the above to Jose Antonio Saucedo in Bexar and the other half to the Baron de Bastrop in Saltillo—Saucedo may be paid in goods—the Baron must be paid Cash

San Felipe de Austin July 16. 1825

STEPHEN F AUSTIN

[On back] Rec[d] of Robert Lewis One Hundred and twenty six Dollars and [53½] cts the amount of my proportion of the within Acct. this 22d August 1825—

Recibi del Sor Roberto Lewis los ciento veinte y seis pesos sincuenta y tres y medio sueldos que me entrego por cuenta del Coronel Esteban Austin. Bejar 23 de Sepe. de 1825.

JOSÉ ANT[O]. SAUCEDO [Rubric]

Son 126 ps. 53½ sueldos

DEPOSITION

(Copy)

Mr. Jared E. Groce having called on me to state what passed between him and Doctor Imla Keep at the time the Goods were landed which were brought on from Orleans by said Keep I have to State that a difficulty arose between Keep and the owner of the vessel in which they were brought as to the freight, and Groce repeatedly stated that he had plac'd Money in Keeps hands to purchase sundry articles for him in New Orleans, and that he should hold Keep responsible for the manner in which that money was expended—that he had nothing to do with the Goods until he recd. them of Keep and would then credit him for this amount on the Sums due by Keep to him, Groce, on account of Monies placed in Keep's hands.

Texas July 18, 1825

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN.

Su Ermano de V. D. Santiago Austin me entregó los mil pesos q. V. me remitio en virtud de la orn. q. para este fin tubo del Exmo. Sor. Gobernador del Estado. De ellos le otorgué el correspondiente recibo á continuacion del Duplicado q. V. le hiso firmar; con el cual quedará V. satisfecho de haberme entregado aquella cantidad, y el descargado de su responsabilidad.

Asi mismo queda satisfecho de veinte y un pesos por catorce Dias q. calculó de marcha enbenir y regresar hta. esa Villa segun lo contratado con V. y como de todo di cuenta al Exmo. Sor. Gob[nor] del Estado debemos quedar sugetos alo q. sobre este punto dispusiese;

en el caso de q. no le paresca bien á su Exa. el q. V. para completar aquel Dinero echara mano del producto del papel abilitado para expedirles sus titulos de tierras á esos colonos espero se sirva decirme conla mayor brevedad á cuantos haciende la cantidad correspondte. a dho. Ramo de paper Abilitado pa poder con acierto y sin retardo responder alo q. ocurra sobre este punto; con lo q. contesto al oficio de V. de 23. de Junio antor.

Dios y Libertad—Bexar 18. de Julio de 1825.

Jose Antº. Saucedo [Rubric]

Sor. Tente. Corl. Dn. Estevan Austin.

Judicial Procedure: Maritime Insurance

It appearing by the protest of the Master and Mate of the Schooner Lady of the Lake of and from New Orleans and other evidence herewith presented, that a part of the Merchandise shipped on board of said Schooner were damaged by the sea water that leaked into her, and the said Goods having been insured by the Louisiana Company and their being no port wardens or other Officers here specially appointed to attend to such matters— Therefore the Undersigned Consignees and Owners of said Goods petition that appraisers be appointed to examine said Goods and assess the damage under oath and should the damage amount to more than 5 per Cent on said Goods your petitioners pray that the goods so damaged may be sold at public sale under the direction of said Appraisers for the benefit of the Underwriters

Keep and Groce

To the Honbl. Stephen F Austin Judge of the Brazos, Colorado and San Jacinto

United Mexican States Department of Texas

Jurisdiction of the Brazos Colorado and San Jacinto.

I Stephen F Austin Principal Judge of the Jurisdiction aforesaid having seen the above petition of Keep and Groce have thought proper to appoint and by these presents do appoint Samuel Sexton, Samuel M Williams and Elias R Wightman inspectors or appraisers to examine and estimate the damage done to the Goods refered to in the said petition and should the damage on any of the articles amount to five per cent that they assess the proportion of said damage and sell the articles so damaged at public sale, after giving 10 days public notice for a/c of the Concerned and that the said Appraisers furnish the parties with a Certificate specifying the

proportion of damage said goods may have sustained Given under my hand this [19 ?] day of July 1825 In the District of San Felipe de Austin

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Department of Texas
District of San Felipe de Austin

This day personally appeared before me Stephen F Austin Judge of this Jurisdiction Samuel Sexton, Samuel M William and Elias R Wightman who took an oath well and truly to inspect the goods submitted to their inspection refered to in the petition of Keep and Groce and to assess the proportion of damage on said Goods and to do and perform the other duties required of them in the order of Judge Austin on the subject to the best of their abilities

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

JARED E. GROCE TO HYDE AND MERIT

Brassos *Texas* July 19th 1825

MESSRS. HYDE & MERIT.

Doctor Imla Keep has just arrived from New Orleans with some goods—and let me have the greatest part of them for which I paid him—by crediting him for money that I placed in his hands to purchase some Articles for me. I likewise gave him Authority to receive for me a considerable Amount of money—which he received, and made use of and has not returned me one cent after buying the goods of the Doctor and paying for them as above stated I found out he had not paid money for the goods—but got them on a credit, and made use of my *name* in getting them he was not authorized to do so—and he is a man that never will have it in his power to use my name in that way— And I was much surprised to see you had allowed him the liberty of acting so with you—for he had not my name on paper—except he wrote it or got some one to do it. neither was he authorized either verbally or in any other manner whatever to use my name— it is true, about twelve months since I promised to give him a birth as an overseer on one of my plantations, on conditions—he would perform certain acts and come out last winter—but he has disappointed me in every case, and not come untill now, and now, without my money. If he had complied I would have employed him, and was to give him one tenth of the profits of sd plantation after all expenses were paid, he is now insisting on me to employ him, for he says he is anxious to make money to pay you and myself.

I have a right to find falt of all the confidence, I placed in him, but was more displeased when I found out he was tempering with

my name, than any thing else. I have given him no employment as yet, and am so much displeased—I do not know whither I will or not, the *doctor* appears to be very desirous to get in some business—to make money to pay you and myself, it is a duty I owe my feelings to notify you of this immediately— I have no credit in Orleans, for I sent my son there to purchase a few articles— he got a letter from Mr. James Brown of Alexandria, and had the goods charged to him—and I have to pay Brown; Why did I do this? because Keep—as I heard, had made way with my money—and could not get the articles I wrote for but in Orleans he informed my son he could get such and such articles— And then applied to my son, to go his security—and he could get what he pleased it made my son very angry for if I wanted a credit I did not want any assistance with his credit for the last time I saw Keep, untill now, he affirmed if I would send in my son—he would raise my money at Alexandria—and go in company with my son to New Orleans, and purchase the articles I wanted, and then he, Keep, would come round by water with them, and my son by land—and bring my money, that is, the overplus—that Keep had after buying the goods, he advanced my son ten Dollars out of thousands that I had placed in his hands—and said that was half what he had.

JARED E. GROCE

[Addressed:] Messrs. Hyde and Merit.—New *Orleans*

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Bexar 19 de Julio de 1825.

Sr. Don ESTAVAN AUSTIN

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO Y DUEÑO: Impuesto de quanto V. me dice en su Apreciable de 22 de Junio proximo pasado relativo a la conducta de Nixson y movimientos que causó con su depravado influxo en alg^{a} incautos habitantes de esa Colonia, estoi dispuesto ha hacerle los corresp^{tes} cargos siempre que se presente en esta Cindad y por si acaso no lo berificare y pretendiere presentarle verbalm^{te}. o por escrito ante el Sr. Governador del Estado, diriji la citada Carta de V. al Sr. Baron para que impuesto del caracter de aquel sujeto conteste a sus falsas calumnias acerca de los complices en este Asunto ya le dije á V. en Carta particular lo que convenia y Ahora le repito lo mismo de Oficio en vista de lo que V. me dice en los suyos de 6 y 15. de Junio anterior.

Tambien le digo á V. de oficio el recibo del Dinero que por disposicion del Sr. Gob^{r} condujo su hermano Dn. Santiago y ahora vamos á otra cosa, el amigo Dn. Juan Ant^{o} Padilla Secretario del

mismo Sr. Govr. del Estado me recomienda el Despacho de una instª. que me remitio solicitando la porcion de onze sitios de tierra que ha asignado al Govierno: en obsequio de este amigo, y en desempeño de mi obligacion he venido en comisionar á V. para que practique estas diligencias autorisandole para que nombre agrimensores que executen las medidas, pero ante todas cosas solicito q. V. se tome la pena de reconocer el expresado terreno y sus immediatos, y en el que le pareciese mas aproposito ya por la abundancia de aguas permantes y ya por otras comodidades que ofresca disponer se executen las medidas de los onze sitios referidos teniendo á mas la bondad de avisarle al apoderado de Padilla pª. que tiempo podré pasar a tomar posecion de ellos y recivir el titulo que deve V. expedirle en virtud dela Comision que le confiero.

Hasta ahora no sé el resultado dela pregunta que hice á V. pª Gefe Subalterno de este Departamto luego que la reciva se la comunicaré á V. quien creeré no olvidará mis encargos puesto que ya le tengo significado mi suerte y con esto queda deV. su atento Amigo S Q. S. M. B.

Otra. persuadido por su hermano de que V admitira Libramto. mio, me resolvi a librar contra Vmd, y a fabor de Thomas Westall, sesenta pesos que subministro en efectos por mi cuenta á Dn. Jose Sandobal, quien sino selos remitiere en su arribo a esa villa, espero misma el fabor de Vmd admita la citada libranza, y abonar su importe a Westall, cargandomelo en mi cuenta en este caso, y sirviendose avisarmelo para reclamarlo de Sandoval; quien me ha pedido tambien una carta de conosimiento y recomendacion para q. Vmd le habilite con algunos efectos de comercio conque negociar por ambos. Estoy en franquiarle esta carta pero si Vmd conoce que se comprese, ó que tiene necesidad de hacer algun sacrificio por servirle en virtud de mi recomendacion ó conosimiento, puede prudentemte. escusarsele, seguro de que yo lo recibire bien, mayormte. quando conosco la situacion de Vmd, y no ignoro el compromiso en que se hallara por los negocios particulares que para mi le tengo encargados.

Los Yndios Carancahuases en finis del mes pasado mataron serca de matagorda dos Americanos, é hirieron alos otrós dos de quatro que venian en un barquito; con este motivo pienso que el Sr. Comandante Militar de este departamento le escribi a Vmd para que en botes preparar una espedicion de voluntarios que marchar contra dhos Yndios á desalojarlos de las Yslas que ocupan para que no impidan el arribo á estas costas delos barcos mercantes y de transporte de caudales, armas y viveres para las Tropas que estan entorpeciendo con sus frecuentes incursiones y tambien para que les castiguen sus maldades: aquel Sor le hablará a Vmd con mas propiedad

sobre este asunto, y yo creo que Vmd lo comvinara al modo que le paresca mejor, mas pronto y mas seguro por que luego podia ser que se ofresca batir el norte y en este caso necesitaria tambien la ayuda de esos Colonos.

La adjunta nota de medicinas me hará Vmd fabor de surtirla y remitirmela con todala brevedad posible porque es para hacerme un remedio en la vista que estoy al perderla.

Buelvo á decirle a Vmd reservadamente que ya que yo me he comprendido inadvertidamente con este sugeto, que no haga caudal ninguno de mi recomendacion, y que si Vmd lo quiere servir en lo particular sea directamente de Vmd á el, advertido de que no tiene conque pagar en el caso de que padesca algun quebranto con lo que Vmd lo habilita. Cuya advertencia le hago á Vmd como amigo y para evitarle incomodidades.

El Baron me dice que por Septiembre nos veremos en esta Ciudad, lo que comunico á Vmd para su satisfaccion.

Deseo que Vmd lo pase bien y que mande lo que guste á su mas atento afmo amo. y servor. q. s. m. b.

JOSE ANTº. SAUCEDO [Rubric]

P. D.

Yo y el Baron tambien nos hemos granjeado en estos dias, algunos enemigos de aquellos aspirantes que se resienten quejosos quando no seles atiende por falta de meritos, y quando la Ley obra contra ellos pero ya veremos como salimos de este labirinto. Vale

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NATHANIEL COX TO AUSTIN

New Orleans 20. July 1825

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Carter arrived after a tedious passage of 35 days and delivered your favour of the 2 June— It will afford me much pleasure to be usefull to him or any of your friends, and settlers.

I have had much conversation with Mr Carter on the subject of your settlement, and the probable trade with New Orleans It will however require a vessel of larger dimensions than the sloop Robert to bring cotton I apprehend— Our laws dont authorise smaller vessels than 30 Tons to Introduce foureign Goods—

Your cotton can be entered here for Export and thereby save the duties—I send you some blanks which will be required in case of making shipment to this place— In case of no American Consul Two Merchants must sign the Certificate of Landing—

NATH: COX

Col S. F. Austin Brassos

JAMES GRANT TO AUSTIN

Reynosa 24th July 1825—

Coln[l] STEPHEN F. AUSTIN,

Dear Sir

I have been much longer detained in this Country than I had any Idea of when I started from your settlement. It was Six Weeks, before we reached Refugio, and have been longer in Settling my business than I had any Idea of. I then went up the Country and bought Some Wool to bring on to the Settlement but by high waters and loosing Mules and Horses, it is only the other day I was able to get my Cargos and Mules Collected in Camargo to start, but am again prevented by high waters all the Water Courses are up so that mules with Cargo cannot proceed and I am uncertain when I will be able to travel with my cargo there has been a great deal of Rain in this Country the Rio Grande is very high and likewise the Nueces; and as I am unable to proceed, I have concluded to go down to Refugio and purchase a few goods, to see if I can make up my lost time; I shall be with you as soon as it is practicable; as I have since I first saw the Country been determined to become a Settler; and have refused some good offers to make money, in consequence of making all my arrangements to go and settle with you; I hope Captn Jones has attended to my business and that all things are well my absence from the Colonies has not been my fault; which I know you are sensible of— If Captn Jones has not been able to pay you the balance; I will settle with you to your satisfaction.

JAMES GRANT.

MATEO AHUMADA TO AUSTIN

Bejar 24 de Julio de 1825.

S. D. ESTEVAN OSTEN

Muy Sor mio de mi aprecio. y consideracion: Me aprovecho del regreso del Sor su Hermano de V. Ciudadano Santiago. lo primero para ofrecerme á V. deseoso de complacerle, y lo segundo con objeto de suplicarle que á lo mas pronto posible se sirva V. facilitar el envio de los Botes de desembarco. y de remo, y bela que admitan diez hombres cada uno á bordo, y que puedan reconocer comodamente y sin riesgo la costa desde las Lagunas de la Baca. en el concepto de que su entrega deverá verificarse en Matagorda al Comand[te] de un pequeño Destacam[to] que esta situado á la vista de aquel Puerto, donde se vé enarbolada la Bandera trigarante de esta Republica. y en el de que su importe lo satisfase en Septiembre ú Octubre del presente año en que devo pasar por esa villa.

Sirvase V. entretanto admitirme en el numero de sus Amigos, que en ello tendrá tanto honor, como satisfaccion quien de nuebo se ofrece á V. y atento B. S. M.

MATEO AHUMADA [Rubric]

MIGUEL ARCINIEGA TO AUSTIN

Bejar 24. de Julio de 1825.

SR DON ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Muy sor mio de mi mayor estimacion: El Ciudadano Juan Ant° Padilla secret° del Exmo. Sr. Gov°r de este Estado, se ha servido conferirme poder para que en represent°n de su persona reciva y tome pocesion del terreno que en Clase de venta se le ha concedido sobre las margenes del Rio de los Brasos, y Arroyo de San Andres arriba del camino de Bejar para Nacogdoches, y estando informado de que el Gefe de este Departamento comisiona á V. para que practique las medidas de Dicho Terreno, nombre Agrimensores, y practique todas las diligencias necesarias hasta ponerme en pocesion, y otorgarme el Correspondiente Titulo de adquicision á nombre de mi poderdante; me tomo la libertad de molestar la atencion de V. suplicandole se sirva reconocer y hace vista de ojos ante todas cosas del expresado Terreno y sus inmediatos, y abisarme el que le paresca mas propio para el efecto que lo solicita el Ynteresado, procurando que sea si fuese posible el mas abundante de ojos de agua, fuentes o Lagos permanentes, y en este caso avisarme para que tiempo estaran executadas las medidas de los onze sitios que en Clase de venta se le han Concedido al Comprador, para pasar á que V. me ponga en posecion de ellos y me expida el Correspondiente Titulo á favor de mi parte; y teniendo con esta ocasion la grande satisfaccion de comunicarme con V. espero que en el entretanto sesirva comunicarme sus ordenes y recivir el afecto su atento amigo y S. Q. S. M. B.

MIG^L ARCINIEGA. [Rubric]

ERASMO SEGUIN TO AUSTIN

Bexar 24. de Julio de 1825.

SOR DN. ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

Mi apreciable amigo: Tengo a la vista sus dos apreciables de 1 y 23. de Abril del presente año, las cuales no havia contestado, esperando de dia en dia hazerlo vervalm^te porq. desde q llegué á esta casa de V. tube la noticia de q. estaba p^a llegar de un dia á otro, hasta q haviendo arribado su hermano Dn. Santiago me desengañé q

no venia V. port lo q lo verifico ahora enlos puntos mas principales q. ellas contienen de este modo.

Yo convengo con V. q. el gran fomento de esa y las otras colonias de Texas, está entre otras cosas en permitirles alos avitantes la introducion de Esclavos, y q de este modo vendran muchos hombres de proporciones, asi como si no seles permite, solo vendran los miserables y q la provincia no hará mucho progreso; pero amigo, en mi congreso, no se quiso ni oir solicitudes de igual naturaleza, al contrario, todo el congreso quando se habló de esclavitud se electrisaba al considerar el estado de infelicidad en q está esa parte dela humanidad, y se resolvio á Decretar: q quedava para siempre extinguido en ntra. republica el com° y trafico de esclavos, y q vaxo de ningun pretesto devia permitirse la introducion de ellos en nuestros territorios; con q. si á clausula tan absoluta le encuentra V. remedio no hay mas q aplicarselo, en la confianza de q si lo tiene y depende del congreso del Estado puede V. estar seguro q se queda hecho, con tal q a la ley citada sele pueda dar de alguna manera favorable interpretacion; ya he encargado particularm^te^ este asunto al Baron de Bastrop, al Dr. Ramos Valdes y no dudo, q Valdes Guaxardo, Varela y Lic^do^ Carrillo, (todos amigos), e individuos dela legislatura, degen de tomar parte.

El Gov^no.^ está travajando en nombrar un comisionado q arregle la poblacion de Nacogdoches, y para la seguridad de aquellos abitantes marcharon de aqui muy breve, hasta 100. hombres de tropa q permaneceran alli destacados, y con ellos y buenos q halla avecindados, seles hará salir alos malos.

Me parece muy util el estabecimto. de una Escuela q V intenta y tengo dho. sobre esto á Ramos Valdez, al Baron, y Carrillo todo lo q. me occurrió favorable.

Tiene V. ya la licencia de introducir nuevo numero de familias, y concedida la abelitacion del puerto de Galbeston; solo resta q el Gov^no.^ provea de empleados, y ya he recomendado este asunto a Ramos Arispe á Mexico, y al Exmo Sor. Presidente dela Federacion le he hecho mis observaciones, como melo tenia prevenido, y suplicadole no olvide de prover en tan interesante negocio tan pronto como sus ocupaciones selo permitan.

No le dé aV. cuidado de Jeorge Nixon: q haga los reclamos é informes q quiera q nada sacará ni el ni los demas q piensan como el: el Govierno empieza a distinguir los buenos de los malos americanos y V. tiene su opinion bien asentada con todas las autoridades del Estado, y no menos con el Presidente dela Republica; con quien le he dejado bien recomendado, aprovechandome del afecto, y confianza, q me dispensó, interim estuve en Mexico: conq asi hobrar conforme á nuestras leyes es lo que importa y sin tener miedo, qe. el q quiera vivir

entre nosotros ha de respetarlas, y obedeserlas, y sino *fugite partes adversas.*

Dn. Tomas Westall, me ha entregado otra carta de V. en laq melo recomienda: lo he vicitado varias veces, y me le he ofrecido para quanto guste mandar.

Dn. Santiago hace dias que se halla aqui; á tenido que sufrir algunos dias la calentura, pero ya está restablecido: tuve mucho gusto de saver de V. y de haver visto asu hermº, y ciento mucho el que se vuelva tan pronto.

Si el Faecton que le encargué a V. desde Mexico no lo tiene comprado, puede V. suspender su compra, porque he pensado hechar un biaje a Nueva Orleans para el mes de Noviembre proximo, y entonces lo compraré a mi gusto.

De noticias lo que tenemos de mas agradable es, que el Navio Acia Español y Bergantin Constante, destinados por el govierno Español para la expedicion de Lima, capitularon en el nuevo Monterrey perteneciente a nuestra Republica con el comandante; resultando de esta capitulacion el que el Navio y el Bergantin, sus respectivos comandantes, los cedieron al servicio de nuestra Republica, ofreciendose para lo mismo la mayor parte de su guarnicion.

No dexe V. de remitirme algunos Periodicos de importancia de los mas modernos que tenga de los Estados Unidos del Norte, q. los apreciare mucho.

Celebraré que V. se mantenga bneno y que saludando de mi parte á todos esos buenos paisanos, y en particular al Sor. Grose, disponga dela inutilidad de su afmo. amigo que desea verlo y B. S. M.

ERASMO SEGUIN [Rubric]

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN.

Bexas 24. de Julio de 1825.

SOR. D. ESTEVAM AUSTIN

Mi Estimado Amigo y dueño mio: El Tenᵗᵉ retirado D. Jose Sandoval pasa en compª de su hermano deV. D. Santiago hta. esa villa y aunque en otra ocacion entiendo q. ha tocado en algunos puntos de esa colonia, me significa ahora los deceos q. tiene de ser conocido y adquirir conocimientos entre esos havitantes; por cuya razon é jusgado combeniente en obsequio de este amigo manifestarle á V. q. es un hombre util para desempeñar cualesquiera negosacion y de conducta arreglada, no obstante q. los infortunios y adbiesos q. á los hombres no faltan mientras biven en el mundo, le han reducido á un estado algo corto, pero sé q. con el apoyo de algun hombre podrá hacer la fortuna q. decea; a cuyo fin no dudo q. contribuirá V. conla

buena intencion y boluntad q. le caracteriza; disponiendo con la libertad q. puede del sincero afecto q. le profesa su imbariable amigo y servidor Q. S. M. B.

JOSE ANTº. SAUCEDO [Rubric]

MARTIN DE LEON TO AUSTIN

Billa de Ntra Srª de Guadalupe de Jesus Bitoriª 24 de Julio de 1825

SOR. TENTE CORONL DN. ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN

Mi caricimo Amigo y sor de mi respeto con particular agrado recevi la apreciable de V fha 14 del presente de mano de sus portadores los Seres. DeWitt y Brown este ultimo me communico qe. tenia los efectos q V. me prebiene aloq. le resolbi q los condujera aeste punto para q. Abista destos y los mios biesemos sinos conbenia ono tratar; aloq. conbino—

El Sor. deWitt me propuso q. si yo gustaba de reservar para mi poblacion et tereno q. ay desde el paso, q hase sobre el Rio de Guadalupe el camino de Atascosito fixando por este hasta elpaso del aRoyo dela Beca y destos dos puntos para la costa hasta atoca las leguas litorales; que asi conbiniendo, el sedaria por contento con las Tierras q ay. de dho. camino por aquel biento hasta el camino q ba de Bexar para Nacodoches acuya propuesta le conteste no serme posible acceder a causa no ser suficiente el primer tereno para el numero de familias q tengo prometido al govierno estabecer; y Si; desde el paso nombrado de Anastacio mas ariba del referido de Atascosito sobre el mismo Rio de Guadalupe camino q pasa de la Ballia para Nacodoches fixando por esta senda hasta el ya nombrado aRollo de la Baca y desde ayi por ambas riberas de dhs aroyos y rios hasta colindar con las leguas litorales cuya distancia es toda la estencion del tereno—

Questando a la marcha, para el Govierno, boy apedir seme señale para elleno corespondiente al plan de poblacion q me propuse y desempeñar aeste fin la obligacion ya contraida con el mismo govno

Aprecio sumamente las manifestaciones q me hase en su apreciable q. contesto de su sincera amistad; beo con placer en ella sus armoniosas miras para con sus colindantes Me es palpable el interes particular q V siente para con migo agradesco afectoso las luces q V sedigna participarme; Mas laprudencia de V no estrañara sin duda la resulucion dada por mi al Sor. dWitt en bista dela justicia q. me hasiste y q. le tengo sinificado a dho. Sor. añadiendo aq. desde punto de mi recidencia para la costa apenas parece haber tereno util la distancia como de siete leguas y de alli hasta las lagunas de las

Ballias no se encuentran ni aguajes ni abrigos ni maderas aun para leña—

Quedo prepetuamente reconocido a su generosas ofertas y heserme pocible sin faltar a mis forsosas actuales ocupaciones lograria la satisfacion de la bista personal deV en su misma casa para cumunicarnos mas estrechamente pero Reserva esta satisfacion para la mas facil oportunidad

MARTIN DE LEON [Rubric]

MATEO AHUMADA TO AUSTIN

Bejar 26 de Julio de 1825.

Sor D. ESTEVAN OSTEN

Muy Sor mio de mi primera consideracion, y respeto: En la carta qe dirigi á V. por el Sor su Hermano Ciudadano Santiago, se me pasó suplicar á V. tuviese la bondad de mandar qe. los Botes de mi encargo esten cubiertos de manera qe. no haya riesgo proximo de que la tripulacion peresca pr. un golpe de aguas y qe. deseo este la Tropa a cubierto sol: Ahora me aprovecho de la ocasion qe se me presenta pr. qe. marcha a la Bahia un Amigo mio, y le suplico á V. de nuevo se sirva encargar dhos Botes construidos del modo qe. á V. le paresca mas á proposito pa reconocer las lagunas, donde á veces hay trechos de media vara de agua, y la Costa donde V. sabe es necesario internarse á la alta Mar. Descanso en los conocimientos qe. V. pose, y los sentimientos qe. lo animan respecto de la prosperidad de la Republica Mexicana, esperando tenga V. la bondad de avisarme el valor de dichos Botes en la primera ocasion qe. á V. se presente pª llevar conmigo la cantidad qe. valgan, y qe. pondré en manos de V.

MATEO AHUMADA. [Rubric]

FRANCISCO GARCIA TO AUSTIN

Bahia y Julio 29 de 1825.

Mi siempre Estimado Amigo Acompaño aV. la adjunta qe. me entrego para V. el Sor. Baron esperando tenga V. la bondad de habisarme haserca de su contenido en primera oportunidad;

Amigo digame V. si habra salida de cosa de 100 @ de sal por el dinero a aferia de bacas para criar alguno pilosillo o hasucar Mexicana suplicandole mediga el precio de todo para mi Gobiernos

Tambien le edemerecer midiga si habra quien compre 17 Mulas mansas por el dinero haun cuando Tenga qe. fiarlas por tres oquatro Meses ciendo persona segura el comprador

Todos Enesta su casa se mantienen buenos y ha su disposicion para qe. los mande como guste y con particularidad aeste su ynbariable Amigo y seguro serbidor Q. S. M. B.

FRANco GARCIA

P. D. de V. de parte de mi esposa y niña y mias muchas memorias a el Amigo D. Guillermo y su Señora

Sor. Teniente Coronel Estevan Austin

GOVERNOR RAFAEL GONZALES TO AUSTIN

Gobernacion del Estado de Coahuila y Tejas.

Por el oficio de V. de 22 de Juno pasado me he impuesto de haber V. remitido al Gefe del Departamento un mil pesos tomados del fondo de papel sellado y de creditos contraidos sobre su propia responsabilidad con motibo de no haber podido cobrar de los colonos cantidad alguna anticipada en cuenta de la q. deben abonar en fin de Diciembre de este año por los terrenos q. han recibido, segun las razones q. exponén y V. apoya en su citado oficio.

Ciertamente q. quando el Gobierno pidio la anticipacion indicada tubo presente q. aun no era llegado el tiempo de verificar el cobro del impuesto de las tierras repartidas, y por esta consideracion ocurrió á un arbitrio voluntario de parte de los colonos; pero pareciendo q. hacen merito de q. por la nueva ley de colonizacion se designan seis años para el pago del valor de las tierras, esta es una disposicion q. favorece á los q. de nuevo se establescan con arreglo á dicha ley. pues para los ya establecidos bajo de otras condiciones ó contratos como sucede con la colonia q. V. formalizó debe estarse á los pactos y obligaciones q. ella contrajo; y siendo segun estoy entendido la de satisfacer en fin de este año cierta cantidad de dinero, no deben extrañar se les exija de pago al vencimiento del plazo.

Como ese establecimiento se formó por disposicion del Supremo Gobierno de quien era agente el Gefe Politico debe persuadirse q. en quanto obró lo hizo con autoridad bastante del Gobierno de quien dependia; lo mismo q. el comisionado para la distribucion de terrenos, quien ocupado en el dia con el cargo de Diputado no puede ir á concluir los asuntos q. dejó pendientes hasta en tanto se levante el actual congreso del Estado.

Dios y Libertad. Saltillo 29 de Julio de 1825.

RAFAEL GONZALES. [Rubric]

Ciudadano Estevan Austin.

P. POWELL TO AUSTIN

30t July 1825

DR SIR.

I have understood that in consequence of the death of Mr. Garver the league is of Course vacant that was intended for him even if

the Deed is out there will not be the necessary improvement made to hold it I have thought proper to apprise you that I am willing to take that place You will inform me by Mr. Jamison. If you do not grant me this I Have improved the seventh league in Bay Prarara and shall rely upon the faith of the Government to attain it.

P. POWELL

[Addressed:] Colo S. F. Austin San Filipe de Austin

AYLETT C. BUCKNER TO AUSTIN

Colorado 10th August 1825

COL° AUSTIN

O my friend if the espression may be applyed; There is an affair existing between J. Cummings and myself: which I wish and must have settled, My hart Cannot sustain the burthen which it now has to support: As I told you a few days ago never can I brook to impositions from any man much less from a man of Cumming's standing; Never the less I will condecend to meet him at any hour on or before the setting of the present sun that my hart may bleed out its vengeance and be releaved of that torment with which I am so deeply oppressed—

I would have suggested the affair yesterday but I was not disposed to bring about any confusion while you were executing the functions of your office

Whenever I leave this world I wish to be buryed under my own soil I therefore wish to purchase or make arrangements for one thousand acres of Land Yours with the highest

Esteem and respect

AYLETT C BUCKNER

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

Quedo enterado por el Oficio de V. S. fha 28 de Julio p° p° de la determinacion del Supremo Gob^no^ relativo á la exportacion de productos por los habitantes de esta Colonia. lo q he comunicado á ellos.

Dios y Libertad San Felipe de Austin 11 de Agosto de 1825

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Al Sor Gefe del Departmento de Texas Ciudadano Jose Antonio Saucedo

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[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

JAMES GAINES TO AUSTIN[1]

Department of Texas Sabine Aug 13. 1825

Col. STEVEN F. AUSTIN

DR. SIR your favr by Mr. G D Collier came to hand but not by him, when he arive at the naches he found Robt Collier were in the pursuit of him and offered a Reward of a negro for his scalp [He had ?] sent an Indian and a set of cut throats, on the Lower Rout after him, he then Turnd his course up through the Cherokees and passd above and fell in at cantoonment Jessup it is said he applied to Col. Maurice (?) for protection and it was Refusd he passd on safe but Did not apply here for the ballance Robt Collier has threatened my Life because I Did not Let him know G D Collier was Going to the Brassos for them negroes. and has Ever since He has (?) OQuin which you ordered from the Brassos and a number Like him about him to stand against the authority, on the 11th of Inst. I calld a meeting of the people to Establish ways and means for keeping peace, they met nearly unanimously. which amounted to upwards of 40 and formd and assignd the following Resolutions

first to support the Federal and State Constitutions

secondly to obey the Laws of General Government as well as that of the State and aid the mexican authorities to Enforce the same

thirdly [Not to] suffer to Reside nor harbour or be harboured in said District Criminals Vagrants Rogues or Disorderly Characters under the penalty of forfeiting all Right of Ever becoming a Mexican Citizen

I then organized them into a Company of militia Elected militia officers to Enforce the same

while we were ingaged in this George W Collier had come out of curiosity to se our force

Captn A. B. Gill arive here from Rapide and made oath that James Collier and George Colliers (Brothers of R Collier had had in their possession three negro men which had been stolen from him, G W Collier was immediately Taken and confessed Voluntarily that they had them at yocanis East [of] the Sabine and that they should be given up as well as others from Rapide (in my absence those negroes were harbourd at R Colliers by James and G. W. Collier)

they Left here with Collier under a strong Guard for yocanis in pursuit of the negroes,

[1] On the subject of this letter see Johnson to Bastrop, May 9, 1825.

I am this moment, inform[d] they found no negroes that they are hid and that the Guard Caught another Rogue by the name of Steven Jackson and this morning whipt him and Collier until they told where the negroes were, and that the Guard was again in pursuit, So much for Alabama Rogues, our meeting has Raised their ambition on the other side of Sabine and they have Commenced Runing Rogues

The inclosed will inform you of one stolen negro which has this spring arive on the Brassos which I will be Responsible for all Costs and Damages If I Do not have the Charges substanciated I will inform you from time to Time until I again Conquer the Rogues,

JA[s] GAINES [Rubric]

ELIGIO DE ALBARADO TO AUSTIN

Bexar 13. de Agto. de 1825.

Sor. Ten[te] Cor[l] Dn. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Muy señor mio de todo mi respeto: Ciento muy mucho, q. cuando llegué á escribirle una letra, le haya de molestarle la atencion, q amas, de esponerme á q. la opinion deV. atribuya á que es una impolitica mi solicitud; no obstante satisfecho dela boluntad y afecto q. con tanta generosidad me ofrecio quando estube en esa su casa con el Sor. Baron, me estimula á decirle áV. se sirva mandarme la cuera de Gamusa q. se sirvio ofrecerme el q. me la mandaria, la cual espero q. no dejará V. de mandarmela, con la primera conduta q. se proporcione.

V. dispense la llanesa con q. me me espreso, pues deseo recivir esta q. le pido, por servirme de ella quando salga al monte.

Siempre estoy con deseos de ber áV. pero como soy soldado no puede tener la satisfacion de hir por ayá, amenos deq. no sea destinado como el año pasado, q. fui con el Sor. Baron.

Para lo q. V. guste el mandarme, estoy á la disposicion, en la Secretaria de Gov[no] del Gefe de este Departam[to] con destino de escribiente, endonde apesar de ser un pobre soldado, queda ala obediencia deV. deseando no tenga V. novedad para q. mande como debe á este su atento Q. S. M. B.

ELIGIO DE ALBARADO [Rubric]

P. D. Sirvase V. dar mis espreciones, á Dn. Guillermo, al Sor. Horacio Chreisman y al Sor John Austin, q. deseo esten buenos—vale.

JAMES GAINES TO AUSTIN

Sabine August 13th 1825.

Col. STEVEN F AUSTIN

DR. SIR I Regret to inform you the Documents on Examination are mislaid as Respects the Changes alluded to in my Letter all I can Recollect of them is as follows

A young man by the name of Dally stold a Likely negro man of Henry Collins on the River amite, in the Parish of East Batonrouge State of Louisiana some time last year Mr. Collins sent a young man by the name of West to the Brassos Last year in pursuit of him but Returnd without success he Mr. Collins then sent me the Documents to Continue the inquiry until I made a Discovery

My inquiries has been as follows I found this Dally went to Pecan Point with the negro and Changed his name from Dally to Lively Early this summer he came to the naches where a young man Lived by the name of Lively this Lively Lived at Ellis Beans and was a partner of Dalleys on the River amite in Luciana when Dalley and Lively met Lively calld him Dally but after some apology they passed for Brs there and Left the naches with the negro for the upper settlements on the Brasss and was there a Rasing . . . [illegible] some Time ago another one of the Dalleys has Lately passd out in pursuit of them and Likely will pass by the name of Lively, a young man went out Lately with Mr. Lakely I am told Can Explain Probably the whole affair I have wrote on to Mr. Collins, and shall shortly Expect him on

I hope for the sake of humanity you will secure the negro and Damage If possible for 18 months services of the negro together per Costs of Suit until the Said Henry Collins may come or send

Js GAINES [Rubric]

MORGAN A. HEARD TO AUSTIN

Franklin County Alabama Aug. 14. 1825

DEAR COLO

In a few weeks my friend Mr Robt Gillespie will set out on a journey to your State, he has been much pleased with the description he has received of Texas; and if his opinion on a view of it concurs with those who have described the Country to him he will be induced to locate himself in Texas. He will explore the country. and particularly your Grant; He is a Gentlemen who possesses an extensive knowledge of Mechanicks, there is scarcely any species of Machinery but what he is well acquainted with, I have been ac-

quainted with Mr. Gillespie for ten or twelve years past, He is gentlemen of excellent sense and strict integrity, and in evry respect will be a most useful and valuable member of our Country; I recommend him to your polite Attention and trust you will afford him every information respecting the character of the Country, its Constitution and Laws. I know, of no man who can be more extensively useful in Texas than he could be therefore you must fit him with a league of land rich in soil well timbered, with a stream on which, all kind of water works, may be erected. I have progressed this far on my way to Kentucky, after I left you I purchased a good many mules on the edge of Louisiana; and have been detained in selling them out, I shall certainly be with you by the last of October, present my respects to Mrs Gross Mrs Long and your brother

MORGAN A HEARD

Lt. Colº Stephen F Austin

ALEXANDER CALVIT TO AUSTIN

Neich Texas August, 16. 1825

Colº STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DR. SIR: Permit me to ask the favor of you if Consistant with the nature of your Business to hoald in reserve for my Brother and my Self that League of Land made Choice of on the St. Bernardo by Mr. James Brown from Alexandria the Mr. Cumins hoalds Prara Lands Immediately opposite As I have only obtained the one half of what I am Intitled to you will do me a particular favor if it is not already marked out for Some other person to place my name on the map so as to cover it the payment of which we calculate on makeing from the soil in Cotton the Insuing season

ALEXª CALVITT [Rubric]

Colº S. F. Austin

N. B. please to inform me if I am successfull or not

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

[From Austin's Blotter, in file on August 26, 1824.]

La absoluta necesidad para que en este establecimiento habra un modo fixo, regular y seguro para executar las actas de venta y cuidar los archivos de ellos me hace presentar á la consideracion de V. S. las ideas siguientes—1º Que en este establecimiento habra un Escribano Publico[1] (con un sello de oficio) para atestiguar todas las actas de venta que pasan de un Yndividuo á otro y registrarlas en un libro, como tambien los testamentos y otros documentos de igual naturaleza,

[1] Austin suggested such an officer to Bastrop February 3, 1824.

tambien para protestar letras de cambio y otros de esta clase—2° que el dicho Escribano Publico recibira del interesado para recompensa de su trabajo un tanto por cada documento extendido y registrado por el y atestiguado con el sello de su oficio en conformidad con el Arancel en la materia—Las razones en que se apoya esta solicitud son—1° Que por muchos años — no habra un Alcalde suficientemente instruido en el Ydioma Español para encargarse de asuntos de tanta importancia y por falta de conocimiento en el idioma no puedan extender titulos de venta ni archivar papeles en la debida forma—2°—En el dia este Establecimiento esta dividido en cuatro partidos y en poco tiempo estos ha de ser aumentidos. Cada uno tiene su Alcalde y ni uno de ellos sabe una palabra de Español y si se permite que en cada partido se extiende y execute titulos de venta ú otros papeles de esta clase por los Alcaldes en papeles sueltos nunca habra un modo en que uno puede saber si esta ó no hipotecado ó vendido el terreno de alguno quando se le ofrece vender y ademas hay pocos de los Alcaldes que estan acostumbrados á cuidar papeles y si estan escrito en Español no conoceran el uno del otro, y por consiguiente habra de ser muchas perdidas de papeles y confusion en el transmitirlos al cabo de cada año de un Alcalde a su sucesor—3°—Con el Escribano Publico se cortara todos estos inconvenientes y malos, se establecera un sistema uniforme y general para las actas de venta en todo el Establecimiento y quando uno quiere comprar un Terreno sabra facilmente por los Libros de Registro del Escribano si estaba ya hipotecado ó vendido evitando de este modo todo especie de fraude ó engaño—tambien evitando aun el riesgo de perder papeles de tanta importancia—4°—Con la esperanza que en breve tiempo tendremos comercio por ser habilitado Galveston habra una necesidad absoluta de un Escribano para protestar las letras de cambio y otros asuntos comerciales—Hasta ahora se han executado todas las actas de venta delante de mi como el Juez principal de la jurisdicion pero como se va multiplicando las ventas todos los dias parece haber una absoluta necesidad que se nombre un oficial cuyo deber sera el de extender atestiguar y registrar actas de venta de Tierras Testamentos, hipotecas etc.—Con las ocupaciones que tendre yo en establecer las nuevas familias que he contrahido con el Gobierno no me quedera tiempo para estar siempre en casa para extender, atestiguar y archivar actas de esta naturaleza por tanto recomiendo esta materia, con todo interes a la consideracion del Gobierno. Como un asunto de la mayor importancia á la prosperidad de estos habitantes y de esta parte del Estado, por que si se extienden las actas de venta por los Alcaldes han de ser por necesidad en Yngles y sobre papeles sueltos sin forma ni regularidad ninguna y de esto saldra motivos abundantes para mil pleitos y dificultades en lo futuro—otra razon es que importa mu-

chisimo al adelantamiento general que no se pone embarazo ninguna á las ventas de tierras, porque en este, como en todo nuevo establecimiento los primeros colonos por lo general no son los que hara el pais rico ni floreciente, pero los que vienen despues que el camino esta abierto y las dificultades de principiarse en un desierto allanadas son los que trahiran bienes, maquinas y todo quanto se necesita para el adelantamiento de un pais; por tanto es de suma importancia que se da toda la facilidad posible a las ventas de tierras y que estas sean hechas en la forma mas legal y los archivos de ellas bien guardados, y el modo mas seguro y eficaz es el de registrar cada acta en un Libro y en una sola oficina—Si el Gobierno aprueba esta solicitud recomiende con todo respeto que se nombre al vecino de esta villa Samuel M. Williams para este empleo, por ser un hombre instruido en los Ydiomas Español Frances é Ingles y un Sor que tiene la confianza de estos habitantes y luces para el debido disempeño delos deberes de dicho empleo—Dios y Libertad—San felipe de Austin 16 de Agosto de 1825—Estevan F Austin—Sor Gefe del departamento de Texas Ciudadano José Anotonio Saucedo.

J. E. B. Austin to Mrs. Emily Perry

Groces Retreat, Texas Augt 17. 1825.

My DR Sister.

I have only time to drop you a line by a Gentleman going to the United States who promises to place this in the post Office— I returned from the interior last week where I have been the last two months on business— I had a severe attack of the fever while there but soon recovered— Some time has lapsed since we have received letters from you tho I expect there must be some in the Post Office at N— [Natchitoches.] I have not neglected writing My *Emily* every opportunity. This time last year I was enjoying the sweet society of my only and dear Sister and her lovely little family— When shall I experience that pleasure again? fond anticipation whispers in my ear that period is not far distant— May the wheels of time *roll* with redoubled force until that happy hour arrives—— your *wild rattled brain* brother spends more of his thoughts on his dear Emily than probably she is willing to admit— but I can safely assure her that herself and family ocupies more of my time than any thing in this world—

I am sorry to say there is considerable sickness in the Colony this season owing to the high freshe[t]s we have had the sickness has

generally been light. *no deaths* of consequence—and feel confident from my observations so far—that it will not be very fatal—

Brother is well—and has written to you and Mr. P. about one Month since very lengthly— I am truly *happy* to hear my Dr Sister has an affectionate *partner* and hope the ballance of her life will not be checkered with so many vicissitudes as the last few years—

Give my respects to Brother James and also to Mr Sam[l] Perry and Lady also to Mr. and Mrs. John P— tell Mrs. John P. that I have not been able to procure the Seeds I promised— owing to my absence however next season I will attend to my promise

Kiss the children for me and Stephen— tell Joel and Austin to study hard—

JAS E B AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO J. B. BAILEY

The spaniard Escovedo who says he owes you two horses has stored up his things at my house, and in order that you may have no fears that he will leave here without paying you for the horses he has requested me to say to you that if you will send me his obligation he will pay it before his goods are taken away, and I will not allow him to move them untill it is paid— he has sent for the balance of his things

Aug[t] 17. 1825 S F AUSTIN

Mr J. B. BAILY

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

El Exmo. Sor. Gov[or] de este Estado con fha. 29 de Julio *p. p[do]* me dice lo q. copio.

"Quedo impuesto pr. el oficio deV. de 9. del presente de haber remitido el Ciudadano Estevan Austin con su hermano Santiago los un mil pesos q. le previne por mi orden de 18. de Mayo ultimo para sueldos y gastos de V. S. y de su secretaria, cuya suma considero q. yá estará en poder del Depositario nombrado para este efecto; y por cuanto al costo q. ha causado la conduccion de dho. dinero [12 reales a day], espero q. V. S. adbierta al ciudadano remitente q. para otra ocasion ajuste su precio por premio mas moderado en beneficio del Erario del Estado q. es quien sufre estos gastos. pasandose endata el q. por áhora se ha causado sin q. sirva de ejemplar."[1]

Yo traslado á V. p[a] los efectos á q. es consiguiente.

Dios y libertad. Bejar 18. de Agto. de 1825.

JOSE ANT[o] SAUCEDO [Rubric]

Sor. Ten[te] Cor[l] D. Estevan Austin

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[1] See Austin's reply, September 8, 1825.

Austin to Saucedo

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Sobre el Asunto De Witt

Con este incluyo á V. S. el resultado de la averiguacion hecha por mi en el asunto de De Witt en cumplimiento con el oficio orden de V. S. fecha 28 de Julio popo. V. S. me instruyra si con esta queda determinado mi comision en la materia—Dios y Libertad—San Felipe de Austin 18 de Agosto de 1825— Sor Gefe del Departamento de Texas.

Bill and Argument Concerning Slavery

Exposicion hecha al Gov^no^ del Estado de Cuahuila y Texas por Estevan F Austin sobre la introducion de Esclavos en las Nuevas Colonias del Departamento de Texas, baxo alg^s^ reglas y condiciones Al dar mi opinion en una materia bastantemente discutida y meditada por personas bien instruidas, é ilustradas titubeo, y temo equivocar mi concepto: pero como mi objeto ha sido siempre procurar el efectivo fomento del pais q he adoptado por mi patria aunq en el se envuelva mi interés particular, del q por orden natural no es facil prescindir, creo de mi dever hacer al Gov^no^ las proposiciones q considero conducentes á tan benefico intento, no con animo de enseñar ni instruir, pues no desconozco la cortedad de mis luces, sino de manifestar lo que juzgo como circunstancia esencial para el adelantam^to^ y progreso de las nuevas Colonias de este Departamento, permitiendo la introduccion de esclavos como propiedad baxo ciertas bases, y reglas que expondre, y que á mi juicio lejos de oponérse á la humanidad ni á las leyes generales de la materia, convienen con ellas mismas. Si logro como espero q al convencim^to^ pr. mis razones, se siga el permiso q pretendo; me lisonjeare con la dulce satisfaccion de haber contribuido por mi parte al pronto engrandecim^to^ de este Estado. Y si por desgracia se observan mis reflexiones faltas del fundam^to^ necesario spre me congratulare conmigo mismo pr haver hecho de mi parte lo que he creido de mi obligacion segun los estimulos de mi honor—Asi pues paso á manifestar las citadas reglas, y condiciones q he propuesto haciendo despues de ellas las reflexiones q me mueven á creerlas necesarias, si se pretende, como estoy persuadido, extender la poblacion de estos paises desiertos y sacar de ellos la utilidad q la prodiga naturaleza ofrece, y sin cuyo requisito temo no tengan efecto los establecim^tos^ q se prometen; álo menos no con el aumento q se puede, y aun recelo q las poblaciones ya establecidas se desanimen, y retiren por ciertas razones q á mi ver tienen algun fundamento—Dichas reglas ó bases pr. medio de una ley clara y terminante son las siguientes.

1° Se permitirá la introducion de esclavos en las nuevas Colonias del Departam^to^ de Texas sola y unicamente pr. los Colonos hta el año de 1840 p^a^ su uso y como propiedad, prohibiendo expresamente el trafico y comercio de ellos segun previenen las leyes generales—

2ª Que fuera de estas circunstancias y despues del citado año 1840, quede expresam^te^ prohibido la introducion baxo ningun pretexto—

3—Que los Colonos á su ingreso justifiquen no proceder los esclavos q introducen como propiedad para su uso, delas costas donde se hacen presos de ellos, acreditando con documentos de las autoridades del pais de su procendencia, ser ya esclavos antes de traerlos á estas Colonias—

4° todos los esclavos introducidos solamente p^r^ los Colonos para su uso y servicio, y los hijos de éstos en ambos sexos, o descendientes en primer grado, permanecerán en estado de esclavitud durante su vida, como lo serian en el pais q dexaran, p^o^ las nietos de los primeros; ó hijos de los segundos de ambos sexos, es decir; los Esclavos descendientes en segundo grado de los introducidos solamente pr los colonos p^a^ su uso y servicio nacidos en el territorio de la Republica, seran libres los varones a los 25 años de edad, y las hembras a los 15—

5—todo Colono a su ingreso presentara ala autoridad politica del distrito donde se establezca los credenciales de que hablo el arto. 3°, y dha Autoridad tomará razon de ellos en un libro de conocimientos bien encuadernado, donde se anotará el numero de esclavos q introduce, sexos, edades, y fha de su entrada: y la misma autoridad dará al Colono para su resguardo una certificacion extensa de haberse presentado—

6 Asi mismo todas las autoridades politicas de los respectivos distritos, tendrán un Libro Mayor p^a^ asentar en él menudamente el dia del nacim^to^ de cada criatura descendiente de esclavos en primo y segundo grado expresando los nombres de sus Padres y Amo; é igual asiento se hará en un libro q cada dueño de esclavos tendrá para este efecto, cuyas partidas cada una de por si, serán firmadas pr dhas autoridades respectivas y dos testigos de asistencia ó Escribano Publico si lo hubiere, y esto será pa resguardo delos interesados—

7—Despues del tpo qe se juzgue oportuno publicada que sea esta ley, se hará al fin de cada año en el mes de diciembre porla autoridad politica, y Escribano Publico, un reconocimiento y revisacion de estos Libros, y todo aquel Esclavo en ambos sexos descendiente en segundo grado de los introducidos qe por haber cumplido la edad competente deva quedar libre, quedará y recivirá para su seguridad una carta de libertad dada pr su amo, autoriza apor el Juez politico en forma legal: con cuya carta en que se expresará su conducta, siendo buena entrará en el gose delos derechos de ciudadano Mexicano—

8—Todo Yndividuo dueño de esclavos que alos 30 dias del nacimiento de cualquiera cri[a]tura descendiente de los suyos en primº ó segundo grado, no dé parte á la respectiva autoridad, para que tome la razon q queda dha, perderá la criatura y su Madre q quedarán libres desde el momento q se justifique esta falta, y ademas pagará tres cientos pesos de multa aplicable álos fondos publicos de su distrito—

9—Los dueños de esclavos tendrán precisa obligacion de instruir en algun ramo ú oficio especialmente la agricultura, á todas las criaturas que nazcan en el territorio dela Republica, despues de su entrada como Colonos, y al quedar libres los del segundo grado pr haber cumplido la edad correspondiente, deverá darles á cada uno en ambos sexos ropa de uso suficiente para seis meses, y 25 pesos para q con esta ayuda tengan tpo de buscar amos, y tienen libertad de acomodarse, o asalariarse con el mismo que antes era su señor—

10—Los Colonos entre si podran venderlos Esclavos pª. su propio servicio, y de ningun modo para extraherlos a vender fuera dela Republica, y el q incurra en la falta de extraher en cualquiera tpo algun Esclavo ó Esclavos de ambos sexos fuera de la Republica para venderlos, y hacer trafico de ellos, perderá la mitad delos que le queden y á falta de otros perderá la mitad del Terreno que posea, y si no tuviere ni uno ni otro por harberse ya desecho de estas propiedades, se juzgará, y castigar su persona como infractor delas leyes.

11—Como el objeto es abolir con el tpo la Esclavitud en su totalidad, y aprovechando al pronto la utilidad de brazos de q hay tanta necesidad, todo dueño de Esclavos q saque alguno fuera del territorio dela Republica, al introducirlo nuevamente se tendrá desde el momento pr libre dho Esclavo ó Esclavos, y si los enajena en estado de esclavitud, queda el dueño comprendido en el artº precedente; exceptuase de este caso uno ó dos, ó poco mas Esclavos que para su servicio necesario en los viajes, lleven los Colonos, pero ni aun de estos podrán disponer fuera de la Republica, solamente dandoles libertad; la cual acreditaran á su regreso con documentos judiciales de las autoridades del punto donde la hubiesen dado—

12—Para evitar algun fraude ó mal proceder, todo Colono q salga á sus negocios fuera de la Republica, tendrá obligacion si lleva Esclavos pª su servicio, de presentarse á la autoridad respectiva de su distrito, quien tomará razon de los que sean dando un resguardo al dueño; y este al regreso de su viaje, presentará los mismos á la referida autoridad, ó documentos justificantes q acrediten haber muerto fugado ó sido libre segun expresa el articulo antºr—

13—Spre q algn Colono pr. sus fines particulares, ó por no acomodarle su nuevo establecimto quisiese salir del Territorio con sus propiedades, podrá hacerlo arreglandose á lo prevenido en la ley de

Colonizacion del Honorable Congreso de este Estado de 4 de Abril de 1825, pero los Esclavos descendientes en segundo de los introducidos nacidos en el territorio quedarán libres, y solamente podrá llevar los mismos q trajo ó los q pueda haber comprado de otros Colonos; y los descendientes de ellos en primer grado; pero queda impedido de volver á establecerse en este Estado—

14—Los Colonos Correspondientes á las tres Cientas familias ya establecidas pr el Empresario Austin en virtud de haber sido su establecim^to^ con permiso de introducirlos Esclavos p^a^ el servicio, dado pr el Gov^no^ en tpo del Sor Yturbide, aprobado despues pr. el soberano Congreso Constituyente en decreto 11 de Abril 1823 y del Supremo Poder Executivo de 14 del mismo, conservarán Esclavos pr. vida, los q tengan hta el dia de la declaracion de esta ley, álos qe introduxeren hta el año 1840 y los descendientes de ellos de primer grado en ambos sexos con las mismas condiciones q se expresan, exceptuando los nacidos en el Territorio dela Republica descendientes en segundo grado de los introducidos y en adelante quedaran sugetos como los q nuevamente vengan, á las demas prevenciones y articulos; entendiendose estas extensivas á las quinientas familias mas q el mismo Austin tiene permiso de establecer, las cuales quedarán comprendidas en todas las reglas de esta ley, como las delos demas Empresarios.

15—A consecuencia desde el momento se tomará por las respectivas autoridades politicas delos Establecimientos de dhas tres Cientas familias, una noticia circunstanciada q se asentará en el libro de Conocim^to^ acreditando el numero de esclavos q cada Colono tiene, con espresion de sexos. edad y demas requisitos ya prevenidos, igualmente en el respectivo libro y con la misma escrupulosidad q queda explicada, los q hayan nacido en el territorio de la Republica en primer grado para que los del segundo queden libres á la edad expresada en el articulo 4 y comprendidos en todos los demas q digan relacion a ellos

Expuestas ya las reglas q se expresan en los quince articulos presedentes, devo manifestar las razones q me mueven a creerlos justos y conducentes á la prosperidad de este Estado, las cuales demostraré en las siguientes reflexiones—Todas las reales cedulas durante el Gov^no^ Constitucional de España en estos Dominios y las diferentes leyes de Colonizacion dadas por los Gov^nos^ q se han sucedido desde la gloriosa emancipacion, no han llevado otro objeto á mi entender, q privar el trafico, y Comercio de Esclavos segun me lo manifiesta el literal tenor de todos los decretos, baxo cuyo principio, el permiso dela introducion como propiedad para el servicio, contrabido unicamente á los Colonos en nada se opone á estas leyes, y decretos vigentes, antes bien convienen conlos mismos, y aun con la ventaja de aclarár las dudas q sobre este sentido pudieran ocurrir en distintas

opiniones; señalando al mimo tpo el termino de este permiso pasado el cual se prohibe la entrada bajo ningn pretexto, Como se dexa ver en los dos primeros articulos—Contrayendome al contenido del articulo 3º creo no haya quien dude dela rectitud de mis intenciones. La justificacion q à su ingreso deven hacer los Colonos ante las autoridades politicas respectivas del distrito de su Establecimto de no ser la procedencia delos Esclavos q introduscan, delas costas de Africa acreditando, por el contrario se hallaban ya en estado de Esclavitud antes de su venida, priva enteramente todo genero de fraude q pudiera hacerse sino huviere este requisito—Examinando detenidamente el contexto del artº 4, se observa una eficaz medida en obsequio de la humanidad, en que tanto se interesa la paternal clemencia del Govno de esta Grande Nacion. Siendo como deven ser los Esclavos introducidos procedentes de Pais donde se hallaban en aquel estado de esclavitud, nada desmerecen ellos mismos respecto de sus personas; antes bien aventajan manifiestamente con la lisonjera seguridad de ver libre su descendencia en segundo grado. Dicha q nunca huvieran conseguido en el pais q dejaron. La edad q el mismo artº señala en ambos sexos para obtener la libertad, da idea del interes q tomo en beneficio reciproco de dueños y esclavos, especialmente delos ultimos. Una edad mas corta impedira al dueño tener algª recompensa por el beneficio qe el esclavo recibio de su crianza y educacion en su infancia sin cuyo aucilio se criaria vago sin oficio ni beneficio; de modo qe con esta medida el mas beneficiado es el esclavo; pues la edad en qe empiesa á gozar de libertad, es precisamente en la q ya está conla instrucion de algn ramo ú oficio util para buscar y asegurar su susistencia. Agregarse q los mismos Esclavos introducidos hallan respecto de sus personas la ventaja del mejor trato en sus alimientos, que sin disputa gozarán en este pais por las proporciones q para ello ofrece de cuyo bien disfrutaran tambien sus descendientes—Lo prevenido en los articulos 5 y 6 coopera al mejor orden, y arreglo en la execucion de los articulos precedentes evitando toda trampa y falta de cumplimiento—

Podra darse medida mas propia en obsequio dela humanidad q las prevenciones del articulo 7? —La escrupolosidad y exactitud con q deve tomarse noticia de los nacidos en el Territorio dela Republica en primero y segundo grado acredita el interes q toma el Govno en la observancia de unas providencias tan justas y arregladas y al mismo tpo patentiza su bondad admitiendolos como Ciudadanos si su buena Conducta los hace acreedores á esta gracia—Las penas señaladas en el artº 8, impiden absolutamente que haya algun Colono que se desentienda de cumplir exactamte la obligacion q le impone el mismos artº—

Ygual beneficencia se observa en lo prevenido por el arto 9–No deve dudarse q los dueños por propia convenencia instruiran á sus esclavos en algn Ramo u oficio util á la sociedad, y á ellos mismos, especialmente la agricultura, q es el manantial de las riquezas de cualquiera pais. La obligacion q aquellos tienen de habilitar por seis meses de ropa de uso y algun dinero a los q quedan libres por su edad, de los descendientes en segundo grado de los introducidos es una medida muy justa, propia de un Govno tan benigno como el dela Republica Mexicana Que providencia podria adoptarse mas energica en obsequio de la humanidad y para abolir la esclavitud con el tpo. q la contenida en el articulo 10?—La libertad que este Concede á los Colonos para venderse los Esclavos entre si, en nada prejudica á estos pues deve serles indiferente pertenecer á Juan ó á Pedro. Para el adelantamto y progresos, es utilisima la medida q en el mismo articulo se advierte, impidiendo la extracion para venta ó trafico de los Esclavos ya introducidos; deviendose creer q las fuertes penas impuestas, evitaran sucedo esto—Los articulos 11. 12. y 13. estan segun mi concepto, profundamente meditados. El primero de estos impide indirectamente extraer fuera dela Republica los Esclavos por la necesidad de sus brazos para el pronto fomento del Estado. La excepcion que hace en algn caso, parece muy prudente y regular. El segundo quita toda esperanza de fraude ó trampa, y establece reglas utiles en todo tpo. El contenido del ultimo parece q intenta no disminuir la poblacion ya establecida, pues las reglas que señala deve pensarse estorvar la salida delos Colonos ya radicados, hallandose despedidos del Estado sin libertad de poder volver á el en algn tpo – – Aunqe. por las bases de su establecimto podria pedir algn privilegio en este asunto pa las tres cientas familias q ya tengo establecidas, no obstante deseoso spre de no ocasionar envidias ni disgustas, prescindo de todo ello, y quiero igualarme álos demas Colonos q nuevamente vengan, como se observa en el tenor del arto 14. para cuya execucion scrupulosa, se dicta las reglas necesarias en el articulo 15 – –

Los Estados Unidos del Norte han tenido la gloria de dar al mundo un exemplo de liberalismo que puede servir y aun no aventuraré nada en decir que ha servido de modelo, y contodo á pesar del sistema franco de Govno que rige en ellos se observa q en algs Estados se ha hecho indispensable permitir la Esclavitud como unico medio en los principios, de formentar un pais desierto. Las Provincias del Norte delos mismos Estados, dictaron unas leyes semejantes alas q propongo, y en el dia ya no hay en ellas esclavitud, por haver muerto los qe fueron introducidos, y disfrutado libertad sus descendientes á un edad competente: Contando dhas Provincias contantos brazos instruidos y Laboriosos, como los q quedaren libres por la edad, y sus descendientes; los cuales son otros tantos jornaleros utilisimos.

Lo mismo sucederá en estos establecimientos, en los que al Cavo de alg^{s} años, quedará abolida la esclavitud, y habrá con los descendientes de los esclavos introducidos en el termino señalado, suficiente numero de jornaleros instruidos y aclimatados para continuar la agricultura, industria y artes—He hecho aunq con el laconismo posible las reflexiones q he juzgado mas del caso para acreditar el fundamento q á mi juicio tienen los articulos de una ley como la q pretendo en obsequio del fomento de este Estado.

Me persuado no faltara acaso quien opine ser demasiado prolongada la Esclavitud haciendola comprensiva á los primeros descendientes delos Esclavos introducidos como pretendo, y que no dexará de haber quien se interese en proponer qe la primera generacion disfrute libertad á la edad prescrita p^{a} cada sexo, semejante opinion si se adoptase, seria en mi concepto un modo indirecto p^{o} positivo de prohibir la introducion de esclavos, toda persona sensata deve estar persuadida del efectivo interes, y empeño qe todos tomamos en esta vida, afanando y trabajando de diferentes modos ya con el fin de buscar una comoda ó sobre saliente subsistencia, ya con el de proporcionarnos una vejez llevadera, y mas q todo con el de asegurar á nuestros hijos su fortuna ó principio de ella en el mejor modo posible; baxo este concepto, no es de esperarse que hombres dueños de Esclavos, y duenos de todas las generaciones futuras de estos, segun las leyes del pais donde viven quienes con estas propiedades tienen afianzado el bien estar de sus hijos, y demas descendientes, prescindieran de esta comodidad, por venir á un nuevo Pais enqe perderian la primera descendencia de sus Esclavos, aunq fuese aqualquiera edad, especialmente tan moderado como lo q se advierte. Las perdidas q necesariamente devian ellos preveer, les impediria absolutamente pensar en mudar domicilio en estos terminos, pues conocerian q sus descendientes sin esta propiedad radical quedarian expuestos á ser pobres, en razon á q los bienes mobiles ó intereses comerciales, sufran repentina, y frequentemente grandes bariaciones—No sucederia asi concediendo libertad á los nacidos en el territorio dela Republica en segundo grado, ála edad que queda señalada como es mas largo el plazo podrian los interesados convinar las perdidas con las ventajas en el cultiva de tierras virgenes, mientras llegaba aquel termino; con lo cual tal vez quedarian compensados, y tendrian mas seguro advitrio de fincar bienes de otra especie para sus hijos, y demas descendientes; agregandose q cuando murieran los primeros Colonos tendrian el consuelo de dexar aun á sus hijos algunos Esclavos aunq fuesen los descendientes de primer grado p^{a} q. empesasen ó siguiesen fortuna. Estas son las razones en q fundo la peticion de libertad para la segunda generacion y no pa la primera; persuadido sea este el medio de traer Pobladores de la clase que se necesitan en los primeros establecimientos.

Tengo positiva seguridad de que si el Honorable Congreso creé arregladas estas proposiciones, y en consequencia se digna dar una ley de esta naturaleza, brevemente se empezará á observar el aumento de poblacion pr personas honradas, respetables y dueños de muchos brazos necesarisimos en un principio—Con frequencia recibo cartas de diferentes sujetos de esta clase de varias partes, q anhelan establecerse en este pais, y unicamente se detienen temerosos de perder su propiedad, por la duda en q se hallan respecto dela introducion de esclavos; aun cuando á las leyes vigentes se les de el literal sentido qe se contrae á prohibir el trafico ó comercio, y no la introducion—

Se conoce pr. principio asentado "que todo lo q no está prohibido se considera permitido." La introducion no esta expresamente prohibida, y si unicamente el trafico o Comercio; cuya medida llena de sabiduria, tiende, en mi concepto, á impedir se hagan presas en las costas de Africa, dando al mundo con esta providencia, un testimonio inequivoco de los grandes; y filantropicos sentimientos de humanidad q caracterizan á un Gov^no^ en todo justo.

Esto no obstante, se ofrecen alg^s^ disputas nacidas delas diferentes opiniones en este asunto, por dudas q alg^s^ hallan en los diversos decretos de la materia. Es cierto q todos convienen y con fundamento á mi entender, en q las leyes generales y particulares garantizan á cada uno la seguridad de su persona y propriedades, baxo cuyo asilo, parece no devian temer la perdida de sus Esclavos qe real y efectivamente es una propiedad: mas con todo, quisieran y yo tambien una explinacion clara, como adicion á la Ley de Colonizacion, qe quitase toda duda.

No sé si equivocare mi concepto en considerar á esa asamblea con todo la facultad necesaria p^a^ determinar en este asunto permitiendo ó negando, segun crea oportuno; p^o^ yo fundo mi parecér en q como la Constitucion general q es la Ley fundamental de la Federacion, no habla nada absolutamente en orden á Esclavos, deve pertenecer al Gov^no^ de los Estados, los cuales tienen reservado para si como de su privitivo atribucion, todo el poder q la Constitucion Federal, no concede al Gov^no^ general.

Esta es mi opinion, y por ella no he dudado en dirijirme al Honorable Congreso de este Estado, cuya sabiduria dispondra la mas conveniente; dignandose en cualquier caso, admitir mis reflexiones llenas del mas profundo respeto y veneracion.

Es incuestionable el rapido progreso de este Estado por estas Colonias con la concesion de una ley semejante. Savido es porla experiencia q la base fundamental de las riquezas de un pais, es la agricultura, es el mineral de mejor ley qe se conoce para el adelantamto de un Estado; y como para ella se necesitan brazos, de ningun modo mejor q con los Esclavos se puede conseguir en un pais q

por despoblado, enformo, y otras dificultades estorva en un principio el establecim^to^ de gente de otra clase—Este Clima enfermo por notoriedad, desanima para vivir en él, todas las familias de climas diferentes; y solamente los q estan acostumbrados á paises semejantes ó mal sanos, pueden prometer ventaja en estos Establecimtos—Por otra parte la Nacion tendrá en estos Colonos cuando por medio de esta ley se hallan acaudalados, el apoyo mas firme para los casos q ocurran de defensa del Territorio. Haviendo muchos pobladores ricos puede contar el Gob^no^ con sus personas y caudales en beneficio dela Patria, qdo. [quando] alg^a^ invasion extrangera en cualquiera tpo intentare penetrar al interior dela Nacion, en cuyo caso creo no seria la Costa de este Estado, la que menos llamase la atencion delos invasores—Es inconcuso q el mejor Patriota en cualquiera Nacion, es aquel q tiene mas propriedad especialmente bienes raices, pr. qe. defendiendo su Nacion defiende su pertenencia; y haviendo crecido numero de estos, se fundan mejores esperanzas de vencer en todo tpo; y aun p^a^ la tranquilidad interior son esencialmente conducentes personas de esta clase, los cuales pr. propria conveniencia observerán pr. su parte ó procuraran se observen por todos, las leyes dela Nacion, y del Estado, contrapesando, y aun resistiendo al mal obrar de alg^a^ si los huviese, pr. solos o pr poseér corta propriedad movible, perturvasen el orden publico—Si desgraciadamente no se permite esta ley q energica y encarecidamente pretendo y pido á la augusta Asamblea tendré el desconsuelo de anunciar, como desde ahora anuncio en semejante caso que no habrá fomento en estas Colonias: q las q se han prometido venir, regularmente no tendran efecto, y aun las familias ya establecidas se retirarán desanimadas al ver frustadas sus halagueñas ideas de progresar. Y si permanecen alg^a^ ó vienen otras nuevas, no serán de aquellas q prometen las mayores ventajas en su generalidad, pues en tal caso seran unicamente familias reducidas cuyo trabajo apenas les dará una escasa subsistencia, y nunca podrán hacer la felicidad del Pais: pues el trabajo de las siembras, de algodon, y azucar ramos muy principales y dela primera especulacion de los pobladores, es propio unicamente de muchos brazos, y brazos de esclavos ya instruidos y acostumbrados—

Ademas si los Establecimtos. se componen unicamente en lo general de personas solas, ó de aquella ultima clase de gente que hay en todas las Naciones, de costumbres menos puras, de poca instrucion, y de ideas no las mejores, claro es q lejos de proporcionar utilidad, serán perjudiciales, y tal vez darán q hacer al Gov^on^ pues teniendo poco ó nada q perder no se detienen mucho en tratar de executar cualquiera proyecto pr. disparatado é injusto que sea, nacido

ó aconsejado pr la embriaguez, u otros vicios. Esta es una poderosa razon para q se procure con todo empeño q estas poblaciones se compongan en el mayor numero posible de familias honradas, respetables, y de proporciones. Establecim^tos^ de esta clase de familias atraeran indudablemente de todas partes gente de industria, artes y ciencias q en union con los Agricolos, harán florecer el pais con velocidad; lo qe de otro modo será dificil conseguir—Seria dolorosisimo q haviendo tenido tan buen principio estos establecimtos. y merecido del Gov^no^ pruebas inequivocas de su bondad con los generosas ofrecimientos de la ley de Colonizacion, con la Habilitacion del puerto de Galveston y otras gracias nacidas de su benevolencia, se desgraciara todo, destruyendose tan solido cimiento, con prohibir absolutamente la introducion de propriedad de esclavos. son bien notorios los sentimientos filantropicos del Gov^no^ y por ellos espero no suceda tan fatal desgracia—No deve ocultarse á la penetracion de personas tan ilustradas como las qe componen dignamente la Honorable Asamblea las riquezas en q abundarian estas Colonias con el permiso q pretendo, por medio de las cuantiosas y considerables siembras de algodon y azucar qe se harian cuya calidad en ambas especies tienen preferencia á la de otras partes por la feracidad de unas tierras virgenes, y proprias para el caso; teniendo la ventaja del puerto de Galveston habilitado, y navegable alg^s^ leguas de varios Rios y Arroyos de este Departam^to^ p^a^ su estracion á Europa ó cualquiera otra parte—Con estos positivos recursos el Estado floreceria, sus fondos se aumentarian, y costearian las demas obras de utilidad general siendo extensiva su prosperidad á toda la federacion; la cual participaria en gran manera de esta abundancia, y felicidad, pr el comercio reciproco, y otros auxillos de diferente especie con q podria contar—Este Departamento necesariamente seria el primero en gozar de esta satisfacion, y de una perfecta tranquilidad, libre de toda clase de enemigos pues las Tribus de Yndios herrantes serian obligadas á obrar bien, en virtud de qe la poblacion numerosa les impondria la ley, y el Gov^no^ con estos auxilios tendria gran facilidad de reducirlos ó exterminarlos si se resistian—

Finalmente son tantas las razones que detropel se agolpan á mi imaginacion, q necesitaria gran volumen si huviera de exponerlas todas; p^o^ me persuado q lo dicho es mas q suficiente para q el Gov^no^ penetre mis intenciones dirijidas como he dicho, al efectivo fomento de mi patria adoptiva— A vista pues de todas ellas, podré dudar q la Honorable Legislatura de este Estado, dexe de proceder á establecer esta ley que pido? No devo dudarlo

un instante, antes me persuado q su sabiduria añadira todo lo que considere mas necesario y qe no ha estado á mis alcanzes manifestar—Me lisongeo efectuandose la promulgacion de esta ley, de q no pasará largo tpo sin q disfrute el honor, y satisfacion de dar respetuosamente al Gov^no^ los placemes q enhorabuenas pr. ver efectivas, y realizados los proyectos de felicidad, adelantamiento, y progresos del Estado de Cuahuila y Texas,—Concluyo repitiendo q con la concesion, ó negativa, de todos modos cifraré mi satisfacion en la creencia de haver hecho qto he juzgado de mi dever, y en los deseos q me asisten de ser spre util á mi nueva patria, á Costa de cualquiera sacrificio de mi persona, ó propriedades—

San Felipe de Austin 18 de Agosto de 1825—Estevan F. Austin—es copia

AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR RAFAEL GONZALES

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Exmo Sor—El positivo deseo que siempre me asiste de ver lo mas pronto posible el Engrandecimiento de este Estado, á cuya gloria aspiro como un hijo adoptivo ya establecido, me ha movido venciendo obstaculos, é inconvenientes que de diferente especie se me presentaron á cada paso, á hacer la exposicion que respetuosamente incluyo a V. E. sobre la introduccion de Esclavos en estos nuevos establecimientos bajo ciertas reglas. Ella produce la efusion mas pura de mis sentimientos. La sencillez que se advierte y loable objeto á que se dirije, suple la falta de estilo, y elegancia. Mis cortos talentos me impiden ser elocuente; pero mis sanas intenciones me inducen á hablar la verdad—Nunca de otra manera pudiera prometerme mejor exito y poniendola bajo la protecion de V.E., suplicandole se sirva elevarla al alto conocimiento del Honorable Congreso, Con la recomendacion que V.E. considere justa, y equitativa, por si su sabiduria creyendola arreglada se digna dar una ley semejante á la que pide—Tan poderoso amparo, á mas dela solidez en que creo apoyadas sus rasones, halagan mi espiritu con la lisongera esperanza del feliz resultado que me prometo—Espero que V.E. tendra á bien admitirla baxo su cuydado, y que convencido en la misma opinion, interpondra su respectable influxo á fin de conseguir lo que pretendo para el bien y utilidad general—

Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin—20 de Agosto de 1825—

Sor Gobernador del Estado.—

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.[1]]

Sobre guerra con los comanches

Ha corrido por esta villa la voz del rompimiento de los comanches asegurandose haber hecho ya algunos muertos por esa capital y LaBahia. Estas son noticias esparcidas por algunas personas venidas de la Bahia indistintamente. Aun quando no merezcan entero credito, me parece suspender el juicio inclinandolo mas bien a creer que sean ciertas estas ocurrencias fundando semejante concepto en el conocimiento del caracter de los Indios—En tan disgraciado evento considero poco seguras las personas y propiedades de estos colonos si los Indios avanzan sus hostilidades a estos terrenos, la larga distancia que separa unas familias de otras, impide un pronto reciproco, y frecuente auxilio entre si, como requiere la clase de guerra que observan estos enemigos. Establecer ó formar un cuerpo de hombres que intermetentemente esten sobre las armas es moralmente imposible, porque esto seria sacrificarlos, retrayendolos de su preciso trabajo diario para la subsistencia de sus familias. que seria lo mismo que obligarlos á abandonar sus establecimientos y retiraren, fuera de que aunqe no se pulsaron tan notarias dificultades semejante reunion ó guardia nunca llenaria el objeto de su formacion a causa de que para la defensiba contra los Indios se necesita una clase de tropa bien montada dedicada á solo este objeto.

Todos los habitantes de esta demarcacion de mi cargo, estamos bien instruidos de que debemos contribuir como unos ciudadanos del Estado, a la defensa y ofenso de qualquiera clase de enemigos Siempre que el Gobierno tenga a bien determinarlo. a mas de esto poseimos los mas vivos sentimientos de gratitud a nuestra patria adoptiva y deseamos positivamente ocasiones en que acreditar con obras lo que ahora consta de palabras; especialmente en un asunto de la clase presente en que por nuestra propia conveniencia debemos prestar servicios.—

Nada de esto ignoramos: pero conociendo lo cargado de atenciones que está el Gobierno: los pocos ó escasos recursos con que actualmente contará para protegernos con tropas, y la dificultad de defendernos aqui, por las razones ya expuestas no hallo otro arbitrio de nuestra parte que procurará mantener con los Indios la paz, mientras se pueda, prevaliendonos de la diferencia que ellos hacen de Americanos a Españoles—

No desconozco que a primera vista desdice esta manejo del que deviere observarse, atendiendo á que ya somos hijos de este Pais, y á

[1] Original in Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

que devemos tomar parte en la suerte de nuestros demas hermanos como requiere la justicia y la gratitud; mas la prudencia aconseja en ciertos casos, obrar de diferente modo del que sugieren los sentimientos de la criatura: considere este uno de aquellos en que es necesario usar esta medida, aunque sea sufocando los mejores, y mas puros sentimientos de intima confraternidad, y union; con el honroso fin de tener algun tiempo para dar la mejor organizacion á estas Colonias, conseguir el aumento de su poblacion y el Establecimiento de algunos fondos para que con ellos, a otros arbitrios seguros, y positivos, pueda hacerseles campañas formales para las cuales me persuado sobrarán de numero necesario infinitos delos colonos que voluntariamente se prestarian—Confieso ingenuamente que todos conmigo estan, y estaran llenos de pena y sentimiento al ver las desgracias que sufran nuestros compatriotas, sin el menor, recurso de aliviarlos por ahora; anhelando con el mayor interés el suspirado momentos de ver en disposicion de contribuir de cuantos modos puedan á castigar ó exterminar para siempre si necesario fuese, á los enemigos que tantos daños han causado, causan, y causarán con gran dolor y sentimiento de nuestra parte—

Hago á V.S. estas proposiciones por si su consideracion las halla justas y se digna aprobarlas. Es en mi concepto el unico medio de poder servir algun dia, talvez no muy tarde. Esto no es eximirnos de nuestro dever; estamos prontos, y obedientes; pero yo por mi parte, temo, atendidas las razones dichas, y otras de diferente clase, que si no tomamos por ahora este partido, y por el contrario nos declaramos de Guerra con los Indios, muchos, a caso la mayor parte de los habitantes establecidos, abandonarán sus posesiones y se retirarán; ocasionando esto que detengan otros su venida. Seria en mi juicio la ultima plaga que podria caer por ahora á esta Colonia sobre sus enfermedades, y otros que se experimentan—V.S. en vista de todo se sirvira avisarme su resolucion para obedecerla—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 20 de Agosto de 1825—

Sor Gefe del Departamento Ciudadano Jose Antonio Saucedo—

Austin to Saucedo

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Con el oficio de VE. fecha 18 de Julio popo. recibi la forma del padron que se debe tomar de estos habitantes. Ya tenia completado el padron segun la primera forma que V me mando, pero como la ultima requiere que se expresa las edades de todas clases, me hallo

obligado tomar el Censo de nuevo y por esta razon no es posible mandarlo por esta ocasion—Lo acabaré tan pronto que sea posible—
Dios y Libertad—
San Felipe de Austin 20 de Agosto de 1825—
Sor Gefe del Departamento de Texas—

RICHARD R. ROYALL TO AUSTIN

United States of America
Town of Tuscumbia. State of Alabama.
Augt 23rd 1825

HON. SIR

After a slow and tedious travel of two months I arrived at home on the 19th July haveing been unwell on the Road my Return and report of the country caused considerable excitement for emigration which has renewed vigourously since the arrival of Maj^{r} Morgan A Heard who passed lately and remained about a week with me and in the neighbourhood many gentlemen possessing Large Estates and of high character speak with much interest of Texas, and several have determined to visit your Colony before spring I think probably the Hon. R. Ellis, and my Father-in-Law- will be of the latter number a letter from you to me (as frequent inquiries are made of me about the country) relative to a few particulars that make the most important objections to the country with the public, would I have no doubt tend much to their removal as many of them exist only in name and others arise from false Rumour—It is the natural disposition of human nature to strive to appear wise and when persons return from a distant country have seen a little and acquired but an imperfect knowledge of the country, as there is no person commonly to contradict: they undertake to explain every enquiry that is made of them which lead to many errors and false rumours relative to the country; as I passed through Arkansas I saw the report of a travellor through Texas (published in a Paper printed at Little Rock) which stated that the Colorado had overflowed its Banks totally this last spring and the corn on that River being all lost and game very scarce the settlers must leave the country or continue as formerly to resort to the disagreeable necessity of living on the flesh of wild horses. The most Interesting subjects to the people here appear to be that of Slavery and Religion the latter being a constitutional matter I have no expectation of as early a change But would like to know what is the present state or prospect relative to the admission of slavery and If any law has been passed on the subject would thank you to favor me with an extract and for myself I would be glad to hear if the fall season has been healthy, has the

drought done any Injury this fall to crops, has there been any change in the colonization sistem, what parts of the country are granted or contracted for, has any permission been given within the ten leagues of the coast of the Gulf and twenty of the U States as prohibited in the law of congress, is there any Cotton gins erected in the Colony, has any arrangement been made at Orleans for a draw Back for Cotton reshipped from that place, and has there been much increase of emigration and what in your opinion the good lands of the colony can be bought second handed for in money down and the price of corn this season as many fears exist here about provisions in settling that country.

In my route home I passed through Arkansas and arrested the four negroes sold by Col. Pettus to Boatright and they are now pending in law at little Rock and I expect there in the hands of the sheriff In doing this I acted more from motives of duty than Interest as I never expected to be fully paid for all the trouble and expense I have been and must necessarily be at in the matter I have assured Judge Ellis of the security and certainty of the mules contracted for and the land and negroes as is recorded in your office he appeared somewhat disapointed but satisfied with the compromise he said he had no disposition to consume Col. Pettus though he has suffered very much and as for myself I would be more than glad to know that he will meet the contract an[d] afterwards do well as he treated me with gentlemanly hospitality while at his house I should be glad to hear from you as soon as possible relative to my various enquiries and name also the Col. Pettus' prospects of meeting his contract and If any thing has taken place that may in any wise effect my land Claims in Texas I would like to lift one or both and locate them anew but I expect I would not be suffered. I will see you in the course of the next year I hope before summer and have no other calculations but to reside in your Colony or on the Banks or Chicholite River offer my respects to Mr. Saml. Williams your Brother and tend my thanks to Capt Gray for his friendly disposition to me while in the country I would like to write to Capt Gray but have nothing to write of much interest. I hope the horse I let him have is doing well, I left one of mine on the Route and the other died since my arrival at home tell him I would be more than glad to hear from him and as the route is long and uncertain please answer this immediately and then I will think long of the time before it can Reach me, on the great length of time I was from home I wrote many times yet only two letters Reached my family crops of Cotton here are short Haveing suffered very much from Drought and the Rust, the price is said to have fallen a little yet it bears a fine price. Many families here would join a company to go

to that country but the higher class of men generally prefer to go and act for themselves as the cost of the travel is no object to them and the fatigue bears no comparative weight to the certainty of Being suited.

R. R. ROYALL. [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Hon. Stephen F. Austin. Department of Texas of The United Mexican States—

J. B. BAILEY TO AUSTIN

Ausgust 23. 1825.

SIR

You stated to me in a note [August 17] that the Spaniard who owed me two horses had deposited his goods in your house and they should not be allow[d]. to be carried away until I was paid—but that was not the contract with him and myself—for he was not to remove his goods from my house until I was paid and I was to be paid some time ago and his contract calls for two Good Young Gentle Horses under Six Years old delivered In my Yard—and I dont wish to be running all over the country to collect a debt when It calls to be paid at home and As his contract was not to remove his goods until I was paid I have let him carry off all but one bail of Irish linen containing 22 pieces—which can be easily pack[d] on A horse when he pays me the two he owes me—and all I want is my contract

J. B. BAILEY

Col S F Austin

ANDREW ERWIN TO AUSTIN[1]

Nashville August 29. 1825

DEAR SIR

Strange as it may appear it is true that I have never until two days ago seen your lengthy epistle to me on various subjects of 18th February last this is owing I presume to my absence from this State in Georgia and South Carolina from November until April last and my attention to my election for congress from that time until the 5th inst. in which I was again 2[d] on the list having 3 others to console with me in disappointment since when I visited this place for the first time since November last and here find your letter previous to seeing of which however I have seen our old fellow sufferer Gen[l] Leftwich and his grant and several meetings of the Texas association. They

[1] Compare J Erwin to Austin, September 30, 1825.

had some difficulty in arranging matters with the Genl about his compensation expenses etc. etc. which however now appears settled by allowing him his expenses and about $200 p^{r} month for services and the stock is selling at about 100 p^{r} ct advance It is now believed that Doct^{r} Robertson one of our most worthy citizens will go out as agent and take with him a large connexion and many respectable friends you will find him a great acquisition to the settlement of your new Country, he possesses sterling integrity good sound sense mildness of manners and conduct and firmness suited to the undertaking and with all a good stock of practical experience in the ups and downs of life—I was a stockholder but poverty prevents my holding on to it—The old business of A. Erwin Groce & Co. and Erwin & Co of which you have heard so much and so varient from the true state of the case keeps me in poverty and at present on the limits prescribed for unfortunate debtors from which I shall be released in about twenty days as I have twice within the last 7 years given up my last knife and fork to creditors I did expect to have escaped this ordeal but so it is owing to party feelings growing partly out of my defending myself and neighbours against Genl Jackson & Co. with eventual success excites feelings of hostility from that quarter and the circumstance of Mr. Groces leaving the country with property causes some to suppose I had knowledge of it which he knows is not the fact and the circumstances of my living on a good tract of land and having the use of 14 negroes which are mortgaged to the government for three times what they would sell for furnishes a pretext for some illdisposed persons to say that I hold property and withold it from my creditors Even your neighbour Mr. Groce who knows these facts as well as I do sometimes I am told indulges himself in saying we are all rich and owe him and refuse to settle with him etc etc In your letter you ask how this matter is above you have the answer all of which I could prove by Mr. Groce himself in a court of the United States and by Record Testimony in the city of Augusta were he here—no man wishes Mr. Groce to prosper more than I do It is true he joined me in a merchantile business in which business I had been prosperous for more than 20 years—Both our objects were to make money in which I lost upwards of *$100,000* of my own capital and Mr. Groce near $50,000 leaving us jointly bound for large sums which both he and myself exerted ourselves to settle and at our last meeting in Augusta James Erwin Mr. Groce and myself each executed our notes to Col. McKinne for about ten thousand dollars which each were to pay and was to exonerate Mr. Groce from all other liabilities in Georgia and he exonerated us from him for all claims by him on either of us. Mr. Groce left the country without paying his note it was paid by us and I presume is the claim about which James Erwin

has been writing Judge Thomas to which you allude in your letter in this latter part, however, I may be mistaken as I seldom see James Erwin and when I do we speak and feel somewhat different about Mr. Groce. I make more allowances for his misfortunes and his disposition to turn molehills into mountains that he does I have no knowledge of any other unsettled business between him and us which would require references as to what was said in Mr. Groce's letter to which you allude and which I had answered which answer Mr. Groce had not shown you—I viewed it all as intended for your eye and others and his own gratification whilst talking about it. as to either myself or family having anything to fear from any thing Mr. Groce could publish either in this country or that it is all a mistake—we have no fears of the kind As to your expressions of personal regard I assure you it is reciprocal—I view you as instrumental in doing much good for yourself and friends and wish you long life and continued prosperity.

Yours very respectfully,

ANDREW ERWIN.

P. S. as I write a bad hand and dislike Copying I send you the above writen by my son George Washington Erwin, from a Copy written by myself Since writing the above Doctor Felix Robertson has been appointed sole agent for the Texas association and will depart thence in October or November next

PS. In addition to all I have said I wish to be remembered affectionately to Mr Groce and all his Children that are with him, my regard for all of them as old acquaintances is undiminished and had Mr Groce been as cautious in speaking of my means and Intentions to relieve him as was his duty and his Interest I do believe I should have Effected that Desirable object long since, he has Injured me without Bennifiting himself—I however am Blessed with a family who view Enemies and Misfortunes as removeable by time and proper Exertions where truth and Justice is right in front as the poler star. this rule we adhere to and of Course fear nothing man can do or say— my best respects to Mr Westall and family and all other acquaintances with you

A E

[Addressed:] Stephen F. Austin Esqr. Care of Jacob Cable Nachitoches Louisiana

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AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

Incluyo a V. una Gazeta de la Ciudad de Nachez q[e] tiene un aviso publico, dirigido a los voluntarios del Exercito de Bernardo Gutierrez

[1] From Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

en los años 12—, 13— y 14— el aviso en sustancia dice q^{e} el Gob^{no} Mexicano habia reconocido los reclamos de dhos voluntarios, y q^{e} ellos deben entrar en Texas sin perder tpo p^{a} tomar posecion y medir el terreno q^{e} le corresponde, q^{e} es una legua á cada uno segun dice el dho. aviso. Tal vez será necesario q^{e} el Gob^{no} dé algunas instrucciones sobre la materia p^{a} que las autoridades locales sabran q^{e} deben hacer con ello. Si entran con el objeto de medir y tomar posesiones de tierras

30 de Agost 1825 E. F. AUSTIN.

Sor Saucedo

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

[From Austin's Blotter, August 26, 1824.]

Sobre posesiones dada á José de Sandoval.

De conformidad conlo prevenido enla ultima ley de colonizacion en uso de facultad que me concede el Exmo Sor Gobernador de este Estado en oficio 6 de Abril, para admitir pobladores procedentes de cualquiera parte de esta Nacion, y posesionarlos de los Terrenos que pidan con arreglo á la ley; he admitido en esta jurisdicion de mi cargo en la misma forma al Ciudadano vecino de esa capital José de Sandoval, á quien he mercenado, y dado posesion de dos Labores de temporal, y un Sitio de agostadero; lo que participo a V.S. para su conocimiento y aprobacion, y por si V. S. cree oportuno elevarle al del Exmo Sor Gobernador de este Estado—Dios y Libertad—San Felipe de Austin 2 de Sbre de 1825—Sor Gefe del Departmento de Texas.—

AUSTIN TO ALCALDE OF NACOGDOCHES

[From Blotter.]

Al Alcalde de Nacogdoches.

Su señoria el Gefe del Departamento de Texas por su oficio fecha 18 de Julio p^{o} p^{o} me manda hacer el padron del numero de almas en esta jurisdicion y entre otras cosas me dice lo que copio " y para que lo verifique con la uniformidad que corresponde le acompaño el adjunto modelo del que se sirva pasar un exemplo al Alcalde de Nacogdoches para el mismo fin, y en cumplimiento con el mismo incluyo a V la adjunta copia del referido modelo para su inteligencia y cumplimiento en la parte que le toca—Dios y Libertad—San Felipe de Austin 2 de Setiembre de 1825—Sor Alcalde Constitucional del Distrito de Nacogdoches—

JOSHUA MARSH TO AUSTIN

ESQR., OSTEN

After my best wishes for you and the settling of your cuntry and in which I wish to live sum day sooner or later God only willing—

I have nothing interesting to write you the Death of Mr. Samuel Carter who died at my house not long since after a few days of sickness of the Yallow Fevour as we though[t]—I delivered up his Vessel to the Cort of Probats by the advice [of] Nathanil Cox murchant of this place and She was sold according to sale and brough[t] the sum of $236 also his Trunk and Clothing in the year of 1812 I sold to Mr. Carter and Mr. McFurson sum dry good and Whiskey Powder Cow and calf 1 large Bx sum hard ware in all the amount of $108 for which Mr. Carter Desest [deceased] Promised to pay a few days befour his death as the note is Lost or miss lade it was my wish that the Slope of Mr. Carter would continued, to go to the Brasses but was not situated to purchase hir at the time of sale but wishes to incourage the settling of the Brasses and all the Cuntry—

I have lived in all 12 or 13 years and [have] for sum time past wished [to go to] Taxas I also have five Slaves wich I wish Should surve mei as long as I live and git more when Able—I am doing well in this place and Can make out to pay my honest Debts but would wish to bee in Taxas and their spend the balance of days—I have nothing new at present but will Conclude and remain your most obedient and Ever well wisher untill Death

New Orleans Sept. 4th 1825

JOSHUA MARSH [Rubric]

this was all known to Wm Fowlton [Fulton?] who lived near us at the Post of Arkansas Mr.—Charles McFurson who marid a Miss Proctor of Ilinoy I make no doubt but you knew them better than myself Mr. McFurson is dead and insolven Debter altho a good man in my belief—and sent the Note to Thomas Levens a Cousin of mine and hee sent it back. and inclosed and stating that nothing Could be had I also sent it to Mr, Hugh Skeel at the Post of Arkansas to try Mr. Carter nothin to be had also Mr. Harris Wallace and nothin found and the note is lost or miss laid and the first time that Mr. Carter Came to this he come to my house and Promised that he would pay stock in the Taxes—I puit the Bill in the Parish Cort—But received nothing I also will send a Coppy and hope that the Estate of Carter will bee bound to pay the same.

JOSHUA MARSH

Laurence Richard Kenny to John P. Coles

San felipe de Austin Sepr 6: 1825

Sir

As Executor of the will of David Richmond deceased I have to demand once more from you the Deed of said Richmonds land Lodged with you by Mr Byrd for the express purpose of transmitting the same to me which you promised him to do but which promise you never fulfilled

When I formerly called upon you for the Deed you stated to me that you had sent the same to Col Austin and that you were totally unacquainted with the manner in which Judge Austin had acquired information of the same being in your hands—Upon a subsequent application to Judge Austin he informed me that *You* by letter had informed him that Richmonds Deed was in your possession and that in consequence of such informat^{n} he had wrote to you first—This Sir is not fair or honest dealing

Upon mature reflection and a review of the whole transaction. Considering the special purpose for which this Deed was Entrusted to you—Your breach of Confidence And the falsehood above stated with which you attempted to justify your Conduct I feel myself absolutely bound as the guardian of Richmonds property to require you now without *equivocation or delay* to restore or cause to be restored to me the Deed in question—Capt Martin a Gentleman of standing and respectability will deliver this Communication to you—He is hereby fully Authorized to receive the Deed and receipt—to you for the same Or in case of your declining to do so He is empowered to make other Arrangements which he will in such case Communicate to you—

Lau^{ce} Rich. Kenny [Rubric]

Jno P Coles Esqr

Austin to Laurence Richard Kenny

[September 6, 1825]

I have seen a letter of yours of this date to Col Coles on the Subject of Richmonds business, and at my request he has declined paying any attention to it, and indeed after what I told you as regards Coles I must express some surprise at the nature of your letter. I told you that I had written to both to send me the paper in question, in fact I wrote him a positive order to do so in as much as a mistake had been made in it but independent of this David Richmond was not such a man as the Law recognized as a Suitable person to be rec^{d} as a settler— he was a vagabond in the full extent of the

expression and is not such a man as I should be justifiable in returning to the Govt as a Settler—and for this reason and many others I shall feel my self entirely justifiable in not recognizing him as a settler altho I had not finally determined to adopt that course, the violent steps however indicated in your letter are illy calculated to obtain the result you wish for, and can only involve yourself in unnecessary difficulty, a thing which I should also regret because I believe you are actuated in the affair by what you deem to be your duty as executor, but many men run into error by a mistaken idea of duty—be that as it may the tendency of your letters is calculated to break the public peace and as such, if persisted in will place you under very heavy and unpleasant responsibility. I again repeat that Coles has nothing to do with the affair nor you with him. what he did was by my order, and I alone am responsible for any legal claim Richmond or his heirs may pretend to have on the subject—

I wish to assure you that I have none other than friendly feelings on the subject as regards yourself, and if you fully understood the exact nature of the business your own good sence and candor would at once say that were you situated as I am you would at least deliberate some time before you made any decission on the matter— probably the best way to stop any thing further on the subject would be for you and me to talk it over to ourselves—

[S. F. Austin]

[To Lawrence Richard Kenny]

Laurence Richard Kenny to Austin

San felipe de Austin 6 sepr 1825

Sir

Your letter I have recd and it appears from it that Mr Coles declines to comply with the requisition to him in my letter of this morning and as you state considers that my request merits no attention—that is he absolutely refuses to restore Richmonds Deed or make any satisfaction for his conduct—As to the surprize you express at my demand on Coles I can't see why you ought to feel any from any thing that occurred at our interview and considering the ungentlemanlike manner in which Coles has used me—His complying with your order is no excuse for his conduct On the contrary it is just ground of complaint because that order was illegal—What right had you sir to order or pretend to any controul over the property of others—What right had he to obey such illegal order—How can he attempt to defend his conduct in writing I may I say advising you to adopt the unfortunate course that has been taken and then endeavr to impose upon me by a denial of his

underhand practices—If Mr. Coles thinks charges of this kind and which can be proven too, merit no attention he thinks as a man devoid of feeling for his own character or the opinion of his fellow citizens for believe me that opinion shall shortly be elicited— You state he was in duty bound to send you the *paper* as you are pleased to term it—Sir y^{r} idea of duty and mine are very different—

As to the mistake you speak of in the Deed you have adopted a singular way of rectifying it, by stifling the Instrument in toto

"—You say independent of this mistake and admitting there was none that David Richmond was not such a person as the law recognized as a suitable Character to be received as a settler that he was a drunken vagabond in the full extent of the expression and was not such a person as you could feel justified in returning to the Government as a settler and for that reason and many others of still greater weight you are entirely justifiable in never recognizing him as a settler at all" But Sir why did you recognize him—why did you grant Land to this drunken vagabond—why did you not discover all this prior to such grant—And you now must punish the transgressions of the unfortunate mans life by throwing obliquy on his memory, as it were passing a post humus judgement on him for his sins by depriving his heir of her just bequest—this is an erroneous principle to punish a mans errors by a confiscation (for this process is nothing else) of his property after his death

As to the Comments in yours on my course in this business it merits not the epithet of violent which you are pleased to bestow upon it— It has not been violent— I have demanded my right— I have done it firmly and whether ill calculated or not to obtain the result of my wishes It is a course I can perfectly reconcile to my conscience and I fear not the result—but be that result what it may I never shall suffer my rights or those of others entrusted to my charge to be trampled on by any man or combinat^{n} of men— It still is my wish that this affair should be settled as it ought by an imediate restoration of the deed in question. but I cannot see any benefit to arise from a personal Communication with you on the subject untill the Deed is restored—The existence of it is a notorious fact it can be proven by those who have *read and were capable of knowing* its contents and who can testify on oath as to the same—I shall expect a final answer in the course of tomorrow and unless restitution is made in that time I shall lay the whole transaction before the public together with my opinion of the conduct and character of John P Coles

Lau^{ce} Richd Kenny

Col Steph. F Austin

AYLETT C. BUCKNER TO AUSTIN

Sep[t] 7th A. D. 1825.

D[r] SIR;

I have taken considerable pains to find out whether or not the Military claims contracted by the expedition of Gutierrez and Mener [Mina] are sanctioned by the Government I have been informed by the Most correct source that they are I have even taken the pains to wride a journey of sumthing like 300 Miles to inform myself More particularly on that subject and find from information that Military claims that were contracted in the campaigns of either of these two gentlemen have an advantage over others If you can give me any further information on the subject I would be glad you would do so as you have a better source of information I have also another request to ask of you which is this to write me by Mr. Chance whether or not the 6th 7th and 8th leagues in Bay Prarara are deeded away or not or either of them I presume you have not reserved either of them as I have understood you have relinquished your claims in that section of the Country I have endeavoured to find out the proprieters of those leagues but never found any I hope you will therefore have no objection in letting me know whether they are deeded away or not and who to and where the claimants reside I am thus explicit because I do intend to lay my claims in this colony if possible and am entitled to every advantage that the Government allows me I am in hopes you will be candid and give me your opinion for I do not wish to delay time untill the province is picked and culled and then take the refuse when I am informed that Military Claims have the prefferance which if so it is by an order of the Gov[t] and I have a right to provide for myself I think I recollect sumthing of the kind in the old Colonization Law

I wish to do nothing but what is right in this case, and will loose no pains in informing myself which I can probably do in Labahia so that I may not Err I want to lay my Claim on the 7th and 8th leagues in B. Prarara so that I may get off of your reserve

AYLETT C. BUCKNER.

N B. Mr. Powel wishes to know whether you intend giving him land or not and where he is willing to take that you intended for Sarver he wishes you to inform him as soon as possible for he wants to know where his land is to be if any that he May improve it he says you made sum objection in Consequence of [which he?] talked of going to the Guadaloupe but he says he has your letter to show you offered him land sum time ago before you made any close of your business he says you reinstated him upon the same footing as at first.

A. C. BUCKNER.

[Addressed:] Colo S. F Austin San Felipe de Austin

Austin to Saucedo[1]

Por el oficio de V S fha 21 de Agosto p° p° que recibí ayer he sabido el rompemiento que los Yndios Comanches han hecho de la paz; los rumores de alg^s^ vecinos de La Bahia me habia informado de este suceso antes, y en consequencia escribí un oficio á V. S. sobre la materia fha 20 de Agosto p° p° todo que puedo añadir ahora á lo q^e^ he dicho en mi citado oficio es que estos Colonos estamos todos prontos á obedecer las ordenes del Gobierno y si la proposicion que hice en mi oficio no está aprobado no perderé tpo en tomar las medidas de precaucion que las circunstancias permite tanto para defendernos contra los dhos Yndios como para atacar y perseguirlos; aunque nuestro estado actual no está en ninguna manera favorable para entrar en guerra.

Del distrito de Nacogdoches y la Trinidad y Naches y Sabina se puede traer algun auxilio de hombres, y tal vez los Yndios Cushattas y otros de aquel rumbo se juntarian con nosotros en la guerra, aunque no sé positivamente su inclinacion en la materia pero para esto seria necesario extender mi autoridad p^a^ organizar y mandar la milicia de aquel parte ó darme alguna facultad de traer hombres de allí. Si se empieza la guerra será necesario juntar toda la fuerza posible para la defensa de esta frontera; Nacogdoches es seguro y traer hombres de allí no dejará las familias en peligro ning°.

Si el Gob^no^ pagaria la milicia activa el tpo que están en el servicio no habrá dificultad en levantar alg^s^ Compañias de Caballeria ligera pero aun por esto faltará las armas necesarias, estos se podian conseguir de Orleans si había fondos, dos compañias de Caballeria bastaria para defender todo esta frontera enteramente de todos Yndios; pero para esto deben ser alistados por un año á lo menos y pagados por aquel tpo lo mismo como soldados de aquella clase del Exercito; p° alistandoles como voluntarios y asignando unas ciertas limites de la frontera para ser defendido por ellos, sin traher los fuera de aquellas limites p^r^ ningun motivo.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 8 de Setiembre de 1825.

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del departamento Ciudadano José Antonio Saucedo.

Austin to Saucedo

He considerado mi deber dar parte á V. S. reservadamente de una noticia q^e^ recibí ayer de un Americano de confianza q^e^ acaba de llegar del rumbo de Nacogdoches.

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[1] This and the four letters of the same date which follow from Austin to Saucedo are from the Bexar Archives, University of Texas. There is a copy of each in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

Me dijo que un americano que vive cerca del pueblo de los Yndios Cherokees situado cosa de 12 leguas al Norte de Nacogdoches le habia dicho que el Gefe del dho Pueblo de los Cherokees Ricardo Fields estaba secretamente tomando mucho empeño para unir todos los tribus de Yndios de Texas en una confederacion para destruir todos los nuevos establecim^{tos} dando por motivo que si los dhos establecim^{tos} aumentan considerablemente q^{e} con la milicia de ellos el Gob^{no} podría poner la ley á los Yndios ó destruirlos y que la ocupacion del país por pobladores destruiria toda la Caza y los Yndios morirían de hambre y otras cosas de esta naturaleza, aunque esta noticia no tiene fundamento positivo, hay sin embargo alg^{s} antecedentes algo sospechosos, que son el mucho empeño q^{e} ha tomado Fields p^{a} que todos los tribus le declarasen Gefe Superior de ellos, los tratados q^{e} ha hecho recientemente con los Comanches, Tahuacanos Uecos Tahuiases en fin con todos los tribus de Texas de norte al Sur y de oriente al poniente: no creo q^{e} el dho Fields quire entrar en guerra, pero está discontento, dice que el Gob^{no} le habia prometido Tierras para su pueblo y ahora el ha entendido q^{e} el Terreno donde vive está designado para ser colonizado en la Colonia de Hayden Edwards; pienso no será dificil satisfacer á este y á los Cushattas y alg^{s} otros tribus de aquel rumbo dandoles algun terreno para sus pueblos.

Comunico esta noticia reservadamente por no comprometerme con dhos Yndios á fin de q^{e} el Gob^{no} por medio de alg^{a} persona de confianza en Nacogdoches puedo hacer algunas averiguaciones sobre la materia.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 8 de Setiembre de 1825.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor. Gefe del Departam^{to} Ciudadano José Antonio Saucedo.

[On margin:] Se pasó tratado al Comandante principal de las Armas de este Departam^{to} en 30 de Agosto y al Exmo. Sor Gov. de este Estado en 2 de Octubre.

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

Con el oficio de V. S. fha 17 de Agto p^{o} p^{o} recibí el decreto numero 18 expedida por el Honorable Congreso del Estado en 14 de Julio p^{o} p^{o} relativo al arreglo, y mas pronta administracion de justicia lo que he publicado para el debido conocimiento de estos habitantes.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 8 de Setiembre de 1825

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departamento Ciudadano José Antonio Saucedo.

Austin to Saucedo

Con el oficio de V. S. fha de Agosto p°po° he recibido copia certificada del Decreto de Convocatorio expedido el dia 8 de Julio p° p° por el Exmo Sor Presidente de La Republica, lo que he publicado p^r^ el conocim^to^ de estos habitantes.

Dios y Libertad.

San Felipe de Austin 8 de Setiembre de 1825

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departamento José Antonio Saucedo

Austin to Saucedo

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fha 18 de Agosto p° p° de lo que dice S. E. el Gob^or^ del Estado de la remision de los mil pesos que mandó por mi hermano Santiago. En cuanto á los costos de su conducion, como S. E. piensa q^e^ estan subidos suplico q^e^ se sirva V. S. avisarle que en consequencia de las enfermedades, de unos, y las precisas ocupaciones de otros en sus labores, no era posible conseguir á un hombre de confianza ni por dos pesos diarios y como mi hermano llevo su propio caballo, pagó sus gastos de viaje y ademas fue responsable por la entrega del dinero sin excepcion ninguna, de ladrones ni Indios ni otros accidentes, consideré que 12rr. diarios no eran mucho, en vista de las circunstancias actuales: por lo futuro, tomaré todo empeño de conseguir la conducion de dinero á menos gastos: pero suplico que V. S. me instruirá si se considere que el dinero remitido en esta manera queda a mi riesgo, hta entragarlo en Bejar, ó si se pierde en el camino por ladrones ó Indios quien ha de perderlo Yo ó el Gobierno.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 8 de Setiembre de 1825

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departamento Ciudadano José Antonio Saucedo

Austin to Mateo Ahumada[1]

Your communication of the 19th of August last, received yesterday, has acquainted me with the breach of peace committed by the Comanches, and apprizes me that the Tahuacanos and Tahuiases have joined them in that savage and unjust war, and killed the American, Dickenson. You instruct me to adopt every possible measure, that I may be ready in case they should extend their hos-

[1] Translation from Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. The original is in this collection, and a copy in Austin's Blotter, in the file of August 26, 1824.

tilities to the limit of the establishment in my charge; to pursue them, and take satisfaction for any outrages they may commit.

The actual situation of this Establishment is by no means well calculated to meet the commencement of a war, owing to the reasons already expressed in my communication of August 20th, and September the 8th to the Political Chief of the Department. Nevertheless we are all ready to obey, and to attack any people considered as enemies by the government.

I will lose no time in adopting such measures as our circumstances permit for either attack upon or defence against the enemy. I have, in fact, already ordered the militia to be in readiness to march at the earliest notice, and I shall not omit to report to you any new occurrences.

God and Liberty. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, September 8th, 1825.

AUSTIN TO JUAN MARTIN DE BERAMENDI

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Sobre el difunto Dickenson

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V fecha 20 de Agosto popo delo que V me dice de la muerte del vecino de Jacinto Juan Dickenson: Eduardo Dickenson hermano del difunto llego en está ahyer y pasa á Bexar á fin de recibir los efectos que pertenecia a su hermano. No hay duda que el dicho Eduardo es hermano del difunto. Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin—8 de setiembre de 1825—

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN

Sor Alcalde 1° Constitucional Juan Martin de Berimendi—

AUSTIN TO MATEO AHUMADA.[1]

I received, yesterday, your two communications of the 21st and 26th of August last; the first, instructing me to gather the largest force possible and to march immediately and chastise the Tahuacanos and Tahuiases in their villages; the second countermanding that order in consequence of a report received by you, to the effect that the hostile Commanches were in those villages, and might encounter us in considerable number, were we to attack them at present. I had received a similar report from some hunters, and was also apprized that the Commanches, Tahuacanos, Tahuiases and Cherokees have made a treaty of peace and close alliance. I cannot say whether this last report deserves credit, but it seems to me very probable,

[1] Nacogdoches Archives, translation from Bexar Archives, Texas State Library. The original is also in the collection, and there is a copy in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

considering the antecedents which I have communicated to His Lordship, the Political Chief of the Department.

Some Americans recently arrived from the Tahuacano villages, told me, that the Chiefs of that tribe assured them it was not their intention to be hostile with the Americans, that the last depredations were committed by some Tahuiases of a village situated far up on Red River, that they, (The Tahuacanos) wished to make a treaty of peace with the Americans.

If the proposal I have made to the Political Chief of the Department, in my communication of the 8th Instant, is approved, I expect there will be no difficulty in preserving these settlers from Indian hostilities, if we avail ourselves of the friendly disposition of these Indians towards the Americans. However, in this, as in any other case, we shall remain at the disposal of the government, ready to obey and execute its orders; nothing but the critical circumstances in which we are placed, could induce me to think of a proposal of the kind. I request you to favor me with as early an answer on this subject as is possible, to enable me to take, without loss of time, the necessary steps either for war, or for neutrality with the Indians. It is not possible, at present, to raise a sufficient force to attack the Indian villages, owing to the number of our sick men, and, in October, the Indians will leave their villages to go buffalo hunting; so that if war, or peace is determined upon, it will be necessary to start before the 15th of October.

In consequence of the continuous hostilities of the Carancahuase Indians, and considering the conditions of the treaty of peace we made with them at La Bahia, in September last; which was broken by them without any cause whatever, and one of their parties having lately shown themselves between the Colorado and Brazos, and in the vicinity of some of the settlements making hostile manifestations, I have been compelled in view of the security of our people, to give positive orders to the Lieutenant of Militia in that section, to pursue and kill all those Indians wherever they are found, with the exception of Prudencia's party, provided said Prudencia remains West of Buffalo Bayou, because it would be impossible to make a distinction between his people and the others, if they continue mixed together in our vicinity. Which I communicate to you in order that you may be pleased to approve this measure, or to give me such orders and instructions as you deem proper, and which shall be strictly obeyed.

God and Liberty. ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, September 10th, 1825.

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Sobre la colonizacion de 500 familias

Encuentro algunas dificultades en llevar en efecto la nueva ley de colonizacion, como Empresario para el Establecimiento de las 500 familias que he contratado con el Gobierno de este Estado, y considero mi deber pedir las instruciones del Gobierno en la materia—E [1] Art 7 delas capitulaciones entre el Gobierno del Estado y Yo como Empresario, dice que "Quando haya introducido cien familias por lo menos avisará al Gobierno á fin de que mande un Comisionado con las instruciones competentes para que posesione de sus Tierras los nuevos Colonos y establesca las nuevas poblaciones segun la ley."—Segun entiendo el Articulo 38 de la ley de Colonizacion, solo el Comisionado esta facultado para nombrar agrimensores y posesionar los Colonos etc, pero considero que el Gobierno pueda facultar al Empresario disempeñar los deberes del Comisionado quando las circumstancias lo exije.—Ahora la dificultad que encuentra es esta, tomare el margen oriental del Arroyo de la Baca por exemplo, y supuesta que 50 ó mas probladores escojiesen sus Tierras alli ¿que modo hay de evitar confusion entre ellos, si cada uno escoja sus tierras antes la llegada del Comisionado y por consequencia antes que se puede practicar las medidas por agrimensores legalmente nombrados para el efecto? por exemplo, uno escoje su tierra, y me avisa que está situada cosa de cinco leguas arriba ó abajo de tal punto, supone el paso del camino de la Bahia sobre el dicho arroyo, y se le expide un permiso establecerse ahi y prometiendole aquel Sitio; otro escoje el mismo lugar sin saber que estaba escojido antes, pero por equivocacion en la distancia me avisa que es cosa de seis leguas del camino y se le expide un permiso como al primero, y asi con cinquenta ó mas familias; pues quando viene el Comisionado y llega el tiempo para medir las Tierras se verá que en algunos lugares habran muchos que reclama el mismo sitio ó parte de ello, por que como la ley concede seis años para cultivar las Tierras no es probable que muchos se establescan sobre ellos en la frontera retirado de los otros pobladores por ahora y mientras que hay tanto peligro de los Yndios; de modo que al tiempo de escojerlas segun este plan nunca será posible saber qual está valdio y qual está escojido. El unico modo que veo para evitar las confusiones y disgustos que precisamente han de suceder de esto, sera en mi concepto mandar un Comisionado y medir las Tierras antes ó al tiempo de escojerlas; ó dar al Empresario facultad para desempeñar los deberes del Comisionado mientras que este viene. De otro modo el poblador quedara en suspenso por much tiempo y no sabra de positivo si recibira el Terreno que escojió ó no, ó si recibira Labor ó Sitio

y por este motivo no tendra animo ni motivo ninguno para hacer casa á otras mejoras, y quedarian temerosas y disanimados—Hay algunos pobladores ahora esperando para escojer sus Tierras; les he dicho que no se podia hacerlo definitivamente por ahora, quedan discontentos y quejan de mi, pero he considerado mejor sumeter á sus quejas que de permetir que se sienten las fundaciones de infinitas disputas en lo futuro.—Por tanto suplico al Gobierno nombrar un Comisionado que permanecera aqui hasta concluir todo el asunto, ó si este no puede venir al pronto, dar á mi plena facultad para nombrar un agrimensor ó agrimensores, tomar de ellos fiadores en la cantidad que se considere necesario y un juramento formal para el exacto desempeño de sus deberes, con facultad para exijir el pagamento de dicha cantidad si no cumplan fialmente sus deberes segun el trato con ellos; ajustar el precio de las medidas y obligar que los pobladores les pagan; determinar definitivamente las tierras que se ha de medir en Sitios de Agostaderos y las que se ha de medir en Labores segun el Articulo 12 de la citada ley; y quales de los pobladores deben recibir, Sitio y Labor ó solamente una Labor ó un Sitio segun el Arto. 14 de la citada ley; determinar la linea divisoria de las diez leguas literales de la costa y que todo hecho en la materia por mi en clase de Comisionado en conformidad con la ley será definitiva para que los pobladores no quedan en suspensa ni dudosa en recibir el terreno que escojen; entonces quando llega el Comisionado no tendra otra cosa de hacer que el de firmar y entregar los titulos á los interesados, ó se puede expidir estos en el modo que el Gobierno estima mas conveniente—tambien pido las instruciones del Gobierno sobre los dros [derechos] que han de pagar los Colonos al Comisionado. Mis propios gastos como Empresario necesariamente han de ser muy subidos por la dificultad conseguir escribientes instruidos en los dos idiomas y los otros gastos de la oficina; por los regalos a diferentes tribus de Yndios, que la politica me fuerze hacer en las circumstancias actuales; por la necesidad de tener siempre habierta mi casa álos viageros Extrangeros que vienen a reconocer el pais, y aun á los mismos Colonos que vienen sobre sus asuntos particulares, y en el caso deguerra con los Yndios tendre de proporcionar armas y municiones y tal vez caballos y vivres á los que no los tienen ni les pueden conseguir de otro modo. Considero que los Colonos deben pagarme gastos de esta naturaleza por que estan hechos para su mismo beneficio y en su servicio, pero este el Gobierno determinará, y para evitar todo motivo de duda ó de quejas de parte de los Colonos sobre este particular en lo futuro; suplico las instruciones y ordenes del Gobierno en la materia y que se sirva decirme si tengo ó no facultad ó derecho de hacer contrato con los Colonos para que me pagan gastos de esta naturaleza, y si el Gobierno me considere obligado por el Articulo 8

de las Capitulaciones exijir alguna cosa de los Colonos para el Establecimiento de escuelas ó por el Articulo 9 para la ereccion de templos. Pido instruciones definitivas sobre estos puntos para que pueda publicarlos á los Colonos desde el principio á fin de que todos sepan de una vez como han de recibir sus tierras, el modo de medirlas, el modo y la forma de expedir los titulos, y los gastos que han de pagar tanto al Gobierno como al Comisionado álos agrimensores y al Empresario. D y L.—San felipe de A 13 de Setiembre de 1825 Sor Gefe del Departamento

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JOHN R. HARRIS TO AUSTIN

15 Sept 1825.

Col AUSTIN

DEAR SIR According to your request I have made every inquiry in regard to the Boats. One of the Boats that I calculated for the Trip I found on Examination was worm Eaten I employed Bloodgood to put new planks on her Bottom but after all some of her timbers was found to be decad consequently I got Col Knight to go to Trinity after a N Boat that was new last Spring, and also to call on Wilson on San Jacinto who has a good Boat but will want some repairs. Mr. Scott has a boat that will answer the purpose. he says that he cannot let her go. Since I rec[d] your letter the Sloop Mexican came to this place and I have purchased her. you mentioned that you wanted to get a Sloop or Schooner of Light draft of water. She when loaded will draw 3 feet 3 inches and a first Rate Sailer. I will furnish a good master and Crew provisions etc etc for one Hundred and Thirty five Dollars pr month, and be at the expense of keeping every thing in good repair. I expect Knight in a few days from Trinity, and then I can let you know what Situation the Boats will be in. If you conclude to hire the Sloop Mexican, please to let me know by the first opportunity

JNO R HARRIS

AUSTIN TO B. W. EDWARDS

San Felipe Sept. 15. 1825

B W EDWARDS

DR SIR On a reexamination of the Colonization law of the 24 March last under which the new Colonies are to be settled I find that a wrong impression had been made on my mind as to the quantity of land which the Empresarios are entitled to—I think I told you that no one could hold as grantee, more than Eleven Leagues, but this applies to grants to individuals, in speaking of Empresarios the

12th Article of the law says the Empresarios shall receive (5) five Sitios (Leagues) of pasture land and (5) five Labors of farming land for each hundred families he introduces and settles in the State, but this premium can only be recd for Eight hundred families, and the Empresario who in virtue of the number of families he introduces receives more than Eleven Leagues is obliged by the 13th Article of the law to alienate the excess over Eleven Leagues within twelve years

In regard to Mr. Harrisson I will state to you the difficulty that presents itself to giving his heirs a title to land requesting at the same time that you would point out any course that in your opinion will obviate the difficulty—

The authority under which titles in this Colony are granted was originally given by the Emperor on the 18 Febr 1823 after he was dethroned this decree or grant of the Emperors was presented by me to the Sovereign Constituent Congress and it was approved by them on the 11 of April and passed to the Supreme Executive Power for their approbation, and approved by them on the 14 of April 1823—The law of Colonization under which this Colony is settled requires that the land should be cultivated within two years from the date of the deed—Now the difficulty is this—wheither or not a grant can be made to the name of Harrison as he was dead before the date of the authority under which the grants are made—A grant to his heirs who are not in the Country nor never have been might be objected to on the ground that they were not Settlers, nor inhabitants of the Country, tho. I think such a grant ought to be good on the ground that the heirs as the representatives of Harrison would have been entitled to the land had the grant been made to Harrison before his death and in equity, his death, before the titles could be issued, ought not to deprive his heirs of the land he would have recd had he lived a little longer—but doubts may arise on the subject—Another plan that I have thought of is to grant a tract to Some inhabitant of the Country in *trust* for the heirs, for instance to you, in trust for the heirs of Harrison—

Another difficulty in the matter is as regards myself individually—promises are made for the whole of the 300 families and to admit more I must necessarily cut out some who have been promised—this subjects me to abuse from a certain class of the Settlers as you have seen and heard from personal observation—tho this I disregard and will arrange it in that way if it is considered satisfactory, or if no other plan can be adopted I can secure half a League to his heirs by giving that much out of my own individual property and rather than his heirs should think that I was unwilling to do all in my power to let them have the land I will do so—The claims to land here are rather novel in their nature and are not generally

understood out of this Colony and for this reason I am no doubt frequently blamed where I would not be if the facts were known— My task has been a very complicated and difficult one—the Gov^{t} have added to my dificulties by not compelling the Commissioner to remain here untill the business was completd. and thus throwing the whole burthen and responsibility on me alone unaided by any support whatever other than such as I could draw from the slender resources of my own judgement—for I have not been furnished with any code of written laws, any detailed instructions— My authority it is true was very full and ample, too much so for it vests me with discretionary powers in regard to the reception of settlers the Gov^{t} of the Colony the distribution of lands which necessarily subjects me to sencure jealousy or envy from some quarters, let me act as I would those powers were also under the control of a superior power, so that I have in many instances been compelled by the most imperious circumstances to deviate even from my own judgement—that I have committ^{d} errors I readily admit, indeed I must have been more than human had I not committed any placed in the situation in which I have been. in some instances I have yielded up my own judgement in an individual case to what I consider^{d} the Genl interest of the Settlement, perhaps it was an error to have done so, but the motive was a good one. Some of these cases have been taken hold of in the abstract and have drawn on me sencure and misrepresentations—One great difficulty under which I have labor^{d} is that the Settlers are unacquainted with the language and nature of this Gov^{t}—There are no interpreters but myself and my secretary and consequently no way for them to know the orders of the Gov^{t} but through one of us—this places me in a truly unpleasant situation for you know that it is innate in an American to suspect and abuse a public officer whether he deserves it or not— I have had a mixed multitude to deal with collected from all quarters strangers to each other, to me, and to the laws and language of the country, they come here with all the ideas of americans and expect to see and understand the laws they are governed by, and many very many of them have all the licentiousness and wild turbulence of frontiersmen added to this when they arrive here the worst of the human passions avarice is excited to the highest extent and it directs the vanguard in their attacks on me, jealousy and envy direct the flanks and maliciousness lurks in the rear to operate as occasion may require. could I have opposed them by showing a law defining positively the quantity of land they were to get and no more and a code of written laws by which they were to be governed I should have had no difficulty—but they saw at once that my powers were discretionary, and that a very great augmentation to

their grants could be made, and thus the colonization law itself and the authority vested in me under that law holds me up as a public Mark to be shot at by every one. If a person gets a League he knows that more could have been granted and he is therefore dissatisfied and instead of thanking me for what he gets, abuses me for treating him unjustly because he does not get more—In this State of things all who approached me as friends and offer[d] advice, were interested advisors. precidents were established by the power that controled me contrary to my wish and judgement, and those precidents were sufficient to involve me in endless difficulty—for example in the case of Groce the Political chief of the Province himself whose orders I [am] bound to obey designated ten leagues as the smallest quantity that he ought to have, this produced general dissatisfaction, every man in his own conception was as much entitled to ten leagues as Groce. and because he did not get it, I was abused—but it was not my fault, and had I given Groce less and treated the wishes of the Political Chief with contempt or disrespect and soured his mind would it have benefitd the gen[l] interests of the Settlement any? I was in his power and subject to his orders and my fate and that of the Colony were linked together and could not be separated—had I managed so as to loose the confidence of the officers of the Gov[t] embarrassment might have been thrown in the way by them that could have destroyed the settlement—Another difficulty that I have had to contend with is that my temper is naturally rather hasty and impetuous—the good of the Settlement required that I should control it and disregard the iddle slander of those who abused me from malice, from misconception, or from interested views—for one rash act in a moment of passion in my cituation might have jeopardised the welfare of many—also my disposition as I have when too late discovered is confidential unsuspicious and accomodating to a fault and therefore open to impositions—it is said by philosophers that he is a wise man who knows himself and he who governs himself is certainly still wiser—few such men appear in this world I am not one of those and never expect to be—my temper has met many tryals and knowing it as I think I do I give myself some credit for governing it as well as I have, tho my friends have blamed me for being too mild. I may have err[d] on that extreme for fear of falling on the opposite one, but I deem[d] it the safe side to err on and I still think so considering the temper and dispositions of the people with whom I had to deal for among the ignorant part of the Americans indipendence means resistance and obstinacy right or wrong—this is particularly the case with frontiersmen—a violent course with such dispositions might have kindled a flame that would have destroyed them and the settlement entirely.

for it was with great difficulty that after more than one years unremitting exertions that I obtained the consent of the Gov[t] to progress with this Settlement. One great objection was that they considered the Americans a turbulent people, difficult to govern and predisposed to resist and abuse their public officers—any commotions amongst ourselves here would have had a direct tendency to strengthen this unfavourable opinion and would opperate against the prosperity of the settlement, and probably [would have] the effect to prevent any more grants and I knew that a number were pending—but it has been impossible to avoid some difficulties, a few turbulent men in a Settlement can make much noise—This little affair of Kinnys[1] is not at all calculated to benefit any one, he has behaved in a way which merits contempt and disapprobation of every good and well disposed Settler, for without any necessity of such a course he has indirectly attempted to weaken the confidence of the settlers in their titles and in me—If I do wrong his remedy is with the Gov[t] and I alone ought to be punished but he would sacrifice the interests of the whole Settlement to gratify a pique. I am ready to show at any time that what I have done in the affair has been correct, and that I have done injustice to no one, but I will never condescend to notice Kinny, were I to answer every hound who barks at me I should soon become a hound myself and should deserve to be barked at

I have had an unpleasant and unhappy life time of it but I look forward to better days and a better population and have the consolation to reflect that I have done my duty to the Settlers and to the Gov[t] so far as my situation would permit and I think in the end they will all acknowledge it.

[Endorsed:] rough copy of letter to B. W. Edwards 1825

ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE

The Estate of Samuel Dixon deceased To Alexander Kilpatrick D[r]
1823 October

To ½ of a horse held in partnership between Dixon and Kilpatrick which Dixon converted to his own use	$12.50
To 200 lbs of Bacon with one half of which Dixon is chargeable at 25 cts per lb	25.00
To 1 Barrell of flour one half chargeable as aforesaid	6.00
To 1½ Bushels of salt at $3—4.50 one half chargeable as afd	2.25
To an oven pot cups spoons and pack ropes	5.25
	$51.00

The above named Kilpatrick with Dixon came to the San Jacinto from New Orleans in August 1823

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[1] See above, September 6, 1825.

Prior to leaving New Orleans they purchased in partnership Provisions and other articles together with a Boat in which they came to this Colony—

Mr Dixon in the fall of 1823 undertook surveying on the Brazos and Kilpatrick accompanied him as Campkeeper—On this Occasion the above account accrued—the whole of the partnership provisions being taken by Dixon for the use of his hands—An account has been furnished ag^{t} the Estate already This one is made out from the recollection of Kilpatrick and to the truth of which he has sworn—

Austins Colony

District of San Felipe de Austin towit

Personally appeared before me Laurence Richard Kenny Alcalde of said District Alex^{r} Kilpatrick of this Colony who being duly sworn says that the foregoing account as stated against the Estate of Saml Dixon deceased is just and true and that the several articles composing the same were furnished by Deponent to s^{d} Saml Dixon in his lifetime and for which he has never received payment.

Taken and acknowledged before me at the Town of San felipe de austin in s^{d} Colony this 21 September 1825

LAU^{ce} RICH KENNY
Alc

ALEX KILPATRICK

Admitted and paid by Sept 21 1825

S. F. AUSTIN

Rec^{d} a note from S. F. Austin for fifty one Dollars being for the am^{t} of the within account against the Estate of Saml Dixon which is in full for my claim on Said Estate

Sept. 21 1825

ALEX. KILPATRICK

JOHN H. FOWLER TO AUSTIN

Miller Cty. Ark. T.
Sept. 22nd 1825

Mr. AUSTIN

Dear sir My acquaintance with your general character, (though I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance, having seen you only a few times while at William Stevensons in mount prairies) and the high station you hold in the land in which you live induces me to hope for success on the present occasion

A man by the name of Ruben McHaws has swindled me out of about $250.00 by tradeing me sundry forged notes of his own manufactory on citizens that I knew to be good; the precise amount is $242.25 two negro fellows one belonging to Mr John Johnson the

other to Sam[l] Hopson has recently run away—Hopsons Negro was taken up makeing his way to your province and is of opinion the other perished in the woods I have not heard that he has ever been found and says that McHaws persuaded them to run away I made every exersion to catch the vilian, but finally failed; and the only hope I now have of detecting him, is in your concern for my interest from the merits of the case: You need have no apprehension of the existance of my claim which is coroborated by the accompanied affidavit McHaws is of Moderate size with blue eyes and balld headed, And will perhaps pass through your dominions in the character of a pedler: Now sir if it be consistent with your authority to destrain his effects in order to secure me you will do me a favour never to be forgotten and I would be glad if you would write me immediately on the subject I feel the more anxiety on the occasion as this is a large amount for me, in my situation, to loose: And I do declare upon honour that I am able to establish the above accounts to all intents and purposes

We have nothing of import; you have heard no doubt that the Chactaws will shortly posses our country and many of the inhabitants talk of moveing to your province I intend so soon as my business will admit paying your country a visit and if I like to locate there.

JOHN H. FOWLER

Stephen F Austin Gov. Prov. Texes

AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING FORGERY

Territory of Arkansas }
County of Miller }

This day Clark Robinson being duly sworn before me John H. Fowler an acting justice of the Peace in and for Miller County, Territory afsd. sayeth that Ruben McHaws purchased early in this month a quantity of Merchandeze and endorsel[d] notes to said Fowler for the same to the Amount of about two hundred and forty one dollars and twenty five cents which notes has every appearance of being Forged and said deponent verrilly believes that they are forged notes and it appears to be a general opinion that the notes are spurious

Great exersions were made use of to get hold of McHaws who with dexterity made his escape

CLARK ROBINSON.

Sworn and subscribed before me 22nd Sept 1825

J H FOWLER JR

The above affidavit taken before me would not be valed in law but is designed to shew you that [M]y claim does exist and every necessary proof can be had to prove my statements true.

JOHN F. FOWLER.

William P. Perkins to Austin

Woodville 27th Sept. 1825

Dr Sir,

I have now made my arrangements to send two or three hands to your country some time in the winter, to make a Crop next year, but I find it impracticable for me to move my family and hands for several years, therefore I write this particularly to know from you, if I am there myself and make a Crop, will it be sufficient to hold my land, with the title I already have. I am anxious you would write to me by the first of November on this subject—if you think this will not answer I will probably decline the undertaking.

Wm. P. Perkins.

Give my respects to Coln Pettis and Mr. Williams.

[Addressed:] Coln Stephen F. Austin, Texas Doctr Kennady.

Referendum on Indian Relations

In Consequence of the depredations commited by the Weco or Tahuacana Indians in stealing horses from the frontier of this Colony great excitement has been produced, and some of the settlers express a wish to commence open war with said tribes. On hearing of the Comanche War at San Antonio, I wrote to the Chief of Department on the 20th of Augt Stating the situation of this Colony and our illy prepared state for War, owing to our scattered settlements our weak numbers, the scarcity of Arms, Amunition and Horses fit for long and active service such as an expedition into the Indian Country etc and asked permission for this settlement to avail themselves of the friendly dispositions of the Indians to remain Neutral.

Subsequently I received an order from the Military Commandant dated 21st. Augt to attack the Wacos without delay and destroy their Villages, this order was suspended by another dated the 26th of Augt by which I am informed that a body of Comanches was at the Waco Village and the attack directed by the order of the 21st was in consequence suspended untill I should hear of the departure of the Comanches but repeating the injunction to attack the Wacos, the first favourable opportunity, the 8th of September I acknowledged the receipt of the two last mentioned orders and availing myself of the descretion given in the last one as to the time and mode of Commencing the War, I informed the Military Commandant, that in consequence of the number of sick and the necessity of gathering our crops it would be impossible to commence hostilities at present and that I should therefore wait an answer to my proposition to the Govt of the 20th of Augt relative to a State of neutralship be-

fore any offensive measures should be adopted. It may be proper to state that the Military Commandant has ordered me in case I take any property from said Indians to give him an account thereof that he may determine what shall be done with it, this is the substance of what has passed betwen me and the Gov^{t} on the subject. If the Gov^{t} in answer to my proposition of the 20th of Augt repeat the order for war positively the only subject for consideration will be the most efficient plan of conducting it, If they leave it discretionaly with us to commence War or not, several points of great importance present themselves for the mature and deliberate consideration of the settlers. In this state of things I have deemed it my duty to lay the subject before the inhabitants of each Militia district for their consideration, opinion and advice, the course determined on by the majority shall be adopted. it is therefore of the highest importance that the subject should be fully and maturely discussed and deliberated in order that the united voice of the Colony may be known and that the course which is agreed on shall be carried into effect and supported by the unanimous exertions of every man.

The propositions which present themselves for the consideration of the people may be reduced to the following heads—Should the Gov^{t} repeat the order positively for War.,

1st What is the best plan of defence for the frontiers? Will a chain of block houses be nessisary if so at what points, how are those to be determined on, how are the expences of building them to be defraid, by the people of the imediate neighbourhood or by general contribution, will it be nessisary for the settlers to abandon their farms, and embody at such block houses, if so what will be the best course to compel those who refuse to embody, and any other ideas connected with this part of the subject.

2nd Will an expedition to the Indian Towns be expedient, if so what is the least number of men that ought to go how soon could it be fitted out, whether they should all be mounted or part on foot, how many days provisions ought they to start with—

3rd Will it be good policy to send for the Lepan and Tankaway Indians, to join us in such expedition, those Indians will doubtless do some good as auxilleries but if we apply to them for aid we shall have them to feed and support, we must tolerate them to live in the settlements, and if so must expect them to steal our hogs and corn and kill some of our cattle for they will say we are bound to feed them as they are fighting for us—

4th Could the men from the lower settlements be safely drawn from there on account of the Karankaway Indians or would it be most prudent to conclude a peace with these Indians so as not to have two frontiers to defend at the same time—

Should the Government give us discretionary Power eather for War or Peace—

1st Is it most expedient to declare war at once, or to attempt a treaty of peace?

2nd If the latter what is the best course to obtain it, will it be best for me to go in person to their Towns, and conclude a treaty or send a deputation for that object, or to invite the Chiefs to meet us, at the San Antonio Road—

3rd If I go or send to their Towns, how many men should compose the party: how soon ought it to Start? will it be best to send a messenger a head and notify them of our approach and object, and request them to send for the absent Chiefs.

4th Will it be best to demand the stolen horses, and make the restitution of them and the punishment of Tomlinsons Murderers, a condition of peace or War? or will it be best to say nothing about them and leave it for a future demand when we are in a better situation to enforce it?—

5th Or will it be best to complain of those depredations but without making a positive demand of restitution, because a positive demand if made and refused is of course a declaration of war, for if it is made it must be enforced—

6th Or will it be best to be governed by circumstances and the appearence of things after we see the Chiefs, and eather make the demand or not as those circumstances may require?

7 I wish the people of each Militia district to elect one person to accompany me if I go to treat with the Indians, for the purpose of forming a council or direct representation of the Colony, this person will be elected by each company when these propositions are submitted to them.—

The foregoing except the last article I believe embraces the most material points that have been talked of amongst the settlers, the last one is a proposition of my own.— This is an important subject in our present situation and I wish the free voice of the Colony to decide what is the best source to be adopted—and with such a council as the one I propose I shall feel more Confidence—

Without wishing or intending to give my opinion as to the points submitted, it may be proper and nessisary for me to make some reflections as to our present situation and future prospects—

The Government have authorized a new Colony of 800 families on the Brazos and Colorado Rivers above the San Antonio road from Tennessee and Kentucky, and I have every reason to believe that by next April that Colony will be at least 200 strong. Will a war at this time with the upper Indians have a tendency to stop emigration to that Colony altogether? or to check it materially? also the

Colony on the Guadaloupe is about commencing, will a war stop the settlement there or not? will a war stop emigration to this Colony? will it enduce any to move away? Can the people live in a state of war without forting and will they remain in the country if they are compelled to live in that manner?

The Wacos and Tawakanys are at peace and in close alliance with the Comanches, the Cherokees and all the Indians to the east of us, and I am creditably informed that these latter Indians are very much dissatisfied that their country has been given to the American Empresarios to be settled.— In this state of feeling is there not some danger that all the Indians in the Province may be induced to unite against the American settlements? If we destroy the Waco Villages will not the other tribes consider it as a warning of the fate that must in the end befal them if the american settlements progress? and is there no[t] danger that they may become alarmed and unite to cut us off in our infancy? The history of the first settlements in the U. States, presents numerous and horible examples of such combinations, which in most instances might have been avoided by a greater degree of prudence and forbearance on the part of the settlers in the first years of their establishment—

No aid whatever may be expected from the Government, if we get into a war, we must get through it the best way we can, without expecting aid from any quarter— In this state of things the question which the people have to decide is whether it is better to submit to a few insults rather than risque bringing on a war with all the northern Indians by resenting them at this time I know that it is a difficult thing to control the passions but in such case as the present all passion should be set aside and cool deliberate Judgement should decide.— True it is we have received repeated Insults from the Indians which merrit punishment and great excitement and thirst for revenge exists in many persons, this is a correct feeling, but whether this is the proper time to seek revenge or not is a question which cool Judgement and not passion should decide—

San Felipe de Austin Sept. 28th 1825

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

JOHN P. COLES TO AUSTIN

29th September 1825

DEAR SIR

There is likely to be some difficulty between William Milican and Whitesides boys I will Explain the circumstances to you and wish your opinion Henry and Boland Whitesides and Jack C. Davis

applied to me Jointly for Land I agreed to let them have the League of Land to be Equally divided but when Sims made his Return he left out the name of Davis and the Deed came out in the name of Henry and Boland Whiteside of which I Informed them when I delivered to them the deed they agreed it should make no difference that they wood secure to Davis one Third of said League of Land as Soon as It was convenient Mr. Milican has now bot one Third of the Land from Henry Whiteside and has taken his obligation to make him a Deed to It he has also bot Davis land which constitutes another Third they made a Division of the Land as appears from the manner in which they have disposed of It. this is the only Evidence of a Division Boland Whiteside now contends for One Half of the League of Land and says that as no Legal Division has been made he is not bound to be governed by the sales that were made he further contends that Davis has no Right to the Land that he has got the Deed and will hold the Land Now the question is wheather Davis Sale of the Land wood Intitle Mr. Milican to It or not or wheather Davis could hold the Land himself Independant of Bolands opposition and wheather the Division made among them previous to Mr. Milicans purchasing this Land wood be considered obligatory or Legal Mr Milican on faith of the Contract made with Davis and Henry Whiteside has moved on to the Land with his family your opinion on the subject might Enable me to have the matter arranged without any further difficulty or otherwise the Business will come before you for Decission

JNO P COLES [Rubric].

[Addressed:] Col. S. F Austin San felipe de Austin Mr. Patch

JOHN P. COLES TO AUSTIN

29th September 1825

DEAR SIR

I have made out the Census of this district I have done It from the old list I think it pirty correct I wood be glad you could come up shortly and have those Transfers made among the Individuals they are expressing a great deal of anxiety to have It done I Expect you up this fall for that purpose I Informed Mr Whitesides that I had his Deed and that the Labour was Included he says he will Transfer the Labour at any time no news among us

JNO P COLES [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col. S F Austin San felipe de Austin

J. Erwin to Austin[1]

Shelbyville Sept. 30th 1825

S F Austin Eqr.

Sir Altho I have not the pleasure of your personal acquaintance, I take the liberty of writing you, the object is more to reply to your letter of Feby 18th to my father, than to make any explanations of our former business with Mr. Groce for whom you express so lively an interest—how he has created that feeling I am unable to say. I am too conversant with your character, too well enformed of your capacity and descrimination, for a moment to believe that you can be deceived in the man. Three days of acquaintance to a man of intelligence, will show, Groce to be a vain foolish Gasconading Bragadocia a man of considerable energy or rather industry, acute and subtle in small matters, ready to see and take an advantage, ambitious, and vain, the latter two qualities so predominate as to expose him readily to an observer, he is entirely void of the high and honorable feelings of a gentleman, destitute of principles, and without the least pretensions to credit for veracity or integrity of character, all this can not have escaped your attention, and if so how can you give attention to Statements made by him affecting the character and standing of men of Reputation Why hesitate about the opinions you seem at a loss to form about transactions between such men and a Renegade like Groce—What evidence have you to create a doubt—Whatever Groce may tell you to the contrary, I now tell you I can substantiate by Groce's own hand writing that up to the last transaction of business that ever took place between us in any shape whatever, that there was no difficulty or complaint and that I have his rects in full up to the latest transaction signed and sealed by him acknowledging that all was satisfactorily settled from the beginning of the world to that date, it was then and on that very day—in order to bring the entire business of A Erwin Groce and Co to a close that we agreed to divide amongst us individually the remaining out debts which were all in the hands of Col. McKenni of Augusta Geo. and amounted to $30,000—it was at the earnest intreaty of Groce, himself—that McKenni divided this amt into three equal sums say $10,000—and took Groce's individual notes for $10,000, my note for $10,000 and my father's note also for $10,000—I refused to give my note at first until Groce begged me to do so, urged the object of a final settlement—his rect in full—and finally agreed to assist *me* who was then void of means to pay my note, he gave his note payt at such time as would allow two crops of cotton to intervene and promised McKenni on his Honor,

[1] Compare Andrew Erwin to Austin, August 29, 1825.

that his note would be punctually paid—what was the result, my father paid his note, I paid mine, and Groce *runaway*—and Left his endorser to *pay* that note has fallen in my hands—the individual note of J E Groce—2 notes of $5000 each which I did expect to have collected thro your assistance as I learned you intended to pursue a course of policy, not calculated to encourage flying renegade debtors who contract debts in this country and fly to your colony—I had heard that you as alcalde would enforce contracts—and I accordingly sent my claim to Maj Thomas for that purpose—If it is contrary to your regulations of course I have no course of complaint—If its only justice and truth you wish to arrive at I have ample Means—to establish all I wish by testimony that would outweigh the verbal statements of Groce—The fact is Groce and myself quarrelled But not about our business—at our last meeting to his face I gave him the same character, I now give you of him, which he patiently heard. If I had injured him why not then assert his wrongs he had acted ungentlemanly and I told him so—he felt it—he left this part of the country and the next news I heard he had *runaway* I remained firm at my post—I have settled up the old business of A E G & Co—Groce complains of suits—I have been sued too But I have successfully defended those suits—and so might Groce have done. But he chose to fly his country as the safest and most glorious mode of settling matters—he pretends to you and to the world that he thot I had an agency in having him sued he knew better, and now knows better, I have tendered my assistance in defending—How could I suffer him made liable without becoming so—you say My Brotherinlaw was selected as the channel—that is also false—Mr Crawford the partner of my Brotherinlaw Brot the suits, he was selected by the other parties because he is the most eminent Lawyer in that State, and better able to conduct a Bad cause—If Groce had remained at his post he could have easily defeated as I have done the claim—

But there is one claim he can not defeat that is his individual notes given to McKenni—Now in the hands of Thomas—those he must and shall pay—or remain exiled from his native Country he can not pretend to have any offsets against this claim. If my eye was upon him he could not have the assurance to deny this to you I know he will tell Some other tale, he will say anything that best suits his purpose; and I have myself seen him voluntarily subscribe to an oath—which made me shudder—which I can any day produce—these things are only mentioned to give you more particular information of his character and standing while in the UStates—and altho you have a much better opportunity of observing his course

in Texas—than me, I can not help remarking that even there he gives you some small cause at least to suspect if all I hear be true, that he is not very particular in his conduct—or select in his associates and coadjuters—

The last remark Brings to my mind his Celebrated letter written to my father last year by the assistance of his friend and Secty Mr Williams who acted also as a certificate man and certified that all Groce wrote was true, which he must have been well qualified to do—as it related to transactions with men, the fellow—had never seen—But who is Mr. Williams—a Renegade also—who fled to avoid capital punishment—his friend also and the inmate of his House from Missouri whose name I do not recollect—who fled for murder—Doct Keep—quite as well known—these are his associates his men of business—what can you expect from such a man—and is this the same Mr Groce—who is to be so powerful in a chancery suit—who is to publish a Book—and demolish by a stroke of his pen all the Erwins—Unfortunately for this Hero, who is mightiest when far off—the word Renegade, would present itself in large letters in every page and obliterate all he could say—to which might be added some equally strong and true—I must now Sir—in justice to my own feelings apologize to you for the tenor of this letter, and all I can say, is that I feel I am writing to J E Groce, and not to S F Austin—and I also feel that I am replying to J E Groce and not to S F Austin—Because I have with much pleasure read other productions from you to my father and others and I know that this now in question is not your own legitimate offspring Groce may Borrow what plumage he will, yet he will be Groce still—I know as well as if I had been at your elbow—when you wrote that letter, that you did so by the importunity of Groce and that you were reluctantly urged to convey ideas repugnant to your feelings—I write this with freedom and frankness not to offend you, But to let you know I understand the man, I know his object—he wants under pretence of settling old disputes to make friends—But he can not be depended on, and there is no use in reciving the acknowlegmt of so low minded a fellow—I have only one word for him, that is I want the $10,000 and int—that he owes me—and untill that is paid he may exert all his cunning for I will reach him before I have done trying—thro some source or other, and I should be much obliged by your reply at Orleans—saying whether a just claim can be made under your regulations, that is due to a Resident of the U States—

If he will pay me this claim I have then done with him, as to any suits vs. him now in alabama it only requires atention to set them aside that are hot against him as one of the firm of A E Groce [A.

Erwin, Groce & Co.] and Co—I have already sent him word that If he wants to see me, I am always in the winter to be found in N. Orleans—where I am ready—to defend a suit in chancery—render him personal satisfaction or receive $10,000 due me, and settle matters and let him alone—either alternative is always before him—

From the Friendly intercourse that took place and continued between you and my father, I had hoped soon to have had the pleasure of making your acquaintance—and that I might have some day been able to have established an acquaintance with you beneficial to both, which I yet hope may not be prevented by so unworthy an object as Groce—

J. ERWIN

HUMPHREY JACKSON TO AUSTIN

[About September 30, 1825.]

DR. SIR

I Received yours of the 29th of August Imediately went [and] Valued the Estate of Moris Callaham Decd which Amounted to $254.50 John R. Harris Ezekiel Thomas and Wilm Vince apprisers. the Land I did not know what to do with so let it alone E Thomis swore Nicholas Callaham was the Brother of Morris Callaham Decd I Gave N Callaham up the property he giving Wilm Vince and E Thomis security for the payment of the Debts and getting a power of Atturny from his father to Administer to the Estate N Callaham applide for time to settle the Estate as he had to return to his Country to Settle his Business I gave him Ten Months he promised he would pay all the Debts he could before he went— I would have loocked into this Business sooner but being informed that there was but little due by the Estate and that Moris Callahan Relation was expected here soone I thought it best to wait to he caim—I Requested of John R Harris to let me know if the estate was a waisting as he lived close by I thought in such cases it was best to wait a short time as persons might settle their own Business—you mentioned in your letter having wrote to me Respecting Boats which I have not Received but Capt Harris told me he had received one from you Directed to Capt Harris Capn Scott and T respecting them— there is no boats on this River that would answer except one that Mr Scott has if hir timbers is sound Hir old planck in intirely worm eaten but if hir timbers is sound Hir old plancked over with good timbers I am not acquainted as I neaver examed them. Andres Roach has a boat I think would answer and I am told there is a

nother on the Trinity I would have went to see them but Cap[t] Harris told me he was going there to see them and would let you know if they could be purchased and for what amount— Horner and Dickeson Estate I will pay every attention to that my office requires—There has been a complaint for debt against a Man that has left this District and has left some property here and is not expected back for some time. I wish for your oppinion in such cases Thomis Earle is charged with tacking Roaps and blocks from on board of the Schooner Marry in Galveston bay I bound him over to Trial on the 10th of Sept[r] He Acknowledged having tacking them he being in Distress he said he intended to pay Mr. Knight one of the owners for them. as soon as it is tried I will send you the hole of the Records of the case to you for final Judgement— I would have sent you the proceding before now if the distance was not as grait and not being wiling to ad to the Expence already accrued however I might have sent you the Procedings from Buflow River the other day had I any paper with me at the time I gave notice to T Earle he had a right to taick the proceding in writing and send them to you which he declined—Robert Cartwright who acted as Constable in the Case of Jesse H. Cartwright and Jessy Nelson versus Master and Owners of the Schooner Marry has not Returned the Execution nor the procedings there on though I requested him so to do he has Removed ought of this District to your Neighborhood I wish for them as my time of service is all most expired so that all the procedings in the case might be put in order to deliver to my successor in office

I feel anxious for my time of service to expire I am complaitly tired of the office for the futur I wish to be no other than a good Citizen—there is some other complaints of petty theft all respecting the Schooner Marry and them that caim in hir which I rather thinck it would be right to squash if posible the Marry and them that caim in hir has gaving the Country grait deal of trouble[1] for my part I hait to hear hir name mentioned I wrote to you some time since which I suppose you have not Rec[d] it was respecting a Note that Andrew Roach sent for Collection on W[m] Scott the note was for the payment of a Schooner it called for 200 Dollars if no lawfull owner appeared for said Schooner by march last I then wished for your instructions in the Case Mr. Scott has since paid the note as I am informed—Inclosed you have the Sensus of the District

HUMPHREY JACKSON.

[Addressed:] Cor. S. F. Austin Principal Judge of Austin Colony

[1] Above, June 3, 1825.

BENJAMIN W. EDWARDS TO AUSTIN

La Bahia Crossing Brasos River
Oct. 1st 1825

DEAR SIR.

I rec[d] in due time, your very friendly letter [of September 15], and have been compelled to defer replying to it thus long, in consequence of my continued indisposition, with which I have been persecuted since I left town, until a few days past— Indeed I am now barely able to grasp my pen; and such is the feble state of my body and mind both, that I am denied the gratification of writing you a long and sentimental letter as you request, and as I should have been pleased to have done.

In replying to your remarks respecting the claim of Mr Harrison, I can say nothing more than I have already said to you in person. I am sensible of the difficulties that present themselves in this case and being unacquainted with the laws and policy of this country feel myself incompetent to point out any way to you by which his claim could be obtained, that you could derive any instruction from. I myself can think of no other policy now, than that of your representing the peculiarity of the case to the Government, the merit of the individual, the justice of his claim, and the probability of its adding to the colony a worthy and useful family— Could it be obtained in this way, it would be much more agreeable to the feelings of his family as well as to my own— I hope you will not give yourself any inquietude upon the subject in the mean time from any apprehension of censure from his family— I feel confident they will be satisfied with whatever disposition you may choose to make of this matter—

In your letter, you are lengthy upon the subject of your difficulties in settleing this Colony. I have long since been sensible of the causes of your difficulties, and find that you have very correctly pointed them out. They are I hope now principally over, and with a proper degree of *forbearance* and perseverance, I have no doubt, that they will all shortly vanish, and leave you to the enjoyment of those advantages, that you have in the commencement anticipated, and which must inevitably follow. As it respects this affair of Kinney, I have barely heard the subject mentioned once or twice since my return to this quarter; and of late it appears entirely forgotten— You must expect censure and abuse so long as you remain in your present station, whether you act right or wrong. Suppress your feelings on such occasions and even, if necessary, humor the prejudices of the people you have to deal with. Your principal business is with the Government, and your greatest danger is from

them. All your energies should be directed to the preserving of a good understanding with them, while those little bickering and commotions around you should pass unregarded and occupy but little of your time— Your greatest misfortune Austin, has been the want of a proper knowledge of human nature— It has been the cause of many difficulties, that you have encountered in the last two years— But you have in that short time, I doubt not, learnt more than in all your former life— This may be too great a freedom in me, but in this you read the evidence of friendship, and the only kind of friendship that can be relied on.

I have just learnt that my brother has reached Nacogdoches with his family, and that he will establish his office at that place.

I have not yet rec^{d} a line from him, and am of course in possession of no particulars respecting him and his movements. I hope to set out on my journey in two or three days, and shall consequently see him on my way in to the U S.— I shall disclose to him, as I have done to you, my undigested and limited views respecting this country, and shall urge him to commence a correspondence with you as soon as I see him—

I am much impressed with the importance of a friendly understanding and a free and open communication between all the contractors of these grants, and as it respects my brother I feel no hesitation in saying that it will both comport with his feelings and policy.

In looking over the C —— law, I find you have overlooked an essential part of its provisions. I discover that each family, who moves into those grants at their *own expence* are entitled to *two* Labors instead of one, which being proclaimed might make in favor of the settlement of the country. The law seems to contemplate that the contractors will in the main bring in the families at their expence, being ignorant of the American character altogether.

You wish to know my ideas upon the subject of the Waco war. I feel some delicacy in giving an opinion, as I may not know enough about the situation and policy of the country to give a correct opinion—But since you have desired my views upon the subject, I must remark, that I am of the opinion I have always been; and which perhaps I ventured to express to you when I was down; and that is "that it should be the last and only alternative"—some of my reasons I think I then gave you. I have no room to say more upon the subject.

I shall in a day or two perhaps start on my journey home, and should I determine to return to this country, (which is very likely) we will I hope often have an opportunity of communicating our views to each other. Until then a dieu—

B. W. EDWARDS

Col. S. F. Austin.

THOMAS B. BELL TO AUSTIN

Cedar Lake October the 3th 1825

SIRE having understood you wished to have the opinion of the people we give it as our opinion it is requisit to treat with them for these are the same Indians [Karankaway] that Captain Jones fired on and they have never solicited peace until now they say they are tired of war and the conduct of them induces us to believe they are in earnest for they have encamped in our stock range and have disturbed nothing to our knowledge—also the upper settlement not having it in their power to aid us and we not being able to protect our selves we think it is proper to treat with them these are the conditions that we wish you to treat on to secure hostages to not permit over three to cum to geather to one house— it is our wish you should cum and treat with them as well as thees—

Thomas B Bell
David Ness
Nancy Williams
Caleb R Bostwick
Danil Decrow
Thomas T Williams
Gorge Harrison

[Addressed:] Col Stephin F. Austin Bay Perrary

JOHN G. PURNELL TO RICHARD FIELDS

Saltillo October 4th. 1825

To Captain RICHARD FIELDS
Commander of the Cherokees in Texas

MY ESTEEMED FRIEND When last I saw you in my house in Monterrey I little thought in so short a time you would have commenced a war against your American brothers and the Mexican Nation more particularly A man like yourself who is acquainted with the advantages of civilization and who joined us in our late war as a brother against the Brittish nation nothing like personal motives should ever induce you to commit an act which will ultimately injure you in the estimation of your American brothers much less lead your nation into a war which will render them unhappy: dreadful may be the consequences if you continue in such mistaken measures as a friend I advise you to look for peace as the surest means of making the nation happy who have confided in you by electing you their chief. we all wish to live with you like brothers you know we have never deceived you it is not by maddening war that we are to progress in

civilation or the comforts of life it is by a firm and lasting peace by a friendly intercourse like that which exists between brothers. If your claims for lands were not granted at a time when the Government was not firmly established that should not be a cause of war ask and it will [be] given to you this nation has always felt friendly inclined toward yours and I am sure if you cease hostilities they will enter into a treaty with you by which you will obtain more permanent advantages than you can by being at war. listen to advice of your friend who ansciously looks for the prosperity and happiness of yourself and nation let us bury the hatchet smoke the pipe of peace and live like brothers then will the great Mexican nation offer you the arm and protection of Government: take these important considerations into deep reflection in your councils let not personal prejudices act upon you but that you may be governed by prudence wisdom and friendship is the sincere wish of your old friend and Obedient Humble Servant

JOHN G. PURNELL.

MRS. EMILY M. PERRY TO AUSTIN

Mine a Burton, October 12th 1825—

I wrote My Dear Brother by the last weeks Mail, and now imbrace the opportunity of sending you a small Packit by Mr Ray which I hope you will receive in safety as I have sent on a number of letters belonging to you and Brown, which I thought would afford you some pleasure, to peruse once more:—

Since I wrote to you I have seen Mr Carr and I had a conversation with him relative to the Little Rock business, he is very much dissatisfyed with the conduct of C. Ashley Esqr when that gentlemen was up last Fall Mr Carr, with difficulty got him to give him a statement of what he had done with the property, it seems that he has got everything into possession, and has sold property to the amount of 3 or 4000 Dollars; he made one Sail to William Russel for eighteen hundred Dollars, and still continues to sell, as fast as he can, I think if their was *any-one* that would push, or make an attempt to investigate the business, that Ashley would compromise, rather than have himself exposed to the world; it is impossible for Mr Perry to do any thing, situated as he is at present; and I think My Dear Stephen if you were to write to some of your Friends at the Little Rock, and try to make them interested in some way, that, their might yet be something more recovered for the Children— at any rate I can do nothing and I am very much afraid that Ashley will be the only one benefitted by that property; I have nothing to write, but what Mr Ray can inform you, as to the news of the times etc he can

give you an account of all the Children as I showed them all to him; and I have also sent you a lock of each of their hair and some of Mine, all of which I think will be acceptable to you; for I know that any *thing* from *you*, is *very* highly *praised by me;* do write by every opportunity, I have not had a letter for some time, from Brown, he is a very Lazy Fellow to write; but perhaps my anxiety makes me unreasonable, I think if you were to give Mr Perry the least *encouragement* he would go *on* and *visit you;* for he is much dissatisfied with this Country, and some times taulks of going to the Arkansas; my only desire is to be settled by my Brothers, if that was once accomplished I should be happy—

I read to Miss Hord the clause in your letter, she laughed and requested me to inform you that it was not customary for Laydes to go in search of Husbands and that she expected if some of those *Bachelors* that you spoke of, was to visit a Burton; that she had no doubt but what they could find *wives*,— I should be much pleased to hear that Brown was Married he promised me that as soon as he Married that he would pay me a visit— Cousin Adeline Lewis has a Daughter, and Miss Eliza Elliott is to be Married to Mr. Woodruf, living at the Little Rock, where Miss Elliott now is— I have sent you a packit. . . .

[Emily M. Perry.]

Robert Lewis to Austin

Rio Grande 13th October 1825.

Col. Austin

D Sir, I have been here a little better then a week, and confin^d^ to the House the greater part of the time, but am recovering very fast, I was taken sick a few days after leaving Saint Antonio, and has suffered very much; I expect to leave here in a few days, for Sant fernando and Sant Ross, from what I can learn there are a grate many goods in this part of the Country.—The Indians are still doing Mischief in this part of the Country, they stole forty Horses from here a few days before we arrived here.— I have heard it said by several persons here and in Sant Antonia, that Nixon is writing against you, to the Government, and to the principal individuals in this town, and to a number of other Towns, and prefering charges against you, to the Government, I understand he said he is going on to Mexico himself, and sais he has the papers, to show what you are, I name this as a friend excuse my bad writing

Robert Lewis.

My nearvs are very weeke

R L.

WILLIAM A. SHELDON TO AUSTIN

New Orleans October 15th 1825

STEPHEN AUSTIN Esqr

RESPECTED SIR,— You will have the goodness to pardon the self-introduction of an individual whose only object is to obtain information of your section of the country. For some years past I have been located in this city, and permanently established as a Druggist in society with Mr. Saml D. Dixon under the firm of Sheldon and Dixon. It is possible that our house may not be unknown to some of the settlers in your neighbourhood, who will assure you that my inquiries do not arise out of iddle curiosity— Public report holds out many inducements to persons discontented with their localities, to emigrate to Texas, and 'tis not unfrequently in my travels in the western states that I have questions asked me, I am unable to reply to, particularly as regards the grants of yourself and Mr. Edwards.— The information I receive, is vague and unsatisfactory, and in many instances contradictory, but generally favourable to your settlement— It would be highly gratifying to impart information to others by authority emanating directly from yourself.—

I have been frequently solicited by Col. Charles Morgan, of the parish of Point Coupée, a rich and respectable Planter, to address you on the subject of the culture of cotton in Texas. and whether any experiments have come under your own observation, where the transplanting of the seed to prevent Rot has been successful.— a letter from him last mail induced me, to open a correspondence with you, submitting to your option its continuence—

I am under the impression that a small Parcel of Texican cotton was gin'd here last year. and the seed is in our present crop. It is generally admitted that a change of Seed affords the best preventive known, against a premature decay of the Cotton Plant and the Southern seed by experiments of Col. Morgan and Ledoux is, by them supposed to be far preferable to that generally planted from the importations from Kentucky, Alabama etc. It is also thought by them that seed from Texas *might* be obtained with more facility, and that the staple of Louisiana's cotton would be improved in a ratio to compensate planters in incurring the small additional expense of reshipping it from hence to their plantations.—It may not be unknown to you that *The Rot* annually increases throughout the States of Louisiana Georgia Missippi and all Florida; this year complaints are heavy, and a remedy must be soon afforded to prevent the recurrence of a really national evil.—

Permit me to inquire on what kind of soil, with you, does the cotton plant best flourish? and whether there is much, or any dif-

ference in the texture or length of staple of the cotton raised near the sea coast or in the interior—on the high or low lands. or the Prairais or waving surface? and whether the natural plains afford rich soil for cultivation, or if there is a necessity for clearing land for a plantation? and is the timber heavy, of difficult clearing, and of what species generally bordering on the sea coast?

The *particular* inquiries I desire are the terms on which lands are *now* disposed of, by yourself, either to families or individual settlers? do you distinguish in purchasers, men of family, from young and single farmers. and is the quantity of land specified in any general law or custom. beyond which an individual cannot contract for? have settlers the privilege of selecting their lands as regards situation, and on purchasing have they the power to dispose of any part, or the whole of it again? Is it necessary that purchased land should be occupied?

Mrss. Dewey and Sabin, sole proprietors of the patent for the corn and cob mills, for this and the state of Missippi desires me to ask you whether any encouragement would be given among your settlers for the running of a few pair of stones, and also the mill for grinding the corn and cob, with, or without them for cattle's food? are there advantageous cities for mill seats on streams? Saw and grist mills, and at convenient distances for the country settlers?—

Perhaps I have, too long, intruded on your patience with a long letter of inquiries, but any information you may afford me will be welcomed with thanks, and reciprocated if you do me the pleasure of requiring it—

WILLIAM A. SHELDON [Rubric]

Address—Sheldon & Dixon Druggists and Commission Merchants New Orleans

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JAMES NORTON TO AUSTIN

New Orleans 15th October 1825

DEAR SIR

Since my first acquaintance with you in this city, I have had the desire to emigrate to your colony: but circumstances of a private nature, and some pecuniary embarrassments, have hitherto precluded it. Moreover, not having, had the pleasure of an interview, or even of correspondence with you, I have been deterred by *what*, I have always denounced as falsehood and detraction. Capt. Zepeniah Butler, with whom I went to the river Brassos, has expressed his wish to become a citizen. from the just motives, which have ever

influenced me in regard to your character as a gentleman, and your justice, as an officer of the government; and not only, that; (though a primary consideration) but the excellent quality of the soil, on which your colony is founded.

I perceive however, not withstanding your justice, and judgement in managing the local affairs of your colony, some difficulties will arise among the evil disposed, which being transported into other communities abroad, tend, (though but partially) I hope, (to injure your rising prosperity), and that of your great, and arduous undertaking.

I mean, if possible, to visit next summer the settlement, which you have spent so much time, and money to establish, and flatter myself, that, I shall find, that it even exceeds in every thing my most sanguine expectations: but before that time, I sincerely solicit you to write me, and transmit whatever inteligence you may deem proper to communicate, or entrust to one, of whom you have had so short an acquaintance.

I forbear to write any thing relative to the abusive and vindictive publications of a certain individual, as the papers containing them will be handed to you by Capt. J. T. Field, who is the bearer of this: they are relative to the abuse of the *Buen gobierno del establecimiento.*

JAMES NORTON.

[Addressed:] Col° Stephen F. Austin San Philipe De Austin Texas U. M. S.

F. H. RANKIN TO AUSTIN

San Jacinto October the 16th 1825

DEAR SIR

I am about to buy Mr Whitlocks land provided you will take a part of it for your fees I am getting so much in your debt I am afraid I will never be able to pay you. this land of Whitlocks is not a very good League but it is Very well timbered and on the tide and some good upland and a good deal of Very good bottom land that overflows the situation of it I think will make it Valuable I would not hezatate to purchase the Land and become paymaster to you if I thought I could pay you in time but I Know I cant without you will take a part of the Land if you feel willing to do so you will please to let me know it as soon as possible. if you have any news respecting the indians or any thing else I would be glad you would let us hear it as my old father is anxious to here all he can and that from the best Sorce as he expects to set out for

Alabama in a short time and wishes to be able to give his friends the best information of the country he can you will do me a favour by writing me an answer by the first oppertunity

F H RANKIN

S. F. Austin

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Está muy bien haya admitido y demarcado al vecino de esta Capital Jose Sandoval como apóblador las dos Labores de temporal y un Sitio de Agostadero segun me comunica por su oficio 2. de Septᵉ ppdᵒ; mas la parte interesada deverá esperar pᵃ ser metido en posecion al Comicionado q. nombre el Gobⁿᵒ para este fin quedando á cargo de V. satisfaga el impuesto señalado por la Lęy de Colonizacion del Honorable Congreso de 24. de Marzo en los terminos q. ella previene.

Dios y libertad. Bexar y Oct. 17. de 1825.

JOSÉ ANTᵒ SAUCEDO [Rubric]

Sor. Tenᵗᵉ Corˡ D. Estevan Austin

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

A virtud de cuanto V. me manifiesta en oficio de fha. 8. de Septᵉ con referencia ála conducion de los un mil pesos que recivi de su Ermano deV. he informado el Exmo. Sor. Gobᵒʳ del Estado las causas y obstaculos q. representaron áV. para resolver pasar á su dho. Ermano dose reales diarios, atendiendo haverse negado otros á pesar de haberles ofrecido dos pesos.

En cuanto ála duda q. le ocurre relativa álos riesgos q. deven tener las remiciones q. enlo futuro deva hacer de Numerario correspondᵗᵉ al Estado y por cuenta y riesgo de quien deba ser; ya avisare áV. oportunamente la resolucion desu Exa. aquien sela tengo echo presente.

Dios y libertad. Bejar 17. de Octubre de 1825.

JOSÉ ANTᵒ SAUCEDO [Rubric]

Sor. Tenᵗᵉ Corˡ D. Estevan Austin

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Satisfecho de la Justicia con q. V. solicita por su oficio 13. de Septᵉ ppdᵒ nombre el Gobierno un comicionado q. ponga en posecion álos colonos de sus Tierras, y en su defecto sele confiera áV. facultad para verificar esta operacion instrucciones de los dros. q. corresponden al Comicionado, Agrimensores, y al Empresario, Resolucion si á los Colones deve V. obligar contribullan álos gastos de obsequios álos

Yndios, los q. causan los Extrangeros q. bienen á reconocer los terrenos, Establecimiento de Escuelas para la Enseñanza de la Jubentud, y Ereccion de Templos fundado en las reflexiones q. Acienta, cuyas en mi concepto son bien arregladas, é tenido por conbeniente pazar en traslado el citado oficio el Exmo. Sor. Gob^or^ del Estado p^a^ q. se sirva resolber lo q. le paresca conbeniente sobre las diferentes solicitudes de q. trata, y tan luego q. reciva su resolucion, la comunicaré á V. oportunam^te^

Dios y libertad. Bexar y oct. 17. de 1825

JOSE ANT^O^ SAUCEDO [Rubric]

Sor. Ten^te^ Cor^l^ D. Estevan Austin

N. RIGHTOR TO AUSTIN

Near Little Rock Arkansas Territory Oct. 20th. 1825.

DR. SIR (friend and fellow Traveler)—

I this evening meet with a stranger who tells me he is gowing to your Country and will be shure to see you, wherefore I imbrace the opportunity of writing to you, after so long a silence on my part as well as on your own, but with how much pleasure would I have received, and answered a Letter from you. I have been ever since I returned to the United States surveying for the Government, and have just now finished a learge Dis^t^ of surveying in Crittendens perchase (or Guawpaw Country) and will shortly be on my way to St. Louis with my returns. I live at Helena County of Phillips A. T. (where I have a wife and Two fine Boys) And on my return I would be over rejoiced to receive a letter from you. Do write an inform me of the particular situation of your Colony—the production of the soil (from your observation) the prospects of improvement—Condition of the government etc. etc—You know what I wish to learn independent of my statements.

I still have a strong desire to emegrate to the Country, and upon your statements (if you will condesend to write) it depends. I am doing very well here, but notwithstanding I would rather be there.

N. RIGHTOR

[Addressed:] Stephen F Austin Esqr—Province of Texas Government of Mexico Politeness of a Stranger

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JAMES CUMMINS TO AUSTIN

DEAR SIR

Enclosed I send you the articals of agreement between John Roe and John Tumlinson Roe says that he has papers from the governor of this State to [hold] his land for his servises on any

unapropriated Lands in this province. he says he will lay all his papers before you and I want you to deside on the Case we must have the Land Called for in the artical or what we have paid for it or the Value thereof. Though you will decide as you think proper when you see all the papers—but I do not believe he has one dollar to pay back for what he has rec[d]—yours Respectfully

JA[s] CUMMINS [Rubric]

Oct. 22, 1825

[Addressed:] Colo Stephen F. Austin San Felipe de Austin

AUSTIN TO MRS. EMILY M. PERRY

San Felipe Oct. 22 1825.

DR SISTER

I am happy to hear by your letter to Brother that you have a fine son, and thank you and Mr. Perry for giving him the name of Stephen after me You are likely to prove the truth of the old fortune teller who told you in Philadelphia that you was to have nine children. A new country would suit such a family, tho I can not take it uppon myself to advise you to move to this—Mr Perry must come when he has leisure and look for himself—we have had rather a bad year owing to wet weather but our crops are very abundant corn I think will not be over one Dollar in cash pr bushel, except in a few particular places—the Sickness has not been as bad as it is through the southern country generally

I am about making arrangements to settle brother a farm down the Brasos he has not much to begin with, but industry will push him ahead—I hope to see him married before another year—as for myself—it is very uncertain when I shall settle myself in that way—if ever I am too much in debt and my affairs too unsettled as yet—

I wrote you respecting the Mine a Burton and Little Rock business a short time ago—Brother and myself will give any Power of Attorney that may be required except to authorise the promise of money I will not in any shape promise one cent of money on no account whatever and unless there is a special provision in the Power of Attorney that we are not to be in any way responsible for costs or fees or money to pay the Bank or for any thing else I will not sign it—I am willing to give any share—the half—or any other share you think proper but those who undertake the business must be at all the expence and trouble for I cannot leave here to visit Missouri

I do not by any means advise you to Employ R. C. Oden to attend to the Little Rock business—he is very dissipated as I am told—R. Crittenden will be the best one, or perhaps there may be some new Lawyers that I know nothing of—you and Mr. Perry must manage

the whole affair as you think best. I will approve of all you do except promising money—that I will not—

This Colony progresses steadily in improvement—tho not so rapidly as it would had the last season been more favourable It requires much time to start a new Colony in a wilderness, as this was I shall close all my affairs in the course of next year I hope, and then if I keep my senses I will never again have any thing to do with public business—if I marry I shall settle down as a farmer near the mouth of this river—if I do not, I shall likely ramble a good deal and leave Brother to keep up the name and family

Remember me to all friends and do not let the children forget their uncle when my little namesake is old enough I hope to have it in my power to do something for him. I should also like to have Austin with me—that is if I ever get finally settled and in a situation to benefit him—we are all very healthy at this time and nothing new of any consequence

S. F. Austin.

[Addressed:] Mrs Emily M. Perry Potosi Washington County Missouri

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James E. B. Austin to Mrs. Emily M. Perry

San Felipe de Austin Oct. 28th 1825.

My Dr Sister,

I receiv[d] your much esteemed favour of the 1 of Sept[r] in due time, I am much pleased to hear of the *great* aquisition you have made to your family besides the personal gratification it is to myself to have another Nephew—this letter will probably be handed you by a M[r] De Witt who has promised me he would call on you on his way to the upper part of the State—he is one of the gentlemen who have obtained permission to settle an additional number of families in this Department—his Grant is on the *River Guadalupe*. between this and San Antonio—there is a flattering prospect at this time of this Department being shortly filled up by American Emigrants; this Gov[t] have authorized four New Colonies to be settled which will be done immediately. one lies above this on the Rivers Colorado and Brasos which if settled will be a perfect safe guard to us against the Indians—the other 3 are East and *West* of us—so that this Colony will be nearly the center—None of the other Colonys are so rich in land as this. Neither have they such an outlet for their produce as this—So that it is of much importance to us that they should Settle as soon as possible—I have seen some Distressing tales told of us in some of the News Papers of the U. S.—particularly in the Arkansas Gacette that Paper has always evinced a

most *Deadly hatred* towards the settlement of this Colony and its "*Barking Editor*" catches from every *dirty* Buck Skin Scoundrel that has been driven from the Country for his Villanous acts—something to insert in his "*Invaluable repository*" of *truth* and *information* to prevent any one from emigrating to this Colony—but his admonition to the publick has a different effect from what he wishes—for it only tends to keep *fools* and men that are much better in Arkansas than *here* away Wise men and men useful to Society pay no attention to him I think C. Ashley furnishes all the matter he can procure against us—You must pay no attention to any tales of this kind—

Crops are good notwithstanding that we had an unusual wet Season last spring, and some Overflow—I shall start down the river in a few days to establish myself permanently We will build a Cotton Gin as soon as possible; much cotton will be planted next season Stephen begins to think of getting him a wife "dont" be surprized to hear of the Event of Events! sooner than you imagine. I think if Stephen gives an Example I will promise to profit by it, tho at this time I have no Idea of the kind—When I get down below I shall not have so many opportunities to write you tho that must be no excuse for you Write me often you can always find matter that will be interesting to me, if you can find nothing else give me a touch of the News of the day the *mines abound* in it—

Stephen wrote you a few days since—and will write again by Mr. De Witt Give my respects to Brother James with my congratulations on the recent Birth of a son—Kiss little Mary for me "dont" let her forget me—tell Joel and Austin to study hard and be good Boys—My respects to Mr. and Mrs. J Perry also to Mrs. Perry—all my acquaintances generally—I refer you to Mr. Dewitt for all general information respecting the Colony—

Mrs. Emily M Perry

Ja^{s} B Austin

Aylett C. Buckner to Austin

Lower Settlement Brazos 2nd Nv. 1825

Dr Sir,

About one month ago Powel started for the Rio Grande before he started he requested me to write to you respecting his getting land and to ascertain from you if there was a possibility of doing so whether you intended letting him have land or not and where I saw a letter you wrote him sum time since saying, as well as I recollect that if he would recall sum expression or perhaps sum letter he had written you that you would give him an answer on the

subject of land business I believe I have seen all he has ever written you and I do not recollect wherein he has written anything to you but what he was justifyable in And as for his recalling that which he ought not to do I do not consider it a fair request and my advice to him would be not to recall any thing he has written or said unless he has written or said that which he ought not to have done for it [is] too tough for a man to do that which does not accord with his conscience

Jno. McClines requested men to write to you on the same business and wishes land in the B. Prara if the land which was intended for sarver can be given them I presume they would be satisfyed

AY. C. BUCKNER

[Addressed:] Col° S. F. Austin

F. DURCY TO FRANÇOIS GRAPP

Saltillo, 10 Novr. 1825.

M^r. Fra^s. Grapp Natchitoche

MON^sr ET AMI Vous savez bien que de tous les temps; que je me suis fait au plaisir de vous écrire a fin de vou informer de tout ce que pourrait être pour le bien générale. C'est pourquoi je vous dirai que nous sommes surpris d'apprendre que Mr Feels [1] le mitif; s'était mis à la tête de plusieurs Nations Sauvages, et avait formé le plan d'attaquer le nouveaux établissement de *Texas;* en disant que puisque le Gouvernment ne lui avait point donné Terre qu'il empècherait aux autres de s'i établier.

Vous savez que Mr Feels s'est présenté au Mexique pour obtenir des Terre pour lui et la Nation Charoqui; mais comme le Gouvernment venait de prendre une autre forme il ne puisent pas lui accorder de Terre alors, mais on lui dit de prendre patience et qu'aussitôt que le Gouvernment aurait passé la loix de Colonization qu'on lui acorderait les Terres qu'il solicitait pour lui et la nation Charoqui—le Gouvernment le recommenda; et il fut assisté partout ou il passa tant par les Méxicains que les Américains—de retour au nation, il se mit à la tête de plusieurs nations pour attaquer et détruire tous les nouveaux établissements de Texas. Vous entendez, mon chère M^r que si Mr Feels a eu quelques raisons de se venger De Méxicains, il a tort d'en faire supporter la peine à des pauvres Americains inocents que sont les seules habitans que vous trouverez depuis la Sabine jusqu'a St Antoine.

C'est pourquoi; connaissent la poid de votre influence chez toutes les nations sauvages; et aussi l'assendent que vous avez sur la carac-

[1] Richard Fields, chief of the Cherokees.

tère de Mr Feels votre gendre, je pense que personne ne puit mieux que vous même arrèter le Grand disordre qui va se commêttre par les barbares, que vous connaissez mieux que moi. Je di vous pouvez vous signaler pour le bien le l'humanitée en Générale, en firent entendre aux sauvages le malheur qui les attende en suivant les plans de Mr Feels, et également; en firent parler à Mr Feels par son frère; que pourra le déterminer à abandonner un plan qui n'aura d'autre but que celui de le perdre; lui et tous ceux qui auront le malheur de le suivre.

Jue me suis appliqué à prendre de bonnes informations sur le sujet de ma Lettre: maintenant je vous prie de réfléchir vous même affion de prendre les mesures les plus promptes et les plus promptes pour arrèter des malheurs qui sont évidant et que vous seul pouvez arrèter.

Mes compliments à votre famille et vous prie de me croire votre serviteur et sincere ami

F. Durcy [Rubric]

J. E. B. Austin to Emily M. Perry[1]

San Felipe de Austin Novr. 10th. 1825.

My Dr. Sister.

An opportunity offers of sending this to Natchitoches and as I shall leave this place in a few days to establish myself below I concluded to drop you a line for fear I shall not soon have another opportunity. I wrote you a few days since and so did Brother—Since then he has had a severe attack of the billious fever, but I am happy to say he has recovered, altho he still continues very weak. You must not omit writing me often altho I may not have so frequent opportunities of hearing from or writing to you when I remove down the river I hope you will nevertheless let no opportunity miss without writing. When I write you I have matter so little interesting that you must excuse the shortness of my letters, but any thing from my dear Emily is always new and *interesting* to me —immured as I shall soon be in the woods by myself. I hope the Boys progress rapidly in their studies, they ought all to be *raised men of Business* how *much I lament* that my father did not place me in a situation where I could have obtained some certain method of Supporting myself instead of pursuing the course he did. Therefore do my Sister place your boys in some situation, severally as they arrive at a proper age, whereby they may gain a correct knowledge of some kind of bussness, when they arrive at an age when it will become necessary for them to enter into the *World* for themselves—In one of your former letters you mention a proposel made by

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. Emmett L. Perry.

Guy Bryan of Phil[a]. to provide for Guy— you know your own feelings as a *mother best* but if the opinion of a Brother is desire[d]—I would recommend it by all means— Austin I would like to educate myself if I was able—and if ever I am (which I have a flattering prospect of at present) I will do something for him—but in the mean time I would like to see the foundation laid for his future welfare and the first step towards it is as soon as he gets a little older to place him in some mercantile house untill he is 21 years of age— You may think your brother perhaps too plain but I have long since found out that time rolls fast youth passes and manhood approaches apace—They are now young and you have time to mark out the path they are to pursue either to plenty and ease or to wretchedness and want— I will merely refer you to Brother and myself if he had not fortunately succeeded in this enterprise what would have become of us. Neither of us had any certain means of support. We can profit by the errors of our father without casting any undutiful reflections on his memory— It is time to throw away *vain foolish pride* I have banished it from me intirely I confess I once possessed a large share, as is natural for Youths in the situation I then thought myself— they all aught to be raised merchants it is no shame or dishonor to bind them untill they are of an age to act and think for themselves

If you can bind Austin in a Commercial house in the importing business do so, and [that] will be more to his advantage and future prospects where he can learn the French Language he can afterwards learn Spanish in this Country— if I live and *prosper*— Brother sends his love to you—

Ja[s]. B Austin

P. S. Kiss the little stranger for me and Mary

[Addressed:] M[rs]. Emily M. Perry. Potosi. Missouri. Mail.

Contract for Hire of Slaves

Be it Known that I John Randon have this day hired to J. B. Austin two negros for one year from the twenty first day of this month at the following rates to say, the negro man Frank for the sum of one hundred and fifteen Dollars a year and the negro woman Hannah for the sum of Sixty Dollars pr. year which sums are to be discounted with Stephen F. Austin in payment of my land procured of him

San Felipe Nov. 14. 1825 John Randon

It is understood that My negro Adam is to go in the place of Frank untill I get my Cabbins built say one month from this day—

John Randon

Robert Williams to Austin

18 Nov. 1825

Col. Austin

I was one day late Starting of the Boy that I antisipated owing to my Losing of a horse on the rode your man Mose come back with Augustus for Eliza Brooks to ride home as my horse died on the road it will be out of my power to procure her a horse as there is none in the settlement and at the time she returns home my horse will be on the camppain the Bond that I gave you for the delivery of the Boy you will deliver Mr Vandorne in comply[ing] you will oblige me—

Robt Williams

David M. McCormick to Samuel M. Williams

Lower Settlement Brassos Novr 21st 1825

Dear Sir

I neglected by an intire forgetfulness a small arrangement that I was under promise to make in favour of Thomas Alley of the payment of four Dollars that I owe him I told him sometime previous to my coming from Town that if I could not get the money for him that I would not fail to make arrangements with you or Col. Austin to pay it to him or his order which he said he would give in favour of Mr Brown that left some whisky with you if he did not call on you himself Sir if you will be good Enough to settle that Amount with him for me and enable me to keep my word inviolate which I wish always to do You will confer a great favour on Your friend— Command my services at any time.

David M Cormick [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr Samuel M Williams Esqr San Felipe de Austin

Articles of Partnership

This agreement, between James E. B. Austin and John Austin witnesseth that the said James and John have associated themselves in partnership for the objects and on the footing stated below that is to say, the objects of said partnership are to build a Gin, and carry on the ginning business, on the land granted to said James in this Colony, and also to engage in commercial buisness generally—

The conditions of the partnership are that all capital or advances made by eather of said parties shall be charged to the Company and

accounted for at the expiration of the partnership,— The nett profits of the concern shall be equally divided between the parties. The partnership shall continue for two years unless sooner dissolved by mutual Consent—

JAS. E. B. AUSTIN [Rubric]
JOHN AUSTIN [Rubric]

San Felipe de Austin November 22nd 1825

GEORGE S. PENTACOST TO AUSTIN

Rio San Bernard 25th Novm 1825

Sir as circumstances prevent me from comeing to Town as, I calculated you will be so good as to transmit the money, (if paid over to you from Coles) to me by Mr. Curtis and relieve me from verry pressing wants indeed and you will vary much oblige.

GEO S. PENTACOST

P. S. You will please to keep back in your possession the money you loaned me

GEO. S P

[Addressed:] Con[l]. S. F Austin—San Felippe de Austin

GEORGE Y BRIGHT TO AUSTIN

Saltillo Nov 26 1825.

Mr LENCH

Will confer a favour on me by informing Col. Austin that I contemplate entering the Port of Rio Brasos de Dios in the Month of Feby, next, that my object is to establish a commercial depot for my own Goods, at some point convenient to where the Beaver are plenty, and pursue equally the accumulation of that article and the vending of my Goods, that I am concerned with a substantial House in N Orleans, and will do all my business through his settlement, that I have my associates now on the Rio Grande making preperations, He will recollect me as the Son in Law of Mr. Charles Fremon de Lausiere

GEORGE Y BRIGHT

ERASMO SEGUIN TO AUSTIN

Bexar 27. de Novr de 1825

Amigo D. Estevan Austin. Quando salió de aqui su recomendado D. Luis Roverto [Robert Lewis?], me dexó de encargo una maleta de ropa que segun me dijo pertenese a un primo hermano de V.; y

como asta ahora no se ha presentado una conducta segura con quien remitirla, no lo he verificado, pero lo haré luego que se me presente ocasion, ó V. me ordenará a quien devo entregarla.

Nuestro amigo Ramos Arispe actual encargado del Ministerio de gracia y justicia le manda á V. los decretos que acompaño, en q. se declara havilitado el Puerto de Galveston, con lo q. se reanimarán mis paisanos de esa Colonia, y ya le remito otro decreto para que quando tenga proporcion los reparta á mi nombre a los otros tres amigos Empresarios, de Trinidad, Brazos, y Guadalupe, de cuyos apelativos no me acuerdo, pero son mis amigos y deseo q. les haga V. presente mis recuerdos y consideracion.

A D. Santiago muchas memorias, y lo mismo al Sor. Gros; y V. reciviendo los afectos de toda mi familia, disponga del buen afecto q. le profesa este su imbariable amigo q. lo és

ERASMO SEGUIN [Rubric]

No es extraño q. hay padescan enfermedad quando aqui q. siempre hemos disfrutado de tan buena salud, estamos ahora apestados. Apenas hay una sola familia en toda la ciudad aquien no le ha acometido la fiebre, y hemos tenido muchos muertos, y otros q. estan siguiendo la misma carrera, y ni esperanza deq. cese la enfermedad, pues hasta ahora está en su vigor. Quiera el Supremo bien q. no sea lo mismo el año entrante.

PRICE LIST

John Austin
To W. Buford Dr.

1825		
Octor 26th.	To 1 Sett Knives and forks	$4.50
Novr. 21st.	2 Doz Suspender buttons @ 12½	25
Nov. 5th.	J. E. B. Austin To W. Buford Dr.	
	To 4 Yds Brown Linen @ 75	3.
12th	To 4 Do Do ... Do	3.
28th	Col Austin	
	1 Dressd Buckskin	1.50
		$12.25

Recd payment W. Buford

M. WILKINSON TO AUSTIN

State of Missouri Maddison County.
Fredk Town Nov 29th 25

DEAR SIR

The bearer of this letter Mr. Jno Mathews is an old and reputable emegrant to this country previous to its cession to the United States and has ever since conducted himself in the most upright and

gentlemanly manner, he owns in this neighbourhood a large and valuable farm but from the numeriousness of his family he in his old age visits your country with a view if he likes to become a citizen; permit me to introduce and recommend him to you as a useful and valuable citizen and any aid and assistance you can render him whilst in the Spanish provinces will confer an Obligation on

M WILKINSON

[Addressed:] Mr Stephen F. Austin Province Texas Mr Mathews

BASTROP TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 1 de Diciembre de 1825

Sr Dn ESTEVAN AUSTIN SN FELIPE.

Mi siempre querido Amigo. He cumplido a la letra lo que me ordene V en su apreciable de 16 Julio concerniente al Sr. Roberto Lewis, el Sr. Govr ha decretado conforme al art 17 de la ley de colonisacion que in forme el Gefe de departamto quien le pasara a V para que lo haga V y despues dara el suyo en este negocio devia seguirse aquel tramite, pero el Sr. Govr esta conforme y desea servir a aquel cavallero: deseaba yo haver podido serle util en asunto de mayor importancia: y V puede contar con un amigo que desea servirlo y atento S M B.

BASTROP [Rubric]

GEORGE ORR TO AUSTIN

Trinity Taskasito 1st December 1825.

DEAR SIR.

The peculiarity of Interest I feel on the subject induce me to solicit a favor from you, which from the liberality of your disposition I anticipate will be granted: I should be very glad to receive from your kindly office by the first safe conveyance a *Translated copy* of the Colonization Laws relating to conditions of Locations of Lands etc etc in this province

Your complyance will place me under an obligation which will be most cheerfully reciprocated on the first occasion

GEORGE ORR

NB Any charge for the Copy of the Laws I will pay on demand.

[Addressed]: To his Excellency Colonel Stephen F. Austin at St. Felipe de Austin *Province of Texas.*

JOHN MCARTHUR TO AUSTIN

Fredericktown [Missouri], Dec. 6th 1825

MY DEAR SIR,

My friend John Mathews, who will give you this letter, has been an inhabitant of this Country for 26 years; I have been acquainted with

him for 18 years and with much pleasure can recommend him as a man of integrity and a good citizen. He goes to your Country with a view of becoming a citizen thereof. He possesses a knowledge in mineralogy, and wishes to engage in that line. I write this note in haste as Mr. Mathews is on the eve of Departure, would be glad to give you a full letter—but can only say, being lately at the Mines of Burton your sister was well—My family are all well. You will soon make up your acquaintance with Mr Mathews, who will give you all the local news,

JOHN MCARTHER

Col Stephen F. Austin

AUSTIN TO MRS. EMILY M. PERRY

Mouth of the Brasos river December 12 1825

DR SISTER,

Mr. Mothershead from Missouri starts tomorrow and has promised to deliver this to you as he goes through Mine á Burton. I have nothing very material to write—having some surveying to attend to in this quarter I accompanied the surveyor and have just returned from a fishing and oystering trip, and think my health (which has not been very good) is improved—we procured a great abundance of fish, oysters and wild fowl and have had very fine weather

Brother and John Austin have commenced building a Gin a little below the head of tide water on this river, about 40 miles by water from this place—he has commenced in the woods and intends to be a *first rate farmer* we neither of us own any negros and have to depend on hireing

The Colony progresses very well, tho not very rapidly, I am very well satisfied that you have not removed here, the Country is very new yet, and I think Mr Perry can do better where he is for the present than he could do here—we have but little commerce as yet—tho must have a great deal in a few years—

The reports in the news papers relative to overflow, Sickness, etc, etc, etc, in this Colony are all false—we have very abundant crops—

I have just heard of Wm Perrys murder—if his murderer comes within my reach he shall be secured and lodged in Nachitoches jail—I am told that his name is Hill. is it the same Hill that worked for Bryan and married one of the Doggits? Send me a particular description of him and the news paper that offers the reward and if he comes here I may be able to get some one to take him back to Potosi—

I am daily expecting something from you and Mr. Perry relative to the Mine á Burton Estate—you must do the best you can, it will be many years before I can see Missouri, or brother either—

I am getting tired of Colonization affairs and hope before long to close my business and settle on a farm—

Remember me to your Husband and assure him that nothing would give me more real pleasure than to see him in this Country as soon as his business will permit, he will find us in the woods—and *poor* The enterprise I undertook is better calculated to enrich those who come after me than to benefit myself—I have the labor to perform and the seed to sow, but my successors will reap the harvest—

Give my respects to Sam[l] Perry and to John and his wife and my other acquaintances—

Your brother

S. F. Austin

N. B. I am very much fatigued and have a headache which must be my excuse for such a scrall as I now send you—

What are the Jones doing? where is Mrs. Henry Elliott?— What has become of James Austins children?— What is G. Hammond doing? I received a letter from Arch. Austin in New York. Henry had gone to Mexico—are Horaces children doing well? where is his wife? etc etc

This river mouths into the wild ocean without any bay, and the breakers are roaring within Eighty yards of me—there is a good two story frame house and some cabins here and there is at this time 8 feet water over the bar Salt water is produced here by digging 10 feet so strong that 5 gallons of it will make one of salt, and by digging 4 feet good fresh water is found in abundance,—Mosquitoes are troublesome at this time— I have discovered in my fishing trip that the west end of Galveston bay comes within four miles of this place, and within 200 yards of a deep tide water creek that empties into the Brasos, so that 200 yards digging will open an inland water communication with the Harbor of Galveston where ships of 400 tons can enter with safety—I shall spend some time on the coast—it is 75 miles from here to where I live at present tho I intend to remove about 25 miles by water above here, 10 by land—

Emily M. Perry to Austin[1]

Mine A Burton December 18th 1825—

My Dear Brothers—

A considerable length of time has elaps'd since we have received any letters from you. What can be the cause of this long silence. the last letter which I received was from you my Dear James dated August 17th from Groces Retreat writen shortly after your return from the interior. I received it in a month after it was writen; it

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. Emmett L. Perry.

was *short* but still it gave me a great deal of pleasure to hear that you were well, and still thought of your Sister and her *Children.* I have writen Several letter[s] lately boath by Mail, and privet conveyance; informing you, of the untimely death of your Old acquantence William M. Perry, who was shot by William Hill, who absconded immediately; I sent you a hand bill also a large Packet of letters, by Esqr Andrews, who I expect you will see before this letter comes to hand; their are a number of Families moving to your Colloney from this State, Old Dr Thompson, and his Son Burrell have *started, and a hopefull gang they are;* but you know their carrector thierfor, you will know how to deal with them— Old Mr Alley and his Son, will start in a few days, and a number more taulk of going.

I must now commence and give you a catalogue, of news; I shall first comenc[e] and inform you of those friend and acquintences that have left this troublesome world, and I hope have found a better our old Friend Mrs Nancy Bates is no more; Mrs Horrace Austin is also gone, died raven distracted, Mrs Ritchards did not survive her Daughter but a short time, Mary Honey has all her Brothers and Sisters; except William and Charles,—Adeline Lewis has a Daughter, also Maria Woodson— John Dennisson is to be Married in a short time to Miss Maria Vensant, a *Dutch Beauty*— of Fifteen— Miss Isabella McIlvain was Married on Thursday last to Mr John McGradey, and your Old Friend D^{r} McGradey has also taken a Wife to himself; a Mrs Covington, Sister to Mrs Fletcher; Esqr Brickey is also Married, to a widdow—Miss Isabella Hord was not pleased at the Doctors Marring and the poor old Man could not muster courage to take the News to her, but had to send a Friend to inform her of it,—etc. etc.—

January 8th 1826—

after letting my letter lay for some time I have once more taken pen to close this Scrawl and answer my Dear Brothers letters of October, and November, I am much greaved to learn by Brown's letter that My Dear Stephen, had been so ill, O! that I could have taken wings and of Flown to your Sick bed; but Alas I am apprehensive that it is our lot to be separated the remainder of our lives, I shall be extreamly happy to hear that one or boath of you were *Married*, you must lead a very disagreeable life the way that you live, I do not like to hear you say Stephen that you can not visit *Missouri*, I think if you were to come on, that you might find some Ladey that would please you, Your Old Favourite Miss Courtney Baylor is now a Widdow, living in New Orleans—but if My Dear Brother, would only, make a visit to this State I am sure that he could meat with a Ladey that would be willing to go with you to

Texas— I often very often think of you and think of how much you must of suffered in that wilderness It appears that our Family were destined to be immured in, and settling of New-Countrys, I forgot to mention in my former letters that Capt. Henry Austin had Moved to South America, some time since, but what part I never could ascertain;— I thank you My Dear Brown for your advice respecting my Sons, and be assured that they shall be rais'd men of buisness, if it is possible and from present appearances I have every thing to incourage me Austin posseses so much of his Mothers temper and Grand Fathers Temper that I find him much harder to manage than the rest, but when he coms to go through the same School, I have he will be pretty well humbled, he is a smart Lad and if propperly managed will make a man of buisness,— I wish you to write me a full account of your new *settlement;* how you progress. the situation, how far from Brother in short every thing relative to the improvement of the establishments, and of the Coloney generally is interesting to us— I never should be at a loss, if their for a subject to write on—for we get very little correct information respecting that Country; has or do any vessels ever touch, at the mouth of the Brasses etc. etc.—

Their has been a valuable Le[a]d Mines discover'd with-in *ten miles* of Herculaneum, on Sandy, the Land belongs to Honey and Bates, they are acquiring welth very fast— I was much grattifyed not long since to see in a work of Schoolcraft, a Biographical sketch of our Dear Father, he speaks of every member of the Family, and of Fathers early visit to this Country; I intend to purchase the work, as soon as I can and send it to you—by the first opportunity— I must close this long Scrawl; Mr. Perry joins me in good wishes for your health and Proesperity; and believe me Dear Brothers always your truly attached Sister and Friend

E. M. P.—

The children are all well, your name sake is a most lovely Child. *Adieu*

[Addressed:] Stephen, F. Austin Esqr. San Felipe de Austin Rio Brazos Provence of Texas. Care of Jared Cable Natchitoches

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SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Haviendose consumido los mil pesos que remitió V. con su hermano D. Santiago, y siendo la orn del Exmo Gov de este Estado que á los tres meses se entreguen los otros un mil, pero que con la Vrebidad qe le sea posible lo verifique pa atender con ellos á los gastos de la Secretaria de este Departamto.

Dios y libertad. Bejar 19. de Diciembre de 1825

JOSÉ ANTO SAUCEDO [Rubric]

Sor Dn. Estevan Austin

BENJAMIN LINDSEY TO AUSTIN

December 20th 1825

MR AUSTIN

Sir, I have sent a Couple of men Mr. Riddle and Mr. Carson to Improve my land and make a Crop on it I believe them both to be good honest industrous men Riddle is a very Exelent Black Smith I am so situated that I Cannot Come on myself at this time but I shall be on about the last of April or the first May—if the first payment must be made on my Land before I get there Mr Riddle will pay you up in Cattle I would Raither it Could be put off til I get there myself perhaps by that time I Could be able to pay the Cash please to instruct these men where to find the land and what improvements is necessary to be made—

BENJAMIN LINDSEY

JOHN SMITH TO AUSTIN

Near Russellville Logan County Kentucky
Decr. 25—1825

Stephen F Austin Esqr.

SIR I have the honour of addressing you via Natchitoches, in behalf of myself and sundry friends who, wish me to explore the Province of Texas, and particularly that part of it comprehended in your grant— I was on Red River last month, and should have proceeded to your Section of the Country, but I was advised to postpone that part of my journey, till the grass grows up in the Spring, and having some friends and relations in this quarter who desired to see me in relation to that Country, I came hither, and am litterally locked up, for the winter I suppose, by the ice and snow—

I have resided for some years past in the States of Mississippi and Louisiana, where the most of my friends abide, and at whose instance I consented to visit your Province—

I am instructed to enquire particularly into the following points—to wit

1st Will there be allowed to the citizens, or Subjects of Texas, a free commercial intercourse with the Citizens or Subjects of other nations?

2d Will Religious toleration be allowed the Emigrants from the United States, so far as to be exempted from the payment of tithes to the established Church, if they should desire it. And to think and act for themselves in matters of conscience? Provided they do not interfere with the Catholic Religion, and with fidelity support the laws of the land, as citizens ought to do? and thereby to enjoy as much Religious liberty as the Protestants have in France, and

some other Catholic Countries? Or as the Catholics have in the United States? Or should these previleges in there full extent be refused, we ask for the Privilege of exercising the rights of private judgement in our own houses and neighbourhood? Provided, nevertheless, that our difference in opinion with the Catholics, be a silent one?

3d We wish you to transcribe the form of the oath you will administer to us—From your letters which we have seen in print, we know your terms of settlement, and are satisfied— Have the goodness to write me as soon as convenient, after the receipt of this, and very particularly on each of the forgoing points, addressed to me at this place

I expect to remain here till next May, and will thank you for any news which you maye please to give me— JOHN SMITH

[Addressed:] Stephen F Austin Esquire Texas—Particular care of the Post Master of Natchitoches—

H. JOHNSON TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, 29th December 1825

SIR,

As Chief Magistrate of this State, I take the liberty to address you upon a subject of Deep interest to many of our Citizens. It has been represented to me from a source that may be relied on, that a number of slaves and horses of the inhabitants residing near the Sabine, in the Western section of the State, have been stolen and carried into the Province of Texas, by a lawless banditti associated for the purpose; and that many Dishonest Debtors, who fly from justice here, taking with them in some instances, property mortgaged for the payment of their Debts, take refuge in the said Province. Indeed, I am informed that property mortgaged here for a large amount has been thus carried off.

Relying upon your high character, the people feel assured that you will cheerfully do all in your power to prevent the recurrence of the evils complained of. I should feel much gratified, Sir, to learn for the information of those interested, what steps should be adopted, best calculated to put a stop to such outrages, and for the recovery of the Debts alluded to.

Connected as your settlement is with this State, it is important to both, that harmony should prevail, and that a friendly intercourse should be carried between them. So far as may depend upon the exercise of my authority, the object shall be effected.

H. JOHNSON [Governor of Louisana.]

Col. Stephen A. [sic] Austin

CENSUS REPORT [DECEMBER 31], 1825

Census of the District of Collorado for the Year 1825.—Spaniards

No.	Heads of Families.	Occupations.	Male Children.	Female Children.	Hirelings.	Servants.
1	James Cummin and Wife.	Farmer	1 Aged 7 years	4—Aged 16, 14, 3, 1 yr.		3.
2	Horatio A. Alsbury	Do				
3	James Ross and wife.	Do		1—Aged 1 y		6.
4	Louis Holloway and Wife.	Do				
5	James Holloway and Wife.	Do				
6	Henry Harrison	Blacksmith				
7	Elizabeth Tumlinson—Widow.	Farmer	3 aged 20 19, 11 Yr.	1, aged—12 years		
8	Jonathan Hopkins and Wife.	Tanner				
9	Thomas Gray—Widower.	Do				
10	George Duty	Do				
11	Joseph Duty	Do				
12	John De Moss wife Sister.	Do		Aged 16 ys		
13	Asy Anderson and wife.	Do	1 aged 11 ys	1 aged 13 ys		1.
14	John Tobar and wife.	Do		1 aged 10 ys		4.
15	Jesse Burnam and wife	Do	2 aged 10, 8 ys	4 aged 11, 5, 3, 1 ys.	2	
16	Robert Nalls	Do				
17	James Tumlinson and wife.	Do	7 aged 20, 18, 14, 10, 8, 5, 2 ys.	1 aged—4 ys		
18	Benjamin Beeson and wife.	Do	4 aged 15, 11, 9, 3 ys.	2 aged 17, 14 ys	1	7.
19	Gabriel S. Snider and wife.	Do		1 aged—2 ys	5	
20	Daniel Holloway	Do				
21	Nathan Osburn	Do				
22	William B. Deweez	Gunsmith			5	
23	Robert Kuykendale and wife.	Farmer and stock-raiser.	2 aged 10 and 3 years.	2 aged 8 and 6 Years.		
24	William Rabb and wife.	Do	1 aged—			1 negro.
25	Thomas J. Rabb	Do				
26	Andrew Rabb and Wife.	Do	1 aged 1 year			
	Wm. Cooper					
	Alexander Jackson	Farmer	1 aged 7 Years	3 aged 12, 10, 8		4 negroes
	Wm. Kincheloe and wife.	Farmer and stockraiser.	3 aged 14, 8, 5	2 Aged 15, 14		
	Daniel Ralls and wife.	Farmer and stockraiser.	3 Aged 11, 10, 1	1 Aged 5		
	Amus Ralls	Farmer and stockraiser.	1 Aged 8	1 Aged 12		
	Benjamin Ralls	Farmer				
	Loid Sojourner	Do				
	Samuel Chance	Do				
	Thos. Williams and wife.	Farmer and stockraiser.	1 Aged 19	2 Aged 17-15	1	
	Thos. B. Bell and wife	Do	1 Aged 11	2 Aged 6-4		1 Negro.
	A. Harrison and wife.	Do	2 Aged 15-12			
	Moses Morrison	Do				
	Pumphrey Burnett	Do				
	Caleb R. Robinson					
	Jno. Bowman	Do				
	Eli Hunter and wife.	Do		1 Aged 2		
	B. Bright and Wife	Do	1 Aged 15	1 Aged 17		
	M. De Moss and Wife	Do	3 Aged 23, 22, 21	3 Aged 14, 12, 10		
	Peter DeMoss and wife	Do	1 Aged 5	1 Aged 3		
	Robert Brotherton	Do				
	William Parks	do				
	Aylett C. Buckner	Do. (but despise the form of this paper because it is calculated to convey rong impressions for hirelands and Negros ought not to be in the same column.)				
	Rossen[Rawson]Alley	Surveyor				
	Thomas V. Alley	Farmer				
	William Alley	Do				
	Abraham Alley	Do				
	James McNair					
	James Cook	Do				
	A. W. McLane	Tanner				
	John Petty	Farmer				
	Robert Patton	Carpenter				
	M. Williams and Wife	Farmer				
	Nathan Osborn	Do				
	Joseph Toras	Do				

AUSTIN TO MOSES MORRISON, ET AL.

To MOSES MORRISON WM KINCHELOE AND AY C. BUCKNER

You are hereby appointed judges of the election for Alcalde for the district of Mina to be held at the house of Capt Amos Rawls, on Saturday the 14th instant agreeably to Notice issued by me, you will keep duplicate Poll Books of said election to be signed by each one of you, one of said Poll Books you will deliver to the new Alcalde elected which will serve as his authority to act. The other Poll Book you will send to me— You will also administer the oath to the new Alcalde to support the Mexican Constitution and that of the State of Coahuila and Texas and faithfully to discharge the duties of Alcalde of the district of Mina for the year 1826 and thereafter until another is elected and qualified— A certificate that you had administered said oath must be put at the foot of each poll Book and signed by the judges you will also deliver this official order to the new Alcalde to be filed in his office as a public document.

Sn felipe de Austin 4th Jany 1826

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Political Chief of this Colony

AUSTIN TO ALCALDE OF SAN FELÍPE

[January 4, 1826?]

The Alcalde of the district of San Felipe is hereby directed to deliver over to the Alcalde of the district of Victoria which formerly was a part of said district of San Felipe all papers documents or certified transcripts of papers which properly belong to said district of Victoria and take a receipt for the same

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JOHN P. COLES TO AUSTIN

7th January 1826

DEAR SIR: I recd yours on the subject of whitesides—children feelings of Humanity was the only thing which Induced me first to become their Guardian and those feeling still Exist but why should I Involve myself in a life time difficulty for those whom from acquaintance nor no other causes have any claims on me as for the children I pitty them their uncle is not nor never will be capable of dooing anything for them. But this is not my business he is their Relation and I am not. therefore I am willing that you should ap-

point him I will give him the children when ever he calls for them My obligation as Guardian I shall Expect Returned to me etc—

We burried our little daughter yesterday she died suddenly I move to Bravo next week you Inclosed an order from Joshua Parker to a Mr. Bell. for 2 Horses in one of your letters without saying any thing about It. I know nothing about it. what is the meaning of it or what doo you want done with the order

You say that the Goverment is displeased that you did not go to war with the Wacos and Coumanches I am sorry to hear this but sir we have better be driven out of the country by the Goverment than by the Indians there is no one in the country that is more disposed to defend the country than I am But as we are at peace with those Indians we must remain so and even put up with some abuse from them until we are able to fight them If we get into difficulty with those Indians the Goverment is not able to assist us and we are unable off ourselves to contend with them and my oppinion is that the only policy for us is to let those Indians alone say nothing to them and If the Goverment will force us into a war with them we must make the best of It. I am allways Ready to act my part. in peace or war

JNO P. COLES [Rubric]

Benjamin Edwards was very angry a few days previous to his leaving here with you and I am convinced he was Rong and I believe I satisfied him that he was Rong for the want of paper I do not Relate the particulars but we will speak of It when I see you

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HADEN EDWARDS TO AUSTIN

Col°. AUSTIN

Enclosed are some letters to the departments of Govern^t. the forwarding of which by the earliest opportunity will confer a singular favour.

We have no opportunity direct from here of communicating with the Government.

I found in my return from your place that there had a consider able storm arisen, heavy threats to send me over the Sabine; but I came out in a Herricane and promised to send in irons any man who dared acknowledge the threat to saltillo. sounded the trump all around bidding defiance to all their threats and bidding them to leave the lands or come forward and make arrangements to pay for them. They are now all friendly promise to pay me for their lands and spend their lives in my defence I expect Leftwitch on every day and anticipate the happiness of spending some happy hours

united with yourself and the Baron whom I am in hopes will soon return. I am crowded with friends and letters from every quarter at this moment which prevents my saying a thousand things to you, I am compelled to omit at this moment. Wishing you every prosperity and happiness remain yours

HADEN EDWARDS [Rubric]

Nacogdoches Jany 9th 1826

N. B. please write me by the first opportunaty.

H. E.

JOHN MCGAFFEY TO GOVERNMENT

To the Honorable The Authorities and Representatives of the Government of the Province of Texas.

The Petition of John McGaffey Respectfully represents that Your Petitioner is a Citizen of the United States of North America, that he has of late taken up his residence in this Province of Texas With an intention of becoming a Faithfull and Usefull Citizen thereof.

Your Petitioner has with great pains and under Considerable disadvantages, partially Established a *Ferry* to Cross the River *Neige* [Neches?] on the old Teskasito Road leading to *Trinity:* With a view to be enabled to Make good Roads through the swamps and Marshes adjacent to the Banks of said River, Your Petitioner Respectfully solicits the aid of the Government, to grant a *Right* to him of a small Bank on the east side of the River whereon to build a Ferry House, and a Right to improve Two Miles of Road through the swamps and Marshes of the same side

Your Petitioner Would beg leave to represent that the West side of the Banks of said River is surounded with an immense Marsh of three miles through, subject to overflow, that he would respectfully solicit a *Right* to these Marshes which would enable him for the first year, to Make good Roads of three miles long on the West side, and Two Miles on the East side Leading to and from the Banks of said River *Neige* and in the space of Five Years he would obligate himself to Make the Whole distance of *Five Miles* a high and Complete Turnpike Road.

As a Compensation for his pains and trouble Your Petitioner respectfully solicit a *Right* to a *League* of Land Most convenient and adjacent to the *Ferry* for the Maintainance and support of himself and Familly also to Exact from travellers and Emigrants a small Compensation for Ferriage

Your Petitionner Respectfully hopes that from the importance and immense utility and Convenience to travellers and Emigrants of a Well regulated Ferry your Honorable Body Will view his Petition

With a favorable Eye and Will be pleased to grant him the object of his Petition

And as in duty bound Your petitionner will ever be gratfull and obedient to the Laws of this Province!

JOHN MCGAFFEY [Rubric]

River Neige 10th Jany 1826

We the Undersigners, entertaining the Most favorable opinion of the Integrity Industry and Sobriety of Mr. John McGaffey and being Confident of his Capability to fulfill the Conditions of the solicited grant, also, from the importance of the Establishment of a *Ferry* to this colony beg leave respectfully to recommend him.

GEORGE ORR

AUSTIN TO POLITICAL CHIEF

[From Austin's Blotter in file of August 26, 1824.]

Contestacion sobre Extrangeros.

Quedo enterado del oficio de V. S. fha 30 de diciembre po. po. en que me manda por una lista nominal dar un informe del numero de extrangeros q sin permiso del Gobierno se hallan establecidos desde los Rios Brasos a Trinidad en cuya contestacion devo decir qe todos los extrangeros que han entrado en esta jurisdicion vienen con el objeto de establecerse como parte delas quinientas familias q tengo contratado con el Gobierno Colonizar sobre las tierras vacantes dentro de los limites de esta colonia pero no lo ha verificado definitivamente por la falta de un comisionado para medir las tierras y dar posesiones de ellas, y pr. consiguiente les considero como habitantes de esta Colonia, y q no estan incluidos en la clase de extrangeros—En Cumplimto con el citado oficio he comunicado copia de ello al Alcalde de Nacogdoches para su inteligencia y debido cumplimto—Dios y Libertad—

Sn Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

Sor Gefe del Departamto.

E F A

AUSTIN TO POLITICAL CHIEF

[From Austin's Blotter in file of August 26, 1824.]

Contestacion sobre remision de 1000 pesos.

He recibido el oficio de U S. fha 19 de deceimbre po. po. en que me dice que se ha consumido los mil pesos que remito con mi hermano y que con la brevidad que sea posible mandaria los otros mil mencionados en el oficio del Exmo Sor Governador; en cuya contestacion devo decir que he hecho todo empeño para cobrar de los Colonos lo que deben sobre sus tierras pero mis esfuerzos no han

tenido efecto por los rasones que sigue—la mayor parte delos Colonos no son de proporciones para pagar dinero al pronto—el año pasado perdieron muchos de sus cosechos por la inundacion y por falta del trabajo necesario en consequencia de las enfermedades.—hasta ahora no hemos tenido comercio para traher dinero y de esto no hay ni en toda la Colonia en el dia se puede conseguir mil pesos al pronto—los rumores esparcidos por algunos hombres sobre la legalidad de la orden del Gefe Politico de Texas, que establecio los gastos que deben pagar los Colonos les han hecho creer que dicha orden es ilegal y nulo—esta materia me ha ocasionado mas dificultad, mas trabajo y mas disgusto que todos los otros asuntos de la Colonia—segun el Arancel es el deber del Comisionado cobrar estos gastos y luego que llega la entregare las obligaciones de los Colonos y entre tanto no puedo mandar dinero por que no lo tengo, ho puedo conseguirlo por que nolo hay que es todo que puedo decir en contestacion á su citado oficio—Dios y Libertad

San felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F Austin

Sor Gefe del departamento—

Contestacion sobre la Comision para Galveston

Quedo enterado por el oficio orden de V. S. fecha 30 de diciembre popo de la comision que el Gobierno ha tenido á bien darme para pasar á Galveston y levantar un plano topografico del puerto de este nombre que previene el Exmo Sor Gobernador de este Estado en su oficio 31 de octubre anterior, cuyo verificado que sea debo remitir á V. S. con la prontitud que se desea poner en corriente el mencionado puerto por lo mucho que interese á este Departamento y en particular de esta Colonia de mi cargo mandandome al mismo tiempo añadir q^{ts} [quantas] noticias sean conducentes á la instrucion á que termina el Articulo 3° del decreto por que se habilita el dicho puerto. En cumplimiento con la citada orden y para llenar en quanto alcance mis cortos esfuerzos con los deseos de nuestro Gobiérno filantropico pasaré en pocos dias al citado punto para el debido desempeño de la referida comision y verificado que sea el plano lo remitire á V. S. con la prontitud posible—Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de a 10 de Enero de 1826

E F A

Sor Gefe del departamento

Sobre pasaportes etc de buques

Quedo enterado por el oficio de V. S. fecha 16 de 10bre [December] pópo del oficio del Sor D^{n} Manuel Cevallos senador por este Estado fecha 19 de octubre popo en que comunica que el Supremo Gobierno

esta autorizado para dar los pasaportes y nacionalizacion de Buques tanto para el comercio exterior como para el cabotaje lo que he publicado á estos habitantes para su inteligencia y fines correspondientes—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E. F. A

Sor Gefe del departamento.

Sobre el castillo Sⁿ Juan de Ulua

Con el oficio de V. S. fecha 16 de 10bre [December] popo recibi la proclama del Exmo Sor Presidente dela Republica anuncia á los pueblos la rendicion del castillo de Sⁿ Juan de Ulua loque he publicado a estos habitantes con las demonstraciones de regocijo que las circumstancias permitan—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sor Gefe del departamento de Texas.

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sobre prestamos etc de Tabaco

Quedo informado por el oficio de V. S. fecha 4 de 9bre [Noviembre] popo. dela lista de los Yndividuos que han contribuido con prestamos y donativos voluntarios para la fabrica de tabaco en el Saltillo lo que he publicado—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sor Gefe del departamento—

Quedo enterado por el oficio de V. S. fecha 4 de 9bre que el Exmo Sor Secretario de Justicia y negocios Eclesiasticos Dⁿ Pablo de la llave esta encargado interinamente del ministerio de Hacienda—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del departamento—

Sobre la ley del 27 de 7bre.

Quedo enterado por el oficio de V. S. fecha 4 de 9bre popo. del decreto del Congreso General haciendo extensivo el Art. 1° de la ley de 27 de 7bre de 1823 que habla de Ladrones en quadrilla pero como nunca he recido dicha ley me hallo sin el conocimiento necesario en la materia—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sor Gefe del departamento—

Sobre Extrangeros de Gran Bretania y E. U. del Norte

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fecha 17 de 9bre popo. del oficio del Exmo Sor Ministro de Estado y Relaciones sobre la entrada de Extrageros de gran Bretania y delos Estados Unidos del Norte—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del Departamento—

Serampion:

Por el oficio de V. S. fecha 21 de octubre popo. he recibido un exemplar dela memoria instructiva dela enfermedad epidemica del Serampion—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del Departamento—

Puerto de Guazacoalco

Con el oficio de V. S. fecha 4 de 9bre popo. he recibido el decreto del Congreso Nacional habilitando el puerto de Guazacoalco en el Estado de Vera Cruz—Dios y Libertal—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del Departamento—

Por el oficio de V. S. fecha 26 de octubre popo. quedo enterado dela orden relativo á los Españoles Nicolas Arant, Pedro Pascal Maiz, y Fermin Saenz venidos en el Bergantin Frances los dos Augustus—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del Departamento—

Puerto de Mansanilla

Con el oficio de V. S. fecha 17 de 9bre popo. he recibido el decreto del Congreso Nacional sobre habilitacion del puerto Mansanilla en el territorio de Colima.—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sor Gefe del departamento.—

reglamento para vice consules

Con el oficio de V.S. fecha 17 de octubre popo. he recibido reglamento provisional que ha formado el Sor Obregon Ministro Plenipotenciario dela Republica cerca de los Estados unidos del Norte sobre pasaportes y instruciones á los vice consules—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del departamento—

Tratado de Columbia y Mexico

Con el eficio de V.S. fecha 21 de octubre popo. he recibido el exemplar del tratado de Union Liga y Confederacion perpetua que celebraron los Ministros Plenipotenciarios de Columbia y Mexico en 3 de octubre de 1823 y ratificado por el Gobierno Columbiano en 30 de Junio de 1824 lo que he publicado segun me mando VS—Dios y Libertad,—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del Departamento.—

Con el oficio de V.S. fecha 7 de octubre popo. he recibido el decreto del Congreso Nacional estableciendo en el Estado de las Chiapas un Batallon de Milicia activa—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del departamento—

Puerto de Galveston

Con el oficio de V.S. fecha 17 de Noviembre po. po. he recibido el decreto del Congreso Nacional habilitando provisionalmente el puerto de Galveston—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr. Gefe del departamento—

Sobre la tarifa del Alcabala

Por el oficio de V.S. fecha 7 de octubre po.po. quedo enterado del decreto del Honorable Congreso de este Estado sobre que se suspenda por ahora el uso de la tarifa del Alcabala expresada—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del Departamento—

Por el oficio de V.S. fecha 7 de octubre po. po. quedo enterado del oficio del Exmo Sor Ministro de Estado y Relaciones relativo á los Yndividuos Soto y Rivas y demas particulares expresados en dicho oficio—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del departamento—

Por el oficio de V.S. fecha 4 de 9bre po.po. quedo informado de la orden del Exmo Sor Presidente relativo á un Yndividuo Extrangero que parecio en la villa de Huihuitoca lo que tendra el mas exacto cumplimiento si parece el citado Yndividuo en este distrito—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del departamento—

Sobre los voluntarios de Bernardo Gutierrez

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V.S. fecha 17 de 9bre po.po. de la orden del Exmo Sor Governador de este Estado relativo á los voluntarios de la division de Dn Benardo Gutierrez que entro en este departamento en los años 12 y 13 lo que sera exactamente cumplido en la parte que me toca en el distrito de mi cargo—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del departamento

Por el oficio de V.S. fecha 17 de 9bre quedo enterado dela orden relativo al desertor Manuel Ygnacio Arbizu—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826

E F A

Sor Gefe del departamento

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V.S. fecha 4 de 9bre popo. de la renuncia que ha hecho Dⁿ Lucas Alaman del Ministerio de Relaciones Ynteriores y Exteriores y que el Exmo Sor Presidente ha dispuesto que se haga cargo de su despacho interinamente el Exmo Sor Ministro de Guerra y Marina Dⁿ Manuel Gomez Pedrazo—Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E. F. A

Sr Gefe del departamento

Austin to Erasmo Seguin

[Austin's Blotter, as cited.]
Sobre el puerto de Galveston

He recibido el oficio de V.S. fecha 5 de 10bre po.po. en que me traslade el oficio del Sor Comisario General de Sn Luis Potosi relativo á la habilitacion del puerto de Galveston y que se le mande informaciones de su localidad, situacion, y otros particulares indicados; concluyendo su citado oficio encargandome comunicar todas las informaciones que pueda sobre la materia. El Sor Gefe del Departamento me ha comisionado pasar á Galveston y levantar un plano topografico de dicho puerto y en cumplimiento con la citada comision y de la orden de V pasare en pocos dias al dicho punto para tomar las observaciones que las circunstancias permiten sobre los diferentes puntos mencionados en el oficio de V y verificado que sea les remitiré áV con la posible brevidad—Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sor Comisario Subalterno de Bexar Ciudadano Erasmo Seguin—

Austin to Colonel Ahumada

[Austin's Blotter, as cited.]
sobre armas y municiones para Texas

Quedo enterado por oficio de V fecha 31 de 10bre po.po. del contenido del oficio del Exmo Sor Ministro de Guerra y marina que me traslade V sobre la remision de armas y municiones de guerra á Texas por mar, y de lo que V me dice si en el puerto de Galveston se presentase algun barco con un cargamento de armas para las tropas de Texas, franquearle con un practico que le conduzca por Matagorda hta el punto de la Balandra, en el concepto de que si el encargado de su transporte no quiere venir a dicho punto que la recivire dando aviso a V por extraordinario. En cumplimiento con los deseos de V mandare inmediamente a la Bahia de Galveston y á la disembocadura de este Rio las instruciones necesarias sobre la materia, y en pocos dias pasare en persona a la Ysla de Galveston y si llega alli el citado buque comunicare al encargado de su transporte las instruciones de V y hare todo lo posible de mi parte para que tengan el mas pronto efecto—avisando a V por extraordinario qualquiera cosa urgente que ocure en la materia—Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 10 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Al Sor Comandante principal de armas del Departamento de Texas Coronel Mateo Ahumada

Austin to Political Chief

[Austin's Blotter, as cited.]
sobre papel sellado

En cumplimiento con el oficio orden de V. S. fecha 19 de diciembre po.po. relativa á las cuentas de papel sellado incluyo á V.S. la cuenta del papel sellado habilitado en esta colonia desde su principio y del dinero recibido en esta Receptoria sobre este Ramo, por lo qual parece que se ha habilitado 8 del sello 1°. 385 del sello 2°. 409 del sello 3°. y dos del sello 4°. valor 830 p^s. 1^r. de que son datas el 4p% dehonorario 33 p^s 1^r. 2 quartillas, valor 804 pliegos de papel á rason de una quartilla cada pliego 25 p^s. 1 r dinero remitido de este Ramo por Santiago Austin 23 de Junio de 1825 para cumplir con la orden del Exmo Sor Gobernador 725 pesos, quedan en este receptoria en Villetes de Banco de los Estados Unidos del Norte 46 pesos 6r 2 quartillas—Es con mucho dificultad que se consigue dinero enreales efectivos aqui rason que los emigrados trahen villetes de Bancos por ser mas liger y seguro su transporte y es poco que trahen aun de estos—Conla primera ocasion remitire los 46 pesos 6 rs. 2 quartillas—Dios y Libertad—

S F de A 11 de Enero de 1826—

E F A

Sor Gefe del Departamento

Notice of Ownership of Property

NOTICE

Deeming it to be the duty of every man to deal with perfect Candour with his fellow Citizens as regards his pecuniary situation, and also as an act of justice to my family to prevent them from being improperly harrassed by the presecution of unjust claims against the property brought by them to this Country I have Considered it to be my duty to give public notice that the Negroes and property brought by myself and family to this Colony, are actually and bona fide the property of my Wife and Children, being in part the dotal estate of my Wife given to her by her parents and brought into the Marriage as her own individual property, and the balance is to make up for such parts of my Wifes said dotal estate as had been used and disposed of by me and was conveyed to my said Wife and children by a regular deed of trust bearing date 20 december 1820 and which deed is on record in the office of the Parish Judge of Rapide in Louisiana, and also in the Office of Stephen F. Austin Judge of this Colony, therefore no Claims whatever against me can

in any manner have any liens on or against said property or its proceeds, this notice is given to prevent any person from being deceived by purchasing Claims from the United States on me, for a part of those Claims are unjust, every just claim however on me shall be paid As soon as circumstances will admit, but the property itself or its—proceeds Can not be taken for any Claims whatever against me for the reasons above stated.

Sn felipe de Austin 11th January 1826

ALEXr CALVIT

Executed before me Stephen F Austin Judge of this colony [rubric]

The above notice was posted up at the Town of San Felipe de Austin on this day January 11—1826

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Judge [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO COMMANDANT AT LA BAHIA

Contestacion al Comandante de Labahia

El dia 8 del presente llego el soldado extraordinario con el pliego del Comandante principal de armas y otros del Gefe del departamento y el oficio de V. fecha 3 del que rije[.] estuve ausente a la llegada del soldado y no volvi hasta el 10 razon que se le ha detenido el dia de hoy No he recibido noticias ningunas delos cavallos Robados de que V me habla en su oficio pero hare todo empeño para everiguar si pasan por estos establecimientos dando á V aviso si recibo alguna noticia de ellos—El fierro de dichos caballos no esta pintado en la margen del Oficio de V. Sera por olvido—Lleva el dador dos pliegos para el Gefe del Departamento— Otro para el Sor Comandante principal de armas del departamento otro para el Comisario Subalterno de Bexar—D y L—San Felipe de Austin 12 de Enero de 1826—E F A—Sr Comandante de armas de Labahia

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BARTLETT SIMS TO AUSTIN

Bravo January 14th 1826

COL AUSTIN

DEAR SIR Mr. Cox one of the company of the upper colony wishes me to Doo Som surveying for him and others and I Have no other chance of gitting a compass Except from you allso considerablly for coln coals [Colo Coles] if you can accommodate me with one you will confur a favor on yours and please Send it By Mr. Milacan if you have none Be so good as to Try to pocure one

for me a short time as I can com pleat the work in 3 or 4 weaks at farthest

your at ten tion to this will con fur a favor on yours &c

BARTLETT SIMS [Rubric]

thar is 5 or Six familys up in this part of the countray wishin to Settle in your Colony and ar making thar Selections up near the Road on thoas creeks that form the yea way [Yegua]

SIMS

JOHN MCGAFFEY TO AUSTIN

Niege Ferry Jany. 15th 1826

M^{r}. AUSTIN.

DEAR SIR Having had the pleasure of seeing you during my stay with Mr. Castleman I am impressed with a favorable opinion of the Liberality of your disposition. I respectfully hope that you will be pleased to contribute your influence towards promoting the welfare of a *Poor Man* in his humble efforts in the Laudable pursuit of Industry

My Petition for a grant of Land to Establish a *Ferry* will be handed you for your signature and any other favor you will be pleased to grant for its furtherance

JOHN MCGAFFEY

A. G. WAVELL TO AUSTIN

DEAR SIR

This will be delivered to you by Col^{l} Milam who is empowered by me to settle with you relative to all concerns of cash and land now pending between us Although your silence equivalent to a refusal to enter into the engagements which I had made in England agreably to your own request and even sooner than you could have anticipated (since it was fully understood indeed even common reason proves that previously to forming a contract the Documents which proved your having possession of the lands were to be forwarded to me in London) compromised me most seriously and injured my interests more than I can describe, and you not having returned more than one very short answer to my numerous letters has amazed me it will be your fault if we do not meet hereafter on the same terms we hitherto have and you will I trust at hart allow that I have not been a bad friend towards you—Milam will write to me constantly and I shall be happy to hear from you—You will I hope come to a settlement with him as speedily as is possible since he is anxious to get on to the Ud. States and will remain with

you only one or two days on my account— wishing you health and success I remain very truly yours

A G. WAVELL [Rubric]

Aquanueva 17th Jany 1826

[Addressed:] Sor. Dn Estevan F. Austin en Texas

JOHN CASTLEMAN TO AUSTIN

Colorado January 17th 1826

DEAR SIR I wish to inform you that in my absence the Waco Indians Came to my House and plundered and Carried off the following articals two sheets two Quilts and Wagon Cover and nearly all our wearing Clothing and Table Furniture. it appears from the Conduct of those Indians that we Cannot Settle the frontiers of this Colony unless we Can have an understanding with them. for if they are allowed to Rob and plunder it will be impossible to settle the frontiers of this Country for I am determined to kill the first one that undertakes to Rob me again. which will Commence a war. I have always wished peace if we Could have it on honourable terms. I do think peace Can be made with those Indians. but it is not my place to dictate for you—

JOHN CASTLEMAN

[Addressed:] Colo. Stephen F- Austin Felipe de Austin

RECEIPTS FROM STAMP TAX

San Felipe de Austin [Janua]ry 18th 1825 [1826?]

An Account of sums received for Stamp duty—

		Irons to Groce—Original Deed	$6:00
		Copy	$1:50
1825			
feb	3d	—Petition to Congress—Seal thereon	.50
	25	—Tally to Pettus do	.50
March	15	Thomas Cartwright to Solomon Williams—Original Deed and copy—recd from Williams L K	2.00
	19th	Stephen Richardson to D. H. Milburn Deed	1.50
April	2d	—Marsh to Frazer	1.50
		Same to Shelby	1.50
		Bloodgood to Ballew	1.50
	5th	Petition to Legislature Co[a]huila and Texas	.50
	26.	Smithers to Callaughan deed	1.50
	30	Floares to Henry Williams	1.50
		Pettus to Royall	1.50
		Hughes to Hudson's Note recd this L K	.50
		Hope to Hope	.50
		do do	.50

1825			
May	21	Recepted for 38 seals a 1.50	$57.
		50 at 50	25.
		Hope to Cole	2.
		Cole to Hope	2.
11	June	Jones to Fulcher	1.50
		Bloodgood to Ingram rec[d] this L K	.50
		Ingram to Scott Note	.50
		Scott with Ingram agreet	.50
		Huff to Williams, Note	.50
		Cartwright to Franks 3 Notes	1.50
		Hudson to Irons Note	50
		Cummings to Cummings transfer	05
		Scott to Pettus note	50
		Pettus to Cooper	50
		Sandovals petition	50
Dec[r].		d.—35 seals of 1.50	52.50
		45 do .50	22.50

[Endorsed:] Stamp paper paid by S. F. Austin to the Gov[r]. as will appear by receipts

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Austin to McCormick

Mr McCormick will receive the corn from varner that he is to deliver on the Subscrption for the Deputy Singer informed me that he would deliver 35 bushels out of varners crib—that is 10 for himself, 10 for Johnson, and 15 that he exchanged for below—also Kenneday requested me to receive out of his crib 20 bushels for himself—10 for Nelson—and 20 for Christman

I wish you to secure the corn in the cribs and leave it in the care of Wheat or the man who is to live at varners place.

Jan[y]. 21—1826

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr. McCormick

J. B. de Arispe to Austin

Monterrey En[o] 23. de 1826.

Sor D. Estevan Austin.

Mi apreciable y querido amigo: logro esta oportunidad que me proporciona el viaje de nuestro conciudad[o] y amigo Mailen [Milam] para remitir aV. un exemplar de la constitucion de este Estado, como lo ofreci quando se fue el amigo Letuitt [Leftwich]

Hace mucho tpo, nada se de V. ni de los progresos de esas villas, sino pr. uno u otro pasagero de quienes spre me informo por saber

de V. y de su familia. Yo me supongo aV. mui contento, y mui rico, conseguida la avilitacion del puerto de Galveston como V. solicitó, y que lo halla puesto en corriente.

No pierdo la esperanza de ir á ocupar mi terreno, pues me es insufrible la penosa vida, a que mi escasa suerte, y la necesidad me tiene reducido, en este Estado, sin otro sueldo que mil p^{s} ciertam^{te} amargos. Ojala huviese otro letrado qe se encargase de mi destino!

Sea V. pues feliz. y reciva el inva^{o} afecto, la mejor memoria de aprecio y cariño que hace de V. su amigo y servr. q. b. s. m.

JUAN BAUT^{A} DE ARISPE [Rubric]

Mis esprecion^{s} á Ton [Thorn?] con su nueva consorte, á Letwit, i demas amigos.

LITTLEBERRY HAWKINS TO AUSTIN

Lexington 25 January 1826

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Esqr

DR SIR

Permit me to introduce to you my friend Doct Jacob Fry who is a physician of good standing any attentions shown him or services rendered during his stay in the Country will be thankfully recollected You will find him a correct man and one that will make an important addition to the settlement

L HAWKINS

LITTLEBERRY HAWKINS TO AUSTIN

Lexington 26 January 1826

STEPHEN F AUSTIN Esqr

DEAR SIR Permit me to make you acquainted with my friend William Haydon of Jessamine County Kentucky You will find him an amiable Correct young gentleman he visits your Grant With an intention of settling in the Country If pleased with it please render him any services or attentions you may have in your power during his stay with you and they will be thankfully Recollected If those two gentlemen should returned pleased with the Country many persons will move to it from a Rich part of this state please speak of me to your Brother the Barron and Don M Allouri and Mosquis

L. HAWKINS

AUSTIN TO EMILY M. PERRY

San Felipe January 28 1826

DR SISTER:

I this day received your truly welcome letter dated 12 october and the packet enclosing a shirt for James, Some of my old letters and

a lock of each of your childrens hair, and of your own—My beloved Sister could not have sent me a more acceptable present, your sweet children are your greatest comfort in this world—they are dear to their Mother, and equally so to their Uncle—I needed nothing to keep me in mind of them, but, it is, notwithstanding a pleasure to have something that was once theirs—some keepsake, to represent them in their absence. They are a comfort to you now, for they are all innocence, The vices of human nature have not yet shaded their original purity, nor soured their native sweetness, and a fond mother in the ardor of her affection may flatter herself with the hope, the pleasing hope, that they never will, and that they will be the prop and pride of her declining years. Dreams of future happiness of this kind are the most natural, the most pleasing and the most excusable of any others, but my Sister even these some times prove to be *only dreams*, God grant that they may be realised in this instance by us both, for I have indulged myself in them probably as much as you have, I never expect to marry and in that event should adopt your orpans for my own or a part of them. it must be our duty to watch over them, and fortify them to resist the temptations and vices of this world by instilling into their youthful minds the love of virtue, of morality and truth, and prepare them to be useful and ornamental members of Society by giving them as good an education as our means will permit—with their mother they will receive such impressions as will make them all that either of us could wish—if those impressions are not effaced by the allurements of vice—I hope that it will be in my power to aid in educating them, but at this time the prospect is rather distant. a few years will determine what this country will come to, and in the meantime the children can be educated with their mother, as soon as I can do any thing for them I will write you tho. I flatter myself with the hope that you will ere long remove and settle down by the side of your brothers—I wish Mr Perry to come and pay me a visit, tell him to come next fall and take a good look at the Country, by that time things will have taken such a turn as to decide the future prospects of this Colony—at this time they are as flattering as I could wish—I think if he will come and see me that he would move, but he must not move untill he first looks for himself—I hope it is not necessary for me to say that I will do all in my power to aid him in securing land and getting into business and I think by next fall there will be a very good opening he might make the trip in three months

Brother has commenced below this on the river—I hope to see him married before long, tho, there is no prospect at this time—

I am going to morrow to the coast to make a partial survey of it preparitory to the opening of the port of entry, by next fall the port will be open^{d}, and business will take a new start

I have never rec^{d} any news papers from you by any one, but should be happy to get some from Missouri

It is impossible for me to go to Arkansas to attend to the Little Rock business—All I can do is to write to some of my acquaintances there and that I will do, tho I have not much faith in effecting any thing in that way—

remember me to Mr Perry—tell him that I shall look for him here in october next without fail he can spare three months to look at the Country and then can decide for himself

My love to Mrs H. Elliott and her Uncles family and to Mrs John Perry, she was always something of a favorite with me, her lively disposition made her society agreeable and I think she is a warm friend where she is a friend—

farewell my Sister kiss the children for me and tell William and Austin that in one year more I shall expect a letter from them—is Elizabeth to be a beauty who does she resemble—how [large?] is William and Austin—and which of them all appears to learn the fastest and have the most sprightliness—you ought to study their dispositions and shape their future destinies accordingly—

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mrs Emily M. Perry Potosi Missouri

D. CROZER TO J. E. B. AUSTIN

Jessamine County Ky 9th Feb 1826

MR. JAMES E. B. AUSTIN

D^{r} SIR I have not had the pleasure of a communication from you for about 2 years, nor have I written you during that time, but from no other cause but the impossibility of a safe conveyance—I have now an opportunity by Dr J. Fry which I gladly embrace—

In your last you recommended me to come to your Country which at that time I had an idea of doing, but afterwards got into business here that was tolerably good and for that reason, then declined it. I have not yet however, changed my determination, should the inducement be sufficient, for I am yet unmarried and ready to start to any Country that holds out a sufficient inducement, and shall wait with anxiety to hear from you on the subject—

A great many persons are now talking of removing to Texas and believe the number will increase, John M. Henderson lately started to New. Orleans, and it is his intention to go from there to your Brother's settlement, you know John, and it is needless for me to say he is deserving of your friendship, and his knowledge of the

duties of a Clerk might possibly be of service to your Brother or at least to assure himself the means of a livelihood—

Times and men have changed in this Country more than you would imagine,—I know not how long it has been since you have heard from here, but presume it has been some time, under this presumption I now write, and shall give a summary detail of your old acquaintances, but if my presumption is erroneous, and you have lately heard from some of your friends here then the letter or that part of it that looks anterior to your previous information will be useless—I will however proceed,—Wm Walker is living in the lower part of this State he is keeping a Tavern on the road between this and Nashville, Georgian is yet unmarried, I have not seen any of the family for 3 years but am told she is handsome beyond comparison, Martha and Jane you have no doubt heard are both married, John C. Walker is living somewhere in Tennessee. George was some time since in Warrington Missippi, I know not where Andrew is, Kidder is teaching school I am informed near Russellville in this State. I have not seen him for near 2 years. Jacob was, not long since at Mobile, Alabama, and Joseph is living with Dr E. Warfield in his Store in Lexington—so much for the Walker family for which I presume you feel a deeper interest, than for any other in this County

Major R. Crockett is living in Nashville and some time since talked of going to your country, but believe he has not yet gone—It would be almost an endless task for me to pretend to give you a detail of the miner events that have transpired since you left us, such as marriages deaths &c suffice it that I am almost the only man you knew in the county but what has either married or gone off—Dr, J. Fry called upon me this morning for the letter to you which, with much pleasure I gave him, believing him to be entirely a gentleman and worthy of your confidence—

In that letter I added a Postscript, stating, that if a great press of business did not prevent, I would write you by him, which he politely promised to be the bearer of—he also, promised to bear a communication from you on his return which I hope you will send, as it would give me the greatest pleasure to hear from you,—

Wishing you health prosperity and happiness

_____ D. Crozer [Rubric]

W. Christy to Austin

St. Louis Feb. 10th 1826

Dear Sir.—

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance the Bearer Mr. Geo. W. Heines he goes to your Country with views of settlement, he is a Gentleman of considerable interprise and great industry,

such men you want in your new settlement, 'tis therefore unnecessary for me to recommend him to your attention, he would be a valuable citizen in any Country.—

Mr. W C Carr and your other friends here that are still alive are in good health, you have no doubt heard of the death of Mr. H. Austin and his wife, and Mrs. Richards.—

St. Louis is improving and our State incresing in wealth and population.—I am glad to learn that you have succeeded in procuring the requisite number of Inhabitants to settle on your valuable Grant of Land, I wish you long life and health to enjoy the fruits of your labours.—I should be glad to here from you when convenient, and tell me any thing you know of my old friend Gen[l] Wilkenson

W CHRISTY

Mr. STEPHEN AUSTIN

GEORGE SHANNON TO AUSTIN

Lexington Feby. 16. 1826.

DEAR SIR,

This will introduce to you Mr. William Hayden, and Doct[r] Jacob Fry; two intelligent young Gentlemen, of pure and exalted moral character, and each of them, respectably connected in this Country. They visit your Territory with a view to ultimate location, and a permanent residence there. you will find them, in every respect, highly worthy of being incorporated as citizens of your new and flourishing colony; and if pleased with the climate, and soil, and other inducements to imigration, they will draw after them, a long train, of most respectable relatives and friends.

GEORGE SHANNON

STEPHEN AUSTIN Esquire—

LITTLEBERRY HAWKINS TO AUSTIN

Lexington 17 February 1826

STEPHEN F AUSTIN Esqr

DR SIR This letter will be handed you by my friend William Lafaughn the son of a highly respectable Farmer of Jessamine County this state, you will find him a correct gentleman he visits the Country with view of settling it if pleased with the Country any services rendered him or attentions shewn him during his stay in the Country will be with gratitude recollected by

L. HAWKINS

LITTLEBERRY HAWKINS TO AUSTIN

Lexington 18 February 1826

STEPHEN F AUSTIN

Dr SIR George Ann has had an offer made for the Interest of our Brother in your Grant she is unwilling to do any thing without your advice the offer is made by one of the Most wealthy and Respectable me[n] in the State of Kentucky and 9 other Gentlemen of Louisiana all of which Could take into the Country a great Number of Respectable familys under that consideration the sale would be mutually to the Interest of all Parties Concerned please have the goodness to advice me what to do and what to ask for her Interest by the first Person that Comes into the United States If I could spend One hour with [you I] should be satisfied

Your friend

L HAWKINS

The situation of my sister her five helpless and my family of five more is glomy and desponding beyond description all that I had was lost in the Country, say if you have saved any thing from Dimit or any other resource

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RECEIPT FOR WAGES

Col Stephen F. Austin
To Reynolds Dr.

for 15 days services a 1$ ..... $15.

Buffalo Bayou
20 feby 1826 Recd Payment in Landoffice Money

HORATIO REYNOLDS

WILLIAM VINCE TO AUSTIN

Col S F Austin
To William Vince Dr.

To 400 lb. Beef @ 5¢	$20.00
" 9 Bushels @ $2	18.00
" services rendered by 3 hands 45 days @ $1	45.—
" 45 days 2 hands 2 days @ $1	4.—
	$87.—

Recd. from S M Williams a certificate of credit on my Land for the above amt.

W M VINCE

Buffalo Bayou Feby 20. 1826

R. R. Royall to Austin

United States of America
Town of Tuscumbia and State of Alabama
21st February 1826—

Col. Austin

Esteemed Sir At the solicitation of the friends of Mr Gillespie I write to enquire after the circumstances of his death. Mrs. Gillespie says Mr Gillespie left home with five hundred dollars and had made arrangements, whereby he was to receive as much more in Natches making the sum of one thousand dollars Some of his friends are of opinion that he received several hundred dollars on the way that his family knew nothing of. it appears however very certain that he aught to have had $1000. His fellow Traveller and confident (Capt. Lusk) writes from New Orleans in a very short and unexplanatory manner informing Mrs. Gillespie of her Husbands death stating he had died after some ten or fifteen days Illness at the Fort in your Colony (I suppose the Fort Settlement) that he Capt Lusk had sold Mr. Gillespie's horse to pay his Burial expenses that himself was then in New Orlean on his way to the State of Ohio. There is nothing in Capt Lusks letter to give us to understand what disposition was made of the money he (Mr Gillespie) had. There appears to be a mistery in the affair which makes it due to the family of Mr Gillespie and the character of Capt. Lusk that an enquiry should be made as such you would confer a favour on us by making such enquiries as would account for the disposition of the money he had with him whether disposed of in the purchase of Land or otherwise and give us as early information as may comport with your convenience.

Your Country is much spoken of here and much more in Tennessee and Kentucky—Judge Ellis and some other gentlemen will be to see it this Spring The judge will make arrangements for my coming. I wrote you by Mr Gillespie consequently have but little to say here You will write me on every subject which might be of any importance as it is seldom we receive the Truth from Texas. I expect young Mr Hughs will have arrived before you receive this as he left here some time ago.

I have been told of a Proclamation of Mr Edwards requiring the holders of Old Grants within the Limits of his Settlement to come forward I think probably one of my grants are within his district if so you have no doubt made it known.

offer my respects to Capt Gray and tell him when he writes me again to write more fully that I am never tired of receiving information from a country in which I feel so much interest. I have

spoken for a pair of grey Hounds for your Brother which If I succeed in getting will Bring when I come. Believe me to be most sincerely your Obedient Humble Servt.

R. R. ROYALL

Hon. S. F. AUSTIN

[Addressed:] Hon. Stephen F. Austin. Nachitoches. State of Louisiana The Post master at Nachitoches will forward this by the first safe hand to Austin's colony Department of Texas in the U. Mexican States

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I. C. DEVAN TO AUSTIN

Mississippi State
Monroe County

Mr STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

I had the pleasure to receive a letter of you or your agent dated at herculanium respecting the situation of the Lands you had procured of the Mexican Government which afforded me infinite satisfaction tho I am not acquainted with your person I am with your Character I want you to procure me a Birth in some office as a Clerk and I will be in that Country immediately after I secure an answer from you you will confer a lasting favour on your friend, by complying with this request you will please Direct to me at the place above named

Feby. 24th 1826

IRETON C. DEVAN

To STEPHEN F AUSTIN

L. W. BAKER TO J. E. B. AUSTIN

Steam Boat Hamilton. Ohio River.
Feby. 26th 1826

DEAR SIR,

An opportunity just presents itself of conveying a few lines to you; and if the impressions of early youth are as pleasing to you as they are to me, this little memento may give birth to a few moments of cheerful reflection.

I left Forest Hill (the theatre of our first acquaintance) in the year 1819, and twelve months after commenced the study of law, completed it, and have since qualified myself for the practice of medicine, and am, at present, engaged in that capacity.

Now if you believe, that the health, locality, and prospects of any part of the province of Texas, will suit me, or any of my friends, who

might be disposed to embark on Fortune's schooner, you will be good enough to write, and give me a geographical history of the country,

Direct your letter to Hardenburgh, Breckenridge Cty, *Ky.*

Respectfully, your fellow student,

LEONIDAS W. BAKER.

[Addressed:] Mr. James Austin, Austin's Settlement Texas

J. E. B. AUSTIN TO EMILY M. PERRY

San Felipe de Austin Feby 28th 1826

MY DEAR SISTER

I improve an opportunity which offers itself by a gentleman of sending this into the United States, and I hope you will receive it in due time.

A short time since I returned to this place; from which I have been absent two or three months on a place down on this river where I am opening a farm and building a *Cotton Gin.* I shall remain here no longer than the absence of Stephen compels me he is absent on a topographical tour to Galveston to exicute a comission given him by the Government. I expect him in one or two days—

On my return to this place I found letters from you which gave me much pleasure and satisfaction. I hope you will not attribute my long silence to any thing but the remote distance and insolated state that I have been in for the last two or three months—Nothing would distress me more my Dr Emily than for me to imagine that you should entertain the smallest doubt that I had abated my affection for you in the least or that I did not take and feel the deepest interest for your happiness, What has this world to endear me to it but my Sister and her lovely family? altho debared the inexpressible pleasure and satisfaction of enjoying her society (and the *sweet prattle* of her little ones) I sincerely hope and flatter myself that the period is not far distant when we shall all be reunited, (if not under the same roof) so near that we can form a social circle and "far from the scenes of strife *pass the innocent* jest, and chaunt the merry glee"—then we can remind each other of "*Auld Lang Syne*" and congratulate ourselves that not withstanding the many visissitudes and difficulties we have encountered (and the great and heartfelt satisfaction afforded to the Enemies of our house by its downfall) *we have proved to the world* that *regardless* of them all—*We have* accomplished an enterprize that will perpetuate our name and place it with honor on the page of history It will then be our turn to triumph—shall we do so? I can see a sentiment of just Resentment pervades your Breast—but I also see a generous principle a *something* so noble rising still above that—checking the first impulse of anger—and appealing to reason to treat the past

with silent contempt—Our old Enemies will in a few years more dwindle into insignificance and would lick the dust from our shoes to gain a favor—It will then be a satisfaction a "heavenly satisfaction["] for me to assist them—That is the revenge which will be sweet to me—

I was truly shocked to hear of the murder committed on the person of W^m M Perry I receiv^d the letter of Saml Perry to my brother informing him of the circumstance and containing an advertisement. you may assure him that every exertion in our power will be made to apprehend the Villian that he may receive the punishment he so justly merits.

We have nothing new the Colony wears a more flourishing aspect at this time than it ever has before. there is a prospect of an overflowing Emigration this spring and next fall of some of the most respectable men in the United States.

Mr. Andrews has arrived safe I have not seen him yet—his family is well and much pleased with the Country.

I wish you to inform Mr Perry that by a Mr Benjamin Milam (Brother of Milam at the Mines) who lately arrived from the city of Mexico—I learned that Dr Baldwin has accumulated a handsome fortune in that Country; he has purchased a coffee plantation on the River Guazicualco on the Pacific Ocean where he now [is?] and has gained the confidence and esteem of all who know him. Also Cousin Henry Austin lives in the city of Jalapa (between Mexico and Vera Cruz) engaged in the commission business—

Remember me to all my friends and acquaintances—write me often my Dr Sister—you must know that anything from the pen of my sister to me is interesting, kiss all the little ones for me, tell Joel and Austin their uncles are much pleased with their improvement in writing we shall soon Expect to secure a specimen of their writing in the form of a letter.

Remember me particularly to Mr. Perry This letter must be my excuse for not writing to him.

J^a E B Austin

[Addressed:] Mrs Emily M. Perry Potosi. Missouri

P. S. I am not married yet nor is *there* any *likelihood at present.*

Haden Edwards to Austin

Colon^l Austin

Having heard of your expedition to the Isleland, I made every exertion in my power to join you there but failed in procuring a conveyance untill I heard of your return. I then went to the bay by land a very unpleasant trip owing to the weather and rottenness of the perarys [prairies], there again heard you was to leave M^r

Scotts on the day of my arrival there for home. Returning to the trinety I heard again that you was to attend a meeting at the Santa Jacinta on the fourth of March ordered by yourself in order to present a memorial against me to the Government for asking my colonists more than the Government tax on the lands propigated here in my absence by Mr Rankin. This I placed no confidence in not believing that Col°. Austin could be capable of using any measures to the injury of the other Empresarios after having set the example himself and reaped the fruits thereof, not only that; the people who are to be the memorialists have already obtained their lands from yourself therefore can have no interest in the disposition of my lands and I have never seen more than two or three of them all of whom I informed might rest contented that there would be no difficulty about their titles never calculating there would arise any between us on the subject. As to my conditions I feel myself perfectly justified by that article of the law securing contracts made between the settlers and Empresarios which article was inserted in consequence of complaints made against yourself for selling the lands and I feel myself more than doubly justified in asking what I do for the good of the colony and of the government in general, as you must admit as a candid man that one colonist who is willing and able to pay for the lands as offered is worth fifty of those indolent Iddlers who barely live to exist and have no ambition or enterprise further. If you would do me the pleasure of coming to see me I will show you that my families are already engaged at my prices and are unwilling that I should permit others to settle upon less terms being satisfied of the disadvantages arising to the Country from such a coarse. The honest industrious already in the country are of the same opinion and have complied with the terms already.

I am constantly told by those worthless Iddlers that Judge Austin gives lands at Congress prices and says we have no right to ask or receive more. I have never payed any attention to their assertions believing them to be fabrications only replying to them to get lands of you. I have no doubt but there are hundreds of lies told you perhaps in the same way in order as I have understood they have said if the[y] could get the Empresarios at variance they would be able to reap a benefit. I hope you will give me the earliest information of your discoveries to our advantage in your trip to isleland and should you be disturbed at any part of my conduct that you will be candid enough to state your objections to me before taking any measures unfriendly I expect to meet Col°. Leftwitch on my return to Nacogdoches and should feel very happy [if] we could all have a meeting to promote the best interests of the country.

HADEN EDWARDS [Rubric]

Mr Munsons Trinety February 28th 1826

DANIEL E. BAYLES TO AUSTIN

Col Austin

To D Bayless Dr.

To 13 days Services on the Galveston Trip as a hand on board the Mexican at 1$ in Trade pr. day $13.00

S F de Austin March 2 1826

Recd Payment DANL. E. BAYLES

AUSTIN TO RALEIGH

Statement of a Settlement made with Mr Raleigh for seven Hogs.

7 Hogs a 23$		$161.—
Amt Mr Furnash's note	$127.50	
" note for Stamp paper $3.50—equal in property to	5.25	
" Domestic purchased from Kerr	12.00	
" paid for ferriage in cash 25¢ equal to	37½	
		145—12½
Amt. due Mr Furnash in property		$15.87½

March 7—1826

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

GREEN DE WITT TO AUSTIN

New London Ralls County Mo March 9th 1826

DEAR SIR

Permit me to Introduce to your attention Col Elijah Stapp and Mr William Duncan; who come to Texas for the purpose of selecting lands for a number of families; who intend to megrate from this County to that Country, they are particularly bound for the Guadalupe or San Marco, as their intention is Mills Cotton Gins etc—

I did not pass by the way of Mine a Burton on my return home—but I sent your letters to Mr E Bates, by your Cousin (Mr Austin) he also told me that Mrs Perry and the rest of your friends in Mo. were well—

Any favors you render the above Gentlemen will be gratefully remembered and acknowledged—

I shall leave Missouri the first of next Month with my family for Texas.—for the news of the day I refur you to Col Stapp.

G. DEWITT.

Col STEPHEN F AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO GEORGE ORR

San felipe de Austin March 10. 1826

DR SIR

Mr. Chastellier has drawn off copy of the Colonization law and takes it with him—

I very much regret that there should have arisen any discontent among the settlers on the Trinity in regard to the manner of procuring their lands, every thing of this nature has a tendency to injure the progress of the new Settlements generally, and I would with due respect to those settlers, and as their friend and the friend of all the new Settlements, recommend to them to be extremely cautious not to do any thing of a violent or disorderly character towards the persons intrusted by the Government with the superintendence of those new Settlements—The utmost harmony should be cultivated—the agents of the Government should be treated with respect, and if causes of complaint exist against them, representations should be made to the proper authority in a mild manner and without any thing like passion or abuse. These ideas are respectfully suggested to you in friendship. they proceed from a sincere desire to see harmony prevail, and not from any disposition or desire on my part to intrude my advice or censure on any person and I hope you will receive them in the same spirit of candor and friendship in which they are offered—I can have no object in wishing harmony, but the prosperity of the country, for my conduct in regard to receiving settlers will not be regulated, or in any manner influenced, by what the other Empresarios may do—my guide shall be the law and the orders of the Government, and the price which the Government may direct me to exact of the settlers to pay the expences on their lands, is what must be paid: how much that will be, I cannot tell untill instructions are rec[d] on the subject—I have applied for them and such instructions and shall do nothing in regard to the final location of new Settlers untill they arrive.

My brother who starts to Saltillo in a few days will take on a report of the history and observations made by me at Galveston preparatory to the opening of the port, and in all pro[ba]bility some definitive measures will be adopted by the Gov[t] in regard to the establishment of a port town, either at Galveston, or some other convenient point on the coast, during the ensuing summer or fall

I shall at all times be happy to hear from you and of the increasing prosperity of the settlers in your quarter of the country

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN]

[TO GEORGE ORR]

AUSTIN TO MILITARY COMMANDANT AT LA BAHIA

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Contestacion sobre Bestias Robadas

Tengo á la vista el oficio de V fecha 28 de Enero po. po. incluyendome la lista descriptiva delas bestias robadas dela Bahia lo que he mandado al Alcalde del Colorado y el de los Brazos arriba con orden de tomar posesion de todas que encuentra de las marcas delineadas— de mi parte haré todo empeño para recoger las dichas bestias ó parte de ellas: debo observar que es algo dificil agarar Caballos robados que se conducen del interior á los Estados del Norte por ser tan esparcidos los pobladores y por los muchos pasos que tienen los Rios en los montes despoblados onde se puede cruzar fuera de los caminos ordinarios.

D y L.

S F de A 14 de Marzo de 1826

E F A—

Sor Comandante de La Bahia.

ARMISTEAD MOORE TO AUSTIN, *et al.*

Round lick March 15 1826

Messrs. AUSTIN WILLIAMS AND INGRAM

Gentlemen owing to high waters I have been prevented from writing to you as Early as I Contemplated, Cumberland river has not been so high for 35 years past. we have not had a mail on that account since I got home. when I arrived here I was sorrey to find my son William had made other arrangements than whot I expected, his Boats ware ready to sail to N. Orleans Loaded with Frieght which compell.d him to make his returns to the people here this Spring.

if I can sell my possesions in this Country this summer I will be with you Next Spring if not as soon as I possibley can without makeing two grate sacrifices I am sorrey to Disapoint you in the Articles I promised to send you as also my son will be Disapointed in geting his Mill Irone if I get off Next Spring I will take a pleasure in accomodating you with the Articles you sent for. I hope you will write to me when ever your convenience will admit I should be Truely glad to hear from you often. what New laws are Enacted what the Commissioner has done how the Countrey progresses in settling etc

ARMISTEAD MOORE

please to Direct your letters to me at Roundlick Smith County, Tennissee

JOHN C. WALKER TO AUSTIN

Land Office Henderson County
state of Tennessee March 15th 1826.

DR. SIR—From an acquaintance I have with your fathers family particularly Jas. Austin who lived with me in my fathers family, in the state Of Kentucky while he was at school I take the liberty of addressing you a letter which I hope will be spedily answered there is about to be made up a company to emigrate to the province Of Texas I wish to make one of it but least I might not be satisfied with that Country, I wish you as I know you from Character to write me a letter concerning that Country as to the soil health waters etc and the particular terms upon which settlers go there upon, how much land a man of family would be entitled to, and also a sketch Of Your laws, and some of the most important clauses in your constitution, which might concern an american as well as your religious restrictions etc the distance from New Orleans, by water the distance from the Chickasaw Bluffs by land as near as you can guess—accompanied with your advise Of the importance of driving cattle hoggs etc. etc. whether your soil and climate is adapted to the culture of cotton, and whether groceries can be conveniently, and low, whether your lands are heavily Timbered Or barrony, the Rivers you would advise me On, etc. etc. etc If Jas Austin is with you Or in reach of you I should be verry glad, he could hear from me, and tell him to write to me etc

JNO. C WALKER

[Addressed:] To His Excellency Stephen F. Austin Governor of the province of Texas
Via of Nacatoches

AUSTIN TO POLITICAL CHIEF

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of Aug. 26, 1824.]
Sobre la organizacion y alistamento de las Milicias

Por alguna dilatacion en su transito no llego a mis manos hasta el ultimo de Enero Pdo. el oficio de VS.—fecha 15 de Setiembre del anterior año en que me transcribe el oficio circular del Exmo Sor Gobernador del Estado a los ayuntamientos en fecha 22 del mes de Agosto del mismo, relativo a la guerra con los Yndios y la organizacion de la Milicia Nacional mandandome verificar el alistamiento y formacion de la Milicia Nacional de esta Colonia conforme al ultimo reglamento de 8 de Abril de 1823—En cumplimiento con la citada orden de V.S. circule instrucciones para la organizacion de la Milicia de este Colonia en una Batallon y que verificase las eleccionas para

oficiales, sargentos y cabos, de compañias el dia 4 de este mes en los diferentes distritos ante los respectivos Alcaldes por no haber ayuntamientos instruyendo los dichos Alcaldes mandarme a la posible brevidad la lista nominal de la Milicia en sus distritos En conquencia del mucho crecimiento del Rio y de los arroyos no he recibido todavia la lista de todos los distritos pero deben llegar en pocos dias y luegu que les recivo Mandare la lista nominal de toda la Batallon en conformidad con su citado oficio—

Dios y Libertad—

San Felipe de Austin 16 de Marzo de 1826—

E- F- A-

Sor Gefe del Departamento de Texas—José Antonio Saucedo—

Austin to Political Chief [1]

Con este incluyo á V. S. el Padron ó Censo estadistico de esta colonia de mi cargo formado en conformidad con las ordenes de V. S.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 17 de Marzo de 1826.

Estevan F. Austin, [Rubric]

Sor. Gefe del Departamento de Texas Ciudadano Jose Antonio Saucedo.

[Enclosure]

Resumen.

	Solteros.		Casados.		Viudes.		Total de Sexos y Clases.
	Varones.	Hembras.	Varones.	Hembras.	Varone.	Hembras.	
Hasta 7 años	169	107					276
De 7 à 16	155	117					272
De 16 à 25	89	22	6	36		1	154
De 25 à 40	87		104	91	9	3	294
De 40 à 50	8		33	26	9	5	81
Arriba de Cincuenta	4		23	14	6	4	53
Dependientes							227
Escalvos							443
	750		335		37		
Total de Almas							1,800

I°. Todos los habitantes de esta colonia son labradores y Criadores pero hay muchos artesanos entre ellos de diferentes clases, el no está expuesto con particularidad, pr. q. ahora no siguen otro oficio que el de sembrar.

[1] General Land Office Records, vol. 54, part 2, p. 7. The list of settlers by name, with the numbers of children and dependents in each family is omitted, but the summary is given.

2°. Las siembras principales q. trabajen son maiz, algodon, frijol, y legumbres de toda clase; se ha hecho algunos experimentos en la siembra de la caña de azúcar, trigo, y avena; no hay duda q. la caña dará perfectamente bien, y que el trigo y la avena pagará al labrador por su trabajo aunq. no sea en la abundancia de alg^{a} otros paises. Casi todos los pobladores fabrican paño de algodon en sus familias. Hay un molino para despepitar algodon completo, y otro empezado. Se ha empezado á fabricar cuatro molinos de agua para sacar tablones, moler granos, y despepitar algodon.

3. El numero de ganado mayor con que cuenta en el dia esta colonia son 3,500, Marranos, 4,500. Caballares, 1,000

Villa de San Felipe de Austin 28 de Marzo de 1826.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN, [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO POLITICAL CHIEF[1]

I received, the day after my arrival from Galveston, your Lordships communication bearing date of the 16th of last February, in which you say to me that the citizen Martin de Leon, Empresario of the town of Guadalupe, has presented himself at the Capital complaining that the Alcalde of the Colorado District, regardless of the consideration due him as Empresario, sole Justice of his District, maliciously and violently gave orders to one Briche to attach a cart and oxen and a load of corn, which he had sent to that settlement in charge of his son Sylvestre; and that for no other cause than a mere complaint made by Thomas Grey against his son. You instruct me further to cause the attached property to be returned to its owner at the town of Victoria, without delay, at the expense and risk of the Alcalde, if he has, indeed, commissioned Briche to execute the attachment, or of any person who may appear to have been guilty of the offense. You, finally, order me to cause the Alcaldes of the Colonial Districts in my charge to abstain from issuing illegal judicial writs, particularly of the scandalous character of the one alluded to.

At the issuance of said attachment, I was absent at Galveston, on the mission intrusted to me by your Lordship; upon the reception of your said communication, I sent for the Alcalde and Grey, to inquire into the matter, and from the prior circumstances, and the declaration of the witnesses. the facts appear to be as follows:

Grey bought an ass from Martin de Leon, paid for it, and left it with the bell mare; afterwards Grey sent for the ass by a certain

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[1] Translation from Bexar Archives in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. The untranslated original is in the same collection, and a copy in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

Bison; De Leon refused to deliver it, claiming 25 Dollars or a cow and a calf for the Expense of keeping the ass, and furthermore declared to Bison that he owed nothing to Grey. When De Leon's cart arrived at the Colorado, Grey appeared before the Alcalde, complaining that De Leon owed him the value of the ass and refused to deliver it, although it was claimed by Bison, and claiming from the Alcalde, a writ of attachment on De Leon until the case should be disposed of in law. The Alcalde issued the writ, which was executed; and the cart was attached for the purpose of securing a judicial hearing for the parties. Agreeably to the provisional law existing in this Colony, Sylvester De Leon might have stopped the attachment by giving security for his appearance before the Alcalde to answer Grey's charges, but, instead of doing so he returned to the Guadalupe.

The provisional law by which we are governed provides, that, whenever a person who is indebted to another is about to leave the country or to remove his property out of its jurisdiction, then, at the request of the plaintiff, the Alcalde shall issue a writ of attachment of said property to prevent its removal from the jurisdiction until the case is lawfully disposed of, the plaintiff being, in all cases responsible to the defendant for the damages accruing from said attachment if it should appear that the process was illegal, or without foundation; the defendant being allways at liberty to stop the attachment by giving security for his appearance before the competent authority.

In this case of De Leon, Grey declared upon oath, before the Alcalde, that De Leon owed him the value of an ass, which he refused to pay, that he had property within the jurisdiction which he was about to remove. Grey applied to the Alcalde for a writ of attachment, agreeably to the regulations on the subject matter, and the Alcalde was in duty bound to issue the writ; in doing so he did not overstep the limit of his power, nor commit an abuse of authority, as your Lordship remarks in your communication; on the contrary, he did what the law compelled him to do.

The only laws we have for our government in this country, are the provisional rules approved by the Political Chief of Texas, and which His Excellency, the Governor, in his communication of February the 12th, 1825, ordered to be observed until the general laws were published. I think that if we have no other laws than these, the fault can be attributed neither to me, nor the Alcalde of the Colorado. I have repeatedly applied for copies of the law of the Country, but I have, as yet, received no instructions from the government beyond a recommendation to administer justice and preserve order in the Colony. Owing to the total absence of laws and rules, I was compelled by necessity and my feeling of duty, being in charge

of the chief magistracy of this jurisdiction, to frame some plain and provisional rules to preserve order and establish some kind of system; I did so with the consent, approbation and assistance of the Commissioner, and they have also received the sanction of the Superior authority; I therefore consider them as provisional laws, and cannot cease to do so without declaring that the Supreme Powers who sanctioned them, have exceeded their authority and overstepped the circle of their prescribed duty. This principle once Established, the only question that remains to be settled in the case of the Alcalde of the Colorado and De Leon is the following: Did the Alcalde follow said rules, or did he not? In my opinion, formed upon the inquest I have made, he has followed them; he was compelled by said rules to act as he did, and had he not done so he would have deserved punishment. In this matter, in consequence of your Lordship's order, the Alcalde finds himself between two fires, without a possibility of escaping both. Your Lordship's order condemns him to a fine and cost which will ruin him, and, had he failed to follow the provisional rules, the plaintiff would have had sufficient incentive for complaint and suit against him for a dereliction of his duty in the administration of justice according to the existing laws. Said provisional rules are very plain and clear. It was De Leon's duty to, and he ought now, according to said rules, give security for his appearance before the Alcalde there and then to answer Grey's complaint, and if it appears that he is indebted, then he should pay, and in case of unwillingness on his part to abide by the decision of the Alcalde, he [could] bring the case before me, as local judge of the whole jurisdiction, and, as such, having power to inquire into the conduct of the Alcaldes within its limits; then, in case of dissatisfaction with my decision on the subject, he could carry the suit before the corresponding superior courts of justice; In this manner he will not deviate from the path laid down by law, and by the very essence of the system of government which controls us, and, which, Establishes a distinction between the judiciary and Executive powers. The Alcalde's writ was a judicial process, and agreeable to the rules in force here. Your Lordship's order was Executive, and annulled an act of a judiciary officer, imposing a ruinous fine on him; and this on the mere representation of one of the parties without giving the other a hearing, without any inquiry into the facts in question, by the local authority; and, consequently, without the possibility of ascertaining whether the act of the Alcalde was legal, or not.

An other difficulty presents itself in thus reviewing the subject. What means had Grey at his command to obtain his money from De Leon, if it is, indeed, due him? De Leon is the sole judge and

commanding officer of the Militia of Guadalupe, and, consequently, Grey would have had to present his complaint against Martin de Leon before judge De Leon for his decision, or to proceed against his property found in another jurisdiction. He adopted the latter course.

I do not wish to make complaints against Martin de Leon; but my duty towards these new Colonists compels mo to say, that, according to statements made to me, it appears that he has treated a resident of this district, named Edward Dickenson, with injustice and cruelty. Dickenson's brother, who was killed by the Indians near Bexar, gave to De Leon a kettle, which he promised to deliver to him; on his return he was killed. Edward went to Bexar to obtain his deceased brother's property. De Leon claimed from him the kettle, which was then at Bexar, and which he promised to leave with Señor Sandoval; but he departed from Bexar prior to Sandoval's arrival, and left it with other property in a house under lock and key, in charge of Nixon to be delivered to Sandoval when he arrived. A thief entered the house and stole the kettle On the arrival of Dickenson at Guadalupe, on his way from Bexar to this town, De Leon arrested him and seized upon his property; or, to express it more clearly, put him in jail, took from him his rifle and a bag of wool, and detained him for 32 days.

Dickenson made his complaint to me and presented an account against De Leon, as follows:

$12 for a rifle, $5, for a sack of wool, $23, for one month's board, paid to Hardy, and $18 for one months detention, in all $53, without speaking of the forcible and violent manner in which he was detained. I do not say that Martin de Leon, went beyond the limits of his powers by taking from Dickenson all his property, detaining him for one month a prisoner, and sending him away on foot, without a real for his travelling expenses, because I have not heard what De Leon has to say in the matter, but I hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to give me your instructions respecting the course to be followed to ascertain the facts of the case. I consider it to be my duty to do so, because this business has created a great deal of excitement here, against De Leon, and some apprehension about the security of persons and property.

Considering all the features of the transaction between Grey, De Leon, and the Alcalde of the Colorado, I find myself in an exceedingly delicate and embarrassing situation. I presume that my conduct, since I entered Texas, has been a proof of my obedience and submission to the lawful authorities, and this is the first order which I have not executed as soon as circumstances permitted, without hesitation, or delay. Like the Alcalde of the Colorado, I am between

two fires. On the one hand duty, as well as honor and inclination, urge me to obey faithfully the orders of the Superior authority; on the other, the same considerations cause me to doubt if my compliance, will not amount to an injustice, or produce fatal consequences. Our people, thus far, have been contented to live under the existing provisional rules, convinced that they were approved by the Superior Authority; but your Lordship's order causes them to doubt their legality, and whether they are bound to obey them. Thus I run the hazard of finding the only rules and laws by which I could hope to succeed in preserving good order in the Colony, and keeping bad men in subjection destroyed and annulled by the very authority that sanctioned them and this without supplying their places by any others. It will be believed that if the rule under which the Alcalde of the Colorado attached De Leon's property is not lawful, no other rules are so, since they were established by the same authority.

The amount of money in litigation with De Leon is nothing, nor ought the ruin of the Alcalde of the Cororado, or any other person to have any weight if they are guilty. The difficulty lies in the disorganizing principles that may be created, and, also, in the belief that cannot fail to exist in the minds of the settlers, that the Executive, or political officers unite in their persons all the executive and military political and judiciary powers that were formerly vested in the Governors and the Spanish Government.

Therefore I beseech your Lordship to decide that De Leon's case shall follow the course prescribed by the existing provisional rules, and to excuse my hesitation in executing your orders to the effect that the Alcalde shall return, at his expense, the attached property to De Leon on the Guadalupe; considering that my delay has been caused by the doubt herein submitted, and not by a want of respect for the Superior authority.

God and liberty.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, March 18th, 1826.

AUSTIN TO POLITICAL CHIEF, SAUCEDO

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Contestacion sobre los que llevan bestias sin pasaportes

En cumplimiento con lo que VS me manda por oficio fecha 8 de febrero popo. sobre la detencion de los que quieren pasar á los Estados del Norte con bestias sin pasaporte en que hagan constar la cantidad que conducen he dada orden a los Alcaldes de esta Colonia para que bajo la mas estrecha responsabilidad detienen á todas per-

sonas procedientes del interior de esta Republica con caballada que no trahen pasaportes incluyendoles al mismo tiempo traducion certificada oficio de V.S—

Dy L
S F D A 18 de Marzo de 1826—
Sor Gefe del Departamento—

AUSTIN TO POLITICAL CHIEF

[Austin's Blotter, as cited.]

Contestacion sobre Joshua Parker

En cumplimiento con el oficio de V. S. fecha 16 de febrero popo. para que el habitante de esta Colonia Parker se presente en esa capital con el cautivo que saco de los Comanches he dado la correspondiente orden ál dicho Parker incluyendole traducion certificada del citado oficio de V. S.—

Dios y Libertad—
18 de Marzo de 1826.

Contestacion sobre la Ysla y Bahia de Galveston y el plano

En cumplimieno con el oficio orden de V. S. fecha 30 de diciembre po. po. en que me comisiona levantar un plano de la Bahia y Puerto de Galveston, sali de esta el dia 1° de febrero popo, para aquel punto con un agrimensor topografo, y hize la mejor examinacion de la Bahia y el Puerto a la entrada en este, que el tiempo y las circunstancias permitia; debo observar que el mes de febrero no era muy favorable para el exacto desempeño de la comision en consecuencia de los vientos fuertes que hubo sobre la costa, motivo que me impidio extender la examinacion y el plano hasta la disembocadura del Rio de los Brazos.

Se vera por las observaciones que acompaño el plan que incluyo con este que no he podido hallar un sitio cerca del puerto ni en toda la Bahia de Galveston que reune todas las circunstancias necesarias para el establecimiento permanente de una villa y Aduana maritima; el puerto mismo esta muy seguro y bien abrigado y la entrada no es dificil ni peligrosa para buques de once á doce pies de agua pero siempre se necesitara un pilote; toda la Ysla de Galveston es tan baja que inunde por el agua de la mar siempre que hay vientos violentos del Sud, Sud Este, o Sud Ueste; la tierra firma sobre el punto Bolivar es mas alto pero muy retirado del puerto y en ningun lugar hay ni un palo de madera ni agua dulce permanente. En estos par-

ticulares y algunos otros no he hallado la situacion actual de Galveston como se me habia representado y á mas de esto está algo retirada de todas las colonias ahora establecidas, y por consiguiente habra embarazo en obtener por lo pronto viveres y otros auxilios necesarios, y segun la ley de colonizacion no se puede hacer otros establecimientos de nuevas Colonias sobre tierras vacantes dentro de las diez leguas litorales de la costa, sin previa permiso del Exmo Sor Presidente de la Nacion, de modo que me parece que sera algo incomodo establecer la Aduana en Galveston por ahora por el despoblado y falta de madera de aquella Ysla y Bahia, y que sera mas conveniente ponerla en otro punto provisionalmente hasta que se puede hacer algunas casas y otros establecimientos sobre la Ysla, evitando de este modo los muchos gastos de hacer fabricas y obtener auxilios alli en las circunstancias actuales, por que por la ley del Soberano Congreso Constituyente fecha 29 de setiembre de 1823 Texas esta exempto de todos derechos sobre efectos de qualquiera clase nacionales ó extrangero que se introduzcan en ella para el consumo de sus habitantes durando esta exempcion siete años contados desde la publicacion de dicha ley en la capital de Bexar, y por consiguiente no habra producto de la Aduana por algun tiempo para satisfacer tales gastos, pero sin embargo de esto es importante a la prosperidad y seguridad del comercio que se establece en un punto algunos oficiales de la Aduana o Jueces para decedir los pleitos y dificultades que sucede entre dueños y capitanes de Buques y sus marineros y pasageros, reclamos contra buques, dar pasaportes o papeles de resguardo para la seguridad en alta mar de buques procedentes de esta, registrar y dar pasaportes de cabotaje á los buques que se construyan aqui, &c &c, &c,—

La disembocadura del Rio de los Brazos, reune mas ventajas para establecer la aduana provisional y por ahora sera mas comodo para los habitantes en general que qualquier otro punto, está situado cosa de diez y ocho leguas al Ueste de Galveston y tiene de siete á Diez pies de agua sobre la bara segun esta varia por el crecimiento del Rio ó el efecto de los vientos tiene bastante madera y agua dulce del Rio, está mas en el centro de las nuevas colonias, está poblado y las tierras dadas hasta cerca de su disembocadura por el Empresario Austin bajo la primera ley de colonizacion que no tenia reservacion de tierras sobre la costa, y en virtud de la confirmacion de la Concesion á dicho Empresario por el Congreso Constituyente: el Rio de los Brazos está navegable y los principales establecimientos estan sobre sus margenes y los colonos pueden bajar sus productos en tiempo de crecim^{tes} en el Rio y proporcionar todos los auxilios y viveres necesarios para la fabrica de casas y

mantencion de los oficiales y la guardia de la aduana. El costo de fabricar las casa y Almazenes necesarias para la aduana provisional en este punto no sera muy subidos, por la abundancia de la madera de construcion y la facilidad de obtener auxilios de los colonos—Por consiguiente estoy de parecer que se establece la aduana provisionalmente á la disembocadura del Rio de los Brazos ó cerca de ella sobre el Rio mientras que los comisionados nombrados por el Gobierno al efecto puede examinar menudamente la Ysla y Bahia de Galveston y otros puntos sobre la costa, y escojer los lugares mas apropositos para el establecimiento permanente de las villas y aduanas maritimas que se estima necesarias y mientras que se puede conseguir el permiso del Exmo Sor Presidente para que el Gobierno del Estado de Coahuila y Texas establezca pobladores sobre la Ysla y Bahia de Galveston y otros puntos escojidos para aduanas dentro de las diez leguas litorales de la costa por que sin esto segun la ley de colonizacion la vecindad de dichos puntos ahora vacantes ha de quedar despoblado—Toda la costa de Texas en general esta desconocido, es decir no existe ningun plano exacto de ella, y sé, por experiencia que no se puede fiar mucho en los diferentes representaciones de marineros y pasageros, por ser muy extensa y llena de muchas Bahias y Bocas de Rios, talvez se puede hallar diferentes puntos propios para puertos y la misma extension de la costa y Pais requiere que habra mas que un punto para extraher productos y recibir generos extrangeros; por exemplo se necesitaria uno en Galveston otro á la disembocadura del Colorado, otro en la Bahia de Matagorda, para los Rios de San Antonio Guadalupe y la Vaca. El establecimiento de la aduana provisionalmente y por ahora á la disembocadura de los Brazos, dara lugar para una examinacion exacta de toda la costa y para reunir con mas ascierto los datos que requiere el articulo tercero de la ley de 17 de octubre de 1825. habilitando provisionalmente el Puerto de Galveston—

D y L

Sn Felipe de A 18 de Marzo de 1826— E F A

Sor Gefe del Departamento C J. Aᵗᵒ Saucedo

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sobre el papel sellado 46 pˢ 6 rˢ

Mi hermano Santiago Austin entregará a V. S. cuarenta y seis pesos seis y medio rrs. para el saldo de la cuenta del papel sellado de esta jurisdicion—

Dios y Libertad—

Sn Felipe de Austin 18 de Marzo de 1826— E F A

Sor Gefe del Departamento de Texas Ciudadano Jose Antᵒ Saucedo—

Sobre McLocklin Drake y el Negro deBaret y De Leon

Con el mayor sorpresa he visto por el oficio de V. S. fecha 19 de febrero popo. que el anglo Americano Edmund McLocklin que esta abrigado en el Guadalupe por el Sor Martin de leon ha quejado que yo habia rehusado la entrega de un Negro á pesar [de] la venta legitima y legal que presentó.—

En contestacion á esta queja tengo á decir primeramente que es falso—el dicho McLocklin se presentó aqui con un papel, sin ningunas de las formalidades, ni requisitos necesarios en qualquier otro pais, para una venta legal; no fue certificada por ningun Juez, ni habia certificacion que la persona que lo firmo fue la muger ni heredero, ni pariente del difunto Barret que dejo el negro en poder de Castleman, cuatro diferentes personas han presentado ventas para el mismo negro, cada uno dijo que la venta que el tenia fue legal, y mi opinion es que eran todas falsas y hechos por los portadores ó sus amigos; fundo esta opinion en el caracter infame de cada una de las personas que truho las dichas ventas falsas, y en la falta total de todo requisito necesario para hacerlos legales.

Edmund McLocklin es un hombre cuyo caracter es tan *infame*, que en los lugares onde está conocido solo basta pronunciar su nombre para dar una idea de todo que es baja y criminal en el caracter del hombre. Se abrigo por algun tiempo en los despoblados del Rio de Natchitoches cerca del punto pacan [Pecan Point], y de alli mudo y se junto con la quadrilla de picaros que habitan los margenes del Rio Sabina; vino aqui y le di orden de marcharse fuera de esta jurisdicion sin demora que el Gobierno no tenia uso para tales habitantes, dos de sus hijos fueron horcados por asaseinos segun me han dicho los que le conoce bien, y la opinion general fue que el padre merecio la misma suerte. Las otras personas que vinieron reclamar el negro fueron Compañeros y Amigos de William English y Nicholas Trammel de[l] distrito de Nacogdoches hombres que yo habia rehusado recibir en esta colonia, por el infame de sus caracteres y que todo el mundo proclama por criminales y hombres malos.—

Tales son los hechos en esta materia, y tal es el sujeto McLocklin que está protejado y abrigado por Martin de Leon contrario á las leyes que prohibe que se admita tales hombres en el pais: debo observar que existe otro sujeto al lado del Sor Martin de Leon que es ladron conocido y es el mulato llamado Drake, tal vez, el llevara quejas contra mi por haberle castigado aqui por un Robo que hizo dandole orden al mismo tiempo salir fuera de esta jurisdicion pena de recibir castiga corporal—

Quando McLocklin ó qualquier otro individuo presenta una venta legitima para el dicho Negro sera entregado y no antes, por orden mia. V. S. pueda dar la orden en la material que estima conveniente—

Dios y Libertad—

Sn F de A 18 de Marzo de 1826—

Sor Gefe del Departamento C J. A Saucedo—

Austin to Rafael Manchola

[Austin's Blotter, as cited.]

Sobre la balandra Mexicana—al Comdte de LaBahia

En conformidad con las instruciones del Sor Comandante Principal de Armas en Texas Col Mateo Ahumada he comprado la Balandra nombrada Mexicana y un Bote de Remo de John R. Harris que el dicho Harris ha contratado entregar á V á la posible brevidad al punto de la Balandra en el Rio Sn Antonio con sus pertenencias que son como sigue, Vela Mayor, foque, con el aparejo ó conjunte de velas, Ancla y cable, Cuatro Remos bruxula, farol, tres vasijas ó barriles de Agua, Seruche demano, una barrena pequeña una barrena, hacha, un pasador, dos escopolos, dos idem de culafate una rasquita, una arroba detrozada, agujas de ensalmar, brumante, un poco de alquitran, dos ornos, un cafetero, seis platos seis cuchillos y tenedores de mesa, Un Bota de Remo con cuatro Remos, dos velitas, timon, Ancla y cable— Lo que comunico á V en conformidad con la orden del Sor Comandante Principal que me manda "Avisar al Comandante dela Bahia para que los reciba." Sirviendose V dar al referido Harris el correspondiente recibo—

Con esta fecha he dado cuenta al Sor Comandante Principal de esta Providencia; y tambien he entregado al dicho Harris duplicado de este oficio—

Dios y Libertad

Sn Felipe de Austin 18 de Marzo de 1826—

Estevan F. Austin—

Al Sor Comandante dela Guaron [Guarnicion] de la Bahia C. Rafael Anto Manchola—

Austin to Mateo Ahumada

[Austin's Blotter, as cited.]

Al Sor Ahumada sobre compra de Botes

Tengo a la vista el oficio de V fecha 1° de febrero p° p°. en que me encargue solicitar con el mayor empeño los dos Botes de Remos

y Vela que V me instruyo comprar en carta de Agosto de año anterior Desde que recibi la primera noticia de los deseos de V he hecho todo enpeño posible por llenarlos Hace algun tiempo que ellegaron en el Rio de los Brazos dos Balandres pero no eran de la clase aproposito para el servicio que V designa y no tenian Botes de remo. En el Otoño encargue a John R. Harris, vecino del arrollo cibolo ramo de San Jacinto buscar dos botes, y a mi llegada alli en el mes de Febrero para ir a Galveston encontre la Balandra llamada Mexicana que el compañero de Harris habia traida de las atacapas pocos dias antes y la alquile para mi expedicion a Ysla de Galveston. La dicha Balandra es de seis toneladas cubierta, con una camara pequeña y hallandole muy segura y fuerto buena velera, y comodo para llevar vivres, y 15 a 20 hombres y al mismo tiempo de poco calar necesitando solo tres pies y medio de agua quando esta muy cargada y 18 a 20 pulgadas vacio ó en lastre—determine hacer un trato con Harris para su compra: otro motivo que me movio fue que vi por experiencia en mi viage a Galveston que nunca seria posible llevar vivres y las otras cosas necesarias para hacer una examinacion exacta de la costa en botes abiertos sin infinitas incomodidades y riesgo de perderlos todos aun de pelegrar las vidas de las personas empleadas porque sera necesario cruzar muchas veces por el medio de las Bahias y salir fuera de las Yslas en alta mar para examinar los diferentes entrados, y la costa exterior y sondear los pasos y canales entre las Yslas Barras, etc., El Bote de Remo necesita poca agua, es muy fuerte y seguro y anda bien de remo ó de vela y servira para examinar las lagunas someras. En mi viage a Galveston lleve una piragua y la halle muy comodo en disembarcar porque suelen no encontra mas que 6 ó 8 pulgadas de agua por tres cientos a quinientos pasos de la tierra y con una piragua se evita vandiar en el agua y si se pude conseguirlas de los Yndios Caranculuases recomiendo a V llevar uno o dos. He comprado con la Balandra los diferentes Articulos pertenicientos a ella q eran necesarios como consta por el Yuventario. No tenia quadrante de altura pero Harris me dice que hay un marinero sobre el San Jacinto que tiene uno y probablemente ira para ayudar a llevar los Botes hasta el Rio Sn Antonio, este marinero se llama Alexandro Kilpatrick estuvo con migo a Galveston y puedo recomendarlo a V como un marinero practico de la mejor clase y un hombre de bien, y si V necesita marineros no encontrara uno mejor pero no entiende una palabra en Español. El costo de la Balandra Bote y pertinencias entregada al riesgo del vendedor en el Rio de San Antonio es seis cientos setenta y cinco pesos candidad que he contratado con Harris será pagado á el por V en Bexar al presentar mi libranza y el corres-

pondiente recibo del comandante de LaBahia de haber cumplido en entregar los Botes. No ha sido posible conseguirlos en menor precio el costo y riesgo de llevarlos de Galveston hasta el Rio Sn Antonio es considerable Hay un otro bote de remo en el Sn Jacinto se puede conseguir si V los necesita pero piden mas caro para ello que he tratado por el que compre, y consideré mejor tomar la Balandra y un Bote de remo que de comprar solo los dos Botes de remo porque hubieran pedido cuinientos cincuento pesos para ellos entregados en el Rio de Sn Antonio y la Balandra vale mas que tres de los Botes y sirvera para una guarda costa ó para mandar a Tampico u otros pue[r]os despues que V ha acabado la examinacion de la costa. Yncluyo con este el contrato con John Harris y la cuenta del costo de la Balandra y Botes y sus pertinencias. Con esta fecha he escrito al comandante de la guarnicion de LaBahia dandole cuenta del trato que he hecho con Harris para la entrega de la Balandra y Bote en el Rio de Sn Antonio—

Dios y Libertad—

Sn felipe de Austin 18 de Marzo de 1826—

Estevan F. Austin

Sor Comandante Pral de Armas de Texas—Dn Mateo Ahumada—

CONTRATO CON HARRIS

Consta por esto que Yo Estevan F. Austin p[a]. el Ciudadano Mateo Ahumada comandante principal de armas de Texas en Bexar, he comprado del Sor John R. Harris y tratado para que el dicho Harris a su riesgo entrega al punto de la Balandra al comandante principal de armas la Balandra nombrada Mexicana y un Bote de Remo con todas las pertinencias como delineadas en la adjunta cuenta, lo qual cumplido, el Sor Ahumada pagará al referido John R. Harris al presentar este documento la cantidad de seis cientos setenta y cinco pesos, y para su debido constancia nos el dicho Estevan F. Austin y John R. Harris hemos firmado el presente en duplicado una de lo qual se entregará a dicho Harris y el otro se mandará al referido Sor Comandante Principal de Armas en Bexar, de que damos fee—

Dado y firmado en la Villa de Sn felipe de Austin a los diez y ocho dias del Mes de Marzo de 1826—

Estevan F. Austin——
John R Harris

Costo—de la Balandra nombrado Mexicano y una Bote de Remo que seran entregadas en conformidad con el contrato hecho con el Sor Dn John Harris y a su riesgo hasta la entrada al punto de la

Balandra en el Rio Sn Antonio al orden del Sor Comandante principal de Armas de Texas Coronel Mateo Ahumada—

La Balandra Mexicana con las siguientes pertinencias.

Vela mayor, foque, con el aparejo o conjunto de Velas, Ancla y cable, cuatro remos, bruxula, farol, tres vasijas o barriles de agua, serruche de mano, una barrena pequeño, una barrena, hacha un pasador dos escopolos, dos idem de calafate; una rasquita, una arroba de trisada agujas de ensalmar, brumantes, un poco de alquitran, dos ornas, un cafatero, seis platos, seis cuchillos y tenedores de mesa, un bote de remo dos velitois, unido y portable	400.0
Salario de seis hombres marinos, pa. conducir hasta dicho punto	125.0
Vivres pa. ellos de ir y volver aqui	150.0
Suma total en ps	675.0

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN
JOHN R HARRIS

AUSTIN TO SEGUIN

[Austin's Blotter, as cited.]

Al comisario del Departmento de Texas Dn Erasmo Seguin

En mi oficio fecha 10 de Enero pº pº informé a V. que iba a pasar á Galveston para levantar un plano del puerto etc. en conformidad con la comision que me dio el Gefe del Departamento lo verifique y he mandado el resultado de mis observaciones al Sor Gefe del Departamento en cumplimiento con su orden. Por no detener estos documentos mas tiempo del Govierno no he tomado tiempo para sacar copias de ellos para mandar a V. considerando que V como el encargado de la Comisaria de Texas las recibirá del Sor Gefe del Departamento. Por las rasones indicadas en mi oficio al Sor Gefe del Departamento estoy de parecer que será mas expediente establecer la aduana provisional por ahora a la disembocadura del Rio de los Brazos o cerca de ella sobre el Rio. el costo de fabricar las casas necesarias alli no será mucho y en las circunstancias actuales de los establecimientos es mas en el centro y mas comodo a todos—

Dios y Libertad

Sn Felipe de Austin, 18 de Marzo de 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

Sor Comisario Subalterno de Texas, Erasmo Seguin—

[Enclosure]

sobre el puerto de Galveston

Notas qe acompañaron el plano de la Bahia y Puerto de Galveston

1º. Las cifras indican la profundidad de agua en pico en tpo de marea baja

2º. Los tildes indican barras de arena.

3°. El suelo ó fondo del puerto es de lodo y muy seguro para anclage y el fondo de la Bahia en general es del mismo

5°. La Ysla de Galveston en general inunda pr el fluxo del agua de la mar en tpo de huracanos, ó tempestades violentes del Sud, Sud este, ó Sud Ueste, segun las noticias dadas por los q. han conocido este lugar fue casi todo inundado en el año 1815 pero no es frequente. El Antiguo sitio de Galveston tiene de seis a siete pies de altura del nivel del agua. La Ysla es cosa de doce leguas de largo y extiende al Ueste hta seis leguas de la disembocadura del Rio de los Brazos y tiene de media legua hta dos leguas de anchura, y solo hay tres arboles en toda su extension, y partes considerable de ella inunda en mareas mas altas q. las ordinarias. Se puede conseguir agua dulce en posos ó agujeros en la arena de tres á cuatro pies de profundidad; p° no considero q. sera en la abundancia necesaria para una Villa ó Pueblo y q. seria impuro luego el lugar esta poblado en consequencia de la porqueria que cada lluvia llevaria de la superficie en un suelo de arena.

5°. El antiguo sitio de Galveston es muy hermosa y no pudiera haber mejor. pª una villa maritima con la excepcion de ser bajo, y la falta de agua dulce permanente y madera. En frente hay una barra de arena de 400 á 500 pasos de anchura, q solo tiene medio hta dos y medio pies de agua en marea baja q. sera un embaraso en desembarcar hta que se puede construir Muelles ó Desembarcaderos.

6 Hay una entrada al punto occidental de la Ysla de Galveston de ocho pies de agua, y buen anclage adentro, perfectamente abrigado. La canal entre la Ysla y la tierra firma desde este punto hta el puerto de Galveston ó punto oriental de la Ysla, tiene dos barras de arena de solo tres y medio pies de agua en marea baja, como indicado en el plano, todo lo demas de la canal tiene de cinco á diez pies de agua y aprovechando del arroyo Ostiones y una laguna se puede unir pr medio de una canal q. se ha de abrir de 400 á 500 varas de largo los aguas del Rio de los Brazos con el extremo punto occidental de la Bahia de Galveston cerca del punto occidental de la Ysla. q. sirveria pª una comunicacion interior con botes de poco calar desde el Rio de los Brazos hta Galveston

7 La Ysla Pelicano es muy baja y arenosa no tiene palo ni agua dulce.

8 La tierra firma sobre la Peninsula llamado Bolivar es un poco mas alto q la Ysla de Galveston y el punto indicado en el plano fuerte Bolivar no era inundado en el año 1815, segun he entendido y creo q. nunca inunda pr. el flujo de la mar. El sitio en este punto es muy hermoso para una villa p° tiene muchas incomodidades. No tiene madera y considero q. la misma dificultad existiria aqui para conseguir aguadulce permanente como en Galveston aunq. hay ahora abundancia en los pozos, esta retirado del puerto principal y habra

infinitos embarasos en disembarcar por la barra somera de arena q. extiende en frente de 1500 a 2000 varas de anchura.

9 La tierra firma en frente y al ueste de bolivar es en general baja y tiene las mismas incomodidades.

10 Las margenes de toda la Bahia en general no tiene madera con la excepcion de alg^{a} motes q. empiezan en frente de la barra del pescado colorado, y no hay una piedra en ning^{a} parte

11 La tierra en general tanto sobre la Bahia como la Ysla abunda en buenos pastos y hay sitios fertiles y hermosos p^{a} habitaciones p^{o} no tiene piedras.

12 Los Rios trinidad y Snjacinto abundan en madera de toda clase qe. se encuentran en este pais.

13 La Latitud marcada en el plano es resulta de observaciones hechas, una sobre el extremo punto oriental de la Ysla Campeche y la otra al paso de la barra del pescado Colorado.

14 En las circunstancias actuales habra crecidos gastos y alg^{as} dificultades en construir las casas y almazenes neces^{as} p^{a} una Aduana Maritima sobre la Ysla ó la tierra firma al punto Bolivar pr. ser tan retirado de la madera de construcion, y remota de todo auxilio de los pobladores.

15 No creo q. hay barro sobre la Ysla de Galveston q. sirveria para ladrillos p^{o} considero q. hay abundancia sobre las margenes de la Bahia y de los Rios Trinidad y San Jacinto aunq. no he podido hacer un experimento decisivo de ello, y fundo mi opinion solo en la apariencia del barro. Se puede conseguir cal de las conchas, q. abundan sobre la costa p^{o} no he sabido que existe cal de piedra en ning^{a} parte sobre esta costa ni sobre los Rios Trinidad, Sanjacinto ó los Brazos. del Rio Colorado al Oeste esta piedra abunda.

Todo lo qual esta sometido al Gob^{no} junto con las observaciones hechas en mi oficio de esta fha sobre la materia al Sor Gefe del Deparm^{to} de Texas en cump^{to} con la comision q. me dio el dho. Gefe pr su oficio fha 30 de 10bre p^{o}p^{o}

S F de A. 18 de Marzo de 1826 E F A

RECEIPT FOR SUBSCRIPTION

New Orleans, March 18 1926

STEPHEN F AUSTIN To the Louisiana Advertiser, Dr.

For 1 year^{s} subscription, from 1st August 1825 to 1st August 1826 — to weekly Paper $5.00

Rec^{d} payment of *Mr. Richardson*

Beardslee and *Penrice.*

Martin De Leon to Austin

Sor Dⁿ Estevan Austin Billa de Bitoria 19 de Marzo de 1826

Muy Sor Mio y amigo resevi la de V. fha 10 del coriente por lo q. me beo precisado qe. al momento regresar al mismo coreo haserle ber aV por esta qe en union de amistad puede V. mandar pero atendiendo el agravio qe se me ha echo por haberse detenido mi carga por lo q. vuelvo a insitar aV. q el contenido de los asuntos ha tiempo para concluirse pero la ejecucion de poner mi carga aqui espero de su retitud le berifique dentro de 8 es lo mas qe puedo esperar motivo aq. estoi sin un grano de mais para mi jente

A loqe. le agrego q desde el 12 el ppo. estoy comprando el almud de maiz sobre un pⁿ almud y estos mismo costos y gastos qe estoy sufragando lo hande bonificar los señores qe. detubieron mi carga el coreo me gana un pˢ diario ban dos biajes esto le prebengo aV. para su inteligencia

Todos estos costos qe se agan se ande agregar sobre el espediente qe sea formado qe esten en conosimiento los dhos. señores qe todo el tiempo qe dilaten en poner mi carga en mi casa son mas costos y gastos qe ago y areglado a nuestras leyes el qe salga conpleses el qe gasta todo ygualmente la grandicima falta de mis buelles para elfin de labranza esto me parese qe. es uno delos primeros Costos de bonificar. este daño, y los mas qe se sigen por lo qe. suplico ala bonda de V se sirva de decirme si se ade agecutar la orden de nuestro gobernador como la prebiene el oficio y de no ser asi espero la resulucion de V. para mi gobierno quedo su atento servidor y affmo Amigo qe. S. M. B.

Martin de Leon

Walter C. White to Austin

Col. S. F. Austin

To Sloop Mexican and owners Dr.

1826

Febʸ 20th	To 16 days hire of said Sloop @ $4		64.00
	86 lb Salt @ 6 cts		5.16
	15 Gallons Rum @ 1.25		16.25
			85.41
	Cr.		
Febʸ 21st	By 4 Bushels Corn Meal @ 1.33⅓	5.33	
	100 lb Beef @ 5 cts lb	5.00	
			10.33
			$75.08

Recᵈ Payment by a credit on Knight and Whites note 20 March 1826

Walter C. White [Rubric]

Depositions Concerning Bankruptcy of Imla Keep

1. ISAAC THOMAS

United states of North America, and state of Louisiana paresh of Rapide. This day appeared before me Gilbert Legrass a Justice of the peace in and for said parish Isaac Thomas who being duly sworn According to the Law of said State, did depose that he was acquainted with Doc^{r} Imla Keep in the years 1822, 1823, and 1824. That he was his near neighbour and had as he believes a pretty general knowledge of his affairs. During those years he is of opinion, that Doc^{r} Keeps practice as a physician could not have yielded him on a fair estimate more than five hundred dollars a year. he also states that the Doc^{rs} attention was principally confined to the cultivation of his farm. The said Thomas further states—That Doc^{r} Keep purchased part of the Land that he once owned in this parish and which is now owned by the deponent of Col. Thomas Patterson—Who had purchased it of Waters and Leonard who held a Mortgage for the ballance of the purchase money due by Patterson—to the am^{t} of about four thousand two hundred dollars. The ballance of the Land the Doc^{r} bought of William Smith—who had a priviledge on it for the payment of the ballance due him. Keep by his purchase of Patterson became bound to pay Waters and Leonard—failing in which they obtained a Judgement against Patterson on the Mortgage—and had the Land sold on a twelve months bond—when this bond became due Keep was still unable to pay and procured this deponant John and L. B. Compton, Joseph and William Brown and John L. Lecroix to purchase up the bond and give him one and two years to pay it in— The above parties did make that arrangement reserving their right to have the land sold and bought in by them for their security of the others. Keep paid part of the money due on the bonds at the time fixed—and this deponant paid the ballance—and to secure himself for this and other debts bought the Land and took a Conveyance from J and L B Compton— The land bought of smith was sold to pay the ballance due on it When the deponant also became the purchaser.

Sworn to, written in the deponents own handwriting, and Subscribed before me this 20th, March 1826

(Signed) I. Thomas
G. Legras J^{ce} P^{ce}
in and for the parish of Rapide

I certify that I have long been acquainted with Isaac Thomas Esqr an inhabitant of the parish of Rapide whose deposition is written

above, that he is a gentleman of respectability, and that his deposition is entitled to full credit

Given under my hand and Seal of Office as Parish Judge in and for the Paresh of Rapide this 20th March 1826

TH C. SCOTT Par. Judge

2. THOMAS HOOPER

United Stats of america and State of Louisiana Parish of Rappide this the 20th day of march 1826 this day appeared before me Gilbert Legrass a Justice of the peace in and for the said Parish Thomas Hooper who being duly sworn according to the laws of said state, did depose that he was acquainted with Doctor Imla Keep in the years 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824 That he was his near neighbour and had as he believes a pretty general Knowledge of his affairs.

During the years of 1819 or 1820 this deponent is not confident which, Dr. Keep had an extensive practice and was for a time a popular Physician, so much so this deponent was induced to engage him for the succeeding year as his family Physician, but he proved so unsuccessful in his practice and became so *very* unpopular in those families in which he practiced that he considered him so unsafe That altho Dr. Keep owed this deponent the sum of ninety dollars, and he agreed to attend the deponents family for said sum of ninety dollars, he gave up the said debt to Dr. Keep and employed other Physicians in his place when occasion required, altho Dr. Keep was receiving the pay of said sum for the same. The deponent further states that he verily believes that Doctor Keeps practice after the first year he came in the country was not worth five hundred dollars per annum. The deponent further states that during the latter part of the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty four the deponent started from this Parish in Company with Dr. Keep and Colonel Gross's family and that they arrived at Col. Gross's residence in the Providence [sic] of Texas on the 24th or 25th of December the deponent is uncertain which and was present when Dr. Keep and Col. Gross attempted to make a settlement, that the deponent understood from the parties that Dr. Keep upon settlement fell in debt to Col. Gross to a very considerable amount and that Col. Gross gave a bill for goods which Dr. Keep was to fill in New Orleans for the amount of two or three thousand dollars the deponent does not remember which but believes the latter, which money the deponent understood was in the hands of Dr. Keep and belonging to Col. Gross.

The deponent further understood from the parties that a partnership was to be entered into after Dr. Keeps return from New Or-

leans between Dr. Keep Col. Gross and Wm. White and that said White and Keep were to take possession of the lower plantation

(Signed) THOMAS HOOPER

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 20th. March 1826

G. LEGRAS J^re P^ce

for the parish of Rapide

I certify that I have long been acquainted with Thomas Hooper Esq. an inhabitant of the Parish of Rapide whose deposition is written above, that he is a gentleman of respectability and that his deposition is entitled to full credit

Given under my hand and seal of office as Parish Judge in and for the Parish of Rapide this 20th March 1826.

(Signed) TH C SCOTT Par Judge

3. NARRISH WRIGHT

Whereas I Narrish Wright Sheriff of the Parish of Rapide by virtue of a writ of firie facias to me directed against the goods and chattels Lands and tenements of Thomas Patterson Imla Keep and Henry Haynes at the suit of William Waters did seize the following property to wit all the right title and interest of these defendants or either of them in and to ninety Arpens of Land and all the rights priviledges and appurtenances thereto belonging situated lying and being in the Parish of Rapide on the right Bank of the Bayou Rapide in descending bounded below by Lands of Charles Curtis and above by the One hundred and eighty arpens of the same tract purchased by John and L B Compton at Sheriffs sale and being the remainder of the tract acquired by Imla Keep or Thos Patterson and a Part of the same on which the said Keep now resides and having exposed the same to public sale according to Law on the 4th of March 1824 for Cash when J and L B Camptan became the purchaser thereof for the price of four hundred dollars which I hereby acknowledge to have received and endorsed as a credit on the execution bearing date March 4th 1824 Now therefore Know all men by these presents that I the said Sheriff do in consideration of the premises and by virtue of the acts in such case made and provided grant bargain Sell assign and set over to the said J and L B Compton their heirs and assigns all the above described peice or parcel of Land and all the right title interest or demand which the said Thomas Patterson Imla Keep and Henry Haynes on the 15th day of June 1822 as at any time since had in or to the said property or any part thereof there being the following special Mortgages on the same as certified by the Parish Judge of the Parish of Rapide in his certificate as follows I cer-

tify that a special Mortgage exists on the records of my office by Imla Keep in favor of Thomas Patterson on a tract of Land situated in the Parish of Rapide on the left Bank of the Bayou Rapide in descending having a front on the said Bayou of six and three quarters arpens with the depth of forty arpens to secure the payment of the sum of Eight thousand dollars besides interest dated December 23rd 1818 I also certify that another special Mortgage exists by said Keep in favor of Edmond L Briggs on forty Arpens of Land to be taken from the lower side of the tract above described to secure the payment of the sum of Seven hundred and ninety dollars and fifty Cents besides interest dated September 19th 1821 I also certify that another special Mortgage exists by said Keep in favor of Joseph Letchworth on forty arpens of the above described tract of Land and adjoining that last Mentioned to Secure the payment of the sum of twenty dollars besides interest dated October 10th 1822 and that no other special Mortgage exists on the records of my Office in the name of said Keep Given under my hand and seal of Office as Parish Judge in and for the Parish of Rapide this 4th day of March 1824 (Signed) Thomas C Scott Par Judge To hold the same to the said J and L B Compton their heirs and assigns for ever In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this fourth day of March in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty four and in the forty eighth year of the independence of the United States

NARRISH WRIGHT
Sheriff of the Parish of Rapide

(Signed) sealed and delivered in the presence of
WM R LECKIE
S E CUNY

Done and passed before me

TH. C. SCOTT Par. Judge

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the original on file and of Record in my Office

Given under my hand and seal of Office as Parish Judge in and for the Parish of Rapide this 21st day of March A D 1826

TH. C. SCOTT Par. Judge

4. SCHEDULE OF DEBTS.

Be it remembered, that heretofore to wit; on the fourth day of May Eighteen hundred and twenty five Imla Keep filed in the Office of the Clerk of the sixth District Court in and for the Parish of Rapide and State of Louisiana a Petition, in writing, against His

Creditors, together with a Schedule of his debts, in the words and figures following, to wit:

To the Honorable William Murray Judge of the sixth District Court., Parish of Rapide

The petition of Imla Keep a citizen of said Parish, with respect states to your Honor That notwithstanding he has used the greatest industry and most rigid economy for years past he finds himself in consequence of his numerous losses and misfortunes in a Condition that renders it absolutely impossible for him to discharge his debts—Your petitioner further states: that the step he is about to take in making a surrender to his creditors has alone been produced by the positive belief that whilst encumbered and shakled with such a load of increasing debt in consequence of the Rapide growth of the amount by accumulating interest and Costs, that he never could by any rational exertion meet the payment his losses and the payments heretofore made having divested him of every useful means of making, save his personal exertions—Your petitioner further states that he has been placed in his present unpleasant situation of inability to pay his creditors, by misfortunes that he could not control and meeting necessary expences—such as that of having lost his most valuable slaves, after having given a large price at an unfortunate period for a plantation to employ them on, That of having given fourteen thousand dollars for a plantation—which was sacrifised for less than a third of the amt at Sheriffs sale. That of supporting my family, though not an expensive one—Yet a losing one—That of not being able to collect my debts and incurring their loss,—that of having at great expense to attend to an expensive law suit most unjustly Prosecuted against me in the state of Mississippi These together with many other causes not enumerated have produced my inability to pay my debts and force me to take that disagreeable step of calling a meeting of my creditors—To which end I have hereto annexed a schedule of my property and a list of my active and passive debts, as also a Statement of the debts, due by me, and a Statement of the losses that I have sustained—Wherefore your petitioner prays to be allowd to call a meeting of his creditors at such time and place as your Honor or the court may direct, in order that he may be enabled to lay before them a statement of his affairs and surrender them his Estate, and that in the mean time all Kind of proceedings against his Person and property be stayed—

(Signed) Imla Keep

A Schedule of debts due by Imla Keep, with their amts. names of Creditors, and place of residence

Names of Creditors—	amt.	debt	place of residence
To William Smith about	$1100	.....	Parish of Rapide
" Stephen E Cuny	.....	.....	do do
" G Y Kelso	40	.....	do do
" Ferguson and Rich	300	(includ-	do do
" P B Martin for notes given to David Pannile	215.13	ing cost and Int)	do do
" Jesse Hudson	167.70	.....	do do
" Sexton and Morgan	392	"	do do
" Mrs. Kimble about	600	"	do Feliciana
" King and Beatty	600	"	" Radide
" G Greeves	700	"	New Orleans
" H A Bullard	600	"	Par of Rapide
" Jn°. Casson	75	"	do do
" Kimble merchant	30	"	do do
" Hynson and Wright	15	"	do do
" Mrs Bacon in the hands of G Oakley Esqr	200	"	do do
" Jos. S. Johnston "	300	"	do do
" Chas. F Scott	80	"	do do
" Estate of Doc[t] Rippey	80	"	
" Leckie and Norment	114	"	do do
" James Price	700	"	do do
" Jn°. Plandreau	20	"	do do
" Buckley and Bailey	400	"	do do

Schedule of property and debts belonging to Imla Keep

Farming Tools, plows, Hames axes etc value	30.—
six head of Cows	50.
1 saddle and Bridle	20.
Debts due	
Account for professional services against Matthew Martin	140
account agt. McWaters for professional services	40
Notes in the hands of Christopher Bullard of Winchester Tennessee against Doct[r] Saml. Holland dec[d] for	1100 –
Account against the Estate of Mrs Manbale deceased for	80
account ag[t] the Estate of J M Martin dec[d]	300
account ag[t] the Estate of Mrs Spencer dec[d]	120
Due Bill against David Manbale balance	30.
Statement of Losses incured by Imla Keep	
In the year 1819.—	
Three negroes worth (men)	4000
one negro child worth	100
In 1824 –one negro man worth	300
By expences incured in supporting family per annum $1200 for six years	7200
By cost, and Expences attending Law Suit	2000
By Interest on debt, due	3000
By fall of property	8000
By losses incured in defending a vexatious law suit brought against me in the state of Mississippi	1000

I Imla Keep do solemnly swear that the above and foregoing schedule contains a correct and faithful statement of all the property I possess, either in moveables or immovables, or in Other rights, or

claims, except however the clothes and Linen to my use, and the instruments indispensable to my profession by which I make my living, and which the law authorises me to Keep—and I do further solemnly swear that the said schedule contains a correct and faithful statement of my active and passive debts, and of the looses I have experianced in my affairs, and that I have neither directly or indirectly divested anything of my property to the Injury of my creditors So help me God—

(Signed) IMLA KEEP

Sworn to and Subscribed before me 7th of March 1825

BENJ M STOKES J. P.

On which Petition the Judge made the following order To wit: Ordered that a meeting of the creditors of the Petitioner be held before the Parish Judge of said, Parrish, on the second monday of May next to deliberate on the affairs of the petitioner, and that in the mean time all proceedings be stayed against his person and property, and untill further Order be had thereon 9th April 1825.

(Signed) W. MURRAY Judge
6th District

I certify that I have this day posted up at the Jail Door a notice to the Creditors of the said Imla Keep, returnable on the second monday of present month, according to Law

May 4th 1825

WM. R. LECKIE Dy Clk

And afterwards, to wit, on the 9th day of May 1825 the Parish Judge gave the following certificate to wit

Imla Keep vs His creditors

On this 9th day of May 1825 appeared at my office the said Imla Keep by Isaac Thomas his attorney, and the creditors of the said Keep failing to appear, and no opposition being made to the surrender of property by said Keep, the same is certified to the sixth District Court.

Parish of Rapide— Th. C. SCOTT Par Judge

State of Louisiana Parish of Rapide

I William R Leckie clerk of the sixth District and Parish Courts for the Parish and State aforesaid—Do certify the foregoing to be a true Transcript of the Record, and all the proceedings had in the case of Imla Keep vs His Creditors exising in my Office.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto Subscribed my name and affixed the seal of Office This 20th day of March A D 1826

(Signed) WM. R. LECKIE Clk

I William Murray sole Judge of the 6th District Court for the Parish of Rapide, Do certify that William R Leckie who signed the foregoing certificate is and was at the time of so signing Clerk of said Courts, and that full faith and credit is and Ought to be given to his proceedings as such— and the same is in due form of Law—

Given under my hand and Seal This 22nd day of March A. D 1820

(Signed) W. MURRAY,
6th District

AUSTIN TO POLITICAL CHIEF

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Visto lo que me V. S. dice en oficio de 8 de febrero p° p° relativa a los gastos emprendidos en el desempeño de la comision que V. S. me dio de examinar la Bahia Ysla y puerto de Galveston y liventar el plano de ello que pidio el Gobierno; incluyo a V. S. la cuenta de los dichos Gastos para que se sirve V. S. elevarlos al conocimiento del Gobierno.

Dios y Libertad

Sn Felipe de Austin 27. de Marzo de 1826—

E. F. A.

Sr Gefe del Departamento de Texas José Antonio Saucedo—

Gastos satisfechos por el ciudadano Estevan F. Austin en levantar un plano topografico de la Bahia y Puerto de Galveston

A saver

Para cantidad satisfecho a los Dueños de la Balandra nombrado Mexicano p^{a} 16 dias alquilez a 2 ps diarios— son	32 00
idem . . . idem — — — idem para dos botes de Remo a un peso p^{a} los 16 dias son	16 00
idem por ocho hombres 16 dias a 5½ rrs. cada uno diarios son	88 00
idem p^{a} dos hombres 6 dias—a 5½ pr idem son	8. 2
idem para dos hombres pilotes 16 dias a un peso son	32
idem tres quintales carne de Rez a 3 ps. 2 rrs. 3 quar^{as} quintal	10. 00 1
idem para dos idem—de Marrano a 6 Ps. quintal	12. 00. 0
idem tres fanegas de Maiz—a 4 ps. fanega	12. 00 0
idem tres y media arrobas de Sal a 1 ps. 4 rrs. arra. [arroba]	5. 2
idem un Barrilito . con 13 galones de Runo a 1 ps. 2 rrs. gallon	16. 2
idem para el topografo Seith Ingram con sus instrumentos matimaticos etc etc	50. 00 0
Sums total	281. 6 . 1

San Felipe de Austin 16 de Marzo de 1826—

E. F. A.

AUSTIN TO MATEO AHUMADA

[Austin's Blotter, as cited.]

al Comandante Principal de armas sobre los que hagan trafico con los indios de guerra.

Transcribi a V copia traducida de la orden que circule á los Alcaldes de esta Colonia sobre el comercio con los Yndios que estan de guerra, en conformidad con lo que V. me dijo en oficio fecha 7 de octubre p° p° que es como sigue

"El Gobierno me ha mandado adoptar las medidas mas eficaces "para impedir toda comunicacion comercial con los Comanches ú " otros Yndios de guerra con los habitantes de esta Nacion; en con- "sequencia de lo qual los Alcaldes de los respectivos distritos de esta "Colonia, bajo la mas estrecha responsabilidad arrestará toda per- "sona que entre en su jurisdicion respectiva, que esté empleado en "dicho trafico directamente ó indirectamente despues de la publica- "cion de esta orden, y embargará todos generos, Caballos, Mulas, ú "otros efectos destinados para dichos Yndios ó extrahidos de ellos, "y me les mandará á esta Villa sin dilatacion ninguna bajo una "guardia competente de la Milicia para que se dispone de ellos en "conformidad con las leyes y de loque la justicia requiere"

Como no he recibido instruciones particulares del castigo que se debe imponer á los infractores, se sirva V darme las correspondientes instruciones sobre la materia, para evitar que me acusan de haber excedido mis facultades si les castigo sin poder enseñarles una orden ó ley que fixa la pena que han de sufrir—

Dios y La Ley—

Sn Felipe de Austin 27 de Marzo de 1826— E. F. A.

Sor Cl. M° Ahumada Comdt. Pral de Armas—

[In margin of Austin to Ahumada, March 27, 1826, in Bexar Archives:]

A los Yndividuos de la Colonia del cargo de V. q. comercian con los Yndios barbaros q^e^ en la actualidad nos hacen la guerra, y son Comanches, Tahuacanos, Huecos, y Tahuallaces, se servirá V mandar formar sumaria, y con ella dar cuenta al Gefe Politico del Departamento lo q^e^ manifiesto á V. en contestacion á su oficio de 27 de Marzo anterior q^e^ trata del asunto.

Bejar 10 de Abril de 1826

Sr. T. C. D Estevan Austin.

V. vera por mi oficio y el contrato con Harris lo qe. he hecho en la compra de la Balandra Mexicana y un Bote de Remo, siento qe. no fue en mi poder cumpla con sus deseos mas pronto, pero no era

posible y he hecho el mejor trato qe. las circunstancias permetia. Si el Gob^no^ me permite salir de esta jurisdicion tendria mucho gusto en acompañar a V—en la examinacion de la costa, y podia llevar un agrimensor topografico con algunos instrumentos utiles en levantar planos etc etc

Los indios nos han dejado quieto por algun tpo, las unicas novedades qe. hemos tenido son estos—los Tahuacanos venieron hace como tres meses al paso del camino de La Bahia sobre el rio Colorado y peliaron con los Toncahuas y Lipanis y segun dice los Toncahuas perdieron cuatro hombres, pero no hizieron daño a los pobladores—hace como un mes qe. los karankawasis paso por este lado del rio Colorado y fueron descubiertos, y un partido de hombres les atacaron en un monte, y Mataron algunos, no se sabe cuantos por ser tan espeso el monte qe. no podian seguirlos indios, tomaron sus canoas y hallaron en ellos algunos articulos qe. pertenecian a un Americano qe. los indios mataron a la disembocadura del arroyo San Bernardo el año pasado—hace diez dias qe. seis indios chacktas del otro lado del rio Misisipi atacaron un partido de los Tankahuas cerca del camino de La Bahia entre el rio de los Brasos y el colorado y mataron cuatro segun dixeron los chacktas a su vuelta,—el Gefe de los Tankahuas llamado Carita murio hace algun tpo de un enfermidad y pienso qe. su partido ira a juntarse con los Lipanis, vinieron a verme hace dos semanas y me dixeron qe. iban a buscar los otros Tankawasis

El dia 4 de este mes se verificaron las elecciones de oficiales y alistamiento de la Milicia de esta Colonia segun el reglamento de 8 de abril 1823, no he recibido la lista de todas las compañias, pero deben llegar en esta semana, y luego qe. las reciba mandaré lista nominal completa al Sor Gefe de Departam^to^—En el Otonio pasado estuvimos en esta colonia en una situacion Sumamente critica para entrar en guerra, muchos de los habitantes eran enfermos, perdimos muchos caballos por un especie del epidemia las cosechas no eran abundantes en consequencia de la inundacion—Los pobladores eran, y todavia son muy esparcidos y por tanto sumamente expuesto a ser distruidos aun por quadrillos de Indios y habia muchos de ellos muy desanimados—en tales circunstancias no podiamos haber entrado en guerra sin peligrar muchas familias sobre la frontera sin poder protegerlas en ninguna manera, me hallo en aquel tpo en una situacion mas embarasada qe. nunca he experimentado en mi vida—el Gob^no.^ espero qe. esta Colonia hubiera hecho alguna cosa contra los Indios, y efectivam^te^ no estuvimos en estado de hacerlo—las vidas de muchos familias esparcidas sobre la frontera y aun puedo decir qe. la misma prosperidad de todo la colonia dependia en aquel momento en las medidas qe. yo tomare,—entrar en guerra entonces

hubiera parado enteram^te^ la emegracion, destruido la frontera, desanimado los habitantes y aun peligrado todo, y estos sin poder efectuar cosa mayor en la guerra con los Comanches qe. son los principales y ademas de estos segun los noticias qe. tenia, habia algun razon a sospechar algunos dhos tribus mas inmediatos qe. podian habernos embarasado infinito, por ser mas guerreros qe. cualquiera Comanche, ó Tahuacano—en tales circunstancias arriesgé mi credito y caracter personal con el Gob^no^ en proponer quedar neutro por algun tpo. lo hize bajo el concepto de qe. en [un] año ó mas estariamos en una situacion p^a^ dar un buen golpe de una vez No es culpa de los habitantes qe. no attaqué el rancho de los Wecos el año pasado Verdad es qe. les consulte y dixeron qe. el tpo no era favorable en consequencia de nuestra situacion critica, y qe. una guerra podia atrazar todo, pero qe. fueron listo a hacer su deber en quanto podian de modo qe. si hay culpa en la materia yo soy el unico culpado.

algunos individuos entraron el verano pasado en el pais de los Comanches—no supe yo cosa ninguna de su viage hasta su vuelta. los Indios les robaron de todo qe tenian y los qe. han vuelto junto con algunos otros qe. han perdido caballos estan ahora fomentando los espiritus de los jovenes p^a^ hacer una campana contra el pueblo de los huecos, y hace solo dos dias qe. me pedieron el permiso de ir abuzcar uno de los hombres qe. fue robado en el otoño qe. no ha vuelto y no se sabe si vive ó no—pero he sabido qe. su verdadero objeto es matar Indios y llevar caballada dar una licencia de esta naturaleza a unos pocos jovenes exaltados nos precipitara en la guerra en un modo qe. no considera expediente porqe. aunqe. no hay duda qe. dho partido matará muchos de los Indios y llevara mucho caballada, sin embargo no podian dar el golpe decisivo qe. se necesita en principiar la guerra para humillar los espiritus de los Indios y desanimarlos, y me privara enteram^te^ de la ocasion qe. espero aprovechar de sorprehenderlos en sus Ranchos en el medio de sus cosechas quando estan todos unidos alli y ademas devideria la fuerza de la colonia, por necesitar muchos para guardar las familias mientras qe. lo restante marcha a buscar los indios lo qe. no sucedera en dar el primer golpe con toda la fuerza la colonia porqe. entonces caeremos sobre ellos antes qe nos esperan y puedamos volver a defender la frontera antes qe. los Indios se reparan del golpe primero para attacarnos de su parte he dado cuenta a V. de esta materia, extemporaneam^te^ por no considerarlo de lo importancia qe. requiere una comunicacion formal de oficio, y tambien porqe. se me habia dicho qe. algunos qe. son muy calientes pr la guerra ó por mejor decir para vengarse de los Indios por sus perdidas personales y para llevar caballada, han amenazado llevar quejas al Gob^no^ qe. yo no quiero permitirles atacar los Indios aunqe. estan en guerra abierta Tengo algunos espiritus algo dificil a gobernar y qe no tienen juicio

para entender los motivos qe. nos mueven ni aun de reflexionar como deben sobre sus propios intereses pero haran buenos soldados y voy a fomentar la exaltacion de este modo contra los Indios que se ha encendido entre los jovenes; solo conteniandoles hasta qe acabamos las siembras en todo la colonia y el mais esta trabajado para poder llevar los hombres sin peligrar la cosecha luego qe. completo la lista nominal de la Milicia voy a oficiar V sobre una expedicion a los huecos, tengo animo y aun ancia de cumplir con las esperanzas del Gob^no^ en esta materia, y aunqe. seria mejor p^a^ la colonia no entrar en guerra todavia sin embargo no puedo pedir tal cosa del Gob^no^ y espero qe. aprovechandome de algun momento favorable puedo dar un buen golpe alos Tahuacanos en este verano—una vez empesada la guerra debe seguir, y si se pueda conseguir el permiso para qe. la Milicia de esta Colonia tendra el derecho de dividir entre ellos como propiedades suyos los articulos y efectos qe. tomen de los Indios, no tendria embarazo en tener tres o cuatro partidos de hombres siempre en el pais de los Indios, qe. los tendran perpetuam^te^ en movem^to^ y embarazado—no es un modo de guerra qe me gusto pero es el mejor p^a^ estos Indios en las circunstancias actuales; y el objeto principal es el de destruirlos enemigos o forzarlos a hacer una pas permanente.

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN

(Carta particular a Ahumada 27 de Marzo 1826)

JOHN P. COLES TO BARTLETT SIMS

March 1826

Bartlett Sims Dr.
To John P. Coles

To 2 Bushels salt	$4.00
To an order in favor of Brown and Edwards to S. F. Austin	56.75
To Ja^s^ Curtis Credit on his Land note	70.00
To an ac^t^ paid Elem	30.00
To Thompson and Miller Note in the office	247.50
To Bill paid Mr. Stark for chairs and Table	24.00
To 2 Labores of Land @ $1.00 p^r^ acre	354.50
To you Notes and order	74.70½
	$861.45½
	90.57*
	$952.02½

* on ac^t^ for cash due the Estate of James Alexander $60.28
advanced 50 Per ct 30.19
90.57

and by your Removal It is now to be colected

JNO P COLES

Saucedo to Austin

Para conocimiento del comicionado q. debe nombrar el Gobierno para esa Colonia acargo de V. espero q. ála brevedad mas posible me remita V. una noticia del numero de Colonos q. necesitan ser metidos en poseciones de tierras q. seles repartan con arreglo ála Ley, sirbiendose al mismo tiempo de proponerme dos personas q. merescan su confiansa y satisfaccion y en quienes concurran las qualidades de honrradés, decinterés, ciencia, y conciencia para q. sirvan de Agrimensores en la Colonia deV. y enla de Gren deWitt.

Dios y libertad.

Bexar 3, de abril de 1826 José Antº Saucedo

Sor. Tenᵗᵉ Corⁿˡ Dⁿ Estevan Austin

John P. Coles to Austin

Bravo—6th April 1826

Dear sir

We have been Looking for you for a week past at this place Doct. Robertson has Returned Home To Tennessee without Effecting any considerable object in the country above he has written me and says that he wishes the authority of this Colony to Extend above untill ther should be forty familys settled in that Colony I am Now Requested to Remove Early who has put them all at defiance and says that he will hold his place in spite of them and threttens the Life of the Barrer of this who is the owner of the Tract of Land that he is on Maj. Sterling C. Robertson what should I doo in this case shall I put Early off or not

Jno P Coles [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col. S F Austin San felipe de Austin P. Maj Robertson

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Austin to Mateo Ahumada[1]

The Captain of the Militia of the Colorado District, James J. Ross, transmitted to me the following report bearing date of the 4th Instant.

"In compliance with your orders of the 28th of last March, in which you inform me that a party of Tahuacanos had left their villages on their way to the Colorado, under the pretext of looking for the Tancahues, and order me to watch and attack them if they should be seen in this neighborhood; I lost no time in sending spies to the frontier, and yesterday, at noon, I received information that sixteen Indians of said nation had arrived near the settler Asa Anderson's house, about five Leagues below the road to La Bahia on this river.

[1] Translations from Bexar Archives, in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. There is a copy of the Spanish in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

I collected the militia, and by ten o'clock at night, I mustered thirty-one men, with whom I marched eight Leagues, and attacked the Indians at daybreak. It was not an easy matter to get at them in their position; they were on a deep creek, the banks of which are covered with a dense thicket and chaparal, which induced me to divide my men into two parties. One party under the command of Lieutenant Rawson Alley, commenced the attack in front, from the bank of the creek, while I took position with the other in the bottom of the little run, above the place where the Indians were so as to be able to fire on them when they crossed the creek. This disposition had a good effect. At the first fire of Alley's party, the Indians ran for the bottom, and there received a volley from my party. Eight Indians fell dead, and five were wounded and escaped to the thicket. We took five fire arms, seven bows, and a considerable number of arrows and quantity of ammunition. The thickness of the Chaparal prevented us from pursuing the fugitives, who scattered in various directions. There is sufficient reason to conclude, from the signs of blood and other indications on their trails, that only three of the sixteen Indians will ever reach their villages. Each Indian had a leather rope and noose, and they were all on foot, having with them only one horse. They were a portion of the party who, last fall, stole horses at the Atascosito crossing on this river. I found among their property some papers which show that one of their dead was the chief called Cordero, and that two other chiefs named Lisaque and Guichupa were killed. It affords me great satisfaction to be enabled to say that the men obeyed my orders with alacrity, and behaved well during the attack. I send you herewith the papers I found."

In consequence of this incident, I gave orders to the captains of Militia in this Colony, to have their men ready at a moments notice; and I would send spies to the Indian villages to watch their movements and ascertain their intentions. I apprehend no danger of an attack on the Colony by these Indians, as, according to information I have received, the party destroyed by Captain Ross was the only one that visited this neighborhood for the purpose of stealing, and the other chiefs disapproved their conduct. I will leave today for the upper road from Bexar to Nacogdoches; I may there receive information that will compel me to open a campaign against the Waco and Tahuacano villages, in which case I shall report to you in due season.

Which I have the honor to report to you, enclosing the papers and documents found in the possession of the routed party.

God and Liberty

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Town of San Felipe de Austin, April 6th, 1826.

JAMES SMALL TO AUSTIN

This day personally appeared before me Stephen F. Austin Judge of this Jurisdiction James Small who being sworn deposeth and testi[fi]eth that he was in possession of a certain certificate a land office bill drawn in favor of Oliver Jones by Sam M Williams in behalf of the Empresario Austin for twenty dollars, which bill was washed to pieces in the pocket of his clothes and entirely destroyed, further deposes he has never rec^{d} value for the same or any part thereof.

San Felipe de Austin 6th April 1826.

JAMES SMALL [Rubric]

Sworn to before me

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[On reverse] Rec^{d} of S. F. Austin a receipt for twenty dollars in place of the within described that was lost.

JAMES SMALL [Rubric]

[On margin] James Small receipt

SAUCEDO TO JAMES E. B. AUSTIN

Recivi de D^{n} Santiago Austin la cantidad de quarenta y seis pesos seis y medio reales resto del producto del papel sellado de la Villa de S^{n} Felipe de Austin en el año pasado de 825, que ha remitido el encargado de este Ramo. Bexar 9 de Abril de 1826.

JOSE ANTONIO SAUCEDO [Rubric]

Son 46 ps. 6½ rr.

ROBERT DESHA TO AUSTIN

Gallatin Tennessee Ap^{l} 10th 1826

DEAR SIR,

It has been about twelve years since I had the pleasure of seeing you and ere this you must nearly have forgotten me, as we were but seldom together. but you must recollect our having been on an expedition up the Illinois river together under the command of the late Genl Howard—and of seeing each other in Lexington Ky—in the winter of 1814. and 15—from the above circumstances you will be enabled to recollect me I think—My friends and acquaintances Mr Ramsey L. Mason Mr Vinson and M^{r} McCall visits your country and will hand you this—They are all Gentlemen of the first respectability in this country—and any services you can

render them whilst in your [country] will be acknowledged by your Acquaintance

ROBT. DESHA

P. S. It would be pleasing to me to receive a letter from you. giving me your candid opinion of the Country you are in etc—

[Addressed:] Mr Stephen F. Austin

JESSE THOMPSON TO AUSTIN

Province of Tais April 17th 1826

Col STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR I have the pleasure of writing these lines to you to inform you of my situation that is I am at this and have been very sick I was taken at Natchitoches eight days since and have remained sick ever since and I can further [tell?] you that cotton is very low and I have declined going to orleans and cant tell when I shall return on account of getting return for my cotton and I have wrote to my wife which will be lodged with you and I want you to forward the letter to her as [soon as] possible and oblige your friend nothing more but remains yours with respect

JESSE THOMPSON

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F. Austin Austins colony Brasses

AUSTIN TO THE CHEROKEES

Captain Richard Fields and other chiefs and warriors of the Cherokee Nation living in Texas

MY FRIENDS AND BROTHERS,

The Mexican Government have called on the new settlers of this Colony to fight their enemies the Wacos Tawakanies and Toweass Indians. The cherokees and their friends the Shawnees and Delawares are also new Settlers; like us they have come to seek a new home in this country and procure lands from the Mexican Nation, and like us they also owe obedience to the orders of the Government and are bound in duty to fight the enemies of the Mexican people. I can with confidence answer for the cherokees that they are good warriors, but as yet they have not had an opportunity of proving to their new friends the mexicans how useful they can be—you have no doubt been anxious to do so and have always been ready to turn out and fight for your new country. you sent me word by Mr John Cummins and John Miligan that you would join us to fight the

wacos whenever I called on you. I have always looked upon you as friends who could be depended on I am happy to inform you that an opportunity now offers for you to shew the Gov[t] that you are both good warriors and good citizens. The men of this Colony will attack the waco and Tawakany villages on the Brazos on the morning of the 25 of may next, and I now call on you both as an officer of the Mexican Gov[t] and as a friend and brother to aid us in the war with those Indians. My plan is for the Militia of this Colony to attack the waco and Tawakany villages on the main brazos river at day light on the 25 of May and for the Cherokees Shawnees and Delawares to attack the Tawak[an]y village on the head of the Navisot about 30 miles east of the Brazos at the same moment. As soon as the villages are destroyed, you will send a party in to the villages on the river to look for us and we will then make such arrangements as may be deemed necessary. It is my wish to distroy the Toweass village on Red River before I return home and if you have men enough to spare to detach a party to attack that village at the same time we attack the others it would be best, to do so. If this cannot be done bring all your men to the Tawakanies and we will fit out a party to attack the Toweass—My friends I have informed you of my plans I have placed great confidence in you for you are the only persons out of this Colony that I have called on for aid—I am the friend of the cherokees, and wish to give them an opportunity of shewing the Government what good soldiers and faithful citizens they will make and I have no doubt if you turn out in this expedition and distroy the Tawakany village on the head of the Navisot, that it will be the means of securing you land in the country for as many of your Nation as wish to remove here—I have no authority to promise you land, but I will promise my aid and friendship in your favor with the Government and I have no doubt of succeeding, but you must first show the Government that you are both able and willing to fight for them. I will also befriend the Shawnees and Delawares. Some of them may know me My father has had hundreds of them at his home at the Lead Mines in Missouri. he was a short fat man and lived at a place called Mine á Burton, he traded with the Shawnees and Delawares and was their friend I was then a little boy and have often played with the Shawnee children—we are now men and let us fight in union and together as we used to play—

The bearer of this is Mr John R. Foster I have sent him express to see you and wish you to write me a positive answer by him wheither you will join us in this war and wheither you will attack [the] Tawakany village on the head of the Navisot at the time appointed. And how many men you can furnish

I wish you to keep the business a profound secret from the Keechies. Ananies and all those small tribes—They are bad Indians and are at war with the mexicans and friendly with the Tawakanies. also keep it a secret from the Americans and spaniards for some of them might give our enemies notice My men on the Colorado killed eleven Tawakanies and two Keechis on the 3d day of this month—they came into the settlement to steal horses—

I wish you to send me an express to the home of John P Coles ten miles below the San Antonio road on the east side of the Brazos river to inform me when you start on the expedition and how many men you will take so that I may know to a certainty how to make my arrangements

Your friend and Brother, S. F. A.

San Felipe de Austin April 24. 1826—

William S. Hall to Austin

Bolevar Apl 27th 1826

Col S F Austin

Sir I recd your communication and have duly attended to them: From the best information I cane obtain the inhabitants perfectly coincide with you as respects the premeditated Campaign It is my desire that we should be as expeditious as possible and for this assertion I have two very essential reasons 1st. If we postpone it any length of time they may obtain information of our contemplated attack and consequently they will be prepared either for battle or flight 2d they will be ginelly in their villages about the time we cane get in readiness to march against them which will be about the middle of May I shall convene all those that voluntier in this company on the 12th of May. You can inform me at what time you wish me to arrive at San felipe Austin, I shall be at [all] times ready to march after the 12th of May but it will be more convenient to march within a few days after I convene the men together as I shall give orders to them to come prepared for the expedition

Wm S Hall

Col S F Austin

Minutes of a Militia Meeting

[About April 28, 1826?]

Lieut. Alley moved that applicants for exemption from Militia duty in consequence of physical inability should apply to a company court martial who should decide on the case said decission

to be subject to appeal to the Battalion court martial—decided that applicants should apply to the company court martials subject to appeal to the Battalion court martial—

decided that Andrew Rabb be exempted from Militia duty so long as in the opinion of the officers of his company he continues in his present ill state of health—Alexander Jackson claimed exemption from Militia duty—

Cavena claimed exemption from Militia duty

decided that Jackson be exempt from common company muster duty but not from campain duty when called on to go against an enemy—

decided that Cavena be exempt from Militia duty so long as in the opinion of his company officers his leg continues to disable him—

decided that company Musters shall be held on the last Saturday April, last saturday June and last Saturday in August—The Battalion Muster and drill of officers to be fixed by the Lieut. Col.

Saml M. Williams to be exempt from common Musters so long as he is acting as secretary of the Colony—

decided that the majority of Company officers shall compose a Company court martial—

drill Muster 1 Saturday in June

JUAN FRANCISCO BUCHETTI TO AUSTIN

State of Leon, Parish of Lampazzos, April 29th 1826

DEAR SIR,

I have already sent you a few lines from Laredo giving you notice of my purposes and intentions of going to your Colony, the which, I hope, you have received.

I now think advisable to inform you of my posterior Relations with the President of the venerable Ecclesiastic Chapter of this See of New Leon, *Episcopali Sede vacante*, the reverend Doctor, D. Jose Leon Lobo, on the subject of my being sent thither.

After having made known to him my intentions etc by letters from this place (not having been able, as yet, on account of sickness, to go and appear before him; but I hope I shall soon do so) I have received his answer in a letter, writen in Chapter, which not only approuves my purposes, praizes my motives; but also encourages me to go amongst you with the Curate, who is shortly to be sent thither, (he defines not the precise time when) in the capacity of his assistant to wit: 1° in lictis, as his lawfull interpreter for church affairs, 2° as the sacristan à *Secretis*, which implies steward, or clerk, of the depending Branch there of this Episcopal church—3° as the public teacher of the roman catholic Doctrine and Dogmas in favour of the

Anglo-americans catholic of your colony and, pro tempore, of those of its vicinity.

Credential Letters patent of Licentiated commission are not only promised me, but I am even requested to accept of them to enable me to discharge legally those 3 offices. As for my maintenance, or Salary, as well as that of the Curate, I know not as yet how much it will be agread upon or from whom it will be afforded; whither from the Colony or from the See? But for my part, I will try to make my arrengements with the See on that point. Our Curate, I understand, is a man of very amiable manners and of a Strict Discipline, you will have a good and vigilant Pastor of him.

I will not neglect to exert myself in praying as decent set as possible of Church Necessaries, of ministerial ornamental implements; if they are to be sent from this place, or, ad interim, borrowed from some of the missions in Texas.

The President of the Chapter in writing to me adverts rather with displeasure in one of his letters that he has understood and knows well that a good many heretics and protestants have introduced themselves into those new colonies etc. etc. and says that he will omit nothing in his power in order to quickly prevent and effectually impeach the further dissemination of their anticatholic principles either by words or Books within his jurisdiction and to that effect (he does intimate) he will call upon the assistence of the secular Power of these States, if necessary??? Maybe that Ulyo George Nixon or Dr John B. Long, who has been at the Brassos and who lately went to Monterrey to see him to be Baptized or some other americans have informed him, as they have also told me, that they beleaved that there are not 10 souls of real Roman Catholic in all your Colony and that you, without exacting credentials of Catholicity, as duly bound, indiscriminately protect and admit into it families and individuals too well known to be pertinacious members of various heretical Sects? But I hope that they have been mistaken.

I understand also that the president of the Chapter, in order to avoid abusive impositions and deceptions on their part, will insert, amongst other matters, in our orders of instructions that we should recognize, refer, and admit nobody as roman Catholics but those who can individually produce to us their regular, sealed church Dimissorial Letters especifying which of the 7 sacraments they have received, from the several R. C. episcopal authorities of the countries from whence they come, according to the canonical laws of the R. C. church in such cases. And all those who can not produce the same, shall be, casually, considered as heretics, protestants or, at the best, as mere Deists, to be refered and proceaded with according to

the further orders of the Ecclesiastical Authorities, as their several cases might require??—

Consequently, Dear sir, you will perceive the propriety of timely advising all your catholic people, who might have forgotten or neglected to furnish themselves with the s[d] regular Credentials, to have immediate recourse to their original Records, by writing to their respective Bishops, or grand vicaries, in order that they may be sent to them and above all, their several individual Extracts of *Baptism Confirmation* and *Matrimony;* for they will be the very first things demanded, and, as *ex-officio* exacted by us as a *Sine quo non:*, so that this department of R. C. church may officially know whither they have individually received the first Sacrament of Baptism and which of the others besides, in order that we may proceed to confer legally and validly the others not already confered, as and when the case might individually require. No superiour authorities, either Civil or Ecclesiastical can dispense anybody with this. And we at our arrival thither, without that very first requisit could not canonically and in good conscience proceed to officiate, chiefly in the cases of Matrimony etc. etc. in order to confirm Lands Titles etc etc. in gratiam talium) in favour of all such and even of the pure nominals, or self styled Roman Catholics??—

if there be, in realty, any protestants, or sectarians in your colony who might wish, for approved motives, after being instructed in the Catholic Dogmas, bonafide to abjure solemnly their erroneous ways of thinking in matters of Faith and morals, they shall be upon trial admited. Whom, I in pity of their ignorance of our holy Dogmas etc. etc. and of their once maliciously preached and deaply rooted prejudices against our holy R. C. church, I will for my own part use my utmost endeavour to instruct them rightly by catechizing them preparatorely to their being admited and do all that Charity and prudence will dictate, so that by mild means they may become incorporated with us in the Church and consequently be made *thereby* the lawful civil members of this Confederated Catholic Republic, for their own individual good and that of the Colony.

I hope that they will all, without murmur, gladly and obediently submit, and confirm themselves in every things to the established rules and customs of this Diocesis—

And as for you, Dear Sir, you will evidently perceave that it would be among other things, very conductive to your own and to your peoples interests that you should not only [not] put any impediments or obstacles to our future proceedings and exertions, but as duty bound, it is hoped you would gladly second our plans, help and protect us in effecting all those desirable things, so that your first planted Colony of anglo-americans, being well moralized may not only prouve a delightfull consolation in your old days but might

also serve, to your own credit and honour as a patern of Moralty for the others which are about to be formed in its vicinity—

But not to fatigue too much your attention, Dear Sir, renewing my respects to you and to your secretary, Mr Williams and sending my compliments to all and in particular to some of my own acquaintances in the colony, till I shall have the satisfaction of seeing you all personally I remain your very humble and devoted servant

JOHN FRANCIS BUCHETTI

P. S. In case you should desire me to receive your commands on any subject, you will direct your letters to me reccomended to the cares of Dr. D. Jose Læon Lobo, Canonigo Doctoral, vicario capitular y Gobernador de este obispado de Nuevo Leon, etc., etc., Monterrey, so that through him I might receive the same

Yours &c J. F. BUCHETTI

But, Dear Sir, I was forgetting to observe to you that it would be very proper (if you have not already thought of it) for you to procure a Small Assortment of english Roman catholic approved Books, for the use of the people of your Colony and of those of its vicinity, for every families besides the schools will be obliged to have more or less of them.

I thought advisable to enclose you the anexed List of those I think the most necessary and usefull in the several cases of the people of your own and of the other colonies; you may easesly obtain them from the several R. Catholic libraries of the U. S. by addressing yourself on that subject to the Rvd Mr Dubourg R. Catholic Bishop of the State of Louisiana—or to the R. C. Archbishop of Baltimore or to some others, who upon application will (as duty bound) gladly assist you, or agents in making a genuine Selection, at least in substance, of the s'd neaded religious and Moral Books, so that you may not be mistaken in the collection but they would also indicate you from whence they may be had at a reasonable price. For it is already too well known that not a few of Moral and religious Books of a great many of those new colonists are anti-catholic both in name and in substance, they being composed by various heretical authors, enemies declared of the roman C. Church— ? which Books all the colonists who shall wish to commune with our holy roman C. Church, will not and can not be allowed or suffered either to *Read*, to *Keep*, or to *Sell*,? ? but they must be delivered up to us?— as orders will be given to that effect by the superior (ecclesiastic) authorities of these states.

But, may be it would be better not to tell them anything of it for the present, so that they may not, being alarmed, abscond or hide them.

And also a small collection of Spanish-English et vice versa, Dictionnaries and gramars for the schools among which if you procure

me *Ainesworth's* Latin and english Dictionary, I will at my arrival, pay you well for it. etc and with some others roman Catholic approuved religious books as one of the s'd Bishops or some other roman Ecclesiastic authority would recommend as very sellable and usefull in favour of the anglo-american settlers of those new colonies, Observing that, in order to their being lawfull, all moral or religious book's to be introduced into this Episcopal Jurisdiction must be purely and strictly canonical according to the several Pontifical Bulas and the Decrees of the holy Councils and of this Diocesis.

Sir, I remain yours &c.

J Fcis Bucheti

An indefinite List of the Roman English Catholic Religious and Moral Books neaded altho their several exact titles and the Authors' names of many of them are not recollected; but are desired to be— procured to answer, in substance, to their several, here especified. intents and purposes.

1° The Minor, or small abreaged Roman Catholic Catechism, for young people. So many grosses &c

2° The Large or larger historical Ditto for adults; or such a one as would be in favour of sectarians wishing to be instructed in the R. C. Doctrine preparatorelly to their admission into the Church, or some otherwayse styled approuved Doctrinal work to that effect. one gross or so many dozens—

3° The vade-mecum, or Roman Catholic Guide 1 Gross or so many dzens—

4° The R. C Missal being latin and english 1 gross &—

5° R. C. approuved English hymns, R. C. spiritual songs, with or without notes, or some small Books conteining them or some of them 1. gross etc

6° The history of the R. C. Church (in English) by . . . (not recollected) but a well known and acknowledged roman C. Author. A few Dozens

7° Bossuet on heresies (in english) or his history of the origin of Lutheranism, Calvinism and of the Church of England 1 gross or so many—

8° Defence of the Roman C. Church by detecting and confuting the Errors and prejudices of the Sectarians, or some otherwayse styled works on that subject 1 Gross etc

9° An abreaged history of the R. C. Ecclesiastical hierarchy in favour of Catecumens, or some otherwyse styled English works on that subject, if to be had, a few volumes

10° The Natural Rights and Privileges of the R. C. Church by I beleave and Irish R. C. Clergiman, or other approuved work of that import, if to be had. a few Dozens.

11 The Private or secret correspondential Letters or answers from a R Catholic Clergyman to another of the Church of England by a few Dozens

12 The R. C. Ministerial Ceremonial, or a work explaining the Church service (in english) if to be had. A few Dozens

13 Ancient Canons or Discipline of the R. C. Church. A few volumes.

14 The Martirology or some small abreaged histories of the Martyrs if to be had A few Dozens.

15 Some few abreaged Lives of the Saints So many Dozens

16 The approuved roman Catholic english Bible with the appocripha and New testaments, both of the Roman vulgate, of the big or small size, so many Grosses etc —

and with some others R. C. religious Books as some of the anglo-american roman C. Ecclesiastical authority would recommend— ut supra jam dictum est, as above said—

Yours &c

JUAN FRANCISCO BUCHETTI

AUSTIN TO MATEO AHUMADA[1]

My communication of the 6th Instant, acquainted you with an attack made on the 3rd by the Militia of the Colorado upon the Tahuacanos. In consequence of that occurrence I sent three spies to the villages of these Indians under the pretext of trading. The situation in which they found them induces the belief that they contemplate no serious attempt against these Establishments at present; but that some small parties may come to the Colorado, for the purpose of avenging their late defeat; the unavoidable result of which would be an open war with them. The scattered state of the population and their exposed and perilous situation, are, by no means, favorable circumstances in the event of a protracted conflict; the colonial militia being our sole resource for active service, and the men having to support their families by their labor; so that to detain them in the field any length of time would ruin them. This consideration has induced me to attempt to confine the war to one campaign. Therefore I am making every arrangement my situation will permit for a simultaneous attack on the three Tahuacano villages, that of the Wacoes on the Brazos and that of the Tahuiases on Red River. My reduced resources and my duty to the Country, as well as the Colonists who have settled this wilderness under my patronage, require that I should avail myself of every means for the successful conduct of the

[1] Translations from Bexar Archives in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. The original is in the Bexar Archives, and a copy is in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

campaign. I have sent an express to the Cherokees to induce them to join us in the contemplated attack. The disposition recently evinced by these Indians causes me to believe that they will take the field against our enemies, if the government orders them to do so; but, reflecting that I had no time to apply for your orders to that effect, I took it upon myself to invite them to assist me in the war. I wish to know, with as little delay as possible, if you approve this measure, or not; if you reply in the affirmative, I shall send word to the Cherokee chiefs to join us. I think it will not be difficult to obtain 100 or 150 volunteers of the Militia of the Trinity and Nacogdoches, if the government will give me instructions to that effect, at the same time issuing corresponding orders to the Alcalde of Nacogdoches, and to the commanding officer of the Militia of those districts. From information I have received of the disposition of the Cushate and Alabama Indians on the Trinity I think we may obtain their assistance, but it would be necessary to show them a letter from you and the Political Chief of the Department. With these resources at my command, I could entertain well founded hopes of being able to answer for the protection of this frontier, and to finally dispose of those Indian settlements in one campaign. I shall wait anxiously for your answer in relation to the determination I have come to to call on the Cherokees, and respecting my proposition relative to the Militia of Nacogdoches and the Trinity, and the Cushates and Alabamas; so that I shall not be delayed in maturing the plan of the campaign, and the organization of small ranging parties to cover this frontier as soon as the first blow is struck.

God and Liberty.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, April 30th 1826.

[Answer][1]

C. P. de T.

Tengo á la visita los oficios de V. de 30 Abl y 8 del corriente relativos á las disposiciones q. V há meditado tomar contra los Tahuacanos, y en contestacion devo decirle q. el Gefe Politico del Departamto dá orden en este dia al Alcalde de Nacogdoches, auxilie á V. con los Milicianos pa el citado proyecto, quando v los pida, q. en mi concepto no hay necesidad de qe nos valgamos pa este fin de los Yndios Cheroquies, y otros de paz q. V propone, porq. conviene crean siempre todos los Yndios, q. no los necesitamos pa nada, y q. les aventajamos en la guerra, q. pa el logro de esta empresa solo me detiene un oficial q. se halla en Tamaulipas comisionado á comprar 900 caballos q.

[1] Attached to the original of Austin to Ahumada, April 30, 1826, in Bexar Archives.

deven servirme en la expedicion, y p. ultimo q. suspenda V. todo movimiento hostil, si le fuese posible, hasta q. obremos en combinacion, pero si esto no pudiere efectuarse p[r] las circunstancias lo obligen á V. á la campaña, obre V con toda energia, en el concepto q. el Supremo Gobierno approvará su conducta.

Bejar 18 de Mayo de 826. [AHUMADA.]

por cuyo motivo espero su llegada q. le participaré á V. con toda le brevidad q. me sea posible p[a] q. arreglemos ntras operaciones de conformidad.

S. T. C. D.[1] ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

AUSTIN TO MILITIAMEN.

[about May 1, 1826.]

F[ellow] S[itizens]

You are therefore now called upon to protect your own homes, your own property, to shield your wives and children from the arrows of a savage and merciless enemy—your adopted country now also called upon you to rally around the national flag and fight its enemies the Wacos and Tahuacanies—every honorable and ardent impulse Therefore that can animate the bosoms of free men burns in yours and urges you forward to meet the enemy—the defence of your firesides—of your wives and childen, your friends—yourselves—your property and your country. fellow S. the motives which have caused you to take up arms is a sufficient guarantee that you will use those arms as becomes brave men fighting in a just cause. You are decendants of freemen—the decendants of brave soldiers also Americans—the blood that fills your viens has warmed the hearts of those who fought in the American Revolution fought and conquered the oppressors of American Liberty. Perhaps the spirits of your Fathers watch over the conduct of their decendants, perhaps their eyes as well as those of your friends, your countrymen and your adopted Gov[t] are upon you They see the great importance of the duties, before you, that the prosperity the safety of an infant and flourishing new colony depends in a great degree on your bravery and good conduct in this first effort to humble and punish our enemies. Shall their hopes, their prairs be disappointed—No. Your conduct since the first commencement of this colony, the union and determined spirit that now animates you are guarantees that the only obstacle to your complete tryumph will be the flight of your enemies before you can find them.

The depradations of your enemies the W. and T. indians and there hostile preparations, has driven us to the necessity of taking up arms in self defence. The frontier is menaced—The whole colony is threatened—under these circumstances it became my duty to call the

[1] Señor Teniente Coronel Don.

militia to the frontier to repel the threatened attacks and to teach our enemies to fear and respect us.—It is with feelings of the deepest regret that I have yielded to a sense of duty in agreeing not to go out in person on this expedition, not because I think there is any necessity for my presence, or that the officers who command you will need my aid, but because I wish to share equally with you in all your labors, and all your fatigues in defending this colony—but my duty to the settlers in attending to the unfinished business of the Co. and completing the gen^{l} system for our defence which is in contemplation to adopt and the wishes of the people strongly urged upon me requires that I should remain at home. I shall not be idle in your absence. The command therefore of the expedition agreebly to the militia law devolves upon Capt A. C. B. [Aylett C. Buckner] and the most prompt and attentive obedience to his orders is expected from all the officers and men composing the expedition.

Mr. John C. Quick has been appointed Adjutant during the expedition and it will be a part of his duty to drill the officers and men and instruct them in their duty under the orders of the Commander whenever it may be deem^{d} necessary to do so—The utmost attention is necessary to this part of your duties—A body of armed men acting in union and with system are formidable, frequently irresistable and always prepared to act on the defensive, whilst the same body without discipline or system are incapable of acting efficiently on the offensive and fall an easy prey to an attacking force.

Your own security, your own strength and your own interests therefore requires that you should patiently and attentively attend to drilling, and apply all your leisure moments on the march to this highly important and essential branch of your duty—I present the Adjutant to you recommended by a long course of practice in military duties both as an officer of the U. S. regular army and of U. S. militia in active service, and also recommended as a man of honor and confidence and I feel no hesitation in believing that you will find him a valuable officer—and that you will strictly attend to his instructions—a rigid obedience to orders is the basis of all military discipline and organization—The officers who command you are responsible for their conduct to their superior and their duty as well as their honor imperiously requires strictest obedience to the orders issued to them so also with the privates, their duty as soldiers, and their honor as such, as good citizens, requires the most rigid attention and obedience or their part to the order they may receive from their officers—

This is the commencement of hostile movements on our part in the only war of any consequence we have had since our settlement in this country, and I feel confident that your decisive conduct on this first expedition will so harrass our enemies that they will seek safety by

humbling themselves and sue for peace—Much however very much depends on our first efforts—If we strike a decissive blow our future peace and security will probably be the result

friends and f—s I close by saying that your friends, your officers, and your country are confident that you will do your duty as soldiers fighting in a just cause, their prairs and blessings therefore go with you—their welcome and thanks will hail your tryumphant return.

[Stephen F. Austin.]

Scriggins in Account with Pettus

Colº Scriggins to Wᵐ Pettus Dr.
May *1st 1826*

7 meals	$2. 62½
32 pounds of salt	2. 56¼
Medacin *from* Nuccolds	5. —
1 meal for young man	37½
1 Dress for Lady	3. —
1 Handkerchief	1.
	$14. 56¼

Recived payment in full by Mrs. Skriggins Administratress october 19th 1827

(Signed) Wᵐ Pettus

Recived 2 Horses from Mrs. Skriggins one at $155 the other a $120	$275.
Credit by her Act	14. 56¼
	260. 43¾

Balance Due which is to be paid in Land at 50 Cents an acre which amounts to 521 Acres which is to be paid off agreeable to Instructions

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Affidavits Concerning Indian Hostilities

"This is to certify that Mr. Martin Allen told me that he was with the company who made the late attack upon the Tonkua Indians; and that he was very much opposed to shooting, he also stated, that when he came near the camps he saw the Indians in great confusion; one standing up talking Spanish, and shewing every appearance of friendship; frequently heard him say amigo—Mr. Allen also stated that he ran forward and halloed don't shoot, dont shoot, and did every thing in his power to prevent shooting; but that it had no effect untill part of the men had fired.

April, 27, 1826

(Signed) C. Dyer,"

In consequence of reports which have been put in circulation by Mr. Martin Allen, calculated to prejudice the public against the late encounter with the Tonkua Indians, we do hereby certify that the conduct of Mr. Allen on that occasion was altogether contrary to what he has since stated it to have been—We believe, according to the conduct of Mr. Allen at the camp, and his subsequent declaration, that he did his utmost to kill an Indian, and that he lost his hat in endeavoring to get a Shot—We believe that the conduct of the Indians was such as to induce a reasonable expectation that they would not submit to lighter punishment than that of killing—They shewed no disposition either by words or signs, to give the company a friendly reception.—Nor did they cry out Amigo as has been stated by Mr. Allen—Mr. Allen's alleged mediation in favor of them is without foundation It has been stated that the company entered the Indian camps with their guns cocked and presented; this we consider as a malicious and unfounded falsehood

April 23, 1826

(Signed)	David Hamilton	Charles Henderson
	William Spence	Moses Windham
	Joseph Newman	William Luce
	Nicholas Whitehead	Alexander Brown
	John Clark	Andrew Rabb
	Thos. J. Rabb	John Ingram

"This is to certify that a party of Tonkua Indians came, a few days before the late attack was made upon them, and encamped within half a mile or three quarters of my house:—They remain at that camp about two days; on the second day six of my hogs were missing: I supposed they had been killed by the Indians, because they slept at home every night, and none of them had been killed by vermin for a considerable time before, and I believe nothing else could have killed so many in one day—One of the Indians I knew to be of the party that broke open my house upwards of twelve months ago.

May 1, 1826

signed GABRIEL STRAW SNYDER"

"I do hereby certify that a party of Tonkuas came to my house a few days before the late attack was made upon them; my wife being alone, and not knowing what Indians they were, was very much alarmed at the sight of them,—She immediately left the house and endeavored to get to the field where I was at work: on her way to the field she saw two or three Indians coming towards her, she then started to run, one of them ran after her with a large butcher knife in his hand, caught her by the hand and endeavored to make her return to the house, but finding she was determined not to com-

ply, he took her shoes off her feet: She then began to halloo for me, upon which he let her go and said amigo: not understanding him she kept on to the field; I immediately went to the house but the Indians were gone and had left her shoes in the yard

April 27, 1826

signed C. DYER."

"We certify that a few days previous to the late affair with the Tonkuas, a party of them came to our camp and stole upwards of five bushels of corn which lay at a short distance from the camp; they also took a few pounds of meat, cut up too gunrods and two strait edges that were used in hewing, and carried off a whet stone; the meat might possibly have been destroyed by vermin but the other things could have been taken by nothing but the Indians

May 2, 1826

signed AND. RABB
THOS. J. RABB."

I certify that the above certificate of And. and Thos. J. Rabb in regard to the conduct of the Indians at their camp is correct.

May 2, 1826

(Signed) JOHN INGRAM

[Endorsed by Austin:] relative to the attack on the Tonkaways on Peach Creek.

MATEO AHUMADA TO AUSTIN[1]

[Rubric]

C. P. de T.

Conviene mucho á la Republica Mejicana escarmentar formalmte á los Tahuacanos y Huecos, y pn ello es necesario batirlos en sus mismos Pueblos, q. V. y yó obremos convinados en terminos q. una accion de armas decidida en ntra favor sea el resultado de la empresa. En tal concepto suspenderá V. pr ahora todo movimito hostil contra los Yndios referidos, y se servirá decirme á vuelta de correo, qual es la fuerza q. puede reunir pa esta expedicion y punto donde nos devemos encontrar, en la inteligencia q. yó saldré de aquí con 250 hombres, y qe esto deverá efectuarse á lo más tarde en toda Julio venidero, procurando V. pr su parte con el mayor secreto, y disimulo, tomar las noticas qe pueda respecto á la situacion local de los dos citados Pueblos, y qtas crea convinientes al citado objeto, en la inteligencia q. hé dado aviso á la Coma Gral de esta convinacion.

Bejar 4 de Mayo/826

[AHUMADA.]

Sr. T. C. D. Estevan Austin.

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[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

JOHN ROE TO AUSTIN

May 5th 1826

Colonel STEVAN F. AUSTIN Please Pay The bearer Joshua Parker the Sum Due me for bringing in the tonkaway Indians and oblige yours

JOHN ROE [Rubric]

[On reverse] Rec^{d} of S. F. Austin twenty dollars on the within order

San Felipe de Austin May 10. 1826

JOSHUA PARKER [Rubric]

[On Margin] Paid order for money for bringing in the Tonkaways.

L. R. KENNY TO AUSTIN

[About May 5, 1826.]

Dear Sir

The Bearer Roe has a despatch to the Com^{t}. at arms I refer you to it for inform^{n} A Chocto Indian accompanies him—Roe has been of essential service in interpreting to the Alabamas and Choctaws and explaining my views to them—he has been in my employ^{t} sev^{l} days—and for his services Carrying this Comm^{n} etc I have prom^{d} him $20—I have paid him $2—please discharge the Balance—Hoping to meet you in Nacogdoches

LAU^{ce} RICH KENNY

Capt Comg Amer Vols on particular service—

I have pledged my work to Roe that there will be no disappt. in this payt.—

Lt. Colonel S. F. Austin On the road to Nacogdoches or elsewhere—

BASTROP TO AUSTIN

San Felipe Saltillo 6 de Mayo de 1826

D^{n} ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Mi estimado amigo tengo que pagar a D^{n} Fernando Rodrigues dos cientos Sesenta pesos ha convenido con migo recivirlo en efectos que pueda necesitar para el establecimiento de su correo para S^{n} Felipe Suplica se sirva satisfacer esta cantidad por mi y cargarle a mi cuenta de lo que le estara agredescido su amigo y Servidor Q S M B

BASTROP [Rubric]

Recivi del Teniente Coronel C. Estevan Austin, la cantidad de dosientos Sesenta pesos qe. arriva se expresa. S^{n} Felipe de Austin 13 de Junio de 1826.

FERNANDO RODRIGUES [Rubric]

Austin to Cherokee Chiefs

I wrote you by Mr Foster requesting that the Cherokees would aid me in attacking the Wacos and Tawakanies on the 25 of this month, I have this day rec[d] an order from the superior Government, directing me to suspend the meditated attack as it appears those Indians wish for peace and there will be no necessity of going to war with them—The settlers of this Colony do not wish for war with any Indians and more especially with their neighbors and as it is likely that a peace will be made between them and us I have abandoned the idea of attacking them and do not wish you to act under the letter which I wrote you by Mr Foster—

I should be happy to hear from you and that you would inform me if I can befriend you in any way—I hope the Cherokees and Americanos will live as one people—

P. S. three Indians were seen in this Colony a few days ago supposed to be Keechies or some of those horse-stealing tribes in this neighborhood and I am this moment informed that a number of horses are missing—I must request the favor of you to try and find out if any of those tribes have any stolen horses and to take possession of them and send me word.

If no peace is made and the war should go on I will let you know by express for if there is a war I shall calculate on your aid—

[Note on letter:] The above is copy of letter to cherokees may 8 1826

Austin to Ahumada[1]

My communication of the 30th of last April, informed you of my preparations for an attack upon the Waco, Tahuacano and Tahuiase villages. All my arrangements were made for the 25th of this month; the concentration of the militia was to take place at James Cortes' house, at the crossing of the San Antonio road on the Brazos, on the 17th Instant. The Cherokee Indians had been directed to attack the Tahuacano village on the head waters of the Navasota, about ten leagues East of the other villages; the best spirit prevailed among the militia. The above arrangements were made pursuant to your communication of the 10th of April, when, today, at 12 o'clock, I received your reserved [*reservado*] communication of the 4th Instant. in which you order me to suspend any hostile movements against the Indians for the present; and to send you, by the return

[1] Translations from Bexar Archives in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. The original is in the Bexar Archives, and a copy in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

of the Express a statement of the force at my disposal for an expedition; and, also, to appoint a place where I could meet you, your intentions being to take the field with 250 men in the month of July.

In consequence of this order, I sent, at 3 o'clock P. M. an express to the Cherokees to suspend their operations, alleging a hope of a treaty of peace between the Indians and the Colonists, in order to conceal the true motive; stating to them at the same time, that they must remain in readiness to march at the earliest notice, in case the peace could not be affected. I had already written my orders to the Captains of Militia, informing them that the contemplated expedition was suspended in consequence of some hope of peace, which I did, to give a reason for the counterorder without exposing the true motive; but previous to these orders leaving my office, I received, at 6. o'clock P. M. by express a note from Captain Sims of the Company of Militia of the Brazos, District of Bravo, near the road to Bexar, informing me that while he was executing my orders to explore a covered road to the Indian Villages, along the bottom of the river, to avoid being noticed on a march through prairie lands, he discovered, at about twenty five leagues above the road to Bexar, trails of mounted Indians, and a party on foot, leading to the settlement. He returned at once to give information. I doubt not but a party left their villages to attack us, and our settlements are so scattered that it is difficult to determine upon what point they will fall first. I have already transmitted orders in every direction to send out spies. In consequence of this notice I have thought it highly important not to communicate your order to suspend any hostile movements against the Indians, because the Militia are now ready to march to the villages, and I think, that if we are so fortunate as to discover the party that came to attack us, it would be advisable, after having routed them, to proceed by forced marches to their villages, and to fall on them before they had recovered from the terror inseparable from defeat. I hope these circumstances will be considered a sufficient excuse for my not suspending hostile movements as you order me to do.

If the occurrences above alluded to do not compel me to march to the Indian Villages, I shall defer the expedition agreeably to your orders, in which event, I think we ought to meet at the crossing of the road to Bexar, on the 27th of June, so as to attack the villages by the 4th of July. Thus time would be afforded me to call on the Militia of Trinity and Nacogdoches, the Cherokee and other tribes in that section of the country. In the meantime I shall take every step, my situation permits, to ascertain the movements of the Indians, etc. The number of men in this Colony on whom I can depend is from 175 to 200; 100 men, I believe may be expected from

the Trinity and Nacogdoches; and, perhaps, 100 Cherokees, Shawnees and other trusty tribes of that section of the Country; provided you think proper to give orders to these tribes and the militia to join us in the contemplated expedition

The above is in answer to your reserved communication.

God and Liberty.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

San Felipe de Austin, May 8th, 1826.

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Gefe del Departamento sobre los Gastos erogado en levantar el plano de Galveston.

Ympuesto de loq, V. S. me dice pr oficio fha 10 de Abril p° p° sobre la remision al Gob^no superior de la cuenta q. presente de los gastos errogados pr mi en levantar el plano topografico de la Ysla puerto y Bahia de Galveston y si me conviene recibir la satisfacion de esta suma en tierras, tengo á decir q. me conviendra recibir la referida cantidad de 281 pesos 6 rrs un grano en Tierras y por esta peticion pido q. le Gob^no me conceda un sitio de tierra de temporal en los limites de esta Colonia en el abono de dhos gastos y q. se autoriza el Sor Comisionado de la nueva Colonia ponerme en posesion de ello y expedirme el correspondiente titulo. Co/ lo q. contesto al citado oficio de V. S.—

Dios y Libertad—

Snfelipe de Austin 8 de Mayo de 1826—.

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN

Sor Gefe del Departamto de Texas. C Jose Antonio Saucedo—

Sobre las familias esperando el Comisionado

Mas q 50 familias pobladores han llegado y estan aqui para recibir posesiones de sus Tierras y hay agentes ahora esperando p^a escojer Tierras p^a dos cientas familias q. estan comprometido emigrar á esta Colonia p° quieren haber una certeza antes de Salir del lugar donde ahora viven, de modo q. el numero q. requiere la ley p^a q. viene el comisionado esta completado lo q. comunico á V. S. en cumplim^to con su oficio sobre la materia fha 6 de Abril p° p° y en cumplimiento con el mismo oficio recomiendo James Kerr, p^a el empleo de Agrimensor de la Colonia de Green De Witt sobre el Rio Guadalupe y

tambien recomiendo Seth Ingram y Horacio Chrisman pª Agrimensores de esta Colonia demi cargo con loq. contesto á su citado oficio de V. S. Suplicando q se sirva V. S. embiar el comisionado dela Nueva Colonia ála brevidad posible con instruciones amplias y detalladas sobre el costo q. deben pagar los Colonos pª sus Tierras, observando al mismo tpo. q. conviene muchisimo álos intereses y la prosperidad comun de la Colonia en general q. viene el Comisionado dela primera Colonia Baron de Bastrop pª concluir su comison antes q. se empiese á repartir ó dar posesiones de Tierras en la Nueva Colonia pª evitar la confusion q. indubitablemente sucederá si se mezcle los asuntos dela una con los dela otra.—

Dios y Libertad—

S F de A—8 de Mayo de 1826—

E F A

Sr Gefe del Departamt C Jose Anº Saucedo—

Austin to Erasmo Seguin

[Austin's Blotter, as cited.]

sobre correos a Erasmo Seguin admor. de correos

Tengo á la vista el oficio de V fha 6 de Abril pº pº en q. me instruye del establecimtº del Correo de la Bahia hta Nacogdoches y q. los conductores de la balija deben cambiar la correspondencia en esta Villa, Encargandome al mismo tpo disempeñar los deberes de administrador de correos en esta hta que se nombre un administrador para la Estafeta q. V está encargado establecer en esta villa ó de proponer un Yndividuo honrado é donlo [idóneo] y q. tenga de vivir decentemente pª el dho empleo—

En consequencia de una ausencia al tpo de llegar su citado oficio sobre la frontera de esta Colonia en el disempeño de los deberes q. me empleo de Comandante de la Milicia me impone y pª arreglar un systemo defensivo contra los Yndios, no he podido contestar a su citado oficio hta ahora y en su contestacion tengo á decir q. con el mayor placer y agradecimtº todos estos colonos hemos sabido q. el Gobnº ha establecido el mencionado correo, considerandole una nueva prueva de su bondad y del interes q. tome en el bien estar y prosperidad de cada parte, y cada rincon del inmenso territorio que esta bajo su paternal proteccion, por ser tan extenso, diverso y cumplicado y pesado los varios deberes q. los empleos de Empresario, de Juez, de Comandante de la Milicia y en fin del mando general y entero de esta Colonia me impone, suplico q. V nombre á un otro Yndividuo pr administrador de Correos aqui, y con toda confianza en la honradez y capacidad del vecino Samuel M Williams pª el exacto desempeño de

tal empleo recomiendo este Señor á V como el sujeto mas aproposito pª administrador que se puede encontrar en este lugar, y suplico q. V al tpo de significarle su nombramtº le de las correspondientes instruciones y las firmas necesarias—

Dios y Libertad—

S F de A—8 de Mayo de 1826—

E F A

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

[Austin's Blotter, as cited.]

Sobre las razones pª q. no contestan á los oficios del Gefe de Departamtº.

Hay casos en q. las circunstancias me obliga dilatar las contestaciones de los oficios de V. S. y para evitar la responsabilidad en q. me hallo comprometido en tales casos considero mi deber explicar á V. S. la razon pr. q. quedan varios oficios sin contestaciones por este correo—El dia 4 de Abril sali con el Sor Arciniega pa ponerle en posesion de las Tierras concedidas al Sor Padilla sobre el Rio Sn Andres, las lluvias excesivas y crecimtº. del Rio y los arroyos nos detuvieron hta el dia 29 del mismo mes. El dia primero de Mayo empezo la averiguacion de un pleito de suma importancia entre dos de los colonos delante de mi como juez principal de la Colonia este pleito gasto siete dias enteros y con todo esto tenia al mismo tpo completar las providencias q. habia tomado pª salir en Campaña contra los Yndios y de hablar y contestar á las preguntas de muchos extrangeros q. acaban de llegar a reconocer el pais explicando y traduciendo pª ellos las leyes y constitucion etc de modo q. hoy es el unico dia q. me ofrecio descanso q. he tenido desde q. volvi con el Sor Arciniega, y hoy ha sido dia de correos tanto ordinarios como extraordinarios—he recibido de estos dos de estos y he despachado 5. Otra molestia de la semana pasada fue con los Tankauas (q. estaban aqui 4 dias, en fin ni yo ni el Secretario S. M. W[illiams] hemos tenido apenas el tpo necesario pª dormir No digo estas cosas pª hacer merito de mis trabajos pº con el solo objeto de explicar a V. S. la imposibilidad absoluta de contestar á todos los oficios de V. S. pr este correo y suplicando q. esto me servera de excusa con V. S. pr no haberlo hecho mi salud no es dela mejor como el Sor Arciniega puede decir a V. S. y ademas he tenido q. arreglar un poco mis asuntos antes de salir en campaña pr q. si salgo contra los Yndios sera con el objeto exponerme lo mismo como qualquier otro Miliciano ayer y hoy he sabido q. los pobladores van a pedirme no hacerlo á lo menos hta despues de la llegada del

Comisionado Baron de Bastrop y la conclusion de los asuntos q. quedan todavia pendientes en consecuencia de la ausencia del dho Sor Comisionado—

Dios y Libertad—

S F de A—8 de Mayo de 1826—

E F A

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

[Austin's Blotter, as cited.]

Gefe del Deptm. sobre la Comision de Briche

He recibido por este correo la orden de V. S. fha 27 de Abril p^o^p^r^ q. de la brevidad posible recogiese de Briche la orden original q el alcalde del Colorado le dío p^a^ entregar los efectos del Sor Martin De Leon Este documento esta en los Archivos del dho Alcalde sobre el Colorado. y no es posible conseguirle p^a^ embiar pr este correo p^o^ le recogeré y pr la primero ocasion le embiare a V. S. como me manda. Hace algunas dias q. he Dado orn al dho Alcalde embiar los efectos embargados al Sor Leon y tambien he suspendido los articulos de los reglam^tos^ provisionales q. nos rijen q. autorizo la embarga hta revisarlos; parece q. todavia los principios en q dhos articulos fueron fundados no estan bien entendidos. tan pronto q. los Yndios me permite voy á explicarlas y la acta del Alcalde detalladamente—

No se si el Alcalde pueda enbiar el Carro de De Leon pr lo pronto ó no prq. el lugar onde vive esta ahora amanezado por los Yndios y su familia y la vecindad muy expuesta—

Dios y Libertad—

S F de A—8 de Mayo de 1826— E F A—

SHERIFF'S SALE

[about May 8, 1826.]

167.50
85.75

253.25

The Sheriff of said colony is hereby commanded to seize and expose to public sale so much of the property of J E G the defendent in the above case as may be sufficient to pay Eighty five dollars and Seventy Cents to the Secretary S M Williams 167.50 to the Sheriff J. H. Polly and 175.30 to the Jurors being the amt. of costs due in said case and ordered to be paid by said defendent Groce by the Judgement of the Jurisdiction and Supreme court of this Jurisdiction dated 8th May of this year—and the said Sheriff will make return of this execution to my office within sixty days from this day as

respects the Secretary's and Sheriffs costs and within ninety days as respects the Jurors fees—

167. 50
37. 75

129. 75
129. 30
85. 70

344. 75

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.]

About May 8, 1826]

Department of Texas Austins Colony Imla Keep vs. Jared E Groce

The Sheriff of said colony is hereby commanded to seize and expose to public sale so much of the property of Jared E Groce the Defendent in the above case as may be sufficient to pay the Sum of Two hundred and fifty three dolls. twenty five cents the amount of costs due in said case to the Secretary S. M Williams and Sheriff J. H. Polly

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.]

COURT COSTS

Imla Keep vs Jared E Groce
Jared E Groce Dr.

			Sectys fees		
To amt	fees	for decision of the Judge for trial and order			$2.
" "	"	" Writs of summons for Witnesses and Jurors 8 a 2½ bitts each			2. 50
" "	"	for 2 Certified Copies of the Complaint and order for trial			6. —
" "	"	for a list of Colonists furnished the Alcalde for to draw Jurors			1. —
" "	"	for Copies of James Brown and L. W. Groces desposi-tions			6. —
" "	fee	for writing down the evidence 8 sheets a 1$.		$8	
" "	6	days service a 3.25¢		19. 50	
					27. 50
" "	"	decision of the Council Jury and Judge 2 sheets at $1			2. —
" "	"	order for the delivery of the Negroes			62½¢
" "	"	for the Judgment passed by the Superior Judge of the Colony			2. —
					$49. 62½
" "	"	for 18 sheets paper a 6¼¢			1. 12½
					$50. 75

Sn Felipe de Austin May 10th 1826.

ROBERT LEWIS TO AUSTIN

Col. AUSTIN, Santa Rosa 12th May 1826

D. sir,

I am yet detaind here by the comisary I have expected every Mail, for the last 50 days to of gotten a discharge from the detention. The business is now before the President in Mexico, and he has requested, that I should make a full statement of every thing that has taken place between me and the Comisary, who has wrote several letters to Mexico against me, has committted himself so its of no effect. My Statement is proven in a proper Manner, and left here eight days since, as soon as it can reach Mexico it will be acted on. the Comisary is verry uneasy he has resigned his office,—I have no doubt but the trade from this quarter, May be drawn to the Brasses, I am endeavouring to effect this object, Severel Gentlemen of standing has promised as soon as there is a commercial House establishd. then they will come there to trade—I recd a letter the other day from our friend the Barron he was unwell at that time, A Docr from Saltillo was here the other day and sais he has the Dropsy in the chest, he speaks of going to Texas in a short time,—Inclosd is a letter to Col. Bynum I hope you will forward by the first safe opertunity.—The Indians are very troublesome at Sant Fernandes, they have taken a part of there public Caviyard they have not done any Mischief here for some time

ROBERT LEWIS [Rubric]

(Address) Col Estephen F. Austin, San Felipe de Austin, Texas.

P. S. Since I wrote the above I have recd information from Mexico, that my business has taken a turn in my favour, but was waiting for the Documents, I have aluded to R. L.

JAMES GRANT TO AUSTIN

May 13th 1826

COL AUSTIN

DEAR SIR

I wrote you from Camargo by Coln' Milim: that it was impossible for me a while yet to visit your Colony; owing to my business, and now I must say, it will be some time longer; but I hope this will not interfeer with the Tittle to my land: Indead the General, Priest, and Alcalde, in this place all voluntary offered to give me certificates that, I have been constantly a Citizen of the State.—

I am sorry to inform you that I have found in this Town one Enemy to your Colony; and more sorry when that Enemy goes under

the name of an American; A George Nixon who is well known to you from the disturbance he tryd to make when on the Rio Brazos; and who has taken particular pains to shew me all the documents, in order to draw me to his side.—

He has now become more dangerous, the "Woolf has put on the sheeps Clothing", he got babtized in this place the other day, and with these people his word will have more weight he has tryd very hard here with the General and Priest to represent your Conduct in a bad light; and more particularly with the Priest, whose Uncle is one of the Secretaries of the department of Mexico (the Priest is my particular friend) and I think a Gentleman, and a man of Education.

Nixon speaks very bad Spanish, worse than I do, and in that respect I have a preponderent ascendency over him, which I have made use of, feeling it my duty, as well as my interest to promote the Prosperity of the Colony, and have thereby warded off the Edge of his malignance here, and set your Conduct in its proper light.—

I have taken the liberty to give you this information, should it be beneficial to you it will give me pleasure.—depend upon all my influence, and exertion, for the protection and welfare of the Colony—

JAMES GRANT.

JAMES J. ROSS TO AUSTIN

Colorado May 13th 1826—

DEAR SIR. Capn Buckner has not arrived yet but we expect him every minit I have had Spies out every day and night Since I Received your order and do expect to do so untill further orders and perhaps go with 20 or 30 men above the San Antonio Road where it is soposed the Wacos may be hunting Though I think it immaginary. at all events it is our duty to keep a good look out—and if we Cannot hear from the Indians in 8 or 10 days it may be best to discharge the men. as it is about the time those Indians leaves their villages to go a hunting—

The[y] genneraly Return when their Corn gets in Roasting Ears and their Water Mellons gits Ripe then I do think would be the best time to find them at home and as good a time to go a Campaign as any—I will see or hear from you before that time—

Yours Respectfully

JAMES J. ROSS—

[Addressed:] Colo Stephen F. Austin San Felipe de Austin

AUSTIN TO ROSS AND BUCKNER

(private)

Mr Foster, the express sent by me to the Cherokes returned this evening at 6 o'clock, he brought me a letter from the chiefs of that Nation in which they say that they can raise 350 men and are ready and anxious to join us in the War as soon as their crops are laid by and the rivers fall which at this time are very high—Foster also says that he met with an old Apadachy Chief of the Naches who he had seen before and Knew. this chief told him that the Wacos and Tahuacanies had called a great Council of the Comanches and all the small tribes beyond the Trinity river above the road except the Cherokees, that this council was to meet Soon and the objects of it was to unite all those tribes to distroy the Americans on the Colorado and Brazos, and they were very mad and were determined to have satisfaction at the Trinity he was told by Mrs. Trammel that 5 Keechis had been there the day before and that they told a spaniard that they intended to kill all the Americans. She took an old Aynye chief into the house and asked him and he told her yes it was true they were all mad but would not kill her as she had treated them well, he also said that 200 of them were embodied to aid the Wacos. The old Apadachy chief also told Foster that the Wacos were offering a good horse for ten loads of powder and lead and a good mule for 20 loads— He says the Trinity and Naches are out of their banks and thinks that no body of Indians can cross at this time to aid the Wacos—

Under these circumstances I am decidedly of opinion that the expedition should be immediately pushed for the Wacos, if we delay it will give them time to procure arms etc. to call in the aid of their friends—and to make the treaty which is spoken of Cap^{n} Hall will be here tomorrow night, he camps at the water hole to night. I wish one or both of you to come over here immediately in order to make the final arrangements for the trip owing to circumstances it might be improper for me to go in person. I can however with propriety order out 200 men under the command of an officer appointed for that purpose to cut off the 200 Who I am informed are imbodied and who it is probable will endeavor to join the Wacos— I have ordered out Spies along the La Bahia road towards the Trinity— Sims writes me that he has a party of active and confidential Spies out on the San Antonio road nearly over to the Colorado, another Company is out on the La Bahia road. they have as yet seen no Indian sign in that quarter—dispatch is now important, the men here are all ready, Sim's Company is also ready and there is about 20 volunteers of strangers all anxious for the trip Keep your

men in readiness— let them be provided with provisions, whenever you can get it so as not to produce delay I will see that it is paid for— out of the general contribution which is about to be raised all over the Colony—you can March from there and embody at the San Antonio road, the day it not fixed yet and will not be untill I see or hear from you for it will depend on wheither your companies are ready or not— all the others are ready at a short notice for they have not been harrassed as your men have—

[S. F. AUSTIN.]

[Endorsed:] Copy Letter sent to Ross & Buckner May 13 [1826]

BARTLETT SIMS TO AUSTIN

Bravo 14th May 1826

Colⁿ AUSTIN

Dear Sir Agreeable to your order I Dispatchd two men Washing Curtis and Robert Arm Strong to Examin the countray west of this Place they went out a Bout 35 miles a Bout 10 miles west thay came to foot trail Cold not asertain How many and then 10 miles west of Curtese they came to a foot trail of 15 or 20 men and 8 miles west of Curtises thay came to a trail 15 or 20 Horses and But one Mule track a mong them to Be Discoverd Theas Horses was Rode By Indians as thay Traild them to whar thay Got Down and Drank all theas Trail was Traveling near a N:W Cours I Have just Receivd news of king Caid and Furn Ashes Horses all Being Stolen all this Sign appears To Be 2 or 3 Days oald

I Hope you will Take Some affective measures

BARTLETT SIMS

Coln AUSTIN

S. R. OBER TO AUSTIN

S Louis May 16th 1826

Col. Stephen F. Austin

DEAR SIR Previous to your deceased father's visit to the province of Texas—I advanced him some funds—which on his return to this State acknowledged—that is was partly through my befrending him in this instance, he was enabled to procure the greater part of his Grant—which has since been confirmed to you—on his return I made him still farther advances, and supplys for his family—the sum total of the advances I made him—amounts to Two hundred and sixty nine dollars and Ten cents for which sum, on his last visits to this place, he executed to me his note, at Eighteen months after date, say April 14th 1821—and made said note payable with interest,

in the City of New Orleans—It was solely at his request that the Note was made payable at so distant a period—and after unfolding to me his reasons—which were, that having obtained the grant, he would if his life was sparred, be enabled by that time, to get many settlers on the tract—and without doubt, would be enabled to settle the same. He also made me handsome overtures to take a [part] of the grant with him—but my business at that time being so extensive, I could not otherways do, than to decline his proposition—Since that time, partly inconsequence of the change in the course of trade—and having a large amount creditted out—the greater part of which is Totally lost forever—and having to meet my own engagements—my situation became truly allarming to such a degree—(that without being compelled to take the benifit of the insolvent laws) I stripped myself of everything—and now am a[s] poor as a *beggar*—not in any kind of business—not a dollar to my name, and supporting myself, barely, by doing jobs of writing etc., for others—since my situation has been such—One freind has loaned me, whenever he had —and I am indebted to him—borrowed money, which he stands in great need off—

I have been induced from my own personal acquaintance with you, and from observations made by several of your freinds—to apply to you—to discharge the note—and I do feel the most confident assurance that after taken all the circumstances in view, I shall not be disappointed in my expectations—you are now the possessor of a grant, that was formally given to your Father—who stated to me previous to his death, that it was pretty much through my intrementality, that he obtained the grant—I am well apprized that in consequence of the different changes of Government which have taken place in the republic of New Mexico, since your father visit to that place, that you must have had, a tedious and irksome undertaking to have got the grant fully settled this your freinds have told me is the present case, and, say that you have obtained an additional one, adjoining—My dear Sir, you have my best wishes for you[r] success and prosperity—and had I been in possession of the means, I would have visited your colony before this—For Heavens sake let me hear from you as early after the receipt of this, as may be convenient—and I conclude, by trusting with the flattering hope that you will communicate to me the pleasing information that—This debt of your fathers will be discharged by his son—since whose death. I have taken no step towards its liquidation—

Expecting to have the pleasure of hearing from you—I am dear Sir, your poverty stricken, but your warm freind

S. R. Ober

Address Saml R. Ober. St. Louis, Missouri.

AUSTIN TO JOSÉ ANTONIO SAUCEDO

[From Austin's Blotter in file of August 26, 1824.]

Gefe del Deptam sobre el Decreto No 21

Con en oficio de V. S. fecha 13 de Marzo p° p° recibi el decreto No 21 de 20 de febrero p° p° del Honorable Congreso del Estado relativo a las facultades extraordinarias dadas al Exmo Sor Gob^er. del Estado p^a q. en calidad de providencia Gobernativa pueda disponer la detencion de personas sin distincion de fuero contra quienes en su juicio hay alguna sospecha de q. tratan de alternar el orden publico loq. he publicado segun V. S. me manda—

D y L—

Sn F de A 17 de Mayo de 1826— E F A—

Gefe del Pepartam^tu sobre comercio de los Yndios

En cumplim^to con el oficio orden de V. S. fha 3 de Abril p° p° relativo al comercio con los Yndios sean amigos ó enemigos y prohibiendo tal trafico he publicado copia traducida del dho oficio de V S. p^a la inteligencia de estos habitantes advertiendoles q. la citada orn ha de ser obedecida con la mayor escrupulosidad—

D y L—

S F de A—17 de Mayo de 1826— E F A—

Gefe del Departam^to sobre Manifesto del H Congreso

Con el oficio de V. S. fha 26 de Marzo p° p° recibi el manifiesto del H Congreso de este Estado relativo á las ideas subersivas de cuatro Ayuntam^tos de este Estado y en cumplim^to con el citado oficio he informado estos habitantes del contenido de dho Manifiesto—

D y L—

S F de A—17 de Mayo de 1826— E F A—

Gefe del Departam^to contestacion sobre Decreto H. C.

Con el oficio de V. S. fha 26 de Marzo p° p° he recibido el decreto del Honorable Congreso de este Estado sobre suspencion de oficio á todos los funcionarios q. han subscrit olas representaciones q. se han dirigido al mismo Congreso—

D y L—

S F de A—17 de Mayo de 1826— E F A—

Gefe del Derartam^to contestacion sobre la enfermidad del Gob^er.

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fha 28 de Marzo p° p° del oficio del Exmo Sor Gob^er del Estado enq. dice q. en consequencia de la enfermidad q. le ha postrado en Cama ha determinado q. el Exmo Sor D Jose Ygnacio Arispe Vice Gobernador del Estado entre afun-

cionar en su lugar con arreglo á la ley No 1 de 15 de Agto de 1824 loq. he comunicado á estos habitantes—

D y L

S F de A—17 de Mayo de 1826— E F A—

Contestacion Gefe del Dep^to sobre un Exemplar de la Milicia

Con el oficio de V. S. fha 10 de Marzo p° p° he recibido un examplar del. ultimo reglamento de la Milicia con todas las ordenes y decretos posteriores relativos á la materia loq. he publicado p^a su Debido Cumplim^to en esta Colonia de mi cargo—

D y L—

17 Mayo de 1826— E F A—

E F A—

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

El Exmo. Sor. Vice Gov^or á nombrado comicionado p^a el reparto de tierras enla Nueva colonia del cargo de V. al Ciudadano Gaspar Flores cuyo individuo tan luego como reciba las instruciones y ordenes q. le debe comunicar el Gov^no pasará ha esa, á cumplir con su Comición, y respecto á los Señores q. V. me propone para Agrimensores dela citada Colonia, el Comicionado ha su arribo les confirirá el correspondiente nombramiento y yó ejecutaré lo mismo para la del Rio de Guadalupe en el Sor. James Kaerr cuando en aquel Establecimiento halla el numero de familias competentes y pase aponer en planta el Reparto.

El Sor. Baron en el Entre tanto este empleado en la legislatura del Estado es imposible pueda pasar há concluir los asuntos pendientes en la primera colonia, y portanto és necesario que los Colonos tengan un poco de mas paciencia mientras q. se dá la constitucion y queda espedito para restituirse ha este Departamento, cuya falta en mi concepto no puede confundir la creacion dela postrera colonia cuando por el contrato q. celebró V. con el Gob^no deve haberse demarcado el terreno q. hade colonisar; todo lo q. digo aV. para su inteligencia y por contestacion á su oficio de 8, del corriente. Bexar Mayo 17. de 1826.

JOSÉ ANT^O SAUCEDO.

Sor. Ten^te Cor^l D^n Estevan Austin

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Bexar 18 de Mayo de 1826

Sr. D^n ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Muy Sr. mio y mi estimado amigo. Luego que el Exmo Sor Vice Gov^er del Estado remita al Comisionado el Expediente relativo ála concecion que Vmd tiene para la segunda colonia se pondrá en marcha y llevará todas las instruciones necesarias, álas quales y ála

Ley de colonizacion se arreglaran puntualm^te^ para que no quede responsable con nada con el gov^no^

Sin embargo deque la buelta del Baron de Bastrop está todavia dudosa, me parece que no deverá impedir que se proceda por el Comisionado ala organisacion dela segd^a^ colonia puesto que tiene Vmd ya el numero competente de colonos para que marche el comisionado, mayor mente quando me persuado que estos se colocaran, fuera delos limites que comprehende la primera colonia, y de este modo no podran confundirse las pocesiones unas con otras.

El agrimensor que ocupe el comisionado, me hará Vmd la gracia de exitarlo á que exersa eficasmente su ocupacion como que en él descansa la confiansa del comisionado; y no será malo que por lo que respecta al pago desu trabajo se combenga con los interesa en presencia de Vmd y el comisionado. Este há recibido por el correo de hoy el Expd^a^ de la contrata de la Segunda colonia de Vmd y las instruciones del gov^no^ aque deve arreglarse en el desempeño de su comision, porlo que marchará dentro de pocos dias a comenzar sus trabajos, y en esta virtud puede Vmd prepararle todo lo necesario—

El Varon me dice que hasta el mes de Oct^e^ podrá pasar á concluir su comision en esa colonia

Si Vmd pudiese conseguir un catre que sea fuerte para cargar por los caminos me avisará su valor, para resolver lo que me combenga. Asi mismo espero que Vmd se sirva en primera conducta, ó con el correo mandarme un par de Zapatos tacon vajo, del tamaño que manifiesta la adjunta medida.

Dirijo á Vmd una carta que le há venido del Saltillo dentro de mi correspondencia y no ocurriendo otra quedo de Vmd atento amigo y servor. q. s. m. b.

José Ant^o^ Saucedo.

Saucedo to Austin

Bexar 18 de Mayo de 1826—

Sr. D^n^ Estevan Austin.

Muy Sr. mio y am^o^ con motivo delas novedades de Yndios ocurridas en estos dias, se dificulta la conduccion de algun mais que hay comprado p^a^ Consumo del publico en la Villa de San Fernando y por esta razon se esta experimentando una grande necesidad de este articulo en este suelo, causa porque para remediarlo de algun modo me tomo la livertad dedarle á Vmd la molesta de que solicite entre los havitantes de esa Colonia hasta sinquenta ó setenta fanegas de mais, proponiendoles que desu cuenta las conduscan a esta Capital donde luego que lleguen como sea para el dia 15 de Junio y no despues, selas pagare a contado al precio de sinco pesos ó sinco pesos quatro reales fanega si les ofreciese cuenta, lo que se servirá Vmd avisarme oportunam^te^ y mandar las ordenes desu agrada ásu atento amo. y servor. q. s. m. b.

José Ant^o^ Saucedo.

AUSTIN TO MATEO AHUMADA[1]

In my communication of the 8th Instant, I reported to you my situation in relation to hostile movements against the Indians, and informed you that I had sent spies in various directions to watch the Indian party whom we had reason to believe had left their villages on their way to these settlement, in the meantime, the contemplated expedition remaining suspended. On the 13th Instant, the express I had dispatched to the Cherokees returned with a letter signed by Captains Fields and Bowles, and other principal chiefs of this tribe, in which they stated to me, that after a secret council held among them, they unanimously agreed to march with all their forces and attack the Wacoes, Tahuacanoes and other Indians at war with the Mexicans, and that they were ready to assist the people of this Colony, if the government ordered them to do so; but in consequence of the lated freshets of the Neches and Trinity, and of almost all the streams in that section of the country, and, also owing to the backwardness of their crops, they could not do so immediately. The express I had sent is an intelligent and trusty man, whom I had instructed not to show my letters to the chiefs before he could ascertain their intentions and views on the subject. He is well acquainted with the chiefs and several Indians of that tribe. He remained among them four days, and tells me that he has not the least doubt but that the chiefs and warriors are anxious to go to war; as well against the Tahuacanoes and Comanches, as the petty thieving Quinchais, Ainais, Apadache, Coco and other tribes who live in their vicinity. All those tribes are friendly with the Tahuacanoes, and I believe their destruction to be very important for the common security. The express also reports that on the Neches river he met an old Apadache Chief, whom he had known at Nacogdoches: that he told the chief he was still living there, and that the Americans of that locality were very bad; his design being to draw from him his opinion of us. The Indian replied that the Americans of the Colorado were very bad: that they had killed some of his friends the Tehuacanoes and Quichais: that all the small tribes in that part of the country were about to hold a great council called by the Tahuacanoes, for the purpose of taking measures to destroy the new settlements west of the Trinity, and that the Comanches were invited to attend. He did not say when, or where the meeting was to take place, and he declared that the settlers East of the Trinity were good friends and brothers. He said, also, that the Tahuacanoes had sent word to the traders who traffic with the Indians on the Sabine River, that they would give a good horse for ten musket loads of powder and lead, and a good mule for twenty loads. On his arrival at the

[1] Translations from Bexar Archives in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. Copy of the original in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

crossing of the Trinity, the express received information from the settlers there, either Americans, or Spaniards, that they had seen the day previous, five Quichais and Ainai Indian, who secretely told the Spaniards that 200 warriors of the small tribes would shortly attack the Americans on the Brazos and Colorado, but that the settlers East of the Trinity were friends and brothers

The militia of the Colony detailed for the contemplated campaign were all ready, a part of them being encamped here; others on the Colorado, at the fort they have erected between the roads to La Bahia and Atascosito; and the balance on the Brazos near the road to Bexar: mustering in the aggregate, 100 men.

The spies referred to in my communication of the 8,th Instant have seen no signs of the Indians supposed to have left their villages for these settlements; and, as I have already stated to you, I considered myself prevented, by your order of the 4th Instant, from carrying on the campaign. However, on the return of the express with the above mentioned information, I felt convinced of the absolute necessity to order out a party to watch over the frontier, inasmuch as the militia were very impatient to meet the enemy. Therefore, under the impulse of protective considerations, I ordered the senior Captain of the battalion who was to take command in my absence, agreeably to the seventh article of the Militia Regulations, to proceed with the men to the frontier, above the road to Bexar, on the Brazos, leaving a detachment in the fort on the Colorado, to protect this section.

I gave general instructions to this officer (Captain A. C. Buckner) to keep a good lookout all along the frontier, and particularly for the 200 warriors, who, I have reason to believe are coming from the Trinity to join the Tahuacanoes; and to attack any hostile parties of Indians wherever our protection rendered it necessary, and circumstances permitted. I hope you will not consider this step at variance with your orders of the 4th Instant for the suspension of the hostile movements against the Indians. Circumstances rendering it absolutely necessary for our defence The Captain Commanding the Militia may, possibly, be compelled to attack the Indian Villages, as there is some probability, if the Indians are aware of the movements of the Militia, that they will leave their villages should the attack be postponed to the month of July. For it is impossible to assemble men, as scattered as our militia are, without a few days notice; consequently, secrecy cannot be preserved in such cases, every one having to settle his business and make preparations previous to a march. Any traveller can perceive these movements among the militia, and there is not a day but some are passing on their way to Nacogdoches. Should any of them mention it there, the news would soon reach the

Quichais, or other of those mean thieving tribes that live in that neighborhood. In case that an attack on the villages might affect the movements referred to in your communication of the 4th Instant, I will transmit to you any report so soon as it reaches me. Captain Buckner and his command will start from their encampment on the Bexar road on the 22nd Instant.

I have given secret instructions to a very reliable and intelligent man, who left us a few days since for the Trinity, to indirectly ascertain the disposition and views of the Cushate and Alabama Indians; and, also, to find out the feeling of the settlers in that section, and the numbers of militia men that could be obtained from them in an emergency. I have no doubt that orders from you and the Political Chief to the Indians and militia, will induce them to join me in the war.

God and Liberty. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, May 18th 1826.

MILITIA ROSTER

Register for a detachment of the Malitia of Col° Austins Battalion under the Command of Capt. A. C. Buckner May 18th 1826.

Names of officers Comdg. Comps.	Captains.	Lieut.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Private.	Total.	Aggrg.	May 23, 1826.				
								Capt.	Lieut	Serg.	Corp.	Privt.
Wm. S. Hall	1	4	4	3	41	48	53	1	....	1	....	10
H. Chrie man	1	7	7	3	40	50	60	....	1	1	....	10
Lt. Alley	1	1	4	1	18	23	25	....	....	1	....	5
Cap. B. Sims	1	5	5	1	35	41	47	....	1	....	1	7
Whole force	4	17	20	8	134	162	185	....	....	....	....	....
May 24th.												
Wm. Hall	1	3	3	2	26	31	35	....	1	1	1	10
H. Crisman	1	6	7	3	30	40	41	....	1	1	....	10
Lt. Alley	....	2	4	1	15	20	22	....	....	1	....	5
Capt. B. Sims	....	4	4	1	24	29	33	1	....	1	....	7
25 May.												
Wm. Hall	1	3	3	2	26	31	35	....	1	1	1	10
H. Christman	....	7	7	3	29	39	46	1	1	1	....	10
Lt. Alley	....	2	4	1	15	20	22	....	1	....	1	5
Capt. B. Sims	1	5	5	....	35	45	46	....	1	1	....	7
26 May.												
Wm. Hall	1	3	3	2	23	28	32	....	1	1	1	10
H. Christman	1	6	7	3	20	30	37	1	1	1	....	10
Lt. Alley	....	2	4	1	15	20	22	....	1	....	1	5
Capt. B. Sims	1	5	4	1	24	29	35	....	1	1	....	7
27 May.												
Wm. Hall	1	3	3	2	23	28	32	....	1	1	1	10
H. Christman	1	6	7	3	20	30	37	1	1	1	....	10
Lt. Alley	....	2	4	1	15	20	22	....	1	....	1	5
Capt. B. Sims	1	5	4	1	24	29	35	....	1	1	....	7
28 May.												
Wm. Hall	1	2	2	3	26	31	33	....	1	2	2	10
H. Christman	1	6	5	3	32	40	47	....	1	1	1	10
Lt. Alley	....	2	4	....	14	20	20	....	1	....	1	5
Capt. B. Sims	1	5	4	1	17	22	28	....	....	1	....	8
29 May.												
Wm. Hall	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
H. Christman	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Lt. Alley	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Capt. B. Sims	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fha 24 de Abril po. po. de la orn del Exmo Sor Presidente de la Nacion comunicada por el Exmo Mtro de Justicia y Negocios Eccos en orn de 28 de Marzo po. po. preveniendo q. ningun Ecco extrangero secular ó regular ejersa las funciones de su ministerio sin haber obtenido ante licencia del Gob^no^ resedir en el pais y q. tan luego q. se presente algun individuo de esta clase se informe de su nombre nacim^to^ y procedencia—loq. sera punctualmente cumplido en esta jurisdicion de mi cargo—D y L—18 de Mayo de 1826—E F A—

Contestacion Gefe del Deptmto

Quedo impuesto del decreto del Congreso Gral de la Republica publicado 17 de Marzo po. po. q. me incierto V. S. en oficio fha 24 de Abril po po. relativo á los empleados Militares—D y L—18 de Marzo [Mayo] de 1826—E F A—

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

In compliance with your Lordship's communication of the 1st Instant, in which you direct me to report to you any incidents, civil or military occurring in this Colony worthy of the notice of the government, I have the honor to enclose copies of my communications to the Military Commander of Texas, relative to the late occurrences with the Tahuacano and Waco Indians, and the movements of the Militia. I did not communicate these matters to the civil government at an earlier period, because they were purely military; and, having received all my orders on the subject from the Military Commander, I was led to the conclusion that it was my duty to acquaint the government with military transactions through that officer, and that I could irrespectively report to the Civil or Military Chief, both being, in their respective spheres, agents of the Supreme Government. I find myself mistaken, and pray your Lordship to receive this explanation as an apology if I have in any manner failed in the discharge of my duty. Henceforth I shall communicate with you, as well as with the Military Commander, in all military matters.

The attack upon the Tankuas which you direct me to report to you, took place on the 25th of March, on the Colorado, about eight

[1] Translations from Bexar Archives in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. Copy of the original in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

leagues below the Atascosito road. These Indians were encamped on the very same spot, where, some months previous, they had stolen from the settlers twenty odd hogs, and a large quantity of corn. A small party of the neighbors went to the Indians' villages to arrest the thieves; the Indians presented their arms and refused to give up the guilty persons. Those who had lost the property came to me with their complaints. I sent for the Chief Carita, and the Tankua Chief, and told them they must keep out of the settlement and deliver up the thieves for punishment by flogging, otherwise they should be shot; after this understanding they withdrew from the settlement. This took place about eighteen months since. In the mean time the Chief Carita died, and during the month of March his party came down to the Colorado where the hogs had been stolen, which made the people residing there believe that they intended a renewal of their former robberies; and, unfortunately, some fat hogs being missed at the same time, they suspected the Indians of killing them. This, together with the robberies of the previous year, excited the settlers, who immediately assembled to go to the villages and ascertain the fact. The Militia Officer in that part of the Colony is a very young man, and he refused to take command of the party, upon which they elected one of their number to lead them. On their arrival at one of the villages, two or three of the men commenced firing; their example was followed by six others, before they could be prevented by their commander giving, as an excuse for their attack, that the Indians were levelling their arms. Two of the Indians were killed and four wounded, as I since learned; and one of the American party who had lost his way in the woods was killed. So soon as I was informed of the fact, I made inquiry into it, and, from my investigations, I felt satisfied that the presumed depredations of the Indians were not sufficiently established to justify the attack, although there were good reasons to suspect them. I lost no time in calling the Indians together; they arrived here on the 29th of April and remained four days. After having had a talk with them, they declared themselves fully satisfied, and withdrew, with the understanding that any of their tribe who should hereafter steal anything from our settlers should be surrendered for punishment; and, that, on their failing to do so, the party would be shot wherever he was found.

This is the plain history of the whole affair and it will be necessary to compel those who made the attack to pay the expenses incurred by calling the Indians together, there not having been sufficient provocation to justify the attack that was made upon them. In the early part of March five Choctaws killed some of the Tankuas I promised to interpose as peace maker between them.

The accompanying copies of my communications to the Military Commander will apprize your Lordship of the news relative to the Tahuacanoes, and of my consequent dispositions. I consider it highly important that your Lordship and the Military Commander should write to the Cherokees, Alabamas and Cushates, and to the Alcaldes and Captains of the Militia of Nacogdoches and the Trinity, to join us in the contemplated war.

After Captain Ross' encounter with the Indians on the Colorado, I ordered a small log fortification to be erected there, for the protection of the families in case of an invasion: the people of that section went to work very industriously and it is completed. I shall order other works of a similar character to be erected at the crossing on the Brazos of the road to Bexar, and probably here, provided the war is continued for any length of time, as we are all determined to defend ourselves and the Country even if the whole Comanche nation come upon us. If the government can supply us with ammunition, 150 escopets, 150 pistols, and 150 sabres it will be an important addition, also six cannon of small caliber two for Each settlement.

Relative to colonization the business of the first Colony has not been completed, owing to the protracted absence of the Commissioner; there are some complaints about it, and difficulties are likely to arise. This reason, and the fact that nothing as yet has been done towards the commencement of the new Colony, has caused the inhabitants to petition me not to take the field and expose my person until their business is settled; which induced me not to take command of the party who were sent out to protect the frontier.

Respecting the administration of justice, we had, on the 1st Instant, a suit which lasted seven days. The plaintiff was Imla Keep and the defendant Jared E. Groce. The case being important I called together twelve good men, residents of the Colony, as Jurymen, to hear the evidence and decide upon it, and after a laborious examination of several witnesses for both parties, the decision of eleven of the jurymen was in favor of the plaintiff, Imla Keep, and I approved their verdict. The defendant, Groce was much dissatisfied, and he will, probably, appeal to the government. The affair that occurred between him and the Administrator Don Juan Veramendi at Bexar, will give your Lordship an idea of his character.

The people in this colony, are now, more satisfied and united, live in greater harmony and display more industry than they have ever done before from its commencement.

I request your Lordship to take into consideration my proposals to the Military Commander in relation to the Cherokee, Cushates, and Alabamas, and the Militia of Nacogdoches and the Trinity. If you approve them, I beg you will send me letters addressed to those

parties, and that you will also send instructions to the Cherokees relative to the thieving tribes in their vicinity; giving them orders not to make war upon the Tankuas, on whom, they have written to me, it is their intention to avenge the death of some of their warriors who were killed three years since. It would also be advisable to write to the Cushates and the Alcalde of Nacogdoches to tell the Cherokees they must not carry on hostilities against the Tankuas, as that tribe is at peace with the Mexicans.

The foregoing is in answer to your Lordship's communication of the 1st Instant.

God and Liberty.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, May 19th, 1826.

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Gefe del Departamento sobre el orden del Alcalde de Colorado á Briche

Yncluyo á V. S. la orden original del Alcalde del Colorado á Briche pa tomar posesion de los efectos de Martin de Leon q. V. S. me encargo remitir en oficio fha 27 de Abril po. po.—Esta orden fue dada en virtud de uno de los articulos de los reglamentos provisionales q. nos rijen de q. hable en mi oficio del 18 de Marzo po. po. el objeto era averiguar la materia delante del Alcalde antes de dar juicio. Briche no era comisionado pa decidir ni dar juicio ninguno en la materia, su orden fue tomar posesion y traher los efectos á la casa del Alcalde pa q. alli se disponga de ellos pr el mismo Alcalde segun la justicia requiere, y si De Leon debia á Grey q. se le paga de los mismos efectos, y si no le debia entonces quedera Grey responsable á De Leon pa todos los atrasos causados pr su demanda—

Por exemplo supongamos q. un vecino de Laredo viene a Bexar y contrata deudas con un comerciante de alli prometiendo pagarle en tal tpo, llega el tpo y el comerciante manda un Agente á Laredo pa cobrar su dinero po el deudor en lugar de pagarle le dice q. no debe nada al comerciante, y q. no quiere pagarle, y al mismo tpo echando mil injurias contra el. Vuelva el dho Agente dar cuenta al comerciante del resultado de su comision y en poco tpo despues el dho deudor manda á Bexar un atajo de mulas ¿No puede el comerciante entonces pedir de la justicia una orn pa q. se detiene las mulas ó suficientes de ellas hta averiguar la materia en judicio? y si el hombre de Laredo debe al comerciante y habia rehusado pagarle ¿No puede el Alcalde mandar q. se le paga de las mulas detenidas? y mas particularmente si el referido deudor era Juez unico, Empresario y Comandante dela Mili-

cia de Laredo, y ademas de esto un hombre no acostumbrado de observar la buena fé ni tener respecto p^{a} su palabra en sus contratos y promesas particulares.—

Siento q. este asunto de ninguna importancia en su principio ha tomado un aspecto tan serio. Si Martin de Leon hubiese venido a verme en un momento todo hubiera sido acomodado, pero pr el odio q. tiene á los nuevos pobladores y su genio natural y dificultoso quiso persentar sus quejas mal fundadas y pervertidas al Congreso del Estado con el objecto principal de disconceptuar la opinion de los nuevos pobladores y para gratificar su sentimiento particular—

El Alcalde no dio orden á Briche usar de armas, dio orden p^{a} tomar posesion de los efectos de deLeon y traherlos a su casa y Briche conociendo el genio de los Leones consideró necesario usar una fuerza armada en caso de resistencia y si esto abuso la orden del Alcalde es culpa suyo y no del Alcalde—

Para evitar iguales dificultades en lo futuro he suspendido alg^{nas} articulos de los reglamtos provisionales segun tengo dho en mi oficio 8 del presente y tambien he dado orn á los Alcaldes de esta colonia no entremeterse en ning^{a} manera en asuntos ó quejas judiciales qdo [quando] uno de los partes es nativo del pais y q. en tales casos deben ocurrir a mi los partes en derechura pr. q. ning^{o} de los Alcaldes entienden una palabra en Castellano—Dios y L Sn Felipe de Austin 19 de Mayo de 1826—E F A—

Gefe del Departam^{to} sobre Censo—Tabla estadistica etc

En cumplit^{o} con los oficios de V. S. fhs 26 y 28 de Marzo y 10 de Abril po. po. Yncluyo tabla estadistica, nota de los nacidos y muertos y resumen del Padron de esta Colonia siguiendo á la letra las formas q. V. S. me mando sobre la materia—D y L S F de A—19 de Mayo de 1826—E F A—

J. Blair to Austin

May the 20th 1826

Colonel Austan

Dear sir

presuming that after a perusal of the documents here with presented to geather with such other information as you will be able to collect you will be able to form an opinion conclusive for your self as to granting of the requests Actuated from motives of the highest sensibility I have ventured to submit for your consideration and that of your infant Republic the Subject Matter of the documents here with presented to geather with an offer of my services should your government be in a condition to Build a torpedul Bat-

tery or disposed to Garrison their harbours on this principal if so and the government of Mexico will Extend their patronage with a degree of liberality that would support a family in a comfortabl manner and grant their petitioner an Exclusive privalage to furnish all the lumber that may be wanted to garrison the province of Texas at a fair and Honest price togeather with a suitabl tract of land for a plantation for him self and family or any other arrangment that will insure a Comfortabl living your petitione[r] would be more than happy to be come a Citizen of the Republick of america etc etc

Believe me Sir your Most devoted Servent and May God preserve your infant Republic from all internal strife till she [. . .] a mong the Nations of the Earth that will yet giv laws to Europe is the prair of

J. BLAIR.

NB Sir pleas to have this letter Translated and forwarded on to the General Government to Enable them to know how it was introduced to the General Government you may depend on the most unquestionable Recommendations of my carrector if necessary Colonel Austin will oblige me if he will inform me if the same law that advertises for all those who have clames on the Government for military services rendered in 1812 and 13 imbraces those of 1819—1820 and 1821 under General Long

J. BLAIR

[Attached clipping:]

"In the Natchitiches Courier, of the 24th April last, we have seen a notice signed *James Gaines*, calling upon the several volunteers who fought in Texas, in 1812, 13, agreeably to a decree of the Mexican Congress, bearing date the 13th June, 1823, to come forward in person, or by power of attorney within six months with proof of their services, to receive their pay, agreeable to engagements entered into at St. Fernando de Bexar, between the Junta and Americans, in May, 1813."

Colonel Austin, Will pleas after he shall have Examined the within enclosed documents to envelope them in a New cover and forward them on to the Seate of Government through the propper channell I would prefer their being transfered from one Governor to another till they arrive at the Seate of Government Colonel Austin will oblige me if he will give me every information as to the design of the government in their military operations as relates to the building of garrisons in the province of Texas I would wish to Emigrate

to that province if I could place myself in a Cituation that would support me comfortabl, my object in this request is that if the Government was a building I should wish to bring on a Steam Engine and apply it to the Cutting of Lumber for the publick Besides this I want to know what Encouragement you will giv me if I emigrate to Texas I must have some thing that looks enticing or I must embrace other proposals tho not so congenial with my feelings are more to my interest

J. BLAIR

May 22d 1826

WILLIAM HARRIS TO AUSTIN

District of Victoria May 22d 1826

Benjamin Fowler came to me and made the following statement: That Isaac Hughs had been indebted to him three cow and calves and thirty two dollars on an account; that this amount had been due something like fifteen months and that the said Hughs had offered him three cows and calves third rate cattle. in place of the same number of first rate cows and calves which the note caled for. and he the said Fowler further stated that he refused to receive them unless the said Hughs—would pay him the difference between these cattle and first rate cattle which the said Hughs refused to do, and the—said Fowler further stated that he offered the said Hughs the privilege of choseing—two men himself to say what diference there was between these cattle and first rate cattle and abide by their judgement which—proposition the said Hughs refused to comply with, Fowler further says that the said Hughs told him that he was about to leave the country and should not pay him unless he was compeled to do so or words to that effect.

On the above statement of Fowler, I issued a forthwith summons for Isaac Hughs which summons he refused to obey—I did not conceive it a proper way of doing business to give judgement on a forthwith unless the defendant was present. There was no judgment entered nor any attachment issued nor any thing of the kind

As to the cattle above mentioned which you order me to vallue Mr. Hughs sold them to Mr. Bailey about the time the above transaction took place for thirteen dollars in trade I understood a head

As the cattle alluded to in Mr. Hughs petition were sold by him I did not vallue them as you ordered me, as I supposed it was not necessary

As to the judgement and attachment alluded to in Mr. Hughs' petition I do assure you there is no such thing the business—ended when the summons was returned without being obeyed

I do certify this to be a true statement of proceedings had before me in the above case

WILLIAM HARRIS Alcalde

To Stephen F. Austin Judge

S. A. ANDERSON TO AUSTIN

Colorado May 28th 1826

Colo AUSTIN

SIR

Since I arrived heare I have not had an opportunity of going over to see you respecting the payment of my land and we consider our force so week that many of us cant leave the fort at a time but as soon as I can I will be over to see you,—I have made arrangements in Allexandria for the payment of my note by Draught if you think proper if not I will send on immediately after the money that is as soon as times will permit but I had rather had an indulgence till the ishue of the war as; if I cant go home this faull I wish to return to the states

S. A. ANDERSON

N. B. I send you by Mr. George Duty a Bill for thirty Dollars in land or trade please to give me a credit on my Note for what it calls for in cash etc., etc.

S. A. A.

JAMES NORTON TO AUSTIN

New Orleans 29th May 1826

To Col. S. F. AUSTIN,

SIR,

Since I had the honor of seeing you in the City of New Orleans I have never relaxed in my good opinion of your settlement in Texas: but pecuniary embarrassments together with other circumstances have hitherto prevented my making a visit there since I went down in the Schooner Lively which then belonged to you.

The *Rob Roy*, Capt Jno F. Field who is charged with the note, will arrive at the mouth of the Brassos (weather permitting) in about ten or twelve days. By said vessel on her return I should be happy to hear from you as *I* as well as *Capt. Z. Butler* who sailed the Lively after our first arrival here in 1822 have still a great inclination to become Citizens of your Colony: which the settlement of our private interests in this State has hitherto prevented, yet with you we hope that our inclination has not been lost sight of; Capt Field is in a

certain measure acquainted with the embarrassments which have heretofore prevented us from being with you which I hope will not be the case this Summer.

The Rob Roy sails with a full freight and passangers for the settlement all of which I exerted my feeble interest to forward with a firm belief that I was enhancing the interests of the Colony which has been my constant study since I had the honor of your acquaintance in this city.

Accept Sir, my sincerest regard for your welfare and that of your Colony: to the enterprising settlers of which I tender the warmest sentiments of respect and flatter myself with the reality of one day becoming a neighbor and friend among them—

JAMES NORTON.

AUSTIN TO [SAUCEDO?]

[About May 31, 1826]

El Sor David G. Burnet un caballero de la ciudad de Cincinnati en el Estado de Ohio uno de los Estados del Norte ha visitado este pais en compania con su amigo el Sor Humphey Fullerton del mismo Estado con el objeto de pedir una concession del Gob^no p^a introducir y establacer como Empresarios de 800 a mil familias Estos señores son de la mejor caracter y respetabilidad segun consta las cartas de recomendacion qe. llevan de Señores conocidos como son el Honorable Henry Clay Secretario de Estado y despacho de relaciones de los Estados Unidos. el Gob^or. del Estado de Ohio y el Secretario del mismo Estado, jueces y otros individuos respetables—El hermano de Burnet es uno de los jueces del tribunal supremo de justicia del Estado de ohio y otro hermano es Gefe politico superior de la ciudad de cincinnati una ciudad de 19000 almas y de mucha riqueza—El Sor Fullerton ha sido General de la Milicia del dho Estado, tiene 55 años de edad y mucha familia—El Sor Burnet tiene cosa de 37 años de edad—fue educado por Licenciado ó abogado y spre ha manifestado mucho interes en favor de la libertad y independencia de las Americas, el clima frio de ohio no era favorable a su salud, y muchas familias de su vecindad habiendo solicitado a el y el Sor Fullerton emprender el viage a este pais p^a obtener el permiso de establecerse los dos vienieron con este objeto—

El Sor Burnet ha escrito al Exmo Gob^or sobre la materia y tan luego qe. recibe una contestacion saldrá p^a el Saltillo si su prescencia alli fuere necesario

El distrito qe soliciten p^a colonizar comprende [á] las 20 Leguas limitrofes y los 10 Leguas Litorales de la costa desde 15 Leguas arriba del paso del camino de nacogdoches hasta el Rio San Jacinto, y

si esta anulado el contrato con el Sor Hayden Edwards tambien piden qe. se añade el distrito designado pª su Colonia

Recomiendo estos Sors y su asunto a la attencion de V con todo confianza puesto qe estoy convencido qe son hombres qe merecen confianza y qe. pueden ser muy utiles a la patria—

AUSTIN TO [W. S. HALL?] [1]

[May —, 1826?]

I have learned with much regret that some confusion and contention has arisen in your company in consequence of your proceedings under my order of the 1 day of May last relative to pressing horses and arms for the late expedition—The words of that part of the order are "You are authorized to press guns and equipments for those who have none whereever you can procure them"—It was known to me that a number of men were unequiped and unable to equip themselves and it was deemed a just sacrifice to the public interest to compel those who did not go on the Campain, and had horses or arms, to furnish them—The order did not particularly specify that you should not press from those who were going on the expedition, or who had voluntarily fitted out others, or that you should use some precaution in pressing from those who were the least able to spare the articles or that you should not press for those who were able to equip themselves—such a specification was not deemed necessary for it was presumed you knew the situation of every individual in the Company and would use that discretion in the execution of the order and make that distinction which peculiar circumstances might require—I find that the order was not sufficiently specific altho no difficulty has occurred that I have heard of in any other company but yours. The moment the articles were pressed they were placed under your care and it was your special duty to see them returned to their owners, every horse gun etc should have been delivered to his owner as soon as the expedition was over and it was your duty to have seen it done—This was not stated in the order neither was it necessary, for the articles were taken for public use and it was your duty as the Commander of the Company to see that they were properly taken care of and duly returned.

All orders for pressing in future should any ever be issued which it is not probable there ever will will be so limited and specific as to prevent the recurrence of any such difficulties in future—

The public good requires that dissentions amongst the people should cease—every reason that can exist in any country for union

[1] See Hall to Austin, April 27, 1826.

and harmony operates here at this time with peculiar force—threatened with an Indian war we should be united—Strangers in a new Country we should establish our characters as quiet harmonious and good citizens—It is therefore hoped that all further difficulties on the subject of the pressing business will cease and no more conversation will be had on the subject—

yours respectfully

———— ————.

With a view to correct public opinion and put a stop to any futher converstion on the subject refered to in the following letter the Alcalde of victoria will post it up at Bol-Ivar for public information—

———

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Bexar 1° de Junio de 1826.

Sor. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Muy Sor. mio y Amigo por su apreciable de 22 del q. acaba me hé enterado de todos los particulares q. ella trata, y en su consequencia digó q. el Comicionado D. Gaspar Flores, á Suspendido su marcha á ese punto por las rasones e yncombentes q. Vd. me indica de no poderse por aora medir Tierras ni darse muchas poseciones alos Colonos, difiriendo por esta Causa su marcha hasta el Otoño en Cuyo Tiempo considera no existiran ya aquellas dificultades.

Aserca dela Consulta q. Vd. me hase sobre el termino de dos años q. la Ley General de Colonisacion Conceda alos Colonos para q. Pueblen y cultiven sus tierras dentro del termino de dos años pena de perder sus Dros [derechos], nada puedo decir aVd. por q. este asunto es pribatibo dela legislatura Mas como quiera q. Vd. conoce el caracter de sus Colonos y deve saber las causas por q. no han poblado y Cultibado las tierras q. se les marsenaron dentro del termino prefixado por la ley, es Consigte q. les tenga la Consideracion de q. fuesen dignos.

En vista de esto y deq. para el mes de Septe ú Octe de esta año devera hayarse aqui el Comicionado de la Primera Colonia Baron de Bastrop. me parece escusada la yncomodidad de q. su Ermo D. Santiago Marche hasta el Saltillo pero Sin Embargo Vd. podra hazer lo q. le paresca mas Combente sobre este particular.

Si los Yndive q. deven componer la segunda Colonia de ese distrito no descansan en la rectitud y buena fee del Govno y por eso podran acaso dudar de lo q. Vd. les diga q. deven hazer, podran Ynstruirse detenidamte de la Ley Gral. y particular dela Colonisacion y Nombrar personas de su Confianza q. bengan á esta Ciudad á imponerse de la

Ynstruciones q. debe yebar el Citado Comicionado, y a Consertar con el, á Nombre de todos los demas Colonos quantos asuntos sean relativos a su Comicion, pues este no puede emprehender viaje ni haser costos por aora, sin q. se le remuneren. Solam^te^ por q. los Colonos se Ynstruyan de las Ynstrucion^s^ q. le hande regir.

Si Vd. considera q. las Cinq^tas^ faneg^s^ de Mais q. le encargue para el consumo del publicó de esta ciudad no podran llegar aqui del quince al 20. de este mes podra omitir su remicion en Ovió de atrasos q. tal vez puedan Ocacionarse a los Ynteresados con Motivo de haverse recibido algun^s^ auxilios de viveres, y esperarse otros y estar muy adelantadas las siembras de Maises con lo q. podra extinguirse la Nesecidad.

No sé si al Leer mi carta ó Escribir Vd. la suya q. estoy contestando á havido Alguna Equibocacion en la Palabra Carro pr. q. yo no le hé encargado aVd. esta maquina sino solam^te^ un Catré ó quien sabe si yo lo hé entendido mal.

Deseo q. Vd. se conserbe con salud y q. mande como gusté a su Afmo. S. Q. S. M. B.

José Ant^o^ Saucedo

Austin to Military Commandant

He recibido noticia q. el hombre John Roe ha salido del Colorado á los Tanhuas con municiones de guerra Este hombre se ha manejado con mala fé y merece castigo.

El capitan de la milicia del Colorado en complim^to^ con mi orn envió este Roe á traher los Tanhuas aqui para componer la dificultad q. hubo con ellos en el mes de Marzo. Vinó con los dhos Yndios y ofrecé pagarle por su trabajo la cantidad que el dho Capitan y el Alcalde del Colorado convinieron pagarle, no quiso recibirlo y demandó de 70 á 80 pesos, por fin libró una orden contra mi en favor de Joshua Parker, y he pagado el dho Parker en conformidad con el trato hecho con Roe pero sin embargo este malvado luego q. salió de aqui entento excitar los Tanhuas á hostilizar los pobladores y á romper la paz q. existe con ellos, de esto hay pruebas suficientes. El caracter general de Roe es mala, es un hombre q. hará mucho daño si queda en libertad y mi opinion es q. se debe hacerle preso y guardarle en carcelado por un ó dos años, porque si se le echa fuera del pais spre volvera y se juntará con los Yndios.

Doy esta noticia á V para su conocim^to^ y de q. V pueda velar de la conducta de dho Roe si viene al Guadalupe.

Dios y Libertad.

S^n^ Felipe de Austin 3 de Junio de 1826

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Sor Comandante Militar de la Milicia de Guadalupe.

Austin to [Governor of Coahuila and Texas.][1]

The Lands situated within the Ten Leagues bordering on the Coast of the Gulf of Mexico, between the Rivers Brazos and Colorado, are in part colonized by me, under the grant already made to me by the Supreme Government of Mexico, but as some of these lands within the said Ten Leagues of the Coast border, are yet vacant, and as the annexation of the said Ten Coast border Leagues to the District which the Government of Coahuila and Texas has assigned me for the settlement of the Five Hundred families I have engaged to introduce, is highly important to the prosperity of the new Colony, I therefore pray the Government to grant me permission to colonize the Ten Leagues of the Coast border within the following limits, viz., Beginning at a point on the Eastern bank of the River La Baca where it is intersected by the boundary line of the said Ten Border Leagues; thence East[ly] with the Northern boundary line of the Border leagues to the river San Jacinto, and thence West with the Coast to the mouth of the aforesaid river La Vaca, and thence up said river to place of beginning, comprising all the vacant lands of the Ten Coast border leagues between the aforesaid rivers La Baca and San Jacinto, and that the said Border Leagues be annexed to the aforesaid Colony, and settled on the same terms stipulated with the Government of the State of Coahuila and Texas for the said Colony of five hundred families.

San Felipe de Austin, 5th June 1826

Stephen F. Austin.

Austin to Mateo Ahumada

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Comandante Pral de Armas sobre la vuelta de alg[s] milicianos

Algunos de los milicianos de la expedicion á los pueblos de los Yndios huecos volvieron hoy enfermos me dicen q. los Yndios habian abandonado sus pueblos enteramente, no habia una alma alli y q habian fugado con sus familias y efectos al pueblo de los Tahuiases sobre el Rio Roxo de Natchitoches dejaron mucho mais etc en sus labores—El parte q. me mando el Comandante de la partida está detenido por una casualidad y no llegara hta mañana y por consiguiente no puedo decir por este correo otras particulares sobre la materia q lo dicho arriba—

D y L—

S F de A—6 de Junio de 1826— E E A—

[On margin of original in Bexar Archives:]

Quedo enterado del oficio de V. de 6 del corriente, relativo al acaecimt[o] q. tuvo la Partida de Tropa destinada a los Pueblos de

[1] General Land Office, Translations of Records, 1825–1835, p. 151.

los Tahuacanos, y espero se sirba V. comunicarme estensam^te^ las noticias q. V. deve haver yá recibido segun me dice en el citado oficio á q. contesto. Bejar 19 de Junio 1826

JAMES CUMMINS TO AUSTIN

Colorado June 9—1826—

DEAR SIR,

after gitting Francisco Eliguem and Mr. Woods together got them to agree that thier Son and Daughter might get married Francisco wants you to write to Montraville Woods at Mr. Milligans to bring his daughter Down to you and for you to write to a praist in Laberhe to marry them and to assure the priest that he Francisco has given his Consent that they might be married

agreed to and subscribed to before me James Cummins

his
FRANCISCO x ELIGUEM
marke

ZADOCK WOODS

Mr Francisco wants you to ask his daughter and Montraville Woods who took her out of his house so that he Can have the person punnished for the Crime and at the same time wishes his daughter to be married as soon as possible

F. E—

Col^o^ Stephen F Austin San Felipe de Austin

JOHN P COLES TO AUSTIN

Bravo 12th day of June 1826

Dear Sir

I am sorry to say to you that I have been disappointed in Sims more than any man I have yet met with you know that he has allways professed a great deal of Friendship for me and I have been vary friendly to him about the time that you left here I discovered a change in him but could not tell the cause but at length believed the change in him to be in consiquence of the certainty of an Indian war this I have at length good Reasons for he at once determined to move below and wished It Kept a secret from me and I never heard of his Intention to Remove untill 2 days before the army arrived at this place and then I found that he had been making preparations and that It was his Intentions to have moved about the time the men came on But he thought by not going out probably he wood show himself too plain—and his move was deferd I then asked him If he was determined on going below he informed

me he was But that he wood not Leave here untill the Indian difficulty was over. I saw in him the coward from the commencement you may Rely on It he can not stand Indian fighting If you think so you are decieved he does more harm here and made more confusion among the people than he can attone for. Every act of his here from the commencement evinced a cowardly disposition and he has now made a precipitate Retreat from as he thinks danger his whole conduct here since the commencement of this business as an officer has been Ridiculous. I am completely deceived in Sims in Every shape about the time he left here he stated to Mr. Hope that he was very much displeased with me and that I owed him Eight Hundred dollars and that he Intended to hand me my acct and as soon as he arrived below at your place he wood sue me he has now left here without handing me any acct. Sims Bot of me Two Labours of Land which I allways considered paid him for surveying my Land this is well known he took possession of the Land surveyed It himself and has Improved on It I charge him with It. and he must take it and pay for It. I have charged It at the price we agreed on as you will discover from the Inclosed act. I have witness Enough to prove all this there is fiftysix dollars and seventy five cents which I paid Edwards and Brown for him seventy dollars I agreed to pay you on Curtises Note Thompsons and Millers notes I agreed to pay you for him which you will discover is charged in my act. against Sims I wish you to credit Ola curtis' Note with $70. and I pay the above Note of $247.50 which you will also charge me with this was an understanding amongst us all in consiquence of the Trade I made with Brook. I doo not know what Sims act. is But have some Reasons to believe I should object to some part of It and I wood further state to you that Sims conduct toward's. me Recently authorises me to say that he is unworthy of confidence or the Friendship of any decent man and these things I mention to you that you may be on your guard If you doo not you will be deceived My object in sending you the Inclosed act—is to show how he wishes to treat me and to Rebut his

Yours Sincerely

JNO P COLES [Rubric]

P S. My compliments to your Brother—as Regards the affair of young Woods I can say to you that they did apply to me to marry them and I Refused to doo so and they are not married at all

J. P COLES

I must say further of Sims he has be lied and slanderd almost Every man and woman in this part of the country It was well for him he got off from here when he did the whole settlement is at outs

with him and as I now find he has for a Length of time been Trying to Injure me with the people in this district by saying that I was Loosing Ground vary fast he wood state to the people below that all the people above was damning me he wood state to those above that all the people below was cursing me and this he wood doo slyly and has been at this for some time and at the same time making unfriendly Remarks himself the thing is now Explained to me what doo you think of such conduct It is more than I once thought Sims caple. off I am now acquainted with him he left here without Ever hinting a settlement to me but stated to the people about here that I owen him and he Intended to sue me.

JNO P COLES [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col. S. F. Austin Sanfilepe de Austin

Militia Report[1]

Estado de Cuahuila y Texas. Departamento de Texas. Villa de San Felipe de Austin. Milicia Nacional Estado de fuerza y armamento en dha Villa y su termino el dia de la fha.

Caballeria.									Nombre del Commandante	Armamento								
Escuadrones.	Compañias	Tercios	Escuadras	Tenientes Coroneles	Capitanes	Ayudtes Mayores	Tenientes	Subtenninntes		Sargentos 1os	Sargentos 2os	trompetas	Cabos 1os	Cabos 2os	Soldados	total tropa	Tercerolas	Pistolas	Sables y Espadas
1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	Estevan F. Austin	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2	2
.....	1a	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	2	Bartlet Sims.....	1	3	.....	3	3	74	85	46	3	.....
.....	2a	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	2	Horacio Chrisman	1	3	.....	3	3	71	85	41	4	.....
.....	3a	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	2	William Hall.....	1	3	.....	3	3	107	121	62	4	.....
.....	4a	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	2	James J Ross.....	1	3	.....	3	3	70	84	50	2	.....
.....	5a	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	2	Aylet C Buckner.	1	3	.....	3	3	95	109	70	3	.....
.....	.....	1°	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	Samuel C Hirams	.....	1	.....	1	1	36	40	31	1	.....
.....	.....	2°	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	Samuel Miller....	.....	1	.....	1	1	32	36	23	1	.....
Total... 1	5	2	.....	1	5	1	5	12	Total.....	5	17	.....	17	17	405	565	325	20	2

Nota No se ha recibido armas ningunas de las Almacenes Nacionales para este Escuadron.

[1] Wagner Collection, Yale University.

14 de Junio de 1826

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]
encargado interin con el mando civil

J. E. B. and Stephen F. Austin to Emily M. Perry [1]

San Felipe de Austin 15th June 1826

My Dear Sister,

I have not written you since my return from the Interior owing to a suitable conveyance not having presented itself And my being compelled to go out on an Indian excursion shortly after my arrival— We returned without being able to effect any thing owing to the inclemancy of the season and the Indians having left their Villages— We apprehend no danger fron the Indians their numbers are too small to harass us in any other way than by Stealing a few horses— which they do occasionally— During my abscence my brother received a letter from you dated in January last containing the unpleasant intelligence of the loss of many of our friends—within the last year, a loss more afflicting to us owing to the few that are left of what was but a few years since a numerous and happy Circle— I fear that by the time my Brother and myself can return to Missouri we shall find but few of our old friends alive—

Our Colony is improving daily the emigration that has taken place lately has been principally by water— Vessels arrive—or touch at the mouth of this river frequently and two will ply regularly between this and New Orleans; I entertain but little doubt that a passage could be procured at almost any time; Should Mr Perry wish to come out to visit the Country either this fall or next spring I would advise him to come by water— The last Vessel was only 5—days from the City and three—from the Balize to the mouth of the river.

Our crops are very promising this Season— Considerable cotton will be made—which will be inferior to none made in any part of the US— All that is wanting to make this the most desirable part of the habitable Globe is a Sufficient population—which it must have in a few years—

I am happy to hear that the boys improve, I hope you will not neglect placing them as soon as they are old enough in a Situation whereby they may acquire a thorough knowledge of business=

Have you done any thing in the Durham Hall—business yet—? what does Mr Perry think of the probability of recovering it— If any thing is done I think it ought to be done immediately—

I have nothing more to communicate at present Brother is well— I wish you to send out the work of Schoolcrafts it would be gratifying to us to see it— Give my respects to all my old friends— Kiss little Mary— and tell Jack his uncle will expect a letter from him shortly— Before I close I must inform you of the death of

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. Emmett L. Perry.

Thomas Alley he was unfortunately drowned—crossing the Brazos on our last Campaign against the Indians—

Old Mr. Andrews was well the last time I heard from him—

I leave this on the morrow for my place down the Brazos— probably I shall not have an opportunity of writing you for Some time— The Murderer of William Perry has not reached this part of the Province yet— the last information I received he was on *Red River* in Arkensas Terry—

JAs. B. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Mrs. EMILY M PERRY [Rubric]

P. S. I am not married yet and Stephen is further from it than he was six months ago

J B A

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your letter was truly welcome for I have not heard from you for many months— you say nothing about moving— neither can I give you any other advice on the subject, than what I have heretofore said which is, that I wish Mr Perry to come and look for himself before he determines— I am Satisfied to spend my life here, but I should be much more so if you were with us— Our crops this year are much more abundant than they have been since the Colony commenced— the Season has been very favourable, if any thing rather too wet, particularly the beginning of this month— remember me to all friends and particularly Mrs. John Perry and all the Perry family etc. write often and give all the Potosi news in detail— we Still live in log cabins— rather poor, tho plenty of corn Beef and Bacon— Kiss the Children for their uncle

STEPHEN

[Addressed:] Mrs Emily M. Perry Potosi Missouri Mail

AUSTIN TO MATEO AHUMADA.

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Comandante Pral de armas sobre la vuelta de los Milicanos

La partida de milicia q. mande pa velar de la frontera arriba del camino de Bexar bajo el mando del Capitan A. C. Buckner volvio el dia 11 del presente mes, y el dho oficial en su oficio me dice q. reconocio todo el pais desde el dho camino hta los pueblos de los Tahuacanos y llecos sin descubrir un Yndio: halto la partida dos leguas antes de llegar á los pueblos y mando espias en la noche pa ver si los Indios estaban alli, q. entraron en los pueblos y quedaron alli hta q. amanecio el dia, los Yndios habian abandonado sus pueblos segun indicaron las señas dies ó doce dias, no habia una alma alli, tenian mucho mais

sembrado q. todavia no estaba en hilotes, y abundancia de frijoles melones etc.—

Despues de haber reconocido bien todo el rededor y vecindad de los pueblos por medio de espias sin poder hallar el Enemigo la partida regreso: Solamente cinco hombres entraron en los pueblos y labores y no hivieron señas ningunas dejando todo el mais, casas, etc sin estorbar nada. La opinion de los q. tienen mas conocim^to^ de estos Yndios es q. han huido con sus familias á los Tahuaises sobre el Rio de Natchitoches pero q. volveran con una fuerza de Tahuiases y Comanches en el mes de Julio ó Agosto p^a^ alzar sus cosechas—

Esperare las ordenes de V antes de hacer otros movimientos con la excepcion de mandar en un mes alg^s^ Espias p^a^ reconocer secretamente los pueblos pa poder saber si han vuelto los Yndios y en q. fuerza—

Hubo dos muertos en la partida, uno murio con la calentura y un otro se ahogo por una casualidad en el Rio de los Brazos: hay muchos enfermos causado por doce dias de continuas y excesivas lluvias—

D y L—

S F de A 16 de Junio de 1826— E F A—

Sor Gefe del Dep^to^

Parte del mismo fue mandado al Sor Gefe del Dep^to^ con esta sola diferencia onde dice "Esperare las ordenes de V—Es—Esperare las ordenes del Sor Comandante de armas"

[Ahumada's answer—Bexar Archives.]

C. P. de T. [Comandante Principal de Texas.]

Enterado por el oficio de V. de 16 del Corr^te^ del exito de la partida de tropa destinada á batir á los Tahuacanos y Huecos q^e^ recorrio sus terrenos á inmediaciones de los Pueblos del mismo nombre y á las orn^es^ del Cap^n^ A. C. Buckner, devo manifestarle que es sumamente interesante adquiera V. noticia cierta de la venida de los citados indios a cosechar sus cembrados valiéndose de continuos observadores q. se oculten del mejor modo posible, pues de ser visto volverá el enemigo á evadirse del golpe que le tenemos premeditado, en el concepto q. tan pronto como V sepa regresan los Barvaros a sus rancherias ó Pueblos espero se sirba V. abisarmelo, esperando mi contestacion para el arreglo de sus operaciones.—

Me ha sido muy sensible el desgraciado accidente q. me manif^ta^ V. en el citado oficio y se refiere á la muerte de dos individuos de la nominada expedicion, y espero tenga V. la bondad dar las gracias á mi nombre al Cap^n^ A. C. Buckner, oficiales y demas tropa que concurrieron á la partida, asegurandoles haré precente al S. Com^te^ Gral el interes que toman en castigar los barbaros q^e^ nos hostilizan.

Bejar 27 de Junio de 1826

Sr. D. Estevan Austin.

ASA MITCHELL TO AUSTIN

Mouth of Brasos 18th June 1826

DEAR SIR—I think it my duty to inform you of A circumstance that took place here a few days since—Mssrs. Wells and Duncan of New Orleans and the schooner Apalacha packet was recked on the coast about fifty miles. S. W. of this. Mr. Wells was owner of the vessel and him self and Duncan owners of the cargo Mr. Wells having a family in New Orleans was in haste to return, and told the people of this place that they were welcom to the recked property if they would go after it, and after that arangement his fellow suferer Duncan concluded to stay and attend to the getting of the property and Wells then authorised Duncan to do the best he could with his property and account to him in New Orleans for the proceads if there should be any after paying the charges of getting it to Market, there was a vessel laying here called a chicken thief that could carry thirty odd barrels this vessel had four men on board strangers and considerable of rufeans in conduct and in appearance the[y] held there quarters at My Man Wiants and at Mr. Bradleys this Boat and crew has been laying here for two months after the vessel was recked Duncan tried to get them to go after the property but they could not be hired on no terms and when the Robroy arive Mr Duncan applied to Fields and My self to assist him to get his recked property, we readily agreed and as soon as the chicken thief company found that out they started immediately and refused to let the owner of the property go on board with them, and when they returned with the property they refused to give the owner any part thereof they soon herd my opinion of such conduct and they removed to Mr, Bradleys, this conduct raised the feelings of several of the citizens who happened to be here and some of the pasengers of the Robroy and when those plunderers found the people against them they agreed to leave the affair to Men those Men declared they should give up half the property, they accordingly gave up half the property that Duncan proved to be his and refused to give up any that belonged to Wells and did not, there was six Men concerned in this plundering business and I am sorry to say that two of them were settlers of this place Namely David Wiant and James Krunk the owner and Capt of the boat Calls himself Arad. Sheldon the names of the others Wm. Gooden—Ranolds and Capt. Jonny our two settlers appeared to be the head of the company, I have since requested my Man Wiant to desist from such conduct or he mus leave my premicies for I could not admit of having it made a rendevouse for pirates he took the hint and has moved about three miles up the river on the west side and there is two of the company yet with him for the truth of thes statements I refer

you to Mrs Johnston and Burney who ware strangers and disinterested spectators likewise Lau[s] Ric[d] Kenny. James Frazer and others preasent.

Such conduct as this I fear will be very injurious to the carector of this place and to the colony in general for it is by Agriculture we live but it is by commerce we thrive and we ought to protect that commerce—I conclude at preasant with my cincere prayers for heaven to hasten the happy time when government will take into consideration the situation of this place and send on men clothed with the proper authority and Means of protecting the honest part of society and expelling those abandoned wretches who would suck the blood of their fellow creatures who they find in distress, insted of helping them

ASA MITCHELL

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Mouth of Brassos 18th June 1826

DEAR SIR—

As this leaves me so may it find you enjoying the blessing of good health—I have been much disappointed in my expectations at New Orleans in consequence of Jesse Thompson not meeting me there agreeable to contract I advanced him money to pay for his lands before he left this and he was to let me have the cash in Orleans with which I calculated to buy a set of salt kettles—the vessel also being in debt more than I expected it was seized and sold and I was not able to releave it but waited from day to day for Thompson to come on and let me have money but to my great mortification he never arive[d] an old acquaintance of mine bought the sloop and let us have it to get home

ASA MITCHELL

N B I have bought a good supply of sugar coffee and other articles in the provision line to acomodate those who would wish to visit the sea shore

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen. F. Austin San Philipe. De. Austin Texas

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SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

His Excellency the Gov[or] of this State under date of 2[d] May last writes to me as follow:

"Under this date I have given an order to the administrator of the manufactory of Tobacco in this Capital to remit for your disposition twenty cases of paper Segars for the supply of that De-

partment, with directions to the administration of Monclova to forward to the place of their destiny the said segars facilitating the payment of the freight and causing them to be conducted with the necessary escort. For the sale of these segars I expect you to propose an individual of your confidence who with the provisional charge of Administrator of Tobaccos, will discharge its functions in the necessary manner, to whom will be passed the percentage or salary in conformity with the existing plan subject in this particular to the resolution of the Honorable Congress.

Notifying you at the same time that, as soon as the said Tobacco arrives in that place you will cause the publication of Decree N° 15 of the 19th february last year circulated the 20th March following with the provisions of the Gov^t^ and other existing laws and regulations which acompany it—Causing all those dispositions to have their most exact and punctual compliance, which I communicate to you for your information and corresponding effects—"

The aforementioned twenty cases of segars having been received in this place, and the Tobacco put into the authorized monopoly, I transcribe it for your information, with the understanding that you under the strictest responsibility will not permit under any motive or pretext the transportation of any Tobacco from that place or in your jurisdiction for which purpose you will cause it to be generally made known among the inhabitants in order to avoid any prejudice that might arise to the Treasury under contraband proceedings

Bexar 28 June 1826

Signed JOSE ANTONIO SAUCEDO

To Lieut Col. Stephen F Austin

In compliance with the above order of the *Chief* of Department the transportation of Tobacco to any part of the interior is prohibited and all persons are notified accordingly—

Sn Felipe de Austin 21st July 1826

STEPHEN F AUSTIN

PASSPORT

Nacogdoches June 27th 1826.

to all that this may be pres[e]nted are hereby commande[d] to give any assistance to the mail rider to forward him on either in horses or provision at his expences

all ferry are also commanded [to] cross him without fail or any delay

SAMUEL NORRIS [Rubric]

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Bexar 29 de Junio de 1826

Sr. Dn. ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

Muy Sr. mio y mi estimado amigo. Por su atenta comunicacion de 19 del que acaba hé visto con mucha satisfacion el trabajo que Vá á emprender en beneficio dela patria con el reconocimiento que vá á hacer delos arroyos de la Baia y dela navividad p^a^ dar una idea exacta de todo al comicionado, y ver si le gustan las tierras al Sor con quien me dice há contratado la introducion de 190 familias de buenas qualidades y circunstancias, las que supongo seran parte integrante delas que Vmd há contratado para el segundo establecim^to^ Colonial, Para que Vmd no tenga dificultad ninguna con el comicionado en la admicion de estas ú otras familias que vengan á radicarse en esa colonia les advirtirá Vmd que deben traher certificaciones delos jueces del Lugar de su procedencia por medio delas que acrediten ser Catolicos y de buena moral, como la Ley y las instrucciones que tiene el govno., del comisionado lo prescriven.

Aunque yo tambien soy de opinion que los Wacos y Tahuacanos no bolveran á sus pueblos hasta el mes de agosto ó Sep^e^ con fuerza de comanches y Tahuayases, no debemos estar muy confiados de esto, porque no sabemos qual será el resultado dela junta que se dice han ido á hacer varias naciones de las pasificas, con las viligerantes, sobre cuyo particular, suplico á Vmd se sirva hacer las averiguaciones necesarias, y si fuesen dignas de atencion comunicarmelas de oficio.

Tendre particular gusto en la venida del Sor James Kaer para acordar algunas cosas relativas ala colonia del Sr. Dewit.

Le incluyo á Vmd una carta de Baron para el Empresario Roberto Letiwith, avierta p^a^ que Vmd la lea y despues la sierre y entregue a su titulo. Por esa vera Vmd el tpo que aun tiene que tardar el citado Baron en venir a concluir los asuntos de su comision, el aspecto que ha tomado en la legislatura el negocio dela Esclavitud, y los motivos porque no se há determinado á dejar su asunto, y retirarse de aquella asamblea.

Tengo presente que en una de mis anteriores encargue a Vmd un par de zapatos de nuebe puntos para mi, de tacon bajo y creo que sele habiá olvidado.

Puede Vmd vivir persuadido deque como amigo de Vmd cumpliro con el deber que la Ley me impone dandole los consejos que mis cortas luces puedan alcansar, y mientras se me proporciona esta ocasion quedo de Vmd afmo amo. y servor. q S. M. b.

JOSÉ ANT^o^ SAUCEDO

JOHN BRADLEY TO AUSTIN

Brassos June 30th 1826

Col STEPHEN F AUSTIN

DEAR SIR On the 12th of March last I made settlement on the 12. Labore on the East side of the Brassos. I tooke the liberty of making this Selection. In consequence of an old promise from you, that, I was Intitled to a labour, and should have one when layed of near the mouth of the River If it meets your approbation. I want you to reserve the labore for me and let no other person have it. I shall be up to town and see you as soon as I can leave my family. I remain with Respect

JOHN BRADLEY

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar 30 de Junio de 1826

Sor. Dn ESTEBAN AUSTIN

Muy Sor mio y amigo: Contesto a su faborecida de 22 de Mayo ppdo. diciendo que supuesta la buena dispocicion en que está V. para tomarse el trabaxo de hacer benir de Nueva Orleans el molino de despepitar algodon al Desemboque de los brazos, para cuyo efecto debo anticiparle de 320 á 350 ps de costo principal y treinta ó 25 ps. para pagar su transporte, lo habria berificado pr. la conducta de Dn Jose Flores que paso ha sus Establecimientos si no hubiera temido los riesgos del camino por la poca compañia que llebo; sin embargo como el interesado mi hermano politico Dn Victor Blanco decea con ancia recivir esta maquina, me ocurre proponer a V. que si por lo pronto se presentase ocacion de hacerla benir seria muy conbeniente en defecto de haverle remitido el Dinero suficiente, girase V. libranza ami contra cuya [s]eria pagada con Dinero Mexicano en el caso que algun abitante le pudiese librar ha Orleans, ó le proporcionase a V. necesitandole en esta. En fin amigo si esto no fuese posible conceguirle hagame V. fabor de havisarmelo conla oportunidad que le permitan sus muchos quiaceres para tomar mis providencias de remitirlo amanos de V. ps el fin indicado

Sirvase V. tener la bondad de dispensarme esta libertad con que le inflicto tamaña molestia, y de ofrecer mis respetos y cumplimientos al Sr. su hermano mi amigo Dn. Santiago disponiendo con franquesa de la inutilidad de su atento serbidor y afmo. amigo Q. S. M. B.

RAMON MUSQUIS [Rubric]

J. MARIA CARBAJAL TO HIS MOTHER

Lexington July 2d 1826

MY DEAR MOTHER

some lenth of time has now elapsed since I wrote to you and I have received no answer yet and I fear you have not got it— I will now tell you what I have been doing since I left you, after I arrived here with Mr Hawkins he put me to learn the tanning trade with Mr Blanchard his brother in law where I staid better than 2 years but I found that him and I could not agree so I left him and came to Lexington and have been living with Mr. Peter Hedenbergh learning the sadling trade which I like verry well, but I want to see and hear from you all verry much and I want you to write to me and be particular to send my age exactly and I want you and my sisters to send me as many books as you can (Spanish) as I have nearly lost my language in my own tounge since I came here, I have discovered that by nature I . . . [blotted] sinner, but now blessed be God . . .
God for Christ sake has pardoned . . .
while I experienced the . . .
on my own heart, I have . . .
by immersion, and have . . .
Baptist Denomination in this town sensible that none but God can pardon sins, to him I have gone and have found for myself that he is able and willing to save My Dear Mother I want you to read the Bible for yourself and there you will find happyness read it with attention and prayer and the Spirit of God will enable you to understand it, but while I have renounced the doctrines of the Church of Rome, I have not given up prayer but still find it a blessing to my soul, but I hope, should the Lord spare me to see you again to be able to talk more at large with you on this subject My Dear Mother perhaps you may not like it so well that I have changed my spiritual views of things, but the case was this, after I came here, I became verry wicked and in the midst of this, I took to reading the Bible and going to meeting and became convinced that I was a sinner and without repentance, I should never see heaven, I think when you consider that calmly you will say I have done right and should we never meet on earth again I hope to meet you in the realms of Glory where parting will be no more pray for me that I may hold out faithful to the end, I want you to remember me to all my brothers and sisters and all my friends and try

and write to me as soon as you get this and direct to me in these words,—

Mr. Joseph M. D. Carbajal
Care of Peter Hedenbergh Sadler
Lexington, (Fayette, Cy
—Kentucey—

I shall now close and believe me to be your affectionate son

JOSEPH M D CARBAJAL.

Lexington Ky

Dr SIR/

A lad of this town has a mother in St. Antonio and a brother in Law by the name of Louisano Nabaro a silver smith of the same town

The affectionate and praiseworthy conduct of this lad has endeared him to his acquaintances and I have taken upon myself to open a way for this lad and his friends to communicate freely by mail and therefore beg that you will do me the favor to have this letter delivered and hope the mother will send her letters to some one of the nearest Post offices in the united states and point out to her son the channell by which his letters may reach her and at the same time I solicit a correspondence with yourself as an old friend

Jos FICKLIN
P master Lexington Ky

PS—I shall send this to my friend Cox in N orleans—[Addressed:] Stephen Austin Esqr

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THOMAS JAMESON TO AUSTIN

Caney 3rd July 1826

Colo AUSTIN

Dr SIR, If you will recollect when we were talking about the division of the 47th league of land granted to Tom and Myself; You said that I was to have first choice Ingrim and Mr. S. Williams were present and it was a fair and clear understanding between us that I was to have the prefference; the lower half of said league is my choice; but have understood that Tom has made a transfer of the upper half to me: But when you call to recollection the conversation that took place between us I am in hopes you will have the transfer altered and let me have the lower half agreeable to the understanding that existed between us—The expences accruing in altering the

transfer I will pay.—Tom has repeatedly observed that he would as soon have one half as the other and as I am willing to pay the charge requisite in altering the transfer I hope it is a matter of indifference with you

THOMAS JAMISON

N. B.

pleas inform me on the subject by Mr. Deckrow I have told you as much about my making choice as ever I did Tom or any other person, from the statement made to me by selkirk and Tom himself, I expected I would take the upper half but upon taking a view of it myself I prefer the lower half, and Tom still says it is a matter of indifference with him. As for the improvement Tom claims I do not consider he has a greater claim to the improvement than I have for two thirds of the improvement was made by Morrison and McCoy who asked my permission to plant corn on s$^{d.}$ Land—I have a Crop now on the lower half and am building a House on same; which will be completed in three or four days.—

Tom nor no other person has ever called on me to make my choice

THOMAS JAMISON

Col^{o} S. F. AUSTIN

N. B. The above stated improvement made by Morrison McCoy and Tom was made before the deed came out

T. JAMISON

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO [1]

Por el oficio de V. S. fha 2 de Junio p$^{o.}$ p$^{o.}$ he sabido de la renuncia que hizo Ciudadano Rafael Gonzalez del empleo de Gob.^{or} interino del Estado y del nombram^{to} para dho al C Jose Ignacio Arizpe y para Vice Gobernador C Victor Blanco todo lo qual tengo comunicado á estos habitantes.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 3 de Julio de 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departamento C Jose Antonio Saucedo

ELLIS H. BEAN TO AUSTIN

Mexico July the 5th 1826

DIER SIR,

I have not the honor of Being aquented with [you] But I think it my Duty to enform you as a friend that I Recivd a letter from Saltilla yesterday that states that the law will undoubtedly pess that

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

all the Negros of the Provens of Texas and Quaguila will [be] set free in this case I spoke to the Presedent as he is an old frind of mine he states me the same But there is a way your Settlers can Stop it all But the sooner the Better that is to Gow in Presens of and Alcalde stating that this nigro cost you so much and when he Pays it by labor Don you have no charge against him he Discounts so much a month as any other hirid Persons a small sum so that he will be the same to you as Before and it will be no more notised this you will comunicate to the citizens on the Ais bayo so that they can take the same Measurs with thers it is ennabatebel [inevitable] necesario as quick as Posibel—

I have nothin in this worth your atension Please enform the widow long that it is imposibel that this government will alow hir any Penchen as hir husband was not nown as a General on this Plase nor had no comision from this Gverment—

ELLIS H BEAN [Rubric]

Mr. STEPHEN f. AUSTIN

ACCOUNT AND PRICE LIST

July 6th 1826

Colonel Austin to A. Carnahan Dr.

to 2 thimbles for shot gun at 50¢	$1.00
to wiper claw for rifle	.50
to Bushing double barrel gun	1.50
to mending britch	.50
to pointing dogs	.75
	$4.25

Received payment in full

A. CARNAHAN

ELECTION PROCLAMATION

NOTICE

The various duties imposed on me as Empresario and the time which must necessarily be devoted in the Course of the next fall and winter, to closing the affairs of the old Colony and commenceing those of the new added to Indian matters will render it difficult for me to give that attention to those subjects which their importance requires and at the same time attend to the Judicial business of the Colony in detail, for this reason a change is necessary in the organization of the Judicial system of the Colony. such a change can be provisionally effected under the general authority vested in me, but I feel an unwillingness to do it without the advice of the

settlers: I therefore request that the settlers of each Alcalde district will convene on the first Saturday of August next at the following places—In the district of the Bravo at the house of William Millican, in the district of Sn felipe at the town of that name, in the district of Victoria at Bolivar in the district of Mina at Amos Ralls, in the district of Colorado at James Cummins and in the district of Sn Jacinto at the mouth of Buffalo Bayou; for the purpose of electing two representatives from each district. The said representatives thus elected will meet at this place on the third Monday of August next for the purpose of forming a new provisional Judiciary System for this Colony and to adopt an equitable system of taxation for the support of such new system and to meet the exigences which may arise out of Indian difficulties.

The above mentioned representatives are to be elected with the express understanding by the people that the acts of a majority of them which may be approved of by the Empresario are to be binding on the whole Colony.

The Alcaldes of each district will preside at the said elections and give to the persons elected a certificate of their election and a Notice to meet at this place on the third Monday of August next.

Sn felipe de Austin 6 July 1826

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

William S. Hall to Austin

Lower Settlement Brazos
July 8 1826

Sir

Several enquiries having been made of me by individuals of this company relative to the late election of staff officers for this Batt[n] on the 18 of March last and posponed agreably to the resolv of the Board of officers in order to afford time for the balance of the vots to be rendered in—understanding that the vots have been rendered in I vary respectfully solisit to know the result of that election and what persons have been elected Staff officers of this Battalion

Wm S Hall
Capt 3d company militia.

To Lieu Col Steph F Austin

Bartlett Sims to Austin

Peach Creek July 10th 1826

Coln Austin

Dear Sir My Helth is Such that I cant come to see you my Self at Present and I send Mr. Whiteside and wishing very much to

make a Exchang of one labour of Land with you I am all moast a fraid to name the spot But the fact is it is the Buckner Spring place I never Have under stud How you prised that place But if you will part from it at all send me word upon what terms I will give you Boot and if that cant Be got let me have the place at Jacsons oald Camp which lays a bove the Labour that you Let Mr Castleman have and if you Cant Let me Have either Let me have one in the loar end of Jacksons prarai Beginning on the N E Corner of Kinchalaws [Kincheloe's] Land if you can spar the first choice I wold Reather But if not Leave it to my chois of the To Latter places and if you wont let me have Either Recommend me to some good Poast oak that I Can Climb with a Rope to H—— Coln if you spar any of this land please to Designate in writing what way you wish it taken as I may not Have to improve.

BARTLETT SIMS

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Bejar 14. de Julio de 1826.

Sor. Dⁿ ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Amigo por la premura del tpo. no escribo áV. circunstanciadamᵗᵉ sobre los articulos de Constitucion del Estado q. hé recivido, pero le acompaño áV. una copia delos relativos ála esclavitud y representacion q. en la Legislatura sele dá á este Departamento, para q. V. se sirva con los Colonos si lo tiene por combeniente hacer las observaciones q. crea combeniente, pues ya bamos mirando las ventajas q. nos resulta dela union con Coahuila.

Deseo aV. la major salud y q. mande como puede ásu afmo. amigo Q. S. M. B.

SAUCEDO [Rubric]

S. C. HIRAMS TO AUSTIN

Harrisburg July 15th 1826

DEAR SIR:

This will inform you that the sawyers that I calculated to send you, before I returned had engaged another job of sawing, that mite keep them two weeks longer, after which time I will send them on.

In our calculation of the expence of building, we forgot to calculate the price of shingles, and putting them on. Let me here from you the first oppertunity

My respects to Mj. Burnett and Mr Williams.

SAMˡ C. HIRAMS [Rubric]

Col S. F AUSTIN

WILLIAM LAUGHLIN TO AUSTIN

District Of San jacinto
July the 15th 1826

Department of Texas
Austins Colony

To the Honble Stephen F. Austin Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony aforesaid the petition of William Laughlin respectfully represents that he your petitioner received an attachmen[t] from your Honor dated May the 23d 1826 in favour of John D. Taylor against John Kenny which your petitioner levyed in parte on the 31st of May on Divers property of said Kenny (viz) Two Cows and two yearlings and one Calf and sundry other property (viz) a number of Books and one Gold watch etc. all by the direction of said Taylor—your petitioner having received your late instructions of the 12 of July took said Kennys Bond and Security for his appearance before the Alcalde at his return to his District and your petitioner went to the House of said Taylor and he uterly refused to give them up declaring at the same time that they were in his possession and he would keep them till the suit was decided And after some dissagreeable conversation the Said Taylor went into his House and came out with a loaded musket in his hand and ordered the said Kenny off his premises with many threats and swore at the same time that he would give the first man the contents of his musket that would attempt to enter his cowpen to turn out said Kennys Calvs therefore your petitioner was prevented from discharging the dutys of his office according to your order. Your petitioner prays that your Honor will assist him in inforcing the laws and your petitioner as in Duty Bound will ever pray

WM LAUGHLIN
Const[able]

JAMES KERR TO AUSTIN

July [15 about] 1826. on Colorado

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR

You will haeve heard of the Disaster on the Guadalupe by Mr. Whigtman. I wish to see you but am Confined with the wounded man and Mr. Shields who—is very dangerously ill—Should like to heare from you and what is to be done etc. I hope to be at St. felippe in 8 or 10 days—Should Dewit have not then arrive[d], I shall set out for St. Antonio—I wish to engage your thoughts on the subject of my establishing on the Rio Bacca. My claim now (as the repre-

sentative of the Empresario) to settle that River is two fold greater than heretofore) first because there is not Territory sufficient without it; and secondly because I can not with the force I have sustain the upper settlement

Please think of this

JAMES KERR

SAMUEL C. HIRAMS TO AUSTIN

Harrisburg July 16th, 1826

DEAR SIR

I wrote to you by Mr. Givens, but he went by the way of the Fort settlement, and it may be some time before you get the letter.

In our calculation of the cost of your house, we forgot the shingles. and putting them on. Also my sawyers that I thought of getting had taken a job for Vince, and it will be two or three weeks before they are done, after which time I will send them on to you.

I wish you to instruct me what to do about the approaching election in case Harris does not return. I have put up the advertisements according to your instructions. Let me here from you by Dr. Kenny. My respects to Majr. Burnett and Mr. Williams, and believe me to be yours &.

SAM[l] C. HIRAMS

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

JAMES HOPE TO AUSTIN

17 July. 1826

DEAR SIR

I have sent my son and Capt. Chrisman down to meet you and Mr. Castleman at your office in respect of Mr. Castleman's Improvement I wish to leave it to yourself Capt. Chrisman and Mr. Castleman and whatever you agree on will satisfy me, paying him in cattle or any kind of Mirchandise that I have, I understood your Brother Brown that you were wanting Beeves. I have two one of them Being a very Excellent one. If you can make any arrangement with castleman I will drive them down to you.—We are all arlarmed here on account of Indians and have moved down to Milicans, But as yet we have seen no Indians—I should take it a favour of Mr. Castleman, as I am now on way down If I could at any leisure time I have be moving part of my Property on to the ground.—

JAMES HOPE.

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

WILLIAM LAUGHLIN TO AUSTIN

Harrisburgh July 17th, 1826

Colr AUSTIN

Sir

John Kenney presented me with an order from you threw his Petition directing me to take S. C Hirams as bail on the order of atatchmentt against him in favour of Taylor warein your Honer directed a bond in the sum of ten hundred dollars wich Hirams Refused houghever after pestering me a day or tew I recived a sorte of Bond for delivery of the Property altho not sattisfactory I delivered up the Property in my Poseson Mr. Taylor not being sattisfied Refused to deliver tew Cows and Calves which he had Promised to him some time since on account of Mr Bayles that he would not deliver until he had got- his Pay then insude som hard wordes betwixt the Partys in wich Kenney adresing him self to Mrs Taylor cald her a damned old —— ware uppon Taylor seised his gun and swore he would shute him Kenney fled and thus Ended the Tragedy Kenney then in a bussel determined to seake Redress by a second application to your Honor Presentes me with a certificate stating sircumstances Reilitive to the proceding and lest it shoul not contain all and he mis Reppresent sircumstances I take this method to state to your Honor the facts yours humbel servant

WM. LAUGHLIN

Col S F AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

I conceive it to be my duty to inform your Lordship, that, a few days since, a party of about sixty Comanche and Tahuacano Indians. visited the settlement of the Empresario, Green De Witt. In the town of Gonzales in the Guadalupe, they killed one man and wounded another; they destroyed all the furniture of Mr Kerr's house, and stole all the horses they could find. The settlers retreated to this Colony, not knowing what to do; they had a certain quantity of corn sowed, and, but for this unfortunate occurrence, their Colony would be in a very thriving condition.

Mr Kerr was absent at the time; so soon as he heard of it he returned to Gonzales with a party of men from Colorado. The Indians have disappeared, and he writes to me that he will shortly go to Bexar, to make his report to your Lordship, in person.

God and Liberty

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, July 17th, 1826.

[1] Translations from Bexar Archives in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO.[1]

I am under the necessity of consulting Your Lordship in relation to a legal case which arose in this jurisdiction, and to request you to give me your instructions as to the mode of proceeding which will be in conformity to the laws of the Country.

One of the colonists behaves so badly toward his wife and family, that she can not bear his ill usage any longer. He is a drunkard and if there are no means of preventing him, will soon squander all the property they have. The family is composed of his wife and three daughters; the property consists principally of slaves, furniture and cattle, to the amount of 7 or 8,000 dollars, all of which belongs to the wife, as is shown by legal titles of possession. He received land here as a colonist, but having neglected to cultivate it as is required by law, he forfeits his right. Now, she wishes to be separated from him and to take possession of her property for her own and her children's support. He refuses to permit her to do so, and threatens to take the negroes to the United States of the North; she is even apprehensive of her personal security. I have neither jail nor guard, nor the means of securing men of his character and disposition. In his intoxication he treats me and the other public officers of this jurisdiction with contempt.

As I am unacquainted with the law in such cases, and the form of proceeding therein, I request your Lordship to instruct me on the subject; and, also, to tell me what I have to do with those who, when intoxicated, abuse, and speak contemptuously of the authorities. If such conduct is tolerated all respect will be lost and good order can not be enforced. The actual cause of these offences is, that these men are aware that we have no means of confining them, and, they say, the laws do not allow the punishment of flogging, and they have no money to pay a fine. What am I to do with such bad characters, who ought to be punished for disturbing the peace, and appearing, publicly, in a state of drunkenness?

God and Liberty.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, July 17th 1826.

BASTROP TO MANUEL CEVALLOS

Salt° 17. de Julio de 1826.

Sor. D^n^. MANUEL CEBALLOS—

Mi Estimado Amigo de todo mi aprecio: Por los constantes esfuersos devidos á la firmesa é interes de V. por le seguridad y prosperidad de este pais, el Exmo. Sor Ministro de la Guerra ha remitido

[1] *Ibid.*

á esta Legislatura por el organo del Gobierno una larga exposicion de todas las providencias q. el Sup^mo ha dictado desde las primeras novedades de los indios hasta el nombram^to del Sor General Bustam^te para proveerá las compañias de toda clase de ausilios, y ponerlas en estado de hacer la guerra con buen ecsito contra las tribus barbaras, á resultas de la representacion ultima q. el Congreso dirigió al Exmo Presidente para que mandara hacer una campaña general á estos gentiles q. tantos males nos han causado—

Tambien he visto con satisfaccion q. es devido á su infatigable celo, la salida del Sor. Bustam^te para estos Estados, de lo q. me glorio mucho. Este digno Gefe, nose por que orden de cosas habria variado de opinion acerca de mi, despues q. le mereci su amistad, y confianza en la ultima ocasion que estube en esa Capital q. fue el año 22. en cuya epoca frecuente su casa; puede ser que mudadas las circunstancias produjeran en el animo de S. E. diversos conceptos respecto de mi. Yo siempre seré agradecido á los buenos oficios q. v. se ha dignado egercer para restablecerme á su opinion; pero quisiera q. tal cosa no hubiera sucedido, por q. á la verdad un hombre q. ha visto el mundo por de dentro y afuera, y q. se haya á las orillas del sepulcro, nada espera, y nada teme.—

A pesar de todo si á la llegada del Sor. Bustamante, ó despues q. haya tomado conocim^to en los asuntos de su encargo, le sirvieren de algo mis escasas nociones á cerca de estos paises, se las daré con la buena fé de un hombre de bien, con el deseo dela felicidad publica, y sin apetecer para mi cosa alguna por q. de nada necesito.—

Tengo noticias de que Dn. Benjamin Lobell, el Empresario de las tierras litorales sobre la costa del puerto de Corpus Christi, ha embarcadose á principios de Junio en Nueva Orleans con destino a Nueva York, p^a traer un gran surtido de generos, y que estaría en el refugio de regreso p^a el seis del procsimo Agosto. Por esto el Gob^no no ha remitido el informe ampliado q se le pidio sobre este particular. V. se ha constituido por sus sentimientos y constantes pruebas q. me ha dado, el padre y protector de todas estas gentes para sus instancias y á mi me hecho el conducto para llevar a V. sus suplicas. Asi es necesario q. tenga V. bastante constancia para sufrir tan reiteradas impertinencias. Por el correo de hoy remite este Gob^no al Exmo. Sor. Ministro de Relaciones, dos instancias, la una del Ciud^o Esteban Austin, y la otra de D^n Juan Camaron, ambas para colonizar en terrenos eceptuados con aprobacion del Sup^moGobierno. Tambien se remite otra solicitud de Dn. José Labaume vecino de Bejar por conducto del Sor. Ministro de Guerra para el premio á q. sele considere acreedor por ser uno delos antiguos patriotas, y por que contrajo meritos. Las tres instancias recomiendo

á V. muy particularm[te] por q. me parece q. sus autores merecen ser atendidos.—

Yo é estado bastante atacado de una fiebre catarral q. me puso en cama, y aun no estoy fuera del accidente, pero siempre deseoso de emplearse en su servicio quien le estima deveras y es su constante Amigo q. atento B. S. M.— Felipe Enrique Neri

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NICHOLAS WHITEHEAD TO AUSTIN

Colorado, July 18, 1826.

DEAR SIR

I have understood that you own one fourth of a league of land, situated near Eagle lake, which land was formerly deeded to the late Mr. McClain; if you are disposed to sell said land I would be very glad to buy it, If you will sell it I could wish to know if you would take cotton or tobacco, or any other kind of trade I could pay you, or what price you would ask for it,—I have never yet got any land as a settler; I should be glad to get the land alotted to me by the Govt. on the rio Bacca if it may be convenient for me so to have it.—I have been several times to see you about getting land, but have always found you from home

Will you be so good as to let me know what I may depend on concerning what I have written to you

NICHOLAS WHITEHEAD

Col. S. F. AUSTIN.

JAMES KERR TO AUSTIN

18 July 1826

DEAR SIR

I have just learnt (Indirectly) that you have old Roe[1] in custody and that you inte[n]ded keeping him so until you should hear my opinion as to what tribe of Indians committed the hostilities on the Guadaloupe etc.

I have to presume that you ear this have been satisfactorily informed by Mr. Wightman on the subject—I however will state that there is not a doubt of its haveing been the Wakows that attacked my house and kill[d] Whightman.

There is some doubt as to the tribe that that party belonged to that attacked Dirben, in as much as they had been encamped several Days near the place where they shot at Derbin and tho. they were not trailed from the place, after that they had taken the Horses—yet

[1] See Austin to Military Commandant, June 3, 1826.

there was on the next morning a trail discovered by Mr. phillips in the road west of my house and leading to a crossing of the river—He followed it, and discovered that 4 horse and one mule had made said trail and that he believed the mule track to be mine as there was a Gap in one of hir fore feet—Colo. Matson and E. Smith crossed the river some days after and followed said trail to where it took a Direct course for Laberdee—Mr. Smith's statement as to the number of horses and the mule coresponded with what phillips had stated.

I did on the first view of the premisis suspect that the party that fired on Derbin had been of the main body that kill[d] mr. Wightman; but I am of a Different opinion now, and admit a faint probibelity that it was the Tankawas that attacked Derbin. I admit this because they must have been a foot party; the horses and mule crossing the trail of the other party and that too on a direction to the crossing well known to the tankawas and near to my house; and the trail being made while the due was on, a Monday mor[n]ing.

I am unable to give an Idea relative to Roe. Admit however that his intentions were bad, he has not been with the tankawas since he made threats that I know of: tho I conceive him ameanable to the Laws for those threats in point of "Malice aforethought."

It is as yet uncertain what day I shall see you, but I presume not many—Derbin is on the men[d]; the other man Mr. Shields I have rather Dispaired of—

NOTE. Excuse haste.

JAMES KERR

19th I wrote least night 10 o'clock—now I can rite shields is better.

[Addressed:] Colo. S. F. Austin St. Felipe de Austin Capt. Dickson.

AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING COUNTERFEIT MONEY

Department of Texas
Austins Colony

This day personally appeared before me Stephen F. Austin Judge in and for the Colony aforesaid John Foster who being duly sworn deposeth and saieth that some time during the last fall when in this Country his son Isaac Foster at Mr. Iron's place handed him a piece of money as a Gold piece from Mr. William Cooper with a request from said Cooper that deponent would with it and other money handed at the same time purchase for him the said Cooper a steel mill in New Orleans. The said piece of money proved to be a Counter-

feit and this deponent deposes is the same identical piece now presented and as aforementioned was handed to him by his son Isaac

Sn Felipe de Austin 18 July 1826

(Signed) JOHN FOSTER [Rubric]

Subscribed and sworn to before me

S. F. AUSTIN JUDGE [Rubric]

JOHN A. WILLIAMS TO AUSTIN

Texas Aysh Bayou 19th July 1826.

Con' AUSTIN

SIR Although I have not the pleasure of your acquaintence, yet I hope you will take no exceptions at my attempting to hold corrispondence with you, on a subject, which I deem important to every emigrant in this section of country.

The peculiar manner in which business has been transacted, for some time, in this settlement, and also at Nacogdoches has, by no means been satisfactory. Charges against individuals for immaginary crimes hitherto unheard of in a free country. Threats of banishment against several of the best and most worthy farmers in the District of Nacogdoches who happen unfortunately to be, not of the ruling party. These are the rewards we receive for leaving our native country and coming to participate in the liberties of Mexico

The other day one James Williams, while in a state of intoxication, made use of some ungarded expresions to the constable Johnson. He, Williams was arrested, brought up before the Alcalde, Sprowl, prosecuted, tried, and convicted, for speaking inflametory words against the government. and has since, as I am informed, received sentence of banishment.

I have good reasons to believe that depositions have lately been taken against me for charges of simmiler nature. It is said by my enemies that these depositions, has been, or shortly will be, forwarded on [to] the seat of government, and that I am to have a secret trial.

James Gaines is believed to be the prime mover of all these questionable measures. Who, if suffered to pursue with impunity, the course which he has adopted, must ultimately, render the Americans in this section of country odious to the Mexican nation, considerably retard the progress of emigration and in the end produce consequences the most dangerous to society The people are compleetly in a ferment, and what will be the consequences I am unable to say. But this much I will venture to predict. Anull arbutary power, and tranquilety will be restored. It is said that James Gains has threatened to emancipate all Elisha Roberts' negroes. (about 30 in number)

These are only reports, I know not as to the truth of it. but it has its effect in ading to the general confusion. and exciting the suspicions of credulous man.

The people are willing and ancious to obey the law properly administered. But it is mortifying to the feeling of an American to stoop to arbetary sway. I atribute none of our present difficulties to any person but James Gaines and his understrapers.

I hope sir that you will have the goodness to inquire into our condition. minutely: and make such statements to the proper authority or take such other measures as you may deem most expedient to restore tranquilety, and afford us that protection of person, property, and civil rights, which the Mexican Nation has promised to the strangers who come and settle in her teritories.

JNO A WILLIAMS [Rubric]

B. W. EDWARDS TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches July 21st 1826

Colo STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

SIR, After an absence of several months from this province to the United States, where I was detained much longer than I had anticipated in consequence of continued and serious indisposition, I returned to this place about the 1st of April last: and, much to my astonishment and mortification, found everything in disorder and confusion in this section of the Province. I had it at first in contemplation to return back to the United States, and to abandon this country forever; believing it my *individual* interest to do so: but in consideration of the *motives* that induced me here, which was the happiness and prosperity of hundreds, more than myself, and the consequent effect that my abandonment of the Country, and my return to Mississippi would have produced upon my numerous friends not only there but elsewhere I determined to remain, for a time at least, an idle spectator of passing events, that I might be the better able to determine upon a course for myself, which was to be decisive of the fate of so many of my relatives and friends, whose confidence in me, in this enterprise, imposes a responsibility, truly awful indeed—I have now been here three months and upwards, hoping that order and confidence would be restored to this distracted community: believing that the Government would bestow that attention to it, which its present condition so promptly and so imperiously demands.—but alas!—every mail brings, as it is said (for we have no publication of government documents here) additional cause of confusion amongst the people, and consequent distrust of

the rights and security of Americans on this side of the Sabine river; and the events of every day seem productive of new excitements against the civil authority here, in consequence of proceedings and decisions, believed to be incompatible with a republican government, and contrary to the fundamental principles of the constitution of the country—From those considerations, I came to the determination, a few days since, after mature reflection, to return to my native country, where I have a sure guarantee of my rights, and security of my person and property. I was preparing to carry this determination into effect, when I rec[d] a letter from Haden Edwards at Natchitoches, whose return I was daily expecting, informing me of his intended absence for two or three months to the U. S. of the North, and requesting me to take charge of his colony until his return, and to do the best I could for his interest and the benefit of the Grant—This request, together with the wishes of my friends here, have influenced me, for the present, to remain longer, hoping that some change may take place in the present aspect of affairs.—

Thus you see, I have taken upon myself a charge of much responsibility, which is greatly augmented by the peculiar embarrassment of the affairs of *this* Colony, and which is not a little increased by my ignorance of the Castilian language, and my want of information in relation to complaints and charges against my brother, which seems to be almost the sole cause of all the difficulties existing here—

Having always felt a deep interest in the success of the Americans in the Province of Texas, and being personally interested myself in its advancement, I should have opened a correspondence with you immediately upon my arrival here but for the unfortunate misunderstanding that *appeared* to exist, much to my regret and astonishment, between you and my brother—

Although I could not believe that any just cause of difference could have been intended on either side; yet delicacy, under existing circumstances, forbid that I should write to you in relation to the affairs of the Colony, so long as there was a possibility of an unfriendly feeling on your part against him and his Colony. Having received an assurance on the part of my brother, that there was no disposition on his part to commence hostilities, and that he had on the contrary desired nothing more than a friendly understanding with you, as well as all the Empresarios, I was not a little gratified to learn from Col[o] Leftwich, and more recently from our friend Col[o] Pettus your declarations of amity and friendship, which does away [with] any restraint, I may have heretofore laboured under, in consulting with you upon the affairs of the country of our adoption—

In consequence of the confusion into which every thing is thrown, relative to the affairs of his grant, my brother, I suppose, thought

it best to make a tour through some of the states with a view of obtaining settlers as soon as possible, by means of interesting men of *influence* and *capital* in his grant. This he will do even at a great sacrifice of his interest, if necessary. I was opposed to this expedition to the States *at this time*, and exacted a promise from him before he set out to Natchitoches that he would defer it until he could bring things to some issue with the government, which I had hoped would have been done by this time.

After my arrival at this place, finding things in their present train, I urged him to open a correspondence with the different departments of the Government, and to ask an investigation into his conduct without delay. This he accordingly did more than two months since; but as yet no reply to any of his communications, except a letter from the Political chief, not regarding his request and remonstrance against false accusations, and the *characters* that have made them, whose infamy is established by certificates of the highest character, transmitted to him. Order after order has been transmitted here, containing censure of Haden Edwards, without any inquiry into the truth or falsehood of the accusations, presumed to be made against him; and no list of charges furnished him even, to give him an opportunity of self defence—In the first place orders have been recently rec[d] here by the Alcalda (*as it is said*) that Haden Edwards was not entitled to charge any thing for lands. A more recent order says, that all contracts already made may stand; but that none hereafter made will be good, and that any person hereafter contracting to pay said Edwards for lands shall forfeit them and be ordered out of the country—A later order still says, that said Edwards shall refund whatever he may have rec[d] for lands, making it the duty of the Alcalda here to compel him, should he refuse—Another order a few days ago says that *this town* shall have its original jurisdiction, (which is said to extend to the Sabine on the East and nearly to the Trinity on the West etc) and that the Junto alone and not the Empresaria shall dispose of said lands within *said district*—The last order said to be rec[d] by tuesday's mail directs the Alcalda to inform H. Edwards that unless he changes his conduct (without informing him what it is complained of) that his grant will be *taken from him* and that he will be held amenable to the tribunals of the country—These two last orders if directed by the government—if not forged or misrepresented here, speak an awful warning to Americans!!—"There must be something rotten in the state of Denmark"—

Whether here or elsewhere prejudice against Haden Edwards has preponderated over justice in some department—I am slow to believe that those orders have eminated from the government itself.

It cannot be, that the fundamental principles of a free constitution, cemented by the blood of thousands is thus early trampled under foot, and its most sacred principles violated in the persons of Americans, after being invited into this country with a guarantee of their rights and liberties—I have strong reasons to believe that there have been some forgeries of papers here, and there exists too much evidence of the fact, that letters have been broken open, directed to my brother before he rec^{d} them—This is my only hope of the fate of the colony and consequently of the country—If the government can divest Haden Edwards of *half* his grant, they can divest him of the whole in the same manner; and if they can, in violation of the constitution, *confiscate* or declare a *forfeiture* of his property, they can in like manner divest every other Empresario of his rights: and what security can any American feel, should this be the case, in the tenure he may hold under them, or even the government itself?—

This is a question of serious import, and one that seems to be coming home to the bosom of every reflecting American in this section of the country, friend or foe, who is apprised of said orders, said to have been rec$^{d.}$ here. The fact is my friend, I am becoming alarmed at the present indications of distrust and excitement, that is manifesting itself every day among the Americans in this section of the province—I am too well acquainted with the character and feelings of the Americans not to feel uneasy at the present state of things. It is reported and believed that Been has a grant to the Nuteral lands; and yet the Alcalda is letting out said lands to his favourites, suffering them to take the improvements of others, while some rely upon obtaining their titles through Been or his commissioner, and all doubtful of the security of their lands eventually—What so much adds to this confusion, is the abuse of justice and the continual outrage upon the rights and liberties of the Americans by the civil authority of this place, aided and supported by the celebrated *James Gaines*, and his followers, who seem determined to put down every man, who will not bow in adoration to him, and who has independance to be a freeman. This man by much affectation of patriotism for this government, and by inducing the people to believe his influence very great with the governor etc obtained a standing with them, that has made him truly formidable to his enemies—Having been active with others in organizing two regulating companies, the object of which was no doubt laudable *at first* and has done good, he now makes use of this auxiliary aid to oppress and bear down every man, who is obnoxious to him, or who does not approve of his policy of throwing the whole country into commotion, which he has done, for no other purpose than for his groveling political views and self-aggrandisement.

This very man, aided by a spaniard here named *Sepulver* [Sepulveda] of infamous character, as well as himself; as the *records of Louisana* bear witness, after acting with the utmost duplicity towards my brother, has been the chief cause of all the evils that now exist here, so much to the detriment of the country, and the almost entire loss of confidence by the moving population of the United States, who have been preparing to emigrate to this Province. It is he and this said Sepulver that set themselves to work, upon the arrival here of Haden Edwards, to create the alarm and to arouse the prejudices of the spaniards and even the American, upon which they have predicated a thousand falsehoods, and fabricated the many unfounded charges, made to the government, which seems to have been taken for granted without an examination into the truth or falsehood of the accusations—Having established himself now as he supposes in the affections and confidence of the Political Chief, he assumes the character of dictator, and arrogates to himself the privilege of sending every man into banishment, who will not kneel to his majesty, and acquiesce in his corrupt and tyrannical proceedings. We have just heard that he has decreed the expulsion of Judge Williams, and Mr. Elisha Roberts, two of the most wealthy, intelligent, industrious, and useful citizens in the whole Province; but this, together with other transactions of late, have developed to the people his real character and designs, and, if I am not mistaken, he is now tottering upon his throne.—I have been thus particular in reciting the conduct of this man, because, contemptible as he is in talents and character, he has done more to produce confusion here by falsehood, intrigue, the abuse of Empresarios, and of the Baron de Bastrop; and by the necessary effect of the loss of confidence in the government itself than every other man in the Province of Texas—The fact is, the Alcalda, his brother in law, in [is] guided by him in all his proceedings, being very ignorant himself, and a stranger to any national feelings towards his native country, as, I am told, is his boast—Twice since I have been here have the Militia, from the Aish Bayou, been ordered to this place, under false pretexts of its being the request of the government, and of making treaties with Indians etc., when the only object indeed, was, in reality, to increase and to create anew excitements, and, if possible, violence against my brother to favour the designs of this petty demagogue, who makes it his boast, that he will be the first member to Congress from this section of the State. It seems now that the different chiefs of the tribes of Indians in this section of the Province are to be assembled at this place in a few days (for what purpose God only knows), at the request of the Alcalda and his mighty counselor!—I was informed by Gen[l] Wavell while here, that *Capt. Hunter*, the Indian agent,

appointed by the government for that purpose would be here, about this time, to form treaties with all those tribes for the security of the country—What then can be the policy of the Alcalda's tampering with them prematurely, I cannot conceive!—

As to the administration of justice here, I can, through such a medium, give you but a faint idea—Suffice it to say, that it is such however as is alone conducive to the *interest* of the *officers*, and subservient to their private feelings against those, who are obnoxious to them. Twenty and twenty five dollars costs is not an unusual fee bill, or rather a *charge*, in a single suit.—In short the darkest period of the reign of Ferdinand does not equal the despotism, that prevails here now!—

Col. Austin, these abuses and outrages upon the Americans will not be tolerated long!! The rumbling of the volcano has already become audible around us, and if any accident should cause its explosion in any part of its surface, not all *our efforts* could arrest its progress.

It is upon you then, that I mostly rely in *preventing* the storm that seems to be now coming in. It is your *interest*, it is mine, and that of every Empresario in particular to prevent, if possible, such a state of things—

You already know *my views*, relative to this country, and how much it has been my hope and wish that it would *peacibly fill up* with enterprising Americans, without any interruption to their enterprise, or premature collision with the authorities of the country—But sir, I confess I am alarmed at the present aspect of affairs in this quarter—I know the *American character* too well to feel indifferent to what is passing here—Once shaken in their confidence of this government, an outrage upon the rights or person of one *influential* American will produce a spark of ignited matter, that will kindle into a conflagration, which, we cannot doubt, will immediately extend itself to the sympathies of the *people* of another Government—It has been from these considerations, that I have been inclined to abandon the country, because I could see no advantage that was to result from an event so probable—so inevitable—without a change in affairs—

I have been thus free in my communication to you in consequence of our former confidential conversations in relation to the affairs of this Province, and in consideration of the mutual interest, we must both feel in every thing relative to it, and conducive to its advancement and prosperity. I have already told you the *motives*, that have influenced me to continue any longer in this country, and I have opened this correspondence with you in the most friendly confidence, hoping to receive from you every *information* and *advice* as to what

steps had best be taken on my part, in the present attitude of affairs—

I am pleased to learn that matters are progressing better with you at present; but rely upon it my friend, that their continuance there, and indeed the fate of the whole country depends upon the *speedy* adjustment of the affairs of this colony—I am sensible of the importance of a personal interview with you; but this at present is impossible—I hope to hear from you as *soon as possible*—I should deem a private conveyance much safer then by mail—Accept my best wishes for your success, and believe me

B. W. EDWARDS

P. S. The Americans have been under the impression, that they were exemp, under the colonization law, from taxation for ten years; yet they are told now, that Orders have come on, requesting them to pay *Sepulver* the most exorbitant prices for stamp-paper, which seems necessary to give validity to *any* instrument of writing between individuals, for money or what not—An acquaintance of mine a few days since was compeled to pay $6 in making a transfer of a negro, estimated at $400. Pray write me your views upon this subject—

B W E—

B. J. THOMPSON TO AUSTIN

State of Chuahuila and Texas
District of Nacogdoches 22 July 1826

Dr SIR

In my Communication to you of Febuary Last as Respects obtaining a grant for Land in your coloney I Received a verbal Answer by my father that you had Disposed of all your Land That you was orthised to Let out at that Time—under those considerations I contracted for a claim of Land in this section of country—but sir heave not abandoned the Idia of obtaining a grant of Land in your Coloney when you are orthised to Let the same—

I could be verry well satisfyed to stay in this section of the country If I could Do it in Peace But we are in a verry confused situation, no Harmoney Existing, in society owing to the malesetious and Restless Disposition of one individual who is James gains—But sir I will not Enter into a Detail of our grevances but will Refare you to Judge Williams The Berier a worthy sitizen of this Nabourh[d] for Infermation—When the People of this section of country lernd that your colony was Like to be Ingaiged in a war with the savages on our fruntears I was seelisited to Raise or attempt to Raise a company of volanteers to assist your or Do and perform all services Required

in Defence of our country—I applied to the s[d] James gains and the alcalde of Nacogdoches who assumed the commend of the Malitia of this Districk for Permeetion to Raise a company of that kind which was granted

on the 12 of this Instant I Drew and article (which you will see in my communication Through you to the government—marked No (1) my first attempt and my success, and on the 21 [st] I receved the order from the alcalde that you will find marked in said communication No (2) forbiding me to Proseed any further I concluded to stay any further Proseeding untill I could ask the Permission of government for order to organise a company of that kind or Directions to Desist and abandon the Idea of any further Persuit on the subject I have taken the liberty to make my communication through you to the governor of these States, If you can feel a willingness to assist us I know It is in your Power and your friendship would be greatfully Remembered by the good People of this District I hope sir from our long acquaintance you could not harbor any Idia of any unfriendly motives I had in my attempt to Raise s[d] Company I do assirt to you upon the honer of a man that It was from the Purest motives and only to Raise the company for the Purpose as mentioned in my communication and to Establish Peace and Hormioney in the country—If you concer in the steps I heave taken I hope sir you will Lend me your assistance in sending on my Patisetion to government in a maner that you think will be Recived making any alteration you may Deem nessary not to alter the Intent or meaning there off—I should be much Pleased to heave your oppinion on the subject and what Ever you advise I will cheerfully submit to I could Raise a Hundred stout hardy Resolute men men to assist you If nessary well armd and acquipt all we want is the sanction of government which I hope we will obtain

My Father and Brother wishes to be Remembered to you—Pleas to Remember me to your Brother. and Accept for your self the Best wishes

Your verrey Humble servent

B, J, Thompson

Col. S, F, Austin

T. Farelly to Austin

Little Rock Arkansas
July 25th 1826

Stephen F. Austin Esqr

Dear sir Presuming on the acquaintance I had with you while a citizen of our Territory—I have taken the liberty of enclosing

a transcript of a Judgm[t] in my favour against *Peter Tyler* who formerly lived on white River in this Territory and whom you may have perhaps seen, while a resident here—he Tyler has been reported as dead and letters of administrat[r] granted on his Estate—but in consequence of the unsettled way in which he left his busness nothing has been obtained by the administ[r] to satisfy the debts he was owing—many persons on white River where he formerly lived believe he is still living. and residing in some part of your settlement—should this be the case he no doubt has property sufficient to satisfy the balance due me of the judgement. If Tyler is still living and in your settlement as reported— and you can do any thing to secure this debt, it will lay me under obligations to you, which I shall always be happy to have it in my [power] to reciprocate. I dislike to trouble you with this business and should not have done it—were it not for the assurance of our mutual friends Mesr[s]. Scott and Crittenden

T. FARRELLY.

NB Will you have the goodness to drop me a line on this subject. *direct* "Post of Arkansas"

D[r] SIR:

The inteligence that you have rendered our mutual friend Terrence Farrelly assistance on the subject of the enclosed business will be received with great satisfaction by us—we know the claim to be a just one, and believe that Tyler has not acted as a good citizen of your colony should act with regard to it,— Our respective families are all in health— we have seen a gentelman by the name of Gross direct from your settlement a few days since who gives us a most flattering account of your porsperity and popularity— May both increase while life lasts is the prayer of your devoted friends

ANDREW SCOTT
ROBT[t] CRITTENDEN

[Addressed:] Stephen F Austin Esqr Province of Texas
Mr. Gross.

[Enclosure]

Amongst the Records and proceedings of this Circuit Court of Independence County appears the following

Terrence Farrelly against Peter Tyler
In debt Vacation Apl 1 1822

This day personally appeared before me Thomas Curran Clerk of the Circuit Court (of the first Judicial District) in and for the county of Independence and Territory of Arkansas the above named Peter Tyler and says he cannot deny the demand of the

said Terrence Farrelly, nor but that he is indebted to him in the sum of Twenty Four hundred and fourteen dollars and 88/100 cents Therefore it is considered that he recovered of said Tyler the said sum of Twenty four hundred and fourteen dollars and 88/100 together with his costs of suit

Attest

(Signed) THOMAS CURRON Clk.

Upon Execution returnable the May term Eighteen hundred and twenty three and which appears to have been the last Execution that any money was made issued upon the foregoing judgment there is a credit endorsed thereon for *thirteen hundred and seventy one dollars seventy one cents.*

[Enclosure]

Territory of Arkansas

County of Independence

I John Redmon Clerk of the Circuit Court for the said county within the territory aforesaid do hereby certify that the forego[i]ng is a true copy (found upon record) of a Judgment confessed by Peter Tyler (in vacation) in favor of Terrence Farrelly, and further the aforesaid amount of thirteen hundred and seventy one dollars seventy one cents is the amount credited on the execution returnable as before stated.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Circuit Court of said County at Batesville this 17 day of July A D 1826 of the Independence of the United States the 51st year

(Signed) JOHN REDMON *Clk*

Judgment		2414. 88
Interest 1st Apl. 1826		589. 46
Cost		6. 70
		$3011. 04
Credit on Execution returnable to May ? 1823	1317. 17	
Interest on credit to 1st Apl. 1826	267. 37	
		1638. 54
		1372. 50

Interest from Apl 1st. 1826 till paid upon the Balance

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

Mi hermano Dⁿ Santiago Austin esta autorizado recibir del Administrador del Tabaco los dos cientos ochenta y un pesos seis reales y tres granos qᵉ el Exemo Sor Gobᵒʳ ha dispuesto q. me paga segun

[1]Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

V. S. me dice en oficio fha 3 de Junio p° p° y suplico q^e V. S. dara la correspondiente orden para que mi hermano reciba la dha Cantidad.

Dios y Libertad

S^n Felipe de Austin 26 de Julio de 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departamento de Texas C José Antonio Saucedo

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Bexar 27 de Julio de 1826

Sr. D^n ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Muy Sr. mio y mi dueño. Tengo ala vista sus dos cartas de 17 y 18 del corr^e de cuyos asuntos soy enterado y en consequencia digo a Vmd que el golpe mortal que resibe Tejas con el art° constitucional sobre la esclavitud, y otros que le cortan sus derechos y livertad, lo previó en tpo su Ex Diputacion y por eso queria asentar primero sus condiciones para unirse á Coahuila, ó depender del govierno general pero el cuerpo politico ó Ayuntam^to de esta ciudad, exaltado se opuso y ya vera las resultas de su imprudencia Es necesario que las Municipalidades y todos los habitantes del Departam^to de Tejas hagan ala legislatura las observaciones necesarias con la mayor brevedad sobre los referidos articulos porque delo contrario todo se pierde Yo por mi parte y el Baron por la suya haremos lo que sea posible en fabor de Tejas pero si los pueblos por medio desus cuerpos representativos, y de por si los que no los tengan, no se mueben los pueblos, temo que muy poco ó nada lograremos, para lo que pueda combenir, le he mandado al Baron la primera ley de colonisacion, y copia del Expediente de la colonia de Vmd, veremos lo que resulta de esto, y vamos á otra cosa

El Capitan general Dn. Anastacio Bustamante ha sido nombrado comand^e general para los tres Estados Ynternos de Oriente, y lo considera ya en marcha á su destino, luego que se reciba del Empleo me parese que variaran las cosas porlo que respecta a Yndios, y puede que nos sirva de mucho en otros casos—El padre Maynes me parece esta nombrado Vicario Foraneo, y Vmd gefe Subalterno de este Departam^to segun el rescripto de una carta que le acompaño.

No hay tpo para decir mas porque ya sale el correo y asi queda de Vmd su amo. q. s. m. b.

JOSÉ ANT° SAUCEDO [Rubric]

JAMES KERR TO AUSTIN

Judge Cummin's Colorado

30th July 1826 —

Dear Sir. I came here this morning—your brother has just left—I shall over take him tomorrow. Dewitt is in the bay or bacca—

Several of the people resident of the fort are now here— I have endeavored to ascertain, there intentions—They will no doubt leave the place before the last of next month—They will I believe all or nearly so go below—In that case this will be an out side, and I even doubt whether this place will be occupied long after the fort breaks—.

I am somewhat of the opinion that were you to write to Capt. Burnham and invite him to see you; and you would give him some indulgence in the price and payment of his land that probiblely he would stop here, and station,—should he do so it will Induce others to stop also.

This however is conjecture on my part.—tho I think it merits some consideration.

Those people have now growing crops that they flattered themselves would turn in to there acts. sufficient funds to pay the balanse due to you—and under the present circumstances it is not likely that they will realize one Dollar—by them. They are poor and have familys and the loss of a crop is to them a serious thing.

As I have mearly sugested the subject to you for your consideration; I hope you will excuse the freedom I have taken

JAMES KERR

P. S. I would not be understood, as giving to Capt Burnham Indulgences that could not be extended to all eaqual meritorious—but to consult with him as a kind of forman

[Addressed:] Col° S. F. Austin Sn felipe De Austin

Mr. Woods

Since I sealed this I have rec[d] a mesage from Col° Dewitt—He is off the mouth of the vacca—and is afraid to land on account of the Indians that are in the neighbourhood—

I have therefore to repair to his Assistance Immediately

J K

JAMES CUMMINS TO AUSTIN

Colorado 31st July 1826

DEAR SIR

The situation of this place makes the Prospect very gloomy—the Fort that we have been at so much Expence to build is about to be left to the mercy of the Indians. I was up there a few days past and the most of them talked of moving down the Country and leaving me on the frontier some of them told me that you had promised them Land if they would move down the Brassos—but at the same time some of them told me that if there was a Company of Rangers ordered on the Frontier that they would not wish to move and would try to stay where they are as their places pleases them better than any they Can git but that their Crops are albut lost this year which

they intended to pay for their Lands with and if they do not get Longar time to pay for them they will have to leave the Country . . I have never said nothing to them nor you on the subject but I do think that those on the frontier of the Colorado particularly ought to be favoured with Respect to payment of Lands as we have been so much harrased and God knows when it will be at an end—I will try to Come and see you on Sunday or monday if I am able I am scarcely able at present to sit up but I think I am a little on the mend . you will answer me by the bearer—yours Respectfully

JAMES CUMMINS

Colo. STEPHEN F AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Gefe del Departam^{to}

He recibido con el *oficio* de V. S. fha 2 de Junio po. po. Copia *certificada* del decreto del Congreso General en fha 25 de Abril po. po. sobre prohibir á los subditos del Gob^{no} Español introducirse á la Republica mientras dure la guerra con España. Laqual ha recibido su debida cumplim^{to} En esta jurisdicion de mi cargo—

D y L—

E F A—

S F de A 31 de Julio de 1826

Gefe del Departam^{to}

Quedo enterado por el oficio de V. S. fha 3 de Junio po. po. de los dispuesto por el Exmo Sor Gob^{or} de este Estado sobre los gastos erogados en levantar el plano topografico de Galveston, y habiendo dado orn á mi hermano Santiago Austin p^{a} recibir del Admor de Tabacos la cantidad q. me toca pa los dhos gastos V S. recibira este como contestacion asu referido oficio—

D y L—

E F A—

S F de A 31 de Julio de 1826

Gefe del Depar^{to}

He recibido con el oficio de V. S. fha 5 de Julio po. po. Exemplares de ocho decretos del superior Gob^{no}. y enterado de su contenido he dado la correspondiente publicacion á los q. mas particularmente exijiese esto cumplim^{to} con lo qe contesto á su citado oficio de VS.—

D y L.—

E F A—

Sn F de A 31 de Julio de 1826

Gefe del Departam^to^

Con el oficio de V. S. fha 15 de Junio po. po. recibi Copia del decreto del Congreso General fha 11 del mes de Mayo del presente año sobre q. los Estados Unidos Mexicanos no oiran jamas proposiciones alg^s^ de España, ni de otra potencia á su nombre si no se funda en el reconocim^to^ absoluto de su Yndepa. baxo la forma actual de su gob^no^ lo que tengo publicado en esta jurisdicion de mi cargo—

D y L

E F A—

S F de A 31 de Julio de 1826—

Gefe del Depto

Por el *oficio* de V. S. fha 18 de Junio po. po. he recibido lo q. ha servido el Congreso General decretar sobre q. cesan las facultades extraordinarias concedidas al Gob^or^ pr decreto veinte y tres de Diciembre de 1824—

D y L

E F A—

S F de A 31 de Julio de 1826—

Gefe del Dept^to^

Quedo enterado por el *oficio* de V. S. fha 18 de Junio po. po. q. el Congreso General ha servido extinguir los titulos de Conde Marques, Caballero y todos los de igual naturaleza qualquiera q. sea su origen

D y L

E F A—

S F de A 31 de Julio de 1826—

Gefe del Dept^to^

Quedo enterado por el oficio de V. S. fha 18 de Junio po. po. delo q. ha dispuesto el Congreso General sobre la exportacion libre de todos los Generos Frutos y efectos Nacionales sin q. los Estados, ni los litorales podrian imponerceles dros ning^s^ exceptuando Oro y Plata en el modo indicado, lo que tengo publicado en conformidad con su citado oficio de V. S.

D y L—

E F A—

S F de A 31 de Julio de 1826

Gefe del Depar^to^

Quedo enterado por el *oficio* de V. S. fha 18 de Junio po. po. de la *facultad* concedida al Gob^no^. p^a^. q. interin sale la ley de contingente

de hombres pª la Marina. adopte la medida de Enganchamientos pr un Orn loqual recibira debido cumplimtº en conformidad con el citado oficio de V. S.—

D y L—

E F A—

S F de A 31 de Julio de 1826

Gefe del Departº sobre los q. estan establocidos sin permiso del Gobnº en Trinidad y Colorado

He recibido el oficio de V. S. fha 28 de Junio po. po. en q me manda formar y remitir à V. S. una lista nominal de todos los Extrangeros Establecidos sin permiso del Gobnº dentro del Terreno q. comprende los pasos de los Rios Colorado y Trinidad etc lo q. no he verificado en consequencia de haber sido enfermo pr algn tpo pero lo hare asi que me hallo restablecido, y luego qe la tengo completa la remitire a V. S.

D y L—

E F A—

S F de A 31 de Julio de 1826

Por el oficio de V. S. fha de Junio po. po. he recibido noticia de lo dispuesto pr el *oficio* del Exmº Sor Gobor del Estado fha 2 del mes de Mayo po. po. sobre la direcion de 20 cajones de cigarros pª esa capital y de la llegada de dhos en esa—La orn de V. S. sobre la transportacion de Tabaco de esta jurisdicion esta publicada y tendra aqui el mas exacto cumplimtº en todos sus partes con lo que contesto al citado oficio de V. S.—

D y L—

E F A—

S F de A 31 de Julio de 1826

Gefe del Departamtº

Quedo enterado por el oficio de V. S. fha 15 de Junio po. po. de la licencia temporal q. tiene el Exmo Sor Gobor para salir fuera del Estado y q. el Exmo Sor Vice Gobor C Victor Blanco habia tomado pesesion del Encargado con arreglo al decreto No 1º de 15 de Agosto de 1824.—

D y L

E F A—

S f de A—31 de Julio de 1826—

Austin to Ahumada

[Austin's blotter, as cited.]
Ahumada sobre Indios

He recibido noticia q. los Indios Tahuacanos y huecos han vuelto a sus pueblos p[a] cosechar su mais p[o] p[e] no quedaran in sus pueblos mas tarde qe 15 ó 20 de agosto qu[an]do saldran p[a] arriba entre los Comanches y Tahuases

E F A

D y L
S F de A 31 de Julio /26

Petition for Establishment of a Town

To the Honorable Stephen F. Austin Empresario, Military and Political chief of Colony No 1—

The Petition of the undersigned Citizens of said Colony most respectfully beg leave to set forth and show

That Whereas: We the said Petitioners, having viewed the Matagorda Bay as the most important and safe Harbor on the Coast of the Department of Texas, and in fact the only one which can, and will be recognized by men of Enterprise both of adopted Mexicans, natives, and those of foreign nations as the general grand, mart and emporium of commerce to which all business must, and will center and a point to which, all the produce of the Country must find its way to the market of the contry, as well [as] that of foreign markets by means of the ready admission of vessels of every descriptions which no other port on the coast is susceptable of— And further taking into consideration the ease and facility of a ready communication between that point and the eastern—by means of an inland navigation—almost furnished by nature from said bay of Matagorda to that of Galveston—These with many other reasons, have directed our attention to said Bay and well knowing the far superior country admiting the most dense settlements and most extensive bodies of productive lands, and the partiality of Emigrants to settle on the Brazos, Bernard, Bay Prairie, and Colorado and the vanity of any calculation—that the western colonies could ever rival or come in competition with this most superior fertile and rich section of the country—Induced us to hope that there might be a possibility of finding a site for the establishment of a town at or near the mouth of the Rio Colorado though every one informing us of its impracticability for want of sufficient depth of water over the Bar etc.—

But if this should be the case (which we hope can be overcome by assiduity and perseverence) still we have to suggest to your Honor,

that we do not hesitate to think according to our best judgment and the means we had in our power to ascertain facts necessary to predicate any just ideas—that there may still be a town erected on the east side of the Rio Colorado some two or three miles from the mouth, and on the margin of the Bay—We discovered to our admiration and surprise—one of the most beautiful situations for the building a large commodious and tasty commercial town that our utmost imagination could conceive. A large amphitheatre, a semicircular Bluff of about 6 or 8 feet above high-water mark of very perminant dry soil, and ascending back to an extensive and beautiful prairie, about 2000 bars in diameter, making a very regular curve—resting one end on the Rio Colorado and the other on the bay the margin of both being remarkably straight and regular—in the front of this amphitheatre is a low rich marsh prairie though no stagnant waters the beauty of the whole and particularly the Colorado is past discription.

We are very confident that a mere trifle will open a canal from the Colorado through this low land to the Bay, and a bayou already flows up to meet it, which must have a full communication with the Bay as it had the appearance of being agitated by the swells from the Bay, though we were not prepared to examine for the want of a water-craft—and here it is certain that vessels can lie safely at anchor and be admitted into the Colorado by means of this Bayou, and Canal should there be insupurable obsticles to ascending the river, which we trust is not the case. We will now only refer you to a diagram accompanying this petition, as nigh the true Situation as we are able to delineate without an actual survey.

And therefore in consideration of the above.

We your Petitioners beg leave to ask the favor of a grant of land embracing said site with the privileges of laying out said contemplated town, Binding ourselves immediately to erect and maintain a post of defence against the hostile Indians, and commence the building of warehouses, and other necessary Houses for the reception of Imigrants as expected (in case of a grant) from Missouri and Tennessee as well as elsewhere—Subjecting ourselves to all the rules and regulations of Government to taxes imports, tonage and duties of whatever descriptions, name or nature, conforming ourselves to the laws of the Government regulating ports and harbors.

And that we may avail ourselves of the advantage of your knowledge and experience in the laws and customs of the Mexican Government, as well as your patronage, and advice, and direction, we would solicit, your participation, equally with your Petitioners in all its profits and emoliments to which entent we bind ourselves to convey an equal right whenever we shall be ennabled so to do. We would

further Submit to your consideration and inspection a plan of the Town to [be] laid out——

If the granting for the express purpose of a Town, is not compatible with the nature of your authorities of which we are uninformed, We your Petitioners in such case would beg leave that a League, as above defined may be granted for the purpose of stock-raising—

And further if a grant to an individual would be more consistent than to the Company—We would nominate Con[l] Matison, as the grantee who is bound to make conveyances to the company. Our intentions are to reduce it to five shares, for although yours inclusive would make seven, two we consider as merely nominal which Mr. Ludlow engages to extingush by contract, and substitute his own in lieu thereof—

Considering the vast importance to your Colony and in particular the early, and immediate attention which we would bestow, and gaining the advantage of the first Port where provisions and accommodation can be afforded and a safe protection guaranteed to vessels, which must give it every advantage over every other in said Bay—not naming our opinion of the practicability of making an artificial pass, through the peninsula between the Bay and main Gulph together with the many other advantages which we will in a personal interview explain. We do not hesitate to think and hope that your Honor will deem [it] of the highest interest to the Government in General but the most important in particular to this Section and [your] own Colony, more especially—

That your honor may so consider and grant the prayers of your Petitioners and Undersigned is our most earnest Solicitations, and as in duty bound will ever pray etc.—

H. H. League
James C. Ludlow
Elias Wightman
Richard Matson

Sn Felipe de Austin 2d August 1826

Deposition Concerning Peter Ellis Bean

This day August 3 1826 in the Town of San Felipe de Austin Personally appeared before me Stephen F. Austin Judge interim of this Jurisdiction and commissioned by order of his Excellency the Govr of the State of Quahuila and Texas to enquire as to the marriage and character of E B[ean]

Martin Allen a respectable and honorable inhabitant of this Jurisdiction who being duly Sworn to depose the truth as to what he

knows relative to Said Bean makes the following declaration—to wit—that this deponent lived a number of years in the Same Section of Country in the Arkansas Territory with Said Bean and was intimately acquainted with him and his family for Six years and was frequently at his house both in Arkansas and on the river Neches in the district of Nacodoches where he now lives—The Said Bean had a wife when this deponent first saw him in Arkansas, does not know where he was married but believes in the State of Tennessee—The common and universal belief of every one was that the said Bean was legally married to his wife according to the laws of the country where he lived—his Father in law was by the name of Metcalf and was well known to this deponent. He had the character of respectable and honorable man and was a Justice of the Peace in Arkansas territory, and does not believe from the character and standing of said Metcalf that he would have permitted the Said Bean to live with his daughter unless they were legally married.

This deponent thinks Bean to be an honest man he is very fond of boasting and telling large stories about his exploits in the Mexican revolution and said he was a Colonel of the regular army of Mexico.

This deponent cannot positively state how many children Said B. has at this time but believes he has three.

Mateo Ahumada to Austin [1]

El 24 del pasado Julio ha entregado el Ciud.° Juan Harris al Com.te de la Comp.a de la Bahia la Balandra Mejicana y Bote q. V. tuvo la bondad de contratar p.a el serv.° de nuestra Republica y cuyas pequeñas embarcaciones son destinadas al Puerto de Matag.da Hoy ha sido satisfecho en esta ciudad el citado Harris de 675 p.s q. con tal motivo se le devian, y tengo el honor de comunicarlo á V. p.a su devida inteligencia dándole las esprecivas gracias p el empeño q. tomó en llenar este encargo.

Bejar 3 de Ag.to de 1826.

S.r Ten.e Cor.l D. Estevan Austin

Littleberry Hawkins to Austin

Lexington August 6. 1826

Stephen F Austin Esqr

Dr Sir

I have so repeatedly written you and have never received aline from you, that I have frequently almost determined to decline the

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

matter I am still using great industry in geting up Company to visit your grant and have left nothing undone on my part since the death of my Brother I have been a perfect slave and have great difficulty in Keeping the two families from actual want they ware left without One Dollar I have gotten George the Eldest son of my Brother in the Navy and he is ordered into the service I inclosed to you my two Grants of land By J E B Austin do the best you can with them for me hand the letters inclosed and say what is necessary. from the intimacy and friendship between the families I had hoped to been by you advised etc as to the interest we had taken in the Grant you are labouring under fals impressions as to Botts and my self On Next monday there is to be a large meeting of Citizens at Versailles Woodford County on the subject of going to your settlement I find it stands higher than any other grant the colonel is about starting please [write] me and Mrs. J. H. Hawkins when you find it Convenient so soon as I can place the families in that situation that will Keep them from actual want It is my intention to come to the Country Change if necessary my two grants and have them located where you think best particularly the One on Guadeloope if best so to do the reports as to the inundation of the lands on Brassos and Colorado Rivers is unfavourable and I am disprising (!) those impressions believing they are not true

god bless you and your friends

L HAWKINS

Please speak of me to your Brother I would give all I possess to have two hours conversation with you

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AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

7 de Agosto 1826

Sor. J. A. SAUCEDO—

AMIGO MIO Esta sera entregada por el Sor George Orr vecino del rio de la Trinidad—Segun todos los informes qe. he recibido de este Sor es de un hombre de muy buena caracter, vecino honrado e industrioso—Su objeto pral en visitar la capital es el de representar el estado en qe. los habitantes de la Trinidad se halla, sin Gob^no^ ni organizacion ninguna y en una situacion de incertedumbre con lo qe. [r]espeto a sus tierras, y si el Gob^no^ les reciberan como habitantes ó no. tiene un padron de aquellos habitantes en el cual se ven incluidos los establecidos por mi sobre la banda oriental del San Jacinto en virtud de la orden de V quando estuvo Gefe Politico—y tambien lleve como reglamentos provisionales q. han adoptado entre si sobre la tri-

[1] This and the three documents immediately following are in Austin's hand, and are on a single four-page sheet of paper. Only the first one is dated.

nidad para presentarlas al Gob^no^ y lista de la milicia considero importante qe. se arregle los establecim^tos^ de la Trinidad para el establecim^to^ de algun systema de Gob^no^ provisional, por medio de Alcaldes hasta qe. se queda organizar el Gob^no^ y recomiendo el asunto a la attencion de V—Hasta ahora he considerado la banda oriental del Rio San Jacinto como parte de esta jurisdiccion en virtud de la citada orden de V. y me parece qe. sera mejor continuarlo asi por ahora y si se establece un distrito sobre la Trinidad, empezar la linea divisoria entre aquella y esta jurisdiccion sobre la Bahia de Galveston entremedio de los dos rios y de alli rumbo al norte siguiendo la division de las aguas de dhos rios hasta el camino de Bexar.

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Austin to Governor of Coahuila and Texas

[August 7, 1826?]

El Emp^o^ E. F. A. rendidam^te^ hace presente a V E. qe. considero qe los limites de las tierras demarcadas para la nueva colonia qe. he contratado establecer por contrato fecha—como sigue, Empezando sobre la orilla occidental del rio de San Jacinto a la linia de las diez leguas litorales de la costa, y de alli siguiendo el dho rio para arriba hasta donde aparte en dos brazos cerca del camino de atascosito, y de alli siguiendo el brazo oriental qe. es el principal, hta su cabazera, y de alli sobre el mismo rumbo hasta el camino qe. va de Bexar a Nacogdoches llamado el camino de arriba, y de alli sigiuendo dicho camino rumbo occidental hasta un punto qe. sera al norte de las cabazeras principales del arroyo del la Baca y de alli al Sur hasta las dhas cabazeras, y de alli siguiendo el dho arroyo pa abajo hasta la linia de las diez leguas litorales exceptado sobre la costa y de alli siguiendo dha linia rumbo oriental hta el punto de principiar—

En el dho contrato celebrado con el Gob^no.^ del Estado estas demarcaciones no estan particularmente designadas, y se refiere a las demarcaciones de la primera colonia, estas segun las ordenes del Gefe Politico de Texas comprehendian las aguas de ambas bandas del rio San Jacinto al este hasta el arroyo de la Baca oeste el camino de Bexar al norte y la costa al sur la banda oriental del San jacinto ahora pertenece al distrito designado por el Gob^no.^ del Estado para ser colonizado por el Empresario Hayden Edwards.

y para evitar toda duda sobre las demarcaciones y aclarar el punto con certeza me parece importante qe. se declare por una acta formal del Gob^no^ del Estado las linias del distrito designado para ser colonizado por mi bajo la autoridad del dho contrato

Por tanto pido qe. V. E. por una acta formal dictara las linias arriba delignadas como las demarcaciones de la nueva colonia qe. he contratado establecer y qe. se considera la dicha demarcacion como parte del dho contrato celebrado con el Gob^no del Estado

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Austin to Saucedo

[August 7, 1826?]

He enviado al Sor Bastrop una peticion al Exmo Gob^nor sobre las demarcaciones de esta colonia—mi objeto es aclarar una duda qe. en las circunstancias actuales pueda suceder sobre la materia

He tambien enviado a el una representacion sobre el asunto de los esclavos de las 300 familias de mi primera colonia—No tengo palabras para explicar el mucho interes qe. siento sobre esta materia—no doy un solo pensam^to. a mi suerte particular pero la suerte de muchas familias honradas, inocentes y desgraciadas, la de todas las nuevas colonias, y puedo decir la de Texas, esta pendiente. porqe. si se distruye una vez la confianza, qe. todos han tenido hasta ahora en la buena fe del Gob^no. se necesitara muchos años y infinitos empeños p^a restablecerla, y el daño extendera no solamente a parar la emigracion, pero causará dudas de la fe del Gob^no. sobre todas materias, y no es improbable qe los efectos de esta duda se estiende a los otros Estados y tal vez a toda la nacion Mexicana lo cierto es qe sera considerado como una tacha sobre el Estado de Quahuila y Texas—

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Power of Attorney

Consta por esto yo—N—uno de los voluntarios del Exercito Republicano de Texas bajo las ordenes del Gral Bernardo Guitierrez en los años 1812 y 1813 he nombrado y por la presente acta nombro a George Orr mi apoderado para qe. en cuanto el derecho permite presente al Gob^no. Mexicano ó a las autoridades competentes los reclamos a qe. tengo derecho para mis servicios como uno de los dichos voluntarios, y de ricibir todo dinero ó sacar en mi nombre titulos para el terreno qe. me corresponde en virtud ó en satisfaccion de mis dhos servicios en conformidad con el trato celebrado por la junta de San Fernando de Bexar con los dhos voluntarios—y de otorgar recibos en mi nombre para el mismo, y de hacer todas las cosas relativas al dho asunto qe. sean necesario para cobrar las dhas reclamas, y qe. el derecho permita—y yo por esta confirmo de mi parte todo lo hecho legalmente por mi dho apoderado en la materia lo mismo como si fue por mi en propia persona

qe. do fe enla Villa &c &c

[Endorsed] Copy of Sundry letters of S. F. Austin—Letter to Political Chief 1824 [1826]

James Kerr to Austin

Delion's Guadaloupe River 8th August 1826—

Dear Col.

I have just arrive[d] here on the way to San Antonio, and hope to see your Bro. there. I came by the mouth of the La vacca, where I saw Col. Dewitt, and a number of people, say 40. men, women, and children—all in good health. They wish to get up the river to the red Bluffs.

It can be satisfactorally proven that Delion or his sons, broke up and tore to pieces the little vessel of Dickerson that was Left in the Grssite [Garcitas] Creek last summer and has removed part of the planks to this place and had it stacked up. The ballance of the planks are thrown on the bank of the Creek, to season as is supposed by the citizens here.

I am not very well—have some fever and head Ache—I hope you have before this recovered your health, and able to attend to business.

I shall make all possible haste in my power, but the hotness of the weather; a poor horse, and bad health makes it quite uncertain when I shall be at San Felipe—

James Kerr

Manuel Ceballos to Bastrop

(Copy)

Sor. Dn. Felipe Enrique Neri.

Mejico Agosto 9, de 1826—

Amabilisimo amigo de todo mi aprecio: Recivi con su grata de 24 ultimo pasado los informes en copias de ese Gobno. en favor de sus recomendados, y lo mismo los qe. dá el Gefe del Departamto de Tejas, referentes á la emigracion de indios extrangeros, que podran causarnos algunos cuidados, y aunque del Despacho infavorable de los primeros tengo ya significado á V. su resultado, solo tengo qe. añadirle, seria muy conveniente qe. Austin y Cameron, imitaran á su primer recomendado de V. el Coronel Ros, qe. ha repetido memorial por mi direccion, ofreciendole al Gobno. qe. colonizará con las dos terceras partes de indigenas qe. el Gobno. le entregue, y la otra tercera delos suyos, y de no prestarse los del pais con Rusos, Alemanes y Suisos, cubrirá los dos tercios ó como mejor le paresca al Gobno. oferta qe. indispensablemente le ha de ser admitida, y conducirá mucho el qe. V. los provocára á la misma para tener la complacencia en servirles—De los otros informes, se ha hecho uso favorable, tanto qe. el Presid. con consulta del consejo de Gobierno unisona con la

de sus Ministros ha resuelto y mandado qe ponga un cuerpo de fuerza en Nacogdoches; y dios quiera que no se quede en proyecto como lo mas: bien que me anima á que no será asi la actividad del Sor Bustam[te] y el qe. V. no dejará de la mano este gran negocio con él, inspirandole todo su interes—Apreciaré qe. su salud se haye tan respuesta como lo está la de este su apasionado amigo qe. ancia por tener la dulce satisfaccion de conocerlo y S. M. B.—

MANL CEBALLOS.

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

BEXAR AGOSTO 10. DE 1826.

Sor. Dn. ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

Muy Sor. mio y mi estimado amigo: Su apreciable de 31. de Julio ultimo me deja impuesto delos accidentes q. le han molestado, los cuales me alegraré no continuen y q. restablecido perfectam[te] de ellos pueda concluir todos los asuntos de su colonia.

El Comisionado para la segunda empresa está en disposicion de ponerse en marcha á principios del mes q. entra y para verificarlo solo espera como le dige á V. en una de mis anteriores saver de cierto el Numero de familias q. hay para ella, cuya noticia se sirvirá V. comunicarme, y en cuanto álos derechos q. ha este, al Empresario, al Secretario y Agrimensores deben pagar los colonos arreglará entre ambos un Arancel enterminos q. no haiga reclamos pr. parte de aquellos en lo subscesibo.

Hasta á hora no llega su Ermano de V. ha esta Ciudad no se cual sea la causa, y como tampoco hemos recivido el correo de afuera no tengo cosa particular q. comunicarle aV. de quien quedo atento amigo y Servidor Q. S. M. B.

JOSÉ ANT SAUCEDO

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

I inclose to your Lordship the original and translation of an application of Burrel J. Thompson of the District of Nacogdoches, for authority to raise a company of mounted volunteers to assist in defending this frontier, and two other papers on the same subject, which he sent to me to be translated. These volunteers have offered me their services, through Thompson, to fight our Indian enemies. I have informed them that I was not authorized to accept their offer, unless it is made through the Alcalde of their District, or with your Lordship's previous sanction.

[1] Translations from Bexar Archives, in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. Copy of original in Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.

I am fully aware that there are many cavilling men, disposed to complain of the authorities without cause, and, even, to interfere with them. As I am not acquainted with all the reasons that induced the Alcalde to prohibit the organization of that company, I cannot give a decisive opinion on the subject; but from what I could learn of the character and intentions of these men, I see no impropriety in allowing them to form a company, and I have no doubt that it would be advisable to accept their services to fill the place of the sixty men whom the Alcalde has [been] ordered to furnish me with in an emergency. But your Lordship will be better able to judge. I have submitted this subject to your Lordship at the request of the parties interested, on account of their ignorance of the Spanish language, and not with an intention to interfere with the business of the District of Nacogdoches.

I have also received from the people of the Trinity a verbal tender of their services against the Indians should they be required; I answered them that I had no authority to accept them without your Lordship's consent.

There is no doubt when the cold season sets in that the Indians will attack us, and I consider it important to be ready for them in time.

God and Liberty.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, August 11th 1826.

SUGGESTION FOR A LAND TARIFF

[August 11, 1826?]

El articulo 9 de la ley de Colonizacion guarantiza los contratos hechos por los Empresarios con los pobladores por sus expensas. Me parece qe. es lo mismo si estos espensas estan erogadas por el Empresario antes de la llegada del colono aqui ó despues. Si asi es ¿qe. razon hay qe el colono no debe pagar el Empresario los gastos necesarios de su casa mientras esta empleado en el asunto? he hecho un arancel pues V. como mejor impuesto de la ley dira si esta lo permitirá ó no.

Reconocimto al Gobno en conformidad con el articulo 22 de la ley de Colonizacion por un sitio	tanto
¼ sitio	tanto
labor	tanto
Derechos del comisionado en conformidad con el articulo 39 de la dicha ley	tanto

los Derechos del agrimensor se arreglara en conformidad con el articulo 39 de la citada ley

Expensas nesesarias erogados por el Empresario en el servicio de los Colonos mientras qe cuales gastos estan garantizado por el articulo 9 de la citada ley esta empleado en sus asuntos, a saber

pa. la mantencion de su casa, expensas occurido en enseñar el terreno traducir del ingles sus representaciones y las recommendaciones qe traje del pais de su procedencia extender sus expedientes registrarles y presentarles al comisionado y otros gastos de esta naturaleza

por cada Sitio	30
por cada ½ parte de Sitio	15
por cada Labor	2 4
para los gastos de la oficina incluyendo Libros de Registro, estacionero, salario de escribientes instruidos en ambos idiomas, alquiler de casa dela oficina, leña en tpo de invierno & por cada titulo	8.00

[Stephen F. Austin.]

Jesse Thompson and J. C. Payton to Sprowl

San Felipe de Austin 11th August 1826

Dear Frend I fondly Employ my pen to let you know I am well though my family is not veary well they are on the mend theare has not been any veary daingerous caises in my family hoping these few lines may find you and family Enjoying good health,

Dear frend I have been Enjoying myself as well as any man on Earth could in my circumstances, until I have acquired the disagreeable information of the Government within the last Twelve Hours, relative to the prohibition of slavery within this Colony whitch information I have acquired from such sources as leaves no doubt on the subject upon whitch I Fell [feel] my self Entirely ruined from the moast flatering prospects. I feel as though I shall make every arangement so soon as is practicable to be in the United States with my property this I communicate for your information. at the same time I am compeled to injoin secracy on your part; I truely regret the change of prospects being highly pleased with the cuntery whitch is completely throne into dispear; I wish you to consult your interest and do accordingly as you may think best Theare is hardly any room for doubt on the subject of our having to relinquish the right of slavery.

I shall conclude having nothing more to comunicate of importance; you may expect to see me shortly I am as ever your Frend and Obt. Servt.

Jessee Thompson

Dear Frend I beg leave to address you a fiew lines to let you know I am yet living and family all enjoying good health excepting my little son Alexander he having a attack of the Fever though he

appears to be better, most fortunately praying those few lines may find you and Family Enjoying good health peace and prosperity I have nothing more to comunicate than is in the above whitch is reather unpleasant to me who have a knowledge of the most provable fact; on my own part I am undetermined what I shall do not being veary well satisfyed with the Tratement I have rec$^{d.}$ from our Empresario; I must conclude by subscribing my self your true frend until death

J. C. PAYTON

DEAR SIR I again Enjoin it on you as secracy not Let your best frends no it at least the negroes might get hold of it and you no the nature of a greate many people in hast yours

JESSE THOMPSON

[Addressed:] John Spowl. Esqr. deastrict Ayush Bayou

AUSTIN TO STATE CONGRESS[1]

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Representation al H. Cong^{o} del Estado de Quahuila y Texas sobre los esclavos de los colonos.

Al H. Congreso del Estado de Quahuila y Texas

Suplico candidam^{te} qe vuestro H. cuerpo me perdono por mi atrevim^{to} en llamar la atencion vuestra á un asunto en qe depiende la suerte de los nuevos colonos qe he establecido en Texas, y si acaso por falta de conocim^{to} del idioma, ó de las formalidades acostumbradas, he por disgracia usado de alguna palabra excepcionable espero qe vuestro H. cuerpo lo atribuya a la verdadera causa, y no a la falta de aquel respeto y confianza qe vuestro H. cuerpo ha tan justam^{te} merecido de los habitantes del Estado.—

Estoy impulsado presentar las reflecciones qe sigue aunqe. en una forma mal arreglada por mi deber a las 300 familias de la primera Colonia qe he establecido en Texas como Empresario bajo la autorizacion del Supremo Gob^{no} Nacional, y no por interes particular porqe yo no tengo esclavo ni he tenido en el pais—

Pues humildem^{te} paso con el debido respeto al [a]sunto de esta representacion—

Segun la opinion decisiva de Licenciados los mas respetables y vocales del H. Congreso Constituyente cuyo consejo pedi sobre la materia en la ciudad de Mexico, el articulo 30 de la ley gral de colonizacion de 3 de Enero 1823 y todas las leyes entonces vigentes expresam^{te} permitian la introduccion de Esclavos p^{r} los colonos p^{a} su uso como propiedad particular y garantizaban la proteccion y seguridad inviolable de dha propiedad lo mismo qualquiera otra, por con-

[1] See below, Austin to ayuntamiento of Bexar, August 14, 1826.

segui[en]te los colonos de mi primera Colonia, tenian el derecho absoluto de traher sus esclavos como propiedad particular y los traxeron baja la garantia solemne de la ley, ahora¿ Que dira el mundo si en directa violacion de dha ley y garantia el Gob^no^ quita de dhos colonos esta propiedad sin su voluntad? No hay cosa mas importante p^a^ todos los Gob^nos^ y particularm^te^ los neuvos qe de establecer una caracter solida p^a^ buena fé porqe. esto es la base de confianza, en fin de todo, considero qe las 300 familias de mi primera Colonia establecidas por mi bajo la autoridad qe me concedio el Supremo Gob^no^ y Congreso Constituyente Mexicano tenian el derecho positivo de traer sus esclavos como propiedad particular, y qe aquella propiedad era garantizada por la ley lo mismo qualquier otra, y qe. privarlos de ella ahora sera una contravencion abierta y positiva de la ley y las garantias las mas solemnes, y sera considerado por todos como una acta de mala fé de parte del Gob^no^.

He entendido qe la comision de la constitucion ha propuesto el articulo siguiente "Art. 13 El estado prohibe absolutam^te^ y para spre la esclavitud en todo su territorio, y los esclavos qe existe actualm^te^ en el quedarán libres desde el dia en qe. se publique la constitucion en esta capital. Una ley arreglara el modo de indemnizar a los qe los tuvieran al tpo de dha publicacion" P^o^ aunqe. la constitucion dice qe. el Estado ha de "indemnizar a los qe los tuvieran," qe especie de garantia es de mi propiedad si el Gob^no^ puede tomar la quando quiere sin consentim^to^ Ademas como puede el Gob^no^ pagar el valor de los esclavos? Sera justo imponer derechos pesadissimos sobre los habitantes de Quahuila p^a^ pagar el valor de los esclavos de Texas? ó sera justo quitar mi propiedad sin consentimiento mio? y entonces p^a^ repagarme su valor cargarme de derechos gravisimos? Los esclavos valen de 600 á 1500 pesos cada uno segun su calidad, y hay algunos qe no se consigue en 3000 pesos. ¿ como se de[be] determinar sus respectivos valores, y en qe tpo, de qe modo, de qe fondos se pagará su importe por el estado? Si la constitucion no permite la esclavitud en gral me parece inconcuso qe se debe exceptuar los qe tienen las 300 familias establecidas por mi, bajo la autorizacion del Supremo Gob^no^ Nacional expedida el dia 18 de Febrero 1823 y confirmado por los decretos del Soberano Cong^o^ Constituyente y Supremo Poder Executivo fecha 11 y 14 de Abril del mismo año porqe. asi exige la justicia, la buena fe del Gob^no^ y el derecho solemne de dhas familias garantizado por la ley. En esta materia depiende la suerte de todas las nuevas colonias, porqe. si se pone los esclavos de las dhas 300 familias en libertad sera considerado como una acta de mala fé qe destruyra toda confianza en los ofrecim^tos^ de la ley de colonizacion a los emigrados y ningun hombre de caracter ni proporcion viendra. La ley en los estados del norte prohibe la introducion de esclavos pero

permite la esclavitud de los introducidos antes del año 1808 y sus decendientes p^{a} spre. porqe. asi garantizaba la ley qe permitia su introducion, y ni el congreso, ni poder ninguno tiene el derecho de ponerlos en libertad en ninguna manera qe. sea sin previa consentim^{to} de sus dueños. Por consiguiente los disgraciados emigrados qe han trahido sus esclavos aqui no queden volver con ellos, Hay familias aqui, viudas y huerfanos qe no tienen otra propiedad qe. sus esclavos, y privarlos de ellos sera hacerles mendicantes[.] Si esta disgracia nos acomete al mismo tpo con la guerra qe. se ha encendido con los Indios, esta colonia qe. ha tenido tan alagueño principio sera aniquilado y lo qe es peor la disconfianza qe. indubitablem^{te} sera la consequencia distruira toda esperanza de mas emigracion y los miserables qe quedemos en el pais tendremos la horrorosa mira de ser sepultado en un desierto sin fuerza p^{a} sostenernos de los Indios, sin poder conseguir jornaleros p^{a} adelantar nuestras mejoras, ó mantener nuestras familias, en fin sin consuelo por lo presente ó esperanza por lo futuro—

Los trabajos penosos de 3 y 4 años en establecernos aqui, y en conquistar un desierto—las perdidas de mudarnos tanta distancia—las penas qe. sufrimos en separarnos de nuestros parientes y amigos en nuestra patria nativa—las miserias de enfermedades consequentes a una mudanza de clima y las privaciones resultas de un establecim^{to} en un pais despoblado entre indios enemigos—la sangre qe hemos derramado peleando con los dhos indios y los esfuerzos que hemos hecho a gran sacrificio contra ellos en cumplim^{to} con las ordenes positivas del Gob^{no}—Todos, seran pagado por el despojarnos de nuestra propiedad, trahido con previa licencia del Gob^{no} Supremo y garantizado Solemnem^{te} por todas sus leyes—por el triste y afligido restrospecto de nuestros padecim^{tos} y disgracias—la certeza de nuestra ruina y la iniquilacion de toda esperanza por lo futuro—

Yo he sido la causa de la emigracion de estas familias, las he trahido de su patria nativa p^{a} establecerse en un desierto, lo hize bajo la autorizacion de la Suprema Autoridad de la nacion, y en consequencia de mi entera confianza en la buena fe de dha autorizacion hize esfuerzos p^{a} estimular hombres ricos qe tenian esclavos de emigrar porqe. con estos en breve tpo se adelanta el pais, les enseñe el articulo 30 de la ley de colonizacion citada qe da garantia inviolable de su propiedad sin excepcion ninguna de clase: les dije qe el Gob^{no} nunca les quitaria sus esclavos introducidos p^{a} su uso aunqe. sus decendientes quedarian libres segun el articulo, porqe la ley garantizaba su dro de propiedad en los introducidos durante sus vidas. Ahora si se pone estos mismos esclavos en libertad ¿en qe estado me hallare yo hacia estos emigrados, y qe idea han de tener ellos de la inviolabilidad de las leyes y de los ofrec^{mtos} del Gob^{no}?—El rumor ha ya circulado la voz entre los pobladores qe. el Gob^{no} va libertad sus

esclavos, El primer sentim^to^ qe manifestaron fue el de admiracion, de pasmo, de asombro, de esto pasaron a lamentaciones por haber dejado su pais nativo bajo la fe de una ley qe parece se tiene ahora por una sombra, y por fin me acometen personalm^te^ con quejas reflecciones vetuperosas por haberles persuadido emigrar al pais, digandome "esta la buena fe del Gob^no^ qe V ha tanta alabado y cuya justicia y liberalidad V ha celebrado con tanto entusiasmo" El Padre me dice qe he reducido sus hijos a la pobreza—la viuda llorando me impropera de haber quitado su unico modo de sostenerse—La muerte me sera un consuela p^a^ relevarme de tales importunidades y vituperaciones—No puedo menos qe mirar estos colonos como parientes, no puedo dejar de sentir todas sus disgracias. P^o^ estoy todavia sostenido por una esperanza qe me persuado esta bien fundado cual una roca, qe es la justicia, la magnanimidad la huma[n]idad del H. Cong^o^ del Estado, y quedo seguro de qe. aunqe se prohibe la esclavitud en gral qe habra una excepcion in favor de las 300 familias de mi primera colonia, y si se fuera posible extender la misma gracia a todos los emigrados ya en el pais sera un beneficio importantissimo a la prosperidad de la patria y una acta de magnanimidad hacia aquellos disgraciados emigrados, p^o^ no puedo pedirlo para ellos como un derecho garantizado por la ley antes de su emigracion como en caso de las 300 familias porqe. el articulo 46 de la ley de colonizacion del Estado de 24 de Marzo de 1825 les sujetan enteram^te^ a las leyes siguiente y a las qe en adelante se establece sobre la materia—

Con todo el debido respeto y humildem^te^ sumito estas reflecciones a la atencion de vuestro H. cuerpo y suplico en el nombre de los pobladores con todo el interes qe pueda sentir hombres cuyo suerte final esta pendiente qe buestro H. Cuerpo tomara nuestra situacion lamentable y disgraciada en su alta Consideracion, y nos estendera el brazo paternal y protectorio de su Soberania p^a^ salvarnos de la ruina, y p^a^ salvar el disgraciado y distrozado Departam^to^ de Texas de los atrasos qe le amanacen pr. la destruccion total de todas las nuevas colonias, la falta de confianza qe. ha de resultar la iniquilacion de toda esperanza de emigracion en lo futuro y el abandono consiguiente de este hermoso pais y las fronteras de Quahuila y las Tamaudipas a los Yndios barbaros.

San Felipe de Austin 11 de Agto 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO PADILLA

San Felipe de Austin 12 de Agosto 1826

Sor JUAN ANTONIO PADILLA.

Muy apreciable Sor y amigo mio, Considero mi deber tanto a mi mismo como al Gob^no^ y a los mismos colonos decir a V q. si no

hay modo de forzar los colonos pagar me alguna cosa p^{a} mi mantencion mientras estoy empleado en sus negocios qe me hallare en la desgraciado y aflijido necesidad de abandonar la empresa del nuevo contrato p^{a} colonizacion— Es mi deber explicar mi situacion pecuniaria al Gob^{no} y lo hago por medio de V con toda franqueza, pero para qe se le entiende completam^{te} es necesario dar una historia corta de mis operaciones desde qe. entre en la empresa de colonizacion—

Al principiar la primera colonia tenia una capital salvado de los escombros de la fortuna de mi Padre, mi capital no era muy considerable, pero suficiente p^{a} establecer me en el comercio otro oficio con decencia. Consideré necesario enviar un buque a la boca de los Brazos ó Colorado cargado de viveres y herramientos y hombres p^{a} empezar el establecim^{to}. Esto hize en el mes de Diciembre 1821— El capitan de la dha Goleta tenia instrucciones p^{a} desembarcar a la desembocadura del rio Colorado, p^{o} como en aquel tiempo no habia ningun plano de esta costa, ni pilotas qe la conocia, entró la dha Goleta en el rio de los Brazos por equivocacion creyendo qe era el rio Colorado motivo porqe yo no encontre con ella. Gaste todo el invierno de 21 y 22 hta el mes de Marzo en los bajos y montes del rio Colorado y lugares cerca de su desembocadura buscando dha Goleta, expuesto a todo especie de padecim^{tos} y a los indios—tenia solo sies hombres en compañia. por fin creyendo la Goleta perdida me fui a Bexar, y alli el Gobernador Martinez me dijo qe era necesario ir a Mexico y marché p^{a} aquella ciudad sin perdida de tpo—entretanto los hombres qe vinieron en la Goleta desembarcaron en los Brazos, y desanimados por no haberme encontrado dispercieron.—Mi agente y el capitan de la Goleta me manejaban mal y perdi todo el cargamento enteramente, y el buque volvio a orleans, mi agente alli compró otro cargamento de viveres herramientos etc y la Goleta volvio otra vez a los brazos bajo las ordenes de otro capitan y antes de llegar hizo naufragio sobre el punto occidental de la Isla de Galveston y buque y cargamento todo fue perdido. Gaste 18 meses en Mexico y en el camino— Estos gastos tan crecidos acabaron con todo quanto tenia y ademas empresté dinero sobre credito, y p^{a} fiar ese pagamiento hize una hipotecacion de la mitad de todas las tierras qe. me corresponde aqui como Empresario— Estas son 22½ sitios de modo qe. solo onze sitios y ½ de dichas tierras son mias. estos 11¼ sitios ahora vale segun el precio en q^{e} los pobladores han vendido sus tierras cosa de 5000 pesos pagable en efectos ó la mayor parte sobre credito Por tanto hasta ahora las tierras qe he conseguido como Empresario por el trabajo penoso de 5 años valen como dho 5000 pesos en tratos qe en dinero efectivo

no valdra mas qe la mitad y esto no pagara las deudas qe he contratado ademas de la hipotecacion

A principio de la empresa hize un calculo sobre la materia y vi qe. nunca podia aguantar los gastos ni progresar con el asunto si los colonos no me pagarian alguna cosa; y despues de haber consultado el Gob^or^ Martinez por escrito desde Nachitoches en el mes de Octubre 1821 sobre la materia publiqué en las gazetas de orleans qe. los colonos tenian de pagarme a la rason de 500 pesos por sitio en productos de la tierra al precio comun del pais, una pequeña parte cada año hta. pagarla toda, y yo de mi parte me obligo pagar los agrimensores y todos los derechos y gastos en conseguir sus tierras extender sus titulos etc—Quando estuvé en Mexico vi una de las Gazetas qe. tenia dha noticia en poder del ministro, y el no me dijo qe. era ni mal hecho ni bien, no me dijo nada sobre la materia, Martinez tambien habia enviado alli las cartas qe. escribio de Nachitoches, sobre la materia segun me dijo el oficial mayor de la Secretaria, de modo qe esta proposicion mia fue bien conocido del Gob^no^ tanto de Mexico como de Texas. A mi vuelta en monterrey hablé con el comandante gral sobre la materia, el me dijo qe era muy justo qe. los colonos me paga mis gastos. a mi llegada a Bexar no parecia qe. habia dificultades sobre este punto, el Comisionado vino aqui en compañia conmigo, y publique acqui a mi llegada las condiciones qe los colonos debe observar, y lo qe. debe pagarme, hize con acuerdo con el comisionado contratos con los agrimensores prometiendoles dinero por su trabajo todos eran contento, y los asuntos progresian bien por algun tpo. qdo. algunos discontentos presentaron quejas al Gefe Politico de Texas, y el establecio un arancel diferente de el qe. yo habia establecido. esto destruyó todos mis calculos y fue causa de disconfianza entre los colonos, y me sujetó a mil reflecciones qe ha continuado hasta ahora y tal vez continuyrá hasta me muerto. No he podido cobrar de los colonos solo una pequeña parte de los derechos segun el arancel, unos no tienen con qe. pagar y otros han rehusado enteramte diciendo qe. era ilegal. de lo qe he cobrado casi todo ha sido en productos como mais, vacas Caballos etc en precios subidisimos. He tenido de subsistir y mantener los gastos de la oficina y de mi casa, de lo qe he cobrado he pagado al Gefe del Departamento dos mil pesos, y al comisionado mas qe esta cantidad. He tenido tambien de pagar de este fondo los agrimensores los contratos qe habia hecho con ellos en el principio. Ahora si el Gob^no^ y el comisionado me exige pagar los derechos qe les corresponde segun el arancel, quedaré con una deuda muy considerable sin modo ninguno de pagarlo—

Los colonos quejan de mi porque tienen de pagarme pero, dicen qe yo debe hacer todo para ellos de valde, porqe el Gob^no^ me habia

ya pagado enlas tierras qe me corresponde como Empresario, pº ellos no refleccionan que no puedo vivir sobre tierras, no puedo comerlas, ni hacer ropa de ellas, ni venderlas, y qe habia gastado todo quanto tenia en su servicio, en mi viaje a Mexico, en mandar viveres buques y hombres en el principio y 5 años de mi vida etc y si ellos no me habia contrybuido alguna cosa pª mi mantencion, hubiera haber sido forzado por la necesidad abandonar la empresa y entonces ¿ Como hubiesen conseguido sus tierras? otra cosa que ellos no tome en consideracion es qe. quaᵈº mi padre obtuvo la licencia pª esta colonia, era muy dificil conseguirla y qe. yo gaste un año en Mexico antes de ser despachado ademas del viaje penoso y gastos de mi padre en el 820 del misuri hta Bexar qe le costo su vida. Pero ahora qe. ellos vean qe es tan facil ser Empresario, dicen qe yo no meresco merito ninguno por los esfuerzos qe hize porqe el Gobⁿº hagan Empresarios a todos qe pidan. Amigo he luchado tanto tpo con dificultades, con miserias, y con lo qᵉ es mil veces peor qᵉ todo, con la ingratitud de los mismos colonos qe he survido tan fielmᵗᵉ qe. estoy cansado, mi salud esta quebrada y estoy disgustado. pª estoy metido en la materia y quiero acabarla todo qe quiero es Conqe vivir, hta ahora he sido un oficial del Gobⁿº y como tal he querido mantenerme casa con alguna decencia si fuese solamᵗᵉ por el credito del Gobⁿº, porqe, extrangeros qe vean los oficiales del Gobⁿº miserable tendran idea despreciable de ellos y del Gobⁿº—

En la nueva colonia quiero qe. los colonos me pagan suficiente pª mantenerme con decencia y satisfacer los gastos actuales qe tendré de errogar en su servicio y es justo qe. lo hagan. No quiero hacer especulacion ni quiero fortuna mi ambicion desde el principio ha sido salir bien con la empresa y hacer un gran servicio ha muchos de mis paysanos y a este Gobⁿº—Muchos de los colonos me han maltratado, y quejan sin causa ninguna y manifiestan una disposicion zelosa y envidiosa qe. me causa infinito dolor y pesadumbre. pº esto no me desanima, solo los ignorantes, la clase baja o algunos ambiciosos son asi, y con el tpo todo sera entendido por ellos. la causa principal de todos mis quehaceres ha sido la ausencia del comisionado, pº esto no es culpa suya porqe tenia de desempeñar sus deberes en el Congreso.

Tenia intencion de escribir al Gobᵒʳ sobre estas particulares, pº considere no molestar su Excⁱª y de escribir a V. y suplico qe. me haga el favor de presentar a S. E. esta carta y el propuesto qe. encluyo pª un arancel pª ver si su Excⁱª lo aprueba y en caso de si expedir la correspondiente orn al Gefe del Departamᵗº Talvez o como mejor empuesto qe yo en las leyes pueda hacer otro arancel mejor en forma diferente—

He escrito al Sor Bastrop sobre la organizacion del Gobⁿº de esta colonia, yo no puedo desempeñar los deberes de juez dela colonia mas

tpo. esperaré hta el otoño p° no quedo mas tarde. V no tiene la mas minima idea de las muchas incomodidades con qe. estoy rodiado y ningun salario me inducera aceptar un empleo aqui p° veo qe. es necesario al servicio y bien publico qe. continuyria por algun tpo y por esta razon estoy contento hacerlo. Debe haber aqui un Gefe subalterno y un juez, este es de mucha importancia, en fin la prosperidad y tal vez la existencia de la colonia lo exige—Sera mejor qe. ambos serian Mexicanos y particularm^te^ el juez debe ser de otra qe. de aqui y instruido en las leyes del pais, y en los idiomas Ingles, Frances y Español. En el distrito de Nacogdoches estan gobernado por varios Alcaldes y alli segun he entendido por rumores no reina mas qe. anarquia, y si no hay un Gefe subalterno y un juez aqui p^a^ velar de los Alcaldes y imponerles de las leyes vigentes traducidas sera lo mismo y tal vez peor, no porqe los habitantes en gral son de una caracter mala, pero no tienen idea ninguna del idioma, ni de las leyes, ni de las costumbres del pais, ni de la deferencia enqe. se hallan aqui respeto al Gob^no^ y de sus derechos como habitantes de lo qe. tenian en el pais de su procedencia. esto es resulta de falta de conocim^to^ sobre la materia y no de malas disposiciones—

Suplico una contestacion sobre el asunto del arancel, y del nombram^to^ de un juez bien instruido en las leyes del pais y los idiomas ingles Español y frances, particularmente los dos primeros, y un Gefe subalterno.—

Si hay modo de mantenerme por medio de los colonos y en el caso qe el Gob^no^ tiene confianza en mi, estoy pronto a servir como Gefe subalterno aunqe, una vida quieta y retirda sera mucho mas a mi gusto. Sé qe. el Gob^no^ del Estado no esta rico en el dia y en su infancia p^a^ salarios, y en el caso de ser nombrado Gefe subalterno no pido salario. no es por motivos interesados qe significa mi voluntad aceptar este empleo, ni por ambicion de ser empleado, aunqe. merecer la confianza del Gob^no^ es un honor qe. aprecio mas qe. riquezas, y qe me sera particularm^te^ agradable en las circunstancias actuales: Estoy solam^te^ animado con el deseo de ser util a la patria, y a los colonos qe he causado emigrar aqui, y como instruido particularm^te^ de su situacion, genio y caracter habiendo tenido experiencia con ellos, tal vez puedo ser de utilidad tanto al Gob^no^ como a los mismos colonos. Los deberes y facultades del Gefe subalterno deben ser ampliamente y menudam^te^ detalladas, y su despacho expedido en forma con el gran Sello del Estado, y noticia del nombram^to^ circulado por oficio a todas las autoridades y Alcaldes del Departam^to^ de Texas p^a^ qe todos vean conoscan y entienden.

Si hay Gefe subalterno debe haber un Sro [secretario] legalm^te^ nombrado y sus gages y salario señalado con claridad. V. esta en la secretaria y tiene idea del trabajo y gasto, y por consiguiente puede

saber cual es el trabajo de traducir todos los decretos y ordenes del Gob^no^ del castellano al ingles y sacar sus copias distintas de cada uno de ellos p^a^ circular a los Seis Alcaldes dependientes a esta jurisdiccion sin decir nada de contestaciones, y mil otros asuntos pertenecientes a un tal emplee, Todo este trabajo he tenido qe desempeñar incomodado al mismo tpo con las molestias y importunidades del empleo de juez, de Empresario, y de comandante de la milicia, y con todo algunos de mis buenos colonos quejan de mi y me trata de ladron y mil injurias las mas indecentes y circulando todo especie de calumnias y mentiras porqe quiero exigir de ellos el pagam^to^ del arancel establecido por el Gefe Politico sobre sus tierras. Por dros [derechos] judiciales u otros asuntos publicos de oficio nunca he pedido ni recibido un rial en clase de gages ó qualquier otro modo, p^o^ al contrario he furnido la oficina con estacionero y todo qe se necesite, y el pagam^to^ de escribientes, traductores, etc, etc Hasta ahora esta colonia no ha costado al Gob^no^ un peso p^o^ al contrario ha pagado una cantidad considerable para la mantencion del Gob^no^ de Texas en Bexar. Me he sostenido contra indios, contra todo, fundado unos establecim^tos^ importantisimos en un puro desierto, y mantenido el buen orn sin qe. el Gob^no^ me ha ayudado con un soldado ó un peso, y estoy pronto todavia a dedicar mis esfuerzos personales y mi tpo en el servicio del Gob^no^ y de los colonos p^o^ pido qe los mismos Colonos pagan mis gastos errogados en su servicio y es justo qe. lo hagan.

Tal vez algunos diran al Gob^no^ qe exigido mas qe la cantidad establecida por el arancel del Gefe Politico. porqe con sentim^to^ lo digo qe hay hombres capaz de decir qualquiera cosa cual falsa qe. sea — Segun el arancel cada colono tenia qe. pagar 105 pesos p^a^ cada sitio en dros al Comisionado y al Gob^no^ y como no habia dinero ni lo hay ahora en el pais tome las obligaciones por aquella cantidad in dinero con la adicion de 50 por ciento si fuese pagado en productos del pais al precio comun de trato dando spre la opcion a cada uno pagar de este modo ó de pagar en dinero segun el arancel. el precio comun de trato por productos es a lo menos 100% mas subido qe en dinero por exemplo un caballo qe se vende en 150 ps. precio de trato vale 75 ps. precio en dinero y asi con todos los articulos. de modo qe este plan fue adoptado para beneficiar los colonos y la perdida es sobre me porqe yo quedo responsable al comisonado y al Gob^no^ p^a^ sus dros en dinero. Sin embargo de esto hay algunos qe. me maldita tratandome de ladron—Puede V imaginar lo qe. ha de sentir un hombre de sensibilidad criado como yo he sido cuya caracter puedo jactar es y spre ha sido sin tacha ninguna al verse asaltado de este modo por los mismos hombres en cuyo servicio y por beneficio ha dedicado 5 años de su vida gastado su proporcion, ariesgado su salud su vida su todo. Hay momentos en qe pierdo paciencia, p^o^ son solam^te^ mo-

mentos mi deber es seguir mi curso con firmeza y hacer mi deber al Gob^no^ y a los colonos, entre estos hay bastantes buenos p^s^ hacerme justicia y en obsequio de ellos y la patria estoy pronto sin embargo de mis incomodidades acceptar el empleo de antes hablé y por ningun otro motivo.

Se vera por la premura de colonizacion y la concecion concedida a mi por el Supremo Gob^no^ de Mexico fha 18 de Febrero 1823 confirmada por los decretos del Sob^no^ Cong^so^ Con^te^ y Supm^o^ Poder Ex^vo^ fhas 11 y 14 de Abril del mismo año despues de la caida de Iturbide qe. el comisionado y yo estuvimos autorizado y obligado por la misma ley y concecion hacer una distinccion en la distribucion de tierras a los colonos segun sus circunstancias. El art^o^ 8 de la citada ley dice "A los Colonos qe tiene el exercicio de labrar la tierra no se les podra dar menos de una labor, asi como a los qe tuviesen crias de ganados no se les podra menos de un sitio" El art^o^ 9 de la citada ley dice, "El Gob^no^ por si ó por los autorisados al intento podran aumentar estas porciones como tuvi[r]en por conveniente segun las diversas circunstancias de los colonos" La concecion a mi dice "Que en virtud (de la citada ley) se distribuya a cada colono cabeza de familia una labor ó un sitio segun sea la industria que profese, ofreciendo aumentar la cantidad de terreno a todos los qe, tengan una familia numerosa ó se hagan acredores a ello por el establecim^to^ de un nuevo genero de industria ó por la perfeccion de los ya conocidos ó por otras circunstancias qe sean util a la Provincia ó al imperio intendiendose qe al colono qe a mas de ocuparse a la labranza se dedique a la cria de ganados se le dara sitio y labor con arreglo al art^o^ 8 de la citada ley" tambien dice "Se autoriza a Austin p^s^ qe. acompañado del Gob^or^ de Texas ó de un Comisionado que este nombre procede a repartir, señalar, y poner en posecion a cada uno de los nuevos colonos de la cantidad de tierra qe va indicada y qe les expide el titulo a nombre del Gob^no^"—

En virtud de esta autoridad el comisionado y yo puedamos haber concedido a un colono solam^te^ una labor, ó un sitio, ó labor y sitio, ó haber aumentado estas porciones segun las circunstancias del colono, de modo qe teniamos no tan solam^te^ autoridad p^o^. estuvimos obligado hacer una distincion en la distribucion de tierras a los colonos, y por haberlo hecho los qe. no tienen merito ninguno p^s^. acreditarse a tal aumentacion de sus porciones me maldita acusandome de parcialidades, usurpando de este modo el dro de dictar a los oficiales del Gob^no^ sus deberes, y intentando por placardas y palabras exaltadas encender los espirutes de los ignorantes y contenciosos. Yo he obrado bajo las instrucciones y ordenes del Gob^no^ y del comisionado y a aquel estoy responsable. La nueva [ley] de colonizacion del Estado dada por el Congreso tambien hace una distincion en la distribucion

de tierras segun las circunstancias del colono. ¿Ahora qe diria el Gob^dor. del Estado si los colonos se levantan en quejas y confuciones porqe. su Exc^la. en virtud de la facultad qe la ley concede de aumentar las porciones de tierra de los colonos, habia en efecto aumentado la porcion de uno de ellos y le concede 11 sitios por ser acreditado a tal aumentacion en el juicio de su Exc^la? Si se permite a los colonos dictar de este modo al Gob^no en un caso muy pronto pensaran qe tienen el dro de hacer lo en todos No se debe imaginar qe yo tengo otro enteres aqui qe. el dela prosperidad dela colonia, de los mismos colonos, y de la patria porqe. aunqe mi honor no fuese un lazo suficiente todos mis esperanzas futuras, mis intereses y los de mi familia estan aqui no tengo otras en el mundo. Los colonos son principalm^te mis paisanos nativos y ¿qe. motivo tengo yo de parcialidades o de distinciones entre ellos sino la qe hace la ley, qe son las de merito y las circunstancias del colono? verdad es qe he sido engañado muchas veces y algunos han abusado de mi disposicion suave y liberal y he hallado calidades en algunos muy diferentes qe. lo pensaba a primer visto; p^o no puedo leer el corazon de los hombres ¿qe. hombre en el mundo no esta sujeto a ser engañado, y a caer en errores alg^nos veces? Estamos todos sujetos a las debilidades del genero humano p^o por mis intenciones estoy pronto a ser juzgado aun por la tribunal divina y por lo qe respeto a mis actos por qualquier tribunal qe el Gob^no tenga a bien designar—

Si no fuese por la ayuda qe. he recibido de mi Sro Saml. M. Williams nunca podia haber aguantado el trabajo y dificultades qe he tenido. este Sor es fiel amigo fiel al Gob^no y le reconiendo como hombre qe merece la confianza del Gob^no—

He escrito a mis amigos en los estados del norte y hay un Sor aqui qe quiere contratar por la emigracion de 150 familias y en el invierno habra muchas familias en marcha para la nueva colonia, y por esta razon suplico qe V me dara una contestacion lo mas pronto qe sea posible sobre el arancel p^a qe puedo decidir finalm^te si quedo continuar la empresa ó si tendre de abandonarla y buscar algun otro modo de mantenerme. He mandado mi hermano Santiago a las Tamaulipas haber si se pueda hacer un trato con mis amigos D Luciano Garcia y D Felipe de la Garza p^a conseguir algun ganado a cuidar a medias p^a empezar un Ranchito, y si no hay modo de mantenerme en mi empleo me hallaré en la precisa necesidad de aprender el oficio de Ranchero, y buscar mi mantencion por la cria de ganados, mulas etc. etc. ó por medio de mis amigos en orleans conseguir algunos generos sobre credito y internarme en lo interior p^a venderlos—

Esta carta trata de asuntos de toda importancia a los nuevos establecim^tos y al interes de Gob^no y espero qe. esto me sirvera de escusa

por haber molestado V con ella porqe estoy bien cerciorado del mucho interes qe. V spre tome en todo qe toca al bien de la patria, y concluyo suplicando qe V me haga el favor, presentar esta carta y el arancel a su Exc^la^ el Gob^dor^ con las observaciones qe le parece a V bien. he considerado mejor presentar estas materia al Gob^no^ por conducto de V en una forma extemporanio qe por medio de un oficio formal, porque. este modo da mas lugar p^a^ hacer reflecciones sin los embarazos de formalidad—

Con todo respeto quedo su muy atento servidor Q. S. M. B.

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN

14 DE AGOSTO DE 1826

Segun entiendo de la orden del Gefe Politico de Texas los limites de la jurisdiccion del Distrito de San Felipe de Austin son como sigue, desde un punto sobre la Bahia de Galveston entre medio de los Rios San Jacinto y Trinidad y de alli rumbo al norte siguiendo la divicion entre las aguas de dhos Rios hta el camino de Bexar a Nacogdoches y de alli siguiendo el dho camino rumbo occidental hta en frente de las cabazeras del arroyo dela Baca y de alli rumbo al sur hta las dhas cabazeras, y de alli siguiendo el dho arroyo de la Baca hta la costa y de alli rumbo oriental siguiendo las margenes de la costa hta el punto de empezar incluyendo la Isla y puerto de Galveston.

De las tierras litorales de la costa incluydo en esta demarcacion una parte estan ya poblados bajo la Autoridad de la primera colonia y me parece importante qe se las incluye todas en la jurisdiccion del distrito con el fin de evitar qe sean ocupadas contrario a las ordenes del Gob^no^ ó infestadas de hombres malos ó piratas preservar el buen orden, etc, etc. Si se establece un Gefe Subalterno los limites de su jurisdiccion debe ser deliniados con claridad y me parece qe los arriba mencionados son los mejores. El rio San Jacinto es la linia de esta colonia con respeto a las tierras designadas p^a^ ser colonizadas por mi, p^o^ sera encomodo dividir por el rio los habitantes establecidos sobre sus dos margenes en la demarcacion de la jurisdiccion civil, ahora los dos margenes del San Jacinto hace un partido con un Alcalde y dividido no habra suficiente p^a^ dos partidos y los de la banda occidental tendran de ocurrir a uno de los partidos de los Brazos y los de la banda oriental al partido de la Trinidad quando tiene Gob^no^ alli, porqe ahora no tienen ni Gob^no^ ni organizacion ninguna, qe sera muy incomodo por la gran distancia.

En el caso de poder continuar la empresa de colonizacion quiero conseguir facultad p^a^ colonizar las tierras exceptuadas sobre la costa, es decir desde el Rio San Jacinto hta la boca del arroyo de la Baca— una parte de estas tierras estan ya ocupadas, como tengo dho, y si algun otro empresario se entremete con ellas puede haber incon-

veniente, he escrito al Sor Bastrop sobre la materia y depiendo enteramt^te^ en la amistad de el y de V. dar al asunto el curso qe sea necesario y incluyo a V plena y amplia poder de firmar mi nombre a una representacion al Exmo Sor Presidente ó al Gob^no^ del Estado y de hacer contrato p^a^. Colonizacion en mi nombre p^a^ dhas seis leguas litorales.

Ha llegado el tpo en qe debe haber una villa a la desembocadura de los Brazos y otro a la del Colorado y quiero facultad p^a^ establecerlas esta de infinita importancia a la prosperidad delos estableiun^tos^. Tengo yo un terreno parte del [que] me coresponde como Empresario cerca de la boca de los Brazos y si no es contrario a las leyes quiero establecer una villa alli dividiendo el terreno en solares de fabrica este es el plan de establecer villas en los Estados del norte, estan todas fundadas por particulares y no veo inconveniente en hacerlo aqui porqe si el terreno es mio y tengo el dro de venderlo es lo mismo venderlo en solares ó en sitios, p^o^ no quiero hacer nada qe no este en todo en conformidad con la ley y la voluntad del Gob^no^ y suplico su opinion sobre la materia. talvez puedo sacar de este modo algun beneficio por la venta de solares aunqe. sea pagado en productos del pais como mais etc, qe me sirvira para ayudar mantener mi casa y entonces podia continuar la empresa de colonizacion porqe seria un gran dolor si me hallaria forzado abandonarla y haria qualquier sacrificio de mis tierras antes de hacerlo.

En esta carta he dho qe el Gefe Politico de Texas por el arancel qe establecio destruyó todos mis calculos y me causó muchas dificultades, p^o^ no quiero qe se entiende por esto qe yo quejo en ninguna manera del Gefe Politico, el hizo su deber como un oficial del Gob^no^. mi desgracia ha sido qe. los oficiales del Gob^no^ qe conocio el propuesto mio a los pobladores p^a^ qe me pagan no me dijeron qe la ley no lo permitia, de modo de qe aquella medida mia era mal, el error fue inocentem^te^ cometido de parte mia porqe tenia razon de creer qe. todas las autoridades del Gob^no^ lo aprobaron—

He enviado al Sor Bastrop una representacion al Exmo Gob^dor^ sobre las demarcaciones de esta colonia, mi objeto es aclarar una duda qe queda suceder sobre la materia en las circunstancias actuales—

He tambien enviado a el una representacion al H. Congreso del Estado sobre los esclavos de la primera colonia mia. No tengo palabras p^a^ explicar el mucho interes qe. siento sobre esta materia importantissima. No doy un solo pensam^to^ a mi suerte particular p^o^ la suerte de muchas familias honradas y inocentes esta pendiente y puedo decir la de todas las nuevas colonias, y aun de Texas. Libertar los esclavos de las 300 familias de mi primera colonia no puede ser mirado de otro modo qe como una contravencion positiva de la ley bajo la cual se establecieron y da la idea dudosa de la buena fé

del Gob^no^ y si se destruye la confianza una vez qe todos han tenido hta ahora en la buena fé del Gob^no^ y la inviolabilidad de las leyes qe el mismo sistemo Republicano garantiza se necesitara muchos años p^a^ restablecerla, y el daño estendera no solam^te^ a parar la emigracion p^o^ causara dudas de la fé del Gob^no^ sobre todas materias, y no es improbable qe los efectos de dhas dudas estenderá a los estados y tal vez a toda la nacion Mexicana. Lo cierto es qe sera considerado como tacha sobre el Estado de Quahuila y Texas. Los pobladores en gral vienen de un clima frio, y supé muy bien qe a su primera llegada aqui no aguantarian las calores del verano para trabajar en los campos; y p^a^ evitar las infermedades y disgustos al pais conseguientes, qe hubieren resultado les aconsejé traher esclavos comprados en la Luisiana acostumbrados a un temperam^to^ caliente y malsano esperando qe con estes pudieron haber limpiado sus labores y adelantado sus mejores hta qe algunos años de residencia en el pais les hubiesen haber aclimatado. Consideraba qe la misma ley de colonizacion del año 1823 expresam^te^ permitia la introduccion de esclavos y qe todas las leyes garantizaban el dho [derecho] de propiedad inviolable, y les aconsejaba traher esclavos con el objeto de beneficiar la patria por el pronto adelam^to^ del pais, ahora si se pone estos mismos esclavos en libertad ¿qe responsabilidad pesadisima caera sobre mi? y en qe estado desgraciado se hallaran estos colonos?—Sin recurso p^a^ abrir sus labores ó mantener sus familias seran obligados a regresar a su pais nativo aunqe sea desnudo y a pie. Ademas tienen mucho algodon sembrado este año todo lo cual sera perdido por la falta de brazos p^a^ cosecharlo porqe. considero qe se publique la constitucion en el mes de octubre y no se acaba la cosecha de algodon hta el mes de Enero. No creo posible qe. H. Congreso nos destruya este modo si todas estas materias estan esplicadas, y suplico qe V se empeñe en nuestro favor en obsequio de la ley, de la justicia, de nuestro derecho, de la prosperidad de Texas, y de la humanidad—Tal vez se dira qe esta exige qe se pone los esclavos en libertad—Yo digo qe la santa humanidad nunca exigiria qe. se reduce muchas familias honradas y inocentes a mendicantes por el despojarles de su propiedad, ei atropellar sus derechos y la garantia solemne de las leyes bajo la cual emigraron al pais, ni tampoco exige qe se suelte entre estas mismas familias desgraciadas 400, ó 500 vagabundos p^a^ qe cual tantas fieras acaban el destrozo y la disolucion qe el Gob^no^ habia empesado. Amigo tal vez me esplico en terminos demasiado fuertes si asi es suplico qe V y el Gob^no^ me perdone lo qe estimo mas qe la vida, la suerte de las familias qe causado emigrar esta pendiente, mi honor esta comprometido, porqe les dije qe apostaria mi cabeza sobre la buena fe del Gob^no^—

Aunqe. el Congreso pone en libertad los esclavos de los otros emigrados, los de las 300 familias de mi primera colonia deben ser exceptuados en el concepto de qe la ley expresamte permitia su introduccion y garantizaba el derecho de propiedad en ellos.

Sea la determinacion cual sea, he hecho mi deber en hacer todos los esfuerzos qe mis cortas luces y poco conocimt° permite pª representar la materia al H. Congreso y al Gobno y espero qe en obsequio de la amistad V me hará el favor de explicar a qualquier habitante de aqui qe va al Saltillo qe no deje de levantar mi voz debil y humilde al Gobno en favor de sus derechos amanazados

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN [Rubric]

(Copia de carta a Juan Antonio Padilla. 12 y 14 de agosto 1826)

Consta por esto que yo el Ciudadano Estevan F Austin he nombrado y por la presenta acta nombro en toda forma de derecho al Ciudadano Juan Antonio Padilla mi apoderado para presentar en mi nombre las solicitudes ó peticiones que se estime necesario al Supremo Gobierno de la Republica Mexicana ó á el del Estado de Coahuila y Texas sobre la Colonizacion de las Tierras exceptuadas comprendidas en las diez leguas litorales de la costa en frente de los limites demarcados para ser colonizado por mi segun el contrato hecho con el Gobierno del Estado de Coahuila y Texas, es decir desde la desembocadura del Rio San Jacinto hta la de la Baca, y doy á mi dho Apoderado plena facultad para firmar mi nombre con el Gobierno

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FRANCISCO GARCIA TO AUSTIN

Bahia y Agto 12 de 1826

Sor. D. Esteban de Austin

Mi siempre Estimado Amigo mi arribo a esta su casa de rregreso de la Viya fue con buena salud despues de haber sufrido algunos contratiempos en los Yntereses con rriesgo dela vida pero siempre asu disposicion

Amigo esta se rreduce despues de saber su salud si podra conseguirse en ese punto dies o dose reses para matar qe. esten gordas y si considera V. qe. para su compra sera mejor llevar bestias caballares o mulares o el dinero esperando me haga V. el fabor de habisarme el precio a qe. se podran conseguir para si tiene qta. [cuenta] enprender el Biaje Luego que V. me habise llebando bestias o el dinº pues me parace qu. es le unico medio de no equivocar la Negociacion;

Su Hermano de V. sale hoy pª Bexar se habisto unpoco malo de calenturas pº ya esta un po[co] rrestablecido;

Hagame V. el fabor de ponerme a la disposicion de mi Amigo D. Guiyermo y Alos pies de su Señora en cuya union recibiran ustedes

el afecto qe. todos les profesan en esta casa y con particularidad este su atento Amigo y seguro Serbidor Q. S. M. B.

Franc° Garcia [Rubric]

OWEN H. STOUT ET AL. TO SAUCEDO

Sello 3° Havilitdo. pr. el Estado de Coaha. y Texas para el año de 1826.

(Signed) ZAMBRANO

Pagó el interesado en esta admon. de mi cargo, 4 rs. impte. de este sello. Bejar Agto. 23 de 1826

(Signed) GARZA

Al Gefe del Departamento de Texas Dn. José Ant°. Saucedo.

El memorial de Owen H Stout quatro años havitante de la Colonia de Dn Estevan F. Austin ante VS con el debido respecto representa.

Que haviendo ocasion de viajar de la dha Colonia p^a^ la Bahia llego el dia 12 de Agosto del presente en compañia con los Señores George Orr—Santiago Henry Patricio Conaghton y Roberto Perry, al Establecim^to^ del Ciudad^no^ Martin de Leon situado sobre el margen del Rio Guadalupe. Su memorialista en compañia con los dichos señores fueron caminando acia el paso de dicho Rio en una manera apacible quando los acostaron el dicho Martin de Leon pidiendo pasaportes de ellos lo respondieron q no traiban pasaportes ni sabian q era necesario. Luego el dicho Martin de Leon los convido a su casa y ofrecia darlos pasaportes necesarios—Su memorialista con su compañeros inmediatamente ocurrieron a la casa de dicho De Leon—Cuando la segunda vez demando pasaportes de ellos en un tono muy osado y al mismo momento dio orden p^a^ distapar una pieza a Cañon y mando q trajeran una mecha

Uno q venia en la compañia (George Orr) le pregunto si fuera su entencion de matarnos—El Dicho Martin de Leon [dijo] q sí—y la segunda vez mando en alta voz q trajesan una mecha y q se juntare toda su gente con armas—En un momento su memorialista con su compañeros fueron rodiados pr. 30 hombres armados quien les quitaron sus armas q habian traido p^a^ defenderse contra los barbaros. El dicho Martin de Leon entonces hizo una demanda contra su memorialista de un Cavallo lo cual dijo el qe su memorialista le debia y al mismo tiempo dijo qe si no lo pagaba al instante q. lo pusiera grillos—y dio orden p^a^ q trajesen un par de grillos y mando q los pusiera sobre su memorialista: Su suplicante lo respondió q antes de ser tratado de esto manera q pagaria lo q demandia el dicho Martin De Leon de esto manera fue forzado de entregarlo 21 p^s^ en dinero y su caribina—y despues de todo esto lo amanezo con el "*sepo*" si no le

pagaba 6 p^{s} mas los quales no tenia su memorialista—y en lugar de dinero el dicho Martin de Leon le hizo entregar una pistola valuable y q valia mucho mas q la demanda q hizo.

Su memorialista asegura a VS. positivam^{te} q no *deve* ni jamas ha devido al dicho Martin de Leon un Cavallo y q la demanda de de Leon es injusta.—Su memorialista no hubiera entregado su *dinero* y demas propiedad al dicho Martin de Leon si [no] habia sido rodiado con tanta gente armada y temia perder su vida si no cumplia con la injusta demanda de [de] Leon—

Su memorialista con todo respeto hace esta representacion a VS con la confianza q pr. el conocido respecto qe. tiene VS pr. la Constitucion y las leyes de esta Republica q informerá VS de esta ultraje contra toda ley y justicia.

Por tanto suplica su memorialista q VS tendra la vondad de hacer el dicho Martin de Leon restituir el dinero, y demas propiedades de q tan injustam^{te} ha sido deprivado—

Y p^{a} q VS pueda informarse del caracter de su suplicante suplica q. pida informacion del Tente Coronel Estevan F. Austin de quien ha sido colono pr. 4. años—y p^{a} corraborar mas esta representacion suplico q pide informe de este asunto de Mr. George Orr q proceda a Bexar—

Por tanto su suplicante ruega q VS le concederá la justicia q merece—

Por tanto lo firmo en La Bahia a los 13 dias del mes de Agosto de 1826—

OWEN H. STOUT.

San Fernando de Bexar 13 de Agosto de 1826.

Siendo privatibo dela autoridad Judicial el asunto de q. trata esta representacion, buelbase al interesado con el Documento q. le acompaña para q. en aquel Tribunal produsca su queja

JOSÉ ANT^{o} SAUCEDO

AUSTIN TO AYUNTAMIENTO OF BEXAR

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Ayuntam^{to} de Bexar sobre Esclavos

Yncluyo una representacion al H. Congreso del Estado[1] sobre el asunto de los esclavos de los pobladores de mi primera colonia. Considero esta materia de toda importancia a la prosperidad y el adelantam^{to} de Texas porqe si se pone los esclavos en libertad todas las nuevas colonias se atrazaran y probablem^{te} se acabarán enteram^{te}—

Considero qe. el derecho de propiedad a esos esclavos era garantizado por la ley a las 300 familias de mi primera colonia y qe aquellas

[1] See above, August 11, 1826.

familias emigraron bajo la fé de aquella garantia en tales circunstancias qe injusticia sera privarlas de ellos. La Suerte de las nuevas colonias esta pendiente y Suplico qe V. I. C. interpone su influxo p[a] representar y explicar al H. C. de Estado la injusticia qe nos hace el articulo 13 de la constitucion propuesto por la comision sobre la materia y los atrasos qe resultara a Texas si se adopte el dho articulo—Bien se consta a muchos individuos de V. I. C. por observaciones personales las dificultades con qe. hemos luchado aqui y qe en consequencia de los Bosques y montes espesos de los bajos de los rios y arroyos se necesita infinito trabajo en limpiarles, componer cercas, y preparar la tierra p[a] la siembra, tambien qe el producto pral es el algodon y qe se necesita muchos brazos en sembrar y cosecharla qe los pobladores vienen de un clima frio, y no pueden aguantar a su primera llegada las calores p[a] trabajar en los campos en los meses del verano, y por esta razon han trahido esclavos comprados en la Louisinia acostumbrados a un temperamento caliente y malsano, esperando con estos abrir sus labores y adelantar sus mejoras, hta qe. algunos anos de residencia en el pais les acostumbren al clima y al trabajo en el calor del verano de modo qe privarlos de ellos sera no tan solam[te] quitar su propiedad, p° tambien les quitará todo recurso p[a] su mantencion ó adelantam[to] en abrir sus labores y la misma necesidad les forzara regresar a su pais nativo aunqe sea a pie y desnudo.—El Il[mo] Ayuntam[te] de Bexar fue el primero qe estendio la mano en favor del establecim[to] de esta colonia qdo mi Sor Padre se presento en el año 1820 y espero qe el resultado hta ahora no ha dado causa p[a] distruir las buenas esperanzas qe entonces le movio a prestar su influxo y qe V. I. C. nos estendera su proteccion en nuestros apuros actuales, y qe representara al H. C. de Estado nuestra situacion y la ruina qe nos amanace si se pone los Esclavos en libertad

Dios y la ley

E. F. A.

S. F. De A 14 de Agosto 1826

Austin to Saucedo[1]

Under existing circumstances in reference to the hostile Indians, I have deemed it necessary to call a board, composed of two persons elected by each of the six sections of this jurisdiction, for the purpose of deciding upon a system of defence, and contriving plans to raise a fund for the assistance of the most exposed families, and to keep a body of spies on the frontier.

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[1] Translations from Bexar Archives, in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. Spanish copy in Austin's Blotter, as cited.

This board will assemble on the 21st Instant, and I shall inform your Lordship of the result of their deliberations, prior to carrying any of the adopted measures into execution.

I consider that good feeling and perfect union among the Colonists, are of paramount importance in time of war; and, that the idea of consulting them was the best mode of attaining the desired object, in the measures to be adopted for the common defence.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, August 14th 1826.

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

A party of Indians were seen last week on the Brazos, near the Bexar road: a detachment of the Militia of that neighborhood went in pursuit and followed them to within ten miles of their villages. That detachment will remain some time in the vicinity of the villages, to watch them; and I shall have them relieved by another party, so as to keep in the field a permanent guard on the frontier to give timely notice in case the Indians should leave them in force for the purpose of attacking us.

I have heard from a Choctaw Indian, that the Comanches are going to make a grand effort, next fall against Bexar and the Rio Grande frontier, and that the Tahuacanoes, Wacos, and Tahuayases will join them in their attack upon us in this quarter.

All the Bidais are here, in flight from the Aynais, Kichais and Apadaches with whom they have fought a battle on the Trinity.

The Cushatte Chiefs arrived here this morning; I do not know for what purpose as I have not yet seen them.

The last news, received a few days since from the Cherokees, are very favorable; it appears that they are only waiting for the order of the Government to commence an attack upon our enemies.

God and Liberty.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, August 14th 1826.

JOHN INGRAM TO AUSTIN

Peach Creek Aug 16. 1826

DEAR SIR

I understand that your office is again opin to receive applications for land; and having never yet recd any land in the Colony, I wish to embrace the first opportunity to secure my alloted portion—As you have once made out my deed for half a league I hope you will yet con-

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[1] Ibid.

sider me entitled to that Quantity; particularly as I have been one of the first settlers in this Colony, and have never been backward in doing a soldier's duty.—The good land has been so generally taken up that I hardly know where to make a choice.—Perhaps there may be some forfeited land that you could recommend; if not, I have thought to take it on a small stream which heads in the Bay prairie, and runs, perhaps, into the bay of Matagorde—you will please to give me a verbal reply by Mr. Rabb—

JOHN INGRAM

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

JAMES KERR TO AUSTIN

18th August 1826—Early in the morning
On tide water of the Labacca.

DEAR SIR

I am about 10 miles up the river, from where it emties into a large arm of the Bay—the river for three or four miles above that place, hugs or bluffs the main land on the N. E. side—the marsh I suppose to be about 4 miles wide. The river from the Tascosite road down is verry crooked tho in the main bears S. E.

Adjoining the main land on the west side there is generally fine large deep lakes that communicate with the river.

I have selected a Town cite near the head of tide—the river at that place appears deep, and is about 25 or 30 yards wide—at the upper end of the cite—at the Lower end, about from 40 to 60—and then widens to distance of about 300 yards.

Timber is rather scarce below the Town cite—tho the land is good to the arm of the bay, and the water not too salt for any kind of cooking except *tea* and *coffee*. I have concluded to survey all the land off in Labor tracts, and I believe they will settle whather they have timber or not—Some of which will have little or none. After the river Enters the arm of the bay the bank on the E. side bears nearly Southwest and terminates about 8 or 10 miles nearly S. from the shoulder of the main land on the W. side—I saw something resembling a very small Island from the shoulder it bears S. 16° E. the distance to it I made 22 miles 6/10—

The Chicalet emties in about 4 miles below the road the mouth of the Navadad is yet unknown: I am of opinion there is more good land on the E side than on the west.

I should be very glad to get a piece from you, that is situated a few miles below wher I intend to lay off a Town.—

I am of the opinion that if this Town Could be Dispensed with by the Empresario, and the same be made by an individual it would be much better—it will require 6 miles on a right line front on the

river if laid out under the law, and if by individual 2 or 3 would do—then there could be 9 or 10 Labors more etc—12 Oclock we are now at the Town cite and I have got four of the company to swim the river and hunt for the navadad,—we have for 3 days seen smoke in the direction they are going—I am now of the Opinion that the navadad enters the bay by a separate mouth— Two men of my Company told me They had been down the Chickolet to tide water and that tide flowed up it 3 or 4 miles above its junction with the Labacca—all this was false—they both stated that they had marked land in the forks of the same, and when we crossed the Chickolet it did not corispond with the statement they had made, and we presumed that it might be a spring branch,—so we neglected examining the labacca for several miles—following a course (as they said) would take us near the head of tide on the Chickolet, and ultimately found ourselves in the main Guadaloupe Prairie—I then changed my course and struck the river about 7 or 8 miles above the town site where I found fine ritch first bottom, some which however overflows— And most excellent second bottom and plenty of good timber— The timber here prevented me from seeing with any satisfaction the E side of the river, further than there appeared to be one continued bottom and well timbered near the river. It has been misting rain while I have been writing and our company is rather in confusion, and I have to fear what I have written will rather confuse then give the information I at first expected—nothing more until the boys return who have gone to hunt Navadad.—

6 Oclock men has returned and state that they traveled East about 4 miles came to a lively runing Creek, went down but a short distance to tide. fine timber on this creek— Good bottom and upland prairie between it and the Labacca—about 2 or 3 miles furder East they seen heavy bodys of timber and which they believe to be the timber of the Navadad say six or seven miles distant from this river and that the timber appeared to bear near a parallel course with the Labacca—this the more confirms me in the belief that this River and the navadad does not unite before they Get into the bay, and very probebly their mouths are 5, 6 or 7 miles apart—

I start for Gonzalez in the morning—I will only add that no place on earth can exceed this for beauty— The Elisian fields of the Mehometan Paradise never was so delightsome as the Prairies.—

JAMES KERR

[Addressed:] Colo. Stephen F Austin Sanfelipe De Austin Doctor G D Boyd

AUSTIN TO EMILY M. PERRY

San Felipe de Austin Augt. 21, 1826

DR SISTER,

I embrace the opportunity by Col. Matson to drop you a line, he has promised to stay one night at Mr Perrys and as he has seen a good deal of this country he can give you information relative to it—Brother has taken a trip into the interior about six hundred miles and I do not expect him back before January. he started three weeks ago and I have heard from him once, he was well—the affairs of the colony are going on tolorably well tho imigration is not very rapid we have had some difficulties with the Indians which no doubt are very much magnified abroad, they are not serious and I think will soon terminate, the tribe that troubles us is not over 200 strong and their depredations are confined to stealing horses, you need not be at all uneasy about any reports you hear on this subject—we have had some sickness owing to an unusual wet season, tho but few deaths and those confined to new comers—

The constitution of this State will be finished shortly and when I see it I can give Mr Perry more certain advice as to the prospect of a removal here, and untill then I do not wish him to derange his business where he is by making any preparations for a removal—

I have heard by report that the suit between Price and Sam[l] Perry has been decided in favor of Perry—if so does it not fully decide the principle that the whole Estate can be recovered? I have not heard from you since the 8 of January and feel very anxious to know the particulars—My prospects of making a fortune here are *bad*, I shall be but poorly compensated tho. expect to pay my debts and make a comfortable support for my old age—If brother succeeds in procuring Stock as he expects and which is the object of his journey I shall settle down on a stock farm and perhaps follow the example of Mr Perry and hunt a jolly old widow to comfort me in my old age—The truth is that both brother and myself are too much unsettled as yet to trammel ourselves with a family, or one of us would no doubt have been married before this—

Mr Andrews and family and the Allys are all well and appear very well contented—I think it probable that slavery will not be allowed in this country, tho the constitution will decide it, and as soon as I know the result I will write you—

We have most extraordinary crops this year corn is plenty at 25 cents, pork and Beef is also cheap and abundant. our cotton is of a superior quality and produces very well the average highth of cotton on the bottom lands is from 9 to 12 feet and yields generally 2500 to 3000 pounds to the acre

We are begining to have some little trade with Orleans, tho not much as yet.

Kiss all the children for me and be sure and make *business men* of them, learn them some occupation or profession that will support them through life—I am not in a situation to take any of them yet, and it is rather uncertain when I shall be

I have nothing very particular to write as you perceive—your letters must have miscarried for I have not heard from you since Jany except by report of travellers which informed me of your health—

Remember me to my old friend Mrs John Perry and her husband and all the Perrys and all other friends and write oftener—

your brother

S. F. AUSTIN

[Addressed:] Mrs. Emily M. Perry Mine á Burton Washington County Missouri Col. Matson

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JAMES GAINES TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches August 21st 1826

C$^{ol.}$ STEVEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR COLONEL I beg leave to call on you for information on certain points Relative to the Conduct of some of your people.

when C$^{ol.}$ Pettis was at Ayish Bayou he asserted there was no law nor authority in Nacogdoches and that Jose Anty Sauceda Esqr. had no authority to do what he Done and that your Honer had Command to the River Sabine by which he stimulated the Opposers of the Law and authority to Raise a Company for that purpose promising them you would Recognize them for which John A Williams went to the Brass^{a}

And by the Last mail John Sprowl Esqr. of the Ayish Bayou has Rec^{d} a Letter as he states from Jesse Thomson and Payton in the hand write of Joseph white and Bound him to profound Secrecy on which the said Sprowls prophicied that one half of your Colony and the people here would be out of the Country he was ask^{d} If they would be drove out he answered no they would go out of their Own accord I insisted on knowing If it was anything that might Effect the Government or the interest of the people he Refused to answer me But Told Mr. Thomas It was the subject of Slavery and that no hope Remained on that Subject thereby Creating much Rumor

from what I have seen and heard among the friends of Edwards and many others and now from your Quarter I am led to believe something like a Revolution has been aimed at and probably yet on foot

I beg you to write me on those points and Explain those particulars so as no more Confusion may arise to the injury of the Government your Colony nor here.

Please inform me If Mr. David G Burnett is yet with you he wrote me a Letter when I was sick and before I was able to answer I heard he had left your Colony, But If he should yet be with you give him my Compliments and inform him I am Ready to Correspond with him and serve him in all cases in my power agreeable to the Duty Of a friend

Jᵃˢ Gaines

Saucedo to Austin

Bexar 22 Agosto de 1826 —

Sr. Dⁿ Estevan Austin.

Estimado amᵒ mio. Por aprovechar momentos con el fin de que la conbocatoria llegue oportunamente á sus manos y que los Electores primarios quedan estar aqui con sus credenciales para el dia 6 de Sept. proᵐᵒ quando mas tarde le remito á Vmd un Exemplar dela citada ley de conbocatoria encargandole que si la recibe despues del 27 de este mes que está señalado para las juntas primarias, ó de parroquia proceda desde luego á celebrar las de esa Colonia en qualquier dia que sea explicando la causa porque lo hace fuera del dia que la Ley señala para que asi no haiga nulidad, ni los Electores primarios falten de estar en esta Cabesera el sitado dia seis de Septiembre promᵐᵒ.

Algo se ha trabajado sobre la Esclavitud quien sabe lo que se conseguira. Le acompaño a Vmd un Exemplar dela proclama que el general Bustamᵗᵉ dirigio alos habitantes de estos estados por el correo ordᵒ dice á Vmd el punto donde se halla este gefe, las proviciones que trahe y contestaré con mas espacio las cartas de Vmd. Su hermano de Vmd, el Sor Yames Car y otros hombres se hallan aqui, los dos primeros enfermos levamente.

Ynfluya Vmd para que los Electores primarios nombren secundario al Baron, ó á Padilla en rason deque estos se hallan en la Capital del Estado no tienen que erogar costos enla marcha de quatrocientas leguas que deben handar solamᵗᵉ por ir á dar un voto; y porque finalmᵗᵉ aquellos conocen mejor que ningun otro, á qⁿ hande elegir que sea benefico á este Departamento, loque no hará otro que vaya ciego a executar lo que otros le digan, y rasone Vmd todo esto.

Le mando á Vmd una medida para zapatos segun lo que me ha dicho Dn. Santiago. Tambien le mando copia de dos cartas escritas por el Baron al Cenador Ceballos, por las que verá Vmd lo que estos hombres trabajan en beneficio del Estado.

Apreciare que Vmd se restablesca desus males y que mande con satisfaccion á su afmo amo. y servor. q. s. m. b.

José Antº Saucedo [Rubric.]

James E. B. Austin to Austin

San Antonio August 22 de 1826 (Wednesday)

Dr Brother,

I arrived at this place last *fryday* but declined writing untill the present moment as I had not collected matter sufficient for a lengthy letter and the mail does not go out untill thursday. on my arrival here I found a letter from you and last mail brought another; your "triste" letter by last mail has almost given me the *horrors*, to see you so gloomy—I am happy to hear your health is so much improved—and I hope a favourable Slave Law will have a *salutary effect* in removing the *hippo* and other *affecting* complaints—such as the frets, lowering the eye brows etc etc—

now for the news—in the first place Bernardo Gutierris has been removed from office and yr friend Genl Anastacio Bustamente appointed in his place— The Government is much displeased at the conduct of Gutierris he has deceived them on every point relative to the state of Indian affairs in this Department—the Government has made sufficient appropriations to carry on the Indian War with energy but it appears he applied the appropriations of Govt to his own private use; and represented to the Govt that the Campaign was proceeding with all possible vigor— Bustamante will make this head Quarters untill the war is finished—no doubt exists that he is on the way—his proclamacion to the inhabitants of this Department has already arrived you will receive one by this mail—

I perceive by your letter that the Slave question has caused considerable sensation in the Colony I have had much conversation with Saucedo and others on this subject I see no reason why you should apprehend the abolition of the Slaves belonging to the 300 families; the thing is decided with regard to that point—*those slaves are guaranteed to the settlers by the Law of Colonization and they can not be deprived of them*—this is the opinion that prevails in this place— The *Ayuntamiento* of this place presented a memorial to the Legislature as soon as the project arrived—praying that the discussion on that important point might be suspended untill they could have time to *consider* upon it, and inform the other Ayuntamientos of the Department that they might do the same. Since then they have given it the attention it merited—and by the last mail *have sent* up a *representation couched* in the strongest

language they could express in *favor* of the *admission* in the New *Colonies*—they *declare* it to be *indispensable* to the prosperity of this Department; in fact they have said all they can say—as to the prospect of freeing the slaves of the 300 families they declare it to [be] an unjust abuse of the rights of the Colonists— As to the plan of indemnifying the Settlers for their slaves it is *absurd* where is the State to obtain *500,000*—in *cash* to pay for the slaves that are already introduced—for it is not expected they will be deprived of them—and lay out of their capital 3 or 4 years—all these things have been considered—and *for my part* I have a more flattering hope of a favourable slave law—at this time than I have ever had before—your *representation* has been sent on—they say it is "algo duro"—but they make allowances—Saucedo showed me a letter from the Baron and the Senator Cevallos on this subject the *viejo* is very warm on the subject—you will receive a copy of it by mail— The Old Baron has strove hard for us—I know not what would have been our fate if he had not been a member of the Legislature— Our situation would have been a deplorable one indeed—

If a favourable Slave Law is passed it will be attributed in a great measure to the *unremitted* exertions of the Baron and I wish the Settlers to know it—as many of them are inimical to him—popular opinion has changed very much in his *favor* within the last year in this place—I wrote him a lengthy letter last mail to act a "contra" to the "Triste" one I supposed you had written At all events if it comes to the worst and the slaves of the 300 families are *freed* we have a right to appeal to Congress—where I am convinced all will go right—

I have conversed with Saucedo and Flores relative to yr. contract with Burnett and Fullerton—Saucedo is fully of the opinion that you are at *liberty* to make any contract of that kind you may think proper—and recommends the plan as the surest and most expeditious to settle the New Colony—he and Flores also observes that no objection can be made as to reserving a certain extent of country for them and having it *surveyed* against they arrive—even if they should not arrive under a year—as the Law allows six years for the settling of the new Colonies—

I think you misunderstand the law relative to the introduction of 100 families before they can receive possession—Saucedo say's that as fast as they arrive they can have the quantity of land designated to them the law allows—and they can go on to it and go to work and when the Commissioner *arrives* they can be put in possession—Flores will wait untill he hears more from you—or untill the Slave question is decided but he tells me to inform you that you may expect

the utmost *latitude* from him that can be given—without infringing the Law of Colonization too much—

I have fully explained to Saucedo the necessity of your *receiving* something to satisfy you for your trouble and the expense you are at—

he feels fully convinced that it is just and right you should do so—and says there will be no difficulty on that head—If you can make a *contract* with the new Settlers to pay 20, 30, or 100 dollars; if you please over and above what the Govt requires—he says you have a right to do so—as the *Law* makes all contracts on the part of the *Empresario* and Colonists binding provided it is with their consent—however—he has promised me to do all he can for you on this point—The New Arancel Mr. Kerr—will take on—I have seen the instructions of Flores they are very *full* and *explicit* but they are so lengthy that owing to my *bad health* I shall not be able to copy them for you—With the advice of Saucedo I do not think it necessary for me to go on to *Saltillo* but I have written the Baron that should it be necessary—to write me Directed to san Carlos—

I shall leave this the day after to morrow for Laredo—I wish you to write to me directed to San Carlos—you must expect no assistance from this place untill the Comdt Genl Bustamante arrives then I expect troops will be stationed on the Brazos—Ahumada will be removed to Nacogdoches—with the Troops under his command, and a garrison will be placed on the Sabine—the Govt has appropriated an immense sum for the payment of Troops stationed in this Department $60,000 dollars arrived not long since and 30,000 will arrive next week—and 30,000 more is *already* "habilitado"—

Your draft on the Govt at this place has been duly *honored* and I can get the money today—

The French fleet has met with a *total defeat* 10 miles the other side of the San Marks—6 Indians stole 80—mules and 25 horses and left them completely on foot—they have procured 30 yoke of oxen in this place—and have been a week gone to bring in the waggons—

The order for an Election for Electors was published in this place on sunday last—and the same will be forwarded on to the Brazos by this mail—It appears the Electors are to meet at this place on the 6th of next month for the purpose of Electing an Elector to vote for Deputies to Congress the Elector that is appointed has to go all the way to Saltillo to give in his vote—and has to bear his own expense there and back; the inhabitants of this place are very much disgusted with so absurd a regulation—and I believe they have come to the conclusion to vote for the Baron; as he is already there and it is well known he will only vote for those that are favourably disposed towards this Department—they speak of Dn Victor Blanco, Gonzales, Cevallos, or Yesca [Viesca]—we are entitled to 4

Electors and they must be instructed to vote for the Baron as Elector—O! how the Citizens of this place do curse the day they connected themselves to *Coahuila*

I cannot tell when I shall return I am determined not to do so untill I do something—If slavery is not permitted I have come to the conclusion provided I can get 100 mules to employ 4 or 5000 dollars in goods and bring them to this place—I have never seen so good a prospect to clean 8 or 9000 dollars as offers at this time—here (and owing to the prohibition laws which they have lately received the strictest orders to enforce) And the additional *number* of troops to be stationed here, the prospect will be better—6 or 7 months hence—

As to the Colony Saucedo says there is no restriction—there is one thing I wish to caution you—There has lately arrived here a new *decree* relative to passports and you must be particular to whom you give pasports hereafter—(the same order has been sent on to you) you will have to express in the pasports whether they are Colonists or not—if they bring goods the *kind* and the amt The cause of this last Decree relating to pasports is owing [to] *abuses* comitted by strangers on the Coast against the *Revenue* laws—and also for fear Spain may introduce Emissaries into this republic as she has lately done in *Buenos Ayres*—

Berrimende and Dn Erasmo's son *Juan* will start on the 1st of next month for New Orleans they calculate to go by Sn Felipe you must try and be at home—I wish you to be *very particular* in yr attentions to *Juan for my sake* for I am certainly *indebted* to his family for inumerable favors—[should] he want a new supply of provisions furnish him with the best let it cost what it may—Also he will want letters of recomendation to persons in New Orleans which I wish you to furnish him with he goes on to purchase goods, probably to the amt of 1000 or 1,200—Also tell Mrs. Picket to have some good *butter* for him to take along on the road—I would rather that you and J. E. G[ross]—would come to some understanding different from the one you are now on—as to Keep from what I have learned since I left you—it is his intention to leave the country shortly—

Parker has been imprisoned in La Bahia very unjustly I have procured an order for his release—which the Govr has sent on to day—

Do, let me beg of you to assume more cheerfulness you always put the worst construction on things and thereby render yourself fretful and melancholy—you are . . . [three lines torn away] there has been and is still much sickness on this place

I wish you to inform Huber that he can do well in this place; as to his procuring a situation in the army it is uncertain untill the arrival

of Bustamante for the Com^te. of this place has petitioned for a surgeon some time since—And the Gov^t. has promis^d to *furnish* one—but in the mean time Huber could come on and learn the language and form acquaintances—The obligation of Roxo the Chief has [been] received and enclosed I send you his receipt— Saucedo has informed me that from recent information rece^d. (not officially) Edwards will not be *permitted* to go on with his Colony but will have to leave the Country beyond a doubt—

I think Burnett's prospect pretty good—If Burnett gets the settling of that country I think you ought to make some arrangement to have an interest in it.

Do not neglect to ascertain if Bingham will sell his Gin and for what price—and let Musquis know by next mail if possible—I wrote to him on the subject before I left home—Also I wrote to Capt. Hirams to collect me a few pounds of Turpentine and to send it to Williams—to be forwarded on to D^n. Erasmo by the mail rider—it is for Musquis and . . . [three lines torn away.]

Tell Williams that Dn. Erasmo has not time to write him this mail owing to Multiplicty of business— he thinks he had better come on here—

Enclosed I send you the measure of Saucedo for a pair of shoes which do not fail to send him by the Mail rider if they can be procured.

My health is bad— I continue weak and you must excuse errors in this lengthy scrawl—

Lewis is still in Santa Rosa his business is unfinished as yet but has taken *favourable turn*— I am told he is engaged in working a mine—

(Thursday) Since writing the above Owing to my weakness and the company that starts to day for Laredo not being sufficiently strong I shall wait until the 1st. of next month— When we can make up a considerable party— I am *informed* the road is infested by Indians.

Give my respects to Williams and Burnett— I am glad to hear that Williams "*devil*" has started I hope he will have more peace of mind than formerly—The mail has just arrived from the interior—The first part of the Constitution has arrived— (that is the project) no part of it has yet been adopted The Discussion com^d [commenced] on the 22d inst. next month will bring something final—Bustamente left San Luis Potasi on the 11th of the present— etc. etc.—

I believe I have given you all the news that I am possessed of—

Remember me to the widow and all of my friends Dn. Erasmo and family send their respects—

J. B. AUSTIN [Rubric]

JAMES KERR TO AUSTIN

San Antonio 23. August 1826.

DR SIR,

I came here last thursday evening in Company with your Brother and others. your Brother, myself and others of the Company have been very unwell tho we are all on the mend. Capt. Bowen and Mr. Moor are also mending. There is considerable Sickness here amongst the soldiers and inhabitants.

Your Brother has written you relative to the suspension of Gen[l] San Bernardo, and the appointment of your *friend Bustemantas* to the office of Com[t.] General, in his stead—He has also given you all the information that has been rec[d.] here in relation to the Slaves and Slave Law.

I am happy to learn that you have recovered your health; and regret to hear that Mr. Williams has been so very sick—hope he has ere this recovered.

Delion has Commited some atrocious Outrages on some American travelers who were on the way here on business with the Gov[t.] What the result will be I am not able to say. I shall lay the Memorial of Mr. Stout before the Chief to day relative to Delions Ill treating and robing of him.

I find the Chief to be a man of easy access, and is very afible with me It appears that he (the chief) is Determined to Consider Delion, An *Empresario* Over an undefined District for 40 familes; and wishes the bounds between Dewitt and Delion to be agreed ou between themselves.

I have proposed to let Delion Go Eastward to the Grassite [Garcitas], and up and Down the Guadalupe for quantity; giving to Dewitt all the Labacca; but he will not make an order to that effect, without the consent of Delion, or the consent of the Commissioner on the part of Delion, who is not yet appointed. It appears to me that Dewitt will have to appeal to the Gov[t] to obtain his right; this however will I presume Depend on the advice you may give on the subject.

The Chief has promised to furnish the fee bill to me, to Day.

I am much indebted to your Brother for his polite attention, and assistance here.

I have mentioned to the Chief the propriety of inviting fields to partisipate in the War against the hostile Indians; he said that he had written to him to come here and to bring his title papers to land if he had any with a view to assertain the strength of his claim, and to make some arrangements with him in assisting to Defend the frontiers. He requested me to write fields on the subject by the first

oppertunity and urge him to come on. The mail leaves here to morrow, and I somewhat expect I shall do so too; but I cannot say when I shall be able to get to San felipe.

You will perceive from reading this that my mind is too weak and, Ideas too scattering to write. A few nights ago I Dreamd, that the last object of my hopes was laid beneath the Sod on the Gloomy hill in the prairie near San felipe: This with other difficulties keeps me in *Despair*

My Respects to Mr & Mrs pettes also Mrs Williams and Wightman

JAMES KERR

[Addressed:] Al Tente Coronl. Estevan F. Austin. En Sn. Felipe de Austin

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ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN TO AUSTIN

The Petition of the undersigned respectfully REPRESENT, that haveing removed to this country, with an intention of settling in it permanently as one of the settlers which you are authorized to introduce, as Empresario, He has examined a piece of land on the east Side of the Rio Colorado, being near its mouth and being the extremity of the high Prairie; and the most suitable place for the landing of families, who emigrate, by water, to that part of the country.

At this time there are no settlements of any kind, at, or near, the said landing-place, which render it both dangerous, and inconvenient for Emigrants to disembark there; dangerous, in consequence of exposure to the Karonkawa Indians, who are hostile, and infest that part of the Bay-Shore, Inconvenient oweing to the want of Houses, to receive Emigrants, and store up their property, on this first landing. In consequence of which many are detered from emigrating to that part of the country—A number of my friends, and acquaintances and particularly H. H. League, James C. Ludlow who have explored the country, and entered into arrangements, with you as Empresario for their reception as settlers together with a number of other families, whom they expect to bring have a desire to land at the above mentioned place provided suitable buyldings, can be provided for the security of their families, and, products and they have requested me to erect, such necessary buyldings provided it meets with the approbation of the constituted local authority of the Government.

Therefore your Petitioner prays permission to occupy said place for the above purposes and that a grant of one League of land may be made to him at said place, to erect such buyldings as he may put

up, in consideration of the great Service he will render the Colony, and the Country by facilitating emigration, and in order to inable him to support his family on said land—

(Signed) ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

considering the exposed situation of Emigrants to this Country who land at the mouth of the Colorado River, in consequence of causes set forth in the foregoing Petition; And haveing fully considered of the necessity of such an establishment, as the one proposed, and the general utility that would result to the Country therefrom, Therefore I Stephen F. Austin Empresario, and Judge of this Jurisdiction do hereby grant the Petition presented by the said Elias Wightman, to occupy said place and to buyld the necessary houses for the accommodation and Security of Settlers referring him to the Government of the State, or the Commissioner appointed by the Government for this Colony to apply for a title to the land which he solicits with the understanding that this permission is to be subject to the approval of the said Government, or Commissioner as they may deem proper, and Knowing the great expense and hasard attending the Execution of such Improvements and buyldings as are contemplated in consequence of the hostility of the Indians, and the remoteness of the Settlements I do recommend the Petition of the said Elias Wightmen for the grant of a League of Land, to the particular attention of Government, or Commissioners, and should it be consistent with the laws to make such Grant I recommend that it be made as prayed for—

Sn Felipe de Austin
August 23d 1826

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

Con el oficio de V. S. fha 18 de Julio p°. p°. he recibido tres decretos del Congreso General el 1°. sobre la presentación p^r el Ministro de Guerra y Marina de todos los documentos bastantes á justificar el presupuesto—el 2° reducido á que el consulado no debe conocer las causas del distrito federal y el 3° para q. el Gob^no dirije su atencion á poner en estado de defensa la barra de Guazacoalcos.

Dios y Libertad
San Felipe de Austin 25 de Agosto de 1826

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departam^to
C Jose Antonio Saucedo

[1] This and the five pieces of the same date which follow are from the Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

Tan pronto que las circunstancias permitían dí noticiar al habitante del Rio Trinidad Guillermo Taylor para asistir á la averiguacion de tres personas que V. S. me mandó hacer por oficio 18 de Mayo p°. p°. relativo á los procedimientos del Empresario Hayden Edwards de que el dho Taylor queja en su carta al Exmo Sor Gobernador cuya copia V. S. me incluyó y el dho Taylor habiendome noticiado que el Alcalde de Nacogdoches habia ya averiguado esta materia á su satisfacion y que no era necesario tomar más declaraciones sobre el asunto he considerado por esta razon no era necesario tomar el empeño de una viaje á la Trinidad para averiguar esta materia puest° que el interesado era satisfecho.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 25 de Agosto de 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departam^to^

Ciudadano José Antonio Saucedo

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fha 28 de Julio p°. p°. de la determinacion del Exmo Sor Presidente relativo al Sacerdote Secular Anselmo Angero.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 25 de Agosto de 1826.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departam^to^

C. Jose Antonio Saucedo

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fha 28 de Julio p° p° en que me incierta copia del oficio del Exmo Sor Ministro de Guerra y Marina fha 3 del mismo en que comunique el nombramiento del Exmo. Sor Anastasio Bustamante Comandante Gral Ynspector de los Estados Coahuila y Texas, Nuevo Leon y Tamaulipas.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 25 de Agosto de 1826.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departam^to^

C Jose Antonio Saucedo

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fha 18 de Julio p° p° del error de la imprenta en la publicación de la ley sobre rebaja del contingente á los Estados estampando en dha publicacion Abril por Mayo.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 25 de Agosto de 1826.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departam^to^

C Jose Antonio Saucedo

AUSTIN TO AHUMADA

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V. fha 3 del presente de la entrega por el C Juan Harris al Comandante de Labahia el dia 24 del pasado Julio de la Balandra Mexicana y Bote que contrate en conformidad con las instruciones de V para el servicio de nuestra Republica y que el importe de las dhas está satisfecha.

Con el mayor placer y agradecimiento he visto la aprobacion que V ha tenido á bien significar de mis debiles empeños en esta materia.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 25 de Agosto de 1826.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Comandante Pral de armas C. Mateo Ahumada.

H. H. LEAGUE TO AUSTIN

Colo. Grosses Mantion house the 25 Aug 1826

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

D SIR I left town without the pleasure of a Parting interview with you. you were not at home when I called; on my departure which I the more Regreted because I wished to have Solicited the favour of you to communicate with me at Nashville concerning the progress of the Colony in general; and also the measures adopted by the Conventional and legislative councils of the State. any communication from you will be most thankfully Received. the health of our company is increasing

god grant you many days—

H. H. LEAGUE

Richard Fields to Austin [1]

Cor[l] y Gefe interino, Esteban F. de Austin

Pueblo del Charaqui 27 Agt 1826

Respectado Sor; Acabo de recivir por un indio Cadó las noticias q[e] Vmd. communico, que ase 17 dias que salio de los Comanches y q. dhos le dijeron que para la difinicion de esta Luna tenian intentado el camparse en las caveseras del Colorado para de ay estando todos Reunidos el ir atacar a su colonia asta destruirla enteramente ó aserlos quitar de ella Para el Principio de la otra Luna, y que decian que mientras vivieran Jamas tendrian Paz con los mexicanos y todos los q[e] vivieron bajo el mismo Gov[o] mismas notisias avia tenido antes Por otros indios y no dudo que sea cierto; estas notisias Comunico a Vd. Para que este Vd. entendido Como espero de su Ciudado selas Participara el Gefe del de Partamento de Texas Para su entera satisfaci[n] quedando entodo desiandole buena Prosperidad y salud y mande con Dominio a su Sirbiente q[e] S. m B.

Ricard Fils.

P. D.

tamvien dice el indio cado que mientras estuba entre ellos no sesaban de traer cautivos dia por dia y Caballada Robado, Cosa q[e] enteramente no allo a q[e] atribuir la negligencia de nuestro Gov[o] Pues con esta fha me Presente Al Alcalde de Nacog[s] p[a] q. si fuere de su Autoridad nos permitiera licencia p[a] aser Camp[a] a los Guecos y si no era de su Autoridad Pasara al Punto onde Corresponda; a rresulta de aber muerto algunos de mi Nacion: tamvien notisio a Vd que todas las naciones enemigas me an mandado a solicitar Paz y q[e] si queria aser una Reunion con ellos p[a] hir arrovar Pero Como mis sentimientos nos son mas de la pura cincera amistad Respecto obediencia a nuestros Padres Mexicanos, no les he consentido ni lo consentire Jamas, no deje darme algunas notisias de sus atribu[ciones] y otros particulares del estado que sea digno de saverse vivire Agradecido Su admo

Ricard Fils

Austin to Saucedo [2]

Through my communication of the 14th Instant, I informed your Lordship that I had called a meeting of the people, to agree upon some system of defence for this section, until the Government can adopt measures for the protection of the whole frontier of Texas. The board assembled on the 21st Instant, and, after due deliberation,

[1] Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

[2] Translations from Bexar Archives, in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

we agreed upon the following articles, which are to receive the approbation of your Lordship before they are carried into effect.

Articles agreed upon by the Board.

First: All the militia of this Jurisdiction shall be organized into twelve sections; one section to be sent to the frontier every month, to do duty as spies, or frontier guard.

Second: These sections shall include all the men living in this Jurisdiction, whether resident in lawful possession of land, or not; provided they are able to bear arms. All those who own half a league of land shall be included in said section, even though he be exempted from service in the National Militia Regulations, in consequence of his age, physical impediment, or for other reasons; all those who have two leagues of land shall be counted as two men in the organization of said classes; those who have four leagues shall be counted as four men; and those who have more than eight leagues shall be counted as five men.

Third: Those who have half a league and upwards, and are not actual residents of this Jurisdiction, shall enter said classes and be counted at the call of one man for each half league, up to two leagues; above which quantity, they shall come within the provisions of the following article. In case said persons should be absent and should fail to supply a man in their place, they shall be considered as responsible for the ordinary rate of the hire of a substitute, which amount shall be collected by the civil authorities and be paid into the Treasury of this Department.

Fourth: In case that any person should fail to serve at his time, or to supply a substitute agreeably to these regulations, then the Commanding Officer of the Militia of the district to which that person may belong, shall hire a substitute to serve in his place, provided that such substitute shall not receive more than $40, a month, to be paid in merchandize, or the productions of the Country; and said Commanding Officer of the district shall forthwith make his report to the Alcaldes of the Jurisdiction in which the absentee and the substitute hired in his place may reside; and the Alcalde shall order the Sheriff to collect the amounts, due by said absentee, from his property by a public sale of the same, the proceeds, when collected, to be paid to said substitute. In case of the sickness of any of the men, the officers of the district, jointly with the Alcalde, may relieve him from one tour of duty, but no more. Volunteers, shall, in all cases, be received to supply the place of absentees.

Fifth: The Commanding Officer of the Jurisdiction, having a due regard to the respective strength of the various parties, and in conformity to the inventory of lands belonging to each person, shall

assess the number of the militia, that each district shall supply every month, and he shall give corresponding orders to the respective commanding officers of the districts; and these officers, jointly with the Alcalde, shall divide the men of their district, who are thus bound to serve according to these regulations, into twelve sections, one for each month, in a just and impartial manner.

Sixth. Said Commanding Officer of the Jurisdiction, shall, if possible, engage an officer to take the permanent command of the party referred to in the first article of these regulations; and, if it be impracticable, from want of the necessary funds to pay the officer, the said Commanding Officer shall detail from among the officers of the Militia, one for every month, selecting those whom he deems best qualified for that duty.

The object of the plan is to keep twenty or thirty mounted men continually on the frontier as spies; as well for the preventing of the incursions of small parties of Indians, as to give timely notice should they come in force to make a formal attack.

The intention of the several articles is, to compel every one to contribute his share in the common defence in proportion to the interest he has in the Country.

Some persons who have received and own lands here, have gone to Nacogdoches in consequence of the Indian difficulties, thus hoping to avoid being compelled to furnish their proportion towards the defence of this Jurisdiction, alleging that the laws governing the National Militia only require their personal service in the district in which they reside, and that while they live at Nacogdoches they are bound to do militia service there, and, that, therefore, they cannot be compelled to serve in this Jurisdiction, although all of their property is here; adding, furthermore, the colonization law exempting the Colonists from taxes for some years, no taxes can be levied on the property they leave here, and that to compel them to serve in this manner amounts to a tax. Those who have more than two leagues of land say also, that the law on Militia makes it obligatory on them to be in readiness to serve personally, but that they cannot be compelled to serve two, three or five terms more than any other persons on account of the greater interest they may have in the country alleging that it would be a tax imposed upon them in opposition to the colonization law.

I anticipate the most favorable results from this plan if there is no impediment thrown in the way of its execution; and I pray your Lordship to communicate to me such doubts as you may feel respecting its realization. If you approve it I wish you would send me a formal approbation, with such corrections and additions as you

may deem necessary, that I may publish and circulate it for the information of all concerned.

God and Liberty.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, August 28th, 1826.

ELECTION NOTICE

In complyance with the law of the Legislature of this State passed the 29 of July last providing for elections and in obedience to the order of the chief of the Department of Texas for the election from this Colony of the number of primary electors which the population of this jurisdiction entitles it to in conformity with said law Notice is hereby given that an election will be held in the Town of San Felipe de Austin on Saturday the 2d day of Septe- ber next by all the Inhabitants of this colony for four electors to proceed to San Antonio de Bexar so as to arrive there by the 6 of Sept. to give their votes in the electoral college of the Department of Texas for the purpose of electing electors to the college of electors of the state which is to convene in Saltillo the first Sunday in october next for the purpose of electing a member of the national congress from this state—

San Felipe de Austin Aug. 28. 1826

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.]

Note—The law and order for this election was not recd by me until this day owing to the failure of one mail between Saltillo and San Antonio—

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

En cumplimiento con el oficio orn de V. S. fha 27 de Julio pº pº en que me ordena averiguar ciertos particulares relativos al casamiento y caracter de Elis Bean he tomado la declaracion de dos Yndividuos sobre la materia incluido con este, uno de dhos Yndividuos Martin Allen es habitante de esta Colonia y hombre respetable y honorable y el otro Sterling C. Robertson es un Anglo-Americano del Estado de Tenesí hombre muy respetable y bien conocido.

Como la familia de Bean vive sobre el Rio de los Neches cincuenta leguas de aquí no he podido hallar aquí muchos hombres que tiene conocimiento de él motivo por que no he tomado mas declaraciones sobre la materia.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 28 de Agosto de 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departamto. C Jose Antonio Saucedo

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[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

Austin to Ahumada

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of August 26, 1824.]

Ahumada sobre gracias de Presidente

Tengo a la vista el oficio de V fha 27 del presente en qe me transcribe el oficio del Exmo Mtro de guerra y marina sobre los acontecim^tos^ con los Indios y con el mayor placer he visto qe el Sup^mo^ Gob^no^ se ha dignado aprobar nuestros debiles esfuerzos publican[do] el citado oficio p^a^ estimular los milicianos, dandoles de este modo a entender q su conducta esta aprobada por la Superioridad

S F de A 31 de Agsto, 26

E F A

Green DeWitt to Austin

Dr Sir

I mentioned in my letter to you herewith delivered, that I had commenced the building of a boat, for the purpose of lighting or unloading the schooner; which I am bound to have completed; and on leaving New Orleans I neglected to get a whip saw and some files; which I must beg the favor of you to borrow, and if you have none of your own to use your influence to get for me, and I will have special care taken of her; and returned.

Station On Labaca Sept 3rd 1826.

G. Dewitt [Rubric]

Col Stephen F Austin

Green DeWitt to Austin

Station On Rio Labaca Sept 3rd 1826.

Dr Sir

This will inform you I have stationed myself for the present on this creek a bout 6 miles above the head of tide water, where I intend settling some 10 or 12 families in the form of a station in order that we may be more secure from the Indians untill we can collect strength enough to venture out on our lands.

I should have written you before this time, but have been so undetermined in the place where I would actually settle for the present; and so much occupied in moving out from the bay that I had not time to write you, which neglect I hope you will pardon.

I have contracted for the runing of the Schooner Despatch, W. J. Russell, master, for the term of 4 years—she has made her first trip; and is a new vessel only 18 months old; burthen 50 Tons and well Riged. I have also contracted for the building of a flat boat 30 by 12 feet, which is already begun; for which is for the purpose of unload-

ing and lighting the schooner so that she can pass in at the mouth of the Labaca—the schooner will be at the landing a gain in about 3 weeks, with some Emigrants and [al]so some cargo for this country. I have also contracted for the building of a ware house at or near the mouth of the Labaca which will be immediately commenced for the convenience of emigrants and others destined for either of these colonies, that their property and families may have a place of shelter and safety on landing in this vast *wilderness.*

Mr Kerr has just returned from San Antonio and will be able to give you all the News of that place; touching my business with the Government.

If you should write shortly to Baron De Bastrop I would wish to be particularly remembered to him; inform him what I am doing etc etc and that I will shortly write him lengthly,

When on my way to this country I called at landing of Mr Elias Bates in order to ask for letters for you and your brother; but was informed by Mr John Geizer that none of the family were at home and that Mrs Bates and Mrs Honey were both dead.

I intend visiting you so soon as I can leave this place with safety, when I shall have many things to say and much advice to ask of you, as Empresarios have much trouble to en counter, but I the most of all; your assistance to Mr Kerr has been deeply felt by him and equally so by me. My compliments to Mr Williams

G. DEWITT [Rubric]

Col STEPHEN F AUSTIN

J. E. B. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN[1]

Bexar 3.d Sep.t 1826

Dr BROTHER

I have this moment received your letter= I am fully convinced and always have been of the necessity and importance of the Barons Speedy return to the Colony—I know his long absence has caused you much uneasiness of mind—But I am sorry you think that your anxiety, is a subject of "*mirth* and "*Ridicule*" for me I can assure you it is not, nor ever has been— my object when I have seen you in such low spirits has only been to divert your attention to something else and prevent your absolutely *dying* with melancholy

I have concluded to go to Saltillo first as I have to go by Monterrey to go to San Carlos—owing to the drought—the lower Route— If there is any possible way of getting the Baron off I will do so and bring him on immediately I saw a gentleman (Yturri) direct from Saltillo he says the Baron is Extremely anxious to return— but thinks he cannot untill Decembr at any rate I will go and see—

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. Emmett L. Perry.

Try and Keep the Slave holders from going until they hear the result of the Slave question— Tell them they are safe yet—and there is but little doubt but part of the laws will be favourable—that is—what—relates to the Slaves already in the Country— The Ayuntam of this place have made as *Warm* a Representation in favor of it as you have— Your Representation is thought well of—the attempt to comitt such an outrage on the rights of the Settlers—(they say) perfectly justifies you in expressing your feelings in the strongest terms—they have done the same— You will receive a Copy of the Represen^{on}—they have made this mail— The Cabildo are quite Sanguine of obtaining a favorable slave law— I had a relapse a few days ago—and am so weak can hardly write— I shall start however to morrow in company with what Americans are here—and a convoy going to Laredo—

Respects to Williams—sorry to hear he has been in such low health—would write him but have no—time— Rem^{r} me to Mrs Picket and Elisa

J. B. AUSTIN

You may direct your next letter to Saltillo—

P. S—Martin de Leon has just arrived I do not know the object of his Visit—

P. S. Do not forget the Turpentine and the Gin—

I shall see Dn Victor and you can write me in Saltillo if you could make any arrangement to buy—the mill—for any thing but Cash I could get the money in Saltillo or a draft on this place—

J. B. A

JAMES GAINES TO SAUCEDO

Nacogdoches Sep^{t} 5. 1826

His Excellency DON JOSE ANT^{o} SAUSIDO.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR I have this Year omitted writing as I am unable to write spanish and had every confidence business would eventually close to the general good of the Government Yet I have seen all the Year the machines of disappointed impure services disappointed speculators disappointed Rouges disappointed Office hunters opponents and striving in opposition and each one striving to carry his point but all unanimously opposing the law and authority

They began on the 19th March by declaring the documents from your excellency was forged and the Authority here was arbitrary this part was without effect yet they continued in imprinting of this on the minds of the people untill a certain Col. Pettis [Pettus] from Austin's Colony arrived here at the Irish Bayou he declared at

Chandlers Store in the presince of Chandler Elbert Hinds Esq[r] and many others that there was no law nor authority in this country that all they had was from Your excellency and that you yourself had no Authority and that Austin commanded to the Sabine this immediately took effect with all who could not be received in the country and all who opposed the Law and authority Burrill Thompson immediately commenced to raise a Company among them declaring they would not suffer in future any man to be turned out of the country and that they would put down the Authority and establish one of their own they all declared by the powers to desist Burrill Thompson declared to me there was no law nor authority there and that He would persist in regulating His Company and had this meeting and agreed to send John A. Williams to Stephen F. Austin to sanction agreable to what Pettis had told them It appears Austin became anamoured with this plan and sent a large document to Benjamin Edwards who remains here as the agent of Haden Edwards the Empresario and disclosing many secrets on Slavery among them the said Edwards went immediately to the Irish Bayou and set in on the Company Him and John A Williams and Burrill Thompson and has eventually succeeded to effect a confusion among them as no dependence can be placed among them and the said B. Edwards has this morning sent Chaplin among them with a large Packet against the authority of this place what this may end in God only knows the House of Dill and Dust [Durst] has worked on the mind of their Friends as they keep a Boarding House for the Empresario It has touched the minds of some of the old Citizens in a word much confusion remains here and all has originated from the Empresario.

I received a Letter this morning from Austin's Colony this day and am informed that they are worse there than here and I presume the confusion came first from them or the cause.

Austin has requested the Alcalda of this place to check me as He said I *was* in the habit of informing the Government continually the dangers of a rebellion All I have to say on this subject is Had he fought for the Freedom of this Country and spent all he had He would be a man particular in defending it But Your Excellency will see no Empresario can comply with their obligation to this Government agreeable to Laws and eventually if the calculations fail all interest for the Government will fail and the result will be confusion which I do not consider is at hand I dont say that a rebellion is in hand Judge yourself what I do say from your own opinion I want your Excellency to send Troops to enforce the Laws and every where establish order every where I am ready to aid you at all times I shall use evry exertion in my power untill the return mail and if times cant

be altered I must leave my Family and then Contend Myself in person for the Laws and Authority untill I Die

God and Liberty

I remain your Excellencies most obt very Humble Servant

(Signed) JAMES GAINES.

Satillo Oct. the 7. 1826

DEAR SIR

I send you a Copy of a Letter wrote by Mr. James Gaines to this Government stating what you will see in said letter You have that poisinous serpent who underhanded is writing against you all you ought to take care of Him for if He dont injure you it is not for the want of trying you will see by His letter that I drew off word for word.

I wish you to let all the Ayish Bayou know it and see what He and his Brother in Law wishes to do if it was in their power Norris has written to the same effect this is wrote by a Friend who dont sign his name for good reasons but you will know who he is in a short time.

Ponga mi Rubrica no mas[1]

To Mr. Joseph Dust [DURST]

A true copy taken from the original in the secretary's office Saltillo Oct. 6th 1826

JA^{s} E. B. AUSTIN [Rubric]

P. S. In some places I have corrected the spelling and in others have left it as it is in the original, which is so badly written that it was with much difficulty the meaning could be ascertained.—[Austin][2]

SAMUEL NORRIS TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches Sept 5th 1826

Co^{l} STEVEN F AUSTIN

DEAR SIR I rec^{d} your letter by mail of the 27 of August where in you state to me the news of Saltillo being favourable on Slavery which I have made known in the settlement wherein the people was so much dissatisfied with the news that all thier slaves was to be set free since I have not heard from there how they have taken the news but I dont hesitate to say that I expect as usual I did not send your letter but only a coppy of the slave news

Sir it is a mistake of yours to say that I am the father in law of Gaines I am only a Brother in law but if he was my child its self I would not correct him if I did not believe him to be wrong he has

[1] This copy does not contain the rubric. There is no clue to the writer. The most likely guess would be Juan Antonio Padilla, secretary to the Governor.

[2] See Sprowl to Austin, Nov. 5, 1826.

done nothing but what has went by the knowledge of the Alcalda of this place and I need not go further than yourself to prove all the representations that according to law should go through of this court has not done so and you done more than the chief of Department done when he was applid to and it had not gone through its proper channel he sent them back to take a fair start but you did not

if Gines [Gaines] has made any fals representations I would be glad to know what they are that he may be checked in time it [is] a fine thing to check before any thing is to far gone but to check a man for obeying the orders of his Legal authority I dont think it is right

sir from the present state of affairs our stength is verry divided and it is I believe from such petitions as you translated you could have known that this man[1] was not aiming at the fair thing as he could not obtain it here you must know in reason we have not more men than we have a use for

if they could be expected by Government it appears that you had no confidence in the proper authority of this place a stranger that is not received by government should be heard and every attention paid to him without asking any questions whether he was right or wrong

SAMUEL NORRIS

ALEXANDRE CURCIER TO AUSTIN

St Antonio Sept 5th 1826

AUSTIN Esqr

SIR Having some days since had a conversation with your Brother through the medium of a friend respecting the loss I sustained of a Cabalyard, consisting of 69 head of Mules 22 Horses and 13 work Oxen, taken off at night from my camp by the towagones [Tahuacanos] and wecos—He informed me that an Expedition was about being undertaken by the settlers of your Colony against those two Nations for depredations committed upon your settlement—and promised that he would write to you on the subject of my loss and assured me of your friendly disposition toward the recovery of my property, all which I doubt not he has mentioned to you, previous to his leaving here, probably by the last mail that left here

Under the solicitude I feel for the recovery of this property, and the Extra expense incurred added to the pecuniary embarrassment, and my attention being required to my property here, preventing personal steps towards regaining of my cavalyard, I am induced personally to address this Letter, and in aid with a friend, who has

[1] Burrll J. Thompson, whose application for permission to form a volunteer company Austin forwarded to Saucedo August 11, 1826.

politely promised to forward the same further to solicit your good offices, in the event of an Expedition being fitted out as suggested by your Brother, towards the Expense of which I am willing most chearfully to contribute Five Hundred Dollars, provided by so doing my property could be placed in a situation so as to be obtained by my sending for it on being advised thereof, beside placing myself under obligations of gratitude and personal respect not to be forgotten, but holding myself always ready to reciprocate when opportunity presented, to yourself or friends.

Owing to my misfortune I have come to a determination to sell off 4 to 6 waggons, of which I also apprized your Brother, who at once discovered thire usefulness to some of the Largest Planters in your Neighbourhood—they are large and heavy, with broad wheels, well ironed and calculated either for Oxen or Mules, with complete sets of Harness—should any be wanted I would suggest the propriety of an early application, as I feel disposed to let them go reasonably, in order that my stay may not be protracted—Be pleased to favor me with your reply by return post and oblige,

ALEX CURCIER

The mark of my Mules and Horses is A. C. on the near side of the neck and shoulders—

The oxen have no mark particularly remembered

[Addressed:] S. F. Austin Esqr.

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Por el Administrador de Tabacos de esta Ciudad han sido entregados a su hermano D. Santiago Austin los doscientos ochenta y un pesos, seis reales, tres granos de q. trata su oficio de 26. de Julio anterior ha q. contesto.

Dios y libertad. Bexar Septe 6. de 1826.

JOSE ANTo SAUCEDO [Rubric]

Sor. Dn. Estevan Austin

LITTLEBERRY HAWKINS TO AUSTIN

Lexington 6 Sept 1826

STEPHEN F AUSTIN Esq

We keep continually published in the Papers some interesting discriptions of the Country and shall Continue to do so the best description of the Country has been lately published in the Argus Signed by Smith also a good description signed by Lewis I have seen Doct Roman who lately returned he speaks well of the Coun-

try any descriptions that you would have furnished to me shall be published at all times in great Henly(?) the Stage is Starting they are Not making as much Noise about the trade from Missouri to Santefee as formerly which makes in favor of your Grant Mclain will say to You what is excitement in this State as to emigration and give You the Knews generally

Your friend

L H [Littleberry Hawkins.]

LITTLEBERRY HAWKINS TO AUSTIN

Lexington Sept. 6. 1826

D SIR

If You will inform me What is the mode or rout By Post if any established I can get Papers and letters to You I can at all times furnish You with something interesting I regret that the Notice of the Col. starting was so short and would have written You more fully

Your friend L HAWKINS

SAMUEL C. HIRAMS TO AUSTIN

Harrisburg September 8th 1826

DEAR SIR

After so long a time the sawyers are come on to gow to work at your plank. I hope you will excuse me, for it was completely out of my power to send sooner.

I have made my bargain so that you have to furnish them provission and pay them One dollar pr. hundred after the logs are hewd. I wish you to call on Mr. Mason who is at Mr. Irons who is to hew the stuff. Also furnish Mason with that Bill of hewing, and the sawyers will [with] the bill of sawing that I left with you. Draw off the bill of hewing on a separate piece of paper and hand to Mason. Be so good as to gow with the workman and show them the place and timber, and after the stock for the plank and scantling is hewn, and Mason comes back to Sn. Filipe, show him where to hew the sills and sleepers etc

If Mr. Williams still continues in the notion of building, let his bill remain with your own, if he has declined building, take his part out of your bill, so that the sawyers may not be bothered.

I expected to have come over with the sawyers, but owing to company and having no person to assist my wife, I am obliged to remain at home, but I hope there will be no dificulty. Be perticular in getting sound timber for your planks Have the flooring planks hauled

as soon as it is sawn so that it may draw as soon as possible, And as soon [as] Mason returns and hews the sills etc let me know it and I will come on to work. You will have to send for your saw as Mr. Reels has sold his saw without my knowledge, and there is no other saw to be had here.

SAML. C. HIRAMS

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

I inclose to your Lordship an original letter of the Cherokee Chief Richard Fields, informing me of the movements of the Comanches, and other particulars.

I had already received, a few days since, a similar notice from a Chickasaw Indian, and I am convinced that, next fall, the Indians will unite to make a grand effort upon the frontier particularly that of Texas.

We are not well prepared here to resist an attack. More than one half of these people are awaiting the decision of Congress in regard to their slaves, as they intend to leave the Country if their emancipation is decreed. They are already making preparations for their journey. The remainder of the settlers are so disheartened that they have no energy to make an effort. Therefore, if the slaves are emancipated the government must not depend upon the assistance of this militia. It is to be feared that the tardiness in making provisions for the friendly Indians will dissatisfy them; which would be unfortunate, as 100 Cherokee warriors are decidedly superior to 500 Comanches.

God and Liberty.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, September 11th 1826.

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Sor. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Bexar Septe. 12. de 1826.

Muy Señor mio y mi estimado amigo: Aprovecho esta ocacion con el fin de insinuar áV. el grande perjuicio q. se sigue con la falta delos Electores Secundarios de ese Partido q. hasta hoy no llegan á esta Ciudad, y por esta razon está suspendida la Eleccion del q. debe pasar al Saltillo por cuya razon no sé la peluca q. reciviré.

Tambien me aprovecho de ella para recomendarle todos los asuntos del Sor. Roberto Luis, quien aunque por si solo considero tiene la

[1] Translations from Bexar Archives in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

suficiente recomendacion para V. quiero no obstante significarle mi afecto de este modo, ofreciendome de V. átento amigo y servidor q. s. m. b.

JOSE ANTº SAUCEDO [Rubric]

STEPHEN HOLMES TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches Sepr. 12th 1826

SIR.

Seven or Eight years ago more or less a man by the name of John Robinson commonly called Jacky Robinson Bought of Msrs. Pavia and Viann of this Town about four hundred dollars worth of Goods and Mr. Placide Bossier was his security and had it to pay and did pay it. Since that in an arrangement of some affairs between Mr. Bossiers and myselfe he made over and transferred the demand against Robinson to me, with all necessary Receipts Vouchers etc—I have lately been informed that Robinson died somewhere in your Colony. The Object of this letter is to obtain as a favour from you If Robinson is dead and If he left property sufficient to satisfy the above Claim. If you will Answer this letter direct your letter to the Care of Doctor Sibley of Nachitoches.

STEPHEN HOLMES

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

D. W. SMITH TO AUSTIN

Matamoros 12th. Septr. 1826.

STEPHEN AUSTIN Esqr.

DEAR SIR,

I embrace the opportunity of Capt. Buckner's return to Texas, to inform you that it is my wish to take up a League of land within your grant. It is very gratifying to hear of the prosperity of this infant settlement. It may indeed prove to be "the garden of America." It is quite probable that I shall be a neighbor of yours, at no very distant period—but is impossible for me to leave my present situation immediately. I write in haste. We have however no political, or other, news of interest to communicate. Capt. B. will give you the particulars of affairs in Matamoros. You will do me the favor, sir, to attend to this business so soon as is convenient; and also to write me on the subject. Capt. B. will advise you in making choice of the land. Any business you may have with the Spanish govern-

ment in which I can serve you—shall do it at any time with much pleasure.

D. W. SMITH

Look at next page
P. S.

A friend of mine Capt. Barnes. requests of you to do him the favor to reserve for him a League of land of good local situation and quality.

D. W. SMITH

JOHN AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Septr 13th 1826

D^{r} SIR

I send *Keller* to get some hair for the brush of the Gin, horse hair from the tail is best if Antonio is in town expect it can be got from him about 5 lb will do—I expect to have the Gin ready in the course of 4 weeks I have got Mr. Battle to assist Ramey, I have been obliged to hire McCoy for 1 month at 30$ cash it was a case of necessity without the money I could not get him, I am obliged to call on you for that amount and 22$ which I borrowed from Keller for provisions and whisky at the *Raising* of the Gin House Your Brother made an arrangement with J. H. Moore for 2 Beefs at Henry Jone's they cannot be drove from his cattle it is impossible to get them, Col. Pettus has 2 Beefs with our Cattle I wish you would make an arrangement to get them and let me know by the return of Keller—Your Brother told me that he had sent by Richardson for Bale Rope and Bagin I am told that he has not brought it—that article will be an object of good profit as well as accomodation if you could send to N, Orleans and have it brought by the first opportunity have you any thing brought by Richardson that you wish me to Look after If you have sugar and Coffee I should like to get some as nothing less than cash will get it here at 37½¢ for coffee and 18¾ for sugar When do you expect your Brother home—I am your humble Servt.

JOHN AUSTIN.

P. S. If you have not filled up the deed of the Bernard League in my name I wish if you have an opportunity of letting some other person have it you would do so, it is not a valuable tract, you mentioned that the Fort tract was vacant I should be pleased with that or any other that may be vacant the Bernard tract does not answer the description given of it by considerable it is improved

J. A.

The hire of McCoy		$30.00
Borrowed from Keller for		2
1 Bbl. Pork	13$	
4 Galls. Whiskey	6–	
1 Keg Sdr	2–	
1 Barrel	1	
	22–	
		22.00
		$52.00

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F. Austin San Felipe de A pr. Keller

Your Brother borrowed some time since 5$ from Keller which he is in want of if convenient with you.

J. A.

JOHN SIBLEY TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches Septr 15th 1826

SIR

I Accidentally met a Man who says he lives in your Neighbourhood who will bring you a few papers such as in a hurry I can Scramble together. I have been confined by Sickness some Months during which I have had no opportunity of writing or knowing of any conveyance to you—I understand some arrangements are taking place for an exchange of Mails between Mexico and the United States—Since the rising of Congress the public papers are less interesting, they are all filled with the 4th of July Proceedings and on the subject of the Remarkable Coincident in the almost simultaneous death of the ex President Adams and Jefferson on that day.—Our country from Sabine to St. Croix seem engaged in devising and executing Internal improvements The canal cross the Base of Cape Florida will be important; Indeed all of them the ohio canal, with one End near the City of Cincinati the other Cleveland on Lake Eri, the Chesepeak and Deleware Canal, the Cape Cod Canal. one from Michigan to Islenois, and an hundred others; going on and talked about as well as the great Panama Canal. a Number of Railed way Roads and Turn Pikes are going on; the great Road from Washington to New Orleans will soon commence. Our Manufactures seem to keep pace with other improvements. A Steam Boat Navigation will Certainly be extended up Red River (perhaps) to New Mexico. In Our Parish without seeming to be sickly there has been a Number of deaths

Those you know are Doctor Levis and Luke S. Hazelton. and Sam[l] Keiser At Alexandria John Carson. New Orleans by the last accounts is uncommonly healthy. Gen[l] Hampton is dead no conspicuous Character in the City. the yellow fever rages at Mobile. From Europe the Riots in England and Scotland amongst the weavers. factions in Spain opposed to the Kings party—France quiet and improving in Manufactures etc. The Gov[t] of Russia not well settled. Turkey has been obliged to give up to that Power Walatia and Maldavia, (Antient Massadonia)—The Greeks have suffered, but are not giving up the ship. Private Opinion in all the countries of Europe is warm towards them. Turkey is crippled by the War and never can conquer them. Our Gov. is placing above us On the Waters of Red River and Arkansa more than fifty thousand Indians of different and discordant Tribes I do not like the Policy, not for the reason only, that it will hasten their extinction. The Caddos and Quapas, are going to settle above you On the same River.—They will be peacable, but unprofitable Neighbours.—

Judge Johnston and family live at Washington. they were in New York a Month ago. Our Members of Congress are all Reelected from this State.

Please to Present my compliments to your brother to Capt. Clark and any Other friend or acquantance.

JOHN SIBLEY

Hon. JUDGE AUSTIN

SAMUEL C. HIRAMS TO AUSTIN

Harris Burgh
Sept. 16th 1826

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

SIR,

This will make you acquainted with Mr. Francis W. Johnson a gentleman of the first respectability who wishes to get into business. Your attention to him, will place your humble servt. under lasting obligations to you

SAML. C. HIRAMS

NICHOLAS CLOPPER TO AUSTIN

To the Honb[le] Judge AUSTIN—

The petition of Nicholas Clopper, at San felipe de Austin 16 Sept[r] 1826

Humbly sheweth, that in a decision (filed in your office) had before M. B. Nuckols Esq Alcalde of the D. S. F. de Austin wherein C. G. Alsbury was pltff and your petitioner deft your petitioner is of opinion, that very great Injustice has been done him and therefore prays relief from your honor.

It will appear that the Judgt render'd in the Case aforsaid by the Alcalde is for Seventy Three Dollars and fifty Cents, in Land or Cattle. Now your Honor will perceive that by a true statement of accots between Alsbury and your petitioner a considerable amot see statement No 1 hereto annexed which he unjustly detains to the great damage and loss of your petitioner, and when your petitioner agreed to let the said Alsbury have two Cows and Calves from Capt Christman, it was for the express purpose of paying for a Bay Mare which your petitioner had contracted for with Mr. Hollyman, and the said Alsbury wrote a Letter to your petitioner stating that the reason he did not get the mare was that she had a young Colt and supposed she would not suit whereas your petitioner saw Mr Hollyman after receiving Alsburys Letter and Mr H said that it was not true the mare had not a Colt, nor had Mr A said anything to him about the mare from which circumstances with others your petitioner is apprehensive that said Alsbury is endeavouring to defraud him, for as late as the 7th day of the present month, the said Alsbury told your petitioner that he had Cattle intended for your petitioner in the hands of Wm. Robins, but your petitioner now doubting the truth of this assertion made it his business to see Mr Robins who said that there was no contract between him and Alsbury nor any prospect of one, and that he had no Cattle to deliver to said Alsbury, or his order, this circumstance again excited strong suspicions in the mind of your petitioner, that the said Alsbury intended a fraud—Your petitioner wishes not to withhold any thing that is due from him to another, and prays that you will set aside the Judgt—aforesaid, which he doubts not you will at once see to be Erroneous: and will direct such proceedings as that Justice may be done to both parties —and that your petitioner may be secured in his just Rights.

And in duty bound, will ever pray

(Signed) N. Clopper [Rubric]

I do hereby Certify that C. G. Alsbury Received from me an ordr to Esqr Harris for four Cows and Calves two of which was on accot of N. Clopper and two, on acct of J. C. Ludlow in Testimony whereof I have herewith set my hand Septr 1826

(Signed) Horatio Chriesman [Rubric]

STATEMENT NO. 1

C. G. Alsbury

To Nicholas Clopper Dr.

1826

July 10th	To Sundr pr Bill to be paid in 3 weeks 11 pr. Gloves @ 1.37½ or Cash	$14.25
12	To Sundr Pr Bill to be paid in Cattle	50.75
		65.00

which Cattle Alsbury assured me were in the hands of Wm. Robins ready to be dlr on demand except Cows and Calves which could be had early in the Spring. I have called on Robins for Cattle and he said he had none for Alsbury, nor was there and Contract between them

August 11	To Error in Cambricks		.50
	To two Cows and Calves from Capt Christman on my accot	@ 15	30.00
	To amot pd Mrs Calvet by yr ordr $4—only 3 chgd		1.00
Sepr 7	To thread 12½ and pr Leather gloves 1.50		1.62
			98.12

Cr.

By Amot Cattle due on the purchase J. C. Ludlows note as Pr Memo dated 11 Augt 1826 $49.12½

STATEMENT NO. 2.

11 Augt 1826

G. Alsbury

To Sundr	17.00
Mrs Calvet	3.00
J Pennington	9.00
	29.00
Land Office 45 is	30.00
	59.00

Cr.

By J. C. Ludlows note for Cattle	108.00
	59.00
	49—

to be paid in Cattle or Land Office at the Exchange is 73.50

a Copy

N B. amt pd Mrs Calvet by V. ordr was 4.00 and only 3 chargd in %

JAMES CUMMINS TO AUSTIN

Colorado Sept 19th 1826

DEAR SIR with Respect to the Horse that Clement Delgado Claims that he says was Sold in this neighbourhood I have done every thing in my power to find but Cannot find him nor find who had the

Horse in possession if there ever was Such a Horse here—but I yet will try to find the said Horse if I Can though I believe it will be entirely out of my power you will be so good as to tell the bearor that if I do find him or who might have had the said Horse that the said Delgado Shall have the Horse or the value thereof

JAMES CUMMINS [Rubric]

COLO STEPHEN F AUSTIN

H. H. LEAGUE TO AUSTIN

Iesh Bayuo the 20th Sept 1826

Col STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

D SIR it has been 28 days since we left San Felipe and we have Came 235 Miles Our company was nearly all sick when we started and have been much worse on the Road than they were before. we have lain hear about a week on account of the ill health of Mr Jn Robison who has been thought dangerous a part of the time but is no[w]Convelescent and thinks he will be able to Travil on tomorrow, I Expect you learned from Mr McNeal the circumstance of my geting crippled by a fall from a horse from which I have suffered Much and am not yet Recovered but have my health perfectly in all Other Respects. I have recived two letters from home since I left your town one from my wife dated 6 August which informed me that thare would be considerable Emigration from Tennessee to your Coloney this fall. I this morning Recived another from william D Horton my Brother in law who Visited the country with me, you may perhaps Recollect I told you that he Rote to me from Nachitoches on his Return that he had declined coming to the country. he tells me in his presint communication that he was Very sick and low spirited at the time he rote and thought at that time he would not come but on Regaining his health he changed his notion he informs me that he has procured the Ten families that you granted me permition to Settle in your coloney as was agreed on between him and me before we parted and himself and them are all prepairing to come to the country—on the first Rise of the River. he also informs me that my Father in law and Doctor Porter a brother in law together with a considerable number of Gentlemen from the Vicinity of Nashville will visit your country this winter. Could I have known all this before I left San Felipe I should not have went home at all for he informs me that he is prepairing to bring my family Out. and it would have been highly Important for me to have Remained and made preparations to Recive them as well as the other Emigrants. but as I am On the way I will continue On and assist them in getting out as soon as possible. I wish you if it is possible to Reserve a League

of land for William D. Horton on the Barnard or Bay Priarai and if that can not be done as near as Possible to my League at Ginnings o[ld?] camp on the Collorado River. you will also confur on me a grate favour by paying some attention to the selecting and surveying the ten Leagues above the Labaha Road as it is likely my settlers will wish to go on Immediately, and above all I wish you without fail to write to me at Nashville On the subject of Slavery and the provisions of the constitution generally. I shall in a few days leave the company and go on to Nashville as Speedily as possible and it would be a matter of the highest importance to Recive a Communication from you as soon as I get home for should slavery be abolished it would produce some Change in my seletion of Emigrants I shall be at a loss in my arrangements until I heare from [you]. Give my Respects to Majr Burn[e]t Mr Williams etc

H. H. League

Saucedo to Austin

Bexar 21 de Sepr de 1826

Sr Dn Estevan Austin

Muy Sr. mio y estimado amigo. Por su aprecé de 11 del corrte soy impuesto de que sobre las aguas de ese Rio hay un barquito procedente de Nueva Orleans, y que á su borda há llegado un señor con algunos articulos de comercio entre los que trahe muchos delos prohibidos por la Ley, y que solicita conducirlos á esta Capital, para lo que desea saber si la citada Ley rige ó no en esta parte del Departamento, sobre cuyo particular me ocurre decir á Vmd que la referida Ley sobre introducion de efectos prohibidos está en exacta observacion, no obstante le gracia de esepcion de derechos concedida por siete años álos habitantes de esta Provca por que aquella recae solamente sobre los frutos, efectos y articulos que no estan expresamente prohibidos ni estancados. Con tal motivo siento infinito, no poder ofrecer mi proteccion sobre este asunto á su recomendado, pero si en otra cosa me hallaren util, tendre particular satisfaccion en servirles.

Estoy persuadido dela utilidad y ventajas que deve proporcionar el establecimto que el Sor Gren Dewit esta formando sobre el arroyo dela Baca para recibir las familias delos Colonos desu empresa, pero por estar situado dentro delas dies leguas eceptuadas en la Ley: y por no estar puerto habilitado por el govno, el citado arroyo de la Baca como porque tambien falta la concurrencia delos primeros Empresarios para deliverar sobre limites desus respectivas Colonias se presentan algunas dificultades suplico á Vmd que habida consideracion á estas reflecciones, sé sirva hacer álos señores Car, y Dewit las

observaciones necesarias, para que moderen sus trabajos en el sitado establecimiento respecto que solo deve servir provisionalm^te^ para recibir las familias y utiles necesarios á su empresa

He savido que el Sor D^n^ Juan Antonio Padilla se halla enfermo, y creo que por ésta razon no habrá contestado á Vmd; yo tambien estoy pendiente desus contestaciones para darlas acerca dela conculta que Vmd me tiene hecha por lo relativo á los derechos que deve cobrar álos Colonos desu segunda empresa

Los asuntos judiciales, sin embargo de la facultad que por su contrata le concedio el govierno, me parece que ya en la actualidad por las instituciones que nos rigen, son agenos delas atribuciones de su Empleo, y para que Vmd se desembarase de ellos, puedo si le parece bien arreglarse al decreto n° 18 dela Legislatura del Estado; la que como aun no da la parte judicial de su Constitucion, me parece que nos hallamos en el caso de esperarala para ver en que forma establece los tribunales dejusticia, y si no nos combiniese pedir lo que sea propio á nuestras circumstancias.

Yncluyo á Vmd copia de una carta del Cenador por este Estado Dn. Manuel Ceballos al Baron para lo que pueda servirle en rason ála solicitud que tiene pendiente en Mejico, y de que habla en ella.

No dejaré de comunicarle á Vmd oportunam^te^ las noticias que reciba del Salt^o^ relativas al art^o^ 13 del proyecto de constitucion, quedando entre tanto de Vmd afmo amo. y servor. q. s. m. b.

JOSE ANT^O^ SAUCEDO [Rubric]

J. E. B. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 23. Sep^t^ 1826—

My Dr BROTHER:

I arrived last evening after a fatigueing journey—I proceeded to visit the Baron immediately he is in good health—to day I have not been able to collect much interesting News for you—the mail starts this evening and it is now so late I shall not be able to write any thing satisfactorily until next post—The Slave question is undecided as yet. The Baron has done his best—but *one* opposed *to* so large a majority can do but little—

He will lay before the house a bill, in a day or two for the benefit of the 300 families and thinks there is no doubt but the slaves introduced by them will be held—he also states that he will never sign the Constitution if they persist in so *unjust* an imposition on the rights of the settlers—it is the opinion of the Baron that a further introduction of slaves is out of the question—in another Legislature, a favourable Slave law might be procured, but the present one is

composed of members so inimical to the interests of Texas, that the *most* that can be obtained is permission for the 300 families to hold their Slaves—The Constitution will not make its appearance before the 1 of Jany—The Baron is anxious to return—but at present he *cannot*—and in a short time the winter will *set in;* and his age and infirmaties will not permit him to travel—It is all important that the Colony should have a friend in the Legislature—It is also of the greatest importance the Baron should return to conclude the business of the Colony but is impossible for him to do so until March or April—I presume you heard of the confusion that has existed in the Legislature and which has caused more *delay* in the progress of the discussions of that body than any thing else—the substance of the whole is—the People had become disgusted with the proceedings—and demanded a new Election or the Constitution—Every thing is quiet at present—and the Legislature will probabl use more dispatch; since the People have manifested their feelings—You have no *idea* what *trifles* have engaged their attention for months in fact the whole body deserve to [be] *turned out doors*—The Baron says he wants money I have stated to him our situation etc—I have not seen *Padilla* yet altho I am writing in his house—*Next mail* expect *a Volume*

Rem^{r} me to Williams and other friends—E Bean is here he has the comission of Col. and permission to settle the reserve on the Sabine and Edwards Col^{y} as far as the Nachez.

Yr B.

J B A

[Addressed:] Al. Ciudad^{no} Ten^{te} Cor^{l} Estevan F. Austin en la Villa de S^{n} felipe de Austin

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GEORGE ORR TO AUSTIN

Atascosito Sept. 28th 1826

Dear Sir

Accompanying this to yourself we transmit a letter to His Excellency the Chief of the Department with a statement of the votes of the Inhabitants respecting our being attached to your Colony or to Nacogdoches—the letter to his Excellency is unsealed—you can open it and having read it you will please to seal and forward it—As we are now to be under your wing we hope you will find it convenient to call on us with the commissioner and put us quickly in a way to know where our lands are, what shall be the form of our sitios where

shall be situated our new Town etc. etc. At all events we shall be grievously disappointed if the commissioner does not visit us and set us to rights—

GEORGE ORR
HENRY W. MUNSON

To Col. Stephen F. Austin
St. Felipe de Austin

JOHN IIAMS TO AUSTIN

San Philip September 30th 1826

DIER SIR

I am informed that Mr Hirams has orders for Resurveying my Land and I am of the opinion that it is not necessary—I have left in your office a correct Return of the survey and understood you to be satisfied as Mr Hunter had acknowledged his Error, and as he has never made any Resurvey of any part of my Land and there is writen agreements between myself and him that will cover all the surveying that he has done about my land—The last writen agreement between him and me is to this effect, he agrees to Correct all his field notes on the lines miandering on the waters and Change the variation on the other side of the needle so as to make them agree with a true meridian and to Return the same with the other lines as I had surveyed them, to your office, all which should be done before the filling of my Deed that it might not be damaged by his Errors and I agreed to pay him $37.50 in trade.—Now I hope the writen contracts between Mr Hunter and myself will be respected

But as other surveyors has been allowed to survey their own and by your directions I have surveyed mine and hope it will be Respected I am not willing to pay Mr Hirams for surveying it again. I hope you will not put me to any more cost or give Mr Hunter any unjust advantage over in consequence of my having detected his Error Dier Sir I have not been able to comply with my obligation to you as to time, but I would be willing to spare you some cattle at presint if you are ready to Receive them and the remainder as fast as I am able untill my land is paid for—

But if I am compelld to pay Mr Hunter Contrary to my writen Contract or to pay Mr Hirams to survey on his account I shall not be satisfied and shall personally lay my Complaint before the heads of the department and if I cannot obtain justice I will Publicly Relinquish all pretensions to Citizenship and leave the State altho I have the best Improvement that I have seen in the Colony

Mr Hunter has not spoken with me since our last agreement and I know not why he wishes a Resurvey

Dier sir It is my wish to remain at home and by Honest Industry to maintain my little family without those vexatious disputes and I hope you will Condiscend to write me a fiew lines informing me what I shall do in the above case

I am Sir with Respect your friend and humble Servant

JOHN IAMS

Col. S. F. Austin

Sept 30 I have this moment returned home unwell and tired and recd the above letter which I return to you because the last page contains very improper reflections—All I have to say on the subject is that you and many others in this colony would save themselves much unnecessary trouble and much useless vexation by ascertaining facts from me in person instead of picking them up from common report which as a general rule in this country is always wrong—Mr Hirams never recd any instructions from me to resurvey your land—neither did I ever say that it |would be neces|sary to resurvey it—neither have |I ever thou|ght that such resurvey was necessary, for Hunter told me that the lines were all corrected to your full satisfaction—as to relinquishing your citizenship you can do so and abandon the country whenever you please—I know of nothing to prevent—but common good breeding ought to have taught you to have reserved your threats against the Government until injustice had been done you and you had something to complain of—

I have nothing to do with the appointment of surveyors it belongs to the commissioner and I had it in contemplation to recommend you to the commissioner of the Trinity country when one was appointed for the appointment of surveyor for that River, for I had been requested to do so by some of the inhabitants of that river—but the disposition you seem to manifest to complain without cause is a rather bad recommendation, tho I can make great allowances, the slow motions of the Govt sometimes put me out of patience and it is not to be wondered that the patience of the Settlers are sometimes exhausted—all you have to do is pay no regard to common report if you wish to know any fact write to me in person and you shall be informed correctly if in my power to inform you—

I am very hard pressed for the fees, but you and all others know my unwillingness to press the settlers—you must do the best you can

[Addressed:] Mr. John Iiams San Jacinto

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN]

Francisco Maynes to Local Governments

Nacogdoches Archives. Original

Sello 4º Havilitdo. pr. el Estado de Coahuia y Texas pa. el año de 1826.

Zambrano [Rubric]

pago el ynteresado en esta Admon de mi cargo una quartilla ymporte de este sello Bexar 17 de febrero de 1826 Garza Rubric

Circular

Bexar Bahia Guadalupe Brazos y Nacogdoches. De donde se volverá á esta Vicaria.

AVISO AL PUBLICO

El Bro Franco. Maynes. Vicario foraneo del departamto de Texas en cumplimto de los deveres de su oblign hace saber en esta circular á los Sres. Curas Parrocos y demas Eclesiasticos seculares y regulares y atodos los feligreses de su jurisdicion, qe las presentes vieren y entendieren, qe el Sor Dn José Leon Lobo Guerrero Canonigo Doctoral de la Santa Yglesia Catedral, vicario Capitular y Governador de este Obispado de Monterrey, se ha servido conferir el nombramiento y despacho que es del tenor—Siguiente.

"El Dr José Leon de Lobo, Canonigo Doctoral de esta Santa Yglesia Vicario Capitular de este Obispado de Monterrey.—

En cumplimmiento del decreto de 18 de Agosto de 1823 del Soberano Congreso Gral. de Mexico y orden del supremo Govno de 22 del mismo en qe se sirve escitar ntro. zelo pastoral a fin de qe se ponga en la capital de Bexar un Vicario foraneo qe de cerca pueda socorrer las necesidades de aquellos havitantes: atendiendo a las buenas y loables partes de virtud, literatura, y demas buenas qualidades qe concurren en la persona del Br D. Franco Maynes, esperando como esperamos, que cumplirá bien, y fielmente lo qe pr Nos le fuere encomendado, pr el tenor del presente le nombramos y elejimos pr vicario foraneo del partido de Bexar, Bahia del Espiritu Santo, Nacogdoches y las nuevas poblaciones qe se estan formando en el Departamto de Texas, y le damos la facultad en dro. necesarias pa qe como tal pueda oir, conocer y sentenciar interlocutoria y difinitivamte cualesquiera causas civiles, qe ante el susodicho vinieren; mas en las criminales, beneficiales y Matrimoniales solo le damos facultad pa qe queda conocer hasta poner los Autos en estado de sentencia, y qe en esta forma los remita a ntro. Tribunal de justicia, pa dictar la conveniente: asimismo le damos facultad pa qe pueda dicernir y alzar censuras en orden a dhas. causas, y las incidentes y de qualquiera manera dependientes. Ygualmte le damos facultad pa qe a los sacerdotes del distrito de su jurisdicion pueda concederles

licencias de selebrar, predicar, y confesar precediendo el examen correspondiente; mas no podrá dar licencia de selebrar el santo sacrificio de la Misa en Capillas. Le concedemos Ygualm^te. facultad p^a. q^e. pueda dispensar á los pretendientes de Matrimonio los impedim^tos. de parentesco de consanguinidad, menos en segundo grado igual, y mucho menos el q^e. tenga atingencia con el primero: y los impedim^tos. de afinidad licita a escepcion del primer grado, ó que tenga atingencia con el primero: y en la afinidad nacida de copula ilicita hasta el primer grado, con tal q^e. conste evidentemente q^e. uno de los pretendientes no es hijo del otro: el impedimento de crimen; si ninguno de los pretensos maquinó la muerte del difunto consorte: el impedim^to. de publica honesticidad el de parentesco Espiritual de segunda especie, ó entre compadres mas no entre el Padrino y ahijada ó al contrario, y quando lo jusgue conveniente ó intervenga justa causa podra dispensar a los pretendientes de Matrim^o. las tres nominaciones q^e. previene el santo concilio de Trento: y p^a. q^e. a los vagos ó departes distantes pueda dispensarles el ocurso al lugar, ó lugares de su residencia, u origen á efecto de proclamarse siempre q^e. con testigos ó documentos fe hacientes hagan contar ser libres y sueltos de Matrimonio en dhos. lugares. Le damos tambien licencia de avsolver de todos los pecados, y censuras, aunque sean reservadas á santidad: de havilitar insestuoses *ad petendum debitum* y p^a. q^e. la pueda delegar á otros sacerdotes: y se la concedemos tambien p^a. bendecir imagenes y ornamentos, y todo lo q^e. no requiere uncion Episcopal, y p^a. reconciliar Yglesias, Capillas, ó Santuarios profanados aun con agua no bendecida p^r. el Obispo y todas las demas q^e. se conceden a los curas del Obispado p^a. el tiempo del cumplim^to. de Yglecia, para cuyo efecto se acompañará a este Titulo copia autorizada del Edicto q^e. las contiene. Para q^e. de licencia de trabajar los dias de fiesta, y multar á los q^e. trabajasen sin ella. Y en los casos y causas q^e. necesitare del auxilio del brazo secular, lo podrá pedir y demandar a todos los justicias a quienes de parte de ntra. Santa Madre Yglesia ecsortamos, y requerimos se lo dén é impartan entera y cumplidamente, en los cuales, y en todo lo demas procedera conforme a dro. Y le concedemos la facultad de nombrar el Notario q^e. necesite dandonos cuenta: asi mismo mandamos á dho. Sor Vicario foraneo no pueda llevar, ni lleve mas dros. q^e. los q^e. se espresan en el Arancel de este Obispado, y costumbre recivida en dho. Departam^to. Le encargamos q^e. inquiera sobre la vida y costumbres de los Ecos. de su distrito, y si los Parrocos tienen los libros necesarios p^a. desempeñar su ministerio: Si observan los decretos sinodales de este Obispada: Si p^r su abandono padese algun detrimento el culto divino y si los curas reciden, o no en sus respectivas Parroquias, dandonos cuenta para poner el remedio conveniente. Y prevenimos á todos

los vecinos, y moradores, estantes y havitantes de el hayan y tengan el referido Bⁿ D. Franᶜᵒ Maynes pʳ su vicario foraneo, guardandole todas las honras esenciones y privilegios qᵉ le corresponden: y mandamos qᵉ antes de comenzar á ejercer el empleo haga el juramᵗᵒ acostumbrado de usar bien, fiel y legalmᵗᵉ de el, delo qᵉ se pondrá razon al pie de este Titulo, qᵉ valdrá pʳ el tiempo de ntra. voluntad. Dado en la ciudad de Monterrey y firmado de Nos. Sellado con el de las armas de esta Santa Yglesia, y refrendado de ntro. infrascrito Secretario de Gobierno a los nueve dias del mes de Junio de mil ochocientos veinte y seis.—Dʳ José Leon de Lobo—Por mandado del Sor. Governador del Obispado Dʳ Fermin de Sada, Srio.

Lo que traslado y communico á todos, cuyo Titulo se leera por los Sres. Curas en un dia festivo cada uno en su Parroquia. Y en las Poblaciones á donde corresponde circular este aviso que no hay á la presente Parroco, el Juez constitucional de cada Poblacion o Villa, reunirá sus havitantes, y Ciudadanos á quienes tambien les leerá, y hará entender el espresado Titulo, pʳ qᵉ todos entendidos ocurran mas de cerca á este mi juzgado que es el piadoso y Cristiano objeto del Sor. Governador del Obispado, efecto todo de su Pastoral Zelo en proporcionar pʳ este medio á los havitantes de esta jurisdiccion, qᵉ son una corta parte de su rebaño, el menos gravoso ocurso y el mas pronto y facil despacho en el socorro de sus necesidades Espirituales.

Y siendo de mi dever y obligᵒ dar entero cumplimᵗᵒ al cargo qᵉ se me ha conferido y confiado espero ocurran ante mi á demandar pedir y quanto les convenga en necesidades Espirituales seguros y con la mayor firmesa de que en mi no hallaran otra cosa mas, que el mas pronto despacho en sus ocursos, y una regla constante en la justa y recta administracion de justicia, conforme cada uno en su derecho como es propio de un Padre benigno y Amoroso que los atenderá, y oyrá con la mayor ternura amor dulzura y afabilidad, Procurando conservar el mejor y mas perfecto orden sin confucion con el rico y el Pobre: Estas son las marchas y modo con que he de dirijir mis pasos y acciones con constancia y firmesa, ayudado y sostenido, como dice San Pablo, en aquel gran Dios que nos comforta, el que me proporcionará los auxilios Espirituales qᵉ necesarios me sean al verdadero y perfecto desempeño de mis obligaciones y atribuciones pʳ el bien, alivio, consuelo, y socorro en las necesidades Espirituales de todos los havitantes de este departᵗᵒ de Texas.

Poniendo al pie de esta cordillera en todas las partes pʳ donde deve circular en el orden qᵉ consta al margen la razon de quedar copiada en el Libro de govierno, y de haverlo leydo y hecho entender

cada uno al Pueblo de su jurisdicion y del ultimo se remita á este mi jusgado Ecco. pª. constancia de su obedecimiento y complimiento. La que es firmada pr. mi, ante mi Notario en San Fernando de Bexar á treinta de Septe de mil ochocientos veinte y seis.

Bt Franco Maynes [Rubric]

Ante mi

Franco Xavier Bustillo [Rubric]
Notario

Bejar 22 de Septiembre de 1826

Se llego este titulo el dia 21. de dicho mes y año y sigue para la Bahia segun el parrotero del margen.

Refugio de la Garza [Rubric]

Bahia 8 de 8bre de 1826

Recivi el titulo qe antecede el siete del qr rige y quedando publicado sigue su derrotero marginal.

José Antº Valdés [Rubric]

San Felipe de Austin 15 de Novbre 1826

Recibi el titulo qe antecede el 10 del qr rige y quedando publicado sigue su derrotero del margen

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

F. W. Johnson to Austin.

Oct. 1st 1826

Col. S. F. Austin

Sir,

In consequence of a sick friend, it is out of my power to see you personally, therefore I have taken the liberty of stating my business in writing; I have verry lately emmigrated to your Colony, with an expectation of gitting into business that would be profitable to myself and beneficial to those by whom I was employed; therefore if there should be any surveying, or vacancies in the office of clerks within the gift of your power, I would gladly and thankfully accept the same.- Your answer to this by Mr. Moore or Col. Night will confer a favour.

Francis W. Johnson [Rubric]

P. S.

I also send you a letter of recommendation from Capt. S. C. Hirom.

F. W. Johnson [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO FULLERTON

San Felipe de Austin October 2 1826

Gen[l] Humphry Fullerton.

Dr Sir, I was truly gratified to learn by your letter to Major Burnett that you had arrived at home safe in July, that your health was improving and that you had received applications from near one hundred families who wished to emigrate to this colony, and more were daily applying—

The forty swiss families you speak of from Vevey will be valuable acquisition as cultivators of the vine, a species of culture which I have no doubt will succeed well and yield great profits in proportion to the Capital and labor employed. The climate and soil are said, by those who profess themselves judges, to be well adapted to the cultivation of the vine, we cannot decide from actual experiments for none of consequence have been made—wild grapes are very abundant in sandy soils throughout the country and of a good quality, well flavored.—

It is important that you should send on as soon as possible a list of the families who are coming on stating the name of the head of the family, age, where born, last place of residence, wheither married or single, number of male and female children, ages, number of hirelings occupation--age of wife This list is necessary in order to enter them in the records of the Colony —

In regard to the fees I am as yet unable to inform you -The commissioner has not come on and I have received no final instructions on the subject I am certain however that they will not exceed about four cents pr. acre including surveying fees and all charges and six years will be allowed to pay a part of them. Such arrangements can no doubt be made with the surveyors in regard to their fees as will make the payment easy

The Government move very slow- and sometimes produces embarrassments and frequently disappointments and I wish the families who are coming on to understand that I am not in any manner to be accountable or censurable for embarrassments occationed by the delays of the Government- So far as depends on me their business shall be promptly and faithfully attended to. we as yet have no constitution for this state altho the Legislature or congress convened to frame it have been two years in session—there is a prospect that it will be completed in all this winter-- The question as to the admission of slavery is undecided tho I think it probable that the unrestricted admission of slavery will not be permitted—those now in the country will probably be held as slaves for life, what will be done with their descendants is doubtfull

The Commissioner of the old Colony I expect will be here in all this month or next in company with that of the new one; and as soon as the affairs of the former are finally closed the surveys of the latter will commence and not before, by that time the list of families above spoken of can be sent on and the land laid off for them—

I am in very bad health which must be my excuse if I have not written as fully as you wished—hoping to see you and the families in the course of the coming winter I remain

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

SAMUEL NORRIS TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches October 3rd 1826

Col STEVEN F AUSTIN

Sir I recd your letter of the 10th wherein you state I missunderstood your meaning about gains if I did I am quite happy to say I am truely glad as I know he has stated nothing against those inhabitants except he has pass it round this place and I know him to be a man of more sense he has his enemys as we all have his reports to Government has been in their favour of them inhabitants untiil they came out in a verry singular way and then he did not report them

you say as you have informed you must know any person disapointed will be offended hear boath sides then you can better Judge

sir you may with all confidence say any thing that may be for the good of the inhabitants of either place

I can inform you that the Cherioches [Cherokees] has obtained permition to go and fight the hostile Indians and suppose they will be soon off[f] in pesuit of them if they if any quantity should go I will let you know

Sir you may at all times with all confidence I will assist your recommended friends in [any way] I can that is in my power acording to law

SAMUEL NORRIS [Rubric]

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

Bejar 5 de octe de 1826

Sr Dn. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Muy Sr mio y amo de todo mi respecto. Por carta del Sr. Samuel Williams de 25 del pasado he visto con sentimiento que la salud de Vmd es quebrantada a causa de las calenturas que por segunda vez le han atacado, delas que me alegrare que yá se halle enteramente libre.

En ella me encarga un pasaporte y carta de recomendacion para el Sor Estevan Richarson que con algunos viveres y efectos del pais intenta pasar al Estado de Yucatan para cuyo efecto le remito los expresados dos documentos.

Por la adjunta del Baron verá Vmd que esta para reformarse el artº 13 del proyecto de Constitucion a satisfaccion de nuestro representante, y con esto me parece se aquietaran los animos de esos colonos justamente exaltados, y en tal concepto espero que a vuelta de correo se sirva Vmd decirme si el Comisionado por el Gobno para su segunda empresa Ciudadano Gaspar Flores puede ya ponerse en marcha para dar principio á ella ahora que es el tpo mas propio para las medidas tierras y demas trabajos, pues este hombre por estar pendiente de la resolucion de Vmd sobre este asunto pierde tiempo en emprender otros asuntos que le puedan proporcionar la subsistencia, y para no causarle este perjuicio me dirá Vmd con toda franqueza su parecer acerca de este particular.

El correo de afuera que devio llegar ayer, no lo verifico hasta ahora, quien sabe si por desgracia lo habran interceptado los Yndios dando muerte a los conductores

Por la citada carta del Baron verá Vmd la remota esperanza de campaña que tenemos contra los Indios porque le han faltado al Sor Bustamante todos los auxilios que el govno general le ofreció que hallaria en el Saltillo: Si la cosa sigue en tal estado, la suerte del Departamto de Texas está sumamente lastimosa.

Soy con toda consideracion y respeto, de Vmd afmo amo. y atento servor. q. s. m. b.

José Antº Saucedo [Rubric]

Saucedo to Williams

Sr. Dn. Samuel M. Williams

Bexar 5 de octe de 1826

Muy Sr mio y mi estimado amo Por su apreciable del 25 de Septe proximo pasado he visto con sentimto q nuestro amo Sr. Estevan Austin há sido segunda vez atacado delas calenturas, en los establecimientos de abajo: me alegraré no sea cosa de cuidado y que ya se halle restablecido en salud.

Ynchuyo á Vmd el pasaporte y una Carta de recomendacion alas autoridades del Estado de Yucatan para el Sor Estevan Richarson, y sin mas ocurrencia que esta queda de Vmd con toda concideracion y respeto su atento amo y servor. q. s. m. b.

José Anı Saucedo [Rubric]

J. L. Phillips to Austin

San Jacinto Octr. 5th 1826

Coln. Austin,

Some time since I received a Summons in a cause between Thomas Earle, and N. Lynch, from the hands of a Boy as a witness, and being on the Eve of going to the U. S. I applied to the parties and informed them that on this day I would give my Testimony of what I knew respecting of what I knew in this suit.—The Alcalda did not appear according to appointment—This places me out of the chance of sending my deposition or appearing, without considerable damage to myself.—I therefore transmit to you all I know which I do not consider of importance in no way—Before Lynch started to N. Orleans I handed him a one hundred note with a Bill of articles that I wished him to bring me from that place he told that he did not know whether he could carry the vessell (The Augusta) into Orleans or not as there was a debt against her there, but said, that he would leave the vessell and go to Orleans, and if, the debt stood there against her, he would endeavor to get some craft to bring such articles to the schooner; and not go with the vessell into that port. on this conversation he took the note and bill, and observed to me, if the vessell should unavoidably be seised in the U. S. (which he would not allow if it was possible to avoid) if he might make use of a part of this money to endeavor to get her or some other vessell to return to this bay. I told him that he might—This is all I know I am willing to be Qualified to this statement and should have been if the alcalda had appeared—N Lynch has paid me the ballance on his return over the articles I sent for—

J. L. Philips

Austin to Ahumada [1]

Los Yndividuos Españoles que condujeron la tropa de la Bahia han seguido su viaje para Nacogdoches con la excepcion de uno que por ser muy cansado y lastimado de los pies queda para restablecerse un poco antes de ponerse en camino. Con lo que contesto á su oficio de V. fha 18 de Setiembre p° p°.

Dios y Libertad

San felipe de Austin 5 de Octubre de 1826

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Sor Comandante Pral de Armas C. Ten^te Coronel Mateo Ahumada

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[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

En cumplim^to con el oficio de V. S. fha 9 de Setiembre p^o. p^o. sobre la salida de esta Republica de alg^s Españoles bajo la Ley de 25 de Abril anterior, y decreto del Exmo Sor Presidente de la Union de 5 de Junio ultimo. los quales Yndividuos he mandado á Nacogdoches con la excepcion de uno quien por ser lastimado en sus pies no ha podido caminar, pero dentro de pocos dias siguirá su destino en compañia con alg^s. Americanos con una Caballada.

Dios y Libertad

San felipe de Austin 5 de Octubre de 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departam^to de Texas Ciudadano Jose Antonio Saucedo.

JOHN MCNEEL TO AUSTIN

DEAR SIR Octr. 9th 1826

I rec^d your favor by Mr. Millican in due time and feel sensible of the necessity of paying you the balance which is due you for Our lands. But at the same time have to say to you, that I regret exceedingly that money is not at my command at this moment as it has taken whole of my last year's Crop to procure the articles indispensibly necessary in making my establishment here, procuring provisions etc. I have money Owing me to a considerable amount which I hope to be able to collect shortly, Or I have property which shall be at your service if it will answer you any valuable purpose. I was in hopes you would have visited me when you were in the lower settlement last, but was disappointed, please to write me, and give me any news you may have to Communicate I am informed there are many reports in circulation with regard to what are to be the future prospects of Our Country, But having been sick for nearly three months and seeing no person here, I feel Considerable solicitude On the subject, There is nothing in this quarter, either new or interesting—

Should you be down in this quarter please call and see me if it may be convenient.

JOHN MCNEEL [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F. Austin San Felipe de Austin Texas

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J. E. B. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

DR BROTHER, Saltillo Oct. 10th. 1826.

I wrote you two or three days since and calculated before this to have been in or near Monterrey but last evening I received inteli-

[1] Ibid.

gence that a band of Robbers had stationed themselves on the road to attack the Americans who might be returning to Refugio from the fair and what americans are in this place have concluded to join together for their mutual defense—We certainly start the day after tomorrow—I have this moment taken my leave of the members of the Legislature—they have assured me to dispel all doubts relative to the 13 Art.—The representation you made on the subject appeared so just and well founded that the Author of the *Article* himself (Carrillo) asked permission to withdraw it—I think the children born after the publication of the Constitution will not be freed under fourteen: Several of the members since I have proposed it, are inclined not to free them under the age of 25 or 21—the arguments and reasons adduced by myself to convince them of the *justice* and necessity of this law are to lengthy to insert in this communication but the principle was the *advantage* that would result to the slave as well as to the Public to be freed at that age possessed of some useful branch of industry whereby they might gain a livelihood—instead of becoming *vagabonds* and [illegible]; without any certain way of procuring the necessaries of life except in a dishonest manner—which must be the case if they are freed at 14. after that age they are compelled to stay no longer with their masters unless they choose—At any rate it is presumable that no Master will maintain a large family of young Negroes a term of years without receiving some compensation for it—and I say for the trouble and expence the master is at to maintain them from the time they are born untill they are 14—let the slave serve a few years to recompense them—after that he can be *freed* possessing health, strength; and *Means* to support himself without being a Public pest and continually a subject of correction—

I have stated every *reason* that I can invent—to try and procure this last clause as favourable as possible—I am confident if I had not arrived here, the children would have been declared free from their birth—and if the *Art* is *passed*—extending the period of Emancipation to 14—21—or 25—I shall flatter *myself* as *contributing* in a small degree in obtaining it—

Since my last to you I have had much conversation (reserved) with Padilla relative to your situation—and touching the subjects generally you have addressed him upon—

he is your *warm* and *disinterested friend*—he informs me that he is *afraid* at present to do much on the various points you have been so frank as to submit to his consideration—because he has no confidence in the members composing the Legislature except the Baron and one or two other the ballance I may say are bought by Carrillo—he says have patience—as soon as the new Legislature takes its seat—he will present the points you wish granted and has no doubt of suc-

cess in the mean time he says you can present any thing else that you wish—and consider him as your legal *agent* in all yr transactions with Govt

Saucedo is also yr. warm friend you must cultivate the same friendship for him that has always existed— If he is appointed the Commissioner to pass to the frontier I expect *Arcinega* will be appointed his Secretary— No doubt you will receive the appointment of *Gefe Subalterno*— This is proof that the Govt has a friendly disposition towards you. As to Gains he is so Contemptious that I have declined makeing any representation to the Gov on *paper*— I have conversed with all the Members respecting him— and referred them to the *Baron*— When the subject comes before the house— I shall not be surprised if those letters be the cause of his expulsion from the *Country*—

The English have left no *method untryed* but on the contrary have used every exertion to induce the Genl Govt to regard the Americans with jealousy and suspicion— They have used all their *intrigue* and *influence* to injure the *Character* of the Americans and many representations have been made in Mexico against Amern Emigration but the Govt. attributed it to *Ambition* and *that* natural antipathy the English possess towards us— Respects to all friends the Barron and Padilla wish to be remerd—

JAs B AUSTIN [Rubric]

P. S. I have just seen the Comt Genl he appeared glad to see me and wishes me to remember him to you he also observed that he hoped to give you "*un Abrazo*" between this and next fall. he says "*consider him as your friend, and old acquaintance*" he also observed that you need have no trouble about the letters Gaines and Norris have been writing for men of that stamp are not calculated to injure you.

The Baron says *twig* old McFarlands memory about some bacon he was to have paid long *since* he wishes it delivered to the order of La Baum—

JAs B. AUSTIN

Take good care of my *horse* –

[Endorsed:] Saltillo Octr 10 1826

[Addressed:] Al Ciudadno Tente Corl Estevan F Austin en la Villa de San Felipe de Austin.

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar 11 de Octubre de 1826

Señor Dn ESTEBAN AUSTIN

Muy Señor mio y amigo: el dador de esta lo será el Ciudadano José Mª de Cardenas que pasa a esa Villa con el obgeto de comprar por

esos establecimientos unas reces gordas, y como carece de conocimientos por esa, se lo recomienda a V. a fin de que alludado con el influxo de V. pueda con facilidad ebacuar este negocio.

Recuerdo a V. la poca de recina de pino que tenia encargada a Dn. Santiago quien la pidió a Sn. Jacinto cuya suplico a V. si se la han mando me la remita con el portador, abisandome de su importe p^{a} ponerlo a su disposicion, y sin otro asunto pr. ahora me ofresco a la disposicion de V. y mande a su afmo. amigo y serbidor Q. S. M. B.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

Para evitar las dificultades que existe en dar las facilidades de papel sellado á los que la necesita en consequencia de la regla que existe aquí requiriendo el Alcalde del Distrito como depositario de este fondo firmar el recibo necesario para dho papel, y como no hay ni habrá por mucho tpo un Alcalde con la mas mínima idea del Castellano, y como sus asuntos particulares les requiere salir alg$^{s.}$ veces por dos ó tres dias afuera de la Villa: Suplico que V. S. se sirva dar facultad al C Samuel M Williams para que como depositario de los fondos del papel Sellado dará el correspondiente recibo lo mismo como ha sido la regla con el Alcalde. Los Alcaldes que hemos tenido aqui desde la fundacion de esta Villa ni pueden escribir el recibo ni sacar las cuentas con el Gobierno para el papel sellado por la falta entera de conocimiento de la lengua Española.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 14 de Octubre de 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departam^{to} de Texas C Jose Antonio Saucedo.

J. L. DUMANDAY TO AUSTIN

St^{o} Antonio Oct 15th 1826

Col^{o} PHILIPP OUSTIN

Philippville Texas

DR. SIR

In consequence of your polite offers of assisting Mr. Stephen Curcier, in recovering his property stolen by the Indians on the 18th of August; being informed by a spaniard mail carrier, that four oxen were now in the possession of an individual of your colony; as agent in this place of said Stephen Curcier I take the liberty of availing myself of your kind disposition, and accordingly au-

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

thorise you to take possession of said oxen, sell them if fifty Dollars pr pair can be obtained and remit me the proceeds by some safe opportunity, or if sale can not be effected, to confide them to some of the gentlemen who as I understand are disposing themselves to drive some cattle to this place, binding myself to reinburse & pay them whatever may have been the cost of keeping etc—there, and any reasonable charges, according to your contract with said gentlemen, for delivering them at this place

Cheerfully offering you a reciprocity of services I have the honour of remaining your obt servant

J. Lecoy Dumanday [Rubric]

Saucedo to Austin

Bexar oct^{o} 19. de 1826

Sor. D^{n} Estevan Austin

Estimado amigo y Dueño: Por su faborecida de 9. del corriente estoy instruido con sentimiento del ruinoso estado en q. se haya su primera empresa de colonizacion por la ausencia del Sor Bastrop, causa pr. que no puedo dar principio ála segunda [colonia].

En quanto á la solicitud delos habitantes de trinidad para agregarse á esa colonia ya digo por este correo al Sor. George Orr como deve representar p^{a} este fin al Superior Gov^{no} del Estado, acuya Superioridad podra V. hacer lo mismo pidiendole se estiendan los limites y jurisdicion de su colonia hasta aquellos establecimientos p^{a} que aquellos abitantes reconosean una autoridad legitima observe las leyes generales dela Union y particulares del Estado defiendan la costa pr. aquella parte del Estado de toda agrecion enemiga y finalmente p^{a} q. se ebite el abuso de arbitrariedad con q. muchos establecen en aquellos puntos sin permiso de ninguna autoridad.

Por aqui no hay nobedad ninguna: el asunto de Esclabitud se halla en buen sentido segun me dice el Baron pero por degracia no sabemos asertibamente quando concluirá la Constitucion.

Agradesco áV. muy mucho los Zapatos q. me mandó y al Sor. Samuel Williams el obsequio de los puros q. me remitió, quedando con todo afecto deV. su inbariable amigo que S. M. B.

José Ant^{o} Saucedo [Rubric]

Remito una carta que vino para Vmd del Salt^{o}—En esta Ciudad sehalla un negro perteneciente al habitante de esa colonia sobre el Rio colorado Hi[r]um Friley aquien se sirbira V. abisarlo pa. q. ocurra por el.

HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New York 20 Oct 1826

Mr STEPHEN F AUSTIN

MY DEAR SIR

There is so little intercourse between your country and this that it is almost as difficult to communicate with you as tho you were in the moon—I accidentally heard by a gentlemen in Vera Cruz who had been at your settlement that you were still alive and progressing well with your colony altho published dead several times not only in our papers but also in the Mexican Sol with an Obituary notice

I have been myself nearly two years in Alvarado, Vera Cruz and Nacotalpam—in the latter place I established a Cotton Gining Mill and press for cleaning Cotton at the place of growth and thereby relieving the manufacturers of the tripple expence of Carriage to puebla—but the Mexican Manufacturers would not spin cotton cleaned by machinery and the price for exportation would not pay which compelled me to abandon the experiment with a loss of 4000$ in a year and one half hard labor

I observed at Nacotalpam that the low land abounded with *live Oak* but the high price of labour and the difficultys thrown in the way of all operations attempted by strangers will not permit the cutting of it for exportation with advantage

This timber is now in request here and should the genuine live Oak be plenty on the banks of the rivers in your neighbourhood advantage might be drawn from it unless the Govt should interpose some impediment to its exportation Will you do me the favor to inform me whether it is to be had in your quarter. if so the quantity and size. the facilitys in obtaining it—the probable cost —whether men could be had there to cut it or must [it] be brought out—the duties and impositions which might be incurred etc

The present mode of obtaining it in florida is to send out strong parties with small vessels to transport it to the shipping place then purchase the privilege of cutting and do the work themselves— The Mexicans of the bajos of Vera Cruz do not value this timber and appear to be ignorant of its durability—Care must be taken to distinguish between the Genuine live Oak and the bastard live Oak which is much like it but will not last—There are no doubt men with you perfectly well acquainted with it—

Should there be any opening for profitable operations of any sort in your quarter you will oblige me by giving the needful information I am now doing nothing—business of every kind is extremely dull and as I am poor with a large family to support I am perforce ready to embark in any operation which offers reasonable

advantages and with fair prospects of success there will be no difficulty in raising sufficient capital

Cotton has revived a little in England by the last advices but will probably continue low through the year—Hides and pork and beef if to be had at your place might turn to acct as also bacon cured in the Mexican manner for the Havana market—The Black beans of Mexico called frijoles if raised in quantity would be an excellent article of export—

If there is any regular mode of communicating with the U S your place please inform me of it, as we shall always be happy to hear of your welfare and to acquaint you with ours My younger brother John P is established here as a commission Mercht under the firm of Austin and Tailer their correspondent in Orleans is Saml. T. Coit who will forward any letters sent to him

Cordially and Sincerely your friend and kinsman

HENRY AUSTIN [Rubric]

I took the liberty of braking the seal of this letter and was agreeably surprised.

Yr Brother

J E B AUSTIN

ENOCH BRENSON TO AUSTIN

Sn Jacinto Bay October 23rd, 1826

Col STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Altho I am aware that you think us a troublesome people and no doubt but you are tired of our noise, still I must beg the indulgence of one more hearing.

You are Aprised of the relative standing of Johnson, Hunter and myself, as it respects the surveying of my land, as well the land of others, and I am persuaded that you will not incourage him in impositions, and as we can have no decision on his lines, it can not be reasonable that he should collect and keep the money for his surveying altho I have actually paid him for the surveying of my League, yet still I owe him a ballance on our private settlement, which ballance he has brought suit for and obtained a judgment before our Alcalde. Yet I hope, sir that you will authorise me to withhold the payment of this judgment untill a decision can be had respecting these disputed lines. I am not nor never was opposed to the payment of any just debt, but I can not think that it is just for Johnson or Hunter to receive the full payment for his surveying when his work is so obviously disputed. I hope, sir you will take this matter into consideration and deal justly and strictly between

Hunter and myself. Justice is all I want and if it is justice for Hunter to recover the money for the surveying of my land and keep it under these existing circumstances I submit. But if it is justice for me to keep back (at least) a part, I want to do so. The amount of the judgment that Hunter holds against me is $41 the amount of the surveying is much more than that some, but if I could retain the amount of the judgment in my hands untill the correctness of the lines could be ascertained, it would fully satisfy me.

But in all cases I am willing to submit to the judicious laws of my Country and in this case, to your better judgment I subscribe myself with every degree of submission

ENOCH BRENSON [Rubric]

Col. STEPHEN F AUSTIN

SAMUEL C. HIRAMS TO AUSTIN

Sn Jacinto Bay October 23 1826

DEAR SIR

This will inform you that I have removed to the Bay, and am recovering my health verry fast, indeed was my family in a situation to leave home I am able to work now. my little Daughter has the fever, but she is getting better. My wife also is mending. I wish you to be perticular in having the flooring plank stack[1] so that it may dry, and send me word when you think you will be ready for me to gow to work. and as soon as you can get the scantling hauled I can be at work framing untill the shingles and weatherboarding can be furnished. I am anxious to be at it for I want to make a crop in the spring if I do not meet sufficient incouragement there. I could get a man here to make your shingles but he will not do it for six dollars, and I will not give no more, for that is a great price

SAML. C. HIRAMS [Rubric]

Col S. F. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

Acompaña á V. S. las Notas de Nacidos y Muertos en esta Colonia para la segunda y tercera trimestre (de este año) en conformidad con el oficio de V. S. fha 6 de Setiembre p^o p^o.

Dios y Libertad

San felipe de Austin 24 de Octubre de 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departam^to C Jose Antonio Saucedo

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[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

AUSTIN TO VICTOR BLANCO[1]

He sabido por medio de una carta particular de esa Capital que el habitante del distrito de Nacogdoches James Gains ha hecho una representacion á V. E. en que habla de mi y me acusa de haber entremetido con los asuntos de aquel distrito relativo á la formacion de una Compania de Milicianos Voluntarios: En consequencia de esta noticia he considerado un deber á mi mismo y al Gob^no^ presentar á V. E. una historia verdadera de todo el asunto en quanto ha llegado á mi noticia.

En el verano pasado había mucha razon de temer un ataque formidable aqui de los Yndios, y el Sor Gefe del departam^to^ dio orden al Alcalde de Nacogdoches de proporcionarme 60 hombres de los Milicianos de aquel distrito cuando les pidiece. Los habitantes establecidos sobre el Arroyo Aish oyendo hablar de la probabilidad de un ataque, pidieron licencia del Alcalde de Nacogdoches formar una Compañia de Voluntarios montados con el objeto de protejer la frontera, y se dice que el Alcalde en efecto dio la permision de palabra, p^o.^ despues lo prohibio por una orden escrita; entonces uno llamado Buril J Thompson en el nombre de los otros escribio una memorial sobre la materia al Sor Gefe del Departam^to^ y como no supo escribir en Español ni habia traductores alli me incluyo su memorial pidiendo el favor de traducirla; lo hize y la incluyo al Sor. Gefe del Departam^to.^ Con el oficio cuya copia incluyo en este. Esta es la historia entera de este asunto. Mi objeto era servir la patria, preparar para nuestra defensa aqui por medio de la dha. Compañia propuesta: Como encargado del mando de esta jurisdiccion Consideraba mi deber proveer de la seguridad y protecion de sus habitantes.

Los Yndividuos John Williams y Thompson de que habla Gains segun estoy informado son hombres muy respetables y honrados. Williams tiene cosa de 30 Esclavos, un gran labor de algodon, y un molino completo para despepitarlo y la voz comun dice que es un hombre de bien y de mucha industria. Conoci á Thompson ocho años pasados en el Misouri y entonces era un hombre de proporcion y honrado ha trahido al distrito de Nacogdoches toda su familia y la de su Padre y cosa de 12 Esclavos y otras biennes considerables segun estoy informado.

Hace años que Gains se ha declarado mi enemigo, no se por que causa, por que nunca he mezclado con sus asuntos en ninguna manera: El es tambien enemigo de casi cada hombre de proporcion y respetabilidad del distrito de Nacogdoches segun estoy informado. No es para mi decir si el se ha conducido mal o no. Este punto el

[1] Warner Collection, Yale University.

Gob^{no} determinara cuando habra Comisionados nombrados p^{a} averiguar y arreglar los asuntos de aquel distrito.

El habitante de aqui Sor. Petus de que habla Gains niega positivamente haber dicho lo que Gains le acusa; relativo á la pregunta que el dice que escribi á Benjamin Edouards. Este Sor. me escribio sobre asuntos particulares y me pregunto que noticias habia, conteste su carta y le enbie Copia del Art^{o} 13 de la Constitucion propuesta por la Comision.

Esta es la verdadera historia de toda la materia que Gains ha magnificado tan falsamente.

Dios y Libertad.

San Felipe de Austin 24 de Octubre de 1826.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Exmo. Sor Vice Gob^{or} del Estado de Cuahuila y Texas C Victor Blanco

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J. E. B. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

S^{n} Carlos Octr 31st 1826.

My Dr BROTHER.

I arrived at this place on the 19th inst. I found D^{n} Luciano absent,—but I immediately proceeded to his *Rancho de la Luz.* (4 Leagues from this) where he was. The *old Ranchero* was much surprised, but overjoyed to see me:—After the usual salutations, inquiries after friends, Acquaintances, etc had passed, I made known the Object of my visit; he replied, that but one obstacle presented itself to prevent my taking in 12. *Manadas*:, or 300 head, (which is the num^{r} *he himself* proposed)—That obstacle was the excessive drouth, that prevailed throughout this section of the State, and which, had caused his herds to ramble to a great distance. After remaining at the Rancho three days, undetermined what to do, I found myself compelled to return to this place; as the *water pool* at the Rancho, was entirely exausted, and the animals were beginning to perish.—In this perplexity, I concluded to remain untill the arrival of the mail, and then start for the Brazos, with a view of returning in the Spring, or summer, as I had become fully convinced that an attempt to have taken in any number of horses at this time would have been attended with considerable loss—

D^{n} Luciano informed me that it had not rained here for one year—While I remained in this state of suspence, the weather suddenly changed, and in the short space of *three hours* fell the most tremendous torrent of rain I ever witnessed; The water rushed from the Mountains with such impetuosity, that every thing was swept

in the vallies beneath; in an instant, all the Empty *Tanques* were filled, and there is a supply of water for nearly a year to come—

Dn Luciano soon informed me that he intended to collect his scattered flocks immediately, and I could take the number he had offered; I shall wait untill he herds them, and take a part of the amt he has offered say 150 or 200 head.

I hope to start from here, by the 12 of Novr and be with you by the 15th or 20th of Decembr

The mule project I am compelled to abandon, owing to their scarcity and dearness, $50 to $70 pr. pair is what is currently given by the Mexicans—I shall not take time to go and see Dn Felipe, altho I am confident I could procure both mules and horses from him.

I am tired of this Barren Mountainous Country, and wish to get back once more to Sn Felipe after seeing as much of the Country as I have I shall know how to justly appreciate the fertility of our Texas soil—

I wish you to have the lot refenced very strong or one of the back lots it will be necessary to keep the Manadas at home, untill we determine where to put them, and prepare pens for their reception etc; I shall take in a sufficient number of Vaceros to attend to them: and I flatter myself that in a short time we shall have a snug little *Rancho*—then you or myself (or both of us) must get a *wife* and forget the cares and perplexities of the world, in the pleasures to be found in a *Pastoral life*. During my short stay among these mountains, I have ceased to wonder why so many persons labour under (what is called) the *Blue Devils*, Horrors Hippo, or whatever else you may please to call those fits of Apathy we find attending most persons at certain times, in a greater or less degree—and which is a complaint you are not altogether clear of—but I sincerely hope that since I have left home you have not been visited by a single symtom; for *God* knows I have been tormented enough for us both.

I have lived the Solitary, ever since I have been here. Dn Luciano is a perfect hermit—since his return from Bexar he has resided at his *Rancho de la Luz:* rarely has communication with any one, except his Vaceros Comes to *Town* to *Hug* his Frigoña, once a month. Spends good part of his time Sleeping and eating.

he says he has procured his discharge from the Army and henceforward he intends to live (*Una* Vida sosegada) I tell him we wish to live a *Ranchero's life* but attended with a *little* more variety.

I wrote you from Saltillo on every point of importance. I hope ere this the slave question is decided: the Baron promised to write to you immediately after the question was decided.

You have many warm friends in Saltillo—Among them you may Count on Dⁿ Ygnacio Arizpe the Govʳ of the State. also Gonzales, it will be fortunate for the Colony If he can be reelected and what little *aid* the colony can render him should be done with pleasure—As he entertains the sincerest friendship towards *your Colony*, in particular; also any thing that you wish to communicate to Govᵗ you can do it with Confidence through Padilla you have not a warmer friend in the Country than he I have nothing more to say at present—I will try and eat my *Christmas dinner* with you—should you happen to *visit* up *the river* present *my respects to the female part of the family*

Remember me to Williams—and John—I hope the Gin is in operation by this time—Also present *my respect to Eliza* and Mrs. *Pickit*—

Jᵃˢ E B Austin [Rubric]

P S. I wish the most *particular* care taken of my horse. I have seen but two or three—that I would rather have since I left home

P. S. Nov. 1st. I waited untill the arrival of the mail before I closed my letter confident of receiving a letter from you—but judge of my surprise when the mail arrived not to find a letter from you—I have received but one short letter from you since I left Bexar—

I have lost the two horses (both pacers) that I received from Parás—I suppose they have willingly returned to their pasturage, *those* togather with a mule lost in Saltillo that cost me $30—and some other *trifles* to the amᵗ of 15 or $20 entitle me to a *free pass* through the country as every Americano has to pay the rougues an initiation-ati[n]g fee—I hope since the rain I shall have better luck.

Benjamin Deckerd to Austin

Winchester 31ˢᵗ Octr 1826

Col Austin

I am requested by old Mr. Thompson to inquire of you the situation of the land his son bought from William Pettis, his son died before he got home and the titles to the Land has been sent to him but they are written in Spanish and we have no one here who can tell any thing about them the Old Gentleman has administered on his sons estate and he wants to know in what manner he could convey it should he make sale of it he also wants to know wether the Land is in any danger of being forfeited and he also would like to have the deed copyed in the English language if it is not too much trouble and sent on to him. You can if convenient give the above information and direct your letter to me. and you will much oblige

Benjamin Deckerd

JOHN D. MARTIN TO AUSTIN

Nashville Novr 1st 1826.

MY DEAR JUDGE.

After a lapse of several years since our first and only acquaintance took place, and altho we have never since that time corresponded with each other—on my part I have often turned my memory to scenes and events in which you were a party concerned; and have carefully noted the progress of your arduous and responsible undertaking with feelings anxious for your complete and full success. I have had the pleasure several times of reading letters from you to our common acquaintance Colo Erwin—in which you have somewhat in detail given a history of the progress of your settlement, your views, prospects, etc and I feel well assured from my knowledge of you that you will realize all you have anticipated.

My principal reason for addressing you at this time—is, to take the liberty of introducing to your acquaintance my acquaintance and friend Colo Benjamin F. Foster, who will hand you this. Colo Foster is a young gentleman of high character and respectability in this State both on his own account, and the numerous respectable connexions he has here. He has been selected by the Texas Association of this place to go out to Texas as their agent, for the purpose of procuring settlers on the land granted to them by the Mexican Government and make such other arrangements as will tend to the benefit of the company.

A young man and a stranger—in a foreign land—he will no doubt be much assisted by the council and advice which you my dear sir will be able to give him, in relation to his undertaking; And I can say to you with truth that you could not extend your kindness and friendship to one more deserving of them than Colo Foster. And I assure you my dear sir that it would be highly gratifying to me that you would do so.

I have often thought of paying you a visit and may yet drop unexpectedly upon you. I should much like to talk over our Mexican connexion, and all the viscissitudes we have since underwent, which I fondly hope will some time or other take place—perhaps your business may at no distant day call you into this part of the world—if so depend upon it I will not forego the opportunity of seeing you. If you have an opportunity and are not too much engaged in forming your new settlement, I would be very glad to receive a letter from you—in which I would like to find all the *little* matters relating to *yourself* particularly—whether you think of marrying—if you have any prospect there—or whether you could not make an adventure among us. as also the general condition of your settlement and your

opinion as to its future advancement—Nothing connected with you and your new country would be uninteresting, to *me*, who subscribes himself,

JOHN D. MARTIN.

Colo. S. F. AUSTIN.

ALEXANDER HODGE TO AUSTIN

District of Victoria 1st of Nov. 1826.

DR SIR.

I arrived in this Colony last December and have failed to make application for Land yet expecting to have met with you in this section before now I have my family all with me and have to settle for life I wish to procure Land in the lower section of Country I have four sons Two married and two single all of age who also wishes to procure Land Be so good as to write me where it is probable I shall get Land and how and when etc

ALEXANDER HODGE

N B you will please enter my name on your list as applying for Land last December

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A. H.

AUSTIN TO BASTROP

To the Baron de Bastrop member of the State Legislature from Texas--

One of the most important subjects to the people of the State of Cuahuila and Texas is a speedy organization of the Judiciary on a system which promises permaneney uniformity in the interpretation of laws, and convenience to the people—A Superior Court to sit at Saltillo and at Bexar alternately, and subordinate Circuit Courts would probably be the best. The Department of Texas might be divided into two Circuits from the Sabine to the Baca to form one, and thence to the Western limit of the Department to form another, and the balance of the State to be divided as circumstances may require with a Judge in each Circuit. The Circuit Courts might have final appellant Jurisdiction in all cases sent up from Alcaldes and original jurisdiction in all Civil and Criminal Cases beyond the Jurisdiction of Alcaldes, and the Superior Court appellant jurisdiction from the Circuit Courts in all civil cases over a certain amount, and original jurisdiction in cases of great importance. The Circuit Courts to have jurisdiction in all cases of probate and settling Estates, recording will[s] etc. regulating the rates of ferriage and granting licenses to ferrymen, tavern keepers etc.

etc. and in case the trial by jury is not allowed their decision in Criminal Cases should be subject to the revisal of some Superior tribunal so as not to give one man the power of deciding finally in Case of Life and death. The Circuit Courts for this Circuit might hold three terms at this place, and three terms at Nacogdoches in the year: say in this place on the second Mondays of October, February and June, and at Nacogdoches on the second Mondays of December, April and August. There should be a clerk appointed at each place where the Circuit Courts are held to keep the records of said Court [to] issue process etc and his fees clearly defined by law.

There should be a sheriff or alguacil in each place where said Court is held to execute its orders and decrees and his duties and fees defined.

There should be a Notary Public for this Colony and one for Nacogdoches with his fees clearly defined.

The jurisdiction of the Alcaldes and their specific duties and powers should be clearly defined even to the furnishing of forms so as to give uniformity to their proceedings.

Judicial proceedings in the department of Texas originally had in the English language when translated by the proper person should have the same validity as if originally had in Spanish. Without this the new settlers will be totally debarred all access to courts of Justice for not one in a hundred understands Spanish—Also there should be some provision for the appointment of translators and their perquisites or fees fixed by law.

There should be a complete digest of all the laws in force, published in a bound book and generally circulated gratis to every officer civil judicial and militia throughout the State and sold to the people on moderate terms.

Owing to the distance from the new Settlements to Bexar and the inconvenience that will arise in Communicating with the Gov^{t} by the Alcaldes individually there should be a *Gefe Subalterno* (Subaltern Civil Chief) to reside at San Felipe de Austin whose authority should extend from the Sabine to Labaca, or two Chiefs of this description, one for the Country from Sabine to Neches and another from there to Labaca—This Chief or Chiefs should understand both Spanish and English and be the organ of Communication between the Gov^{t} and the Alcaldes and the other subordinate officers of the jurisdiction, and be a subordinate executive officer subject to the orders of the Chief of Department and Gov^{or} of the state etc.—he should have a Secretary legally appointed and his fees for translating and other perquisites as well as his duties clearly defined by law. If such a chief is not appointed great in-

convenience will arise in communicating with each Alcalde separately by the Chief of Department in consequence of the want of a knowledge of the Spanish Language and Customary forms of doing business.

All deeds or Mortgages for real Estate should be recorded in the office of the Notary in a bound book or should there be no Notary in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court within three months after they were executed or be void.

I deem it very important that there should be a clear understanding with the Gov[t] as to the fees which the Empresario can ask and receive from the Settlers for he must be at a great expence, for translators, Clerks, attending in person to the Surveying, locating the Settlers, showing new Emigrants the Country, making presents to Indians, keeping an open house, as he must do for some time for persons who come into explore the Country and many other expences which at first view do not appear important but at the end of a year am[t] to a large sum.

Also the manner of running the division line along the reserve on the Coast should be defined—The law calls for the "Gulf of Mexico" as the base, and to leave the margin of the Gulf and meander round the lakes such as Galveston and Matagorda will entirely be a departure from the law—it appears to me equally as proper to follow up a River to its head because it discharges into the Gulf and to begin the measurement there, as to follow round the meanders of a Lake or shallow Bay that has a narrow inlet. The expense of runing this line will be very great if the lakes are to be meandered, and who is to pay it. I think the line ought to be nearly straight and the out side of the Coast, that is the shore of the "Gulf of Mexico" taken as the base to measure from.

Many old claims are said to exist on the Trinity, Neches and in the Nacogdoches district—there ought to be commissioners appointed with full power to decide on them finally so that it may be known what land is vacant and what is not, if this is not done several claims may be set up for the same land and hence will arise endless lawsuits and confusion, and it will also be impossible for the Empresario to know what lands he can settle or what are taken up by previous claims for the records of most of these old claims are said to have been lost in the revolution which renders it difficult to decide from any legal written evidence as to their validity

San Felipe de Austin 3 November 1826

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Endorsed:]-Reflections sent to the member of the Legislature of this state for Texas, the Baron de Bastrop—copy

FELIX ROBERTSON TO AUSTIN

Nashville 5th Novr 1826.

Colo. AUSTIN,

DEAR SIR

This will be handed to you by my young Friend Colo. Benjn F. Foster who goes out to Leftwich's Grant as the agent for the Company. Colo Foster is a young man of sterling entegrity and worth; any attentions shown him will not be misplaced. He is young and unacquainted with business, and will feel himself under singular obligations to you for any information you may have it in your power to afford him which will facilitate his undertaking. He will be accompanied by W. R. Winn and three or four other young men of worth—If all alarm relative to the Indians could be entirely quieted, the Brassos would populate very rapidly. It is therefore of the utmost importance to the present settlers in that Country to keep in perfect friendship with them if possible I should be glad to hear from yourself the real state of things at present and in prospect with the different neighboring Tribes. I fear it is more than probable that my state of health will drive me from this Country, and if the prospects of rapid settlement on the Brassos is unfavorable I should move to opalousas in Louisiana I fear I shall not have good health in this Country, and have but little doubt that in a part judiciously chosen in the Brassos that I should be healthy. please write me shortly the present state of your settlements, as to health increase etc etc

FELIX ROBERTSON

WILLIAM CARROLL TO AUSTIN

Nashville, November 5. 1826

SIR:

Altho not personally known to you, I make no apology for introducing to your acquaintance Colo Benjamin F Foster of this place, who goes to Texas as the agent for the Leftwich Grant.

Colo Foster is a young Lawyer of fine education and good talents—of extensive and highly respectable connections and has always sustained the character of a moral, intelligent and honorable young gentleman—As such it gives me pleasure to recommend him to your kind civilities and friendly offices.

WM. CARROLL

[Addressed:] Colo. Stephen F Austin Texas. Colo Foster.

JOHN SPROWL TO AUSTIN

Ayish Bayou District Nov. 5. 1826

DEAR SIR,

Understanding that complaints have been made to you by James Gaines, respecting some of the inhabitants of your colony, who he has represented, have written letters to citizens of this District calculated to excite dissaffection to the laws and the government, I herein inclose the letters which gave rise to this complaint. They are written you will see, by my old neighbors and friends, Messrs Thompson and Payton, and not, as Capt. Gaines imagined by Mr White.

The leters were brought to me from Nacogdoches by Gaines, who, when he delivered them, remarked that the handwriting was Squire Whites', and desired me to permit him to read them. Finding that they contained intelligence which I was requested to keep a secret, and knowing Gaines of all men in the world to be the most unfit to be trusted with one, I refused. Immediately his fruitful and disturbed imagination gave birth to the most dreadful suspicions, and he saw at once, in vision, the peaceful fields of the Ayish Bayou, a prey to all the horrors of rebellion. It is indeed unfortunate that we are debarred the privilege of friendly and confidential correspondence without incurring the imputation of treasonable designs.

I avail myself of the same opportunity to send you a copy of a letter written by Capt. Gaines to the Governor at Saltillo.[1] It needs no comment. You will see that he has proscribed some of the most respectable inhabitants of this District as well as yourself, and that even an aged and defenceless female could not escape the poison of his malice.

Jn° SPROWL

[Addressed:] Stephen Austin Esq. San Felipe de Austin Coahuila & Texas—

JAMES F. PERRY TO AUSTIN[2]

Potosi Mo Nov 5th 1826

Messrs S. F and J. B AUSTIN

GENTL° You have several times expresed a wish to know the prospect of recovering the Mine A Burton tract of Land. I long since spoke to John Scott and his partner a Mr Alen on the Subject beleaving they could give as good an oppinion on the subject as any of the atternies at the bar they being at that time imployed in a case R Price vs Marten . . . and W M and S Perry where the tital of this tract of land was to be tryed. They [delayed] giving me there op-

[1] See above, September 5, 1826.

[2] Original in possession of Mrs. Emmett L. Perry.

penion untill there would be a desition in that [case] which has been had, and a few days since, they handed me there opinion in writing, a copy of which will give you more information on the Subject than any thing I can say which is as follows

We have considered the proposetion submitted for our examination with due deliberation. In whom the title of the Mine A Burton Tract of Land is, and whether the heirs of Austin could under any circumstances recover the property.

We are not perfectly satisfyed, that the title to the Mine A Burton tract of Land from the Spanish Government to Moses Austin was complete. But such Title as he had seems to have been disposed of either by the process of Law, or by his own consent. It appears that Moses Austin stood actually Indebted to the bank of St Louis in a Large Sum of money, to secure the payment of which he mortgaged a portion of the Mine A Burton tract of Land the Bank not satisfied to close the mortgage alone to secure the debt proceded on Austins Notes, obtained a Judgement issued execution and Sold the *whole* of M Austin's Interest to the *whole* of the Mine A Burton Tract the Bank of St Louis by there agent Become the purchasers, and a deed was executed by the Sheriff for the same, this deed to the Bank by the Sheriff though Incomplete for want of proper acknowledgment and Seal we think gave to the Bank an Equitable title to the property, which equitable title the Bank in circuitous manner pretended to convey to R H Price. It appears that this Incomplete title acquired by the Bank under the Sheriffs deed was Subsequently Ratified by Moses Austin in his settlement with the Bank and whether this Ratifecation amounted to a new deed or a new acknowledgement of the sale under the Sheriff makes no difference so far as the equitable Interest created in the Bank was concerned. If the amount of money for which the special tract of Land was Mortgaged for [was] paid Independent of the General sale of the whole property, then the Heirs of Moses Austin would be entitled to the tract that was mortgaged, if the debt due by Austin to the Bank was satisfied it was done by the sale of the Mine A Burton Tract. If not satisfied the debt still exists against the Estate of Austin. It appears that Price for and in consideration of this property Released the Bank of St Louis from a large debt due by the bank of St Louis to the Bank of Edwardsville and became liable to the Bank of Edwardsville for the debt due the Bank of Edwardsville from the Bank of St Louis, the whole of the proceedings appear to have had much notoriety. Now if the heirs of Austin were to pursue and acquire that property they would appear to be in the situation of purchasers with notice of the Equitable title of the Bank of St Louis or of Price under the Bank, heirs can not inherit while their are debts due by the Estate and if the heirs

were to acquire this property we think they would take it subject to either the Bank debt if unsatisfied or subject to the equitable title of the Bank if the title still remains in the Bank or the equitable title of Price under the Bank. If Price has regularly acquired an equitable title it is then a question of some moment if the property is worth pursuing under those clogs, which we consider incident to success the debt with the accumalated Interest will be great nor are we sure that the proceeds of the property would be decreed equal to the accruing Interest of the debt

We have not been favoured with a view of the second opinion of the Supreme Court as regards this title but the Law of the Land protects Equitable titles against heirs or purchasers with Notice and are inclined to think to pursue this case would be incuring Cost expense and trouble that even success would not remunerate

Signed JOHN SCOTT and
Oct 23d 1826 BEVERLY ALLIN

from the above oppenion there is but a poor prospect of ever receving anything from that Estate. I have wrote to Edward Bates for his oppinion as he stands now next to the head of the Bar and has been employed in the above mentiond case [he] has had an opertunity of becoming acquanted with the [title] of that property but he has not answered my letter yet. [My] opinion is different from Scott and Allins I will write [of it later?] We received Stephens letter of 21st August forwarded by [Col] Matson although that letter was very full We are [sorry] Col Matson did not call on us as he could have [given] more minute information than the Bounds of a letter would admit of. Your acquantances in this country are I beleave quite well. You will have heard of the death of Mrs. Wm C Carr and his only son before this reaches you they both died in a short time of each other. Mr Carr is our Circuit Judge he was here not long since he enquired very particularly after you both. Now for Famaly matters We have added since our marage two to our famaly a son and daughter prety well in two years. Stephen is a fine healthy child and Emily Rosannah is a fine girl six weeks old if we keep on as we have begun we will soon have to retreat to the west for land to occupie the rest of the children are all very well. Joel and Austin goes to school and are improving some under Mr Brickey['s] direction though not so fast as I think they might under a better teacher Write to us often as we are allways anxious to hear from you

JAS. F. PERRY

[In Margins:] S. your old flame Miss Isabella Hord [has turned] methodist and is going to heaven as fast as possible. Mrs. John

[Bri]ckey is dead she died last spring. Abraham Brinker Esq after twelve years electioneering [he has] been elected to the Legislature. Thompson H Ficklin is our other representative and Edward Bates was elected to congress in [the place] of Scott. Scott and Benton are now condidates for the United States Senate. [It is thought?] by many Scott will oust Benton

Emily is anxious to remove to your country but unless the prospects are very flattering I think it is verry doutfull whether ever we remove there

[Addressed] Col. Stepehn F Austin San Philip D Austin Rio Brases Provance of Texas

To the Care of Jared Cable Esq Natchetoches

Robert Desha to Austin

Nashville 6th Novr 1826

Dear sir.

My friend Col. Benjamin F Fauster will hand you this;

The Col. is the agent for the Texas Association Company and will reside in that Country.

You will find him an intelligent Gentlemanly man, and one in whom you will be pleased on an acquaintance—any services you can render him whilst in your Country will be acknowledged etc.—

Robt Desha

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F Austin Austins Grant Texas Pr. Col. Fauster

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J. C. Payton to Austin

San Felipe November 6th 1826

Col. S. F. Austin

after a silence of several months, I deliberately Take up my pen to Enquire of you your Feelings respecting my Geting Land in your Colony I hope you may not Entertain The Feeling you seam to Express when we Last Talked togeather I feel willing to believe you do not as theare was some Wormth of Feeling Excited

I hope you will reconsider the Subject and give a more satisfactory reply whitch I shall ask of you on the reception of those few lines Or so soon as is Convenient

J. C. Payton

Saucedo to Austin

El Exmo Sor Vice Governador de este Estado con fecha 18 de Octubre proximo pasado sea serbido decirme lo qe. sigue.

" He recibido el oficio de V. S. de n° 318. de 30. de Septiembre pp^{o} an qe. me consulta las dudas qe. han ocurrido á los empresarios y

agrimensores de las nuevas colonias de ese Departam^{to} p^{a} sobre el punto en qe. deben comensarce las medidas para dejar libres las tierras litorales exceptuadas pr. la Ley de Colonizacion de 18. de Agt^{o} de 1824, y 2^{a} si los terrenos inundados cerca de los Rios deben sér ó nó comprehendidos en la demarcacion de sitios qe. se apliquen á los nuevos colones.

En cuanto a la primera se deve comensar la medida desde la orilla de la tierra firme dejando asia el már las Lagunas qe. tengan comunicacion con el, pues se consider^{n} como parte de un todo: no asi con los lagos ó esteros qe. esten separad^{s} del már y circundados pr. todas partes de tierra firme.

Por lo qe. toca á la segunda se deben distinguir dos cosas: á las tierr^{s} inmediatas á los Rios estan cubiertas constantem^{te} con las aguas del mismo Rió, ó solamente se inundan cuando sobrevienen grandes crecientes ó avenidas, en el primer caso és fuera de toda duda qe. aquellas tierras qe. existen permanentem^{te} cubiertas de aguas, no pueden componer parte de ningun sitio de tierra pero si solo son anegadizas accidentalm^{te}. y como se supone en el 2° caso deben ser incluidas en las tierras qe. se adjudiquen á los nuevos Colones comensando las medidas desde las margenes naturales del rio quando sus aguas estan en su natural Estado: quedando pr. consiguiente sugetos todos los que se coloquen á las riberas de los Rios al dro. reciproco de alucion conforme á nuestras leyes.—Lo qe comunico á V. S. en contestacion, y para su inteligencia y fines consiguientes." y lo traslado aV. para su inteligencia y fines correspondientes.

Dios y Libertad

Bejar 7. de Nobiembre de 1826.

José Ant^{o} Saucedo [Rubric]

Al Teniente Coronel D. Estevan Austin

Austin to Saucedo[1]

Yncluyo á V. S. un oficio al Ylmo. Ayuntamiento de Bexar sobre la Ynterpretacion del decreto de 23 de 7bre de 1823 que concede á los habitantes de Texas libertad de introducir efectos libre de derechos y suplico el influxo de V. S. para que el Ayuntamiento toma la materia en consideracion y por medio de una representacion á la autoridad competente aclare la duda que parece existe sobre la interpretacion de dicha ley.

Dios y Libertad

San felipe de Austin 7 de Noviembre de 1826

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departamento C Jose Antonio Saucedo

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[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

AUSTIN TO AYUNTAMIENTO OF BEXAR[1]

A letter I have just received from the Empresario Green De Witt, dated from La Vaca Bayou, apprizes me of a disagreeable occurrence which took place there relative to the seizure of a cargo of goods consisting, principally of flour, corn, coffee, whiskey and dry goods, by virtue of the decree of May the 20th 1824, in relation to contraband articles. I understand that this cargo was purchased at New Orleans by its owners for the purpose of assisting the colonists of that Empresario, at the commencement of his establishment, under the impression that the law permitted the introduction of such goods for the consumption of the people of Texas.

I candidly state, that, with the decree of the Sovereign Constituent Congress, N° 141, of September the 29th 1823, and the Colonization law in my hand, I should, without the least hesitation have introduced the same goods that have been seized; as well for my own consumption as for the purpose of selling them to the people of Texas. The above mentioned decree clearly declares, in the most specific terms, the object and intention of Congress in passing it.

The text of the decree is as follows:

"The Sovereign Mexican Congress, taking into consideration the deplorable situation to which the Province of Texas has been reduced by Indian hostilities, and in order to give partial relief to the destitute condition of her civilized people, have determined upon decreeing, and do hereby decree, that all goods of what class soever, whether home products, or foreign, introduced in the Province of Texas. for the consumption of her people, shall be free from taxes; and the exemption shall continue in force for the term of seven years, from the date of the publication of this decree in the capital of said province."

Now the object of that decree, was "to give a partial relief to the destitute condition of her people" by granting them certain definite privileges, for a limited term; to which Congress considered them entitled in consequence of their sufferings and "the deplorable situation to which they were reduced by Indian hostilities." It is therefore obvious, that the object of Congress was to encourage the people of Texas by granting a well determined and clearly defined privilege, an absolute right, without restriction or reservation whatever, except limitation of the term to seven years, during which this favor is to continue; and this very limitation to a specific term, is, in my opinion, indisputable proof that the object of Congress was to grant and guarantee to the people of Texas the full enjoyment and benefit of the privileges of said decree during that term, without any reservation of the power to rescind it by another decree, unless in

[1] Translations from Bexar Archives, in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

cases of abuse, or such criminality on the part of her people as would place them without the pale of any law. For instance, if Congress for sufficient reasons, had, by decree, granted to an individual, (let us suppose a resident of Bexar) an exclusive right, or privilege to manufacture powder, or paper, or to introduce, for a limited period, certain goods free from taxes; and, subsequently by a general decree, should prohibit the concession of such privileges to any person; can it be supposed that the local authorities of Bexar, would consider as annulled, by this latter decree, the special favor granted to that individual by the former, without any abuse of the privilege on his part?

There cannot exist more general and at the same time more explicit terms, than those of the decree of September the 29th 1823, it says: "all goods of what class soever, whether home products, or foreign;" which includes anything whatever, any production of every part of the world "that may be introduced in Texas." That is to say, not only by her own inhabitants, but by any other person having the right to trade with the Mexicans and to enter their territory. "For the consumption of her inhabitants," that is to say, not only for the consumption of the individual who may introduce them, but, also, for the purchaser, if he is a resident of Texas. To pretend that the individual who goes personally to New Orleans, or any other place, to buy flour, coffee, sugar, etc., for his own consumption, has the right to introduce these goods, but not to sell them to his Texian neighbor appears to me to be unjust, and oppressive, repugnant to the system that rules us and to the Constitution in every sense, because it amounts to a declaration that the rich possess rights the poor are not to enjoy; that the rich man, who can take his gold and silver to purchase his necessaries in foreign countries, can introduce whatever he pleases, and live in luxury; while the poor man who earns four reals a day by his labor, or by that of his mules, horses, or mares, with which he could each day purchase from a merchant, the flour, sugar, etc., necessary for the subsistence of his family, is deprived of the use of those indispensable articles because he has not a sufficient capital to absent himself from the country and to introduce them expressly for his own consumption. If a broad construction of this measure is recognized, it appears to me, that the fundamental principles solemnly acknowledged, and guaranteed by the Constitution, that all free citizens are to enjoy equal privileges and to be equal in the eyes of the law, is a nullity and a mockery.

This is a very important matter, particularly to the older inhabitants of Texas, who have been so long exposed to the depredations and hostilities of the Indians. Texas, does not, at present, produce

in sufficient quantities for her own consumption, flour, sugar, rice and many other articles; she has not a sufficient number of curriers, shoemakers, hatmakers, tailors and other tradesmen; she has no cloth factories; and cannot expect to have any for some years to come, for want of hands and capital. A communication with the other States which might supply her with these articles, cannot be conducted without an escort of troops for protection against the Indians. All this was certainly well understood by the Sovereign General Congress when they passed the decree referred to, and their object was, obviously, to admit from foreign countries, all the articles required by the people of Texas until she extricated herself from her unfortunate situation. Texas is now in the condition she was at the time of the publication of the decree of September the 29th 1823, and all the motives that urged Congress to grant the privileges contained in said decree, still exist to the same extent. Therefore, taking into consideration the text of the decree, and the evident intention of the Sovereign authority that made it, it appears to me that justice and the welfare of Texas, alike demand that the decree of May the 20th 1824, which prohibits the introduction of certain articles, should not be so construed as to abrogate or in any wise impair, diminish, or change the decree of September the 29th 1823; and, that, by virtue of said last mentioned decree, any goods not coming from an enemy's country may be lawfully introduced into Texas by the citizens of any nation at peace and in friendly relations with our Republic; and be sold to the people for their own consumption, agreeably to the letter and spirit of said law of September the 29th 1823, and the intention of the sovereign Constituent Congress which was evidently to grant to the people of Texas the liberty of introducing "all goods of any class whatever, whether home products or foreign," free of taxes for the term of seven years from the publication of the decree at Bexar. Indeed, if we admit the principle that a subsequent law may deprive the people of a portion of that favor we must also admit that they can be deprived of the whole. The law of May the 20th 1824, on prohibited goods, and other laws published subsequently to the decree of September the 29th 1823, establish the taxes to be paid on goods introduced into the Mexican Republic. Now, why are these laws not extended to Texas: and why is it not declared that the goods introduced into Texas shall pay the same taxes as in other sections of the country? Why is the law establishing the tariff of a date posterior to that which exempts Texas from taxes? it occurs to me that it is as natural to give this construction, as to hold that goods are prohibited by a general law published subsequently to the law which grants the particular privilege of introducing them into Texas free from taxes "all goods, whether home products, or foreign." Furthermore the law of May the 20th 1824, makes no mention

of that of September the 29th 1823, and does not declare that it is annulled. It must also be observed that the law of September the 29th 1823, is a special law, concerning a single province, and not a general law; consequently if the object of Congress at the time of passing the law of May the 20th 1824, had been to annul the prior law, it would certainly have been expressly stated, and be accompanied by a declaration of the reason for its abrogation. Indeed, a particular and special privilege is as sacred a right as that of property, which Congress would never withdraw without well grounded motives, nor without stating their reasons for doing so in the preamble.

The seizure of the cargo at the mouth of La Vaca Bayou is a matter of great importance. As I understand, a part of this cargo was intended for the new settlers, and was necessary for their subsistence; and the other belonged to some merchants of the United States of the North, who came to trade with the Mexicans in Texas, in the belief that the law of September the 29th 1823, was still in force. That seizure withholds from the settlers indispensable provisions; and the citizen of a friendly and allied nation is deprived of his property. He will, undoubtedly, make his complaint to his government, which will inevitably result in disagreeable demands on the part of that government.

The people of Texas, in their present condition, must possess the full and unrestricted enjoyment of all the privileges that the Supreme Government has been pleased to grant them. The privilege of introducing any goods is very necessary; therefore, and considering that they hold this right by virtue of the law of September the 29th 1823, and as I am personally interested in the subject as a resident of Texas, and in my capacity of Empresario of one of the new colonies, I have made use of the freedom of a citizen in the expression of my opinion, hoping that your Honorable Body will be pleased to forward it to the proper authority, in order to remove the doubt that exists in the interpretation of the decree of September the 29th 1823.

God and Liberty.

San Felipe de Austin, November 7th 1826.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

JOHN R. HARRIS TO AUSTIN

Harrisburg, Nov 9 1826

Col. STEPHEN F AUSTIN

DEAR SIR—Permit me to trouble you for the following information. what is the Law or practice in this Country in regard of a Physician Proveing his accounts, can he prove it by his own Oath

or not. the reason of my making the inquiry is. Hunter has brought a Suit ag[t] the widow McCormick for a Medical Bill and she insists on his proveing his demand but will not consent to his oath, being taken in evidence against her, Hunter has also broug[t] suit ag[t] her on a note, given by Her Husband to Hunter for surveying, she object to the payment of the note, in consequence of there being exceptions made to the Survay by you, and she says she never has received her Deed out of the office in consequence of Hunter lines being wrong. according to your request I have Taken a bond from Hunter. with security for three Hundred Dollars, conditioned to resurvey all the lines that are wrong. I send you a copy of the note

On or before the first day of December next I promise to pay to Johnson Hunter or order forty Eight Dollars in Cattle to be rated at current prices for such cattle when paid if the parties disagree on the price they shall select two men to decide for them it being for surveying of my Land. and if the survey is not accepted this shall be void otherwise to remain in full force and virtue against me Witness my hand this first day of December 1824.

ARTHUR MCCORMICK

Attest

DANL. E. BAYLESS

I will thank you for an answer between this and the first Saturday in December—I send you by Mr Moore all the Terpentine that I can procure at this time. If I had of known of it when the weather was warm. I could of procured any quantity of it; after the recp[t] of Mr Williams letter I bored several Trees. but the weather was to could. for the Turpentine to run

JOHN R. HARRIS [Rubric]

[Austin's reply—filed with Austin to Saucedo, December 16, 1826:] After an examination of the documents sent up to me by you in the case of Hunter vs the widow McCormick I have deemed it due to justice to order that you should admit the application of said widow for an appeal taking the security required by the regulations and that a regular transcript of the whole proceedings should be sent up by you to the Superior Court of this colony—

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V. S. fha 1° del que rije que debiendo en lo sucesivo corer por cuenta y responsabilidad del Admor de Tabacos el ramo del papel sellado y que está para recibir

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

cantidad considerable de sellos de toda clase que distribuirá á los Pueblos, y encargandome proponer al dho Administrador por conducta de V. S. una persona abonada á quien puede encargar del expendio de papel Sellado en esta poblacion bajo la correspondiente fianza que debe otorgar á mi satisfacion, propongo al dho Administrador en cumplim^to^ con el citado encargo de V. S. al C Samuel M Williams que otorgará la fianza necesaria luego que recibe noticia de su nombramiento.

Dios y Libertad

San felipe de Austin 9 de Noviembre de 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departamento C José Antonio Saucedo.

DEPOSITION CONCERNING COUNTERFEIT MONEY.

Department of Texas

Austins Colony

This day personaly appeared before me Stephen F. Austin Judge in and for the Colony aforesaid Isaac Foster who being duly sworn deposeth and Saith that sometime during the last Fall William Cooper a citisen of this Colony handed deponent a piece of money as a Gold piece considered to be a half doubloon with a request that depon^t^ would hand it to John Foster that s^d^ John Foster might with it and other money delivered at same time purchase for Cooper a steel Mill in New Orleans—deponent says he accordingly delivered said piece of money to said John Foster with such instructions and says that s^d^ piece of money was never out of dep^ts^ possession from the time of so receiving it from Cooper untill he delivered it to said Jno Foster as af^d^—

I. G. FOSTER

Subscribed and Sworn to before me at San felipe de Austin this 10 Nov. 1826

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Judge [Rubric]

This day personally appeared before me Stephen F. Austin Judge in and for the Colony af^d^ Wm. Cooper a Citizen of the same who being duly sworn deposeth and Saith that sometime during the last Fall Robert H Williams a resident in this Colony handed depon^t^ a piece of money are [or] gold piece and considered to be Worth Eight Dollars in part payment of a debt due by said Williams to deponent—deponent says at the time of receiving s^d^ piece of money from said Robert H Williams, nor at any time since has he had in his possession any piece of Gold of the denom^n^ or supposed value of s^d^ piece so rec^d^ from Williams says that shortly afterward he

delivered the said piece of money to Isaac Foster in order to deliver the same to John Foster for the purpose of purchasing a steel mill for depon^{t}—says that the piece of money so delivered to said Isaac Foster is the same piece which he received from the said Robert H Williams as af^{d}

his
WILLIAM x COOPER
mark

Subscribed by s^{d} Declarant by making his mark and sworn to by him in due form at San felipe de Austin this 10 Novr 1826—
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Endorsed:] Coopers business relative to counterfeit half Joe to be presented to R. H. Williams for collection—

JAMES KERR TO AUSTIN

Labaca 11. Nov. 1826 2 O'clock p. m.—

DEAR COL^{o}

I have just R^{d} and read your of the 8th Inst by Mr. Brackin. I am confined to my Pallet. and have been for several Days given out by the spectators—I am now on the mend and by being proped up etc. I have undertaken to write, I have 6 large blisters all raw and runing yellow matter etc.

I came here with my Cart, black man and two *white* strange Gent. who overtook me on the Colorado, on the evenig of—1st—found all well, and in good spirits—In a few minutes a man by the name of Smith came under whip, from the Guadaloupe who stated that Delion, and son were a Coming with the indians to cut of the white people as far as the Colorado—It would far exceed the limits of a letter to detail all he said in relation to Delions threats and those of his son fernander. in fact they were alarming as a person (Unknown to me tho said to be respectable) has as I am informed by the Alcalde here made Oath that Delion had lured the Indians to come and Kill all the Americans here, and Mrs. Trudeau has told me that she hirself will swear that she several times heard Delion aver that he would have Dewitts head and that he would take it tied to his saddle to the Guadaloupe—The many threats; the manner in which they came here; and the persons who made Those threats Gave alarme to the new settlers here and altho I myself are not easily alarmed yet I confess that I scarcely new what to be about;—There was no order made to fire from our station untill we were first fired on.

About this time I went to Smith and asked him many questions etc. he then told me that Moncholes of Labihia and his troops

were coming on with Delion,—I then told the Col° and all the people that would hear me that there was no danger, and that I knew that no Indians were coming and that I felt confident the commendant had orders from Gov^t etc but the people were still alarmed. Dewitt Often told them they must not oppose Gov^t and that all orders coming from Gov^t must and should be obeyed. for fear some accident might happen I took a few men in the night and went Some Distance along the road in order to meet the Commendant and to inform him the news that we had, heard, and that the people here were afraid he was coming to put them to death without mercy etc When the evening Star Disappeared I came back and again told the men there was no danger and for them to be at rest, that I knew Mr. Moncholes to be an officer, of the Gov^t and a Gent, and I then went to sleep for the ballance of the night. In the morning the order again was given by the Col° for no man to fire on or offer to fire, without we were first fired on. I and the Col° went down the river to select a place for my camp—when we had got a short distance, a boy came on horse back and told us the indians were coming—we returned on the way to the house when the Col° Asked me to go and meet the Commendant and having my gun, I set it down by a tree and went on foot as fast as I could to meet the troop (Several men from the Station followed me with their ares [arms?]who layed them down and wished I would let them to go with me) which I refused to do and told them as they were strangers etc to go back; that the Commendant and all knew me, and that I was not afraid to go by my self—I did so and meet them some distance from the house and shook hands with several; I told the Commendant that the people here were afraid he had come to kill etc—he told me no that he had Orders from the Chief etc to Dewitt, he road on to the house and demanded the guns to be put away etc, the Col° before I got to the house had meet them, and altho he repeatedly told the men to put away the guns, the men were in such confusion that it was for some time before they could be made to know that they would not be Instantly put to death. the armes were Laid away and on (I believe the next day) they were taken by Delion and put under guard and have since been sent away to await the order of the Chief—

The Commendant told me that he expect the arms would all be sent back in a few days etc that he would leave some troops here to guard us untill the thing would be Determined. He took Dewitt of with him 5 or 6 others—Some times Dewitt was told that he was a prisoner, and at other times that he was free etc. my strength failes and I am obliged to lie down, my head is like a whirl wind and my friend adiew.

JAMES KERR

[Addressed:] Colo S. F. Austin Sn. Felipe De Austin

JAMES KERR TO AUSTIN

12th Nov. [1826]

I am S[t]ill on the mend, and have the oppertunity of sendeing by Mr. John Brown who has Just came from the Interior—he seen the Colp near Labahia etc

Madam Trudeau, Mr. William Smith, and Mr. Wightman set off yesterday for St. Antonio and intended going by the way of Gonzales—Mrs. T— will give evidence to the Chief relative to the Threats of Delion, and they all three will urge the Chief to order all the parties and papers before him: This is what we all wish for, and should Our friend Williams get there I fear no danger, but if he does not get on and the prisners are detained in Labahia etc. an Alcaldes Court opened there for there trial the worst of consequences are to be feared.

I am Conscious you need not be informed the nature of the Courts they have at Delions Town and Labahia

There is a kind of french Doctor who came pasinger on the escambia and who it seems assumes the province of a Mexican officer, and who has exercised greate pomp, dictatorial ship here—he sets up a Claim against powell the owner of the Cargo, for $9.000 and alledges Robery against the Capt. of the vessel etc

the commendant has said that this said Doctor is no Officer,—

It has been through this Doctor that all this trouble has come on us this how[ev]er is my Opinion, and I am farther of the Opinion that the Sd. D. is and has been acting under a bribe etc by some of our neighbours.

Burnett is on the way and will be at the Guadaloupe to night, he was well this morning at the Crossing of the La Baca.

My Dear Colo If there has been any threats Made by any of the Settlers here I am yet Ignorant of them. I can not believe now that any other than, if wantonly, and Out rageously attacked by the Indians or by Delion, as he threatened they would defend themselves etc But no threat that has Came to my knowledge ever was made against the Govt

I am now fateagued and must close etc

JAMES KERR

Please write me often—

HORATIO CHRISMAN TO AUSTIN.

DEAR SIR

I am sorry to inform you that it is out of my power to start below as soon as I expected Owing to the ill health of my Family my Wife and children are all unwell but not so much so as Miss Hope she was taken with the influenza on Saturday night and has been very bad

she appears better this morning I hope I shall be able to get of in three or four days if you cannot wait that long please inform me by the Doct^{r} the Bearer hereof whar I shall meet you I expect I can meet you on monday next if no unforeseen accident takes place if you should leave before me I wish you to take all the papers relative to your Business—I remain yours with respect

HOR. CHRIESMAN [Rubric]

Col. Stephen F. Austin. Nov. 13. 1826

JOSEPH W. BROWN TO AUSTIN

To Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

RESPECTED SIR The Alcaldas of this District have been pleased to confide to me the office of Constable and in making out bills of cost I have invariably charged (except in case of warrants where I was commanded to find the body and bring it forthwith) mileage from the office of the Alcalde to the place of residence of the person summoned whether I found him at home or elsewhere—this is complained of by some though I thought hardly any rule was more uniformly and universally established—As we are about to fall under your jurisdiction and such matters will sooner or later be refered to you I request that you will do me the favour to state to me whether I have misconceived the rule or not and if I have erred to state what the rule is—

Atascosito District Nov. 14th 1826

JOSEPH W. BROWN

P. S. I know not who will be the bearer of this letter but if he returns to this District I pray you will send an answer to my request by him—

J. W. B.

HENRY W. MUNSON TO AUSTIN

The Atascosito District is bounded as follows viz. On the west by the Colony of San Felipe de Austin on the north by the District of Nacogdoches, on the east by the reserved lands on the Sabine, on the south by the Gulf of Mexico including all Islands and Bays within three leagues of Sea Shore

To Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

SIR Above is stated the limits of the Atascosito District as it was agreed on at the meeting of the inhabitants here and as we suppose ought now to stand since the 20 leagues on the Sabine here-

tofore reserved has been constituted a Colony—if there be any error or defect in defining the limits you will alter or supply it in the translation—

Atascosito District Nov. 15th 1826

HENRY W. MUNSON

BASTROP TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 18 de Noviembre de 1826.

Dn ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Mi estimado amigo y dueño Sin duda su Hermano havra dicho aV quanto se ha trabajado para reformar el art 13 qe. se sancionara en la semana entrante todos mis compañeros menos Carillo me han dado su palabra qe. voteran pª que los esclavos que hay ahora en el estado se quedan esclavos, no se han resuelto todavia a qe edad los qe nascen estaran libres en lo futuro no se podran introducir mas esclavos, se fijera algunos meses para que esta prohibicion tenga lugar. es quanto podre obtener; el primer senso se hara quando Se hasce el que ha de servir para el congreso general qe sera en 29 para que rige las elecciones q se deben hacer en agosto de 30 para el congreso general de la federacion y el del estado por los años 31 y 32. no quise que se hiciese en este año el censo por que calcule que en 29 casi todos los empresarios havrian concluido sus empresas o lo menos en la mayor parte y si el senso se havia hecho sin contar a V todos los otros no havian todavia empesado o lo menos pocas familias havrian toda Via introducido; me paresce que los asuntos anderan bien y si los empresarios no se descuidan para la legislatura de 31 y 32 los de cohaguila y del Saltillo no nos juegaran los bigotes, como han hecho hasta a hora el 1° de Abril entrera el otro congreso constitucional la constitucion se concluira para medio de diciembre se jurera para este tiempo en el Saltillo pero vere como detengo la impresion y la jura en Texas porq los meses que se daran a los habitantes en que podran recivir todavia sus esclavos que estaban en camino imperiran despues de la publicacion y jura de la constitucion y si ai algunos que quieran aprobecharse este tiempo tendran lugar, propondre que entremos en receso o q me permitten de salir de aqui en fevrero si no le podre lograr sin falta me pondre en camino el 1 de avril lo he escrito varias veces que necesito quinientos o seis cientos pesos para poder salir de acqui le repito V por ultima vez con el bien entendido q lo q yo pido es mio sino se ha covrado es q V se havia encargado covrarlo sino havia sido en esa confiansa a nadien havria dado sus titulos sin q me hubieron pagado los asuntos

politicos en Mexico no van muy bien, ai mucho discontento alli, mantenga V la paz y harmonia en su colonia y con sus vecinos restablesca V pronto en su salud y dispongase de su amigo y servidor Q S M B

NERI BASTROP

No ai rason para q V haga los gastos ni tome el trabajo de venir por acca por q todo esta decidido antes de la mi[tad] deciembre venidera

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ERASMO SEGUIN TO AUSTIN

Bejar 18. de Novᵉ 1826.

Sr. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

Mi apreciable amigo: Ayer llgaron a esta su casa Dⁿ Samuel y otro Sor. q. lo acompaña, y tenga la satisfacion de tenerlos en casa en desempeño de su recomendacion, y en cumplimᵗᵒ deloq. me pide el armor de paisanage.

Al primero lo ayudaré y a[u]xiliare como V. me encarga en todo loq. penda de mi arvitrio, seguro deq. solo aquello q. no esta en mis facultades sera enloq. no lo ayude aunq. con dolor mio, y al otro Sor será atendido como su compañero.

Amigo, el dador de esta será Dios mediante Ambrosio Rodriguez q. pasa con vestias de remuda para mi hijo hasta esa Villa; y estimaré aV. se tome la molestia de alojarmelo, con su otro compañero haciendoles q. se descuiden con las mulas, y q. las tengan en donde coman bien.

Asi mismo suplico aV. que desde el recibo de esta encargue asus amigos los q. vivan arriba dela Villa. de dar noticia a Juan Nepomuceno q. lo esperan hay [ahi] con remuda pª q. se dirija á ese punto, y sino le conviniese vajar conlas cargas por venir pr. el camino de arriba q. disponga mandar por ellas.

Supongo q. yá habrá V. tenido noticia de q. D. Santiago salio del Saltillo: me dice el Vice Govᵒʳ q. lo sirvio entodo loq. pudo, y que el mismo me contara el aprecio q. hizo de mi recomendado; casi lo mismo me comunican, el Sor Valdez y Licᵈᵒ Carillo aquienes tambien selos recomendé, y aunq. el nada me ha dho. desu llegada ni de recomendaciones. supongo q. no me engañan mis amigos.

Reciba V. expresiones de toda mi familia y manteniendose bueno disponga de mi inutilidad como q. soy su amigo q. lo ama de veras y b. s. m.

ERASMO SEGUIN [Rubric]

La adjunta sirvase V. entregar ami hijo.

Austin to Members of State Legislature[1]

A los Sres Diputados en el Honorable Congreso del Estado de Coahuila y Texas.

Hallandome en una situacion cargada de responsabilidades y deberes con respeto à los nuevos emigrados que he establecido en Texas como Empresario, y al mismo tpo en cierto modo de delicada con respecto al Gov^no^ por ser yò un Mejicano adoptivo con todavía corta residencia en èl pais y conocimiento imperfecto del idioma, titubeo en presentar algunas refleciones ò observaciones sobre asuntos politicos aunque sean interesantes à nuestra prosperidad particular; pero sin embargo, estimulado por un zelo honesto para el bien comun del Estado, y confiando con entera seguridad en la bondad del Gov^o^ para perdonarme si acaso se concidere q. hè entremetido con materias fuera del esfuero de mis dros [derechos] ò deberes estoy animado presentàr las refleciones que siguen sobre el asunto de la introducion de Esclavos en las nuevas colonias, à hora pendiente en el Honorable Congreso del Estado, no con objeto de dictar, ni tampoco con idea que tengo luces para instruir, pero con el solo objeto de presentar algunos hechos q. tienen relacion con la materia que mi cituacion me ha dado tal vez mejor oportunidad observar que los que biben lejos de estos nuebos establecim^tos^—Estoy convencido que notables beneficios resultarian al pais si el H. Cong^o^ permitiera la introduccion de Esclavos por algunos años despues de la publicacion de la Constitucion y esta extension me parece fundada en just^a^ y apoyada por la humanidad, tanto por el bien publico.—

Los Emigrados que yà estàn aqui binieron bajo el concepto que tenian el dro de traer sus esclavos, y parece que no hay duda que en efecto tenian tal dro por las leyes entonces bigentes y hicieron los calculos correspond^tes^ muchos de ellos que tenian familias numerosas no podian trasladarlas todas de una vez y vinieron con una parte para fabricar casas abrir labores etc. el primer año con el fin de tener preparado un lugar para recivir toda su familia y de haver biberes de mais etc. prevenidos para su mantencion. Ahora si no se dà algun tpo para traer lo restante de sus familias comprensibos sus Esclavos, se hallaràn en el estado desgraciado de berse dibidido una parte aqui y la otra en los Estados Unidos del Norte sin poder reunirse. Ademas un hombre de proporcion no puede hacer todos los preparatibos necesarios para una mudanza entera à un pais nuebo y remoto en un Mes, ni en algunos casos en un año, y yo se de positibo que en algunas familias que tenian intencion de trasladarse aqui en la primabera verano y otoño benidero han empezado arreglar sus asuntos para aquel objeto bajo el concepto q. podian traer sus Esclavos, han bendido

[1] From Wagner Collection, Yale University.

sus posesiones imbirtiendo sus productos en negros y las cosas necesarias para su biaje y establecimiento aqui. A hora despues de haver hecho todo esto sino se les permite traer sus Esclavos el resultado à ellos no dejarà de ser una perdida grandisima ademas de la mucha incomodidad de haver yà completado todas las preparaciones y hechos todos los calculos para una mudanza permanente de residencia. Estender el tpo para introducir Esclavos no ès hacer nuebos Esclavos de personas libres, àl contrario ès solam^te^ una mudanza de residencia de los yà en aquel Estado con el Consuelo de ber libertados sus descendientes que quedarian en un estado de Esclavitud perpetua si no se les permiten benir aqui de modo que dàr tal permicion ès en mi concepto un acto de Just^a^ à los emigrados que se hallan en el Estado arriba indicado ès en efecto servir la çausa de la humanidad con respecto al mismo Esclavo y ès beneficiar al pais notablemente por la aumentacion rapida de poblacion y riquezas consig^tes^, por las mejoras, resultas del trabajo de tantos brazos y los descendientes formarian una clase de poblacion utilisima y indispensable en todo pais y q. està muy escaso en Tejas, ès decir jornaleros industriosos, bien instruidos y aclimatados à este Temperamento. El Govierno se interesa en aumentar la poblacion de Tejas y su situacion con respecto à los Yndios brabos requiere que esta aumentacion seria lo mas pronto que sea posible. Permitir la introduccion de Esclavos por algun tpo si fuese solamente por dos años haria mas para aceleràr la emigracian que cualquiera cosa por que entonces todos los q. tienen intencion ò idea de emigrar la berificarian sin demora ninguna con el fin de traer sus Esclavos antes que acava el termino limitado.—

Con respecto à la edad que se debe libertar los descendientes de esclavos despues de mucha reflecion estoy combencido que la mas corta tanto para èl bien estar del mismo emancipado como por el buen comun del pais ès la de veinte y cinco años por las razones que siguen.

No se puede esperar que los emancipados puedan ocupar un grado muy alto en la sociedad. La misma naturaleza de las cosas resulta del nacimiento crianza etc. de las dhos descendientes les pondrà en un estado secundario con respecto à su educacion, inteligencia, ocupaciones etc. y aunque libres de Esclavitud precisam^te^ en lo gral han de ser jornaleros ò sirvientes asalariados. Un Padre que previene con toda la ancia del amor Paternal para la educacion de sus hijos arregla esta en conformidad con el Estado ò lugar en la Sociedad destinado para ellos, por ejemplo uno se destina à la Yglesia y su educacion està dirigida en conformidad, otro se destina à ser Abogado y se le educa para aquel oficio, otro à ser labrador ò agricultor y se le dà las instrucciones competentes y este es el unico modo de hacerles ciudadanos utiles en sus respectibas esferas.

Ahora si se aplica esta regla al caso de los descendientes de Esclavos se hallarà en mi concepto un argumento en favor de no emanciparlos antes de la edad de veinte y cinco años. El Gov° se halla en cierto modo con respecto à dichos descendientes en el lugar del Padre con respecto à sus hijos; parece que la misma naturaleza de las cosas hà determinado el destino de dhos descendientes que es jornaleros, labradores, artesanos, etc. Sentado esto todo que el Gov° en su caracter de protector de ellos tiene que hacer, es arreglar su educacion ò crianza en el modo el mas idoneo para llenar aquel destino, no beo otro mejor que el de dejarles con sus respectibos amos un termino suficiente para formar permanentem^te^ sus costumbres y aprender todas las cosas necesarias y utiles en los barios ramos de la industria, y me parece que veinte y cinco años es lo menos que se necesita para este objeto bajo tales circunstancias. Por la ley Romana el dominio ò *patria potestas* del Padre sobre sus hijos fuè muy estensivo y en muchas particulares absoluto. El principio reconocido por casi todas las naciones que han adoptado la ley cibil ès que el hijo no està enteramente emancipado de esta *patria potestas* hta la edad de veinte y cinco años, seguram^te^ hay mucha mas necesidad que el descendiente de un Esclavo en el caso de que ablo quedaria bajo la direcion de su amo por aquel termino que de tener un hijo libre bajo el dominio de su Padre por el mismo termino, por q. en este caso el hijo aunque fuese libre de su Padre à una edad tierna siempre tendria el concejo y las luces de sus parientes para dirijirle. pero en aquel tan luego q. el emancipado està libre de su amo queda enteramente sin guardian ò protector ninguno para dirijirle ò formar sus costumbres, y si se le liberta, por ejemplo, à la edad de catorce años, està echado en aquella edad tierna en el mundo sin los conocimientos necesarios para manejarse, sin sus costumbres formadas, sin la instruccion necesaria para mantenerce ò para llenar su destino en la sociedad utilmente a èl mismo ò a la Patria, y seguramente se halla en èl estado el mas peligroso para caer en malas costumbres y ser vagamundo. La prosperidad de la Patria, el sosiego de la Sociedad, y el bien estar futuro del mismo emancipado ciertamente requiere que el Govierno previene en tpo contra un mal de tan perjuiciosas consequencias, y el mejor modo que beo, como yà tengo dho ès dejar al descendiente con su amo un termino suficiente para formar sus costumbres.

El mismo interes del amo a mas de las obligaciones sagradas de la humanidad es una garantia suficiente de su empeño en enseñar al descendiente en los barios ramos de la industria y en guardar que sus costumbres sean buenas y industriosas por que solam^te^ por su trabajo puede ser repagado el costo de su crianza, pero si se le pone en libertad a catorce años el amo tal vez dirà yo no tengo estimulo ni

motibo en enseñar este niño en la industria y las artes, ni en formar sus costumbres por que quedarà libre y me dejarà antes que puedo acabar ò apenas empezàr esta obra tan util y necesaria, ès decir antes que puede por su edad tierna formar sus costumbres permanentemente ò aprender las artes y la industria necesario para prepararle hacer miembro util de la sociedad.["] Se deduce otro argumento que el amo nunca abusaria su poder sobre el descend^te en el caso de no libertarle hta veinte y cinco años pues el interes que el amo tendria en alquilar ò tenerle como un jornalero asalariado despues del termino para su emancipacion por que si èl trato de èl amo fuese duro el emancipado buscario otro amo y al contrario si fuese bueno ès probable que quedaria con su primer amo tal vez por toda su vida al salario comun del lugar.

Por estas razones me parece que mucho beneficio resultaria al pais en dàr algun tpo despues de la publicacion de la Constitucion para introducir esclavos y que la mejor edad para libertar los descendientes es la de veinte y cinco años.

San Felipe de Austin 20 de Nov^e de 1826.

Señores—Estevan F. Austin.

Es copia.

J. Antonio Padilla Srio. [Rubric]

Austin to Saucedo.[1]

I observed, that in Your Lordship's letter of the 14th Instant, in answer to my communication relative to the interpretation of the law of September the 29th, 1823, and March the 20th, 1824, You say that "I have declared in favor of the interested party, representing imperatively, and as if I had authority, etc."

I beg that Your Lordship will allow me, as an explanation of my intention, to say, that I never will declare in favor of any one who would oppose the law or authorities of the Country, and if some expressions are found in my communication that may display assumption, they did not correctly convey my idea: probably owing to my imperfect knowledge of the language, I have made use of some words the meaning of which is stronger that I supposed it to be. My object was to urge the Ayuntamiento to submit the doubts that seemed to exist as to the correct interpretation of the law of March the 20th, 1824, to the proper authority, for my own information, and not with the view to make a representation in regard to De Witt's particular case.

I feel much interest, and I am anxious to see the most perfect harmony prevailing between the old and new residents, but I take the

[1] Translations from Bexar Archives, in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

part of no one in particular; and I hope that Your Lordship will attribute no expression contained in my communication to assumption; but, on the contrary, to my wish to settle an important doubt in regard to the rights and privileges conferred on the people of Texas by the law of September the 29th, 1823. Being myself a component part of these people, I cannot help opposing that which in my opinion, is obnoxious to, or restrictive of these privileges.

God and Liberty.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, November 21st, 1826.

AUSTIN TO AHUMADA[1]

He entendido por un vecino de Bejar q[e] se necesite en esa comandancia un herrero para componer las armas, etc., de las tropas, y habiendome pedido uno de los vecinos de aqui escribir á v sobre la materia con el fin de pasar a esa si puede ser empleado, tomo esta ocasion informar v q[e] si es q[e] necesite un herrero hay uno aqui q[e] pasará a Bexar luego q[e] recibe intimacion q[e] se le emplea. quiere saber el precio, tiene hierro acero y los aperos necesarios y es buen artizano.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 21 de 9bre 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Comandante Pral de Armas de Texas C D. Mateo Ahumada

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS[2]

We the inhabitants of the District of Nacogdoches charge and impeach Samuel Norris Alcalde of the said district of the following crimes, and offences, viz:

CHARGE 1. OPPRESSION AND CORRUPTION IN OFFICE.

1st Specification—Inflicting a fine of $25 upon John Basset for trading with the Indians when he the said Basset, had obtained a license to trade with the said Indians from the prisoner.

2d—Forcibly driving from the country the said John Basset because the said Basset simply demanded his papers which were in the possession of the prisoner, and because the said Basset was armed with a pistol which was not cocked nor presented nor used nor intended to be used, in any hostile manner.

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[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

[2] This was one of the first steps in the rebellion of Haden Edwards and his supporters at Nacogdoches. The trial was apparently serious, notwithstanding the strong flavor of burlesque.

3d. Forcibly putting out of the country a man named James Williams because the said Williams called in question the authority of Capt. Dorsett, and the Alcalde of the Ayeish Bayou District.

4d Fining two men of the name of Graves and Hampton $75 each with heavy costs, and ordering them to leave the country in 3 months because the said Graves and Hampton took up two men who were deserters from the army of the U. S. for the purpose of rendering them up to the proper authorities in Louisiana.

5th Forcibly taking away from John Sprowl Alcalda of the Ayish Bayou District, the papers of his office.

6th Summoning John Sprowl to trial on an appointed day without giving him any copy of the charges preferred against him, or giving him the least notice of their nature.

7th Postponing the day of trial of John Sprowl without giving the said Sprowl any notice of the postponement, or the time fixed upon for his trial, and still withholding from him any information respecting the nature of his (the Said Sprowl's) offense.

8 On the trial of several persons placing a guard at the door and refusing admittance to any of their friends; in the room when their trial took place.

9 Attempting to drive away from their residence the family of Haden Edwards in the absence of the said Edwards, when he had legally l[o]cated and obtained possession of the same.

10 Denying to Loury T. Hampton the right of interrogating or examining the witnesses against him on his trial, and refusing him the privilege of a jury.

11 Imprisoning Leonard Dubois thirty days for ironically calling Hosea Sepulver an honest man.

12. Ordering the Alcalde of the Sabine District, in a case of murder, in which he himself was implicated, to appoint a person to sit with himself and another person to be chosen by the Defendants.

2D. EXTORTION.

Specification 1—Issuing paper with some writing upon it which the prisoner denominated stamp paper on which he imposed a tax, though the Colonization Law directly exempts the Province of Texas from all taxes for the term of 10 years from the year 1825—

2 Making Mrs. Dill pay the costs of her trial although she was acquitted—

3 CHARGE—TREACHERY TO THE PEOPLE.

1 Specif. Writing to the Governor of the State of Coahuila and Texas volumes of slanderous falsehood against the people of this District individually and collectively.

2d—Misrepresenting to the Governor of this State the conduct and character of the American Emigrants, painting them in colors most calculated to rouse the jealousy and resentment of the Spanish Government.

3d— Incessantly calling upon the Governor of this State to furnish him with an armed force, to put down the rebellion which he falsely states exists here.

4th. Filling the ear of the government with charges and imputations against Haden Edwards Empresario for the purpose of depriving the said Edwards of his Colony and thereby ruining and expelling from the country the American emigrants who have settled in it.

5th. Representing to the government that a volunteer company of Militia organised for the purpose of supporting the laws and constitution of the country, was intended to put down the authority.

4TH CHARGE—MURDEROUS INTENTION.

1st. Specification—Directing the guard who were ordered to convey John Basset over the Sabine River to kill him or not at their pleasure—

2d. Giving an order to the people to shoot John Basset in case he should return to this District.

5TH CHARGE.

Endeavoring to suppress the public celebration of religion by refusing to admit a Roman Catholic priest to perform public worship.

6TH CHARGE.

Usurping the power of granting licenses to trade with the Indians, when he himself acknowledged that he had received no orders to that effect.

The inhabitants of the District of Nacogdoches charge and impeach Hosea Antonio Sepulver Clerk of the Court of the Ayuntamento of the said District, with the following crimes and offenses—viz:

1ST CHARGE—FORGERY.

1st Specif. Erasing from a written contract between Dubois and the prisoner the word "*ground*" and inserting in its place "*plank floor*."

2d Specif. Inserting the name of Samuel Norris in a letter directed to the National Alcalda of Nacogdoches.

2D CHARGE—TREACHERY TO THE PEOPLE.

1st Specification—Aiding and abetting Samuel Norris in the commission of the offenses named in the 1st-2d-3d-4th and 5th Specifications of the 3d charge of the impeachment of Samˡ Norris.

3D CHARGE—ACCOMPLICE IN STEALING.

1st sp. Requesting a man to steal a mule for him (the prisoner) saying that he would clear him with his pen as he had done many a one before—

4D. CHARGE—SWINDLING.

1—Selling to Mr. Cortes land which he had before sold to Mr. Dill, and when the land was to be surveyed, directing and causing it to be surveyed on the claim of Davenport and including an improvement owned by T. Hampton.

5 CHARGE—

Possessing a general character of notorious infamy.

The committee of arrangements preparatory to an investigation of the public conduct of Samuel Norris, alcalda of the District of Nacogdoches, and of Sepulver, Clerk of the court of the ayuntamento report as follows.

That we consider the situation of the people of this District, as entirely novel and peculiar, and the situation of public affairs in the same, as unexampled in the history of the world.—That induced by the promises of the Mexican government, as well as by the beauty and fertility of the soil, to emigrate from their native land, the birthplace of freedom, Americans have sought a home in this land of their adoption, among a people differing from themselves in language, manner, habits, and feeling—That bringing with them their inflexible love of liberty and republican government in this section of the Mexican United States, so distant from the seat both of the general and of the state government, they have found existing here for some time a system of practice that shocks all, the republican ideas which had been instilled into them by their fathers in their own native country. But disdaining to submit any longer to the oppression which has ground them to the dust they now resolve to investigate the causes that have led to these lamentable results, and to punish with exemplary justice their authors, after an impartial and deliberate trail.—The public voice having long proclaimed Samuel Norris and Sepulver to be the agents of these calamities, we now proceed to point out to the best of our judgment, an impartial mode of proceeding in their trial.

1st. Owing to the novelty of the case, having the law of no country to guide and finding to [no] precedent in history to direct, we propose that a court consisting of five members be appointed, who after an examination of the whole case, shall pronounce the defendant guilty or not guilty, and if guilty, decree such a punishment to be inflicted as their own sense of justice shall dictate—

2d. The court shall have power to send for persons and papers.

3d. The Court shall have a Clerk whose duty it shall be to keep a record of its proceedings, read documents, and swear witnesses etc.

4. The court shall admit or reject evidence according to its own discretion and sense of justice.

5. The Defendants are at full liberty to speak in their own defence.

6. Samuel Norris and Sepulver are suspended in the performance of their official duties until the judgment of the Court be rendered.

We also propose in furtherance of our views of a full examination into the conduct of such public persons who may in any wise affect the tranquility of this District, that Haden Edwards Empresario be tried by the same court and under the same regulations—

We propose that the court consist of the Five following persons—

Col. Palmer—Presdt.

B. J. Tompson—

John S. Roberts—

J. W. Mayo—

William Jones—

(Signed) Will B. Ligon
Herman B. Mayo
John W. Frith
Committee of Arrangements.

Nacogdoches, Nov. 23—1826.

At a meeting of the Court appointed by the inhabitants of the District of Nacogdoches, for the trial of Samuel Norris, Alcalda of the District and Hosea Antonio Sepulver, Clerk of the Court of the Ayuntamento, appeared

Palmer Prest

Burrell J. Thompson—

John S. Roberts.

John W. Mayo

William Jones

H. B. Mayo Clerk.

And the Court being sworn took their seats.

It was determined by the Court that martial Law shall be enforced in the town, and every American be compelled to bear arms, or be

put under arrest, and fined according to the pleasure of the Court. This law shall be in force until ordered by the Court—

ORDER TO THE SERGEANT OF THE GUARD—

You are commanded to bring forthwith every American in the village and compel him to bear arms— if he refuses, put him under arrest.

(Signed) MARTIN PALMER
Col. Commander in Chief—
WM. B. LIGON
Sergeant of the Guard –

Col. Haden Edwards appeared and was sworn— The report of the Committee of Arrangements, which had been adopted by the public voice was then read to him— Each individual membr of the Court was then asked, if they had any charge to prefer against the said Haden Edwards— All answered—none— It was then proclaimed aloud to the people that any man who should have any charges against Haden Edwards, should appear and prefer them.

Samuel Norris appeared and was sworn— He stated that he knew nothing of his own knowledge against Haden Edwards as Empresario nor had any evidence before him as Alcalda of any transaction against him. He also stated that the said Haden Edwards never asserted any civil right nor ever exercised any.

Luis Procella former Alcalda of this District was then called—and sworn

He said, that he never knew any thing wrong in the conduct of Haden Edwards as Empresario—he stated that Col. Edwards never claimed nor exercised any civil authority, but, on the contrary always disclaimed having any.

Hosea Antonio Sepulver was called and sworn—He said he knows nothing against Haden Edwards as Empresario, of his own knowledge—

Francis Adams was called and Sworn—He stated that Haden Edwards never showed any disposition to meddle with the Spanish claims, but on the contrary, he always expressed to me a desire to avoid any interference with them—

Joseph Dust was called and Sworn— He stated that Col. Edwards always said that he (E) was not the person to decide upon claims, that they were to be decided by Commissioners— And Col. Edwards always expressed an anxiety to avoid interfering with any Spanish claim—

Frost Thorn was sworn—and stated—that when young Trammel applied to Col. Edwards for land, he (Edwards) told him that he

could have it only on condition of bringing a good Character,—and then too subject to the Judgment of the Commissioner. And Col. E. gave him land only after his bringing a good character from Judge Tate. Some two or three months after Col. Thorn returned to the Trinity and found Sattuche living at his old residence and supplied with provisions entirely by Trammel.

The Court adjorned for half an hour, on reassembling a number of letters written to the Governor of the state by the Alcalda, were read to the Court.

The Court adjourned till Wednesday.

Wednesday Nov. 24.

The Court met pursuant to adjournment—when appeared
Martin Palmer Presdt.
B. J. Thompson
John S. Roberts
John W. Mayo
William Jones
Herman B. Mayo Judge Advocate

The Record of yesterdays proceedings was read and approved—

Samuel Norris was then called and the charges against him read—to which he pleaded not guilty. Was not ready for trial.

Hosea Antonio Sepulver was called—the charges against him read—to which he pleaded not guilty. He stated that he would be ready for trial in an hour.

The Court then adjourned for an hour— Jose Antº Sepulver was called and appeared to stand his trial—

Francis Adams being sworn, stated. That Mr Chaplin informed him—that a letter came directed to the National Alcalda of Nacogdoches and the name of Samˡ Norris was added by some person—that Chaplin attacked Sepulver on the subject who confessed that he had done it. Mr Adams also stated that the character of Sepulver was very infamous—the Spaniards as well as the Americans considered his character in that light.

Frost Thorn being sworn stated.

That some papers came from the government directed to the National Alcalda of Nacogdoches—that the papers were not seen for at least ten days after Sepulver came to town who said that he was the bearer of them.—that the name of Samuel Norris was added by some person, and that he heard Mr. Sepulver acknowledge that he himself had done it.

Mr. Thorn also stated that the character of J. Sepulver, both in the estimation of Americans and Spaniards, is infamous.

Leonard Dubois being sworn, stated—that the caracter of the prisoner was very bad— he stated also, that in written contract between

himself and the prisoner, the word, *ground* was scratched out with a knife and the words *plank floor* inserted in its place by the prisoner after the contract was made—He said also that he had never had much dealings with Sepulver but has heard more against him than he could tell—that he has heard persons say that Sepulver had intoxicated them in order to get them to swear falsely—He also stated that he cannot say any thing about the land which the prisoner is accused of having sold both to Dill and Cortes except that Mr. Cortes spoke very strongly and angrily about the prisoner respecting that affair— The general voice is that the prisoner is a rogue—

Mr. Procello was sworn and stated that the first papers that came on were directed to the Alcalda of Nacog.—And that the name of Sam[l] Norris was added in the handwriting of the prisoner—He said there was a doubt at this time who was the Alcalda, and they were placed in the keeping of 3 persons who kept them untill the people could be assembled and have the papers opened in their presence—On opening them it was found that they contained an order that Norris was Alcalda. The ayuntamento were appointed by those three persons. He stated that he has heard much against the character of the prisoner, but of late can say nothing of his own knowledge.

Berry was sworn and stated—that but little of the prisoners conduct has fallen under his observations—That once passing the prisoners house, he saw—the mail carrier there with the mail for Nacog. and asked him if he would go on with him to town—that the mail carrier said that the prisoner was then in town and that he must wait untill he (the prisoner) returned. He had laid down the mail and turned out his mule to graze. He stated that the general character of the prisoner was very infamous.

Clark was sworn and stated—that he had been informed by a Spaniard that a package of letters for Haden Edwards were suppressed by the prisoner— He says that the general report is that the prisoners character is bad and that he has been using this influen e against the people.

Joseph Dust being sworn, stated— that he was present at the making of the contract and witnessed it, but it is impossible for him to recollect whether the erasure was made at that time.

Leonard Dubois stated—that [he] never gave the prisoner any liberty or permission to make the erasure, but that it was done without his knowledge—

Joseph Dust being called again stated that the general character of the prisoner is as the other witnesses stated it— He heard Jean Batiste Gagues state on oath that he heard the prisoner request a

man to steal a mule that he (the prisoner) wanted, and said he would clear him by his pen as he had done many a person before—

Thursday, Nov. 25.

The Court met pursuant to adjournment and appeared
Col. Martin Palmer Prest.
Maj. J. S. Roberts
Capt. B. J. Tompson
J. W. Mayo
William Jones
Maj. H. B. Mayo Judge Advocate—

A Proclamation was issued, offering a reward of one hundred Dollars for the body, dead or alive, of James Gaines, charged with high crimes and misdemeaners.

Samuel Norris was then brought forward to be tried—

The charges and Specifications being read— John Basset was called and sworn—He produced a license from the prisoner to trade with the friendly Indians—He stated that some time after receiving this license, he passed through Nacog: and the prisoner informed him that he should trade no more without a new license. He asked the prisoner to give him a new license—James Gaines being present, told him that he must bring his goods to Nacog: to be examined, and could not have another license until this was done—He then went to Natchitoches to purchase goods and went with them by a nearer road to the Cherokee villages. On arriving there, Col. Field presented him a letter which the prisoner had written him commanding him to fine Basset $25. Field refused to comply with this command and did not demand the fine—A short time after B. went to Nacog: and taking Dr. Hunter with him entered the house of the prisoner, and demanded some papers of his in the posession of the prisoner, having a very unfavorable impression of the prisoner he thought it prudent to go armed with a pistol for his own Security, but [it] was neither cocked, nor presented, nor used in any hostile manner—but was intended simply for his own defence, is case he should be attacked. On demanding his papers, the prisoner said that he had delivered them up to Mr. Seymour, who brought an order for them. J, being satisfied with this, asked pardon of the prisoner for his abrupt manner, and retired. Presently an armed force seized him, without showing him any authority to take him, though he demanded it until they had disarmed him and had him completely in their power. They conveyed him to the Sabine River, their behavior being on the route very Suspicious holding frequent consultations among themselves, and having secret orders which they refused to show him. On putting

him over the Sabine, one of the guard informed him, that had it not been for *him*, he would not have fared so well.

Lewis Holloway and John W. Frith were called and sworn.

Mr. Holloway stated he saw the order directing James Williams to [be] put out of the country.

John W. Frith sat on the trial of J. Williams—it was proved that Williams cursed Capt. Dorsett and the Alcalda of the Ayeish Bayou District it being left to the Jury only to say whether or not Williams had made use of the Expressions he was charged with, the jury found him guilty—but did not consider the said Williams as guilty of any offense—

Baptiste was sworn—

Graves and Hampton were sentenced to be fined $50 to each of the deserters and $25 each to the State and to remove from the country within three months—that Graves and Hampton took up the two men supposing them to answer to the description of two men who were advertised as deserters from the army of the U. S.—that afterwards, finding they were mistaken they dismissed the men—who immediately commenced a suit for false imprisonment. The witness was Sheriff and brother in law to the prisoner and made this agreement with the plaintiff in case they obtained a verdict he was to receive one half of the amount.

Frost Thorn was sworn—

G. and H. were fined $25 each to each of the deserters, and $25 each to the state. with costs which he does not recollect, that though the action was a civil one the prisoner inflicted a fine in behalf of the state—

Clark—

The men's names were Wallace Rue and John W. Frith,

Herman B. Mayo was sworn

Quinalty was sworn—

Evidence relating to Sproul's papers. 5, 6 and 7th Spec. Ich.

1 ch: 8 Specif. Francis Adams—sworn—was a guard when trial was held—

Baptiste—then was a guard placed at the door at the trial of s^{d} Dubois—doesnt know of any civil person being refused admittance.

Mrs. Dill—was refused having an American Counsell—she was told she might have a Spanish one. There was a guard placed at the door consisting of 6 or 8—She never knew what was the decision of the Court in her Case, but one of the ayuntamento told her that she *had half* the cost to pay.

Bradford Berry was sworn—

In a case of Mess^{r} Pollit and Wyrick there was a guard placed at the door of the house where this court was held, to prevent the

entrance of any person— He knows of no violence offered or threatened to the Court. Heard the prisoner say, that the only thing he regretted was that he had not hung up John Basset to a peach tree.

A Certificate of *Sam. Isaacs* was read.

1 ch: 9 sp: Batiste—

Haden Edwards—has given a bond for $300 for the house for three years to L. Dubois.

Col. Thorn

Mr. Norris stated in his presence and that of twenty others, that if Sepulver was not satisfied, he would rescind the contract.

Jose Sepulver sworn—

1 ch: 10 spec: Frost Thorn—
11 do— No witnesses
12 do— do
— 2 charge—

1st. sp: Lewis Holloway—
Burwell J. Thompson
John W. Mayo
Joseph Dust

2 sp: Mrs. Dill
3 charge

1st–2d. 3d. 4th.—Documents found among the papers of the prisoner and acknowledged by him to be the copies of letters he had sent to the government.

5th—the above documents and B. J. Thompson Lewis Holloway—J. W. Frith—Martin Palmer—

Saturday Nov. 26

The Court met pursuant to adjournment—and appeared—

Col. M. Palmer Prest.
Maj. J. S. Roberts
Capt. B. J. Thompson
J. W. Mayo
W. Jones
Maj. H. B. Mayo Judge Advocate

The Prisoner, Sam: Norris was brought forward.

4 ch. 1 sp: Basset—2 sp. Basset B. J. Thompson—

5 ch:—Haden Edwards—Documents found among the papers of the prisoner—Bradford Berry—

6 ch:—A ? Edwards.

Here closed the evidence for the prosecution— Evidence in Behalf of the Prisoner—

1 ch: 1 sp:—No witness—
2 do:—Batiste, James Caplin—Mariano Sanchas

Here the prisoner objected to Maj. Roberts serving as a member of the Court—The court being cleared—the objection of the prisoner was overruled.

We the Court Martial, find Samuel Norris late Alcalda of the District of Nacogdoches, worthy of death, but in consideration of his ignorance, and the influences of infamous advisers over him sentence him to be deprived of the office of Alcalda of the said District, and forever incapable of holding any office of trust honer or profit in the said District and in case of his resuming or attempting to resume its functions, that his punishment of death shall be inflicted on him—And that he be forever incapable of holding any office of trust, Honor or profit within the said District.

We the Court Martial find Jose Hosea Sepulver late Clerk of the Court of the Ayuntamento of the District of Nacogdoches, worthy of death, but in its mercy sentence him only to be deprived of the office of Clerk of the Ayuntamento and in case of his resuming or attempting to resume its functions, that the punishment of death shall be inflicted on him, and that he be forever incapable of holding any office of trust, honor or profit within the said District—

Jonathan Anderson is authorised to take six men on a Scouting party, and is to report to me to morrow morning or as soon as may be

Signed MARTIN PALMER
Col. Commandant at Nacogdoches—

REGIMENTAL ORDER

You are hereby commanded to muster your Company three times each day until further orders.

Nacog. Nov. 23—

(Signed) MARTIN PALMER
Col. Commandant Nacogdoches.

B. J. Thompson—

You are hereby commanded to take two men and search the house of Hosea Antonio Sepulver, and bring to the Court all papers you may find therein which you may deem useful to the Court—or which have any relation to public affairs.—

Signed MARTIN PALMER
Col. Com. Nacog. Nov. 24
Signed H B Mayo Sect.

John Basset—

You are hereby commanded to arrest the papers and documents belonging to Post Office of this town—

Signed MARTIN PALMER
Col. Commandant Nacog. Nov. 25.
Signed H B Mayo Judge Advocate

F. Adams

You are hereby commanded to arrest all the powder lead and arms to be found in the town, and give receipts for same.

Nov 25

Signed MARTIN PALMER
Col. Com. Nacog
Signed H B MAYO Judge Advocate.
Sergeant McDONNEL.

NICHOLAS DORSEY TO AUSTIN

Fort Adams 26 Nov 1826

DEAR SIR,

Yours of the 25 Ultimo handed by Mr Huff is duly before me and must confess that I am not a little pleased with the prospect, which that letter seems to present me with respect to a future residence in the province of Texas—though delicacy would prevent me from discanting (*in extenso*) with respect to my literary qualifications and more especially as regards the modern—languages

I think I may be allowed to say without incurring the imputation of vanity. that all those languages are nearly as familiar to me as my vernacular tongue and more especially the English French and Spanish—should I conclude (and of that there is very little doubt) to become a resident of your Country. I think that we may be mutually useful to each other

at leisure I shall write to you more fully

NICHS DORSEY

[Addressed:] Colonel Stephen F. Austin Rio Brassos Province of Texas

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AUSTIN TO ROBINS

DR. SIR,

Please deliver the four mules I borrowed of you to Col. Butler. and if you can let me have one or two more it will be a very great accommodation as I want them for Col Butler, who wishes to return to the United States and has not time to wait—

Novr. 28 1826

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Robbins

Mules borrowed of Robins Settled with Jos. White—

GOVERNOR'S OPINION CONCERNING SLAVERY

Uno de los grandes beneficios del sistema federal es aquel dro [derecho] ó prerogativa q tienen los Estados para arreglar su govierno interior de la manera q mas les acomode conforme á sus

particulares circunstancias Conferida al Gobierno [Gobernador] facultad por el H. Congreso del Estado para dar su opinion á cerca de la constitucion politica, no habia podido usarla, por dos razones á saber: 1.ª por no haber advertido en el proyecto de las dos partes q sele habian pasado cosa alguna q observar sino es sobre el artº 13. que trata de la libertad absoluta de los esclavos; y 2.ª por sus continuas ocupaciones en los diferentes y multiplicados asuntos q ocurren cada dia, que es casi imposible dejar de atender á su despacho sin q se cienta inmediatamte. su recargo.

Sabiendo pues que el Honorable Congreso se ocupa actualmtº del articulo citado, y haciendo uzo de aquella facultad, manifestará su opinion tal cual la siente, y con vista de la peculiar situacion del Estado.

Dos grandes dros se presentan inmediatamente en este articulo que son el de *libertad* y el de *propiedad* á cual mas interesantes en las sociedades regularmente organizadas.

Tres partes contiene el artº 13 de que se trata: 1.ª prohivicion absoluta y para siempre dela esclavitud en el territorio del Estado: 2.ª libertad para los Esclavos q residen en el desde el dia de la publicacion de la constitucion en esta capital; y 3.ª oferta por medio de una ley, que se hará despues, para la indemnizacion de los libertos.

Antes de objetar cosa alguna sobre los resultados q produciria este articulo si se aprovará tal como se halla, deseara saber de que modo ó por q medios se verificaria la indemnizacion que se ofrece á los dueños de los esclavos. Creo se me dirá q con dinero por los precios que han costado, por que de otra manera seria ilusoria cualquiera promesa.—

Bajo de este supuesto, aunq el Gobierno no tiene noticias exactas del numº de esclavos q hay en todo el Estado creo que no bajan de quinientos, por que solo un individuo de Tejas posee mas de ciento, otro diez, doce, quince y veinte y el que menos uno o dos los precios de estos infelices son por lo comun de quinientos hasta tres mil pesos, pero graduense solamente por su infirmo valor, y resultará á primª vista que el Estado queda obligado á satisfacer una cantidad de 250 𝔻 ps. [$250,000] por lo menos sino es, como debia ser, previamente á la declaracion ¿ Y tenemos en nuestros fondos esta suma cubiertos los gastos del Estado? No Sor. El derecho q tienen los dueños de los esclavos pª ser indemnizados es inconcuso: el mismo articulo no lo contradice, antes lo reconoce muy terminantemente por la oferta que hace en su ultima parte.

Pero dejando en este estado la cuestion, llamemos la atencion, al contenido de las dos primeras partes del articulo, muy entre lazadas entre si.—

Prohivir absolutam^te^ la esclavitud en todo el territorio del Estado, y declarar libres desde la publicacion de la constitucion á los Esclavos q ecsistan en él, aunq son ideas filantropicas, destruyen de un solo golpe la poblacion, la propiedad, y la agricultura y artes de una considerable é importante parte del Estado, quedando por consiguinte arruinadas muchas familias cuyo capital é industria consiste en cierto numero de esclavos que labran su terreno para sacar de él su propia subsistencia y la de sus amos.

Los colonos de Tejas se hallan precisamente en este caso: El H. Congreso sabe muy bien las sensaciones tan fuertes que causó en aquellos havitantes el contenido del art^o^ 13 del projecto de constitucion: todos estan pendientes del resultado de este grande negocio para retirarse del país con todos sus intereses, cuando entraron bajo la garantia de las leyes que les ofreció proteccion en sus personas y propiedades; Y la consecuencia será q el Territorio quede despoblado de las familias honrradas y laboriosas y cubierto de asesinos y ladrones. Mas entremos mas á la cuestion: la 2ª parte del articulo dice que desde el acto de la publicacion de la constitucion en esta capital quedaran libres los esclavos q ecsisten dentro del territorio del Estado, Por esta declaracion quedan privados los dueños de esclavos de todos los q poseen, sin q se verifique la previa indemnizacion de la cosa poseida como es de derecho. Esta proposicion ataca directamente el de propiedad sin dejar al dueño mas q una esperanza remota de ser indemnizado de su valor, si apelamos á la promesa dela parte tercera.

Ello es que mirese el art^o^ bajo el aspecto que se quiera, si se atiende por un momento á las peculiares circunstancias en q se halla el estado, no debe aprovarse por los funestos resultados q traerá consigo inmediatam^te^. de la publicacion.—

La causa de la libertad es por cierto digna de la atencion de todo legislador es un dro natural, y sagrado; pero consideremos que esa desgraciada porcion de la humanidad antes de hacerse la constitucion yá sufria esa dura condicion de esclavitud; que sus dueños para hacerse de ellos han desembolsado considerables sumas de dinero, y q bajo la garantia de las leyes los introdujeron al Estado. Si conducidos de las ideas filantropicas q en teoria manifiesta el articulo, se declaran libres los Esclavos sin que previamente se haga la devida indemnizacion á sus dueños despues de destruir el dro de propiedad consignado en el precio que dieron por ellos, se promoverá necesariam^te^ una rebolucion entre esclavos y amos, aquellos por sostener la libertad q les concede el art^o^ 13 y estos por conservar el dro de propiedad que sobre ellos habian adquirido pr. cierta cantidad de dinero que desembolsaron al acto de comprarlos. y hé aqui los resultados q promete el articulo en question.—

Prohibase para siempre la introduccion de mas esclavos en el territorio del Estado sea cual fuere su procedencia y objeto, bajo la pena de quedar libres en el acto de poner los pies en él. Señalese un termino para que despues de publicada la constitucion rija esta ley. y declarense libres á cierta edad los hijos q nascan de los actuales esclavos; y dentro de pocos años veremos desterrado de nuestro Estado ese signo vergonzoso de la esclavitud resto dela barbarie y opresion, sin q lo resienta ni el Estado ni los particulares.—

Esta es la opinion del Gobierno [Gobernador] á cerca de este importante negocio que Somete gustosamente al examen y deliberacion del Honorable congreso. Saltillo 30. de Noviembre de 1826.

Es Copia.

(Signed) J. Antonio Padilla Srio.

Green Dewitt to Austin.

[About December 1, 1826.]

Col. Stephen F Austin and Sam[l] M Williams

Gentlemen, In consequence of an unfortunate affair and transaction of Mr Thomas Powell who entered my Colony as a Citizen bringing with him his goods and effects among which it appears from the Invoice he had on board a quantity of tobacco which, not having rec[d] any instructions from Government respecting the same I gave him no permission to land, has put my prospects in jeopardy, without some person capable of explaining in the Spanish Language the true nature of the transaction. I have taken the liberty Gentlemen of soliciting your friendly aid in this transaction. Mr. Powell has been decoyed and treacherously drawn into these difficulties which involves in a certain measure myself— and the fate of the Colony without the aid and assistance of some friendly advice and energy—by one Doct[r] Oliver who was a passenger on board the same vessel and profered his friendship in making Sale of his property, by which means he obtained the confidence of Powell and taking him into the interior and treacherously betrayed him and had, through the influence of Martin De Leon all his property seized which was cleared out, and brought here for the use of the Colony, the whole of which the Doctr. and Martin De Leon as I am informed gave him a general permission to land. Could I be certain that either of you, Gentlemen, would be at St Antonio in a Week from Sunday the 5th Instant my embarrassments as it respects this transaction would be at an end; therefore I do earnestly repeat my Solicitation for one or both of you to come and exercise in my behalf— those energies and talents which I know that you possess in an eminant degree.

What may be the fate of the property so brought into the Colony I know not, but this I do know, I have exercised all the authority with which I am vested not only in this case but in all others in order to protect the Constitution and laws of the Republic, of the State and this department according to my instructions that have been in my power to do, and have never infringed the rights and privileges of government.

I shall be in St. Antonio at the time appointed if living to meet the express order of Don Jose Anto Saucedo the Political Chief of this Department.—

The bearer hereof will give you further information concerning our situation

In haste—

GREEN DEWITT [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

El dia 1° del que rige despaché un extraordinario al Sor Alcalde de Guadalupe con cartas de Nacogdoches y un oficio mio á V. S. sobre los acontecim^tos de Nacogdoches suplicando el dcho Alcalde mandarlas adelante con la brevidad posible, estas habran ya impuesto V. S. de los movim^tos extraños de la banda q^e entraron en aquel pueblo. desde entonces no he recibido mas noticias.

Dios y Libertad.

San felipe de Austin 3 de Diciembre de 1826.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departam^to de Texas C Jose Antonio Saucedo.

AUSTIN TO R. H. WILLIAMS.

R. H. Williams Alcalde of the district of Mina

San Felipe de Austin

Decr. 4. 1826

Having been informed that Charles Henderson of your district died intestate leaving a wife and some property and that there are claims against the Estate which are unsettled, and it being the duty by law, of the judicial officers to settle and adjust matters of this nature, you will therefore proceed to ascertain the full amount of property which the deceased died possessed of and its value by means of appraisors and make out an inventory thereof, you will then ascertain the amount of debts against the estate allowing a reasonable time for their presentation giving notice by public ad-

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

vertisement thereof, and then proceed to pay off such debts as may be substantiated by the proper proofs in equal proportions should there not be sufficient property to pay them all

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

DEAR AND RESPECTED FRIEND: Two men who have just arrived from Nacogdoches make the following report to me. The party who went to Nacogdoches was led by Martin Parmer, who took the title of Colonel of the militia between the Trinity and the Sabine. Burrill J. Thompson is one of his Captains. The party was composed of forty men, mounted and armed; some of them of very bad character. They arrested the Alcalde Norris, Sepulveda and Nugent, put them in irons, and declared the powers and authority of the Alcalde Norris null and void, in consequence, they said, of his unjust proceedings. They appointed Joseph Doste [Durst] Alcalde, until the people made a new selection. Parmer convened a court martial, composed of himself, as President, and his officers; they remained a few days at Nacogdoches and withdrew to Ais Creek, and thence betook themselves to their respective homes, after having released Norris and Sepulveda. They took Nugent, an American, with them, who attempted an escape on the road, and the guard shot him. It is said that they are preferring charges against Norris, and will present them to the Government, to justify their violent proceedings. I received this information to-day.

That man, Burril Thompson, has entirely deceived me; when I knew him in Missouri, he bore a good character; but, it seems that he has joined those rebels who are attempting to take the law into their own hands, and I have nothing to say in his behalf, further than that he has turned crazy and is surrounded by crazy people.

From what I could learn of that occurrence, it would seem, that the principal cause was the hatred of those people towards Gaines and Norris, and not any ill feeling against the Government.

With an intelligent and impartial man to administer justice in that locality, no difficulty need be apprehended on the part of the inhabitants. There are, however, some bad and rebellious men, who must be expelled from the Country.

I remain, etc.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN,

San Felipe de Austin. December 4th 1826.

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[1] Translations from Bexar Archives, in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library

AUSTIN TO MATEO AHUMADA[1]

Quedo empuesto por el oficio de V fcha 30 de p°p° de la marcha del Capitan D Manuel Hernandez con ocho dragones a situarse a la boca de los brazos y reconocer el puerto de Galveston, encargandome facilitarle los auxilios necesarios. lo que tendra la mas exacta cumplimiento en cuanto las circunstancias permite.

A la llegada del referido oficial le acompañere à la boca delos Brasos y verificado esto comunicaré la opinion q^e^ v me instruye dar si será mejor situar el referido destacam^to^ en el nombrado desemboque ó en el de la Trinidad.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 5 de Diciembre de 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Command^te^ pral de Armas de Texas C. Tent^e^ Corl. D. Mateo Ahumada.

ROBERT LEWIS TO AUSTIN

Santa Rosa Decr 8th 1826

Col. AUSTIN.

D SIR, I arriv^d^ here last evening, I have shown the petition to the *Curor* and several other of the principal characters of this place, it meets their approbation they purpose taking copies of it and forwarding to several other towns and give there views, particular recommending them to do the same they say it will add much to the security of this section, they will give these reasons particular,—The alcalde will call the house of Justice that is the Trustees tomorrow to recommend this to the neighboring Towns, they say they will recommend 5 or 10 years to bring in slaves,—

The political Chief did not write he said you had said all that can be said, I shall leave here for Saltillo in 3 or 4 days excuse my letter as the post rider is now waiting, I hand this to the post rider.

ROBERT LEWIS

JAMES NORTON TO AUSTIN

La Vaca 13th. December 1826

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR. You have doubtless before this time become acquainted with the late unfortunate proceedings at this Station, relative to the property imported to this colony in Sch^r^ Escambia from New Orleans, belonging to Mr Thomas Powell of Missouri who had

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

signified his intention of becoming a settler, as well as the person who has been the infamous cause of them in the seizure of said property: but the character of *that person* is yet unknown to you unless you have been recently informed.

As it respects the personal character of Doctor Oldivar, as he styled himself, previous to his arrival here, I am entirely ignorant, consequently shall allow it to remain *in statu quo* until those who are acquainted with him more intimately may expose it in a proper manner.

I think however that such perfidy and villany, attached to any individual, particularly one who has acted so conspicuous a part in the late transactions in this quarter ought in duty to the community to be exposed to the public and that the aggressor be punished as he deserves. On the 7th day of November last at this station about 4 o'clock P. M. this same Doctor Oldivar made overtures to me in order to impeach the good character and Reputation of the Empresario of this colony Col. Green Dewitt holding out strong inducements for me to join with him in his overthrow as there were papers in the possession of the Governor as well as charges so strong that they would break the said Empresario: in that case I was told by the said Doctor Oldivar, if I would acceed to his proposal, and in my Official communication to the Governor would recommend him for his good conduct and respectable behaviour while he had command here he would use his influence to obtain for me the office of Empresario, that the Governor was his particular and bosom friend and that he would enlist his influence if I would desert the Colonel's cause and acceed to his nefarious proposals.—I need not inform you my feelings or what my reply was to such iniquitous propositions but signified my detestation by telling him that "I had laid the corner stone of my conduct (not to say church) and that the gates of hell should not prevail against it".—I told him however that I should always be happy to have the confidence of the governor and government and should not decline any trust that I might be thought adequate to fill, or that I thought I had abilities to execute its duties, but that I did not aspire to that of Empresario of this Colony.—

On the 8th Novr the day on which Citizen Rafael A Manchola the Commandant of the troops left this station I had prepared an official communication to the Governor and on presenting it to the Commandant in order to be forwarded, the said Doctor Oldivar having as I suppose a particular fancy for seeing the contents did in the presence of many witnesses take violently from my hand the said sealed communication and did break the seal of the same.—I however again got possession of it, and some little suspicion in consequence of that circumstance being excited in the breast of the Com-

mandant, Manchola, I read the letter to him, who being satisfied I again offered the letter to his charge which he accepted for transportation to the governor.—In consequence of the Doctors name not being noticed in the said communication, he threatened me and the colony with eternal vengeance.

The reason why I did not before make known to the Governor these circumstances, was, that I apprehended it would be attributed to maliciousness, a spirit of resentment, or a natural excitement which *sometimes exists* in the peculiar situation in which I have been placed, and restrained as it were by an a[r]med force.

Suffice it to say that the conduct of Col. Green Dewitt was calm and truly characteristic of his patriotism and loyalty towards the government and always has been since I first became acquainted with him.

Should you deem it prudent and necessary to communicate this to the government you are at perfect liberty to do so, and you would oblige me in that case to have it translated into the Spanish and forwarded with one of your own dictation.

JAMES NORTON [Rubric]

Powell bro[t] goods into this country and the Mexicans confiscated them; it is said they afterwards offered to pay him, but I believe they never done so—

SAMUEL C. HADDY TO AUSTIN

Col. S. F. Austin.

In compliance with your request by the Mexican woman, I have seen Mcfarland, who uterly refuses to make any provision for the support of her, giving for reason, that there is not a sufficient quantity of property to satisfy John Mcfarland debts, and that he is not willing to give her support out of his own estate. He also stated that he would see you in a few days to know what arrangement could be made.

The Mexican woman expresses a desire to live with me, to which I have given her my consent upon this condition, that she is provided for with provisions, or an assurance for the payment of her board

SAMUEL C. HADDY [Rubric]

Dec[r] 14th 1826

ROBERT RANKIN TO AUSTIN

Alabama Washington C[ty] Dec[r] 14th 1826

DEAR SIR

I Trust that by a renewed persevereance and industry I shall accomplish my object in geting to Texas with my family and greater

part of my Connections in this Country sometime in the ensuing fall

The Prohibition of slavery may perhaps prevent some families from moving to Texes perhaps not as many as might be expected and may be an inducement for many to move there that otherwise would never have thot of it I discover from the speech of the president at the opening of the Panama Congress that Religious intolerance may no longer be an objection to moving to Texes I have sent by my son a paper that contains the speech of the President of the American Congress at Panama also Mr. Adam's messuage to Congress respecting the Panama mission and some other papers my son will forward them to you for you perusal perhaps they are documents that may not have fallen into your hands and you may consider them entertaining.

I have never received anything from the Estate of Carter as compensation for the loss of my vessel will you be so good as to inquire of Esq. Kenney respecting the matter I think that I am intitled to the am[t] of Carters bond to me

ROBERT RANKIN

AUSTIN TO WILLIAMS AND THOMPSON

San Felipe de Austin Dec[r] 14. 1826

Mr. JOHN A WILLIAMS &
B. J. THOMPSON

SIR I have heard with the deepest regret and astonishment of the late proceedings against the Authorities of Nacogdoches, it appears as tho. the people in your quarter have run mad or worse—they are distroying themselves, building up the credit of their enemies with the Gov[t] and jeopardising the prospects of hundreds of innocent families who wish to live in peace and quietness in the country—The new colonies are yet in their infancy and the Gov[t] will either protect or crush them according to the opinion it may form as to the character they will assume when arrived at full maturity—Should the conduct of the new Emigrants in the infancy of their settlement be such as to convince the Government that in their manhood they will be turbulent and disobedient, it will crush them; but on the contrary should their conduct be such as to satisfy Government that they will be usefull and obedient members of the Mexican family it will protect them. What opinion will the Gov[t] form of the Americans should they judge of them by the late proceedings at Nacogdoches? certainly a most unfavorable one—one that I fear will have an influence on the future prosperity and settlement of the country—Those measures were in the highest degree imprudent and

illegal, for the law points out the mode of punishing officers in this Govt from the President down to an Alcalde or a corporal and the legal tract ought to have been pursued and no other—they were most dreadfully illtimed. The slave question is now pending in the Legislature, the constitution now forming. What influence are acts of this outragious character calculated to have on the minds of the members and on the decission of the slave or any other question involving the interests and prosperity of the new Settlements? certainly a most unfavorable influence. With what face can any of those who are engaged in the late affray ask favors of the Govt when the same hand that prevents the petition had just been raised in open hostility against its constituted authorities? And how are such measures to be justified? Why you will say the Alcalde had done injustice etc but admitting he has done all this, were the right steps taken to call him to account No. the law was trampled upon and passion or madness took the command I am not only astonished, but I am in the highest degree displeased at Burril J Thompson for the mad course he has pursued. I had a different opinion of him and spoke in his favor to the Govt. What can I say now?

There is one way for you all to save yourselves and *only one*, and that is to go in person and present yourselves to the chief of the Department of Texas, State your grievances, and acknowledge at once and without any reserve or stiff and foolish republican obstinacy that wrong steps were taken, that the attack on the Alcalde was totally wrong—that you were misled by passion or something else, (for it puzzles me to frame excuses for such conduct) and petition the Governor to order a general court of inquiry in which the conduct of the Alcalde and Gains and all others and your own should be fully and fairly and openly investigated, and that their punishment should fall on the heads of those who merited it without respect of person—If you take this course all may be terminated well. Let B. J. Thompson dissolve his company and have no more to do with any such business had he taken my advice and let the company alone unless it could have been sanctioned by the proper Authority he would have saved himself from these difficulties. I wrote him what the law was and he is without excuse on that point—Let the Americans put aside their rifles and be guided by more prudence and reason than they have been. Let them submit to the Govt and be obedient to the laws and only seek redress in the legal mode and let no time, not one moment be lost in stating to the Govt your submission and readiness to abide by their judgment and throw yourselves on their mercy, for no matter what Norris may have done the party who entered Nacogdoches have done as bad and are liable to heavy punishment. If you take the right course now *all will be*

well If you do not, I cannot say what may be the result—it may be some time before any investigation will take place, but you ought to loose no time in taking the course I have pointed out

Col Bean is going on, he is an officer in the mexican army. *Advice with him* and put aside all your ill timed and I must say injudicious and obstinate republican nicity, and allay all your passions and excitements and take prudence for your guide and above all throw away your arms unless you can use them to better purpose than violating the laws—

You may think this letter severe, my object is to befrie[n]d you so far as I can consistent with my duty and so far as I believe you merit it and no farther you want strong medicine. You may deem the course I have pointed out an unpleasant one or make a thousand imaginary objections *but you may rely on it that it is the only one that can save you* you *must* humble yourselves before the Government and that *immediately*

you can shew this letter to whoever you please, a certain person in your country has always it seems tormented his imagination about one of my letters, and to save him and others the pain of guessing they are welcome to see this—

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr. John A Williams or Burril J. Thompson District of Nacogdoches

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Austin to Postmaster at LaBahia

El dador lleva la correp[a] q. se re[cibio] en esta Administracion de Nacogdoches tres dias despues de la salida del correo ordinario p[a] Bexar, y he tomado esta medida de mandarselo áV bajo la idea q. asi seria mejor servido la corresp[a] de la Nacion loq. Comunico áV. pa su aviso y correspondientes fines—D y L 15 de Dec[e] 1826

Sor Adm[or] de correos de Labahia del E. S.

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Austin to Nicholas Clopper

Col. S. F. Austin

To N Clopper

1826		
July 7	—To 1 Gal Fruit	1.00
8	" Bottle of Brandy	1.25
Augt 9	Tobacco 12½ Whiskey 50	62
15	Skin Majr League	1.00
	Ox Ring and Staple Josh[a] Parker	3.00
29	red [illegible]	12½

1826		
Octob. 26	Beer	25
	½ Nails	12
	42 do 25	10.50
	Tobacco	25
28	2 Shott	50
Nov 20	Tobacco	50
		19.12½

Rec[d] amo[t] in full 15 Dec[r] 1826

N. CLOPPER

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

En esta hora recibi el oficio de V. S. fecha 10 del qe rige en qe me avisa de la marcha de V. S. y el Sor Comd[te] de armas p[a] Nacogdoches encargandome comunicar esta noticia al Sor Patricio de Torres lo qe. he verificado por conducta del Cor[l] Pedro Bean qe. sale hoy para aquel lugar

Parece por noticias recibidas en estos dias de Nacogdoches qe. no hay partida en aquel distrito contra el Gob[no] y qe. los movem[tos] alli procedieron de sentimientos particulares y personales contra algunos y particularmente contra Gains Sepulver y Norris, pero las noticias, son varios y me parece qe. el modo mas acierto p[a] saber la verdad es averiguar todo la materia de una parte y de otra en el mismo lugar onde han sucedido estos movemientos— todo esta quieto alli, pocos dias hace, y Norris y los demas qe fueron presos estaban en libertad y la partida despersida a sus respectivas casas

El Sor Sepulveda llego aqui con algunos hombres hace dos dias y regresa hoy con el Cor[l] Bean

con esta ocacion mando la correspondencia de Nacogdoches qe. llego aqui tres dias despues de la salida del correo ordinario para Bexar—

[á] *Saucedo* Dec[bre] 16 1826

[ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.]

ELOSUA TO ORR

Comand[a] Pral de Coah[a].

[On Margin by Austin] Transcrito al Sor orr incluyendole los documentos 6 de mayo 1827.

El Commandante Pral del Departamento de Tejas con fecha 10. del corriente me dice lo siguiente.

"En Oficio de 10. Noviembre anterior sehá servido decirme el Exmo Sr. Comandante General D. Anastacio Bustamante lo que

sigue—Con fecha 13. de Octubre popo me dice el Exmo Sr. Secretario de Guerra y Marina lo que copio—Exmo. Sr—He dado cuenta ál Presidente de la Republica el la Ynstancia q. desde el Estado de Coahuila me dirijio el ciudadano George Orr, en union de otros compañeros suyos solicitando Premio por los servicios que prestaron en la primera epoca de Yndependª, y S. E. no la tomó en consideracion respecto áhaver concluido el termino que la Ley señaló para recibir instancias de esta clase.

Lo que tengo el honor de comunicár á. E. para que se sirva manifestarlo álos interesados debolviendole ál referido Orr, todos los adjuntos Documtos. que ha presentado—Y lo traslado áV. incluyendole los Documentos que se mencionan para que los debuelba alos interesados, enterandolos del resultado—Y tengo el honor de transcribirlo áV. S. accompañandole los Documentos á que se refiere el anterior incerto, afin de que se sirba como selo suplico derijirlos ál referido Orr—en atencion á que fueron dirijidos de ese Departamento, y deque ignoro el punto de residencia del citado Orr."

Y lo transcribo aV. acompañandole los Documentos q. se indican con objeto de que se sirva disponer de entreguen ál ciudadano George Orr, que ignorando yó su paradero antiendo deve existir en ese Distrito de su cargo, haciendole entender ademas la resolucion incerta del Supremo Govierno de la Federacion, y acusandome el correspondiente recivo.

Dos y Libertad Riogª. Dicª. 16. de 1.826.

Antº. Elosua

Sr. Juez Encargado dela Villa de San Felipe de Austin

John P. Coles to Austin

[December] 17, 1826

Dear Sir from late Reports that has reached this part of the country Relative to the Indians Intention tc fall on the settlement has thrown every thing in confusion the people are moving and scattering about in Every direction as to my own part I believe nothing of the Report and have but very little fears of the Indians Troubling the settlement at present you mentioned to me in your last letter that some person had picked up a letter from you to me that was lying Loosely about my House and was making a handle of It for the purpose of Injuring us both as to my own part I have very little To ask of the people of this colony and as to their opinions they may go to the devil with them and as Regards your letters and oppinions they are with me alone and I have taken Especial care of all your letters It is Barely posible that I might have lost a letter though I doo not think I have you have written me some

letters which the publick were to see and such letters I have frequently carried with me and no doubt have left them lying promicusly about and no others If you suppose me so careless you are Rong and if you have been informed so your [informer is] Rong and [you are] misslead It is time enouch I think for you to complain when you know that I have Betrayed your Trust or Ignorantly miss treated your confidence If you had any in me.

JNO. P. COLES [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col. S. F. Austin San felipe de Austin Pr. Mr. Hope

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ALEXANDER CALVIT TO AUSTIN

Sabine Decr 18th 1826

Colo STEPHEN F AUSTIN

SIR I am Induced to write to you under the many Serious Injunctions of my Brother but not in positive terms of Solicitation only from his frequently reminding me of your professions of friendship for me those Statements are daily made and I now feel disposed to make Experiment; the differences that now Exist Between my self and others appear to be of a Trivial nature and such as you are able to place in oblivion as a brother of the higher order I ask of you to do what is right not that I wish you or any other person to think or believe that I wish to Begger my Self into thare good graces but that I do this to Satisfy you and the world that my intentions are honorabl; as to my Crime I have no knowledge my Brother Says I did make the threat that I am determined to acknowledge before a Jury and stand my trial although I have no recollection of it this letter I wish without further proof to be Introduced against me as good Evidence, and at the Same time Ill produce Evidence to say that my absence from the Colony for a few months may Bring a bout a reformation and hereafter become a good Citizen deal with me as you think I deserve. I say again I do not Beggar my Self into the good graces of any person Should you think proper to answer me on this Scor you can direct your letters to the Care of Mr. F Henderson Cotile St. of Louisianna if to the Contrary I shall be Equally indiferent

ALEXr CALVIT

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

Quedo impuesto por el eficio de V. S. fha 7 de Noviembre pº pº de lo dispuesto por el Exmo Sor Presidente de la Republica acerca de la accion sostenida por trece Yndividuos contra cerca de dos cientos

Comanches en el parage de las Lagunitas lo que tengo publicado á estos habitantes en conformidad con el citado oficio de V. S.

Dios y Libertad

San felipe de Austin á 22 de Dic^e. de 1826

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Depar^to de Texas

AUSTIN TO B. J. THOMPSON

San Felipe de Austin Decr. 24. 1826

Mr. B J THOMPSON

SIR,

It is a long time since we have seen each other and I cannot say what changes may have taken place in your mind as respects me, we once were neighbors and friends and I think you once had confidence enough in me to believe that I would neither do an act that I believed to be improper nor in any manner countenance or advice it in others—We are now in a distant and new country from that of our first acquaintance, and in another Gov^t. with which you are almost as much a stranger as you are to its language and every tie that can bind former friends and acquaintances together certainly ought to operate with renewed force here—we were friends in Missouri, we ought to be friends in Texas. and I have taken up my pen to write to you as a friend who takes an interest in your welfare and I will therefore speak to you with the frankness of friendship and I hope what I say will be received in the same spirit that it is offered and that you will calmly reflect on the subject of this letter—

I have heard with the greatest astonishment that you have taken an active part in the commotions in that part of the country, my friend I hope you will not take my frankness amis when I say that you have committed an error, you have by that rash act injured your own standing with the Government and made the words of your enemies true. and you have jeopardised the prospects of this whole country—The Gov^t. had made all the necessary arrangements to have the affairs of that district investigated and if after such investigations it should have appeared that the Alcalde had done injustice he would have been punished. The Gov^t. have always taken the part of the New Settlers and punished those who attempt to deal unjustly with them. Complaints were made against Edwards that he was speculating on the people and the Gov^t. on ascertaining that those complaints were true have annuled his contract, they did it because they thought he had treated the settlers unjustly and is not this a proof that the Gov^t. is disposed to protect the settlers? and

had you not proceeded in the violent manner you have they would have investigated the conduct of Norris and if he deserved it, punished him—

you are all mistaken in one particular, you think the Govt have not force—you are deluding yourselves and this delusion will ruin you—you also think that this colony will unite in such mad schemes—I have a better opportunity of knowing the force of the Govt than you have, and I assure you that were it necessary they could march five thousand troops to that district in two months and you would find that every man in this colony able to bear arms would freely and cheerfully join them—Some of those people have been so far deluded as to believe that the Govt of the United States would aid them, such an idea is too absurd for any reasonable man to think of so far from aiding them that Govt would if called on send troops to aid this Govt in establishing peace and good order on the frontier of the two nations and to expel from there all persons who might be disturbing it—It is said that some of the party talk of calling in the Indians from the Sabine to Rio Grande. Great God, can it be possible that Americans, high minded free born and honorable Americans will so far forget the country of their birth, so far forget themselves, as to league with barbarians and join a band of savages in a war of murder, massacre and desolation? pause, my friend before you enter into so horrid a conspiracy—let not the rising generation reproach your children that their father was engaged in the wanton murder of innocent families, the massacre of defenceless women and helpless children it has been reported here that the Cherokees have enlisted in this business. I do not believe it and have contradicted the report. there is too much honor, too much civilization too much virtue in the cherokees to engage in any such infamous and horrid business—

The affair with Norris was a mad business and totally wrong for the law points out the mode of punishing officers of all ranks from the President down and no individuals have or ought to have the power of taking into their hands the authority vested by law in the competant tribunals, for this principle strikes at the root of all Govt and opens the door for anarchy and a Govt of mobs instead of a Govt of laws—but that affair might have been arranged and could still be all arranged provided you will be guided by reason and act with prudence—and if you will follow my advice all will turn out right in the end, but you must follow it strictly if you wish for my friendship in the business—

In the first place disband your voluntier company and convince them so far as possible that you have all taken wrong steps—call a meeting of all the honest and honorable men in your neighborhood

and draw up a paper addressed to the Political Chief expressing your entire submission and obediance to the Govt—Separate yourself from all factions and bad men and have nothing more to do with them but remain peacibly and quietly at home If you will do this and take an active part (if you take any part at all) in supporting and defending the Government all will be right in the end, and you will get lands and a settlement in the country—you came here to get lands to live on, but with what face can you present a petition to the Government asking for favors when the same hand that presents the petition is raised in open rebellion against the authority of the country?—What would the Govt of the United States do in such a case, they would crush you to the very earth—but you will find this Govt more lenient than that one would be in a similar case,—And if you rely with full confidence on this Govt and submit to it at once and fully and freely as I before said all will be right, and every thing can be settled—

Do not let designing men deceive you as to the part the people of this colony will take, they are *unanimous* in disapproving all such violent proceedings and they will all be faithful to the Govt of their adoption and if necessary take up arms in its defence.

You have been dreadfully imprudent I have heretofore spoken highly in your favor to the Govt, what can I say now? The Slave question is now pending before the Legislature and many other questions of great interest to the new settlers what effects are such mad proceedings likely to have on the decision of those questions? I fear a fatal effect—your proceedings have jeopardised the fair prospects of the whole country and cast a stain on the hitherto high character of Americans

I do not wish any person basely to submit to oppression, but it is not submitting to oppression to submit to the laws more especially when we have voluntarily pledged ourselves to obey those laws by removing to the country. you have not obeyed the laws for you have not saught redress through them. you have settled where you are in violation of law, for it prohibits all settlement within twenty leagues of the line without the previous approbation of the President but notwithstanding all this you could have obtained permission to settle there and grants of land had you taken the proper course, and I am of opinion it is not too late yet provided you now take the proper course and submit freely and fully and without any kind of hesitation to the Govt—

I will befriend you all so far as I can consistent with my duty to the Govt but I am a Mexican Citizen and officer and *I will sacrifice my life before I will violate my duty and oath of office*

Think well on these hasty remarks let reason and prudence guide you—put away all passion and submit at once to the government, or if you cannot or will not do that, leave the country and separate yourself from all factions and disorganizing men.

S F Austin

Write me as soon as possible and write frankly what you intend to do and what is the State of things in that country for we have many rumors here—and rumors that I hope are false, altho they come very direct from travellers who are daily passing—but I am unwilling to believe that you have all run mad.

John Cameron to Austin

Stª Rosa 25 [December?] 1826

Dear Sir

My object [in visiting yo]ur Section of the Country in the spring of * * * was to procure a league of land calculated for Agricultural purposes. at that time it appeared difficult to effect my purpose; although there was much unoccupied land; still a tract could not be procured unless at remote situations from the Coast. Notwithstanding at the same time I was impressed with the belief that near the sea board there were many unoccupied tracts; (i. e.) leagues that were not designated as the property of any particular individual, which I presume through virtue of the Law of Colonization I might have occupied and the possession stand good, but had I resorted to such measures as the Law explicitly specifies on this subject, it would undoubtedly have been the cause of considerable commotion, among the settlers, therefore on no consideration would [I have been?] instrumental in dis[turbing the peace of the cou]ntry indeed from what I could [learn a good deal?] of dissatisfaction even then existed—

As the number of families to be introduced [into] your Colony have been extended, together with [the] time granted for their being established there—I again feel disposed to renew my solicitations for a league of land. I think you can still furnish a good tract well calculated for the purposes of Agriculture low down on the Brazos or Colorado, or somewhere in that neighbourhood, under such consideration, I appeal to your generosity, and flatter myself with the hope of your compliance to my request. when you designate a tract forward my titles and the amount shall be remitted to you or deposited in the hands of any person you may appoint to receive it

Jnº Cameron [Rubric]

perhaps some of the settlers have forfeited [the gra]nt they obtained under the original Grant [and these tr]acts may stand un-

occupied, and there location concur with the description of such a place as I wish for—

J. CAMERON [Rubric]

Address to me at Saltillo

Mr. Robert Lewis will start from this place for Taxas in about 8 days. his business has not as yet been concluded in Mexico, the principal cause was, I suppose on account of Señor Ceballos having been taken ill, he is no[w] convalescent and a speedy conclusion may be expected; every intelligence from Mexico brings accounts favourable to the Interest of Mr Lewis—and the presumption is, that he can recover heavy damages for his detention. and such injuries as may have resulted therefrom.

[Addressed:] Al Coronel Estevan F. Austin Sn. Felipe de Austin Rio Brazos *Texas*

B. W. EDWARDS AND H. B. MAYO TO INHABITANTS OF PECAN POINT

Nacogdoches December 25, 1826.

To the people of the Pecan point District

Fellow citizens!

Having assembled at the town of Nacogdoches under the flag of Independence, and consequently in open hostility towards the Mexican United States, we consider it to be due to you, fellow citizens! in common with all the Inhabitants of the Province of Texas, who are alike interested in the destiny of this our adopted country, to explain the motives and causes, which have impelled us to take this bold and determined stand, without first calling upon you to participate in this holy cause.

It was not from any want of respect and consideration for your character and feelings, it proceeded not from an unworthy suspicion of your patriotism and your sympathies for us. No, fellow citizens! We knew you were Americans, the sons of those long departed patriots, who, when their rights were invaded, nobly grasped their arms, and planted the standard of liberty and Independence in our native land.

Having the same confidence in your patriotism and your valor, believing that the sons of America would never tarnish the proud glory of their fathers, even in a foreign land, and that as brothers far from our homes and removed to a land beyond the maternal protection of our native country, we could not doubt your sympathies for us. We could not question your feelings and your judgments in the present aspect of our political affairs. Placed in a situation peculiar to ourselves and impelled by the most serious necessity; our properties daily seized by violence and injustice, our per-

sons violated, our liberties trampled under foot, and ourselves the destined and immediate victims of the Spanish or Mexican bayonets; we have sprung to arms for our safety.

No longer secure in our properties and our lives, and having long since ceased to hope for liberty and justice under this imbecile, this faithless and perfidious Government, we have planted the standard of liberty and Independence for our protection with a firm and solemn resolve to live or perish with it. Self preservation, the great law of nature, is our justification for planting it thus early, and before we could formally invite our fellow citizens to concur with us in this important matter. Not only the threats of those pretty [sic] tyrants here, who have so long trampled upon the rights of your brother Americans, but the official communications of the Government themselves, now in our possession, prove, that we were selected as the victims of destruction, and that a brutal soldiery were soon to be let loose upon us.

Could we any longer hesitate what course to pursue? No! fellow citizens! You would have done the same. Your properties taken without process, your liberties invaded, your persons violated at the point of the bayonet without even the forms of trial, and yourselves threatened with butchery and extermination, as we have been, you too would have planted the standard of your own security and protection. The same necessity has made it expedient for us without delay to make a conditional treaty with the Indians on our North. This Government, *it seems*, had made them *verbal* promises of grants, which with them are considered binding. They have under this fatal confidence emigrated to the North of this province in great numbers. They like many of us have been treacherously deceived by this corrupt Government, and have long since resolved to occupy the lands which were promised to them. In this state of things, despairing of any chance for our rights and our liberties, and even of protection against an external foe, and finding it all important at this portentious moment to our security and to the establishment of that Independence, which we have resolved to effect, and which we believe every reflecting man in this province has looked forward to, as an event inevitable sooner or later; we have been compelled without delay to make such a conditional treaty, as has secured to the Americans the friendship of their red brethren, and the success of that cause, which we have undertaken. In making this compact with the Indians, we had to designate a boundary line, both parties agreeing on their parts to respect it. In this treaty the rights of every man in either territory are guaranteed to him, and are to be most scrupulously observed. The treaty, in short, is such a one, as we doubt not, when all things are under-

stood, will be satisfactory to all. It was signed on the part of the Indians by Doctor Hunter and Richard Fields as the representatives of twenty three nations and by several other chiefs for their particular tribes.

Thus, fellow citizens! have we explained the causes and motives, that have influenced us to rally around the standard of liberty and Independence, as well as the attitude, in which we now stand. We have not yet made a formal Declaration of our Independence, and are only waiting for you to participate with us in this important and glorious cause.

We propose, that you and the people of every district in this province should each appoint two Delegates to meet at this place on the first Monday in February next, to draw up a Declaration of Independence, and to organize a Government, founded upon the fundamental principles of the unalienable rights of man. We make this proposal under the most implicit confidence, that you feel as we do, and that you are no longer willing to risk your properties, your liberties and your lives under the tyrannic sway of a Military Despotism.

Fellow citizens! We need not here recapitulate the lawless and repeated outrages, that too many of our citizens have had to endure. We were enticed from our native country under the promise of important advantages to our families, and by a guarantee of our rights and liberties. We have been basely deceived in all these promises, and we know not now, that we have a valid title to one foot of land in the province of Texas. Lands have been granted and taken away at the mere will and pleasure of a corrupt and prejudiced Governor without any regard to the forms of justice or the rights of the Judicial Department of this Government. Our slaves have been attempted to be taken from us, and even the most favorable issue of that subject, as is now anticipated, would be the ruin of our country and of our every hope and prospect in it.—Military despotism has been substituted for that liberty which was promised as our shield and protection. Our citizens have without notice of a charge against them, been seized by a brutal soldiery, bound hand and foot and dragged into exile or incarcerated in their dungeons at the will of a petty tyrant, and all these things sanctioned by the Government under which we live. Great God! Can you any longer hesitate, fellow citizens! what to do? Did our fathers, who are now no more, hesitate, what to do, when they were oppressed? No, their blood ran in willing torrents upon the altar of liberty, when their rights were invaded. Shall their sons do less? Forbid it Allmighty God!!! What have we to fear in such a contest? What have we to hope from such a corrupt and perfidious Government as

this. Shall we sit with our arms folded in fatal security, untill we are bound in chains and slavery? No! fellow citizens! We have nothing to hope for but in our arms. They will guaranty rights, that will not be wrested from us. Let us then join heart and hand in the noble struggle for our liberties. We are the children of the same mother country. We are Americans in a foreign land, groaning under the galling yoke of injustice and oppression. Our fathers in their struggle for liberty contended against the giant of the world. We have to contend against a corrupt and imbecile Government, now tottering upon its own foundation, and ready to crumble into its former ruins.

We for ourselves have no fears of a speedy establishment of our Independence. We have now the means of making *this empire shake to its very centre.* We ask you not to risk your lives and properties with us in this enterprize, unless your own feelings and your own judgments sanction such a cause. The rights and properties of every American and Spaniard will be held sacred, unless he raises arms against us. We will not dictate to you what course you should pursue.—Should you think proper to leave the struggle to us alone, We are nevertheless willing to fight for your rights and security in common with our own. Should we secure the Independence of this country, of which we have not an earthly doubt, you will of course share its blessings with us. We have undertaken this glorious cause with a determination to be freemen or to perish under the flag of liberty. We at least are determined to live or to die like Americans and like the sons of freemen.

B. W. Edwards
H. B. Mayo
Committee of Correspondence in behalf of
the General Committee of Independence.[1]

B. W. Edwards to James Ross

Nacogdoches Decr. 26th 1826

Dear sir.

In times like these the soul of every freeman feels inclined to speak its impulse to every kindred spirit—You and I sir, are strangers: but you are an American, and so am I. The time has arrived when that proud title, I trust, will be a sufficient pasport to the bosom of every man, who claims *freedom* as his birthright—Nor are you sir, as a man, unknown to me. The high consideration, I entertain for

[1] [The communication of Huber, which follows this document in the copy, is printed in *A Comprehensive History of Texas*, 1, 533-534.]

your character and patriotism is my apology for the liberty, I now take in addressing you.

The flag of liberty and Independence, now floats above my head—No longer willing to endure oppression, we have, like our forefathers, resolved upon liberty, or death!—We have been prematurely forced into the field. Threatened with the vengeance of a brutal soldiery, we have come forward, like the sons of freemen, to meet those invaders! and to protect our fellow citizens, who are marked out as the destined victims of oppression and of violence—We call upon you and every American, as our brothers in a foreign land, to aid us in the holy cause—Twenty three Nations of Indians, exclusive of the Comanches are now sacredly *pledged* to aid us in our *Independence*—We must succeed, and this base government will soon shake to its foundation—we have sent communications to every part of your Colony etc, and are now only waiting to know the determination of our friends in that quarter—The communications will explain every thing—I have written fully to Capt Buckner—If you appreciate my feelings, you will of course write me immediately—In haste—

Col. James Ross—

B. W. Edwards

[Addressed:] Colo James Ross Colorado Austin's Colony Texas

B. W. Edwards to Aylett C. Buckner.

Nacogdoches Decr 26th 1826

Dear Sir. Enclosed are papers, which will explain their meaning—Though a stranger to you, I take it upon myself to forward you those documents, at the request of my brother, and from a high regard for your character and true American feelings, long since known to me, I am prompted at this moment to open a correspondence with you, believing that in times like these we would both feel superior to the little formalities of fashionable intercourse, which to often cramp the arts of congenial souls—Buckner. "This is the time to try the souls of men"—The flag of *liberty* now waves in majestic triumph on the heights of Nacogdoches, and despotism stands appalled at the sight—I need not say to you why we have taken this bold and determined stand. You are not ignorant of our oppressions here, nor can you be less acquainted with the treachery and perfidy of this government—we have found documents in the office here, making it evident, that *troops* would be sent on to force us into submission to our wrongs, and to dragoon us into slavery—We are Americans, and will sooner die like freemen, than to live like slaves—

We have not acted blindly, or precipitately in this matter—we have for some time looked forward to this issue and were prepared for it—The Indians on our North have long since intended the same thing and have only been waiting for us to say the word. They were determined to have a part of the country, which they say was promised to them by the Government; and which they will never yield. They have emigrated of late in great numbers to the Northern part of this province—

Under those considerations, and for our own security and protection, we have just compleated a Treaty with them, designating a line to the North of this, running westwardly to the Rio Grande; securing all individual rights within their territory—The treaty was signed by Doct[r] John D Hunter and Richard Fields as the Representatives of the United Nations of Indians, comprising twenty three tribes—They are now our decided friends, and by compact as well as interest are bound to aid us in effecting the *Independence* of this country The Comanches are in alliance with them, and their united efforts will be immediately directed against this base, and faithless government—We will be in motion in a short time—We have sent communications to yours, and to every district in the Province, inviting each district to appoint two delegates to assemble here and make a declaration of Independence etc—On your patriotism and firmness, we much rely in promoting this glorious end. I have no doubt, that the people in Austin's colony are true Americans: indeed I have pledged my word on it—Do not hazard too much; but my dear sir, we can send you an ample force to secure the people of that Colony, and will do it the moment we ascertain they are for Independence—We are now only waiting to ascertain that fact in due form—morally we cannot doubt it—You are Americans and our brothers; and besides you are the sons of freemen—To arms then, our countrymen, and let us no longer, submit to the caprice, the treachery, and oppression of such a government as this!—Our friends in the United States are already in arms, and only waiting for the word. We had some little opposition in the Ayish Bayou, from a few servile tools of Norris and Gains; but the indignation of the multitude rose in the majesty of the American feeling, and they have fled in precipitation and tu[rned] to the U. S. there to meet the indignant scorn of every American—The cause of liberty will prevail, and in a little time, we will once more be freemen

I have written to you like an old acquaintance; because in times like these our souls should speak forth their unaffected feelings—Adiew—Let me hear from you without delay—

B. W. Edwards [Rubric]

Capt. Aylett. C. Buckner

B. W. Edwards to Jesse Thompson

Nacogdoches Decr 26th 1826

Dear Thompson.

We have raised the flag of Liberty in Nacogdoches—We have made a solemn treaty with all the Northern Indians in this Province, signed by John D Hunter and Richard Fields, as the Representatives of twenty three Tribes; and by several other chiefs of their respective tribes. They have pledged themselves to aid us in our Independence, and will very soon have several thousand warriors in the field—They claim the Northern part of this Province, and are determined to be Independent of the Mexican Government—Those various tribes, and the Comanches are now in alliance, and, with our aid, will make this government shake to its centre—I need not say to you why we have taken this bold and resolute stand. You have long since known our oppressions, and the insecurity of our rights under this corrupt and despotick Government. Thompson, we could not endure those outrages upon our rights and liberties any longer—We are Americans and will sooner die than submit to slavery and oppression—We have now planted the standard of Liberty and Independence, and like our forefathers, will support it or perish by it. Are you not Americans too, and our brothers—Will you not rally around this glorious standard, and aid us in support of this holy cause—To arms, then like freemen, and the sons of those departed patriots, who fought and bled for freedom. Should the spanish troops pass the Brasos, if you are Americans, they never will return—They will never reach this place—Dorsett, Macky, and a few others, and even judge Williams, *from disappointed ambition*, rallyied a few deluded Americans to march [against us] and to take us in chains to San Antonio [but the]y had not the courage to make the charge, and concluded to retreat, although joined by Norris, and a number of spaniards—Williams, Dorsett and the ring leaders of that disgraceful expedition have met the angry frowns of their fellow citizens at home, and, fearing the first punishment of their unnatural crime, have *fled* in terror to the States, there to encounter the scorn of every American patriot—So flee all the enemies of

liberties!—In a little time we expect to have a large force on the way to San Antonio. Could you not manage it so as to take the several pieces of cannon, now in possession of that damnd. old Raschal M Dileon—Adieu Thompson, "now is the time to try the souls of men"—Remember that you are an American—write me immediately.

B. W. EDWARDS

Capt. Jesse Thompson—

P. S. We have sent communications to every *District*, which will explain every thing—If my brother is in reach of you when you get this, send an express, and let him know his danger. B. W. E.

[Addressed:] Captain. Jessee Thompson San Bernardo Austin's Colony Texas

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ELISHA FLOWERS TO AUSTIN

Dec 26th 1826 Bay praira

HONERABLE COL I hope you are in good health I am not able to come to town my self and I beg your honor to take in consideration a labore of land in the praira in front of my half league, that I took the liberty To get mr Selkirk to survey it we made no blases but drove up stakes, and my reason for surveying—it without further orders Mr Cavetier was cuting the little muke of timber that was attached to it, and may it please your honor To let the Commishioner know that for the Convenience of building my house is on the line and I am plowing in the praira on the laboar

ELISHA FLOWERS

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F. Austin, San Felipe de Austin———

——— TO AUSTIN

To the Hon. S. F. AUSTIN Judge of this jurisdiction

Your petitioner respectfully represents that while on an expedition against the Karankaway Indians in the Bay Prairie Country he lost a horse, which horse was afterwards taken from s[d] Indians and sold at public sale altho it was known at the time that he was my property and R. H. Williams purchased him, and your petitioner having demanded the said Horse of Said Williams he refused to give him up alleging that I had sold the chance of him, but your petitioner declares that he has never rec[d] any thing for said Horse, and that the person who pretends that I sold the chance of him has not demanded nor received the said Horse nor his value as your petitioner believes and is ready to prove, neither has he paid your petitioner anything for or on account of said horse your petitioner

is therefore in danger of loosing the said horse entirely which he thinks would be extremely unjust, as he was lost while your petitioner was a volunteer in the service of this Colony, and as the said R. H. Williams is Alcalda of the district of Mina your petitioner prays that the matter may be transferred to some other district for a judicial investigation in order that justice may be done

San Felipi de Austin Decr. 26-1826

Considering that R. H. Williams against whom the within complaint is made is Alcalde of the District of Mina and therefore cannot decide on the said complaint Therefore it is order[d] that the said complaint be passed to the Alcalde of the district of Victoria who willl summon the parties before him and proceed in the case in the Same manner as tho they both lived within his jurisdiction. The Said R. H. Williams will in the mean time be personally responsable for said Horse or his value

San Felipi de Austin Decr. 26. 1826

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Judge.

B. W. EDWARDS TO BARTLETT SIMS

Nacogdoches Dec[r] 27th 1826.

DEAR SIR:

I write you in much haste, to apprise you that the Americans in this end of the Province, have at length resolved to throw of the Yoke of Despotism and to be freemen. The flag of Liberty now floats in triumph in the soil of Texas, and the Americans are daily rallying around it, with a determination to support their rights or die in their defense—We have been shamefully oppressed for twelve long months—We have complained to this corrupt Government in vain; and our only reply, when we have stated our grievances, has been, that *troops* would be sent on to dragoon us into submission—Could Americans, the sons of those, who planted the standard of liberty in our native country, bend their necks to military despotism? No, we are the sons of freemen, and will sooner die than be slaves—There is no security under this perfideous government—They give and they take away; and all our titles are held by the uncertain tenure of the will, the mere breath, of a corrupt and depraved governor—We are determined no longer to submit to oppression—We have made a Treaty with the Indians to our North, and in a short time we will have several thousand of them on the march to the interior of this country—To arms then my dear fellow! I know you have the soul of an American in your bosom. Rouse our country-

men to arms, and tell them, that in a short time we will be with them in considerable force—Many volunteers from the U States are now making preparation to join us—We are determined upon liberty or death—we look upon you as our brothers, and as such expect to find you in arms, ready to avenge our wrongs, and to protect your own rights against this faithless government. Believe me my friend, we have nothing but oppression to expect under it—The only security, the only hopes of Americans are in their arms—They have conquered the conquerors of Europe, and they will ever conquer when liberty is the prize—Adieu—write me immediately—

B. W. EDWARDS

Capt—Syms

[Addressed:] Capt Bartlett Syms Brasos Austin's Colony Texas

PETER ELLIS BEAN TO AUSTIN

Netches Dem[b] the 28 – 1826

DIER SIR

thare is one Express goan to your Colony to make it Rais in arms and in this Date thare will starte an other I hope you will keep a good lookout for those Villions counts on you and your men But I now you have more kowledge [knowledge] of things then to be led astray to save men from their crimes they find them selvs lost and will swim against stream as long as they can I have devided them so that I have now 70. me[n] coming from the Irish Bayu to atack 30 that is in nacodoches and my leters from field yet I have had no answer But I am wating howerly for the answer if I Suckseed in Braking him of[f] I then put out the fier instantly and thare is litel Doubt with me in my mind But that I shall suckseed You will look out for they are trying to sedus your Coloney your most sincere frind.

PEDRO ELLIS BEAN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr. Stephen f Austin on Debrasos

DEPOSITION OF CANDES METCALF

State of Cowehey and Texus
Destrict of the Natches [Neches]
December 28th 1826

This day appeared Candes Metcalf and after Being duly Sworn deposeth and answereth to the within named questions as follows.—

question the first Did you ever Swear before Demtris Hays Alcalda for the District of Natches in the above named State that you

was lawfully married to Peter Ellis Bean to question the first She answereth no that She never Did.

question the 2d Did not the above named Demetries Hays State to you that if you had not answered his questions that Samuel Norris the Chief Comma[n]dent at Nochogdoches Would send Malitia and have you taken a prisoner and confined in the Stone house at Nachogches to the second question She answereth he did State as named in the Within questions—

question the third Did you State on examination Before the above named Hays that you was lawfully married to Peter Ellis Bean She answereth to the the third question that She Did State before the Sd. Hays on examination that She was lawfully married to Peter Ellis Bean.

question the fourth Why did you answer in the way you Did to the third question She answereth to the fourth question the cause Why She answered the third question as She Did was to save the property of Peter Ellis Bean in her hands as She Supposed he never would return

question the fifth Was you ever Lawfully married to Peter Ellis Bean to this question She answered She never Was

Sworn to Before me this day and Date above written

her
(Signed) CANDES ✕ METCALF
mark

Handy Wane
Daniel McLean
Michael C Whatley Alcalda for the Destrict of the Natches

Sta of Coweleu [Coahuila] and Texes Destrict of the Natches December 28th 1826 and Date above Written

I do hereby certify that the Within is a trew coppy of the original given under my hand this Day

MICHAEL WHATLEY
Alcalda for the District of the Natches

ELECTION RETURN

Bravo District
Austins Colony

On this 29th, Day of Decr 1826 an Election held at the House of Jones and Miller for an Alcalde for the year 1827 John P Coles had twenty two votes Francis Hollan had Seventeen votes therefore John P. Coles is duly Elected Witness our hands this day as above

JAMES WHITESIDE
MICAJAH BYRN
Judges

[Addressed:] Col Stephen F Austin St. Felipe de Austin

Patricio de Torres to Austin

Noticio á V. qe. el 16 de Diciembre entraron los americanos en Nacogdoches, al mando de el Coronel Pama [Parmer], y el Coronel Edwards, con una bandera de blanco, y colorado, qe. pasearon con grande algazara pr. todo el pueblo, y despues fixaron en la plaza; tiene un letrero, qe. dice: *Yndependencia, Libertad, y Justicia.* El Capitan Charaqui há abrazado el partido, y marchó á su pueblo á consultar con los Yndios qe. pr. momtos se esperan

La casa de piedra la hán fortificado, y proveido de toda clase de viveres, qe han quitado á los vecinos.

Dicen qe. marchan hasta Rio Grande, sino viene un auxilio de consideracion y pronto, pronto, á Dios patria á Dios Libertad, é infelices de nosotros, sin tierras, casa, ni bienes, pues de todo estan disponiendo á su arbitrio

Dios y Libertad Rancho del Loso 29 de Diciembre de 1826.

Patricio de Torres

P. D. Hasta ahora no pasan de 50 quando se reunen; y actualmte treinta

Sor Coronel de la Villa de Osten

Manuel Hernandez to Austin

Desenboque de los brasos Dbre. 29 de 1826

Sor Coronel D. Felipe Austin

Mi mui estimado Sor. por esta le suplico áV. se sirba derigirle al Sr. Comandante Principal D. Mateo Ahumada, el adjunto oficio exequtibo que con esta fecha le mando por Cordeyera por ynteresar ansi al mejor serbisio de la patria.

Sor. mi esposa y llo saludamos á V. con el carino que le emos profesado sirbiendose V. darle memorias á D. Samuel, D. Gaspar y á todas las personas de su estimacion, nosotros quedamos buenos para que nos manden desiandole á V. muncha felesidad este su Amigo que B. S. M.

Manl Hernandez [Rubric]

P. D. en [un] marinero pide de paga por cada dia peso quatro reales y otro tanto por el bote. por aca no ocurre nobedad

Bale

Hernandez

Peter Ellis Bean to Austin

Trinity December the 31st 1826

Dier Sir I send you a copy of aletter that I Recivd from Mr Roberts that is as follows

I Recived your frendly letter under the Date of the 22d. of the Present month you tell me you are surprisid to hear of the Dis-

turbans in the Neighbourhood and Nacodoches it apears at Preasant mposibel to say which side to take to save our familes and Property it appears at Prasant the onley corse to pursue is to lie still and take no Pert on no side, the People of this Intendid to try to Put Down the Rebellion untill they was eformid that the Ingins had Joynid them they then came home and is Pasing thier familey and Property over the Sabean as fast as posibel as they are not abel to contend with the Combind Ingins But the Peopel is very much Devidid thare is not more then 30 amaricans of the Rebel Perty But the Ingins is of a grait number Shawneys Dillaways Socks and quicapus and Cheris all those have Movid in this quarter so it is almost empo-sibel to do any thing ELISHA ROBERDS [Robert-]

I also wrote to Richard fields and Dr. Hunter fields Did not Rite me But sent me word that I was to late if he had of saw me one month sooner Perhap we might of come upon tirms that is all the satisfaction he gave me.

But if Mr Sauceda will come as quick as posibel on Perhaps we can make a compremise with the Ingins for they are all that is to be feard they ame at marching to Sn Antonio if some thing is not quickly done, also from your coloney they have Recived letters that states you cant Raise 30 men they will all Join them as I have found out those letters is from esqr. Commins and aman By the Name of Buckner—Richard fields Speech in the Comity—at Nacodoches

In my old Days I travilid 2000 Miles to the City of Mexico to Beg some lands to setel a Poor orfan tribe of Red Peopel that looked up to me for Protasion I was Promisid lands for them after staying one year in Mexico and spending all I had I then came to my Peopel and waited two years and then sent Mr hunter again after selling my stock to Provide him money for his expenses when he got thare he staited his mision to government they said that they New nothing of this Richard fields and treated him with contampt—I am a Red man and aman of onor and cant be emposid on this way we will lift up our tomahouks and fight for land with all those friendly tribes that wishis land also if I am Beaton I then will Resign to fait and if not I will hold lands By the forse of my Red Warriors—

So my Dier sir the onley way to stop this is to come forward Sor Sauceda and give them lands or the Countrey will [be] entirely lost if we can Brake of[f] the Ingins the thing is setled you will hurry Sausada and let him now what I Right you

With this I send you a proven certificate[1] Declerid Before esqr. Grisham it is in english you will Do me the favour to translate this and send it on this is afavour that I Ever shall esteem this

[1] Above, December 28, 1826.

woman was maried to Pamer But when she hear of my coming on shee left him and has given him a bill of sail of all my stock of catel and hogs Mr. hais that was the magistrit that staited she swor shee was maried to [me?] and took the Bill of Sail for my Property Run of when he heard of my Coming and Past Sabine, I am sir with Dew Respect your Sencer frind

PETER ELLIS BEAN [Rubric]

P. D. I Dont Right more for want of Paper

[Translating and forwarding this letter to Saucedo,[1] Austin added from other sources:]

A list of the members of the Conference Meeting of Nacogdoches brought here by a Traveller.

Hadden Edwards, Benjamin W. Edwards, H. B. Mayo, Joseph Antonio Huber, John Sprowl, William B. Ligon, Burril J. Thompson, Martin Parmer, President, Richard Fields and John Negro Legs.

A friend writes to me from the Sabine River, on the 14th of December, 1826, as follows:

"You may have already heard of the revolution at Nacogdoches from what I can understand, respecting their means and resources, I doubt not, but that they will accomplish their object. This party will probably make provisions for the people of your Colony, as an inducement to join them. You will never approve such proceedings, but prudence requires that you should take a discreet course to avoid the ruin of your Colony. It is certain that they will be successful in their enterprize. I cannot detail in a letter all the resources they have already at command: but I am convinced that they are sufficient to destroy the whole country between the Sabine River and Saltillo."

AUSTIN TO SPROWL

[January 1, 1827.]

MR JOHN SPROUL

DR SIR, I have been very much concerned at the State of things in your part of the country. As an inhabitant of Texas I cannot but feel a deep interest for you all, for I consider that our future prosperity depends very much on our own acts—As an American I feel a lively and warm interest in every thing that concerns Americans, and as a Mexican I am bound by my duty, honor and every obligation that a man ought to hold sacred, to be faithfull to this Govt. and to the true interests of this nation— I hope therefore that you will not consider me as intruding my advice upon you improperly.

[1] Translations from Bexar Archives, in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

and that you will understand and appreciate the motives which influence me in offering it— I wish to serve my adopted country, and at the same time to befriend my native countrymen living in your section of Texas, and I flatter myself that both these objects can be effected if you will all listen to reason and take the Law Justice and virtue for your guide which I have no doubt you will do—

I know nothing positive as to the particular acts of oppression or injustice which you complain of against the local authorities of Nacogdoches If report is to be believed you have cause to complain against the local authorities, but my Dr Sir the local authorities the Alcalde of Nacogdoches is not the whole Govt. What would you say in the U S. if a party were to rebel against the Govt. because a Justice of the peace, had done wrong— You would say they were madmen I use the word *rebel* because communications have been sent to this colony by a few misguided persons of Nacogdoches which speak open defiance and rebellion against the whole Mexican Govt. I do not believe that the thinking part of the people of your quarter are fully opprised of the extent which the leaders in these difficulties wish to do for If they were I think they would unanimously rise and oppose them—for nothing can possible result from such mad proceedings but the total ruin both in character and property of every man engaged who has any of either to loose, and it is a duty that you and every good man owes to himself publically to declare his disapprobation of all attempts at rebellion against the Govt. The letters that have been written here state that you are all United and determined to set up for yourselves and form a New nation to be composed of Indians etc. etc—and it is therefore your duty to make a public declaration of your sentiments in order that the Govt. may know how to discriminate.

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.]

AUSTIN TO BURRIL J. THOMPSON

San Felipe de Austin January 1. 1827

DR SIR,

In wishing you a happy new year I regret I cannot add my approbation of some of your acts in the last months of the past one, tho perhaps I do not understand the motives which Governed you. So far as I do understand them I am compelled to say with all the frankness of an old friend that you are wrong. I hope however that you and the majority of the good people in that country have been slander'd and that reports we have in circulation here about you are false, for I cannot believe that you have so far lost your sences as to

think of open opposition to the Government, neither will I believe that you have so far forgotten the land of your birth and the proud name of *American* as to disgrace that name by associating yourself with persons, and advocating a cause unworthy of it—My friend you are wrong—totally wrong from begining to the end of this Nacogdoches affair—I have no doubt that great cause of complaint exists against the Alcalde and a few others in that district but you have taken the wrong method of seeking redress—The law has pointed out the mode of punishing officers in the Govt. from the President down, and no individual or individuals ought to assume to themselves that authority, but what is past is done—let us forget it, and look to the future. If you will take reason for your guide in future and do your duty as a citizen of this Govt. all will be right—The chief of this Department is on his way to Nacogdoches, his object is to regulate the Govt. and do justice to all—he is a mild and good man and will never do an act of injustice to any one and if you will come forward freely and without reserve and in a respectfull manner submit to his authority, you will save yourself and family from total and inevitable ruin—You have been most astonishly imprudent but I do not think it too late for you to settle all that is past for I cannot believe that you have been so mad as to think of joining the Indians and opposing the Govt. by force—The people of this colony are unanimous. I have not heard of one man who is not opposed to your violent measures and there is not one amongst us who will not freely take up arms to oppose you and sustain the Govt. should it be necessary to do so My wish is to befriend you all so far as I can consistent with my duty and if you will rely upon me and listen to my advice all will be settled easily—Separate yourself from all factions—disband your voluntier company raised in violation of law—and submit to the Govt. freely and without hesitation, and put aside your arms—If you do this I have no doubt but everything will be satisfactorily settled. take the opposite course and you are *lost* for you need not believe those who tell you that this Govt. is without force, They can send 3000 men to Nacogdoches if it should be necessary and there is not a man in this colony who would not join them—Think what you are about my friend and save yourself by adopting the course I have pointed out, before it is too late—

farewell may you have a happy new year, but wheither you will or not depends entirely on yourself

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr Burril J. Thompson Iesh Bayou

AUSTIN TO CITIZENS OF VICTORIA

San Felepe de Austin
January 1, 1827

To the Inhabitants of the district of Victoria[1]

MY FRIENDS An important crisis has arrived, in the progress of this country, and in the destiny of this Colony we Stand high with the Government and an opportunity is now presented of raising our characters still higher and placing this colony on a firm footing as regards the opinion of the Gov[t] and I think there is not one man in the Colony who will not with pleasure imbrace it—

A Small party of infatuated madmen at Nacogdoches have declared Independence and invited the Indians from Sabine to Rio Grande to join them and wage a war of Murder, plunder, and desolation on the innocent inhabitants of the frontier—The leader of this party is Martin Parmer, and Jim Callier Bill English the Yokums and men of that character are his associates. Agreeably to information rec[d] this day under date of 28 Dec[r] this party is about 40 strong all the well disposed and honest part of the people on Iesh bayou are decidedly opposed to them, and there is a force of 70 men united there against the Nacogdoches madmen and in favor of the Government.

The chief of Department and Military commander will be here tomorrow or next day on their way to Nacogdoches and I wish to raise an escort of about 30 men to go on with them—this is a mark of respect we owe these officers and at this particular time it will have a decissive influence on the future prospects of this colony—it will also have a very great influence in quieting and settling the difficulties in that part of the country, for the men who go on from here, by their presence under the banners of the Gov[t] will at once dissipate the errors which those people have been induced to believe by a few artfull men as regards the part this colony would take—It will have a much better effect for the people to voluntier on this service, than to be called on officially and in order to give them a full opportunity of shewing their patriotism and their love of good order virtue and justice, I have made no official call, but merely appeal to you as men of honor, as Mexicans, and as Americans to do your duty—our interests sometimes conflict with our duty, but I am happy to say that in this instance they are the same—it is our duty as *Mexicans*, to support and defend the Government of our adoption, by whom we have been received with the kindness and liberality of an indulgent parent,—it is our duty as *men*, to suppress vice anarchy and Indian Massacre—and it is our duty as *Americans* to defend

[1] Victoria was one of the local political divisions of Austin's colony.

that proud name from the infamy which this Nacogdoches gang must cast upon it if they are suffered to progress— It is also our interest, most decidedly our interest to do the Same, for without regular Government, without law, what security have we for our persons our property, our characters, and all that we hold dear and sacred? None, for we at once embark on the stormy ocean of anarchy, subject to be stripped by every wave of faction that rolls along, and must finally sink into the gulf of ruin and infamy—

The occasion requires an effort on the part of the people of this colony, and to give it its full force I wish that it should be voluntary and unanimous, and I wish the inhabitants in the district of Victoria to meet and adopt such resolutions on this subject as their patriotism may suggest and to come out openly and above board in expressing their disapprobation of this Nacogdoches business and make an offer of their services to the Governor to March against the insurgents should it become necessary to do so—and then appoint a committee to wait on the Chief of Department with the respects of those inhabitants and to present the resolutions—such a thing will be done by every other part of the colony and will have a very happy influence on our future prosperity—I wish the men who voluntier to go on with the chief to be here as soon as they can conveniently prepare themselves for the trip, ten men from the district of victoria will be enough unless more wish to go, for it is a good and an honorable service

I have no doubt that you will be active and prompt in this business and embrace the opportunity that is now presented with pleasure—

Wishing you a happy New Year I remain

very respectfully your friend and fellow citizen and recommend to you union and Mexico

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

THOMAS M. DUKE TO AUSTIN

Bay Prarie Jany 3^{d} 1827

D SIR

I received your letter by express last night and forwarded the Public communication that came with it immediately on to the Lower settlement of the Prarie. I was truly distressed at the contents I feel as I believe every man in the Prarie does a sincere wish to be of every service in our power for the support of the government but situated as we are in the Prarie it is not in our power to give much aid to the government at this time the smoke of the Karankawas is seen from my house every day Bett's establishment which is on the opposite side is broke up and this evening Jesse Robinson and

Thomas January who were over there saw a smoke made in the edge of the timber not more than a mile below Betts's house. A few days since Jesse Robinson saw fresh Indian sign a short distance from Betts house Mr. Williams and Alcalde ordered a campaign I attended at Betts's according to appointment and we could raise but 12 men from the sauciness of the Indians in their remaining so long near us we have every reason to believe they are in force so we did not deem it prudent to attack them with so small a force It is absolutely necessary my dear sir that some tseps should be taken and that immediately against those Indians if we do not drive them away they will drive us I have no earthly doubt but they are not more than ten miles from my house and have been there a month. I think it necessary that you should order a campaign and if possible select some men for officers whom the men will obey the Present officers are good young men but the men have not the respect or confidence in them that soldiers ought to have for their officers and I am afraid as long as they command in this district that calls for campaign will not be complied with. I know my dear sir that you can say if men are not willing to protect themselves why let them suffer, but you likewise recollect the Fable of the *Belly and the members* there is a part of the district who are not in as great danger as ourselves I do not mean to Insinuate that they are not as willing as ourselves to turn out but they as well as the rest of the district would turn out better if better commanded as this is a time of danger not only to our state but to our Individual safeties I would suggest as I believe the officers do not attend to it that those men who do not comply with the calls made should be fined and that pretty heavily. In your letter to me you wished me to volunteer to go on with the Governor I am perfectly willing to do so but I should advise a campaign against those Indians first for without they are driven away I consider myself as well as my property and those below me in the most imminent danger I go tomorrow up to Mr. Simm's to the meeting and shall write to you fully the sentiments of the people about the Iish Bayou business

Thos M. Duke [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col^{n} Stephen F Austin St. Felipe de Austin Brassos

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Randal Jones to Austin

Fort Settlement
3rd January 1827

Dear sir

I received yours of the first which requested me to convene the neighbours which will be done as near as the time will permit Your

hope that I would accompany the party cannot possibly be realized because I am but a lone man and cannot leave my family for so long a time. If my situation would permit I would go with great pleasure Those men of my settlement with whom I have convers'd on the affair at Nacogdoches view it in the same light with myself I shall be in Town on Friday or Saturday when we will have more time to converse on the matter. I have thought if you could possibly spare the time to go your self you would be able to do more good than a Battalion of spanish troops. I hope the affair will be settled without much trouble

R[ANDAL.] JONES

[Addressed:] Col Stephen F Austin San Fillippe de Austin

PETER ELLIS BEAN TO AUSTIN

Natches January 4th 1827.

DEAR SIR

I came Back to this Place as I found out that those Rascals is Braking of from Nacodoches at this time thar is a guard of 12 men onley in the stone house I wish you to hurry on the troop as fast as Posibel for now is our time Before the ingins geather But by aleter that I Recived this Day from samuel Noris I find the Ingins is also Devidid and it apears that they wont be hear bary shortly but the troop must hurry all that they can at Mr. Comins at the trinity River— thare is two caggs of Powder and two Pigs of lead you will see that they are taken and Brought on By the troops as that articul will Be wantid hear you will let the Commander now the contents of my leter your friend and Sert.

PETER ELLIS BEAN [Rubric]

Sor Corl Stepen f Austin

[Addressed:] Conl. Stephen f Austin Sn filipe Cordiero [cordillera] violente

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MATEO ARMADA TO RICHARD FIELDS

Principal Depart. of Arms in Texas

I have rec[d] information from various sources that you have united with the party of Americans who in NACOGDOCHES have declared themselves opposed to the Supreme Gov[t] of Mexico, relying however on the prudence and probity which you have justly acquired I have not given full faith to this news and have therefore thought proper to say to you that if you feel any sentiment of displeasure

against the said Superior authorty, I can assure you, it has not been the intention of the Govt to neglect you in the slightest degree, and that they will listen with paternal love to any solicitations you may think proper to make, and will grant such as are not in opposition to the law.

I am informed that in Mexico you were told to visit the State of Coahuila and Texas and select the lands that pleased you for your settlement and apply for them immediately. If you have not selected them, and not asked for them, it is not the fault of the Government that you are not now in possession of them: Notwithstanding you peacibly and tranquilly occupy lands of the Nation. If you have since appointed other persons to represent your affairs in Mexico, and have not received the satisfaction you expected it has no doubt arisen in consequence of your agents not carrying the necessary credentials, and consequently the Supreme Government doubted whether you really had sent them.

Prudence and judgment which adorn you, imperiously requires that in a matter of so delicate a nature the utmost circumspection should be used. A precipitate commencement of hostilities will produce evils of the greatest magnitude. The Arms of the Republic of Mexico which protect the Department of Texas and which I have the honor of commanding must not be stained by the blood of my fellow citizens the Cherokees, nor with that of the other nations with whom they are united. Our common enemy is on the other side of the Ocean.

The party of Americans who in Nacogdoches have attacked the Mexican Authorities will doubtless interest themselves to compromit you, for having committed an error, they will follow it up by others still greater, but you are not in that situation, and I therefore desire that you should come in person to the Trinity River at the Crossing of the main road near the Lomo de Torro, or to this Town where I am detained by bad weather, in order that we may have an interview and a discussion of this subject between the Chief of the Department of Texas, Jose Antonio Saucedo, Mr. Stephen F Austin, yourself and myself and come to such an understanding as the common interest may require, and I feel no hesitation in assuring you that the result will not be disagreeable to you.

I therefore hope that you will immediately inform me in answer to this, your feelings on the subject with the understanding that the Republic of Mexico has no cause whatever to declare War against the Cherokees or other tribes with whom they are united.

I have expressed myself to you with the frankness that characterizes me and I expect the Answer of a man of honor, and presenting

you with my consideration and respect I remain yours etc. God and Liberty

Sn felipe de Austin 4th Jany 1827. MATEO AHUMADA

Citizen Richard Fields Chief of the Cherokees

I certify the foregoing to be a true translation of the original which acompanies it[1] 4th Jany 1827

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Samuel M Williams Sy

SAUCEDO TO FIELDS

When you went to the City of Mexico to solicit land for Colonization in this Department, I have no doubt the Govt received your proposition liberally, leaving to your option the selection of the land which might appear best adapted for your new colony, which promise I can assure you will not be violated by the Govt unless there should be some violation on your part. This unequivocal proof of the paternal love of the Mexican Govt towards those who seek an asylum within its bosom, is conclusive as to the friendship and esteem with which you were treated by the Supreme Authorities.

The letters which you have thot propper to write me, offering me your services in defence of the Country and its inhabitants gave me the greatest satisfaction, and as documents of importance I forwarded them to the Supreme authorities to whom I am subject without one moments delay, and they viewed with the greatest pleasure the sentiments of love, fidelity and patriotism expressed by their adopted children—Now that I have heard through various chanels that you have offered your support and protection to the perverse individuals who in Nacogdoches have attacked the Sovereignity of the Nation, depriving of their offices the legal authorities of that place arbitrarily substituting others in their place in violation of the laws which govern us, I am filled with astonishment and regret and cannot but believe you have some misconceptions on the subject, or have been deceived by individuals who for interested motives are endeavoring to compromit you in a matter of such delicacy and importance—I am firmly persuaded that, if with your accustomed prudence and reflection, you will take into consideration my observations you will be satisfied that my Govt is just and incapable of violating its promises, unless the contracting parties on their part violate the contract made with them, and if the Govt of Mexico has not dispatched your petition for colonization, it has been because your

[1] A copy of the original Spanish in the Austin Papers is omitted.

agents did not carry the necessary credentials, or that, the multiplicity of the occupations which surround them, and of which we are ignorant has delayed it; but, it can all be regulated, if we treat the matter with the prudence and moderation which the subject requires, and not with violence, as that produces nothing else than the ruin of the federation of the States, and of the Towns of our Brothers, in order therefore to stop at once the evils which on either side surround this delicate business—I will esteem the favor, if you will agree to meet me either on the Trinity River at the crossing of the main road near the Lomo de Torro or at this place, where we can have an interview, you and myself the Commandant of Arms, and citizen Stephen F Austin in order that to agree upon what is most likely to benefit our political and social interests, and bind ourselves in an insepperable manner to fight, not one against the other, but joined against the enemies of public tranquility and repose, and of our liberty and Independence.

If these sincere expressions springing from that paternal love which glows in my bosom are considered by you as worthy of attention, I shall expect your answer with the utmost possible brevity, offering to you in all times and places the consideration and respect which I think you so justly merit.

God and Liberty

San felipe de Austin 4th Jany 1827

signed Jose Antonio Saucedo

To Citizen Richard Fields Chief of the Cherokee Nation

I certify that the foregoing is a true translation of the original which acompanies it[1]

Jany 4th 1827

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

SAMUEL M WILLIAMS

sy

AUSTIN TO J. D. HUNTER

San Felipe de Austin

January 4: 1827

MR J. D. HUNTER,

DR SIR, report has informed me of the interest you are taking in favor of the Cherokees—Your object in uniting temporarily with the Nacogdoches insurrection is to procure lands for the cherokees from the mexican government. To suppose for one moment that your object is civil war and rebellion would be to suppose you destitute of that intelligence integrity and judgement which you have

[1] Copy of the original in the Austin Papers is omitted.

always manifested on all occasions so far as I have heard of you—The object then I take for granted is to procure a legal title from the mexican Govt. for lands for the cherokees, and in this object I will aid you if legal steps are taken. I know that the cherokees can get their lands if the legal steps are adopted. *and if they take the wrong course they are lost.* The ruin may not be immediate, but it will ultimately fall and overwhelm them and their friends. I hope to see you shortly in company with the cherokee chiefs in comformity with the request of the chief of this Department and the commandant of arms and *I can then prove to you that this opinion is well founded.*

When you was here I expressed myself fully as to the cherokees and unequivocally stated that I was a friend of those Indians and would take an interest in their affairs, so far as my duty to this Government would permit

The chief of Department is now here and assures me that the Government never have nor will refuse to comply with the promises made to the cherokees. You very well know the delays attending the dispatch of governmental business at any time, and more particularly in a Govt. situated as this is just formed and scarcely organized—delay was to be expected, but this is no proof that the business of the cherokees would not be finished—The Government have never refused them lands, have never expressed any disatisfaction at their settlement where they now are and I have no doubt will be willing to give them a title to lands at that place—So that the way is perfectly clear and plain —bring in the cherokee chiefs to this place or to the Trinity river to see the Chief of Department as he has requested and all will be right—*There is a happy moment in the tide of all events*, and men of talent know when that moment arrives and how to use it—If you are the man of talents I believe you to be and are actuated by the benevolent feelings toward the cherokees which you profess, you will see that the favorable moment in the tide of their affairs has arrived, and you will embrace it—*before the sword is drawn the Govt will yield a little to the cherokees to keep it in its scabbard, but once drawn and stained with blood they will never yield one hairs breadth and nothing short of extermination or expulsion of that nation will satisfy them*—The happy moment then has arrived, use it prudently and promptly and you save the cherokees—the cause of humanity—and save the country from a war of massacre and desolation

My Dr. Sir, let us examine this subject calmly, let us suppose that the Indians over run the whole country and take possession of it for the present as far as the Rio Grande and drive out or massacre all the honest inhabitants. What will they gain?—what

kind of a Govt will they establish? how will they sustain themselves?—You know the Indians well enough to know that so many different tribes of different habits and languages cannot be organised into any thing like regular government, or government of any kind, and could not long agree amongst themselves—When the spaniard and the Americanas are driven out and there is no common enemy to contend with, *they would fight* amongst themselves and nothing but confusion and massacre and plunder would be the consequence —As to the miserable Americans who might remain and form a part of such a combination they would be too insignificant both as to character or property or numbers to effect any thing or to have, or deserve to have any influence in any way, all would be Indian—but admitting you succeed this far and get possession of the country temporarily how are you to keep that possession? The mexican Nation *has* force to subdue you, and even admitting they had not, she can procure it from the United States of the North, for both nations would unite in crushing a common enemy to both, and anihilating so dangerous and troublesome a neighbor as a large combination of Indians would be—but admitting the Govt. of the United States would not furnish troops and this Govt. could not subdue the country—*they would cede it to the United States* were it for no other reason than to get rid of such neighbors, and the U. S. would soon sweep the country of Indians and drive them as they always have driven them to ruin and extermination—So that admitting this madness, this Independence succeeds to its full extent, the parties concerned have nothing but ruin in prospect, and will either cause the country to be desolated, or throw it into the hands of the United States and in either case the Indians are *lost*, past redemption *lost*.

It is reported on the *best authority* that this Govt has already ceded this country to the united States—the report comes from the East and the West—*Now then* is the happy moment in the tide of cherokee fortunes, get titles for them from this Govt before the treaty is ratified and they are safe—delay it with the delusive hope of taking the country and they are lost—*You* know the Govt of the United States and its policy as respects lands and Indians—

I write you freely and frankly as a true friend of the cherokees and of virtue and justice—reflect on these matters—they *now* have a friend in me who can and will serve them if they take the legal course—they *now* can bring their affairs to a happy issue—Or they can ruin themselves, the American population and the country—

As respects the Edwardses they have been deceived, or are deceiving themselves as to my feelings towards them, and the letters of the chief of Department and commandant of arms to Hayden

Edwards ought to be sufficient to prove to them that I have, at least, done nothing against them—This Govt have by those letters offered a complete and full and unequivocal oblivion as to this occurrence at Nacogdoches since the commencement of these last disturbances: provided they now cease—this places Edwards and the others on the same ground they occupied before this affair—also the door is open for a new hearing, or if you please a hearing in full (Supposing none to have been heretofore had) as to the affair of his colony and every thing connected with his acts since he came to the country—The personal security of all concerned is guaranteed expressly by the chief in his letter, while these matters (whose origen was previous to the last disturbances) are under investigation, and as to the union and acts of the party at Nacogdoches there will be no investigation of any kind, for the general oblivion settles all that forever as respects the Government— The door is therefore thrown open without reserve for all to come forward freely and under the Guarantee of their personal security to present their complaints to the tribunals of justice, be those complaints of whatever nature— Edwards can have an opportunity of shewing that the information given against him by the local authority of Nacogdoches was false, and that the Govt has been deceived by those subordinate officers and if he proves this, justice and equity and honor will at once say that if injustice has been done to him by a hasty decission that, *that* decission should be reversed.

The way is now perfectly clear for you all. embrace this favourable aspect of things with the promptness and moderation you ought to do, and all your affairs will end well. take an obstinate stand and ask too much and you are all lost, for the Americans *will not* uphold any party contrary to justice law and reason—This colony is now united to a man and ready to march under the banners of the Nation to sustain the Govt—what will they do if these pacific and benevolent measures on the part of their Govt are not met with the respect and promptness by the opposing party which they so justly merit?

As to myself I am your friend so far as my duty to this Govt and to the cause of justice will permit—beyond this I am your open enemy and so is every man of honor in the country—

The chief expressly states in his proclamation to the citizens that his object in visiting this part of the Country is to hear the complaints that may exist against the local authorities of Nacogdoches, and I can assure you that those complaints *will* be heard and those authorities dealt by as the law prescribes if the proper steps are taken—

Come therefore and bring the cherokee chiefs and the Edwards and see the chief of Department and commandant of arms—come quickly and without hesitation. I pledge myself, and this colony will sustain

the pledge, that your personal security shall be sacred if you come in that frank and respectfull manner which is due to the authorities of Gov^t—

Let me hear from you, but let it be with frankness—The road to peace and happiness is now opened—look at it and the happy prospects it leads to, and look at the road that leads to rebellion and civil and Indian war, and *its* results, and make your election—

yours respectfully

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

THOMAS M. DUKE TO AUSTIN

Simm's Bay Prairie Jany. 4th 1827

DEAR SIR

By the Committee you will receive the Resolutions of the Inhabitants of the District I trust they will meet your approbation and that of the Governor I wish to be informed immediately when it would be necessary for me to rendesvous with the volunteers at St Felipe I think I shall be able to obtain five or six which will be the quota of our District as you mention that you wish altogether twenty or twenty five men as an escort to the Governor. It will be very inconvenient as well as Detrimental to myself to go on with the Governor but if you command me to do so I must obey but I shall be in St Felipe when I shall converse more fully with you about it I shall use every exertion in my power to raise the volunteers and have them as well equiped as possible

THOS M. DUKE [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col^n Stephen F Austin St Felipe de Austin Brassos by the Committee

[Enclosure]

We the Undersigned Citizens of Austins Colony of the District of Mina convened at the house of Bartlett Simms of said District on the 4th day of Janry. 1827 Unanimously resolve

Resolution 1st

We unanimously declare our firm resolution to support the Mexican Constitution and the constitution of the state of Cohahuila and Texas—

Resol^n 2^d

We feel deeply incensed at the conduct of those Americans at Nacogdoches who have openly raised the Standard of Rebellion against the Government and offer our Services unanimously to suppress it.

Resol^{n} 3^{d}

We would wish the Government to understand clearly and distinctly that those traitors at Nacogdoches at least the leading men are of Infamous characters who have been oblidged to fly from the United states for Murders and other crimes committed there

Resol^{n} 4th

We likewise from the personal attatchment we feel towards the Governor as the chief executive officer of our state wish him every success and that he may be able to quell in a short time the insurrection and restore peace and harmony to the people.

Thos. M. Duke (Alcalde)
Daniel Rawls
Alex^{r} Jackson
William Matthews
Washington Singleton
Moses Windham
James Mathews
Joseph Newman
lewis hurt
Andrew Rabb
Thomas J Rabb
Preston gilbert
John J Bowman
Daniel Decrow
William Crawford
Isaac Vandorn
Isam Phillips
George Harrison
Lemuel Dickinson
Bartlett Sims
Joab Williams
Edward Baty
John Mclarin
John C Read
Ben Rawls
Henry Williams
Solomen Williams
William Selkirk
Pumphry Burnet
Charles Cavenah
George Williams
Eli Hunter
E Turneur
Thomas J. Tone
John McCrosky
Thomas T. January.
John Ingram
Richard Graves
George Pentecost
Ezekael Clampit
Benjamin Osborn
Rob H. Williams
Amos Rawls
Daniel Ewington
Wm Kincheloe
Martin Allen
Ay C Buckner
James Hope
Prosper Hope

Messrs William Kincheloe William Selkirk and Isam Phillips are appointed a committee to wait on the Governor with the resolutions and likewise to imp[ress] him with the belief that the within resolutions were entered into without a dissenting voice and that there would have been more signatures had the day proven more favorable but were unable to attend owing to the inclemency of the weather and ill health

(Signed) Thos M. Duke
Alcalde for the District of Mina

AUSTIN TO HIS COLONISTS

[About January 5, 1827.]

rumor has already informed you of the difficulties that have unhappily arisen in the district of Nacogdoches and the emprisionment of the Alcalde Sam[l] Norris and other violent proceedings of the party of misguided individuals who entered the town of Nacogdoches in a hostile manner—

It requires no arguments to convince reasonable and reflecting men that all such violent measures are wrong, as tending directly to the subvertion of all subordination, in fact of all Govt. and to produce anarchy and a govt. of mobs instead of a Govt. of laws. for admitting that the alcalde has acted wrong and committed injustice in his decissions. this cannot justify those violent measures for the law points out the mode of punishing officers of all grades from the President down, and no individuals have or ought to have the power of assuming the authority vested by the law in the established and competant tribunals

I considerd the imprisionment of the alcalde and other acts of violence of the party who entered Nacogdoches as merely the effect of a Momentary excitement that would subside after its force had been spent on the Individuals against whom it was directed, but recent information has induced me to fear that there are designing men in that section of the country who yielding to the dictates of excited passions or deluded by the hopes of personal agrandisement are attempting to organise a party in opposition to the Government relying for aid on the indians from the Sabine to the rio Grande and on other persons, who, having but little to loose either of character or property, can be drawn into their mad scheme

The Mexican Govt is founded on the broad and Solid basis of rational Freedom,—it is modeld after that of the United States of the north, and its principles are therefore familiar to you all, they are truly republican, and have for their object the protection and security of the personal rights and property of the people individually the advancement of their prosperity and happiness collectively and the promotion of the cause of justice and virtue generally—instances may arise where in from the ignorance or neglect or corruption of subordinate agents individual injustice may be done, but the law has provided a remidy for such cases and is it right or just to condemn the whole Govt. and oppose it by force of arms because a party may suppose that a subordinate officer, an alcalde had done them an injustice? put the question to your own bosoms and ask what would you as citizens of the U. S. of the north living in that nation think or say should a few foreigners settled without legal authority on the frontier immagine that the local sub-

ordinate officers who had charge of them had done them an injustice and should for that cause without first seeking the legal remidy condemn abuse and villify the whole american people and rise in open rebellion against the Govt. calling in the aid of savage allies and desperadoes to wage a war of desolation and massacre against the defenceless inhabitants of the frontier? What would you think of such foreigners? what would you do, if called on by your Govt. to march against them? as patriots, as friends to the cause of liberty and virtue and justice you would say reclaim them convince them of their delusions by reason and persuasion and should these fail put them down by force of arms and expel them [from] the country—you are now placed presisely in the situation above indicated—you are now Mexicans and you owe the same duties to the Government of your adoption, that you once owed to that of your nativity and reason justice and patriotism will at once point out to you what those duties are, and I feel no hesitation in pledging myself for you that you will faithfully perform them. And that whenever called on you will cheerfully rally round the flag of the nation that has received you with open arms and distributed its favors to you with the liberal and munificent hand of an indulgent parent—

The mexican Govt, is yet in its infancy, the Govert. of this State of Quahuila and Texas is as it were just begining to be, its constitution is not yet formed, its organization is therefore as yet incipient and provisional and in such a state of things temporary embarrassments in the administration of justice are to be expected, they are a natural consequence, and those who will look back to the first organization of the State Govts. in the U. S. of the north will probably find more collision and as much cause of complaint arising out of the delays necessarily produced by overturning one Govt. and establishing another than can be found in this country besides, the new emigrants in general are unacquainted with the language and the customs and existing laws of this country translations of which have not as yet been furnished owing to the want of time to do it justice and candour therefore certainly requires that we should not hastily condemn the whole govt. even altho some might suppose from a want of the necessary information to enable them to judge, that a subordinate officer had done them an injustice—This Govt will never wantonly do an act of injustice to any person and the liberality of their policy towards emigrants is a convincing proof of the wise and broad principles of Liberty and Justice that govern their councils—

The inhabitants of this colony have by their good conduct their morality and industry and their readiness to obey the calls of the

Govt. justly obtained a high stand and established a character which does them honor. The Govt. are fully apprised of and will appreciate your worth they have confidence in you and I feel well assured that their confidence is well placed and will never be forfeited—The civil chief and Military command[t] of the Department of Texas are both at this place and an opportunity is now offered for you to present your respects to them and the expresion of your sentiments as to the affairs at Nacogdoches.—

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.]

RESOLUTIONS OF LOYALTY: DISTRICT OF SAN FELIPE.

The Inhabitants living in the Alcades Jurisdiction of the District of Sanfelipe de Austin convened in public meeting in this place on the 6th day of January 1827 for the purpose of expressing their opinion as to the late disturbances at Nacodoches have no hesitation in declareing that they view the attempt of the Nacadoches party to declare Independence and call in the Aid of Indians to wage War against the peaceful inhabitants of Texas with the most decided disapprobation and are ready to rally round the Standard of the Mexican Nation and sustain its Gov[t] and Authority by force of arms whenever called upon—

The Inhabitants frankly and freely declare that they are satisfied with the Gov[t] of their adoption that they are gratified for the favours they have received from it and have full relyance on its Justice and Magnanimity and that they will take up arms in its defence whenever necessary to do so——

With the greatest pleasure they receive the Chief of this department and Commandant of Arms and respectfully present to those distinguished officers their most sincere welcome and Congratulations on their arrival in this colony and through them to the Superior Gov[t] the assurance of our firmness and patriotism in defense of the liberty honor and Rights of the Mexican Nation to which we have the honor to belong—

Resolved by this meeting that this declaration be signed by the Alcalde in the name and in behalf of the Inhabitants of this district and that two persons be appointed a Committee to present one Copy of them to the Chief Department and Another to Co[l] Mateo Ahumado the Commandant of Arms of this department of Texas—
done in the Town of Sanfelipe de Austin this 6th day of January 1827.

M. M. BATTLE
alcalda for Dist San Felipe de Austin

Don Jose Antonio Saucedo
Chief of Department

GEORGE ORR TO AUSTIN

Atascosito District
Deapartment of Texas Jan. 7th 1827.

Respected Sir

We are alarmed and quite uneasy from reports flying about the country respecting the transactions going on at Nacogdoches—so much so that I have determined to send an express to you to get information and advice concerning them—We understand that a considerable force is embodied at Nacogdoches, that Haden Edwards is of the party, that they have hoisted the American standard and are plundering and confiscating the property of such as do not join them, we have intimations also that they intend moving this way or sending a detachment to regulate us We are entirely ignorant of their ultimate designs or of the cause of their thus doing or of the principles upon which they are guided or rather as I should think misguided—for my part I acknowledge allegiance to the legitimate Mexican Authorities and no others and such I believe is the sentiments of the inhabitants of this District—I request of you under these circumstances such information and advice as you may conceive it proper and expedient to entrust to me respecting the causes of this revolt, their objects and principles, what course government is pursuing or will pursue with respect to them and what in your opinion it will be proper for the well disposed inhabitants of this District to do—Whatever you shall please to communicate you can if you please communicate in confidence or to be made public and your injunctions shall be strictly observed in that respect—the bearer of this Mr. Robert Berry will receive your answer—

GEORGE ORR

To Col. Stephen F. Austin
St Felipe de Austin

P. S. Please to be full and explicit and from time to time as you may have opportunity or necesity may require send me information—

RESOLUTIONS OF LOYALTY: DISTRICT OF BRAVO

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the District of Bravo at the House of Jones and Miller on this day the following Resolutions were Unanimously Entered Into.

1. Resol. That an attempt be made to shew to the Inhabitants of the district of Nacogdoches that they are in Error and solicit them to desist.—

2. Res. As they are Americans We hope they will not be deaf to Reason and Truth and will return to virtue and their duty—

3 Res^{l}. We view that mad and factious party Out of Order—

4 Res That We do disapprobate the conduct of the Revolutionary party of the district of Nacogdoches as well as their objects.

5 Res We are Mexicans by adoption and as such are willing to Turn out when called on to quell the Enemys of the Government—

6 R As Regards Exciteing the Indians to hostilitys this is a circumstance which should be beneath the charractors of Americans.

R 7. Exciteing Indians to Hostility is a circumstance ever Complained of by the ancient Farther of the US of America and looked upon as a Barberous Trait in the charractors of the Brittish Nation

R 8. be It Unanimously Resolved that we are Ready at a Moments Worning to shoulder Our Arms and March to the district of Nacogdoches to quell that Factious party that has made Its appearance in that quarter

9 We beg leave to offer to the Mexican Govermt. our services in support of said Govermt. on this or any similar occasion If Required

R 10 That Jno P Coles Maj Byrd and Thomas York be a Committee to wait on the chief of this department and to tender him our Respects and to Inform him of our Resolutions on the subject of the Nacogdochees-Busness and to [offer] him our services If Required

the foregoing Resolutions we unanimously agreed on and ordered to be assigned by the Alcalde for the whole of the Inhabitants of the district

9th January 1827— Jno P Coles
Alc

Affidavit of John C. Morrison

State of Cualuila and Texas Department of Texas

In the Town of San felipe de Austin in said Department the 11 day of Janʸ 1827 John C Morrison a native of North Carolina in the U. S. of the North and for 12 months past a resident on the Iish Bayou in this Departᵗ having been summoned before the Empresario Stephen F Austin declares that having Business of his own to transact in Austins Colony in this departᵗ he proceeded to Nacogdoches in said District with an intention to proceed to said Colony and while in that place that is on the 28ᵗʰ of December last he was applied to by one Benjamin Edwards who requested this Declarant to carry some Letters to individuals, in Austins Colony aforesaid and also some other papers which the said Benjᵐ Edwards requested of Declarant to give to the people in said Colony—Declarant did not then know the Contents of said Documents Letters and papers—nor does he yet fully know the Contents thereof—Says that he arrived in San felipe de Austin on the 10ᵗʰ instant and upon application to him by the Empresario Stephen F Austin he has delivered up to said S F Austin all the sᵈ Letters and Documents so given to him by sᵈ

Benj^{m} Edwards—Declarant says that during his stay in Nacogdoches aforesaid he observed from 30 to 40 men who appeared to be armed and who Declarant says appeared to be under the direction and Command of One Martin Parmer—Says that he heard in general conversation that the Cause of such assemblage of armed men was for the purpose of going to war with the Mexican Gov^{t}—Says that he saw a flag flying in said Town of Nacogdoches the colours of which were white and red—two vertical stripes—and declarant heard it stated in general conversation there that such flag was meant to represant the flag of independence and was the standard or Ensign of said armed force—Says he also heard it currently reported in Conversation in said Town of Nacogdoches that the said party so headed by said Martin Parmer were in Expectation of the aid and assistance of several hundred men from the U. States of the north whose arrival were looked for shortly—Declarant says that the said party stated that they also expected the arrival there in a few days of Richard Fields and one Hunter with a considerable number of Cherokee Choctaw and Delaware Indians—who it was stated were to act as allies with said Martin Parmer and his associates in said meditated war—further says that he saw some defences consisting of Pallisades or stakes erecting around a stone house in said Town which appeared to be the resort of said party—Declarant says he also heard it reported in said Town of Nacogdoches in Conversation that two or three individuals of property in the US of the north had contracted to furnish from 3 to 500 men to aid and assist the said Martin Parmer—Declarant says that in his progress from Nacogdoches af^{d} to this place he was accompanied by a Choctaw Indian who travelled with Declarant as far as the Alabama Indian Village and declarant understood from the said Indian that he was the bearer of a message from Richard Fields to the Allabama and Coshatta Indians to meet the said Fields at Nacogdoches aforesaid and Declarant further saith Not

Subscribed by the said John C. Morrison in presence of the Empresario Stephen F Austin on the day and at the place in this Declaration before set forth—

JOHN, C, MORRISON

B. W. EDWARDS TO ———[1]

[Nacogdoches], January 12, 1827

"On the 16th ult. the flag of liberty and independence was planted upon the heights of Nacogdoches, in opposition to the Mexican Empire, which still floats in proud triumph over the heads of our much

[1] This extract is from a clipping from the *Louisiana Advertiser*, January —, 1827, No. 51.

abused and long oppressed fellow-citizens. I cannot here recapitulate the catalogue of wrongs, and the repeated violation of the rights and liberties of the Americans, who were enticed to the province under specious provinces [sic] of interest and friendship, secured by a *pretended* guaranty of their rights and liberties, Suffice it to say, that they have discovered too late the perfidy and treachery of this *mis-called Republic*, and are but too severely taught that they were invited to this country only to be plundered of their property.

The flag was planted by 16 men only, who flew to arms at the moment, to protect their friends and fellow-citizens from the fangs of a brutal soldiery, then on their march to plunder and butcher every American here whose proud spirit would not brook oppression, or bend his knee to every petty tyrant of the land.

Your friend was one of that number—one of that little band of American patriots, who, expecting to encounter upwards of a hundred men, recorded their names upon the flag, with a solemn vow to Heaven, and to each other, to plant it in Nacogdoches on that day, or perish by it—But the cowardice of these minions of despotism gave us a bloodless triumph. They have since made several puny efforts to reduce us to submission, but in vain. On the 4th inst. they had the temerity to enter this town, with the view of assaulting our fort, with, as they supposed, an overwhelming force—being about four to one; but our little band, indignant at the sight of men marching to prostrate the standard of liberty, and fearless of such an enemy, rushed from their strong hold into an open field, notwithstanding the enemy had taken possession of a pile of buildings and a line of fences: yet in 10 minutes they were routed and driven from the town with the loss of several killed and wounded. We lost not a man, and only one slightly wounded. In three days I expect to march and meet the Spanish troops, now on their march from San Antonio to this place. I think if they venture to meet us, you will hear a good account of us as we are resolved on liberty or death. I am now honored with the chief command. I was appointed, in the first instance, one of the members of the council of state, but have been since as you see, transferred to the military department. We have concluded a treaty with the chiefs and representatives of twenty seven tribes of Indians; and if I am not deceived, we will, in six months make this perfidious government shake to its centre.

The first Monday in February next is the day appointed, for a Congress to meet at this place, to make a declaration of independence, and to frame a constitution and government of our own. In the mean time we stand here as sentinels upon the watch-tower to protect our lives and property, and the rights of our countrymen, in this foreign land.

[B. W. EDWARDS.]

Humphrey Jackson to Austin

Corl. Sten. F Austin Supraim Judge

Sir Agreable to the Request of the Widow McCormick Inclosed you have the proceding of J Hunter and Hir Suit—as I know nothing respecting it but by the Records and Report I forbair saying any thing respecting it— Inclosed you have the Original bill of Dr. Hunter as it is very long and the widow waiting for those papers I have thought proper to inclose it which I hope you will be as good as to return to me the first safe oppertunity—there has been no appail on this suit nor stay of Execution as the Widow is very anxious to have the procedings to lay before you I have don it thinking it nothing but Justice.

I am sorry there is so much litigation among the setlers of this District but I am in hopes that they will see the folloy and quit it During my time of service I will [do all] that lies in my power to ceep harmony in the Dist.

I am extremely sorry for the news I hear from Nacedo[ches] I am in hopes that the[y] will return to their duty the[y] must be a set [of] bad Men—if I can be of any [service] I am ready and wiling as far as lies in my po[wer] . . . duty of eavry man to assist is suppressing all such disturbers of the Pace that Pace and Harmony may be soon restored is the cinsair Prairs of your H St

Humphry Jackson

January 13th 1827

Gaspar Flores to Austin

Para comensar á posesionar á los colones de la segunda empresa que el Govierno Supremo del Estado ha concedido aV, me propondrá dos Agrimensores q. se hallen adornados de buenas cualidades como se requiere pa. el desempeño de tan interesante asunto.

Dios y Libertad Villa de San Felipe de Austin Enero 15 de 1827.

Gaspar Flores [Rubric]

Sor Teniente Coronel Ciudno Esteban Austin

Muster Roll

A list of Capt Johnsons Company who entered into service 16th January 1827:

Hugh B. Johnson Capt
Henry W. Munson Lieut.
Joseph W. Brown Surgeon
James Haney 1 Sarg.
Merideth Duncan 2 do.

James Night 3. do.
Isaac Harris 4 do.
Thomas Deavers
Aron Drake
Isaac Moore
David Peters
Samuel Strand
John Drake
James Griffin
John Cherry
Thomas D. Goin
Augustin B. Hardin
Franklin Hardin
James Miller
James Cockran
Duncan Cinclear
Robert Berry
William Taylor
Jacob Winfrey
James Drake
John Cotton
John R. Ray
William Roberts
John Blurton retn^{d} feb 1
William Nash and Thomas Nash retn^{d} feb 1st

[Endorsed by Austin:] Capt Hugh B. Johnsons Master Roll 17th Feby 1827 (dismissed Feb. 17 1827)

Baron de Bastrop's Will[1]

Escrito Corregido

Señor Alcalde primero=El ciudadano Juan Antonio Padilla vecino de esta Capital ante V. paresco y digo que el ciudadano Felipe Enrrique Neri otorgó su Testamento *in scriptu* que es este de que hago presentacion en forma, y que entiendo soy Alvacea, y el dicho Ciudadano Felipe Enrrique Neri há muerto à las diez de este dia y pasó de este presente vida; y para que se sepa lo que dejó dispuesto para su Alma y lo demás que el dicho Testamento contiene, pido á

[1] The editor has not been in a position to verify the biographical data included in this document. The University of Texas has a considerable mass of documents from the Spanish Archives touching Bastrop, but efforts to check his statements concerning his Dutch connections have not been successful. See below, Haden Edwards to ———, November 22, 1827.

V. mande se habra y reduzca a escritura publica y que de él se me den los tratados necesarios con interpretacion de su autoridad. Dios Justicia etc=Saltillo veinte y tres de Febrero de mil ochocientos veinte y siete=Juan Antonio Padilla=Otro si: Tambien hago á V. manifestacion de otra clausula que avierta dejó dicho difunto firmado por su puño y Testigos para que se tenga tambien por su voluntad=Juan Antonio Padilla=Saltillo Febrero veinte tres de mil ochocientos veinte y siete=

Proveida=Por presentado y admitido con el Testamento cerrado y clausula abierta que menciona: Mando yo el ciudadano Jose Antonio Pereyra Alcalde primero constitucional de esta Villa y su jurisdiccion que el dicho Ciudadano Juan Antonio Padilla, dé informacion con los Testigos instrumentales del dicho Testamento que pudieren ser avidos de la muerte del otorgante y de como al tiempo del otorgamiento estaba en su juicio natural, reconociendo sus firmas. Por este auto asi lo provio y firmo actuando por receptoria por falta de Escribano doy fee=José Antonio Pereyra=asistencia José Nazario Ortiz=asistencia José Guadalupe Solis=

Declaracion=En la Villa de Saltillo á las veinte y tres dias del mes de Febrero de mil ochocientos veinte y siete años presentó la parte por Testigo al Ciudadano Justo Pepi, vecino de esta Capital de quien reciví juramento que hizo por Dios nuestro señor y la señal de la Santa Cruz por el qual ofrecio decir verdad en lo que supiere y fuere preguntado y siendolo por el pedimento se le mostró el Testamento cerrado y clausula abierta presentado por el Ciud^no. Juan Antonio Padilla, y dijo: Que al tiempo que se hizo aquel otorgamiento fué el que declara Testigo y el otorgante estaba en su razon y juicio natural y dijo era su Testamento y ultima voluntad lo que en aquel cuaderno cerrado y firmado estaba escrito, y que no se habriese hasta haver fallecido y que reconose las firmas del otorgante y Testigos como lo haya que son las que entonces se hicieron, y está el dicho cuaderno en la forma que cuando se otorgo. Sabe que el dicho Ciudadano Felipe Enrrique Neri otorgante es muerto naturalmente por que lo há visto, que cuanto há dicho es la verdad en cargo del juramento que tiene otorgado en el que se afirmó y ratificó leida que le fué esta su declaracion dijo ser de estado casado y de veinte y siete años de edad y lo firmo conmigo dicho juez y los de mi asistencia doy fee José Antonio Pereyra=Justo Pepi=Asistencia José Nazario Ortiz=Asistencia José Guadalupe Solis=

Declaracion=En el mismo dia presentó la parte por testigo al Ciudadano Jesús Maria de Ybarra Administrador de Correos y Comisario subalterno de esta Capital yo dicho juez estando presente le recivi juramento que hizo por Dios nuestro señor y la

señal de la Santa Cruz por el cual ofreció decir verdad en lo que supiere y fuere preguntado y siendolo por aquel pedimiento se le presentó el Testamento cerrado presentado por el Ciudadano Juan Antonio Padilla y dijo que al tiempo que se hizo el otorgamiento fué el que declara Testigo, y el otorgante estaba en su razon y juicio natural y dijo era su Testamento y ultima voluntad lo que en aquel cuaderno cerrado y firmado estaba escrito, y que no se abriese hasta haver fallecido que reconose las firmas del Otorgante y Testigos como lo haya que son las que entonces se hicieron y está el dicho cuaderno en la forma que cuando se otorgó. sabe que el Cuidadano Felipe Enrrique Neri Otorgante, es muerto naturalmente por que así lo ha oído decir que esta es la verdad en cargo del juramento que tiene otorgado en el que se afirmó y ratificó leída que le fué esta su declaracion dijo ser de estado casado y mayor de veinte y ocho años de edad y lo firmo conmigo dicho juez doy fee=Mariano Pereyra=Jesús Maria de Ybarra=asistencia, José Nazario Ortiz =asistencia, José Guadalupe Solis=

Declaracion=en el mismo dia presento la parte por Testigo al Ciudadano Mariano Liendo vecino de esta capital a quien yo dicho juez le recivi juramento que otorgó por Dios Nuestro Señor y la Señal de la Santa Cruz por el cual ofreció decir verdad en lo que supiere y fuere preguntado y siendolo por el pedimiento se le presentó el Testamento cerrado manifestado por el Ciudadano Juan Antonio Padilla y dijo que al tiempo que se hizo aquel otorgamiento fué el que declara uno de los Testigos y el Otorgante estaba en su razon y juicio natural y dijo hera su Testamento y ultima voluntad lo que en aquel cuaderno cerrado y firmado estaba escrito, y que no se abriese hasta haver fallecido: que reconose las firmas de otorgante y Testigos como la suya son las que entonces se hicieron, y está el dicho cuaderno en la forma que cuando se otorgó. Sabe que el dicho Ciudadano Felipe Enrrique Neri Otorgante es muerto naturalmente por que asi la há oido decir, que esta es la verdad en cargo del juramento que ha presentado en que se afirma y ratifica leida que le fué esta su declaracion dijo ser de estado viudo mayor de treinta años y lo firmo doy fee=José Antonio Pereyra= José Maria de Liendo= asistencia, José Nazario Ortiz=asistencia, José Guadalupe Solis =

Otra=En el mismo dia presentó la parte por Testigo al Ciudadano Doctor Cranel de quien yo dicho juez le recivi juramento que otorgó en forma de derecho para el cual prometió decir verdad en cuanto supiere y fuere preguntado, y siendolo por pedimiento se le mostró el Testamento cerrado y presentado por el Ciudadano Juan Antonio Padilla dijo que al tiempo que se hizo aquel otorgamiento fué el que declara Testigo y el otorgante estaba en

su razon y juicio natural y dijo hera su Testamento y ultima voluntad, lo que en aquel cuaderno cerrado y firmado estaba escrito y que no se abriese hasta haver fallecido que reconose las firmas del Otorgante y Testigos como la suya que son las que entonces se hicieron; y está dicho cuaderno en la forma que cuando se otorgó: sabe que el dicho Ciudadano Felipe Enrrique Neri otorgante és muerto naturalmente por que lo ha visto que esta es la verdad en cargo del juramento hecho en que se afirmó y ratificó leida que le fué esta su declaracion dijo ser de estado soltero Ciudadano del Estados Unidos del Norte de America y de veinte y tres años de edad y lo firmó doy fee=José Antonio Pereyra=Isaac V. Khrannell=Asistencia, José Nazario Ortiz=Asistencia, José Guadalupe Solis=

Auto=En la Villa del Saltillo Capital del Estado Libre de Coahuila y Texas á los veinte y tres dias del mes de Febrero de mil ochocientos veinte y sieste años. Yo el Ciudadano José Antonio Pereyra Alcalde Primero constitucional de esta Villa y su jurisdiccion: haviendo visto estos autos, mando se habra y publique el dicho Testamento, y lo firmé con los de mi asistencia con quienes actuo por receptoria a falta de escribano doy fee=José Antonio Pereyra= asistencia, José Nazario Ortiz=asistencia, José Guadalupe Solis=

Otro Apertura del Testamento=Y personalmente yo el dicho juez quite las cerraduras y habri dicho Testamento y el cual esta escrito en dos foxas utiles firmado a lo ultimo de una firma que dice Felipe Enrrique Neri Bastrop sin otra ninguna y su tenor y forma es el siguente=

Testamento=En el nombre de Dios Todo Poderoso Amen sepan cuantos esta memoria testamentaria lean como yo Felipe Enrrique Neri antiguo Baron de Bastrop, natural de Holanda en Europa a mayor de sesenta años hijo lexitimo de Don Conrado Lorenzo Neri Baron de Bastrop y Doña Susana Maria Bray Banguin de religion Catolica Apostolico Romano estando enfermo naturalmente en mi entero y cabal juicio, creiendo como firmemente creo y confiesco en todos los Misterios y Dogmas de nuestra Santa Iglesia Catolica Apostolica Romana ordeno y mando mi disposicion y ultima voluntad en los terminos siguientes=1ª Primeramente mando que mi cuerpo sea sepultado en lugar sagrado con modestia y conforme a la voluntad de mis albaceas=2ª ytem declaro haver sido casado in facie eclesie con Doña Georgina Wolfelina Francisca de Lyklama-Neyholt hija lexitima de Don Agustin Liklama Neyholt, y de Doña Susana Baronesa de Wartcemberg Nohynlandsberger de la cual soy viudo desde el año de mil ochocientos once, y de cuyo matrimonio havimos y procreamos cuatro hijas por el orden siguiente y un hijo baron cuyas nombres son Doña

Susana Maria, Cristina Marta, Conrado Lorenzo Carlos, Marta Kinamá, y Agustina de estos los dos ultimos estan vivos en Holanda mas no sé si son casados por que hace muchos años que no tengo noticia de aquel pais=3ª ytem declaro que todos mis bienes que posya y me fueron confiscades en mi pais en el año de mil sietecientos noventa y cinco fueron restituides á mi Muger en el de mil ochocientos ocho y por su muerte deben haver recaido en nuestros hijos por esta razon no hago mencion de dichos bienes sino para conferir la lexitima posecion de ellos=4ª Ytem declaro que en el estado de la Virginia condado de Harrison poseo en propiedad ciento seis mil arpents de tierra en el de la Louisiana condado de Ouachita cien mil arpents que era pertenecientes a la antigua concesion de once leguas en cuadro que me hizo el governo Español haviendo yo dispuesto de lo restante=Asi mismo poseo en el mismo condado un Rancho llamado las cotas=5ª Ytem que tambien son pertenecientes a mis bienes las fincas que poseo en Texas y son como siguen—cuatro sitios de ganado mayor en el ojo da agua de Guadalupe, veinte y cuatro solares en Bexar junto al paso de los gatos, dos solares en las tierras llamadas de Tio Geronimo junto al rio siete solares en la Alameda atras de las tierras de Don José Labaume, un cuarto de piedra en la esquina de la plaza, y dos o tres chamacueros en el puente, no haciendo mencion de bienes muebles y semovientes por ser de poca estimacion a causa de la Guerra con los Yndios=siete solares dever [mutilated] 6ª . . . algunas deudas venias y pasibas con diferentes personas, mando que cobrandose los primeros, y poniendose en venta todos mis bienes se paguen todas mis deudas y del restante que sobrare sea entregrado a mis hijos con deducion del quinto que es mi voluntad legar al favor de Doña Victoriana Labaume hija de Don José Labaume que es vecino de Bexar en justa recognicion de servicios que su padre me ha prestado=7ª Ytem declaro ser mi voluntad legar a Beneficio de Don José Labaume por las mismas consideraciones todos mis bienes semobientes que aparescan como mulas, caballos, Bueyes y vacas, y tambien los aparexos de Labor que se encontraren=8ª Ytem declaro que Don Estevan Austin libró a mi favor y en contra de Don Roverto Luis la cantidad de seiscientos pesos, y que a cuenta de ellas solo recibi cien pesos haviendo quedado el referido Don Roverto Luis de remitirme de Santa Rosa el resto de quinientos pesos mando que dicha cantidad se cobre y con este se subenga a los gastos funerarios, mandas forzosas y demas que se ofrescan despues de mi fallecimiente=9ª Ytem declaro que es mi voluntad asignar á las mandas forzosas acostumbradas un peso a cada uno por una sola vez=Y para el cumplimiento de todo lo dispuesto en esta memoria Testamentaria instituyo y nombro por mis Albaceas fiden comisio-

neros en primer lugar á Don Estevan Austin en segundo Antonio Saucedo, y en tercero a Don Juan Antonio Padilla, á quienes doy poder y facultad para que desempeñen esta mi ultima voluntad que firmé en la Villa del Saltillo a los diez y seis dias del mes de Enero de mil ochocientos veinte y siete=Filipe Enrique Neri Bastrop=Declaro como clausula que debe agregarse a mi Testamento que va cerrado que es mi voluntad negar como por la presente lo hago el poder que tenia conferido á Don John Nancarrow vecino del estado de Lusiana para la administracion de mis bienes que poseo en dicho Estado y en el de Virginia, y mando a mis albaceas le pidan cuentas de todos ellos por no haver me la dado nunca es fecha en la Villa del Saltillo a diez y ocho de Enero de mil ochocientos veinte y siete que firmo siendo testigos los que anejo se expresan=Felipe Enrique Neri Bastrop=Testigo, Juan Antonio Padilla=Testigo, José Antonio Tijerina=Testigo, Juan Luis Woodbury=

Aprovacion=Yo el Ciudadano José Antonio Pereyra Alcalde de su Ylte. Ayuntamiento y Juez de Hacienda publica en esta Villa: haviendo visto . . . [mutilated] mando se guarde cumple y ejecute el Testamento y clausula que despues se hizo avierta ante Testigos por su ultima voluntad del dicho Ciudadano Felipe Enrrique Neri Bastrop Difunto, en todo y por todo lo redusco á escritura pública para que en todo tiempo tenga prueva de tal agregandose todo original á mi protocolo de instrumentos publicos del corriente año, dandose á las partes los Testimonios . . . [mutilated] que hayan menester en los cuales y cada una digo que para todo ello como el presente interpongo mi autoridad y judicial decreto cuanto puedo y de derecho debo y lo firmé con los Testigos de mi asistencia con quienes actuo por falta de Escribano publico que no lo hay el termino de la ley, siendo instrumentales los Ciudadanos Jesus Maria de Ybarra, Mariano Liendo, Justo Pepi que tambien firmaron conmigo dicho juez doy fee=José Antonio Pereyra=Jesus Maria de Ybarra=José Mariano de Liendo= Justo Pepi=assistencia José Nazario Ortiz=asistencia José Guadalupe Solis=entre renglones=mande=otorgante=Testigos como= de las tierras=vale=Testado=Yglesia=no vale.

Sacose de su original con quien concuerda hoy veinte y ocho de Febrero de mil ochocientos veinte y siete, el cual vá vien y fielmente sacado corregido y consertado del Protocolo de Ynstrumentos publicos de mi cargo, y al verlo sacar corregido y consertar de dicho Protocolo a que me refiero, fueron testigos los Ciudadanos José Manuel Pérez, Marcelo de Cuellar, y Francisco de la Baume presentes y vecinos de esta Villa del Saltillo Capital del Estado Libre de Coahuila y Texas. y va en seis foxas utiles, la primera y ultima del papel del sello segundo, y las otras del cuatro. De todo lo que yo el Ciudadano José Antonio

Pereyra Alcalde Primero Constitucional de esta dha. Villa del Saltillo y su jurisdicion actuando por recep[a] a falta de Escribano doy fee

JOSÉ ANTONIO PEREYRA [Rubric]

Assa.

JOSÉ GUADALUPE SOLIS [Rubric]

Assa.

JOSÉ NAZ[o] ORTIZ [Rubric]

Dros. con papel cuatro ps. cinco rs.

H. H. LEAGUE TO AUSTIN

Nashville the 18th. January 1827

Col. STEPHEN F AUSTIN

D SIR I have wated Impatiently for a communication from you or some other of my friends in San Felipe. Since my arrival in this place I have lately Recived the following communications. one from Judge Williams one from Doctor Hunter one from Mr Wynn to W[m] H. Bedford Esqr and one from Cap[t] John S. Cox—they all bring verry distressing inteligence Respecting the Convultions in Edwards Thorns and dewitts Colonys. they also say something about the constitution but their information on that subject does not corroberate. I have not had the pleasure of any inteligence from your Coloney it is impossible for me to Express my anxiety on that subject but will be impossible to Recive an answer to this before I shall leave this for your Country. I shall set out about the middle of February, and if you have any oppertunity to write me at N. Orleans and you imagin. your communication can Reach thare before I shall take my departure from that place be so good as to write without fail. I have 20 families and 8 or 10 young men going to that country with me. the inteligence which the above communications brings us is quite discourageing yet such is the Mania for Emigrating to your country that nothing but a positive prohibition from the Government will stop them. if such prohibitory measures should be Resorted to by the Government or any new Restrictions on foreign Emigrants to the Government you will confur on me and my company a singular favour by giving us timely notice. if I heare nothing from you I shall land my company in the Brassos some time in March if in consequence of bad weather or Other accidents we shall be detained beyond the time limited in the contract between us which is the First day of April I Trust you will not insist on a forfeiture of the contract for it is with much trouble Expence and fatigue that I have to accomplish my part of it, and the removeing so large a company of women Children and Property is subject to many accidents Especially in going by sea.

and at best make but slow progress—I obtained a Permition of the agent of Dewitts Coloney similer to the one you granted me for the introduction of Ten families into his Coloney. Should I be phohibited from introducing them into his coloney I wish you to Recive them into your Coloney on the same terms that the others are to be introduced if it is possible to do so. thare would be a grate deal of wealth carried from this country to that were it not for the Prospect of the Emmancipation law be so good as to write very fully on all those subjects in your communication to N. Orleans. Give my sincear good wishes to San Felipe Generally

H. H. League

P. S. I have had the Colonization law Printed and furnished all my company with a coppy Each I have distributed in all about 150 copies

H. H L

P. S. Since writing the above I have had the singular pleasur of Receiving Two communications from you on[e] the 7th the other the 16 Decr a few days before the Receipt of your letters we Recived 2 Reports one from the L. A. gazette and the other from an Alexra Paper giving an account of the Rebellion and declaration of Independence in Edwards colony and Iash Bayuo. it put Every thing here in a state of confusion and uncertainty your last communication being of a later date than theas Reports has measureably Restored confidence—those Two Reports together with your letter of the 16th is published in the Stare and Banner of yesterday [one] of which papers I have forwarded on to you

With Regards to the prospects of the upper coloney I am at a los but upon the whole must say they are dull; Every mail brings us more or less news from that Country—and generally unfavourable before your last communication a Texas Scrip was not worth a Dollar Since that I have known of 2 selling for $20 Each. they are verry dull and price uncertain. I shall set out for Paris tomorrow to see what Effect those ruomers has had on my company I am much afrade they are to Injour me seriously I shall be with you verry shortly if life and health permits. Mr Wm D. Horton will come on with me and bring a company of Ten families from K. Y. and wishes to introduce them on the Terms that I am on he has but a few days returned from that place which is the first time I have seen him or these families would have come into my contract pleas to do all in your Power for him—yours Respectfully

H. H. League

The Post Master at Nachitoches will pleas to forward this to San Felipe de Austin by the Earliest oppertunity

RICHARD ELLIS ET AL. TO AUSTIN

Colo. Gross's Lower plantation
22sd January 1827.

SIR,

We have the honor to report to you, amd through you to his Excellency the political Chief of the Department of Texas—That we have failed of success in the hoped for object of our mission to Nachadoches—We proceeded with all posible dispatch to the Nache[s] river where we meet an Out post of the insurgents stationed in the house of Colo Bean; they had taken possesion of the Boat, and all Beans property and declared it confiscated. On our arrival at said post, the soldiers informed us that the country was revolutionized from that to the Sabine River. We therefore deemed it important to our safety to make known to those people the object of our mission; and to inform them of the generous, and friendly propositions of His Excellency; That Justice was, offered, and mercy would be extended to all that would return to their duty at which they seemed well plesed, and expressed a wish that we would succeed in the hoped for object; We reached Nachadoches the next day and directly made known to the principle men of the factionists our business.

They informed us that the Laws of war had been declared in Nachadoches and that they should expect us to be governed by them We were therefore under the necessity of meeting the principals in private, which we have done. (Viz Hayden and Benjamine Edwards on the part of the white people, and one John D. Hunter and — Bassett on the part of the red people. (This Hunter said he was the representative of twenty three tribes of Indians and further that he was the absolute agent and attorney in fact of Dick fields) We delivered the official documents, to those present, and those for fields were delivered to Hunter; we then went into a friendly discussion by way of exertation to them founded on the proclamation, and amnesty Granted by His Excellency, and urged the same with all our force; that it held forth to view the Justice and mercy; the bounty and munificence of this our beloved, and adopted Country; we argued that this highly benevolent Act on the part of the Mexican Government must place hir on high and very exalted Grounds with and in the Eyes of all the republics of the Earth, and gives at one view every assureance of warm Hearted, and affectionate step mother; that it was a proof and sure Guarantee of the Republic resting on the *Broad* basis of *Justice* Liberty and *equal rights*. To all of which we received for answer That they would never concede one inch Short of an acknowledgement on the part of the Govt of their

entire free and unmolested *Independence* from the Sabine to the Rio Grand; That they viewed the Mexican Republic (as it was call'd) a *Corrupt Base, futile, and faithless Gov*t—

Fields was in his own village; and we deemed it not only hazerdous, but dangerous to attempt to see him; which however is the less to be regreted as we are satisfyed that he is under the influence of Hunter—Two principle war Chiefs (Bowl and Big Mush) have as it is said refused to join fields.

We are happy to inform His Excellency that the citizens on the trinity and Naches rivers are firm friends to the Govt; and also those of the elish [Ais] Bayou are in deep distress for want of aid from the Gov^{t} some of whom have crossed the line for safety while others are acting the hipocrite, in order to save their little property untill relief by the Gov^{t} may enable them to come out with a full front in favour of the Gov^{t} and we would here beg leave to state that there is scarcely one of the perverse party that have any property—not one slave holder among them, but many vagabonds and fugitives from Justice who have fled from the U. States of the North, and who have so shamefully debased the American Character.

We take the liberty to recommend to the notice of the political Chief and to yourself, Col° B. Foster and Capt. Palas Neely who have aided our efforts in all things and highly deserve our warmest gratitude.

RICHARD ELLIS
JAMES CUMMINS
JAMES KERR

AUSTIN TO MILITIA

[About January 22, 1827.]

TO THE MILITIA OF THIS COLONY

You are already informed of the [dif]ficulties which have occurred at Nacogdoches—

The Chief of the Department with a degree of magnanimity which does honor to him as an individual and evinces most decidedly the liberal and benevolent principles that influence the Gov^{t} has offered a general and unreserved amnesty to the misguided individuals who have raised up in Nacogdoches in opposition to its constituted authorities, and open^{d} the tribunals of Justice for all persons who may feel themselves agreived by the local authorities of that district, or in any other manner, to come forward freely and without reserve under the guarantee of their personal security and make known their complaints and obtain redress in the legal manner— The tribunals of

justice have never been closed against them and the attempt at revolution which has been made at Nacogdoches it is considered and hoped has been the result of momentary and imprudent excitement arising from misconceptions on the part of the persons concerned—

The Cherokees are also included in the liberal offers of the Chief of Department and an invitation has been given to them to come to this place or to the Trinity and hold a conference on the Subject of their affairs the object of which is to restore harmony and pave the way for a final adjustment of all their unfinished business relative to lands which has been heretofore retarded by the multiplicity of affairs which occupied the attention of the Government—

No doubt can now remain on the part of the persons engaged in this affair as to the just and pure intentions of the Gov[t] and it is confidently believed that they will without hesitation return to their duty and present themselves to the Gov[t] in the legal and proper manner and all these difficulties will terminate hapily—

But should this unfortunately not be the case and they Should still persist in their efforts to kindle an Indian war on our frontiers it will be an unequivocal proof that the Liberty and justice they pretend has been denied them and in defence of which they pretend to have taken up arms is not the real object, and that Some other Schemes influence them which have not yet been fully developed—Whatever they may be, nothing but ruin to Texas and its inhabitants can be the result of their Success, and for this reason it is a duty which every good man owes to himself, to his family and to his country to prepare himself in time and hold himself in readiness to take up arms and march under the banners of their adopted country against them, should they still persist in their mad Schemes of Independence—

With this view of the subject, and in complyance with my duty to you as your Empresario and Chief officer of the Colony charged with its Government and defence, and in obediance to the orders of the Chief of Department and military commandant to have 100 Militia men in readiness. I have issued orders to the respective commandants of Companies to hold the number of men in readiness assigned as their quota to re[ndevo]us at the places and on the days designated . . . mounted armed and equiped and provided [with] . . . days provisions—

The militia who are called out in . . . the National Service are entitled by [law] to the pay allowed to troops in the regular [ser]vice a[nd] their pay will commence from the [day] they [are] regularly mustered into Service at the points designated for rendevous.

Relying on your patriotism and on your firmness in defence of your property, your families, your honor, and your country, I have

no doubt you will cheerfully turn out and take up arms on this occasion and that you will be punctual in obeying the orders of your officers—

Should the Nacogdoches party and their red allies still persist in their wild Schemes of forming a new Govt. to be composed principally of Indians and hostilities should commence we shall have the consolation to reflect that our Govt. has endeavord to prevent the effusion of blood, and avert an Indian war by magnanimously holding out to those misguided men the olive branch of peace and a general amnesty of the past, and if they wantonly reject it, that we shall then be fighting in defence of the cause of virtue and justice and in defence of our property, families and country—

APPRAISAL OF WAGON AND TEAMS.

San Felipe de Austin 24 Jany. 1827

This is to certify that at a Meting of the Undersigned Chosen to Appraise a waggon and Team the property of Thos Westhall for the purpose of going in the Service of the Mexican Army on the Expedition against Nacogdoche decide as follows provided sd waggon Horses and Gears returns as in the same State and Condition as appraised this day for Westhall to take sd Team Gears and Waggon back by being paid for the Wear and Tear with such wages as agreed on But if sd Waggon Gears or Team or Either of them be lost, to receive from the Govt for each as for the Waggon and Gears appraised at--- $175.00

for 1 chestnut Sorrel Horse 3 white feet apd--- 80.00

1 Brown Horse appraised at--- 85.00

1 Bay Horse appraised at--- 85.00

$425.00

The above property appraised as Cash in hand Given under our hands the day and date above written.

JESSE THOMPSON
THOS GRAY
WM PETTUS
M M BATTLE
alcalde

Dis S. F D AUSTIN

J. C. TANNER TO J. E. B. AUSTIN

Matamoros 24 January 1827

FRIEND AUSTIN,

I acknowlage the receipt of yours per Mr. Woodson and was happy to hear that you had arived at Labadia so well. Our friend Burnet leave here this morning for your section of the country, and

will give you the general news of the times, we remain as usual with now and then a little difficulty, as hapened at a Ball the other evening, but since we have had fine dancing Many enquries have been made after my *Primo* Santiago and I have consoled them saying that you would be here next spring—a number of vessels have arrived from the U. S. but do not give us any particular news—You know I am not in favor [of the] Spanish (except the Women of this Country they do verry well when that is said all is said) for the men are the damdest rascals in the world—and how do you do and how is Miss
I expect you will take a *rib* from what I dreampt last night, you must let me know how you come on and prospect of speculations in your Country. You have the good wishes of all your acquaintances in this country the little Matamoros girls in particular.

J. C. TANNER [Rubric]

P. S. Woodson has gone to Saltillo but we had a frolick on the 8 January and got a little foxy.

CARLOS

[Addressed:] Mr. Jas. B. Austin. Rio Brassos Maj. Burnet.

JAMES KERR TO AUSTIN

Colo. S. F. AUSTIN.

Sir having Just returned from Nachadoches and somewhat fateagued owing to bad health I am notwithstanding desireous to return back with the national troops that are on their mach to that place to suppress the banditte at that place, who are unproperly call'd Americans.

I am at this time labouring in conflicting motions; the people of Dewitts Colony are anxiously wishing my return to the Station;—And the unhappy, unjust, and unfriendly siezure of our guns by Martin Delion, Doctor Oldivar, and moncholes, is a subject of much regret.

The guns that have been returned by the Order of Our good and honourable friend the political Chief were so damaged, that not one (I believe) is fit for war. three of mine were taken—two have been sent back—both the locks broke and the stock of one rendered useless by being shivered in Piece—the other I have no account of.

If sir it should be deemed advisable by you that I should Join the troops, I declare I know not where to obtain a good and sufficient rifle for so important an expedition.

JAMES KERR

San felipe De Austin Union de Mexeco 24 Jany. 1827.

P. S. I take the liberty to sugest to you that while such Men as Martin Delion, Moncholes, and Sapulva and Doctor Oldivar, as

Mexicans and Sam[l] Norris, Nat. Norris and one James Gains who, unrighteously call themselves Americans have any control or voice in the local concerns of this department, broiles, confusions, restless spirits, and even a want of confidence will unaquivocally follow—

J. K.

JAMES KERR TO AUSTIN

Colo. S. F. AUSTIN

DR. SIR, as a duty I owe to myself, and to this beloved country of my adoption I am impelled by an impulse by which every good citizen ought to be actuated; I bege leave to suggest that, there is a combination of men (some of whom call themselves Americans) but I believe them to be Englishmen principally—tho, some are perhapse french origin etc carrys with them as it is believed Spanish maners and deportment that have conspired against this nation.

First I will Identify one John D Hunter (commonly called Doctor Hunter), and one ——— Basset. these two men say they are cherokees by adoption. Hunter has written a work styled "Hunters Journal"[1] which has caused much noise in the U S of the north, and caused an enquiry by the president of that nation to be made of the Indian agents or rather of the superintendants of Indian affairs, whether in their opinion "Hunters Journal" was intitled to credit or not. Two of those Gen[t] have in answer to the presidents Inquiry denounced said Hunter as an imposter, and in their opinion an englishman. I have seen Hunter and Basset together and I believe them to be brothers. The mexican nation granted a section of Hir territory to one Gen[l] Waval[2] to colonize, and I was informed by some of the out Laws while at Nachadoches that he Hunter had said, his great dependence, and hopes for assitance to revolutionize the department of Texas was on the British: that he expected in less than four months to be reinforced by 500 englishmen who would land at the mouth of the Brassos under the command of said Waval; that a Doctor *Sombody* who spoke french, english, and spanish was then in the interior as a spy. that Hunter would act on the frontiers; stimulating to action our red Brethern, while the Brittish would land on the Coast and over power all oposition, and organize a Gov[t] of their own formation and which as my informant said would be an effective one

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[1] *Manners and Customs of Several Indian Tribes located West of the Mississippi.* Philadelphia, 1823. C. W. Raines, *Bibliography of Texas* (1896), 122; H. H. Bancroft, *North Mexican States and Texas*, II, 104.

[2] Arthur G. Wavell.

Unlikely as such scheme wold seem when compaired with reason and common sence; yet we see some of its features demonstrated: Hunter has raised the Hatchet and the blood hounds at his heels ready to devour oposition. Oldivar comports with the description of the "Spy".

It is a well known fact that waval and Hunter were together in Mexico last winter and that Hunter said he was treated with more than ordinary politeness by said waval, and other Englishmen in Mexico.

I have deemed it a duty to communicate the foregoing Suggestions to you for your consideration and through you to the Gov^{t} if so be that you deeme it necessary.

Union and Mexico

San felipe De Austin 24th Jany 1827

JAMES KERR.

AUSTIN TO CHEROKEE CHIEFS

To my friends and Brothers the chiefs and warriors of the Cherokees living in Texas

This will be delivered to you by two of your old friends and brothers John Cummings and William Robbins they will tell you the truth, listen to their council and follow it—

My brothers I fear you have been deceived by bad men who wish to make use of you to fight their battles—they will ruin you and your people if you follow their council

The Governor wrote to you and sent on Judge Ellis of Huntsville Alabama and Mr. James Cummins from the Colorado and James Kerr from the Guadalupe to see you at Nacogdoches and tell you the truth, but I fear John D. Hunter has concealed the letters and the truth from you, for he and Edwards would not suffer those men to talk with the Indians. I therefore now send you copies of the same letters that were sent by the Governor and delivered to Hunter which he promised to send to you immediately—by these letters you will see that the Gov^{t} have never had any intention to break the promises made to you and that they are ready to comply with them provided you do your duty as good men.

My brothers why is it that you wish to fight your old friends and brothers the Americans. God forbid that we should ever shed each others blood—No let us always be friends and always live in peace and harmony. The Americans of this Colony, The Guadalupe and Trinity are all united to a man in favor of the Mexican Government and will fight to defend it—We will fight those foolish men who

have raised the flag at Nacogdoches, we will fight any people on earth who are opposed to the Mexican Gov^t and we are all united as one man—The bad men who have been trying to mislead you have told you that we would all join them—This is not true not one of us will join them. Those bad men have told you that the Americans would come on from the United States and join them, this is not true, a few runaways and vagabonds who cannot live in their own Country may join them but no others—The American Gov^t will not permit such a thing and if this Gov^t asks it will send troops to aid us.

Why do you wish to fight the Mexicans they have done you no wrong, you have lived in peace and quietness in their Territory and the Gov^t have never refused to comply with their promises provided you do your duty as good men—What then is it you ask for or what do you expect to gain by war?

My brothers reflect on your situation, you are on the brink of a dreadful precipice. The Cherokees are a civilized and honorable people, and will you unite yourselves with wild savages to murder and plunder helpless women and children, will you unite yourselves with bad men of any nation to fight and plunder peaceable inhabitants? No my friends I know you will not, bad men have tried to make you believe that the Mexican Gov^t had neglected you, and you have for this reason complained, but my friends those bad men have deceived you, The Gov^t have a great deal to do, the Gov^t is new, and it required much time and attention to regulate all its different branches and this may have delayed your business but is no proof that it would never be done, Open your eyes to your true interests, drive away those bad men who wish to lead you into ruin and come with Cummings and Robbins and see the Governor, and your true friends and all will be right.

My Brother, Edwards is deceiving you, he once threatened to take your land from you and would have done it if he could, but he had no right to interfere with you, the Gov^t gave him no right to disturb you and he is the only man who has ever attempted to molest you and now he pretends to be your friend and wants you to fight his battles and ruin yourselves. Will you suffer such a man to deceive you? The Gov^t annulled his contract because he was trying to take away land from those who were settled before he went there, he tryed to take away your lands but the Gov^t stopped him and defended and protected your rights as well as the rights of the whites, and will you fight for such a man and turn against the government who has protected you from his attempt to ruin you. No my friends you will

not you have been deceived by him, leave him and come and see the Governor and hear the truth.

San felipe de Austin 24 Jany 1827

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] To Captains Fields, Bowls Big Mush and other warriors of the Cherokee Nationl living in Texas

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RESOLUTIONS OF LOYALTY

At a meeting of the people of Dewitt's Colony at the establishment on the Labacca (Notice having been given for that purpose) Mr Byrd Lockhart was called to the chair, and James Norton Esqr was chosen Secretary, when the following resolutions were read and unanimously *adopted*—

1st—Resolved, that the people of this Colony came to, and settled in the Mexican Nation, by the benign influence of her laws: that as adopted children [they] have full confidence and faith in the equity, justice and liberality in the Federal and State Governments of their new parent.

2^{d}—Resolved, that their great object in leaving their parent Country, and migrating hither, was not for the purpose of unsheathing the sword of Insurrection, war, bloodshed, and desolation, but as peaceable and industrious subjects, to cultivate and inhabit the bounteous domain so liberally extended and offered them by the Governors of the land of their choice.

3^{d}—Resolved, that we hope the Mexican Nation will draw a just line of distinction between the honest, industrious and peaceable American emigra[n]ts, and those of bad character, whom we consider as Refugees, and fugitives from justice, who have raised the flag of "Independence" at Nagcogdoches, but with them have spread confusion, robberies, oppression, and even bloodshed: that we look upon the ring leaders of that party with contempt and disgust, and that they are unworthy the character of Americans.

4th—Resolved, that we pledge our lives, and our fortunes to support and protect the Constitutional Authorities of this, our much beloved and adopted Country.

5th—Resolved, that we feel every sentiment of gratitude towards our fellow Citizen and brother His Excellency the Political Chief and the officers and men with him for their indefatigable exertions by forced marches etc. to allay, suppress, and bring to condign punishment those persons who may be found guilty of treason against this Government, and to establish subordination, good order and tranquility.

6th—Resolved, that the Chairman and Secretary sign the foregoing resolutions, and transmit the same to Col. Stephen F. Austin and that he be requested to translate them, and submit them to to His Excellency the Political Chief.—

Done at the Labaca Station in Dewitts Colony this 27th day of January 1827.

JAMES NORTON, Secretary [Rubric]
BYRD LOCKHART Chairman

EDMUND BEAN TO PETER ELLIS BEAN

Nashville 28th January 1827—

Colo ELLIS BEEN

SIR myself and family are well at present hoping these lines may be Received by you and family enjoying good health I have had five children four of which are living. I Expect to move to the province of Texas I feel much disposed to settle there and want you so soon as you may recd this to write to me giving me a particular statement of the present prospects; wheither there will be a war between the American setlers and the Republic of mexico or not; we have our papers crow[d]ed with such reports also every thing which in your opinion may be expected Relative to the advantages of emigrants to the province. Times are hard here money is scarce. Uncle Russel Been died in August last please do not fail in writing to me on receipt of this and oblige

EDMUND BEEN

Col. E Been Rio Aysh
N B write me relative to Aunt Midcalf

AUSTIN'S EXPENSE ACCOUNT IN THE FREDONIAN REBELLION

Jany 29. 1827—

Col. Austin Dr.

To 23½ lbs of Bacon	.18¾	$4.34
" smith work	$4.50	4 50
" corn by Quick	.12½	.12½
" 100 ears of corn	$1.	1.00
30 Jany.		
15 Bb of meal	$1	15.00
398½ lbs of Bacon	.18¾	74.71
		$99.67½

Rec[d] the above articles amounting to ninety nine dollars and sixty seven and a half cents for the use of the expedition to Nacogdoches and for payment of which, to J. E. Groce, I am responsible

Jany. 30. 1827

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Col. Austin Dr. to Ben 4$ for Deer skins,

June 27th 1827. The above a/c Cr. by 40 lbs of sugar at .25 cts. and 30 lbs of Coffee at 50 cts.—amounting to $25—

1827

S. F. Austin—To J. E. Groce Dr.

To—2 Bbls. of meal—when carried to town Beef—meal—and corn	$2.00
" 6 Bbls—of meal—for Brunson—a part of which, for Battle	6.00
	$8.00

June 1828 Cr. by one waggon $80.

Col. Stephen F. Austin's accounpt.

80	99.67
25	8.00
105.	107.67
	105.00
	due J. E. G. $2.67

The a/c of 99.67 was for provisions which I furnished the men on the Nacogdoches trip. the $1 for deer skins was for the same trip. the skins were used for bags to secure the Amunition for the Cannon, also I lost on that trip the cannon which was my privat property brought from Missouri, and also my expenses and my brothers am[d] to $350. cash and 4 months absence from home for all of which I never recd. one cent—

S. F. AUSTIN

JARED E. GROCE TO SAUCEDO

The Chief of Department

Citizen Jared E. Groce an inhabitant of Austins Colony in this Department before you with all due respect and as maybe due in right represent[s] that in the month of may last year [he had] a law suit with a man of this Colony named Imla Keep and as from .... his belief thinks he has been injured by the Judgement [rendered by the] Judicial Tribunal he being sentenced to pay a Considerable amt of money as also to deliver to said Keep three Negroes which the said Keep had delivered to your petitioner in Consideration of money which he owed your petitioner. Besides this your petitioner has a very important Witness who was then in the United States of the North and when I Could not procure in time for the

said suit he is now in this Colony and I do not doubt but his evidence would decide the Business in my favor. In consideration of what I have set forth and the injuries I have rec[d] I suplicate your Worship (Usia) to be pleased to give the necessary instructions in order that I may be heard anew in Court. and give an order that said Keep shall deliver the said Negroes With the understanding that I will give bond and security to conform to the resolution of the Judicial tribunal that has to take Cognisance of the Case, and I supplicate you to instruct the Judicial tribunal that has to decide this Case not to permit the affair to be discussed before them by any other persons than the parties interested, in order to prevent the matter to be confused and justice perverted by the Cunning of Foreign Lawyers who are not licenced legally by the Gov[t] to exercise those functions in this Country. Therefore your Worship will be pleased to do as I have petitioned in order that I may receive justice

Bernardo Place January 29th 1827

signed JARED E. GROCE.

Sn Felipe de Austin 17th April 1827

This Petition is passed to Citizen Stephen F. Austin in order that he may inform on its contents declaring whether the business of which it treats is legally terminated or not

signed SAUCEDO

To the Political Chief

In consequence of your foregoing decree and of what is set forth in the petition of Groce that at the time of trying the Case which he speaks of an important witness was absant who is now in this jurisdiction and that [he] could not procure him in time for the trial I am of opininion that he can be permitted to have a new hearing before the provissional Judicial Tribunal of this Colony Composed of the Alcaldes of the same but your Worship (usia) will determine what you esteem Just in the matter.

Sn Felipe de Austin 17 April 1827

S[d] STEPHEN F AUSTIN

On account of the subject treated on in the foregoing representation belonging exclusively to the Judicial Authority this petition will be returned to the interested person in order that with it he may apply to the first meeting which will be held by the Alcaldes of this Colony where they can admit him to bring forward the new proof which he has to present in favor of his right. oblige the opposite party to secure the property in question, and not admit foreign Lawyers should either of the parties object.

Sn Felipe de Austin 18th April 1827

S[d] JOSE ANTONIO SAUCEDO

JAMES DAVIS TO AUSTIN

Nashville January the 30th 1827

Col STEPHEN F AUSTIN

DEAR SIR I am Just setting off with Capt N Dilliard of your Colony for the land I purchased of him on the Ceder Lake it being the upper half of League No 65 Capt Dilliard has it appears the Grant for the whole League he has give me the whole of his claim and when I was at St Felipe you advised to me to take the same I Intended fully at that time of moving to your Collony But since I have come to this place I have seen a letter from you and some other information stating that your country was about to prohibit the introduction of slavery into it which if it should be the case will be a bar to my removeing to that delightful country and I believe will allso operate verry much against the country selleing with those people who would be able to cultivate it as to my part I have a few slaves and my object altogether was to cultivate this land and I am growing old and cannot think of going to that country mearly for what I could do myself we have heard a great deal about revolutions and tumults in your country but I believe but a small part of the report and should regret verry much to hear any thing that should interrupt the mild and friendly government which you live under and to think that the citizens who have been so liberally and generously treated by your government should be ungrateful for the favours they have received will ever be a source of regret to me should it turn out so I should be verry glad if you would write me and let me know if I can hold my land in that country without moveing to it I should be glad to know the political regulations of the goverment I have a strong inclination to live in the country and live on the land I have purchased I have many relations and friends who wish to move with me but the prohibition of slavery into your country will be a bar to most of them if you think worth while to write me please to direct your letters to Sparta White county and State of Tennessee I expect to be in your colony next winter and onst more take another view of the delightful country.

JAMES DAVIS

N. B I would be glad to know if Capt Dilliard could make a selection for me of land if there is still an opening for me should the obsticles be removed which now prevents me from moveing there

J. DAVIS

AUSTIN TO GASPAR FLORES

Quedo Ympuesto pr. el oficio de V fha 15 del q. rije de la necesidad q. existe en q. propongo yo dos Agrimensores en q se encuentran las circunstancias y buenas cualidades para el desempeño de sus funciones en medir las tierras en la 2ª Empresa qe tengo autoridad establecer y en cumplimto he de proponer qe se nombre el C Seth Ingram el C Horacio Chrisman pª dho efecto como en estos señores residen las cualidades de buenas costumbres y ciencia pª el exacto disempeño desus deberes. conlo qe contesto á su citado oficio de V

D y L
S f de A de Enero de 1827

E F A—

Sr Comisíonado C Gaspar Flores

AFFIDAVITS CONCERNING SEIZURES BY DELEON

This is to certify that the gun of mine, Siezed by Martin Delion and Moncholes Was a Rifle—plain Stock,—brass mounting—middle Sise in the Single trigger—Said gun was in good Order, and not long before the Same was siesed I paid twenty-five dollars in Cash for hir, to Squire Kinny—that Said gun has not been returned to me or any person for me. Given under my hand the second day of february 1827.

HENERY S. POLLARD

Witness
JAMES KERR

I certify that Martin Delion, and don Moncholes when at the Station on the Lavaca in nov. last Siezed and caused to be taken away two Rifle Guns of mine, One of which have been returned, and the other has not: that the one not returned, was of the following description—plain Stock Iron Mountain 45 or nearly Balls to the pound, single trigger.—first rate water-lock—Said Gun Cost me twenty-Six dollars in the State of Missouri. and that I would not have taken any thing less than—$30 in Cash for hir—Given under hand 24th february 1827

ARTHUR BURNS

Witness
JAMES KERR

I believe that full faith and Credit is due and aught to be given to the above Certificates

JAMES KERR

BURRIL J. THOMPSON TO AUSTIN

Parrish of Natchitoches 3 Febry. 1827

Col. AUSTIN
DR SIR

I heave wrote several Letters to you and others But has never, Received a line from There—and I heare so many contradicktry Reports that I can heave no confidence, some Times I heare that It is your wish I would Return and then I heare that, the officers would give 3 or 4 of The Prisners for me, That I Do not know what To Think; But I feerme There are men on The Aish Bayou who are Indistrious to sirculate Reports, so as to still keep up contention Between the Parties, I know If the Proper steps were Taken Peace could be Restored in a few Days, make Peace with the Fredonian Party and the Indians will come into measurs, But while Reports that are unfavourable are in sirculation (that are made by unprincipled Pearson on the Aish Bau°) the Fre°ns (or some of Them) try to steer up the Indians But Sir meake Peace with the whits and the Reads will come in to measurs, I heare you Intend starting home in a few Days Let Peace be Restored if Posible Before you go; If I could Do It with a Sertanty I could come and Bring in 5 or 6 of the Party fine yong men—and as I stated before in a former Letter, would be the means of Bringing the Party over—and Peace that is so Disciable to a close But the verry Idia of Norris Being Restored and Remaining in office will be the means of much Dissatisfaction and I feare for the consequence—Excuse the Trouble I give you in so many Imperfect Scrolls, let my feelings towerds you as a friend and an old acquaintance, and my Love and Desire for Peace be my Excuse, and as I heave Requested a spaniard to wait five minits, for These lins and he hurrys. Pleas to Except of my Best wishes for your Health and happiness I am Dr. sir you most

Humble servant

B. J. THOMPSON

Col Austin

Capt. John W Frith Wm Jones Mr. Hays Mr H Hail Mr Sigler and others—Mr. Calhon &c are the men that would Return with me If they had assurence of Safety

B J THOMPSON

NB. Dr Sir I hope my Letters to you and Col Kinny will not be made Publick as thare are wrote in confidence

JOHN A. WILLIAMS TO AUSTIN

Head quarters Sprowls plantation
7th Feby 1827.

Col AUSTIN

Dr sir your favour of the 23rd Ult. together with the gover nor's procklamation has been recd.

you will no dout before the reception of this have heard of the patriotic manner in which the Inhabitants have rallied in defence of their country, and dispersed the rebellious gang of Nacogdoches. I refer you to Mr Kenney for further information. A quantity of property found in possession of the enimy has fal[len] into our possessin I have to request that some person duly authorized be immediately sent on to take charge thereof, or dispose of it as the government may direct. yesterday we detached fifty men for 7 day service which will remain stationed at this place untill the expiration of that time.

Permit me to suggest the propriety of continuing a sufficient Military force at this place for some time lest a remisness on our part might induce the disaffected to commit new outrages upon the inhabitants of another class who have already suffered enough.

A great deale has been done by the faithful subject in this section of country. but yet the work is far from being compleat

We shall employ every means in our power to sustain the government, and restore tranquility.

JNO. A. WILLIAMS [Rubric]

FRANCIS BIGGAM TO AUSTIN

monroe february 13th 1827

DR FRIEND

I recd your much esteemed favours a few Days ago I embrace the oppertunity of Mr Charles Hyde gowing out by water to state I am making every exarsition in my power to gett out imadently but so many crosses and Disapointments acur which I Can not cee or prevent that I alomost Dispair at times aded to the reports that is Dayly Coming in respecting the Countrey which I flater my self is groundless or at least the greatest part of them Mr Hide the bearer of this letter is brother to Hide that gross ows the money two which note I left in the office for Colection and gows out with Doc Theet (?) for the purpose of getting the money and I request you as a friend to forward him all in your power hee has got the rept for the same I recd from Mr Williams I expect to see you shortley as I am almost ready to start I will then bee able to

show you in publicke prints what news is aflot but I hope all will settle Down in peace I have been agood Deal sicke since I Came home owing to my steat of health on my arival as I was almost wore out before I got home there is some intimations aflot that the united states has empowered an ambasedore to treat for that section of the Countrey Cotton is almost given nothing and nothing else will Comand money rember mee to your Broather and Mr Williams I have no news worth stating to I see you which will not bee long and concluded by saying I am yours Cincerly

FRA^{s} BIGGAM

Cor^{l} F Austin

JAMES HOPE TO J. E. B. AUSTIN

Feby 16, 1827

DR SIR

I understand that you have brought a few Garden and other seeds from the Interior—I should be happy if you could spare me a few of them, and should I be fortunate with them I will replace them again, or any other seeds that I have you can get with pleasure—please send them down by Capt Chriesman when he comes down.

JAMES HOPE

Mr-Brown Austin

BURRIL J. THOMPSON TO AUSTIN

Parrish of Natchitoches 17 Feby 1827

DR. SIR

It is with Regret I see so much confushion and Trouble in the Spanish Provences But It can only a lone be attributed to The Imperfect manner of the organization of the government—The Districk of Nacogdoches had Been Left Intirely to the management of a few Ignorant Designing men without Principle and with out laws, men who wished to show their Power and acted with more Tyranny Then Ever was, Excersised under the king of spain. Love of change and an Idia that Land could be obtained for a mear Trifle, and others for crimes Done Caused a considerable Imigration To that country Expecting or thinking It a Republick similar to the one they had left and finding no Laws nor Regulation orthised by the government, and all Those that Pretended to act from orthority, without Principle or Justice no wonder, that americans Right from the Land of Liberty, should wish a change Letters and addresses to the government was never attended to, the mail Robed and no communication through that Depart could be Depended on, with a

thousand other causes, has led the Independent americans to Deeds of violence That they would heave abhord, Provided the government could heave been properly organised so that they could heave Injoyed Peace and asshirances for their Property—I Sir Removed to that country from choice, and heave as much wright to complaine as almost any other Person—I sir fell under the Displeasure of the Petty Tayrant for Raising a company of volunteers by his own Request to go to the assistance of your Colony, I was Denyed the Priviledge of Taking oath of Eligence to the government, and when I Purchesed land denyed the Right to hold land and could not heave a Deed acnoledged, without any cause shewn I considered Those Ingerys unorthised by the government and, was one of the Leading causes of Puting the Rascal Down and appointing an other in his Place that I thought would Do Justice—But as to Raising the Flag I was opposed to It, and Done Every thing I could to git It Down—I Refare you to my friend Capn Joseph Dust for Information as he alone in that Town knew my Polocy and we acted togather—

as Respects the Prisnors they never Took an active Part against The government they were in opposition to Norris & Co— W. Wilson in Particular is my friend (and a more manly Independant man is not in that Provence) and he I assure you never approbated the Raising the Flag nor would Ever Serve under It, and I hope my friend you will Do Every thing you can for him as well as all the Rest for should the Prisners be Put To Death there will be Troubles In the country that you can heave but little Idea off

when the com[s] ware sent to make Peace The People on the Aish Bayou, would gladly heave Imbraced the oppertunity with out, the Trouble and Dappredations that has Been committed there by men I fear without Principles or Honesty and whose Friendship or honor can not be Relyed on I Proposed sending on a man to the government to Represent our situation, which would heave Ben done, If the times had not heave changed as soon as they Did.

I left the country because I say that Peace could not be Established, untill the Troops would arrive and heave Rented Land for this crop, with the Intention of Returning to the country as soon as Times would Become Better—But hearing I am threatened as one of the Promoters of the Rebellion, I shall not Return, untill times can be Better Regulated,

I should be glad to see you and Think if I could or was orthised That I could Bring the Party That is on this side to a compromise, Provided They could be Pardoned for their offence, and I think all But the Edwards would be glad to Return to that country Provided they could Do It in Peace—I am settled 20 miles from the sabine But would meet you There at any Time [desired] and I Do not Hesi-

tate in saying that [I can] Bring all the Party, (and There is near 30 men) to Terms of Peace Provided It is by your Request and that of the officers of the army I should be glad you and your Brother could come and spend a few Days with us. I could give you Every Information on the subject and I Do assure will Do Every thing in my Power to Establish Peace

Be assured I new you as an old and particuler friend I wish you helth and Hapiness

B. J. THOMPSON

Col S F Austin

[Addressed:] Col Stephen F. Austin Nacogdoches Texes

DR. JOHN SIBLEY TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches Feb^{y}, 18-1827

DR. SIR:

I have just Rec^{d} by Mr Dubois your favour of the 9th Inst: the receipt of which gave me great pleasure as Mr Dubois Returns in an hour I have time only to Acknowledge the Receipt of your letter, to Bundle up in a hurry a few news papers for you. Mr Dubois tells me Mr Ranaz will leave here in two days by him you shall hear from me again. I am now in tolerable health though for eight months past I have been sick half the time. I am happy to hear of the Restoration of tranquility at Nacogdoches I with pleasure heard of the unanimity of the People of your colony to support Gov^{t} there never was a more silly, wild, Quicksotic scheme than that of Nacogdoches, and all sober honest thinking people here view it in the same light—I wish it was in my Power to communicate to you the stipulations of a Treaty now before the senate of the U. S. Relative to the Boundaries between us and Mexico. such a treaty has been signed by the Ministers of the two governments, but what will be the future Boundary is not made public.—I wish we may Embrace your Colony.—

You will find in the Washington Paper of the 15th Ult: some very important European News, all Europe may be embroiled in war. God protect the United States from that calamity, if we should be drawn into it, it will be about The Island of Cuba. we cannot suffer England to hold it, they have already shut their colonial Ports against our vessels, they will do the same in the Ports of Cuba should they occupy it. You mention Trinity the Aishe Bayou and perhaps Sabine; is it not possible for you to come as far as this place when you are so near us? I am sorry to hear of the Death of George Smyth. an event long expected. indeed he lived longer than I thought he could when I last saw him. I have no time to Enlarge

this letter as the bearer setts off so soon. You will hear from me again in two or three days In the mean time take this opportunity to assure you of my verry great Esteem and Regard

JOHN SIBLEY [Rubric]

Note. your expressions of Lenity towards the Prisoners are humane to the Extream, the Crime of high treason could in no Gov^{t} be passed over so lightly, I am but slightly acquainted with any of them but most with the worthless unprincipled Seymour

The Honble. Stephen F. Austin

[Addressed:] Honble. Stephen F. Austin at Nacogdoches

BILL FOR MILITARY TRANSPORTATION

Colonel Mateo Ahumada to Jesse Thompson Dr

1827 To the Services of 2 teams 34 days from the 20 January to 22d. february inclusive on Government Service at $12 per day	$408.00
To 12 days allowed for the return of my teams to the Brazos per Contract at 12$	$144.00
	$552.00
Cr. By Cash	30.00
Balance due	$522.00

JESSE B. THOMPSON.

J. E. B. AUSTIN TO MRS. E. M. PERRY[1]

[The Nacogdoches Insurgents were] treated with a degree of lenity by the Mexicans they had no right to expect from the nature of their crimes—and which I will vouchsafe would not have been shewn them in their native country for similar offences—As to the indians it appears that in place of twenty three tribes, having joined the Fredonians only a small portion of the *Cherokees* immediately under the influence of *Fields* and Hunter had entered into the alliance, and they together with the Chief have fled for safety to the other side of the Sabine—The ballance of the tribes in this section of the country are expected here in two or three days when I hope a final adjustment of Indian affairs will take place—Inclosed I send you a copy of two addresses one from Stephen to the Colonists—and the other from Benjamin Edwards to the same, perhaps they will no^{t} be inserted in any of the gacettes of Missouri. I am fearful the late disturbance will put a temporary check to emigration.

I find by letter we received from Mr. Perry a few days since that all hope of recovering the Mine Au Burton estate is over—I did hope

[1] The beginning of the letter is missing.

that we should have been enabled to have recovered it, but for [my] part I am satisfied,—as a few years will place us in a situation (in a pecuniary point of view) far different from what we have been— Report says this Valuable Country is about to be ceded to the U. S.—some are of opinion that it is already— I know this much— during my last visit to Saltillo a Mexican gentleman informed me that previous to his leaving Mexico—a proposal had been made by Mr Poinsett to purchase this Country as far as the *Rio Grande* his proposition was not acceded to on the part of this Govt. but it is supposed another proposition was since made which has been acceded to—Should this take place (which in my opinion will sooner or later) We would not take less than $500-000 for our interest in this Country—a private letter from Mr Poinsett states that the claims of Empresarios who have complyed with their contracts will be respected— Give my respects to Mr. Perry, and kiss the little ones Stephen sends his love—We expect to leave this in a few days for the Colony—do write me often—I have not seen a letter from you for something more than one year.—

Jas B Austin [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mrs. Emily M Perry. Potosi, Missouri Mail
[Endorsed:] James B Austin Nacogdoches 23d Febv 1827

James Kerr to Austin

Station of the Labaca
24th. fbuary 1827

Colo S. F. Austin

Sir, I have to complain (through you) to his Excellency the Political Chief of Martin Delion and Don Mancholes (Viz) that they have not returned to me, nor to any person for me, the within described gun, according to the order of his Excellency, and that I therefore pray to be remunerated with the price of the same $30.00 and also the damages done to my own two guns which have been returned, as pr. within Cer' 9.00

I hope you will oblige me to lay this before his Excellency etc that I may have restitution made to me by the said Delion and mancholes

James Kerr

Collorado District January 30th 1827

We the subscribed Do certify that the gun that Mr James kerr Borowed of Clarissa Griffen was.—New and complete in all parts

and that the price was thirty Dollars cash said Gun was small Bore walnut stock Iron Mounting and Double triggers

Given under our hands

JN° ANDREWS
JAMES CUMMINS [Rubric]

I do hereby certify that the above gun was by me taken to the station on the Labaca, and that it was—with other guns siezed and taken away by Martin Delion and Moncholes—and that it has not been returned agreeable to the order of the Political Chief.

Given under my hand this 30th. day of January 1827.

JAMES KERR

Dewitt's Colony Labaca Station,—I hereby certify that, Martin Delion and moncholes in Nov. last siezed and caused to be taken away two Rifle Guns besides the one above discribed by John Andrews and James Cummins: that the same two guns have been returnd but damaged (viz)—

The Cock of 1 of the locks brock and cost me one Dollar fifty cts.	1.50
Screw part of same lost	1.00
The other gun stock broke	5.00
Tumble of the lock broke	1.00
Thimble rod and socket end of wipers lost	.50
	$9.00

24th feby. 1827

JAMES KERR

JAMES KERR TO AUSTIN

Station on the Labaca 26th febuary 1827

DEAR SIR

I am sorry to be the herrold of bad news—Baptist Lacount came here 2 days since who states that a very large band of Comanches, and Wechoes, had attacked Cahoe's party of the lepans, and nearly all the tonkowas, on the San Marcos rio about 9 miles above the Town of Gonzalez—that the lepans and tonkowas were whiped with the loss of 5 or 600 horses, and that they retreated down the river—some of them (the lepans) are now at Delions—the fort at Gonzales was not finished, and what few men was there were in greate danger—some of them talke'd of leaving the place. another defeat in attempting to settle the Sn Marks if not already, will soon take place.

Inclosed you will have some certificates—I have call'd on the Colo. to make out certificates relative to . . . guns, and those that were in his charg, but [he has] not done so.

The people here seeme industrious, and are useing much exertions to plant corn etc they are all in good health. They are anxious that the Colo. should appoint some person as an agent in fact to manage his business——think of this——and perhaps you had better write to him—

We have had a great [d]eal of rain; so much that we can not plant:

JAMES KERR

Note Please write to me by the first opportunity

[Addressed:] Col° S. Austin San felipe de Austin Care of Major Philips Colorado

26th February Capt Lockhart has just came from Gonzales and [states] that, he quit surveying and joined the settlers and assisted in building the fort—that they resolved to keep the place etc and that they [are] planting corn there. He will return tomorrow. Could a small piece of arteary [artillery] be obtained from the Govt. it would no doubt be of great utility to that place—would be glad if you would mention this to His Excellency the Chief of the Department.

JAMES KERR

J. TATE TO AUSTIN

Naggaitotches Feby. 27th 1827.

COL. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

SIR On the subject of a conversation I had with you at this place I beg leave to have liberty of submitting the following observations to your consideration and remarks thereon—

Having reported myself to you with a wish to become a settler but from various adverse occurrences in my business has as yet prevented My making a permanent settlement in your colony. although I have made a selection of Land partly in yours and in leftwicks but from an interruption in the settlement on the land by the indians I have changed my views which can only be realised by your approbation. To constitute the plan I would propose to select a League of land for Myself adjoining some of your reserve lands most properly adapted to the cultivation of sugar Cane that you would add a league of your land or more if thought necessary to effect the purpose; that complete Titles be made out to satisfy any person that it would be proper to make interrested in order to raise a fund sufficient to accomplish the establishment of sugar Manufactory upon a respectable scale, If funds in negro slaves and mony could be obtained by a sale of the land before named It would certainly be favorable, but if not to make some capitalists Interrested who would be willing to

invest for that purpose, If neither of the foregoing plans would be easily obtained raise such a fund out of said land in either of the proposed ways as would effect the establishment out of the Labour of free people of Color, as would I believe be cheaper and much easier effected by holding out inducements to them after the term of their service would expire if it had been faithfully accomplished, such for instance as a labour [*labor*] or any other quantity Allowed by government to such men of good habits—A question may arise on the policy or legallity of introducing the last named class of servants this sir is entirely submitted to you as the Legitimate organ of the Government by whom I am to be officially informed on that subject and every other regulation necessary to be observed in the introduction whether by land or water whether certificates of character and generaly what would be the requisite formality to be observed by the inporter etc

Plan of the Project

Yourself two Leagues that May in the Eastern Market Either in goods or money be worth $1 pr. A		$9000 00
Myself One League—"		4500 00
		13. 500 00
For Slaves bought in U. S. or N. D. If money could be obtd. 20 Men and women delivered at Brasos each 400$		$8000. 00
Leaving this sums to buy land and pay cont. Expences Care tools $60		5500. 00
		13, 500. 00
To remove freemen and women It might Probably Cost to deliver 80 the sum of	8000. 00	
Left to Apply to other Expence	5500	
		13, 500. 00

All wishes submitted with great respect

J. TATE

AUSTIN TO JOSÉ ANTONIO NAVARRO[1]

San Felipe de Austin 27 of Feby 1827

Sr. JOSE ANTONIO NAVARRO

ESTEEMED FRIEND:—

I received of Corporal Sosa the One hundred and thirty dollars that you sent to me and the letter with a note to buy for you *tres arrobas* [75 lbs] of coffee and powder.

According to what you write I ordered coffee from Orleans in conformity with the note you sent to me, and I am expecting the return of the Schooner every day, it should have arrived before

[1] Lamar Papers, Texas State Library. The translation has been compared with the original in the same collection.

this, and it is probable it will be here soon. With this intelligence I have bought the three arrobas of Coffee which I send by Corporal Sosa the price was 30 cents per pound which makes $22.^{50}$ for the 75 lbs. It was not possible to secure it for less and I have taken all there is for sale here.

The rest of the money that I have 97 Dollars and 50 cents I have kept in order to pay for the merchandise from Orleans and I will pay what is lacking or short. I shall advise you as soon as I receive notice of the arrival of the freight.

I have advised Mr. Jones that you would not admit the contract for the corn, I think he will take 20 reales per fanega [3 bushels.]

If a good assortment of clothing arrives I shall advise you and you can command me frankly and with liberty as a sincere friend in anything that is of use. and I shall at all times take great pleasure in executing your orders, if you stand on ceremony I shall be very sorry.

At present there is absolutely no merchandise for sale here but we are expecting some in a few days.

Your friend STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

AUSTIN TO WILLIAMS[1]

Nacogdoches March 4 [1827]

Dr Williams

I expected to have started home this day, but Ahumada has determined to visit the country as far as to the Sabine and insists on my accompanying him. I go with great reluctance for my thoughts and feelings are all in the Colony and I am heartily tired of this country

It is perhaps a fortunate thing for me that I have learned patience in the hard School of an Empresario for I assure you that in this place I have had full use for all I possessed Things are all settled here and I think tranquility is fully and firmly established but matters were in a dreadfull and a critical situation, and nothing but the greatest prudence has prevented the most serious disturbances—Gains and a few others blamed Ahumada and me, and me in particular for the course I have advised. but I have a consolation that to me is worth more than the approbation of any man,—in the consciousness that I have done right—Fields and Hunter are certainly killed by the Cherokees and all the other leaders of the party have escaped over the Sabine and I advised a mild course with those who were compromitted in a secondary degree and Ahumada himself was in favor of such a course and adopted it

[1] Williams Papers. Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

and for this a few men here blame me, but they are but few, for the whole country in general are gratified, and the Mexican character stands higher here now than it ever did before—I hope the people of the colony will be satisfied with me for next to the approbation of my own conscience, *theirs* is worth more to me than all the world beside.

How comes the Garden? remember me to Mrs. Calvit and Mrs. Long. has the promise which you was called on to witness been complied with? if it has not you may tell that man to prepare for the worst—I have been very unwell with a cold and am *several ounces* lighter than when I started—remember me to Mrs. Picket I would write to her but this is the last scrap of paper I have or can get remember me to my friend Westall and family and Pettus and Mrs. Cummins and all others—

Brother and Col. Milam send their best respects to Mrs. Long.

The old Gefe and myself have appointed the 15 of this month to start home and I hope to be with you in all this month.

War between England and Spain and cotton looking up a little.

You cant imagine my anxiety to get home and had I not promised Ahumada to go to the Sabine with him on our first arrival here I would start for San Felipe tomorrow. don't neglect to touch up Mr. . . . [sic] about his promise. My feelings are deeply interested in that business and he *shall* do what he has promised and perhaps a good deal more that I mean to make him do—I will stop least I may go to bed in a bad humor for it is past 12 at night so I bid you good night

AUSTIN.

[Addressed:] Mr. Sam M. Williams Administrador de Correos San Felipe de Austin

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DIMMITT TO WILLIAMS

Sant Antonia, 6th March 1827

Mr. WILLIAMS

SIR I inclose you this note for collection which you will doe me the favor to collect for me, it is money lent Mr. John W. Mitchell for to pay the expences of his negro—which he perchesed of Mr . . .

You will write me on the exchange of my note for Mr. . . . Cooks-. and oblige your Humble svt. we have no news at Present things dull and money scarce Capt. Areas and Mr [illegible] sends thair best respt and compliments to you

P. T. DIMMITT

[Addressed:] Mr. S: M. Williams en Sant. Felipe de Austin mail pd.

FELIX ROBERTSON TO AUSTIN

Nashville 8th March 1827

Colo. AUSTIN,

DEAR SIR, Majr. League the bearer of this has been appointed by the Texas association of this place their agent to go to Saltillo and apply to the convention now in session there in their behalf. To comply with the letter of the collonization law in the settling of their Colony presents so many and serious difficulties to the view of the Company, that they have become very much disheartend, and will I believe cause them to entirely abandon the enterprise, unless they can obtain some modification of the grant more favorable to its settlement. In their opinion the government can make terms much more favorable to the company, and in the end eventuate to the interest of the Government. This company wish particularly to have the power of selecting their settlers, who are to be their neighbours. *This* seems to be a "sine qua non" to any further attempt to make settlements in the Country. If they do settle in the Country they wish their lives and property to be as safe as their prudence can make them, and they think this can only be effected by the power being vested in themselves to keep out of their settlement any persons they may have the least *suspicion* of being restless, discontented, revolutionizing and disorganizing persons—Majr League will communicate freely with you touching the matter for which he goes on to the seat of government, and so far as you may think them proper and obtainable, your cooperation with him to effect the wishes of this company will be gratefully acknowledged by them. It is my present opinion that should Majr. League succeed in obtaining some of the vital changes desired, and your country remain quiet through the summer infinately a greater tide [of] emigration will set into it next fall than has ever yet been experienced. I think at present it would greatly benefit your country for it to be generally understood, (and be lawful) that foreigners could hold landed estates in it. My present limits will not allow me to go into the reasons for this opinion, but I have no doubt of its correstness—present me in the most friendly terms to our friend Ingram. accept assurances of my highest regard

FELIX ROBERTSON

WILLIAM SCOTT TO AUSTIN

Point pleasant. March 10th 1827.

DEAR SIR

In discharge of my duity which Charity calls for to assist a pore distresed and desolate widow with two orphants, who is toiling with Industry to maintain herself and children her situation language

can't Express and God above onley knows her suffering, to think that Hunter should be permitted to destroy that pore unhapy woman by his persuading her to take some medisin, and she was sworn on trial, and she states that he was to cure her and the charge would not exced seven Dollars, he state there was no contract, but swore to his account and not supported by other evidence as I thought to find a Judgement there appears that by some stratagim or other there is an account put with the papers which was not on trial or before the arbitrators for near $30. and upon what grounds the arbitrators found a judgement I'm not able to judge, and at the rendition of the judgement an appeal was applyed for and the aplycation Entered I was to enter hir security, I started down to the coast and did not get back as soon as I expected on account of the weather when I returned the time of Ten days had relaps,d so that she cant get an appeal, the Alcalda informs me. If I have under stood your opinion we did not gow upon formality but to give Justice, and this case calls for Justice your absence has stop,d the widow from seeing you there can be more Evidence produced and when your honour Has the depositions before you you will be the better judge, repoart says [he] has produced to a petition to you that he is a sober man and so fourth if so it is not correct. if you have formed a good opinion of him you are mistaken in the man and you will be better informed I remain your most obedient Hbl, St

Wm Scott [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Colª S. F. Austin San Philepi D Austin

J. A. Padilla to Austin

Saltillo 10 de Marzo 1827.

Sor D. Esteban Austin.

Estimado amigo mio: Conforme oficio de V. en carta de 24. del pasado le acompaño testimonios en forma del Testamento de nuestro difunto Amigo el Sor Baron de Bastrop pª. q. como su primer alvacea se sirva tomar todas las medidas correpontes. al cumplimto. de su ultima voluntad bajo la cual falleció: los costos funerales han importado con facultativo y medicinas doscientos sesenta y cuatro pª. q. he tenido qe. pedirlos prestados al Congo. de los Fondos del Estado y aun no se resuelve mi solicitud: los dros judiciales de apertura del testamto. y demas diligencias hasta la saca apertura de tres testimonios una pª. cada alvasea han importado veinte y cinco pesos siete r. q. se han pagado ya con treinta pª q. se encontraron al difunto el dia q. falleció. Por mis continuas enfermedades no he formado la lista

delos pocos bienes q. aqui dejó: algunos se han dado alos pobres como son ropas viejas. Haré la lista todo, procuraré su enagenacion y daré a V. cuenta aunqe. pienso q. sus productos no sufrirán los costos de una muger, y un mozo q. lo asistian dia y noche durante su enfermedad.

Por la clausula 8ª de su testamtº advertirá V. qe. dejó consignados 500 pˢ q. le debia el Sor Roberto Luis pª pago de su funeral y demas gastos q. se ofrecieran despues de su fallecimtº. El Sor Luis estubo en esta en el tiempo de su enfermedad y como se retiró pⁿ esa colonia muy pocos dias antes de su fallecimtº ignoro si dió en cuenta alguna cosa al difunto: Sirvase V. pr. tanto averiguar este asunto con el deudor, y conseguido el pago de la deuda tenga á bien dirijirme una libranza pª pagar los costos funerales y demas en la cantidad q. aV. le paresca bastante, ó avisarme en caso contrario si yo puedo librar a cargo de V. lo necesario a cubrir estos gastos q. creo poco excederán de 300 pˢ pues estoy comprometido ala debolucion delo q. se me prestare por disposicⁿ del congreso

Mañana se sancionará la constitucion del Estado y al sigtº se jurará pr. las supremas autoridades, y altos funcionarios como podrá V. imponerse pr. el decreto q. hoy circula: nuestro difunto amigo no llegó á tener este gusto.

Me ha puesto en mucho cuidado la falta absoluta de noticias de esa frontera desde el 22 de Enero ultimo en q. partió la expedicion de Sn. Felipe pª el Nacogdoches de manera, q. ni V. ni el Gefe del Departamtº ni el Comtº militar han escrito una sola carta ni oficio relativo alas operaciones y sucesos de un asunto tan interesante. Me escriben de Mexico el Diputado y el Senador q. el Gobº está autorizado pr. el Congº gral pª gastar en al pacificacion de esa frontera hasta medio millon de pesos: de levantar 4000 hombres dela milicia civica de estos Estados y de mandar 2000 hombres dela infanteria pr. mar con la competente caballeria y artilleria pr. tierra y de establecer el quartel general en Bexar: con otras varias medidas muy conducentes a la seguridad é integridad del territorio: dichas comunicaciones traen la fha de 21, 24 y 27, de febrero pasado

Con tales medidas y las q. continuamtº se estarán tomando me parece viviremos en pas no solo con respecto a los reboltosos dela frontera sino con todas las Tribus de Yndios a quienes seles hará una Guerra formidable.

Deseo aV. la mejor salud pa. q. disfrute con tranquilidad los frutos de sus trabajos y mande lo q. guste asu inve. amigo q. ato. B. S. M.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

DR. JOHN SIBLEY TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches March 12. 1827

DR. SIR.

I had the pleasure to Receive your letter by Col Milam dated Nacogdoches March 4th—for which I thank you. You say you had not Rec[d] a packet I sent you by Mr. Dubois when I mentioned that to Col. Milam he informed me that Dubois had not arrived when he left you—I Embrace the Opportunity by Col Thorn of sending you a few papers to which Refer you for the news as we have it. several circumstances have Occurred corroborative of the Report of Taxas or some part of it being ceded to the United States it will in a short time be officially communicated Genl. Gains left here this Morning we shall heare from him from Baton Rouge some new disposition of the U. S. Troops in this quarter will soon be made a Regiment probably will soon be Rendezvoued at Cantonment Jessup— If it was possible for you to Remain in the district of Nacogdoches for a short time I have no doubt but you may be farther informed on that subject, it may be of great Interest. Our Congress Rose the 4th of March without finishing one half of the Business before them it may be necessary for the President to call the members together again before the Meeting Ordinary. Our Relations with England may Require it. There is some Reason to believe England may attempt to occupy Cuba that we cannot agree to, that Gov[t] has already shut their West India Ports to our Vessels, they would do the same in Cuba did they command that island—England is now engaged in defending Portugal against the agressions of Spain, when that affair is finished, which cannot last long they will be Looking Out for new Employment for their immence Land and Naval forse, the Bermes War in India is settled.—

I send you some More News papers There is a man leaving here by the name of John Williams. who says he lived some time in the Trinity Bay, he says he has a Grant from you of a League Square of Land you will oblige me if you will inform me if his Right is a good one and if he should transfer his Right if it would be good, and what formality would be required in Case of a sale. As I contemplate moving into that Country in some future time I feel Enclined to secure some Land for the Benefit of my children—Some suspension of our correspondence did take place. I am not disposed to discuss the subject relative to who was in fault. I dislike to look backwards, much more than forward.—You will greatly Oblige me by attending to my demand against the State of John McFarlane I am told his place is valuable. I will take that in

full discharge of my judgement provided by your Permission I can obtain a Right.—you will Add to my present Obligations to you If you will give me such information about it as the case will suggest to you I might wish to know. Our Legislature will rise this week, the River is in fine Steam Boating Order. I know of nothing important the Legislature has done It has been occupied much in private matters. giving the Right of granting divorces to the District Courts, and seperating the corporation of New Orleans are the principal things.

If I could have known at what time you would have been at Sabine I certainly would have met you there. we wish much to have some arangement about our Exchange of Mails from Mexico—

When you see your Brother please to present to him my compliments and Best wishes. I wish he would write to me occasionally a correspondence with him would give me pleasure. I shall be glad to serve him and you in any way in my Power. I Expect Judge Johnston in three or four Weeks, his family will remain at Washington of course his visit to Louisiana will be short.

JOHN SIBLEY

Hon S. F. Austin

[Addressed:] Honble. Stephen F. Austin Nacogdochis-by Col Thorn

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M. SLOCUM TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches, March 13th 1827

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

SIR, I have understood from several persons that you were highly Displeased with the course which I have pursued relative to the late insurection in your province, in relation to the *statements* which have been made by me, in relation to your Collony, in my paper—I can assure you Sir, if any eroneous statements have been made by me they were unintentional and that the columns of my paper will be open to any one who wishes to refute them—

As to the communications which have appeared I am not responsible for no further than they go to impeach private character, and where that is done I shall always be ready to give up the author—As for the Editorial part I defy any person to point to the sentence which speaks favourable to the measures of the far famed Fredonians, but in admitting their proclamations I have done as other printers would and if they have in anny manner injured the country by their statements it will afford me pleasure to give any communications which may be made to refute them, an insertion—

If you feel disposed to encourage my paper I should be happy to get you to use your influence in your Colony and the country generally, to extend its circulation—I[f] you feel disposed to do so please to inform me and I will send you papers for this purpose

M SLOCUM

Col. S. F. Austin Nacogdoches, Texas.

SAUCEDO TO AUSTIN

El Exmo. Sor. Vice Gov^or^ de este Estado en papel de 7. de Febrero ppd^o^ me dice lo q. copio

"Como la mensura de las dies leguas litorales q. fueron eceptuadas pr. la Ley de colonizacion del 18. de Agosto de 1824. será costosa por una parte, y como por otra hay la duda sobre quien deberá sufragar este gasto, entendido de la consulta q. acerca de este particular me dirije V. S. en oficio No. 6. de 16. del pasado Enero con motivo dela duda ocurrida al comisionado C. Gaspar Flores, al Empresario ciudadano Estevan Austin, y álos mismos colonos, hé resuelto, q. para evitar las demoras q. puedan haber en la Resolucion de este asunto por no estar en las atribuciones del Gobierno hacer la declaracion q. V. S. pide se observe q. quando alguno ó algunos colonos pretendan ubicarse en el terreno demarcado á la segunda Empresa sobre la linea q. mira ála costa del mar, trasladados al punto pretendido el comisionado con la parte interesada y los Agrimensores nombrados al efecto; estos q. deven ser facultativos en su profecion, consultando el mapa averiguarán si el punto en q. se hallan está fuera ó dentro delas dies leguas litorales. En el primer caso el Comisionado dispondrá lo combeniente á metér en posecion del terreno designado por la Ley al postulante, estendiendo en la diligencias q. formare haberse prose[dido] por los Agrimensores á practicar la operacion indicada. y en el segundo caso esto és si el punto designado está comprehendido dentro del terreno exceptuado, dispondrá se retire acia lo interior quanto baste á quedar libres las dies leguas de la Ley.

Esta misma operacion servirá para las medidas q. se ofrescan practicar respecto delas veinte leguas limitrofes quando llegua el caso: de que V. S. cuidará de cumplir mientras se resuelva la duda pral. sobre costo [de] medidas.—Y lo aviso á V. S. en contestacion á su citado oficio, y para los efectos conciguientes."

Y lo traslado á V. para su inteligencia y demas fines q. son conciguientes.

Dios y libertad Nacogdoches 19. de Mzo. de 1827.

JOSÉ ANT^o^ SAUCEDO [Rubric]

Sor. Ten^te^ Cor^l^ D^n^ Estevan Austin

Saucedo to Gaspar Flores

El Exmo. Sor. Vice Gov^or de este Estado con fha 7. de Febrero ppd^o me dice lo q. copio[1]

"No siendo posible la salida de esta Capital del Sr. Dn. Felipe Enrriques Neris comisionado q. fué dela 1ª contrata del Empresario Ciudadano Estevan Austin para que concluya lo q. hay pendiente de ella, tanto por la calidad de Diputado, como por hallarse gravemente enfermo, hé tenido á bien determinar con presencia delo q. V. S. me manifiesta en oficio numero 11. de 16. de Enero ppdo. y de acuerdo con el referido Sor. Neris, autorizar al Ciudadano Gaspar Flores, q. se haya en esa con comision del Gobierno á cerca de la 2ª contrata con dho Empresario, para q. concluya los asuntos q. quedaran pendientes dela 1ª lo q. hará V. S. entender al interesado y al Ciudadano Gaspar Flores para su inteligencia y fines conciguientes."

Ylo traslado á V. para su inteligencia y fines q. son conciguientes. Dios y libertad. Nacogdoches 19. de Mzo. de 1827.

José Ant^o Saucedo [Rubric]

Sor. Ciudadano Gaspar Flores.

B. W. Edwards to Mateo Ahumada

Natchitoches 25. de Marzo de 1827.

Coronel Mateo Ahumada—

Querido Sor. Estará V. sorprehendido de recivir una comunicacion de un sujeto con quien no tiene V. personal conocimiento. Su sorpresa no se desminuirá quando reconozca q. el hombre cuya firma se halla estampada en esta carta es su enemigo, y el mismo que estaba honrrado con el mando pral. del pequeño partido de patriotas q. se sublebó en oposicion á su Gobierno, en defensa de sus dros. violados, y por la conservacion de sus vidas, y propiedades.

La fortuna dela guerra está ála presente enfabor de V. La perfidia de mis paisanos, y especialmente delos mismos hombres q. clamaban en oposición á su Gobierno han dado á V. una ventaja q. sus fuerzas nunca podrian haver adquirido. Yó he estado obligado á ceder á mi destino, é impelido á buscar asilo en mi pais natal.

Sor: ahora no tengo politica, ni motivo de renovar la guerra en Texas. Tampoco tengo disposicion a forzar los Habitantes de ese Pais para q. sean libres, y tan poca es mi inclinacion á arresgar mi vida otra vez por una porcion de hombres quienes despues de haberse quejado de sus opresiones, y reclamando mi proteccion, me

[1] A copy of the same to Austin is omitted.

huvieran rendido en sacrificio àlas Autoridades, y su Gobierno por saciar su venganza contra ellos mismos.

Havia un solo motive q. me podria haver movido á renovar mis esfuerzos, el qual huviera dado un caracter sanguinario a mis ulteriores operaciones. V. Sor. me há salvado de la necesidad de vertir la sangre humana. La libertad de nuestros prisioneros há embainado mi espada. Si Sor. V. há ganado sobre mi una conquista q. nunca esperaba, y q. las Armas de su pais nunca pudieran haber echo. Su manejo há archivado su noble, y generosa conducta para con ntros. maltratados, y desgraciados prisioneros q. devia poner sus perfidos, é insencibles paisanos ha eterna verguenza: há en parte sujetado la Alma qe. el poder, ni los escombros del Ymperio Mejicano nunca huvieran podido vencer. Sor. si tal conducta hubiera sido seguida por el Gefe Politico, y el Gobernador del Estado, yó nunca huviera tomado armas contra ellos; yó todavia huviera sido como antes fui su mas adicto Abogado, y Amigo, pero los dros de un Hermano ultrajado, y oprimido con infraccion dela constitucion de su adoptado pais q. enfaticamente previene á nadie puede sentenciarse sin oirse, y que está abolida la pena de confiscacion de bienes; las repetidas injusticias, y ultrajes contra mis paisanos q. me rodeaban, repetidas por nueve meses largos, fueron representadas en vano al Gobierno, y por ultimo un ultraje sobre mi sencibilidad, y dros. ordenandome destierra por ningun otro crimen q. el de apelar al Gobernador en los terminos mas respetuosos pidiendo una embestigacion á lo menos dela conducta de mi muy perseguido Hermano, fueron las causas q. me movieron a desnudar la Espada en Oposicion á las Autoridades de su pais. Estas son las razones q. me hizieron enemigo desu pais, y aunque todavia enemigo de su Gobierno, por q. nunca podré olividar mis vejacciones, siempre haré una distincion delos Mexicanos distinguidos q. merecen confianza.

Yó estoi persuadido del deseo vengativo de su Gobierno para conmigo: tal sentimiento puede abrigar el pecho de V. y tal vez su obligacion, y sur dever lo dictan, pero Sor. qual pueda ser su sensibilidad acerca de mi, ó su perspectiva de mi caracter, siempre tendré la firmeza, y magnanimidad de hacer mi dever, y justicia aun, a un enemigo. Su suave, amigable, y generoso comportamiento con mis Amigos, y compañeros soldados quando Prisioneros en su poder me obligan á dar á V. á los oficiales de su mando las expresiones de mi gratitud, y hán asegurado aV, y á ellos una distincion en ntros. corazones q. siempre los separá del numero de sus paisanos q. nos oprimieron.

Como enemigos de su pais, veo á V. todavia como Enemigo Nacional, pero como un hombre, y filantropico tiene V. poderosos reclamos en mi corazon. El hombre en cuyo pecho palpita una alma sen-

cible, y quan pocos son los que la poseen, no importa sea de qualquiera pais, ó clima, lleva consigo toda la confianza, y amistad de un Hermano. La influencia de esta sencibilidad me mueve a dirigir aV. esta comunicacion. El libre, y franco modo con q. hé hablado de mis injusticias, y justificaciones como un Enemigo, eran dividas ámi – La benebola sensibilidad q. he espresado por mi, y en fabor de mis Amigos, y compañeros soldados, son devidas á V. y á sus Hermanos oficiales.—Con sentimientos de respeto de V.—

BENJAMIN W. EDWARDS.

Es copia. Nacogdoches 1° de Abl. de 1827.

AHUMADA. [Rubric]

ANASTACIO BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Bahia del Esp^tu S^to Marzo 26 de 1827.

Ciudadano Coronel AUSTIN

APRECIABLE AMIGO: he llegado á este pto, y quisiera estar ya en esa villa para dar á V. un Extrechisimo abrazo; pero no siendome permitido por ahora el goce de esta dulce satisfaccion, le daré á lo menos la devida en hora buena pr el feliz resultado de la Expedicion á Nacogdoches, y reciva V. con ella las seguridades del cordial afecto y consideracion con q me repito su mas adicto amigo, que lo estima muy deveras y decea complacerle.

ANAS^lo BUSTAM^te [Rubric]

V. D. Ntro. Gobierno q se desvela por la felicidad de todos los Estados que están á su cargo, manda á este Departamento recursos y fuerzas suficientes para comvatir a los Enemigos de la paz, y de la integridad del territorio Mexicano, lo que comunico á V. para su inteligencia y satisfaccion

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M. SLOCUM TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches March 27. 1827

DR. SIR,

I have thro the politeness of Mr Cable, rec^d your favour of the 24th inst. It gives me pleasure to learn that you do not attribute to me bad motives for the course I have pursued relative to the late unfortunate troubles which have been brought upon your province by the late *Fredonians*

I can assure you that every person in this place is opposed to the conduct of these late renegades—and also thro-ought the U. S. with the exception of a few who would be glad to embark in any course, however desperate and unprincipled—

You have probably ere this heard the report that H. Clay, sec. of State has wrote to a Mr. Stockton, of Virginia that the U. S.

were in Treaty for the purchase of the Province of Texas—Mr. Clay, has denied ever having intimated any thing of that nature—

If convenient I should be glad to obtain the Constitution of the Province of Texas and Cohuila, as soon as it is published for the purpose of republishing in English—Also any Mexican papers you may be able to spare for the purpose of translation I will send you nothern papers at every convenient opportunity, which I am in hopes I will be able to do regularly thro the kind aid of Mr. Cable—

MILTON SLOCUM

Col. S. F. Austin

P. S. If you will send papers or any communications you may wish to make Mr. Durst, he will forward them on

M. S.

[Addressed:] Col: S. F. Austin, Nacogdoches, Tex

J. CABLE TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches, 28th. March 1827.

DEAR SIR,

I recd your letter of the 23d. March by Mr. John Cortes, and Enclosed letter to M. Slocum last evening and Slocum has Put your name down as a subscriber to the courier and will Forwd— it as circumstances will admit— I have Inclosed two letters To Samuel M. Williams and some News Papers of late dates which may give you some news that you have not Recd. I forwd— them by a Mr. Wetherspoon stranger to me who is a going to St. Phillipe De Austin there was no letters in our Post Office for you—

I wish you would doe me the favor to send me some Mexican News Papers if you can Obtain them convenient, Mrs Cable wishes to be remembered to you—I am your friend

J. CABLE

P. S. if you are in Nacogdoches when you receive this Please to tell John Durst th[at] his family is well—

J. CABLE

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F Austin Nacogdoches Texas

BEN R. MILAM TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches March 30th 1827

Col AUSTIN

Dr Sir I received your favor by Mr Cortis and am much conserned in consequence of the many troubles and difficulties that appear to oppose the colonizing sistem

The manner in which the slave question is desided will be a grait objection to the American population and I fear will put a Suden stop to that population, that would be benificial to Embroserios [empresarios.] The shawnies you say is admited by an order of the Governor to become setlers, and I understand it corectly they have all the privaleges of other citizens in cais they cultivait the soil. If this be the cais we may bid adue to our antisapated pleasure for society never will improve under those circumstances

As it respects the commercial arangement I was not able to do aneything definait I converst with Jas W Zacharia he I believe would Enter in to the business if he was sertain the parties was well acquainted with the Mercantile business

I am of the opinion that it would be well for John Austin to visit Orleans give to Zacharia a fool [full] description of the Country and the prospects of traid and I have no doubt but he would advans to aney amount that would be required

I only spent three days in Neworleans and had not an opertunity of completing the hole of my business and had not a decisive answer on yours whil in orleans I received leter from wavell as lait as the 30 of December he has much dificulty in making his aragements but says he will leave in a few weaks for this plais.

As it respects the Extention of teritory I believe it has all blown over as there has been nothing said on the subject through the hole sesion of congress.

I leave this in the morning for pecoun pint [Pecan Point]. A little Tristy in consiquens of the inducements Extended to the Indians by the Government. I feare they will be a little troublesom to the setelments but I will distroy Every thing like discord as fair as is in my power and hope for a chainge a spedy chainge for the better

BEN R MILAM

Give my respects to all friends and write as often as you have opertunity—the fredonians is all here rather under the wether

[Addressed:] Col Stephen F Austin San philipa de Austin Texas

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AHUMADA TO BENJAMIN W. EDWARDS

No. 2.

Nacogdoches 31 de Marzo de 1827.

Ciudadano BENJAMIN W. EDWARDS

Muy Sor mio de todo mi respeto, y consideracion.—De mano del Mayor A Heard hé recibido ayer la comunicacion de V. de 25 del qe. acaba, y en atenta contestacion devo manifestarle con la fran-

queza propia de un hombre libre mi modo de pensar sobre el contenido de la citada comunicacion.—

La fortuna de la guerra q. á la presente esta en mi favor, no proviene de la perfidia de algunos Paisanos de V q. proclamaron oposicion á mi Gobierno, sino de la justicia q. acompaña á mi sistema.

Permitiendo á V. sin conceder q. solas las fuerzas de mi cargo no fuesen suficientes á conseguir ventajas sobre las del partido q. V. adoptó, solo se podria inferir q. mis comp^ros^ de Armas, y yó en cumplimiento de nto dever, huvieramos quedado tendidos en el campo de batalla, pero nunca q. mi Nacion fecunda en toda clase de recursos huviera dejado de conservar la integridad de su territorio, y mucho menos quando un puñado de Hombres se lo disputaba.

Los havitantes de este pais, son libres en toda la extension de la palabra. Si V. con imparcialidad recorre las paginas de la constitucion Mexicana conocerá esta verdad.

si las Autoridades locales de este Pueblo infringieron las Leyes, el recurso legal era representarlo al Gobierno del Estado pr. conducto del Gefe Politico del Departam^to^ y en caso de q. no huviera contestado pr. razones q. á V, y á mi nos son desconocidas, devieron marchar a la Capital del Saltillo los q. se creyeron ultrajados p^a^ representar alli contra el Gobierno mismo si fuese necesario, manifestando las infracciones de Constitucion, y las injusticias q. en consequencia huviesen recivido. La libertad de imprenta existe en toda su plenitud:

El Gobierno del Estado no es absoluto: La Legislatura tiene limites: El Poder Ejecutivo Federal, esta circumscripto á las Leyes: La orbita del Legislativo, está marcada. Todo se distingue á un golpe de vista en la constitucion gral de Mexico. ¿y si no tocó V. ninguno de estos restores p^a^ manifestar sus quejas podrá V. decir con integridad q. el Gobierno de mi pais es injusto? O cre V. q. las Autoridades estan exceptuadas de responsabilidad, ó q. las liberales instituciones q. afortunadamente nos rigen, son puras teorias, y en este caso agravia V. mucho a mi nacion y se equivoca completam^te^.

Si yó olvidando mi dever huviera dejado á los prisioneros que tuve de la Partida del mando de V. diria V. q. mi Gobierno era barbaro, é inhumano, y en este caso, tambien se equivocaria V. porq. el Gobierno no tiene culpa de q. sus subalternos obren mal, á nó ser q. sabiendo, no castigue. Digo lo mismo q. si algunas autoridades le hán faltado á V. ó al Sor su Hermano este Gobierno no tiene la culpa, porq. no lo sabe: tal vez no han llegado a sus oidos las quejas de Vms. Si no obstante huviera infringido la Ley, existen Tribunales ante quienes devieron representar las infracciones.

La conducta q. mis comp^ros^ de Armas, y yó hemos observado con los Prisioneros de la Partida del mando de V, y q. tanto elogio le

há merecido, es comforme al sistema q. nos rige, y á las orns con q. me hallo del Exmo S. Comte. Gral, de cuya superioridad inmediatamte. dependo, y de quien recivi las instrucciones correspondtes pa el arreglo de mis operaciones militares en esta frontera. Entre otras cosas me dice oficalmente. Son sus propias palabras. *El amor a la humanidad me sugiere los mas vivos deseos de q. todo se termine amistosamente* Esta es inequivoca prueba—[torn]_____ Gobierno, y cuya razon no creo merecen en mi poder, pues en ello solo cumpli con las ordenes q. tenia, y con los deveres de la humanidad q. no permiten ultrajar á un Hombre vencido. Creo q. en opuestas circumstancias V. huviera echo lo mismo con qualquiera Yndividuo de mi partida, y á no ser asi le huviera manchado el honor de un Republicano.—Tambien veo á V. como á Enemigo, porq. lo es V. de mi [torn] patria. Asi lo exigen mis sentimientos, y mi dever, pero al mismo tiempo amo aV. como Hombre, y especialmente como Republicano.

Los oficiales de mi mando con afectuosos sentimientos retornan á V. su gratitud, y yó con espreciones cordiales me titulo atento Servidor de V. Q. B. S. M. es copia

AHUMADA. [Rubric]

GREEN DEWITT TO AUSTIN

Station at Labaca April 3rd 1827.

DR SIR

I am happy to hear of your return and hope your visit to Nacogdoches has, and will result in much good to the Country.

We have lately had 2 visits to our station of the Coronkawases; the first part had six, and the [second] twelve in number, they professed great friendship to us and actually had it in their power to have killed several of our people, as they came up to the station; for they found one man and 2 boys 10 miles below here at work, and actually were in their camp in a manner—before they were discovered; a few miles above that they came to another labor in like manner where there were a man and a woman; and hurt no one but I am of opinion that they are only waiting a good opportunity to make a break on our settlement, therefore we are constantly upon our Guard; and so soon as we get our corn planted we will try to be ready for them, and are determined that they must not come amongst us—for since we have heard of the late murders in your colony it is more than Americans can *bear* to suffer them to come under the coulor of friendship when their hands are yet reeking with the blood of Inosent women and children; and as we expect a campaign against them from your quarter, I have thought it most advisable to keep peace with them if possible untill that time; and being advised of

the time we can have it in our power to know where they *are* and can give you 15 or 20 good brave men to assist in cuting them entirely off. and If a Campaign is intended please to let me know that I may know how to act.

Mr. Kerr is at la Bahia, but looked for every hour. I had news from Gonzales yesterday 2 Blockhouses are well built and now under the Command of Mr. Byrd Lockhart; all are in peace at that place; and no Indian sign near that is known of.

Mr Monchola has not sent the ballance of my guns to me and the individuals who own them, altho he has been ordered to do so and it is greatly to the hurt of the owners as they want them to hunt their meat as well as to guard themselves with.

Please write me and give me the news, as Mr Kerr and myself are both anxious to hear from the N Eastward and S westward.—

G Dewitt [Rubric]

Col Stephen F Austin

P. S. Give the earliest notice you can if a campaign is intended against the Corronks, that we may have time to prepare to Join you—

G. D.

[Addressed:] Col Stephen F Austin San Felipe de Austin Brassos per Capt Russell

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William Bloodgood to Austin

April 4th—1827

Col. Stephen F. Austin

Please to settle the dispute between myself and E. Brinson about a piece of land bought of said Brinson by me for 25 cents per acre this being while the Alcalde was absent a bond was drawn for the same [by] Daniel E Bailes calling for six square acres front runing parallel with the uper lint of Brinsons league to the back line Now said Brinson refuses to give a deed for acres but has surveyed a like quantity of arpents for me which I refuse to receive—

He also wishes to alter his lines so as to make his league narrower and longer which will be prejudicial to my purchase—Now sir you will oblige me if you will assure me if a man contracts for acres if he can be compelled to take arpents—this will perhaps save me some trouble I am poor and do not wish to incur Expences But dont wish to be wronged—

I further wish to trouble you with the Examination of a receipt for the payment of another piece of land purchased of the same man which also specifies acres and remains unsettled which is here inclosed please send the receipt to me by Mr- Hunter

Wm Bloodgood

Col S. F. Austin

Power of Attorney

La ciudadana Mary Coffey natural Anglo Americana avecindada en este pueblo de nacogdoches, declaro por este precente, dar poder pª Reclamar un Baul con diferentes Efectos de mi uso y demas, qe. cuyos nomvres acompaña este la cita de su total Balor,—

Y aviendo tomado á vien nomvrar y encargo de dicha Reclamacion, á el ciudadano Jose luciano Fremoure Oldivar Fisico de la tropa q. se halla en este pueblo de Guarnicion; qe aviendo obtenido el permiso de su comandte principal pª pasar á Bejar, le doy el poder ábsoluto pª qe. en la Villa de San felipe de Austin donde Esto se halla en poder de la persona nombrado tammus York á quien dicho Sor tiene qe. Réclamar. Suplicandole aga como propio suyo; lo que doy con conocimiento de el Alcalde Constitucional de Este pueblo, qe. Certifico áverme presentado á dicho Sor para susodicha demanda, para q conste lo firme en

Nacogdoches—6—Abril 1827

Nacogdoches Abril 6. 1827

El alcalde constitucional interino de este Pueblo certifico que la suplicante havia presentado por lo reclamacion de los efectos que es adjunta no ciendo in mi distrito esta remitido a lo Colonio de San Filipe Austin

Encarnasion Chirino [Rubric]

Bustamante to Austin

Bahia Abril 7 de 1827.

Sor D. Estevan F. Austin

Mi muy estimado amigo y dueño de todo mi aprecio. con el mas grato placer he leido la apreciable carta de V. de 26. de Enero ppdo. q. he recivido con bastante retardo, y desde luego le doy las devidas gracias tanto por la manifestacion amistosa q. me hace en ella, como pr. la minuciosa narracion con q. me instruye del origen, progresos y felis termino de la Rebolucion naciente de Nacogdoches, conviniendo con V. en q. las medidas adoptadas pr. los jefes de este Departamto fueron las mas oportunas pª lograr el buen ecsito, y yo añadiré q. tambien contribuyó mucho la eficaz cooperacion tanto de V. como del coronel Bean y los demas individuos q. contribuyeron á contrariar Dha rebolucion cuyos servicios he recomendado al Supmo Govno. Restanos ahora amigo mio poner en paz á los comanches y demas tribus q. hostilizan nuestros establecimtos á lo q. espero cooperará V. tambien con sus apreciables colonos pr. ser una

cosa de q. resulta el bien de todos los abitantes de este departamento y de los pueblos fronterizos de los Estados Ynternos.

Por un estrahordinario q. mandé á los Brazos diriji á V. una carta; y no teniendo ahora tiempo pª mas concluyo repitiendome su verdadero amigo q. desea complacerle y lo estima con la mas cordial sinceridad.

ANASTº BUSTAMTE [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Al C. Tente. Corl. Felip Estevan Austin Nacogdoches o donde se halle

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THOMAS CORWIN TO IRA LEWIS

Lebanon 7th Apl 1827.

DEAR SIR,

I have been employed by the Administrators of Tobias . . . to collect the debts of that estate. amongst others I find a due bill against you for $150— with about 4 years interest due thereon. My clients have requested that I should forward the note to some person in your neighborhood, but as I knew yourself and no one else in that quarter, I thought due to old acquaintance to let you know the claim was in my hands. If you will forward a draft to me or any person in . . . [illegible] with a request to some friend there to receive the note and pay the amot I will deliver the note to such person [upon re]ceiving the money — The Admrs [want] to settle soon and th[is is] the only claim not in suit — please to favor me with a reply by return of mail — How stands matters in your country in a professional way — Do you make fortunes at pleasure or are you languishing as we are here in the debts of humility Are you really all Jacksonians or not let me hear from you in regard to these matters.

THOS. CORWIN

Ira Lewis Esq Natches Mississippi

[Addressed:] Ira Lewis Esq Attorney at law Natchez Missisippi.

H. H. LEAGUE TO AUSTIN

Bells landing the 11th April 1827

COL STEPHEN F AUSTIN

D SIR I left the vessel on which I came in a few days since for the purpose of Calling on you at San Felipe but haveing a favourable wind I learn that the Vessel will be at this place this Evening which

makes it necessary for me to Remain so soon as all my families and their Effects are landed I will Immediately Visit San Felipe

I inclose you some documents from the Texas association which you will be so good as to peruse between this and the time I shall see you. the directory of the company has made free to solicit your advice and assistance in accomplishing their Views the Tener of which you will be able to discover by an Examination of their documents. if in your Judgement it should be necessary they request through me that you would assist in forming an additional memorial to government in their behalf if a change can be produced favourable to their Views they will introduce the whole 800 families during next season and as many more as they may be authorised to bring and if the protection of their property can be garanteede the Emigration will be wealthy if the nature of things would permit I would be Extreamly glad to Imploy Mr Williams to go on with me to Saltillo, if it is possible for him to leave his other Business so long you [will] much oblige me by nameing the thing to him. we are all in fine health. Give my Respects to the inhabitants of San Felipe Generally

H. H. LEAGUE

J. HUNTER TO AUSTIN

April 12th 1827

The Honorable S. F. AUSTIN

Judge of Austins Colony.

your petitioner humbly prays redress for the abuse and to be released from the persecution and oppression of Wm Scott who declares that I shall not be out of the law while I remain in that place and that he will have me halled up to court at least once a month if it should be for no other purpose than to hackle me by which he means to ridicule and abuse me as he has been in the habit of doing at each court day for the last six months in such a manner that it is impossible to bear it. The Alcalde Jackson's letter of last week will shew you something of the manner in which be abuses not only me but the court itself. It seems also useless to obtain a decission against him as he disregards you or your orders—so declared—And so in the case of the widow he has twisted and quibled for more than a year and raised a great bill of cost rejec[ted] and picked the jury untill he got one Exactly to please him who allowed me only thirty nine dollars and some cents which at the request of the Alcalde I agreed to take in property and not distress the widow. And now notwithstanding an express order from your honor that no appeal should be taken in those cases Behold them

before you claiming an appeal without Even giving bail or taking any stay whatever is this lawfull—

He is so well up to persecuting me at the cost of others—that I beg leave to cite another case where he taking the advantage of one of your letters to the Alcalde (although he wont be ruled by them himself) he wishes to make me prove Every Item of all my accounts by other testimony than my own, he has induced a man to s[wear to an] article that was paid to me two years [ago] he is the agent to prosecute. Now I [can prove?] by the Alcalde Jackson and Eight others citizens of our place that said man has [on]ly declared that I saved his life and he gave me that article in payment This I mention not that I am afraid of loosing it but to shew you what steps he takes [to] persecute me at the cost of Others and also that I am never to get of the law . . . said I humbly pray your honor therefore to instruct me in what manner I am to be redressed and how I am to get out of the law. The shameful story of the buckle business is not yet settled and when Ever it is decided he will appeal or take some other step of delay

J. HUNTER, [Rubric]

The Hon. S. F. AUSTIN

W. SUTHERLAND TO AUSTIN

R Bravo April the 12 1827

Col. AUSTIN

Sir I send a few lines to you to enquire how affairs are with Singleton respecting his land whether he holds all of the land between Fishers League and Cars League or not And whether he is competent to transfer it away as he has bound himself and wishes to receive the pay for it I should wish to know whether I may depend on any part of that tract and if not that I may know it I have paid him for one quarter of a League adjoining Fishers League for which the bond more clearly shows I send you the bond to show that he may not deed it away to any other person. Please to give me some information by Mr Arnold that I may know what to do

WALTER SUTHERLAND

ELECTION NOTICE

NOTICE

An Election will be held by the Inhabitants of this Colony in the Town of San felepe de Austin on Sunday the 22^{d} of this month for

the purpose of choosing electors to meet in San Antonio on the 13 day of May next in order to elect two representatives for the State Legislature

San felepe de Austin 12 April 1827

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Bahia del Espᵗᵘ Stᵒ Abril 14. 1827.

Sor. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Estimado amigo y apreciable conciudadano.

Deviendo arribar una espedicion de tropas q. deve haver salido de Veracruz con destino á Nacogdoches, y dificultandose su desembarco en Matagorda espero me diga V. á buelta de correo si podran verificarlo con alguna seguridad en el desemboque del Rio de los brazos ó del trinidad, y con cuantos carros podremos contar de esa colonia pª la conduccion de municiones viveres y equipajes; y con este motivo tengo la satisfaccion de repetir á V. las propuestas de mi sincero afecto y consideracion como su adto. conciudno. y amigo q. lo estima muy deveras.

ANASTº BUSTAMᵗᵉ [Rubric]

JOHN R. HARRIS TO AUSTIN

Harrisburg, April 15. 1827.

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR at the request of the widow McCormick I have taken the liberty to address you on the subject of her difficulties with Johnson Hunter. while acting as alcalde I recᵈ an Order from you to appoint six disentristed men to settle all difficulties between them I made the appointments agreeable to your request, and the Arbitrators awarded to John Hunter thirty Nine Dollars with costs, of suit. Mrs. McCormick has caled on Jackson, the Alcalde for an appeal in order to have a new Trial and have it brought before your honor. Jackson refuses to grant it on the ground that all such suit was to be settle'd in this district. her object in visiting your place is to get an order from you to the alcalde of San Jacinto to send the papers up to you. and have it try'd before your honorable court at the next Term— Earle has arrived at the mouth of the Trinity with the Schooner Augusta, with four or five families on board, you informed me that I could have my league altered so as to make it wider than the present survey, as it now stands it is only 2400 Bars wide the alteration that I want to make is not agoing to interfear with any one. and I would

be under obligations to you to forward by Mrs. McCormick. the plot of my league of land on Buffaloe Bayou, (or a copy of it) that I deposited in your Office. your compliance will lay me under many obligations.

JOHN R. HARRIS [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO COLONISTS.

NOTICE.

Is hereby given that every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday will be exclusively devoted to Closing the Concerns of the first Colony settled by the Empressario Stephen F. Austin until finished, and no other business will be attended to on those days either by the Empresario or Commsisioner on the other days of the Week applications will be rec^{d} for Land in the new Colony of said Austin which must be presented to the Commissioner in the manner prescribed by Law—

The following provisional regulation for fees on Land in the new Colony is adopted until the fee bill is rec^{d} from the Govt. and the settler will be liable to pay any that may be established over the following rates.

To the Commissioner	Thirty Dollars on each title above the quantity of a Labor				
To the Empresario	ditto	ditto	do	do	do—
To the Secretary	Ten	ditto	do		

One half of the above fees must be paid on the presentation and admission of the petition and the other half on receipt of the title—

The petition and title must be on Stamped paper of the 3^{d} Seal and the Copies on the 2^{d} Seal which must be paid in Cash by the applicants. Surveying fees will be four dollars per mile to be settled by the Colonists with the Surveyors commissioned for the Colony. These fees are independent of the acknowledgement of Thirty dollars per League due to the Govt. and payable within Six years.

Sn felepe de Austin 16th Apr 1827

BILL AND PRICE LIST

Colo, Stephen F. Austin, Dr.,
To Alex^{r} Calvit.

1826	To 4 loads of wood,	15.00
	To hire of 2 Negro Men, 1 day and found in Boating	3.00
	To 1 Man 1½ days $1.50 do Oxen and Cart $4	5.50
	To 110 lbs Beefe do 106 lbs @ 5 Cts	10.80
	To 1½ Bushells of Corn Pr Indians	1.50

1826			
June	14	To 140 lbs Beefe @ $5 pr Hund.	7.00
	20	½ Bushell Corn Pr Selfe for Cow River Expedition.	.50
		the hire of Cion will be settled with Mrs Long	$24
	26	32 lbs Beefe by J. B. Austin. @ 5/	1.10
Aug.	29	Your assumsit in favor of Ingram.	9.25
Sept.	9	4 loads of wood 4.	4.00
Octr.	9	1 load of wood	1.00
	20	2 loads of wood	2.00
Nov.	8	1 load wood	1.00
		To riming and Spoaking 2 Cart wheeles	15.00
	28	To 1 load wood $1 provisions for—.50	1.50
Dec	4	20 lbs Beefe @ 5 cts Jany 3^d^ 1827—1 load wood	2.00
1827			
Jany	10	20 lbs Beefe @ 5 cts	1.00
		Cash lent on Col° Butlar	18.00
		Your assumsit of Do	26.50
		Your assumit of Robisons act	5.25
		Your part of Boat at Ferry	8.00
	12	Mr. G Smiths Grave	4.00
		40 Barrels of Corn loand you @ 1.50	60.00
Aprl.	16	To halling 1 load Corn from River by J. B. Austin	1.00
			216.40

Rec^d^ Payment in full

ALEX^r^ CALVIT

Mr. S. M. Williams Dr.

To 2 Bushels Corn by Washington		$2.00
		216.50
P^d^ Commissioner		10.00
Carrd. ford		226.50
Amt. Brot Forward		226.50
By One League of Land	168.00	
Stamp paper	3.00	
Two Labors 22½ varas	45.00	
S M Williams fee for drawing just title	10.00	
Do Do your		
Last Years		228.50
Due S. F. Austin		2.

RECEIPT FOR GOODS

Rec^d^ from H. Fullerton, in good order and to be delivered in like good order to Col. S. F. Austin at St Felipe de Austin the following articles to wit

1 Bbl cont'g Coffee, Loaf Sugar and diverse small articles
½ " cont'g 2 Cheeses
3 Cans of Mackerel,

The carriage of which will be paid by H. Fullerton at this place—
Baileys Landing 18 April 1827

[Saucedo?] to Inhabitants of Pecan Point

I have received from Messrs Nathaniel Robins and Doctor Lewis R Dayton the representation which you directed to me under date of 20 february of the present year in which you complain that officers from the Govt of the United States of North America [are] exacting from you taxes and Contributions which in your opinion you ought not to pay on account of your being established on Lands of the Republic of Mexico. At the same time petitioning protection and assistance from this Govt. as well to avoid those exactions as for your defence against the incursions of the hostile Indians, on which particular I have to state to you that it is not within the bounds of my faculties to remidy the evils which afflict you not knowing the place where the division line between the two Republics will fall. You must therefore in the meantime bear with patience the disgusts of such treatment with the understanding that under this date I forward your representation to His Excellency the Governor of this State asking of him the necessary auxilliaries for that part of the frontier of which you will undoubtedly reap [an advantage] should your fate decide that you are [to be a part of] Mexican Territory. In which event, I [do not see] any objection to your provissionally forming and until the decission of the Supreme Govt. is given to your representation all the branches of organised government under a system already known and regulated by the laws which you are acquainted with until those of the Country which you wish to adopt are furnished to you.

God & Liberty
Snfelipe de Austin 19th April 1827

[J. Antonio Saucedo?]

To the Inhabitants of Pecan Point

War Department to Austin

Secretaria de Guerra y Marina—Seccion Central—el Supremo Gov° Mejicano ha visto con el devido aprecio el importante serv° qe han echo los pobladores de la colonia qe. llevan el nombre de Vs. acreditando en su conducta ser dignos miembros de esta Republica a qe pertenecen—Para asegurar en adelante la tranquilidad de ese Est° ha dispuesto el Gov° qe marche á Tejas una division al mando del cor¹ D. José Ant° Tacio, qe llevara consigo el numero competente

de artilleria, municiones y pertrechos, y el numerario presiso para los haveres de la tropa: esta expedicion devera salir inmediatamente del puerto de Veracruz, y unidas sus fuerzas á las q existen ya en ese Est° bastaran para guarneser los puntos mas importantes, mantener el orden é imponer a los qe pretendiesen perturbarlo—Lo qe tengo la satisfaccion de participar a V. S. de orden del presidente p[a] su inteligencia—

Dios y Libertad

Mejico, Abril 19 de 1827—Señor Corl—D. Felipe Austin—

Es copia Mejico Abril 19. de 1827.—I—Cacho—corregida—Castillo—

Es Copia Bahia del Espiritu Santo Mayo 19. de 1.827.

GUERRA [Rubric]

BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Bahia del Esptu Sto. Abril 19. de 1827.

Ciud[no]. Co[nel] ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

Mi muy estimado amigo: doy á V. las mas esprecivas gracias pr. la cordial enhora buena con q. felicita mi llegada á este departam[to] en su apreciable carta de 10. del presente y pr. la manifestacion q. me hace á nombre suyo y de esos apreciables abitantes á quienes correspondo con el devido afecto.

Yó tambien felisito á V. pr. haber regresado á su casa sin novedad despues de haver hecho un servicio q. siempre le será grato; y sin tiempo pa. mas concluyo repitiendome su adicto amigo q. estima muy deveras y desea complacerle

ANAST°. BUSTAM[to]. [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

En consecuencia de la premura del tpo en q[e] recibí la Convocatoria, q[e] me remitió el Gob[no] Supremo del Estado, y las muy largas distancias de q[e] viven estos habitantes, no fué posible verificar las elecciones p[r] toda esta jurisdicion en el modo designado en la dha ley de Convocatoria.

Dios y Libertad

S[n] Felipe deAustin 21 de Abril de 1827

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departamento C Jose Antonio Saucedo

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[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

J. H. Polley to ———

I Joseph H Polly Sheriff of Austin's Colony do hereby Certify that I have this day rec^{d} from Stephen F. Austin two notes one drawn by J H Bell in favor of Mr James Gains or order for forty eight dollars and 25 cts to be paid in hogs at the rate of the country and dated 25th April 1824. and the other drawn by Wm W Little payable to J H. Bell for sixty dollars to be discharged in a good young mule, should one Mule not discharge the debt the balance to be paid in Corn or Hogs at the choice of the holder the first of said Notes payable in Novem^{r} of the same year and the other in October—the said notes having been attached from the possession of said Austin as the property of James Gains by an order of the Alcalde of the Dis^{t} of Sanfelipe de Austin under date of 24th April 1827 on the petition of Wm Prator.

S^{n} Felipe de Austin 28 April 1827 J H Polley. Const.

Austin to Captain Dillard

I have made an arrangement with Capt Dillard to let him have the half of the League of Land sold by DeMoss to J. E. B. Austin for which he is to pay the usual fees paid in the old colony—he is to notify me wheither he takes said land or not within four months. and if he does not give such notice within that time, I shall no longer be bound—Also he is to have a Labor at an island of timber in the Bay Prairie nearly opposite to Rawls, provided he gives notice to me that he will take it within two months

May 1. 1827

S. F. Austin

Anthony R. Clarke to Austin

Dear sir

agreable to my promis I now address you by Mr Milbourn I have to inform you that Mrs Page coincides with me in wishing to receive the two Labours No 1 and No 2 If they can both be conveyed in one deed it will be best if not let there be two if in one they can be conveyed in the name of Eliza Page widow of the late William A Page her maiden name was Eliza Clarke.

I have paid Capt Chase $10 for a bbl of flour on your account, and hope to be able to bring with me when I come to Town money to pay you if not the whole at least for the deeds and stamped paper but the prospect is not very bright, owing to Varners not being able

to procure any money. we have had to advance every dollar we could scrape to make up the payment of the Hope, I[f] you should want Flour for your own use send an Order to me as I have some bbls to sell likewise hatts and salt—

yours affectionately A. R. CLARKE

Friday morning 4th May 1827—

[Addressed:] Col, S, F, Austin San Phillip pr Mr Milbourn

A. DILLIAR TO AUSTIN

Harrisburgh 4th May 1827.

DR. SIR. I have sent you the Articles which you gave me a bill of. 1 Hat 1 piece of Irish Linen 3 yds. of Irish sheeting Also 1 Cloak.

N. B. the bearer of these Articles and letter Mr. Fox I have been acquainted with for some time and believe him to be a gentleman in every respect.

A. DILLIAR.

Col. S. F. AUSTIN.

N. B. I expect to take the Land in Bay Prarie agreeable to our last the Barrel of Sugar I have not sent there being no opportunity at present.

SAMUEL T. ANGIER TO AUSTIN

May 7th 1827.

SIR, As a favourable opportunity offers, I take the liberty to address you a few lines. Lest it should not be in my power to visit you before The most eligible situations shall be chosen in The new colony I wish you would select and designate for me such a leage as you think most proper; I am just going to view the land on Chocolate Bayou, agreeably to the arrangement with Mr. G. B. Hall After which I will endeavour To see you as soon as possible.

If you have obtained a plot of Those labores, I wish you to forward me your communication on The same by Mr. Harris. Thus doing you will oblige your friend

SAMUEL T. AN[GIER] (?)

N. B. Capt. Chrisman highly recommended The lands on Mill Creek.

[Addressed:] Col. S. F. Austin. San Felipe.

Surety Bond[1]

Sello Tercero Dos Reales Circular Seal

Para los años de mil ochocientos veinte y seis y ochocientos veinte y siete.

En la Villa de Sⁿ Felipe de Austin 7 de Mayo de 1827 Ante mi Mills M Battle Alcalde Constitucional de la dha Comparecieron Estevan F. Austin y Tomas Westall quienes declararon ser mayores de 25 años y dijeron, qᵉ para resguardo de la venta del papel sellado de esta Colonia á qᵉ esta nombrado Admor el C Samuel M Williams se obligan insolidum y de mancomun desde qᵉ tome posesion en adelante como sus fiadores, pʳ el tpo qᵉ estubiere á su cargo á pagar todos los alcances de caudales qᵉ en el manejo de ella resulten, hta la cantidad de mil siete pesos cuatro rr y las constas salarios astrasos, y perjuicios qᵉ se causen en su cobro, deferida su prueba en el juramento de la parte legítima, sin qᵉ para ello sea necesario hacer escursion en los bienes del dho Samuel M Williams pʳ qᵉ desde luego se obligan como principales pagadores haciendo su deuda ajena suya propia, con sus personas, bienes, habidos y pʳ haber los qᵉ hipotecan generalmente á la expresada paga, y renuncian todas las leyes, fueros y derechos de su favor, como el beneficio de la escurcion division y demas de la mancomunidad: esperando qᵉ pª la exacion del alcance ó alcances qᵉ resulten en dhos caudales no ha de ser necesario qᵉ las cuentas se tomen en tpos oportunos ni tampoco otro instrumento que el testimonio qᵉ esta escritura y certificacion del Contador de la Factoria ó la cuenta líquida por el vicitador qᵉ se nombrare ú otra qualquiera persona qᵉ sea parte legitima, ya la validacion firmesa y cumplimiento de esta escritura se obligan en toda forma, y dan poder á los Señores Jueces, y justicias de esta federacion de qualquiera parte qᵉ sean, y en especial á los Sres directores grales y subdelegados de la renta qᵉ al presente son y en adelante fueren (á cuyo fuero y jurisdicion se someten) pª qᵉ á ello los competan y executan aunque sea pasado el decimo pʳ todo rigor de derecho y si fuera pʳ sentencia pasada en autoridad de cosa juzgada; renuncian el fuero del propio domicilio, Ley si convenerel de jurisdicione omnian judicione con las generales de derecho.

y asi lo otogaron y firmaron siendo testigos

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]
Thoˢ Westall [Rubric]

El C Mills M Battle Alcalde Constitucional de la Villa de Sn Felipe de Austin.

Certifico en cuanto puedo y el dro me permite qᵉ los Sres Estevan F. Austin y Tomas Wostall se presentaron en este mi juzgado hoy dia de la fha y declararon qᵉ se ponen por fiadores del C Samuel M

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

Williams en conformidad con el antecedente documento lo q[e] firmaron en mi presencia. y p[a] q[e] conste firmo Yo el dho Alcalde con dos testigos de assist[a] a falta de escribano en el termino de la ley de q[e] doy fée. En la Villa de S[n] Felipe de Austin 7 de Mayo de 1827.

M M Battle [Rubric]

D[e] asist[a]
Gaspar Flores [Rubric]
D[e] asist[a]
Santiago B Austin [Rubric]

Gaspar Flores to Austin

Hallandome enfermo, en estado de no poder personalm[te] asistir á las medidas de tierras á los Colonos que se me hán presentado, hé dispuesto pasar á V. las siguientes instrucciones que acompaño p[a] qe. traduciendolas del castellano al Yngles, se arreglen á ellas en todas sus partes los agrimensores nombrados al efecto, siendo de esperar de que V. por su parte les encargará, y atrechará á su puntual cumplimiento.

Dios y Libertad
Villa de Sn. Felipe de Austin 10 de Mayo de 1827

Gaspar Flores [Rubric]

Sor Tente Coronel C. Estevan Austin.

[Enclosure]

Con respecto de hallarme enfermo y no poder personalm[te], asistir á las medid[s] de tierras que deben hacerse a los colonos que han presentado sus solicitudes los Agrimensores se arreglarán á las instrucciones siguientes.

1[a]—Cuidarán de no hechar medidas ningunas dentro de las 10 leguas litorales.

2[a]—Quando conoscan qe alguna de las medidas qe. van á hechar puedan quedar parte de ellas dentro de las dies leguas litorales de la costa, se retirarán todo lo posible hasta conocer qe. quedan libres para cuyo fin deberán tener el plán formado de esta Colonia.

3[a]—No hecharán medidas ningunas sin estar presentes el denunciante de aquel terreno haciendo citacion de los colindantes si los hubiere cuidando muy particularmente de que al tiempo de medirles señalen sus linderos, y mojonen sus esquinas, con el mayor cuidado y ecsactitud en el modo acostumbrado para qe. quando recobre mi salud pasar yo á reconocerlas.

4[a]—Sobre rios, ó arroyos principales de agua permanente ningun terreno incluirá ambos lados.

5ª—Un citio se compone de veinte quatro millones de varas cuadradas, y una labor de un millon de varas cuadradas y no deberan los agrimensores baxo su responsabilidad medir mas terreno qe. lo que pr orden del empresario de esta Colonia ciudadano Estevan Austin, y mia se les ordenare.

6ª—Se pasarán las notas de las tierras medidas á dicho empresario acompañadas de un plán de cada terreno.

7ª—Cuidarán de que no quede fraccion irregular de posesion á posesion.

8ª—Los agrimensores serán responsables á los cargos qe. resulten en alguna falta con arreglo á estas instrucciones.

Villa de Austin 10 de Mayo de 1827

GASPAR FLORES [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO GASPAR FLORES

Con oficio de V fha 10 del qe rije recibi las instruciones qe V se sirvio circular en consequencia de su falta de salud para el arreglo y gobierno de los Agrimensores en el disempeño de sus deberes en las medidas de las tierras en esta Colonia lo qe. tengo circular a ellos traduciendoles copia fiel del original Con lo qe contesto a su citado oficio de V.

D y L

E F A

S F de A 12 de Mayo de 1827

Sor Comisionado C Gaspar Flores—

TREATY WITH KARANKAWA INDIANS[1]

Sello Cuarto Una Cuartilla

Para los años de mil ochocientos veinte y seis y ochocientos veinte y siete.

En la Villa de Guadalupe de Jesús Victoria á los trece dias del mes de Mayo de mil ochocientos veinte y siete reunidos en la plaza municipal el Exmo Sor Comandte gral. de estos estados Ciudadano Anastasio Bustamante, el Ciudadano Alcalde de esta Villa Martin de Leon, el procurador Cuidadano Manl Becerra, el Reverendo etc. Fr. Miguel Muro Mntro. encargado de la Mision de los Carancahuases, el Br José Antonio Valdéz, Cura de este partido, el Ciudadano Green De Witt empresario de la Colonia de su nombre, el Ciudadano James Kerr por. la misma, el Ciudadano Jocobo Betts representante por la colonia del Ciudno Felipe Estevan Austin, y el Srio, de ésta

[1] Bexar Archives, university of Texas.

comandancia gral Ciudadano Cor[l] José Mar[no] Guerra, manifestó dho Sor Gral. que el unico objecto de su venida á este punto havia sido el de poner termino á las destructoras hostilidades que mutuamente se estaban haciendo los habitantes de la Colonia del Cuid[no] Austin y los Yndios que havitan estas costas; y q. para solo este fin havia solicitado á los Capitanes Antoñito, Delgado, el apericado y el llamado Soldado todos de la tribu Carancahuaz por ser los que con más frecuencia se aproximan á dha Colonia, y porque ellos pueden con mas facilidad contener á los llamados Cocos que segun las noticias adquiridas són los que mas hostilidades han cometido en la referida Colonia: impuesto todos los concurrentes de tan interesante objeto y persuadidos de la necesidad de que reyne en este Departam[to] la páz y la harmonia entre todos sus havitantes ya sean Yndios ó extrangeros despues de la competente discusion acordaron los articulos siguientes.

1°____Queda vigente el convenio de paz celebrado en veinte y dos de Sept[e] de mil ochocientos veinte y cuatro.

2°____El limite del Rio de Guadalupe que expresa el articulo 2° de dho convenio se extiende ahora hta el arroyo de la vaca.

3°____El Capitan Antoñito queda nombrado Gefe de los Carancahuaces y Cocos comprometiendose á reducir á la paz y al orden a los que hacen la guerra á la colonia de Austin valiendose de la persuasion ó á abandonarlos á su suerte en caso de que no ceden, p[a] q sean perseguidos por las tropas Mejicanas y naciones de las Colonias hostilizadas, auxiliando á unas y á otras en lo que puedan.

4°____Para que dho. Capitan Antoñito y los que lo acompañan no sufran hostilidades por parte de los Colonos Americanos llevará el correspondiente pasaporte cuando valla á hablarles á los Cocos sobre el objeto de este tratado ó á cualesquiera otro negocio, á cuyo fin el Ciud[no] Estevan Austin podrá poner el numero competente en poder del Comand[te] de la Bahía cuando este lo pida.

5°____La muger y los niños que se hallan prisioneros en la Villa de Austin permanecerán allí hasta que el Gefe de aquella colonia y los Ciudadanos agraviados queden satisfechos de haverse reducido al orden los indios que ha sobrevivido á las hostilidades ratificandose este tratado por los Capitanes ausentes á los q se solicitará con todo el empeño posible.

6°____Los Carancahuaces prometen guardar páz y armonia no solo con los Mejicanos con quienes la han guardado constantemente sino con todos los colonos Americanos haciendose responsable hta. donde pueda el expresado Antoñito; y todo Carancahuaz q hostilize de manera alg[a] al Americano de cualquiera colonia será castigado con proporcion á su falta como lo deverá ser igualmente todo Americano q dañe á los Carancahuazes.

7°____Todas las familias Americanas q arriben á algun pto. de la Costa con el objeto de colonizar serán respetados por los Carancahuazes pero darán aviso precisam^te al Comand^te de la Bahía de todos los desembarcos que observen.

8°____Que sin embargo que se cree con fundamento, q el Gefe de la Colonia dicha convendrá con este acuerdo se le remitirá para su ratificacion y exacto cumplim^to por su parte

Y haviendo convenido unanimamente en todos los art^os antecedentes los ciudadanos espresados lo firmaron con el infrascripto Secretario — Anastacio Bustamante. — Martin de Leon — Manuel Becerra—Fr. Miguel Muro—A ruego de Antoñito y demas Capitanes Carancahuazes Fernando de Leon—B^r José Antonio Valdéz—Green De Witt—James Kerr—Jacob Betts—Estevan F. Austin—José Mariano Guerra—Secretario.

Es Copia. Bahia de Esp^tu. Santo Mayo 13 de 1827.

Jos Mar^uo. Guerra [Rubric]

BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Villa de Guad^e Victoria 14 de Mayo de 1827.

Ciudad^o Ten^te Cor^l ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

MUY ESTIMADO AMIGO.

Por la grata de Vms. de 7 del presente me he enterado con satisfaccion dela justa y razonable opinion de Vm. con respecto á las providencias qe. le indique en mi anterior carta hiva á tomar p^a cortar las hostilidades q. se estaban experimentando entre los havitantes de esa Colonia y los Karancahuaces: y en vista de ello conclui el convenio ó tratado qe. acompaño á Vm. oficialm^te p^a qe. lo autorice con su firma; no dudando meresca su aprovacion pr. estar en consonancia con el sentir qe. Vm. me ha manifestado en su citada carta y con los intereces de esos Ciudad^s tan apreciables como laboriosos; sintiendo sobre mi corazon el qe. no se puedan rezarcir sus perdidas con iguales bienes alos qe. robaron los Indios, por qe. como Vm. sabe, esto no tienen ningunos y tal ves los robaron urgidos dela hambre aunqe. esto no los disculpa enteram^te, pr. qe. podrian trabajar p^a vivir; debiendo pr. otra parte haver quedado bien escarmentados con el cresido numero de individuos de sus familias qe. han sido sacrificados ala justa indignacion delos agraviados, cuya matanza si bien pudo satisfacer de algun modo la venganza de estos, no ha reparado la perdida delas mugeres y niños qe. fueron victimas dela barbarie de los Indios: en fin creo haverme estendido aun mas delos nesesario p^a manifestar á Vm. los sentim^tos qe. me animan en vista delas resientes desgracias, las qe espero no volberan á repetirse en virtud de las

medidas adoptadas, como lo desea su muy adicto conciudadano y amigo qe. le estima mui de veras.

Anast° Bustam^te [Rubric]

P. D. con respecto ala Arina y demas viveres de que Vm. me habla en su citada, me parece qe. los deven conducir á la Bahia ó Bejar donde se venderan bien, principalmente si ban recomendados aun amigo de Confianza escriviendole anticipadamente.

[Rubric]

BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Bahia del Esp^tu St° Mayo 19. 1827.

Ciud^no Cor^l FELIPE DE AUSTIN.

MI AMIGO MUY ESTIMADO: acavo de recivir mi correspond^a oficial y aprovechando la ocacion q. me presenta el correo q. pasa en este momento p^a Nacogdoches, pongo á V. esta y me apresuro á remitirle copia de la comunicacion q. en derechura recivirá del Sup^mo Govierno p^a su inteligencia y la de los demas ciudadanos de esa apreciable colonia q. en union de V. cooperaron al restablecim^to del or^n alterado en Nacogdoches, y con este motivo tengo el placer de saludar á V. reproduciendole las seguridades de mi concideracion y aprecio, como su adicto conciudadno. y amigo q. lo estima muy deveras.

ANAST° BUSTAM^TE [Rubric]

PETTUS VS. REED

Freeman Pettus
versus
John C Reed

SIR Take notice that pursuant to the order of the Honble Superior Court of this Colony I shall on the Tenth day of September and on the following day at the house of William G. Doyle Esqr of Lawrence County in the State of Alabama a Justice of the peace in and for said State proceed to take the deposition of Martin Sims and of William Sims of said County before the said Wm. G Doyle and that on the 10 day of October next I shall also proceed to take the depositions of Mrs Price and of —— Newell of Bayou Coti in the State of Louisiana at the house of the said M^rs —— Price at Bayou Coti af^d before some officer properly authorised to take the same on which occasions you can attend if you think proper

And take notice that said deposition will be adduced in Evidence on the part of the pff on the Trial of the issue in this matter at the Term of the s^d Sup^r Court of this Colony to be held in the Town of

San felipe de Austin on the 1 Monday in feby 1828—San felepe de Austin 21 May (1827)

FREEMAN PETTUS

AUSTIN TO J. C. PEYTON

San Felepe de Austin May 23rd 1827

Col S. F. Austin Dr

To Ferry for the year 1826	$50. 6¼
To 1 load wood 75 cts 2 pr Socks $1.50 pr	3. 75
29th Janry 4½ lbs bullets—37½ pr	1. 68¾
1 File	.50
8 lbs sugar by Mrs. Picket	2. 00
	$58. 50
25 Apl. 50 cts on Battle Brandy	.50
Amt bringing 3 Bushels meal from Groces 25c per bushel	.75
	$59. 35

May 24th 1827

Recd paymt. J. C. PEYTON

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

La ley de convocatoria expedido pr el honorable congreso en 23 de Marzo llegó á mis manos el dia 13 de Abril y el mismo dia circulé avisos á los habitantes de esta jurisdicion pa las assambleas electorales en los dias 22 y 23 del citado mes de Abril, pero en consequencia de las largas distancias qe los abitantes estan establecidos el crecimto de los arroyos mal estado de los Caminos en consequencia de ecsesivas lluvias añadido á la primura del tpo. empidieron qe se verificase la junta de ellos con lo que contesto al oficio de vs. fha 16 del qe rije.—Dios y Libertad Ville de Austin 22 de Mayo de 1827—Esteban F. Austin—Sor Gefe del Departamto de Texas C. Jose Antonio Saucedo.

GEORGE ORR TO AUSTIN

Atascosito May 23d 1827

To Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

SIR Some days ago Burrel Franks who lives on the Nachez River near the lower crossing was examined before Henry W. Munson and myself relative to certain Thefts lately committed in this neighbourhood— He stated among other things that a stranger

[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

who called himself Hawkins had been at his house—that he (Hawkins) with one Clement (sometimes called Reno) were the persons who had comitted the thefts on the Trinity—that they had a cavalarde of sixty or seventy horses above the San Antonio crossing on the Trinity River that those horses they had stolen from the settlements on the Brassos and Colorado—I have thought proper to communicate this to you for the benefit of your settlement—for further information on the subject I refer you to Doct Brown who will hand this—

GEORGE ORR

J. E. B. AUSTIN TO MRS. E. M. PERRY.

San Felipe de Austin 24th March [May] 1827.

MY DR SISTER.

A considerable period has elapsed since I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from my dear Emily—Can an absence of only a few years, entirely have obliterated from her memory a Brother she once[d] loved! What can be the cause of her long silence? perhaps she is so much engaged in her *domestic* duties that she cannot "*steal*" time to devote a few *leisure* moments to her *Brown*. Excuse me sister *for* reproaching you for your negligence for I *assure* you I have been much *hurt* at your long silence. You perhaps think I am hardly justifiable, in blaming you for a fault you think I am equally *censurable* for but on this point I can satisfy you—For the last year I have been absent from the Colony—and in a country where there was no mode of conveying a letter to the U. S—Shortly after my arrival I wrote you from Nacogdoches, and since then I have been anxiously expecting a letter from you—

You have no doubt heard long since, the happy termination of the disturbances on this frontier and the conspicuous part Our Brother acted in bringing to a close so unnatural rebellion—At this time the utmost harmony prevails in every part of this country, and *so far* we are blessed with a prospect of a plentiful harvest in a healthy season.

We are not entirely forgotten by our friends in the north a few days since we received a lenthy letter from Henry Austin dated in *New York*—Stephen has answered it and recommen[d]ed him to come and see the Country and I think he will be out in the fall—My sole wish is to see our scattered family once more United and I think there is some little prospect of their being so provided Henry is pleased with the Country

I have nothing new to communicate—we have a prospect of a considerable emigration *from Ohio* next fall—

Our State constitution is to be published in this place on the 29th. inst it is an excellent one—no slaves are permitted to be introduced 6 months after its publication, which will give until the 29th of next November to intro*duce* them—No person can be born a slave in this State after the publication of the Constitution. If there are any persons in your part of the Country having *Slaves*, that wish to remove here—*hurry* them on before the expiration of the time—

I wish you to write me a lengthy letter and give me all the Neighbourhood news Any thing is interesting to me at this immense distance from you. Tell me something about Elias's family. Mary —Adaline—Eliza—and Maria—remember me to them affectionately I *never* hear from them—I suppose they have forgotten me too. Moses has lost a fortune by not comeing out to this Country in time—tho it is not too late—if he comes by fall—Remember me affectionately to my little *Nephews* and kiss my *dear* little "*blue eyed Mary*" for me—My respects to Mr Perry—brother sends his love to you and will write you by this opportunity—

Ja^{s} B Austin [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mrs. Emily M. Perry Potosi, Mail Missouri

Austin to James F. Perry

Austin May 26, 1827

Dr Brother

I rec^{d} yours giving a transcript of the opinion of the lawyers relative to the Mine a Burton property, and it appearing that the prospect of recovering any thing is so remote and uncertain it probably would cost more than it is worth to attempt it—at all events I can not attend to it— Emily mentioned in one of her letters that you both had an idea of removing from the mines to some place and spoke of Arkansas— If you close your business so as to leave the mines I hope you will not settle any where untill you have first visited this country I have not the least doubt that you will make a fortune if you come here. but of that you must judge for yourself, and to do so you must visit the Country, and I shall expect you in October next without fail— One month will bring you here by land through Arkansas, one month here to look round, and one to return is three months, and about three hundred dollars expence—and you will see the country generally from Potosi to this place—

Our State Constitution is to be published in this place on the 29 of this month and Six months after that day the introduction of slaves is prohibited. No one can be born to slavery within the state after its publication It will be a great speculation to bring in slaves

before the time expires for as no more can be introduced those who are here in time will sell or hire very high Every thing you may have seen in the news papers relative to slaves being taken away from the settlers and freed is all false—the slaves in the country—within six months after the constitution is published will be slaves for life—

If you ever think of coming to look at this country now is the time. I had reserved some choice tracts of land with a hope that you might have come out before, but there is still land enough and of first rate quality and well situated to be had.

The best time of the year to move here is in the fall so as to reach here in October. If you do not wish to go through Arkansas the best way to come next fall to look at us is in a Steam boat to Alexandria, and thence on horse back to this place, the road from there out is good and settled all the way except 50 miles at one place the distance from Alexandria out is about 300 miles

Our prospects are very good as to crops, emigration, peace, government etc etc. The state constitution is a very good one you may set down every thing you see in the news papers unfavourable to Texas as false,

remember me particularly to S. Perry, and to John P—and his wife and to all my old acquaintances—and kiss the children for me—Love to Emily this letter is written to both of you—

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Mr James F. Perry
[Addressed:] Mr. James F. Perry Potosi Missouri

Contract to Make a Deed

Be it known that I, James E. B. Austin an Inhabitant of Austins Colony do hereby bind and obligate myself my heirs and assigns to make unto Elias R. Wightman a deed for one fourth part of a league of land known as the Crownover league on the west side of the river Colorado, in Consideration of the same quantity of land deeded to me by said Wrightman from off the League of land granted to him by the Mexican Government, the said Wightman to have the priviledge of making choice of either quarter of the Sd League: The said title to be made as soon as the parties shall have made their respective selections—

May 26th 1827.

Ja^{s} B Austin [Rubric]

Samuel M Williams Attest
Executed agreeably to contract

FRANCISCO RUIZ TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches 28. de Mayo de 1827.

Sor. Dn. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Mi estimadisimo amigo de toda mi concideracion: Por la apreciable carta de 21. del corr^te^ q. me dirigio Dn. Samuel quedo impuesto con la mayor satisfaccion de la posdata q. en ella se sirvió V. incluir me á la que en contestacion debo decirle: q. en 24. y 25. de Abril anterior tuve una entre vista en el pueblo delos Quichas con dos Yndios Tahuacanos q. alli encontré, estos me aseguraron q. tanto el pueblo delos Huecos como el de los Tahuacanos se hallaban enla mejor disposicion y con ancia para hacer la paz con ntro. Gobierno, los mismos Yndios me comunicaron q. hacia mucho tpo. no bajaban á obstilizar enlas nuevas colonias y q. havian acordado los Gefes de dhos. Pueblos no bolber á causar algun daño p^a^ ser admitidos ála paz q. decean. En consecuencia de esto y de mucho mas q. hablé con los referidos Yndios los mandé á sus mismos pueblos con el objeto de comunicar á sus Gefes podrian venir sin temor alguno á presentarse de paz, y confirmarles lo q. yá haviamos dicho pr. cartas q. dirigimos el Sor. Ahumada, V. y yo con el primer imviado, el q. aun no habia llegado á los Pueblos pues solo hacia quatro ó cinco dias q. habia pasado pr. los Quichas quando yó llegué; En resumen las apariencias de pas si no me engaño son muy buenas y de todo lo q. resulte interesante avisaré áV. como buen amigo.

Estava impaciente pr. marchar p^r^ Bejar y tener el placer de acompañar áV. para el mismo punto, pero me hallo con posterior orden para suspender mi marcha hasta saber el resultado en materia de Yndios.

Por aqui no hay cosa particular q. comunicar áV. pues está tranquilo y no aparece otra cosa q. uno ú otro chisme q. no faltan sin pasar de habladas de borrachos, y sin ninguna sustancia.

Tenga V. la vondad de dar mis saludes al Sor. Dn. Samuel, Dn. Santiago, Dn. Gaspar Flores, y Dn. Manuel Hernandes, reciviendolas V. muy expresivas de todos los oficiales, y D. Patricio q. selas retorna.

Deceo áV. la mejor salud y q. mande con franquesa á su afmo. amigo y seguro servor. q. S. M. B.

FRAN^co^ RUIZ [Rubric]

SAMUEL BRIDGE TO AUSTIN.

Territory of Arkansas Hemstead County May 29th [1827.]

DEAR S^r^ two years and a half since, I left Missouri for your Colony. On my arrival here, such reports were in circulation respecting an Indian war that I deemed [it] prudent to Make a short stop here, until times should alter. The late revolution causes various reports

here. I should be extremely well pleased if you would write to me how Americans are received at this time or whether at all, there is several families in this County waiting to know in what manner they will be received This letter wil be handed to you by a young man by the name of Robt. M Williamson he has resided with us about three months he is a young man Quite unassuming of a handsome Education and very desirous of you acquaintance

SAM'L BRIDGE

Col. STEPHEN F AUSTIN

AUSTIN ON THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

Extract from remarks delivered by Col Austin after reading the constitution of the state of Q. and T. at the time of its promulgation in Austin Colony—

You have heard fellow citizens of the Constitution of Quahuila and Texas which has just been read, and I think you must have discover'd in it abundant manifestations of the liberal and enlightend principles on which our adopted Government is founded. The rights of the people are guarded with the utmost precaution,—the security of persons and property solemnly guaranteed—the different branches of the Government divided—the responsibility of public agents is direct—the tryal by jury—recognized and the foreign emigrants legally settled in the State are placed on an equal footing with all others in the exercise of the elective franchise and admitted to all the rights of citizenship with the exception of eligibility to certain offices of the State. The constitution is liberal and Republican and its just and enlightened administration must insure the rapid advancement and permanent prosperity of the State. Should experiance discover evils or embarassments in its details or operations a competent remedy is provided. The power of Amendment rests with the people and the mode is not more difficult than the importance of the subject requires.— Indeed when we take into view the state of bondage and intellectual night from which the Mexicans have so recently emancipated themselves, the entire difference of the federal republican System which they have adopt[d] from all their former experience and the variety and conflicting prejudices and opinions that were to be reconciled, there is complete astonishment and admiration at the steadiness and rapidity of advancement in political Science and the perfection of their Constitutional Organization—

Fellow Citizens we have great and abundant cause for thankfulness and gratitude, first to the great Author of All good, and Secondly to the Government that has so munificently received us.— We emi-

grated to this country when it was a wilderness, by our labors we have Settled and improved it— plenty now rewards our industry— the charms of refined society, like the budding rose, is beginning to shed their genial influence around us and the wild characteristics of nature are rapidly disappearing before the March of enterprise and civilization— we inhabit a country unparalelled for the Salubrity of its climate, and the value and variety of its resources—, harmony and union and content now universally reign, and this day presents us in the State Constitution with a Sacred guarantee of the blessings we enjoy,— let us duly appreciate them, duly prize the bounty of our Government and sacredly observe the obligations we have this day entered into Let us continue true to the honest motives which induced our emigration true to the pure principles of patriotism and gratitude; and we shall live respected by the good of all nations retain the confidence of our adopte[d] G[vt]. and Secure our permanent prosperity and happiness.

[Endorsed:] copy of Toa[s]ts and remarks of Col. A at the publication of the State Constitution July 27 [May 29], 1827, at S. F. de A.

J. A. Padilla to Gaspar Flores[1]

En vista de la consulta q. me ha dirijido el C. Esteban Austin empresario de la colonia de Austin en ese Departamento en oficio de 5 del q. fina, sobre el modo de evitar q. los Documentos Originales de la 1[a] empresa puedan estraviarse ó perderse con el tiempo, he tenido á bien aprovarla y en su consecuencia mandar qe. se observen p[a] el caso los articulos siguientes qe. se tendrán como adicionales á las instrucciones con qe. V. se halla.

1° Con el fin de preservar y perpetuar los documentos de la primera empresa de colonizacion del empresario C. Esteban F. Austin en Tejas, establecida en virtud del Sup[or] decreto del Gob[no] Mejicano fha 18 de Feb° de 1823 de q. V. está nombrado comisionado en lugar del antiguo comisionado Baron de Bastrop se estenderán todos los dichos documentos, y los Decretos del Gob[no] en la materia, y los titulos estendidos á su virtud á individuos y al dicho empresario acompañados del plan de cada terreno, y del de la villa de San Felipe de Austin en un gran libro bien encuadernado, destinado al efecto.

2° A la cabesa de la primera pagina del dicho libro se pondra esta razon: "Registro de los Documentos, y Titulos espedidos en la primera empresa de Colonisacion, del empresario Ciud° Esteban F.

[1] A copy of the same from Padilla to Austin is omitted. The records, written mostly by Austin's competent secretary, Samuel M. Williams, in accordance with these instructions, are preserved in the General Land Office of Texas.

Austin en Tejas" q. será firmada por el comisionado, Empresario y Alcalde de la Villa con testigos de asistencia.

3° Al fin de cada Documento y Titulo se pondrá esta razon "La antecedente escritura esta literalm^te copiada de su original q. obra en los archivos de esta Colonia" fha y firma del Comisionado, Empresario y Alcalde con testigos de asistencia.

4° Al fin del registro de todos se pondrá esta razon "El antecedente registro compuesto de tantas paginas contiene copias literales y exactas de todos los documentos, y Titulos q. obran en el Archivo dela 1ª colonia del empresario C. Esteban F. Austin establecida en Tejas en virtud de la Ley de Colonisacion de cuatro de En° de 1823 y del Decreto del Gob^no Supremo de la nacion Mejicana espedido en 18 de Feb° y confirmado pr. los del Soberano Cong° Constituyente y supremo poder ejecutivo fhas 11 y 14 de Abril del mismo año de 1823, q. están sacados en este libro, y cotejados y confrontados con sus originales pr. el comisionado Ciud° Gaspar Flores, empresario C. Esteban F Austin y Alcalde de esta villa, en cumplimiento de las instrucciones del Exmo S. Gobernador del Estado de Coahuila y Tejas de fha 31 de Mayo de 1827 con el fin de preservar y perpetuar los dichos documentos en el archivo de la dicha colonia en una forma segura, pª q. en todo tiempo tengan el mismo valor y lejitimidad en juicio q. sus originales, en fé de lo cual el dicho Comisionado, empresario, y Alcalde firmamos etc etc."

Y en atencion á estar informado q. el Libro destinado á este objeto está adquirido p. el Empresario, y q. el Papel sellado en q. están estendidos los titulos originales está satisfecho su valor, puede habilitar dicho libro el Adm^or de Papel sellado de la villa de Sn Felipe en la clase del sello 4° cobrando el valor de un sello p^r cada foja pa. lo q. pondrá las razones correspondientes en la 1ª y ultima espresando en esta el numero total de sellos q. cobra á cuyo importe dará entrada en las cuentas de su responsabilidad. Lo q. comunico á V. pª su inteligencia y exacto cumplimiento.

Dios y Libertad. Saltillo 31 de Mayo de 1827.

ARISPE [Rubric]

J. ANTONIO PADILLA SRIO. [Rubric]

Al Ciudadano Gaspar Flores

TACITUS CLAY TO AUSTIN

New Years Creek

Col – Austin the tract of land which I wish you to reserve for me it being my Chois is on the south fork of this creek begining at or near where Allcorn desires haveing his upper line run thense

extending up for quantity so as to include s[d] branch of the creek it being not a permanent stream without pen ink or paper it is necessary to be laconick

TACITUS CLAY

May the 31th—1827.

HANSON ALSBURY TO AUSTIN

Mount Carmel Mi June 1st 1827.

Dear Sir I have taken the liberty to enclose to you a letter addressed to my Mother, believeing it to be the only sure means by which she would receive it, therefore I desire as a favour specially confered you will forward it so soon as practicable.

Previous to my departure with my wife from your Colony you were pleased to assure me that so soon as the Commissioner of the Sale of lands should arrive you would make me a title to my portion of lands, being already entitled to it by my citizenship permit me to remind you of your promise and as soon as I can have assurance that by title is made I will remit or bring you the am[t] of consideration.

I have nothing new to write you. The character of your colony is rapidly increasing in the U. S. Our union is much distressed and agitated by the political canvass for the presidency, The friends both of Adams and Jackson are sanguine in their hopes for their friend—The contest in my opinion is quite doubtful—

HANSON ALSBURY

Stephen F Austin Esq Austin Colony Mexico

N B My purpose is as soon as I shall be able to resume my residence in Texas.

H A

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

He recibido con el oficio de V. S. fha 16 de Mayo p[o] p[o] cinco ejemplares de los decretos del congreso Gral 1[o] p[a] autorizar al Gob[no] p[a] q. interinamente pueda aumentar el numero de defarorles [faroles?] en la Ciudad Federal. 2[a] Los Srios del despacho puedan presentar á las Camaras los proyectos de ley q[e] crean conducentes á la mejora del ramo de su cargo. 3[a] El Gob[no] podrá disponer hta de tres mil hombres en los Estados limitrofes al de Durango. 4[o] Pueden obtener algun empleo los q. tienen acusacion

[1] This and the three notes of the same which follow are from the Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

pendiente en el gran jurado hta q^{e} sea declarado haver lugar á la formacion de causa. 5° El Congreso de la Union proroga sus sesiones p^{r} treinta dias utiles. 6° Sobre q^{e} sin permiso del congreso Gral no puede el Gov^{no} poner sobre las armas la milicia activa. 7ª relativo á los aforos. q^{e} se deven hacer á los lienzos de algodon. Y igualmente he recibido dos ejemplares de circulares del Supremo Gov^{no} Gral la primera declarando los Comisarios donde se deben tomar razon de los despachos de los militares del Ejercito permanente y la sigunda sobre la eleccion de Presidente y Vice Presidente de la Suprema Corte de Justicia.

Todo lo qual queda publicado para el conocim^{to} de estos habitantes y fines consiguientes.

Dios y Libertad Villa de Austin 1° de Junio de 1827.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Depart^{o} C. Jose Antonio Saucedo

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

De conformidad con el oficio orden de V. S. fha 17 p^{o} p° en que me ordene formar y remitir un estado circunstanciado de la fuerza, armamento, municiones, y monturas de la milicia local de esta Colonia he expedido las ordenes á los oficiales correspondientes y p^{r} el correo proximo venidero tendre el honor de remitir á V. S. la lista indicada.

Dios y Libertad. Villa de Austin 1° de Junio de 1827

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Depart^{o} C Jose Antonio Saucedo.

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO

De conformidad con el oficio orden de V. S. fha 17 de Mayo p^{o} p° en q^{e} me ordena advertir al C. Samuel M Williams q. hace responsable no haya formado y remitido al Admor de tabacos de esa Ciudad la Cuenta y productos del ramo de papel Sellado habilitado en los Juzgados de este distrito. he dado la correspondiente advertencia al referido Señor pasandole al efecto copia del mencionado oficio de V. S. p^{a} su inteligencia y fines consiguientes.

Dios y Libertad. Villa de Austin 1° de Junio de 1827

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Depart^{o} de Tejas C Jose Antonio Saucedo.

Austin to Saucedo

He recibido el oficio de V. S. fha de Mayo p° p° en q^e^ me transcribe el oficio de Exmo Sor Vice Gob^or^ del Estado q^e^ contiene el oficio de Exmo Sor Ministro de Guerra y Marina relativo al resultado de las dificultades en Nacogdoches, y informando de las providencias tomadas por el Gob^no^ para la defensa de Texas.

Dios y Libertad Villa de Austin 1° de Junio de 1827

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Depar^to^ C Jose Antonio Saucedo

Francisco Ruiz to Austin

Nacogdoches 2. de Junio de 1827.

Sor. D. Estevan Austin

Mi Estimadisimo Amo. y mui Sor. mio de toda mi concideracion: hayer mismo seme han presentado los Gefes del Tahuacano, y huecos, con una porcion de gandules y Mugeres, han ofrecido hacer una verdadera Paz con ntro. gov^no^ y qe. jamas bolveran á hostilisar en ninguna parte expecialm^te^ en esa colonia de V. Colorado etc. puede V. comunicar tan agradable noticia atodos sus amigos, en el concepto de qe. p^a^ mas consolidarla pasarán á Bejar luego qe. regresen de aqui, ápresentarse al Exmo Sor. Com^te^ Gral. p^a^ cuyó efecto les acompañaré seg^n^ pienso aunque no tengo or^n^ p^a^ hacerlo, p° no me há sido dable hacerlos qe. marchen con el Sor. Coron^l^ D. Pedro Elias Bean, qn. tambien ará la misma operacion, aunque no tiene ning^n^ influjo, ni maior conocimiento. Los mismos Yndios me han comunicado, qe. los Comanches se hayan en disposicion de hacer lo mismo, y qe. decean qe. yo balla p^a^ Ynformarse, ó hablar de Pases, lo qe. me há animado mas p^a^ irme sin Orden, como é dicho, pero confio me aprueben esta medida, seg^n^ el Ynteres, y deceos qe. tiene el Exmo Sor. Com^te^ Gral. pr. la tranquilidad.

Las cartas qe. en Fbro. Escrivio el Sor. Ahumada, V. y yo, causaron la venida de estos Yndios, me congratulo de qe. en todo lo qe. se dirixe al vien Publico, haya V. coóperado, y no teniendo tppo. p^a^ mas concluyo dando mis salud^s^ como spre. atodos los Amigos, mande V. asu am° qe. deveras le ama y S. M. B.

Fran^co^ Ruiz [Rubric]

P. D. Si Marcho como dexo dicho dexare encargado á Cosio, mande en primera ocacion el cavallo qe. dexó D. Santiago: Espero nos veamos en Bexar, de donde le escrivire si haci no fuese

[Rubric]

Otra el Yndio Menchaca Gefe Pral. suplica, y encarga áV. solicite de un cavallo qe. en el mes anterior le robaron en junta de otros qe.

recojio pr. qe. los bolbieron arobar alos mismos qe. selos havian rovado y le quedo faltando uno qe. aprecia mucho, segn me dice les han robado bastantes bestias despr qe. recivieron ntras. cartas creen qe. fue Jose Manl Delgado con otros, segn les dijo un Americano, Sirvase V. hacer pr. qe. no los molesten yá, ps parece se enmendaran

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BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Bahia del Espiritu Santo Junio 2, de 1827.

Ciudadano FELIPE ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI AMIGO MUY ESTIMADO.

Al acompañar á V. la copia que se le ofreció del convenio celebrado aprovecho la ocacion que me ofrece la salida del Correo para saludar á V. reproduciendole las seguridades de mi adhesion á su persona, como su conciudadano y amigo q lo estima muy deveras, y decea complacerle

ANASTo BUSTAMte [Rubric]

WILLIAM SCOTT TO AUSTIN: RECEIPT

Stephen F Austin

To Wm Scott Dr.

To grinding 8 bushels and 3 pecks Corn	86.56¼
To the Hire of sail Boat to go to Galveston	23.43¾
	50.00

Recd Payment by Credit on my note.

Wm SCOTT

June 2d 1827

BYRD LOCKHART TO AUSTIN

To S. F. AUSTIN Esqr

Empresario of the Colony of his name consisting of three hundred families and also of a new Colony of five hundred families in the Department of Texas Byrd Lockhart late of the State of Missouri United States of the North, represents: That being desirous to settle himself in this department; to cultivate the Earth by agricultureal pursuit and also to introduce stock and promote the raising and multiplication thereof—

He therefore Petitions you to reserve one League of land for him situated on the East side of the Rio La Vaca; and it being the second League below the one Surveyed by Mr. James Kerr for Robert Guthrie—Your Petitioner is aware that the above League is within

the ten litteral Leagues reserved by the Government, but he is under the impression that you will shortly be authorized to settle said reserve, in which case your petitioner hopes you will permit him to occupy, improve and cultivate said League agreeable to the provisions of the Colonization Law.

Your petitioner further represents that he has several relations and friends who are desirous to emigrate to this Department and who he believes are honest and industrious Citizens: and as the only convenient way for them to remove their families and effects to the Country is by water, they will necessarily bring a years provisions with them.— It is obvious therefore that they will for a while be confined near the ship landing and in order to facilitate them in the ardious undertaking of migrating hither your petitioner prays that you will be pleased to permit him to select one League of Land on the Navidad and opposite or nearly so to Mr. Kerr's League on the La Vaca for the purpose of making a dense and Strong Settlement by dividing said League of Land among Said Emigrants:—And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

BYRD LOCKHART

Lavaca 3d June 1827

It gives us pleasure to state that we have long been acquainted with the above petitioner Capt Byrd Lockhart; that his character has ever been that of a Gentleman in the first circles: he has always been remarkable for his industry, perseverance, and integrity.—Should it be in the power of Col. Austin to admit his petition we feel no hesitation in saying that the Colonel will find the petitioner to be a man of the utmost utility in forming a new Settlement and a valuable Citizen also to furnish to us a neighbor with whom we shall all find pleasure.

GREEN DEWITT [Rubric]
JAMES KERR

La Vaca 4th June 1827.

[S. T.] ANGIER TO AUSTIN

June 3d 1827.

SIR, I have visited the lands on Chocolate Bayou at The request of Mr J. B. Hall; and Think a league can be obtained, having Timber suitable for lumber; and a water privilige That may be used four months in The year. I feel willing To choose the land for him, if The lines can be run To his liking otherwise it will be of little account; for The timbered land is very narrow.

Lest I may not be able To see you soon, (for I have been waiting Mr Hall's return) that I may know my own chance for obtaining land, before you leave us for The interior; I wish To know whether,

in case you have not made me a selection, I may not have land That is forfeited and lying without the Ten leagues reserved. For I understand That The land granted to Joseph Calvert is To be forfeited, if so, I would like To procure it, should it meet your approbation.

[Endorsed:] Angier June 3d 1827

PETER ELLIS BEAN TO AUSTIN[1]

Nacogdoches June the 3d—1827

DEAR SIR

I am happy to inform you that yesterday I have maid Pease with the Waco Nesion and tawacanys also the chiefs of Both nasions is now in this Plase you can treat them as friends and can let your uper setelment now it tomorrow I shall start with them to meet the Comanches and gow with them to Sn. Antonio to settel all in this thare is nothing worth your notis to Right you all is quiot

PETER E. BEAN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Sor Dn. Esteban F Austin—en Sn filipe—*Brasos*

JOHN W. HALL TO L. R. KENNY

Mr L R KENNY

DEAR SIR

I saw a few lines written By colo Austin to Mr Warren informing him his petition could not Be Received I think that their Has Been some false and malisious statements made against Mr Warren and I wish you would Enquire in to it and iff so you will assist Him as afriend and it will accomodate yours with Respect

JOHN W HALL

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[2]

De conformidad con el oficio orn de V. S. fha 17 de Mayo pº pº en qe me ordene pasar á V. S. una noticia de las familias qe se hallan establecidas dentro de las diez leguas litorales de la costa en esta Colonia, pr el correo venidero tendre el honor de remitir á V. S. la dha noticia.

Dios y Libertad Sn Felipe de Austin 4 de Junio de 1827

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Depart° de Tejas C Jose Antº Saucedo.

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[1] Compare Ruiz to Austin, June 2, 1827.

[2] This and the two notes of same date which follow are from the Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

Austin to Saucedo

Por el oficio de V. S. fha 17 de Abril p° p° quedo impuesto de lo q^e^ dice el Exmo Sor Comandante Gral relativo á los remplazos para las Companias Presidiales, en cuya contestacion tengo el honor manifestar q^e^ luego q^e^ recibo la lista nominal de la milicia de esta Colonia q^e^ se está formando hará quanto esté en mi poder para cumplir con la dha Superior orden.

Dios y Libertad Villa de Austin 4 de Junio de 1827

Sor Gefe del Depart° C Jose Antonio Sucedo

Austin to Saucedo

Yncluyo á V. S. dos testimonios de la acta de la solemne publicacion y juram^to^ de la Constitucion del Estado en este distrito de mi cargo, en cumplim^to^ con las Supremas ordenes en la materia.

Dios y Libertad San Felipe de Austin 4 de Junio de 1827.

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departam^to^ de Texas, C. Jose Anto^nio^ Saucedo.

[Attached to the above:]

Para q^e^ sean reformados en papel del sello 4° debuelbo á V. las dos adjuntas de la acta Publicacion y Juram^to^ de la constitucion Politica del Estado en ese Poblacion q. me remitio V. con oficio de 4 del corriente á que contesto.

Junio 28 de 1827.

Austin to Bustamante[1]

Al contestar el oficio de VE relativo a los Karankahuases me aprovecho de la ocasion p^a^ dar a VE. las gracias pr. las expresiones qe se ha servido manifestar en su carte particular de 2 del presente

El dia 29 del ppo. publicamos la constitucion del Estado y en el banquete qe. tuvimos tubimos algunas brindas y encluyo a V. E uno esta en ingles p° el sor yllari lo traduciva. espero salir en dos semanas en compañia con el Sor Cap^n^ Ruiz p^a^ Bexar y con la mayor ancia espero el momento en qe puedo manifestar en persona mi adhesion y gratitud a mi Gral y amigo qe tanto estimo. y deseo obedecer y servir el qe. atento B. S. M.

Con el oficio de V. E. fecha 27 de Mayo po. po. he recibido testimonio del convenio celebrado en la villa de guadalupe con los Indios Karanchahuases y no perderé un momento en publicar y circular lo traducido en Yngles p^a^ qe. tenga el mas esacto cumplim^to^ de parte de estos habitantes suplico qe. V. E. me permite aprovechar la ocasion p^a^ manifestar a V. E. el agradecim^to^ y alto consideracion qe

[1] Written on the back of Bastamante to Austin, June 2, 1827.

animan todos estos habitantes hacia su comandante Gral. qe tanto interes ha tomado en terminar sus difficultades con los referidos. Indios—

D y L—5 de Junio 1827

[ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.]

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE

SALE OF LAND

Will be offered at public sale in the Town of San felipe de Austin on the first Saturday in August next for Cash on a credit of six months giving Bond with approved security and a lien on the land untill paid all the interest of Thomas Gray deceased in and to the upper half of a League of land situate on the west side of the River Bernard in said Colony Known as League No. 20—The foregoing sale had pursuance to the order of the Honorable superior Court of this Colony to satisfy a Mortgage in favour of Solomon Barrow—The purchaser to be at the expence of the Titles—

San felipe de Austin June 11—1827

JOHN B. WELLER
Admr of Thos Gray deceased

ROBERT D. DAWSON TO AUSTIN

New Madrid, Mri June 16th 1827

DEAR SIR

You would no doubt pardon an old acquaintance under any circumstances for presuming to write to you without prefacing his communication with "Your Excellency &c &c &c but really and in truth I am not so Democratical in my feelings as to omit to give you your just and proper title from any repugnance of feeling but simply because I am ignorant of the title you really bear and beg you on this ground to excuse me

A friend of mine Mr. Alexander Laforge in a settlement with George Tennille some years ago obtain'd from him by assignment a note drawn in his favour by you for $1500.00 given as is understood by Mr Laforge in consideration of the purchace by you of some land from said Tennille. Mr Laforge is anxious to know whether he may justly entertain the expectation that you will ultimately redeem this obligation, and if so when and how it is contemplated to be done. He suffered greatly by Tennille whose obligation he now holds for a considerable amount independent of the note assigned him on you, and being in moderate circumstances only with a young and increasing family would be greatly benefitted by the receipt of the amount appearing to be due him by you. On this subject he

has frequently conversed with me and I have constantly assured him of my firm belief that if the debt was considered just by you—you would make no difficulty whatever in the payment of it whenever your means would enable you to do so. This cannot now be doubted as from the best information we are able to obtain the success of your colony is beyond a doubt, and if rightly judged of here must long ere this have secured you wealth in as great abundance as you have honors in your New Government

You will confer a particular favor on me and render Mr Laforge a great kindness if you will write me fully on this subject as early as your convenience will permit and in addition my obligation will be heightened by the receipt of any information of the condition of your colony—province and Government which you may deem worthy of communication to an old acquaintance and friend

ROBT D DAWSON

The Postmaster at Natchetoches will confer a favour on the writer of this if he will forward this to its place of Destination by mail if there is any, if not by any safe private conveyance as early as possible.

[Addressed:] New Madrid June 17th Stephen F Austin Austin's Colony Province of Texas

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P. T. DEMMITT TO J. ALLCORN

Sant. Antonia 17th June 1827

DEAR FRIEND

Sir I have to molest you again which I have no doubt will not be of much Interest you. Mr. Miller is a Poor unfortunate man and has a large family and from his misconduct on Trinity was Sentanced to leave the Contrey or pay One hundred Dollars find and from the excessive find the Alcaldes on the Trinity imposed, or the sentance of leaving the cuntrey was Too severe for what he was charged with that of rescuing a prisinor from the constables he maid application to the Govonor and he has writting to Col. Austin on the subject—Allso the Govonor showed me a Decree passed 1825 the 18 Oct. gowing as follows that no alcalde or alcaldes has power to sentance and put in execution fines corporal punsihment or rules without first laying before the Govonor of the state or the tribunal of the state, the accused and charges etc etc and being confirmed by the high[es]t tribunale of the state before the accused can be sentance, you will oblige your friend so much as to attend to this Poor unfortunate man for the sake of his familey and children

Your letter has been rec[d] and your wished to Borrow some money Sr I have embarked on another speculation since my arivall at home

but I shall be in your place in September and you then can get 50. or 100 Dollars if you want

DIMMITT.

N B you will not forget my land if thare is aney to be sold write on the return mail I forgot pay you for the labour I got which is near in the Brassos—

[Addressed:] M. J. Allcorn en Sant Filipi The politeness of Mr. Miller.

BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Bexar Junio 19—1827.

Ciudad° Teniente FELIPE Es[TEBAN] AUSTIN

Mi amigo muy es[timado]

Sin embargo de q. el C[apitan Ruiz] me ha dho. ha escrito áV. [fecha Junio 2?] q. los Tahuacanos y Huecos [han hecho] la paz en Nacogdoches, tengo el placer de comunicar áV. q. no solamente éstos sino tambien los Comanches han ocurrido á mi por medio de mis embiados q. han llegado aqui en solicitud de celebrar tratados de paz, lo q. nos ahorrará por ahora de los gastos y sacrificios q. era indispensable hacer en la Campaña Gral. q. tenia proyectada habiendo siempre ocasionado castigarlos si faltaren á los pac[tos] . . . han de celebrar, entonces será . . . duradera la paz q. se consi[ga] despues de una guerra. cruel y acciones como tiene acreditado la experiencia, mas por ahora la humanidad y la prudencia demanda q. los admitamos de paz si bienen de buena fé y q. estemos siempre prevenidos p[a] castigar las infracciones del convenio q. se celebren.

Yo espero tener la satisfaccion de ver áV. aquí como me ha comunicado p[a] q. hablemos largamente sobre asuntos de la Patria; y entretanto nos vemos reciba V. las seguridades del particular afecto q. le profesa su conciudadano y [amigo] q. lo estima muy deberas

ANAST° BUSTAM[te] [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

Tengo el honor presentar á V. S. un informe relativo al Gob[no] Municipal provisional q[e] ha existido en esta Colonia de mi cargo desde q[e] llegué en ella y el sistema q[e] en lo actual nos rije para si V. S. estime conveniente le eleve al conocim[to] del Supremo Gob[no] del Estado.

Dios y Libertad S[n] Felipe de Austin 20 de Junio de 1827.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Depart[o] C Jose Antonio Saucedo.

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[1] Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

J. M. Cortes to Austin

Natchitoches 24 de Junio de 1827.

Sor Cor^{l} D^{n} Estevan Austin
Sn. Felipe de Austin

Muy s. mio y Dueño: Pocos dias despues de mi regreso de Nacogdoches, tomé la libertad de escrivir a Vm. algunos renglones relativos a un asunto que tengo pendiente en esa Colonia, alo que no habiendo tenido contestacion, no puedomenos que de atribuirlo a no haber Vm. recivido mi carta, por cuyo motivo reitero la importunidad por esta.

El contenido de la mencionada carta es relativo a una cantidad de *Tres cientos diez pesos, y dos reales* que me son debidos por el Difunto Wm. McWilliams; quien estoi informado ha fallecido en esa colonia, dexando Bienes suficientes para pagar todas sus deudas, y como ignoro las formalidades que debo hacer para reclamar mi deuda, principalmente con las Leyes que actualmente rigen ese Estado, he de merecer al a atencion de Vm. me haga la gracia de darme las instrucciones conducentes al rembolso de dha cantidad, a cuyo favor quedaré sumam^{te} agradecido.

Sirvase Vm. de contestarme por la primera ocasion directa que haya para este Puesto, y asu defecto, por el correo de Nacogdoches, endonde tengo un amigo que me las remitira por buenas conductas.

Vm dispense mis molestias, y si en algo puedo servirle en este Pays notenga V. ociosos los deseos que tiene de complacerle este su afmo Amigo y atento Servidor Q. S. M. B.

J. Mª Cortés [Rubric]

Incluyo aVm. una minuta de mis reclamos contra McWilliams y Saml Davison solidarios como compañeros que fueron, Tomo la libertad de introducir al conocimiento de Vm. a mi amigo Mr. William Carlagan que pasa a esa Colonia para asuntos particulares, y le agradeceré mucho lo que hará afavor de este Amigo.

Messrs. Wm. McWilliams & Saml Davison
To Cortés & huppé Drs.

To your joint note dated 3d June 1823 pay^{d} on demand	$131. 93. ¾
" ditto " 16th December 1823 " on demand	97. 00
" Saml. Davison's note dated 7th february 1824 on demand	25. 06. ¼
	$254. 00
ther Book account since the above notes	56. 25
	$310. 25

We certify the above to be just and correct. Natchitoches 24th. June 1827.

Cortés & Huppé

W. J. Powell to Austin

To Colonel Austin.

Respected Sir, Tho I am only acquainted with you by reputation I take the liberty of addressing you a few lines desiring you to be so good as to write me concerning the situation of the colony you are forming on the Brazos I passed thro' that country about thre years ago with Gen. Bernardo's family and think it a fine country of land. I wish you to inform me of the conditions imposed upon the settlers Write to Pablo Willis J. Powell Naturaliste in Mexico.

Willis J. Powell [Rubric]

Mexico the 24th. of June 1827.

[Addressed:] Al Señor Coronel Austin en el Rio de los Brazos en la Provincia de Texas—. pr. el camino del Saltillo en Coahuila

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J. Cable to Austin

Natchitoches 26th June 1827

Dr sir

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance Mr. William Calahan of this place who is on a visit to your Settlement any politeness shone him will be greatly acknowledged by your assured friend

J. Cable

Col. S. F. Austin Austin's Colony. Texas

M. Slocum to Austin

Natchitoches. June 25. 1827

Col: S. F. Austin.

Dr. Sir, Your favour by Gen. Fullerton with some Mexican papers and the account of the celebration of the adoption of the State Constitution have been duly rec[d] for which you will please accept my thanks—The Celebration I will publish next week—The Constiution I had previously rec[d] of Mr. J Durst who is having it published in a pamphlet form—I have given Mr. Cable several papers to forward you by Mr. Callaghan If at any time you should see fit to forward any news of your country it will be rec[d] and published with pleasure

M Slocum

FARIS & WHITE TO AUSTIN

San felepe D Austin June 25. 1827

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
To Faris and White Dr.

Cash loned	8.50
1 Bottle Porter .50 2 Bottles and Brandy	3.00
1 Hat $7.00 6 lbs Crackers	8.50
	$20.00

Willis A Ferris personally appears before me M. M. Battle. Alcd. for Dist. of San F De Austin and makes Oath to the within a/c. and that the Same is Just and true. 5th of Novr. 1827.

M. M BATTLE. Al. D. Sn. F.D. Austin.

Pay the within to M B Nuckols
Nov. 5th. 1827 FARIS AND WHITE
1829. April 15 Received payment M B NUCKOLS

C. B. PENROSE TO AUSTIN

San Felipe De Austin June 27th 1827

Mr Penrose respectfully presents to Col. Austin, the following subjects for his consideration, and on which he would request an answer, whenever the Col's convenience will permit—

1st Mr. P— in conjunction with a planter of Louisiana, proposes erecting in Texas, an extensive Distillery for the manufactory of Rum, but as the law "Granting certain privileges to the Citizens of Texas" under which Mr P— would expect to import Melasses for the maintainance of his Distillery, appears to clash with a subsequent law of the Genl Govt. Mr P to place the matter beyond a doubt would solicit from the Govt, the privilege of introducing from Louisiana or elsewhere, an adequate supply of melasses, for a *Term of years, free of duty*, or untill the Citizens of the Colony who have turned their attention to the culture of the sugar cane, could afford the material in sufficient abundance, when Mr. P— would pledge himself to confine his purchases to the Colony—The capital which Mr. P— would invest in the prosecution of his design, would be little short of $10.000 and as the greatest part of that sum would be expended in the Colony—and as the houses and other fixtures when erected, would be an important and valuable acquisition to the Colony, Mr. P— would therefore, solicit the cooperation of Col Austin in obtaining the privilege refered to. Should the Genl Govt grant Mr P— the privilege of introducing *Free of duty*—one hundred thousand Gallons of Melasses, annually he would also suggest to Col Austin, the reasonableness of his asking an *exclusive* privi-

lege. Mr P— would invest a large capital in a doubtful adventure, he stakes his all, with his time and attention for years—and should ultimate success, or entire ruin to himself, be the result of his enterprise, he conceives himself meriting the encouragement and protection of the Gov^{t} for introducing a manufactory heretofore unknown, or pursued upon a very limited scale—

2nd What quantity of Land—might Mr. P—expect to derive from the Gov^{t} as a *donation* and where situated?—

3rd Mr P— is particularly solicitous to be informed by Co^{l} Austin of the various markets of Mexico—What quantity of Rum could be annually disposed of, in each place, and the probable price, and also the safest and cheapest means of transportation to the interior?

4th Whether 1st or 4th proofs would meet the readiest markets?

5th If Co^{l} Austin is of opinion that some point on the Brassos, would be the most eligable position for the proposed establishment—Mr. P would request him to designate the place, having a regard to the facility of transportation to the various ports of Mexico—

6th Mr P— would require for his establishment, a large quantity of scantling and Cypruss plank, but as the latter cannot be easily obtained in the Colony—Mr. P—would wish to get permission to bring from Louisiana—Cisterns ready made, or plank for the purpose of making them—

7th Could artizans and day laborers be obtained in the Colony or would Mr P have to bring them from U—S?

8th Are not the banks of the Brassos well wooded, and if so, what kind of timber is generally found?

9th Should Mr P— find it necessary to purchase a vessel, what tonage would Co^{l} Austin recommend? and what steps would Mr P— have to pursue, to place his vessel under the Mexican Flag—

10th What is the regular army of Mexico—and what number of Seamen? how are they provissioned? might not Mr P dispose of a considerable quantity of Spirits annually—to the Gov^{t} for their army and navy—

Should the privilege solicited—be granted, it will be in the name of Joseph B. Wilkinson and Clement B Penrose, Trading under the name of Penrose & Co—

Would it not be profitable to establich a sugar house?

My Dear Sir

The foregoing memorandum I have hastily sketched out, there are other objects connected with my plan, which I will discuss with you when your liesure will permit; in the meantime the only apologys I can offer for the trouble I give you, is the assurance of my warm thanks for the friendly reception which you have given me—and to remind you of the friendship which has so long subsisted between

our Families—I must also trouble you to enquire for me at San Antonio the price of 1st rate cognac Brandy and Annisette cordials—I have of the first upwards of 100 Gals, and of the latter, say 240 Gals,,—put up in casks of 12 Galls—if it is not too much trouble you might possibly dispose of it, for me, deliverable *here* to some of the traders of that place, I presume it is worth, from 3 to 4$ per Gallon—will you My Dear Sir, at all events, write to me, as early as your convenience will admit of,

If I have to go to San Antonio—I conceive the cheapest way, would be to employ mules—but as they are not to be had *here* I have to request, as a particular favor, that you would send them in—I will require ten—and Mr McKinstry who will accompany me will want eight more—and also two horses to ride—will you when you write inform me whether Dry Goods are abundant or scarce in San Antonio and Mr. McKinstry's prospects in going there. I shall not want the mules until I hear from you—If what I ask should in the least interfere with your convenience, I beg you will tell me so without ceremony—

C. B. Penrose

Col. S F Austin

Saucedo to Austin

El estado de Fuerza harmamento municiones etc etc etc de la Milicia civica y la noticia de las familias de esa Colonia establecidas dentro de las diez leguas litorales qe. pedi á V. en 17. de Mayo ppdo. y me anu[n]cia remitir, no bino por el ultimo correo; y siendo necesarios há este Gobno el recibo de há quellos documentos espero de dicara V. su celo y eficacia á costumbrada pa qe. no falten por el proximo venturo.

Dios y Libertad Bexar 28. de Junio de 1827.

José Antº Saucedo [Rubric]

Al Ciudadano Empresario Esteban Austin

C. B. Penrose to Austin

San Felipe De Austin July 1st 1827

Dear sir

With this you will receive my petition, to the General Government, and if you should deem any alterations necessary, I beg that you will make them.—if you think it essential to redraft the petition, I wish you to consider yourself fully authorised to sign for Jos: B Wilkinson and myself.

I have, as you will perceive by reference to the petition asked for—Five leagues of Land—with permission to locate in a body or sepe-

rately—My reasons for asking this privilege I hope you will find satisfactory: The lands on the Brassos are, I believe very generally occupied by *prior* claims,—so that if I were forced to locate the concession in an entire body it would be too remote from the Distillery—to derive any advantages from it. The Distillery and Sugar House (if we establish one) will consume a large quantity of wood annually and if we are forced to bring it from any distance, it would subject us to great inconvenience, and still greater expence. I think the advantages which will result to the country from the proposed Establishment, fully authorise me in believing that my petition is perfectly reasonable, if you think otherwise however, drop this subject, and urge nothing but the first clause—viz—the privilege of importing melasses *Free of Duty*.

In addition to the information, I have already requested, I would enquire, whether, there are not, now in your colony, several carpenters and Masons and if so, could they be employed by the month, and at what price? Could I not, get at San Antonio or elsewhere in the Interior, a number of spaniards as day laborers at low wages? if I can, can I rely upon them, and what price would I have to pay? I am particularly anxious to obtain some knowledge of the Mexican markets—The names—situations population, and resources of the various Seaport Towns, and those in the Interior, accessible to trade, the means of transportation from the nearest ports, and the expence attending such transportation

In the prosecution of my design, I would require correspondents wherever I found a market, and if you could furnish me with the names and standing of merchants in such places as you would designate, from whom I could obtain the desired information, I would address them upon my return to the U. S. — In the meantime, I would most thankful[ly] avail myself of your general and extensive knowledge of the Country. With the Mercantile usages of the country, the susceptibility of particular places — for a particular branch of trade — and the minutia of business I presume you are unacquainted—but, upon the general resources of the country—its commercial advantages—its agricultural and monied wealth—the geographical advantages of particular ports, as regards their proximity to thickly settled and wealthy districts, in short, upon every subject, interesting to a stranger, I would apply to you, with a perfect confidence of clear and satisfactory answers—

I am aware My Dear Sir—that—I am drawing largely upon your promise of information, and trespassing upon your time, but when I remind you of the importance of the business in which I am about to engage and that my entire ruin might be the result of a careless investigation of the capabilities of the Country—you will I am per-

suaded pardon my anxiety for obtaining information from the only correct source within my power—I therefore again repeat, that I shall esteem it, a flattering evidence of your friendship, and an important obligation, if you will address me, upon all subjects of general information, which may suggest themselves to you, and which your convenience and leisure may permit you to speak of.

My anxiety to return to the U. S. in order to make arrangements for the support of our petition in the Capital induces me, again to mention the subject of my little invoice of Liquors, they stand me in something like $2.50 if you can settle them for that—I wish you would do so of course to be delivered here—at all events make the best arrangement you can for me—

C. B. PENROSE

Co^{l} S. F. Austin
[Addressed:] Co^{l} Stephen F Austin San Antonio.

DAVID G. BURNET TO BUSTAMENTE

To His Excellency
Genl Bustamente
Commander in Chief &^{c} &^{c}

The undersigned, finding a deep and lively concern in all that relates to the welfare of their adopted Country, and entertaining a peculiar regard for the future advancement and tranquility of Texas, beg leave very respectfully, to submit the following facts and suggestions to Your Excellency's serious consideration, in order that the subject to which they relate may be presented to the proper authorities of the Government of Mexico—

In the winter of 1823, Mr. Monroe, then President of the United States of the North, recommended to Congress that measures should be taken to remove all the Tribes of Indians resident within the organised limits of the United States, to regions to be assigned them on the west side of the Mississippi, and beyond the boundaries of the State of Missouri and of the Arkansas territory—The Congress promptly adopted the recommendation and Commissioners were appointed to treat with the Indians on the subject of their removal—Treaties to that end have already been effected with some of the most considerable Tribes of the North, to wit—with the C[h]octaws, the Chickesaws the Cherokees and the Creeks, by which they have severally engaged to emigrate to the west—Other Treaties probably have been or shortly will be made with other Tribes of a similar import—

By the terms of these treaties, lands are designated for the future location of these Nations or barbarians, on the west side of the

Mississippi and *for some of them, in the immediate vicinity of Texas*—Stipulated annuities in money and in arms and ammunition are allowed them in consideration of the lands they have relinquished and ceded to the United States, that Government continuing to exercise its wonted national sovereignty over them and to guarantee to them its national protection.

The very terms of these compacts import that the Government of the United States possess a right of supervisorship and control over these Indians, and every principle of national comity that ought, and it is hoped does exist between the Government of Mexico, and that of the United States, would dictate that that right should be so exercised as to prevent these barbarian *protejees* from becoming troublesome or inconvenient to their neighboring sister Republic—And we conceive it to be perfectly competent and reasonable for Mexico to protest against the settlement of these Savage Tribes in her immediate vicinity, inasmuch as it must subject that part of her territory bordering on such settlements to an absolute dereliction or render it fit only for the habitation of other Nations of Savages—

The removal in part of several Tribes has already been effected, and although but a small proportion of the whole number contemplated to be removed have as yet appeared in the Country designated for their future location, the injurious consequences flowing from this forced and unnatural accumulation of Savages in a territory obviously incapable of sustaining them, to the adjacent territories of Mexico is too apparent to escape the most cursory observer— It is a fact sufficiently notorious, that a great proportion of the Country alotted for the settlement of these discordant nations is [in] a sterile, unproductive wilderness and situated in an inclement and unfriendly climate—Such a country can present but few inducements to a permanent agricultural occupation by a people who have made just enough progress in civilization to have acquired many of its most mischievious arts and all its vices, but not enough to endow them with sufficient fortitude and patience to subdue a stubborn wilderness to cultivation, or to sustain themselves from again relapsing into their primitive state of barbarism—Hunting and predation are the favorite pursuits of Savages—the *chase* possesses a fascination that is altogether irresistible to the untutored mind and derives its principal charm from the resemblance it has to *War*, to which all unenlightened nations are passionately addicted—

It requires but a superficial acquaintance with the character of these aborigines of the north who are about to be transposed to our borders to predict that in a very few years after their ejection from the pale of that power which has heretofore surrounded them and curbed their wild propensities, they will abandon all their acquired

habits of civilization and return to their pristine savage condition:—and it then requires less forecast to perceive, that the Country in which they are to be congregated will be altogether insufficient for their accommodation—Without estimating the certain occurrences of feuds and wars among themselves, and the inevitable dispersions resulting from them, we may deduce from the principles of a purely physical necessity, the fact that many of these Tribes will be compelled to spread themselves abroad and to seek a more commodious residence in a Country less densely populated and where the means of subsistence are more plentiful and of easier access—Texas presents every allurement that is calculated to attract their notice and excite their cupidity—Lying contiguous to their newly acquired territory and possessing a climate mild and salubrious—with a soil abundantly prolific diversified by alternate forests and prairies replete with every variety of *game*, and pervaded in every part by perennial streams of water, it has the superior attraction of being sufficiently remote from any powerful white population to promise them an undisturbed occupation, and is still sufficiently proximate to insure ample opportunities of gratifying their ancient animosities and indulging their passions for rapine and war, by depradating on the unprotected frontiers of Mexico.

With respect to the fact that many of these northern Tribes will extend their migrations and eventually select a home beneath the brighter skies of Texas, we are not left to the precarious calculations of conjecture—several of them have already taken up their encampments within the proper jurisdiction of this Government, and they have already declared their determination not to relinquish their forcible, uninvited and unauthorized possessions—The names and numbers of those Tribes or parts of Tribes that now occupy our territory are as follows:

Shawnees	550	families
Kickapoos	500	" "
Delawares	250	" "
Cherokees	80	" "
Quapaws	150	" "

The Quapaws are encamped on the west side of the Red River of Louisiana, a little below the Sulphur Fork and it is quite problematical whether they are within this territory or not—This fact cannot be determinately know[n] untill the boundary line between the two Governments shall be finally adjusted—Reducing these families to individuals by supposing 5 souls to each family, we have 7650 souls and allowing one able bodied man to every 5 souls will give the aggregate number of 1530 warriors This number, though sufficiently formidable of itself, considering the wilderness state of

the Country and the infancy and feebleness of the white population within it, is rendered still more alarming by the warlike and ferocious character of those warriors—They have been long tried in arms in many fierce and bloody contests with the hardy *backwoodsmen* of the north, and have always displayed great bravery and indefatigable enterprise and persurverance—They are admirably expert in the use of the Rifle, and although compelled to retire before the accummulated masses of the north Americans, who have gradually driven them from forest to forest and over river after river, they have never acknowledged themselves conquered, but still feel able to contend with equal numbers of the best troops of the civilized world—

Should these Indians be allowed to remain and obtain a permanent foothold in the Country, it will inevitably attract the residues of their respective nations to re-unite with them, and in all probability other Tribes will be allured by their example to seek a more congenial residence than is to be found in the inclement forests of the North—In the lapse of a very few years unless some prompt and efficient measures are taken to check this dangerous imigration, these northern barbarians will swarm in Texas as the Goth and Vandals swarmed into Italy, and impelled by the same motives and the same antipathies, they will spread a similar desolation in their progress—

Another and very imminent danger connected with this emigration is found in the great probability that these strangers will form at least a temporary alliance with our ancient enemies the Comanches, the Whacoes and the Tawackanies, and combined with those treacherous people to devastate the exposed frontiers of the Republic—Such a combination would be replete with mischief and might require the utmost energies of the nation to suppress it—

We, the undersigned, do therefore feel it a duty as the confidential agents of this Government appointed to superintend the Colonization of important Districts of Texas, to represent this interesting subject to your Excellency as the proper organ of the Federal Government—We conceive the subject to be important to the Country at large, but to involve in a peculiar and especial manner the vital interests of Texas, and we submit it to Your Excellency in the hope, that some suitable measures may be adopted to arrest the progress of a fearful and growing evil and to save the peaceful Citizens of Coahuila and Texas and all the regions around and contiguous to the Rio Grande from the *tomahawk and scalping knife* of a ruthless, infuriated and savage foe—The evil of which we speak is yet in its incipient state, but it is rapidly maturing, and although

the scene of its operation is located in a remote and sequestered part of the Republic, its development will not be the less disastrous for having its origin in the secret and unfrequented wilds of our northern frontier—

We consider this matter to be worthy of the solemn interposition of the National Government, and we entertain no doubt but the Government of the United States, as soon as the subject shall be properly presented to them, will employ their influence with these intruding Indians to induce them to evacuate the Mexican territory and return to their respective homes: and in the event of a contumaceous refusal, that they will withold their annuities and withdraw their protection—Such a procedure would in all probability constrain many of them to return and deter others from committing similar trespasses, and would essentially conduce to the future welfare and prosperity of Texas and to the tranquility of the several contiguous states—

And we further present to Your Excellency the great danger and the manifest impolicy of making any promises of concessions of Lands, either temporary or perpetual, and of offering any other rewards or emoluments, whether it be by military appointments or civic honors, to any of the Chiefs or head warriors of these barbarous Tribes—The friendship of savages is always treacherous—it is purchased today and lost tomorrow—it is generally dearly bought, and is never gratuitous but to superior force—when sold, the first price, though ever so exorbitant, is only a prelude to future exactions—a sale is only a *loan for use*, and as the savage is always suspicous and never disinterested, the loan is sure to be recalled whenever convenience or interest may prompt—The very offer to purchase his friendship carries, to his mind suspicions of inability to compell it—fear alone is the arbiter of all his affections—

Should it once be whispered among the numerous and populous Tribes of the North that those of their kindred who have already forced themselves upon us, have been caressed and fostered by the Government, a very few months will be sufficient to fill up the vacant lands of Texas with a fierce and ungovernable people, who will soon turn their fury on their benefactors, and in comparison with whom, the Comanches, the Whacoes, and the Towackanies are utterly contemptible and harmless—

DAVID G BURNET [Rubric][1]

San Felipe de Austin 2d July 1827

[1] A copy of this document published in the *Telegraph and Texas Register*, October 6, 1838, has also the signatures of Ben. R. Milam and Stephen F. Austin.

SAUCEDO TO BENJAMIN R. MILAM[1]

El Exmo Sor Gov^or del estado con fha. 16. de Junio ppdo. se ha serbido comunicarme la superior or^n qe. sigue.

Por el Ministerio de Estado y de relaciones se me há comunicado con fha. 2. del corr^te lo qe. sigue—

Exmo Sor —

El Exmo. Sor. Ministro de la Guerra en nota de ayer me dice lo sig^te — consultando el Comand^te gral de los Estados interiores de oriente á la orn qe. se le comunico en 14. de Abril anterior relatibo á la emigracion de familias del Norte me dice con fha 10 del mes pasado entre otras cosas lo qe. copio creo de absoluta necesidad qe. pr. el Supremo Govierno se excite el Zelo del ciudadano Gob^r de este Estado á fin de q. prebenga á los empresarios bajo la mas estrecha responsabilidad no admitan en las nuevas colonias mas qe á los individous qe. pertenescan á las familias contratadas y qe. tengan todos los requicitos debidos procurando qe. nadie se establesca y en los terrenos litorales y limitrofes, sin permiso del supremo Govierno pues qualq tolerancia ó dicimulo en esta parte sera muy perjudicial á la Yndependencia e integridad del Territorio mexicano — Loqe. de or^n del supremo Gob^no transcribo á Vs p^a su debida inteligencia y providencias oportunas á qe. hubiere lugar pr. ese Ministerio — Y del or^n del Exmo Sor Precid^te lo incerto á VE. p^a q. como precisa consecuencia de las orns. dadas sobre introducion de extrangeros de qe. se contrajo la circular de 19. de Noviembre del año anterior disponga lo conveniente p^a qe. solo se admitan en las nuevas colonias á individuos qe. tengan los requisitos debidos y pertenescan á las familias contratadas y qe. con mas particularidad se ponga atencion á cuidar en dhos. establecimtos. de la observancia de las citadas disposiciones — Ylo transcribo a VS. p^a su inteligencia y á fin de qe. ensu cumplim^to lo haga saber á los empresarios qe. existan en ese Departam^to y comisionado dela colonia del ciud^d Esteban Austin p^a su puntual obediencia

Lo incerto aV. p^a su inteligencia y cumplimento esperando me ácusara el correspondiente recibo.

Dios y libertad Bexar 7. de Julio de 1827.

JOSÉ ANT^O SAUCEDO [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Al Empresario Ciudadano Venjamin R. Milan

[1] An identical letter to Austin is omitted.

SAMUEL A. CARTWRIGHT TO IRA LEWIS

Natchez July 8th 1827

DR. SIR

I have heard you express a wish to have a physician in the neighborhood of your plantation on the river. Doctor Lyman Cronkrite the bearer of this is looking out for a situation to locate himself as a practitioner of medicine. He has been recommended as a worthy young man well qualified for the duties of his profession.

SAM[l] A CARTWRIGHT

[Addressed:] Ira Lewis Esqr

FRANCIS BIGGAM TO AUSTIN

Monroe Aug[t] 1—1827

DR FRIEND

My long Cilence I am afraid will lead you to Congecture that I am numbered amongest the Dead I am still alive but has suferd agreat Deal of sickness from the fitages I have underwent acompained with a great Deal of Disapointmints I rec[d] your letter which aforded me agreat Deal of Satisfaction to find that it was your opinion that slavery would bee alowed and I amatently [immediately] prepered to move and was on the eave of it when by my exarsion to gett readey I was relapsed and if it was not for the best of Care and medical skill I was gone to the world of spirits it was long ere I was so recovered as to bee able to proceed when a unspected event tooke place in the Death of Merritt my son inlaw as hee had given him self up to Drinke some time before which Carried him of and has left his estate much involved and am afraied will souse (?) mee out of two thousand Dollars which I have Judgement for and will be obliged to wait till Court which will take place in october for when hee found his Disolution aproaching hee not onley sined over all hee was possesed of but also give his broather of orlains a note for four thousand Dollars so as to Cover his property and keep me out of my lawfull right and Hide & Merritt of Orlains is since broke and how it will bee Desided I am at a loss to tell to Court as boath Judgements was obtained in one Day but mine was first but at that time I shall move the principal part of my property at all events and shall proceed as fast as possible Mrs Biggam I am afraid will not acompaney mee as shee Constantley hear such unpleasant teal of the Countrey and people and Indians I have given you the out lines of what I have sufered and the impediments that has laid in my way after visiting the Countrey so often and spending so much money in so Doing and being of such

use to the inhabitants as all I ever tooke there is there still my reasons for menshing this is that I was informed but I shall never Creditt unless from your own mouth that if I was not on the brasses by september that you would give my land to a nother I have stated my reasons which I can prove to bee true my broather acompiney mee out and although I was not there I have been working or having it Don as I have gott three Hundred pair of the best broagans shoes you ever saw which I intend to Carrey out when I move and if it bee your Desire will to take away my land after all I have Don and sufered for the Countrey I shall bow Down with reverence and shall place it among one of my visitudes of [fate?] but untill that happens I shall ever name you among my warmest friends and well wishers and the a[n]corage I shall Cast my last hope on I have Directed this to you on the brasses under Cover to the poast master aftere the post paid of Nackendosh with a request to forward it as son as posible I Can ad no more ti[ll] I see you and under those Considerations I shall subscribe My self your friend & H St

FRA^{s} BIGGAM

[Addressed:] Col^{n} Stephen F Austin St phillips D Austin brasses river province of taxe- pr mail postage paid

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MRS. J. H. HAWKINS TO AUSTIN

Gallatin County Kentucky
4th Aug. 1827.

Mr. S. F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR I thank you for your letter of the 4th May last, which I rec^{d} some time ago Post mark New Or. 27th May—I have not seen Coln. Nicholas, nor have I rec^{d} of late any communication from Mr. Cox concerning Texas—

I have no objection to a division, and will send out an agent if I can, but my present impression is that I shall not be able to engage a suitable one for some time, Mr. Sanders has a large family and newly settled in the woods, their interests, requires his presence at home, it will not be convenient for him to leave home so long—

I am like yourself destitute of means to appropriate anything at present towards your settlements, and must wait untill something more propetious presents itself—What do you think of the propriety of sending an agent to England to make sales there of the lands? great number of emigrants are now leaving that country, artizans manufactures and farmers, may be something could be

effected that way, If your title is such as could be disposed of—Some gentleman having other business might undertake this so as not to make the expence burthensome—please let me hear your views

Mr. Sanders thinks your province being without the U. S. there would be no great inducement to cultivate sugar on act of the duties unless you had some other market—

Would there be any office in the civil administration of your provincial govt. that would suit Coln. Nicholas and him the office?

My second son Edmund is placed in a house of business at Louisville. with great respect your friend and obt Servt.

GEORGE ANNE HAWKINS

D. ELIZONDO TO AUSTIN

Saltillo, Agosto 25. de 1827.

Sor. D. ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

MUY SEÑOR MIO: por el Decreto No. 1° del H. congº constitucionl se habrá V. impuesto del nombramtº conqe. se me condecoro (aunque sin merito) de consejero de Estado, lo cual fue motivo pª hacerme bolber de santa rosa á donde habia dicho en mi ultima me dirigiese V. mis cartas; mas ya qe. me hallo radicado en este, y no habiendo tenido aun carta de V. sobre el consabido cobro á la testamentaria de su cargo de la cantidad de 219 pˢ y tomines, le suplico se sirva decirme si me podrá cubrir mi credito para el mes de Dbre procsimo, para en caso contrario intentar la accion qe. me competa contra los bienes del finado Bastrop, pues ha dejado muebles en Bejar, capaces de satisfacer la cantidad qe. demando. y creo no ser justo se satisfaga ningun legado, antes de aquietar los acreedores de la casa del difunto; en tal concepto, espero de las virtudes qe. áV. son caracteristicas, qe. hará lo mejor en este asunto para evadirnos de tramites judiciales qe. siempre refluiran contra los intereses de esa testamentaria de qe. V. es albacea.

Espero qe. tenga la dignacion de contestarme á ésta (en donde recido á la disposicion de V.) á buelta de correo pª mi govnº. deceando positivamtº que no me tengo ocioso, pues deceo servirle en mi destino en todo aquello qe. sea compatible con la justicia. Memˢ muy particulares al amigo D. Roberto Luis, asi de mi parte como del Diputado Echaiz, haciendolo igualmtº á D. Estevan Wilson si hubiere venido. Quedo de V, y le protesto la mayor consideracion—

DIONICIO ELIZONDO [Rubric]

Al Sor. D. Estevan F. Austin, en la villa de Austin

MIGUEL ARCINIEGA TO AUSTIN

Saltº 25. de Agosto de 1827.

Sor Don ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

Mi apreciable amigo y dueño: Por el ultº Corrº recibi su grata de 5. del corrte que esperaba con ancia, ella me instruye del llamado que le hiso el General Bustamte para qe. pasara á Bejar á cooperar con sus luces en la pacifon de Yndios ó formar un plan pa hacerles la guerra si era necesario, pero segun lo qe. Vd. me dice parece qe. á lo primº se abienen mejor qe. á lo segundo particularmte los Huecos y Tahuacs que han celebrado ya sus tratados de Paz y en la esperenza que hay en qe. estos sean respetados en consideracion á la salvaguardia delas Colonias de Vd. que les imponen la Ley, por esta rason convengo en que cumplirán con sus votos, pero menos yo no confiaria en sus paces falsas; y respecto a los Comanches me dice Vd. que la cosa esta pendiente pero con apariencias de que breve darán la paz, Yo celebraré mucho que hagan lo mismo que los primeros quisa será un medio de que nos dejen descansar algun tiempo, mientras que nuestro Govno se haya mas desahogado de sus atencions que tiene y puede favorecernos con tropa capaz de imponerles terror a estos Barbaros que por largo tiempo han echo la guerra causando incalculables perjuicios, y si por el contrario no se consigue de ntro. Govno alguna proteccion capas soy del mismo sentir de Vd. que por esto solo Tejas no será mas de un quadro de miseria.

En qto. al encargo que Vd. me hace de *Madero* voy á manifestar á V. en quatro palabras lo que ha habido sobre la materia Madero hiso una proposicion al Congreso para que se le pidiese al Govno un pormenor de todos los terrenos repartidos en la prima colonia de Vd, este ultimo manifestó que se hallaba sin datos positivos del numº de terrenos repartidos á los colonos, pero qe. se pedirian al Gefe del Departo despues de la seccion dijo Madero que tenia datos muy ciertos de que entre Vd. y el Gefe habian hecho comercio con algs terrs dela Colonia vendiendolos á precio muy subidos y que la justificaria á su tiempo con documentos que paravan en su poder, que *Vixon* tenia tambien iguales Documtos para justificar lo mismo, y en fin despues de haber hablado con la ligeresa y mordacidad qe. acostumbra, delante de mis comps le contesté en terminos que no le agradaron y me dejó con la palabra y se retiró quedandome con mis comps aquienes instrui completamte dela integridad y buen comportamto de Vd. y del Gefe, que los documentos que decia Madero tenia en su poder es falso y falsisimo y lo mismo delos qe. dice tiene Nixon, porque está conocido por un impostor que con representon de Caballero dice lo [que] quiere. Yo lo que le puedo asegurar áVd. que en ntro. Congreso estan convencidos delas negras y falsas ideas de Madero, asi es que no tiene

influjo en lo absoluto—Tube la satisfaccion de haber enseñado su carta al Sor Blanco, á Padilla y á otros amigos mios deconfiansa menos al Sor Viesca porqe. está en Parras pero quando venga se la enseñaré, y dicen que sin necesidad de qe. Vd. particularise sus afanes por tejas, estan plenam^te convencidos de los mericim^tos que V. á contraido conla Patria.

Porlo que Vd. me dice relativo al *Guaguin* veo que será dificil encontrarla pero si alguno en su Colonia tiene una *calesa* como la que tiene su Herm^a de Madame Long puede Vd. propalarla y avisarme su precio para que si me conviene Yo avisaré luego luego.

Mis respetos a su Herm^o Don Sant^o y á Mr. W. su secret^o y Vd. mande á su amigo q. S. M. B.

Mig^l Arciniega [Rubric]

H. H. League to Austin

San Felipe De Austin the 28th August 1827

Col. Stephen F Austin

D sir I this moment Received your Communication dated at San Antonio informing me of your resolution to set out on the 30th for Saltillo I doubt whether it will be possible for me by any Exertion to be in Saltillo in the time mentioned. I am unprepared to go on immediately. I shall however use Every possible Exertion to do so—about a week since I sent a man to Natchitoches for the company Documents that I rote for by General Fulerton I also drew on the company for the funds necessary to perform the Trip without which it would be impossible for me to go on. I shall however Try to prepare myself otherwise and if I find it practicable I will be on in about 2 weeks after you leave San Antonio if I find it impossible to do so I will inclose you all the Necessary Documents to Saltillo with all the information and advice on the subject in my power with full authority for you to act in all Respects that I could do were I present. we have some little commotion amongst the people in the out settlements of the Colony—which has been got up by this man Daton that was here when you left Pittises [Pettus's?] insolvency and bad conduct has produced some Excitement amongst a good many that will loose by him. Yet Ive no idea that any thing serious will Result from it your Brother James B. and also Majr Burnet may advise you to Return on that account I do not know that they will, but I do not beleave that the emergency Requires your presence so much that it would be justifiable to loose any important advantage to the Colony by Returning. I will use Every Exertion in my power to Tranquilise them. Should this letter Reach you at San Antonio before you

leave Pleas to write me without fail I will address you at Saltillo by next mail more fully on Every Subject about which you would like to be informed whether I go on or not my family is in fine health and the colony in general

H. H. League [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F Austin San Antonio Coahuila & Texas

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Mary W. Ellis to Austin

Sept 3 1827, Franklin County. Ala

Col Austin

Dear sir I am the wife of Judge Ellis from Alabama he went to Texas to Collect a debt due from Col pettus which debt he was security for and pettus ran away from here and left him to pay) and I wish you to state to Judge Ellis if he dont Come home directly he will have his property sold for pettus the ballance due is usery that part I suppose pettus will not pay Col Pettus has treated Judge Ellis veary ill and bad about it) I have not herd from my husband since the 30 of may for god sake let me know what has become of him since that time and whare he is if he is thare let his see this letter for god sake write me and let me know and if he is dead take care of his property untill I can send for it this from apoore woman that [is] in the deepist destress pray write amediately and direct your letter to Tuscumby franklin County Alabama and I will take it as agreat favor

Mary W Ellis

[Addressed:] 25 Paid The P. M. at Nachitoches will please forward this by the first safe hand. Col. Stephen F. Austin Province of Texas Via Nachitoches State of Louisiania

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C. B. Penrose to Austin

San Felipe de Austin Sep 10th 1827

Dear sir

I have, for some weeks past, waited for some communication from you, respecting by business, but my expectations have been disappointed, Your last letter found me on the eve of departure for the Bay—and as you then mentioned your intention of immediately returning to San Felipe, I thought it unnecessary to write.—Upon my return to Town, I found you had prolonged your stay in San Antonio, and as there was a pressure of other and important business, I felt an unwillingness to obtrude my business upon your attention, subsequent events increased that unwillingness, and I have waited patiently untill the arrival of today's mail, in the hopes of your

informing me of at least the disposition of my papers—my entire ignorance of their fate, induces me, to trouble you with the present communication and the only apology I can offer, is the importance of the business, to my future prospects—Your entire silence has induced me to suppose, that my business may possibly trench too much upon time, allready devoted to the welfare of individuals, who have claims upon your attention, I can pretend to none—if my supposition is correct, I can only express my regret that your politeness should have mislead me

It is still my intention to prosecute the business which brought me to the Country, and in conformity with your advice I intend going to the City of Mexico so soon as I can adjust some business in the United States, whither I shall go during the present month—I was and still am anxious to obtain the sanction of the state government for my projected enterprise, and feel well assured that that sanction would very much facilitate my business with the Genl Gov^{t}—If you can do so without interfering too much with your business I should feel myself much indebted to you if you would present my petition to the consideration of the Gov^{t} at Saltillo and forward to me the result at Mexico—directed to myself or Joseph B Wilkinson care of Mr Poinsett—if however you should deem this course impolitic—or too troublesome to yourself I beg that you will frely inform me so—any letter you address me will find me in Neworleans as late as the middle of January. Accept my good wishes for your safe return—

C. B. PENROSE

Col. S. F. Austin Saltillo

II. H. LEAGUE TO AUSTIN

DEAR SIR

From the shortness of the notice and my unprepared situation I find it will be impossible for me to meet you in Saltillo. I had determined to set out in October nor will it be possible for me under Existing circumstances to set out sooner. I grately regret that I can not go on. and since you have the goodness to offer your assistance in the Business and it will be impossible for me to meet you in Saltillo. I am certain that you can do infinately more by haveing the documents without my presents than I could possibly doo by being thare without yours: I have therefore sent you the whole of the documents that is in my possession. with a full power of attorney to act in all Respects for me: I rote on to the company at Nashville by General Fulerton for other Necessary documents and also for funds to be sent by mail to nachitoches. I started a man for them about Two weeks since but he has not had time to return. Should I

receive any necessary papers from thare in time for them to Reach you before you leave I will inclose them by mail to you.

You mentioned in your cor munication that you would be short of funds I doubt not but I will receive as much as $500 from the company by my Return from nachitoches and should you have occasion to draw on me and you can make it answer you any purpose your Draft shall be honoured and paid as soon as the funds shall come to hand.

I have also inclosed you a bill of directions imbracing some of the wishes of the company any of the requests that you may think unpopular or Improper to ask you will please to omit and eny thing that you may Esteam advantageous or proper to be asked for you will pleas to do so though it is not in the memorial or bill of directions

The difficulty that was apprehended on account of Daton is over he has been punished and driven out of the colony. his designs on the Colony was full of mischief and Rebellion and had become more formidable than any of us imagined and was On the Eave of brakeing out but it is fortunately Over. your brother Mr. Williams and I will write you more fully on the subject. it is all important for many reasons that I should remain here until after court. if matters is properly managed then the tranquility and future harmony of the colony will be more permanently Established than ever. the circumstance of this appeal in the case Payton, Vs. Parker is daily producing more and more Excitement. I have used Every Exertion in my power to have it compromised and thought once I had done so by Peyton giving up the damages allowed him and paying the cost of the suit which he agreed to do but was afterwards broken off by Parker. if it is in your Power to put a stop to the Proceedings it will be a finishing stroke to Publick tranquility. the health of the colony has been good my self and family has injoyed fine health.

Sept. 10 1827

H. H. League [Rubric]

Col. Stephen F. Austin

H. H. League to [Austin]

It is the wish of the Company that they as a Company may be Recognized as the proprietors of the colony, that the persons names assigned to the Memorial may be Recognized as Directors of the company. the company Concisted first of 52 persons towit Nelson Paterson—William Campbell—Ira Ingram—J. Roan—W. Tanne-

hill—Felix Robinson—Thos Hill—William Barrow—Sam B. Marshell—J. McLoughlin—John W. Overton—John P. Erwin—Simon Bradford—John Criddle—George A. Bedford—John Waters—Henry P. Loyd—Alex^{r}—Barrow—Horace Green—E. Talbot—Daniel A. Dunham—Peyton Robison—James R. Robertson—John M. Robertson—Pleasant Craddock—William B. Robison—David B. Green—William Harding—Sam. Houston—John D. Bowen—A. W. Johnston—Charles Douglas—John Harding—Abram Demoss—Will Williams—John Davis—James R. Baslie—Isaac. Watkins—Robert Hill—Leonard P. Cheatham—Will White—James S. Martin—James Pateson—Edward Daniel—Hugh Rollend Josiah Horton—Roger B. Sappington—Abram P. Murray—Joel Parish—S. C. Robison [Robertson]—Sam L. Whorton—Mathew Barrow—

After Andrew Erwin and Robert Leftwich went on to Mexico the Company held a meeting and Twenty two persons more became interested whose names I have not but amongst them is Andrew Hynes—Richard Hyde John Shelby and James Overton who is now Directors of the company—

After the Return of Mr. Leftwich from the Republick of Mexico to the united States those 74 share holders had a meting and Subdivided Each share in to 8 Parts making 592 in all and distributed them amongst their Particular friends in Certificates intending that Each Certificate should entitle a man to Save [sic] a League square of land. they having the Requisate Qualifications prescribed by the colonization Law—and these persons amongst whome thease Certificates wer divided Paid in the Sum or Sums of mony mentioned in the Companies Memorial. it is therefore praied by the company that Every person holding one of those certificates shall have a preference of Settleing in the colony to one that has none until the 592 is setled and then the ballance of the 800 Families to be setled in the ordinary way they at the Same time complying with the laws of the Land—

they also desire that the boundery of the colony may be Extended making the Colorado River the Boundery on the west and if any further Extention can be added in any way it will be much advantage to the Colony to do so—and be thankfully received I am Authorised by the company to Vouch to the Government in their name that they will introduce none but honest industrious Agriculturists and stock Raisers the most of whom is wealthy. and that the population shall be Immediately brought into the Country to an amount sufficient to defend that [part] of the Frontier. that all due faith and obeidence shall be observed toward the Constitution and laws of the Government and due Respect paid to all Constituted Authorities.

from your Experiance in the Buisness of collonizeing and knowing as you do the Policy of the Government it is much safer for me to depend entirely on your Judgement to point out the Necessary Requisites for the advancement of the colony which I hope you will attend to than to prescribe my self should the Change be made according to the Prayre of the memorial you will pleas to inform me by letter Immediately that I may communicate with the company and be preparing for the Settlement--

San Felipe De Austin the 10 Sept 1827

H. H. LEAGUE

M. M. BATTLE TO AUSTIN

This Agreement made and entered into in the Town of San felipe de Austin between Mills M Battle on the one part and Stephen F Austin on the other part witnesseth. That the party of the first part bargains and agrees and by these presents binds himself to perform the following work to wit:

take down and put up again the house belonging to said party of the 2d part and raise it to the heighth of 12 feet. both pens, frame and raise a front Gallery 10 feet wide, back gallery 12 feet wide with a room in each end of 15 feet, with a door and two windows in each both Galeries to extend the full length of the house, the Rooms on the Galleries to be framed and the weather boarding to be dressed—Bannister and hand rail all the Galleries. Make an additional door in each of the old pens to pass in the back rooms, two windows in each of the old pens in front with all the Corresponding sash and shutters for them—Lay a tongued and groove floor all through the lower floors and square jointed floor above over the two pens and Entry—Lay a tongued and groove floor over the two rooms in the back gallery, frame the roof and shingle the same. Weather board the Gable ends with dressed stuff and furnish the house with all the doors and shutters that is specified above and windows making use of the sash that is ready made and furnishing the balance. The house to be raised on blocks of wood 3 feet from the ground the whole to be performed in a neat and workmanlike manner and every possible exertion to be used to complete the work with the utmost dispatch—The party of the second part to place the Scantling plank, joice and all the timber for the house on the spot where the building is to be placed—The party of the first part to furnish in the woods the Logs and sills for the Galleries ready cut. the party of the second part to furnish all the other plank timber etc. And the party of the second part hereby binds and obligates himself to pay in consideration of the said work the sum of two hundred dollars in money and Four hundred Dollars in property at Cash price—such as Cows and

Calves, Mules a gentle Horses or any other property that may suit the Convenience of the s[d] party of the first part. The s[d] party of the first part to board and find himself and hand—

Su Felipe de Austin 12 September 1827

M M Battle
Stephen F Austin
by Ja[s] B Austin

Executed in Presence of Samuel M Williams

Jesse Thompson to J. E. B. Austin

San Bernado Sept 17 1827

Dear Sir

on settlement I have fallen in debt to Thos. F. McKinney twelve spanish mares for which he has called on me he is leaving the country and I am not prepared at present to meet the demand in consequence of which I have taken the liberty of soliciting of you the favour of discharging the demand for me by letting him have the number above mentioned of mares for which you shall be amply satisfied in a short time either by having the mares replaced or paid for in any good property your compliance will releave a friend of a considerable burden which otherwise he can not be relieved from at this particularly important time and place me under lasting obligations

Jesse Thompson × his mark

[Addressed:] Mr James B. Austin San Philipe

Received from Jas. E. B. Austin Twelve Spanish Mares furnished by Austin on account of Jesse Thompson of Austins Colony—

San felipe de Austin 19 Septr. 1827—

Thos. F. McKinney [Rubric]

Phineas Smith to J. E. B. Austin

New Lebanon Sept. 23. 1827

Dear Sir

Your letter under date of 16 July last announcing the intelligence of the decease of my dear brother George Smith has reached me. The melancholly tidings contained in your letter though I had longed feared its arrival, does notwithstanding deeply affect my heart. Though fully apprized of the fatal nature of the malady with which my deceased brother was affected yet upon the arrival of the melancholly news of his death, I found that I had entertained more hope of his recovery than I was conscious of. I hoped to have seen him

once more on earth—to have clasped him in my arms, and to have mingled my tears with his. These hopes are now utterly blasted, still I have a hope of a meeting with my departed brother, that is inconceivably more precious and charming to the soul, than every earthly hope united—it is the hope of meeting him in heaven. The tenor of several of his last letters to me indicated a mind deeply impressed with a sense of the uncertainty of every earthly thing, and the infinite importance of being prepared for the retribution of eternity. A more particular account of his temper and views in his last days would have been highly gratifying, whether he gave evidence of a sanctified heart and leaned upon the arm and trusted in the righteousness and blood of Jesus Christ the only mediator between a holy God and guilty man—These things I take to be implied in his remark "that his last moments, were devoted to his God," but if the account had been more full in relation to some particulars it would have been very pleasing to me. Perhaps it may be convenient to write me hereafter on these points. I feel under lasting obligations to you for your kindness to my deceased brother, but I exceedingly regret the calamity, that eight months should transpire after his death before I received the melancholly intelligence.

You observe that my brother made a will and that you are his executor. In the days of my prosperity I advanced considerable sums to assist my brother George to an education which has never been refunded. I suppose my legal claim upon my late beloved brother, at the time he left this part of the world was a thousand dollars. If therefore any thing can be saved for me justice seems to demand it. Should there be a tract of land I hope it will be such an one as to induce me to go to Texas as a residence. This my brother George once had in view (my removal to Texas) and it is possible it may yet be effected. Please to write me as soon as possible after you have closed the concern of my brothers state.

PHINEAS SMITH

[Addressed:] James B. Austin Esqr. San Felipe de Austin (Texas) Care of Stephen F Austin Esq. by way of Nachitoches (Lou)

AUSTIN TO JOHN CUMINGS

Col. Stephen F. Austin in a/c with John Cumings Dr.

1827			
Jany 13th	To 7½ bushels corn at 8/ pr Bushel		$ 7.50
	280 feet plank delivered unto Westall at 5¢ pr Hd		14.00
Feby 15	Cash $5.00 ditto pr order Richd and Dan Sly		14.00
	2 lb Tobacco a 50¢		1
July 5	1 Bushel Meal delivered to Brown Austin		1.25

1827		
Augt. 25	2 Bushels Meal deli[d] to Mrs. Pickett a 1.25	1.25
Octr 5	1 do delivered to Mrs. Picket	1.25
" "	1 ditto pr Self.	1.25
	1260 feet Scantling at 4 d	50.40
		$93.95

1826 Contra Cr Decr. 1st. By 22½ Bushels of Corn borrowed

R. R. ROYALL TO AUSTIN

Tuscumbia Ala, Oct[r] 10th 1827

Co[l] AUSTIN

DEAR SIR The Bearer affords me an opportunity of communicating with you by private hand which Renders its passage more certain. I have felt much anxiety about that country and still feel But the Last measure of Your Gov[t] on the slave question totally forbids by mooveing there under existing circumstances Yet I will most certainly see that country again probably in about 12 or 18 months from this if not Required sooner to attend to my Land claims which If necessary you will please apprise me. I have a wish to make an establishment there of a stock pen and probably will come prepared for the purpose and If so may make it a partial Residence and If the named objection should be Removed there is no country in which I would be contented to till the soil except that while Texas is Recollected by me.

Judge Ellis' letter to his Lady dated in Augt. came to hand and before you receive this he will no doubt have departed for home If not his family remains as usuall except Mrs. Ellis has sold his Land and is Looking with much anxiety for his Return his Business Remains otherwise as he left it and his family generally well and much Restored since the Rec[t] of his letter in feelings as they had become very uneasy I will close after asking you to be so good as to Honour me with some Information from that country such as may be of Interest and particularly Relative to my Land claim which I left with you, what is Likely to be done with the old claims and what necessary on my part how are the prospects of the country generally etc It would give me great satisfaction as a matter of Interest and afford an additional pleasure from consideration of high Regard, present me to majr Herd If with you, your Brother and friends tell your Brother I have two as pretty grey hounds as he ever saw pups of Doctr Robertson's slutt which he had in Texas, and would send them If I knew the passage could be relyed upon. the old man (bearer) have known for some time by sight only.

R. R. ROYALL [Rubric]

Co[l] S. F AUSTIN.

Bill to Establish a Seminary of Learning.[1]

[October 11, 1827?]

The Congress of the State of Coahuila y Texas have thought proper to decree as follows—

Considering Education as the basis of good morals of good order and of the Republican System of Govt. and seeing the necessity there is for the establishment of a Seminary at the Town of San Felipe de Austin in Texas for the purpose of instructing the Children of the new Colonists who have emigrated to that point in the Spanish language, Therefore it is decreed

1—That a Seminary of learning shall be established at the said Town of San Felipe de Austin in which shall be taught the various branches of Education

2. The Said Seminary shall be under the direction of 13 trustees who may [be] appointed yearly by the Ayuntamiento of Said Town of San Felipe de Austin; and the said trustees may appoint a President and secretary and treasurer, and shall employ all the teachers and make rules and regulations and Bye laws for the Government of said seminary and have the control of the funds belonging to it and appropriate the same for the use and benefit of said seminary

3—Untill there is an Ayuntamiento at the said Town of San Felipe de Austin the above named trustees shall be appointed by S. F. A. the Judge commissioned to administer the municipal government of said Town for the present—

4—For the endowment of said Seminary with funds there is hereby granted to it the quantity of Six Leagues of land to be selected by the said S. F. A. in such size tracts as he may deem most advantageous and in any part of the Country not otherwise disposed of East of the Colorado River in Texas— An entry of said selections shall be made in the archives of the new Colony on the Brasos and Colorado at the said town of San Felipe de Austin and a certified copy therefor shall be sent to the Governor of this state who shall file the same in his office as an evidence of said entries—

5. The said seminary shall form a Body Corporate under the name of the Seminary of Austin and may have a seal and buy and Sell property and sue and be sued—

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[1] The date of this document cannot be definitely fixed. The order for the establishment of the Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin was issued by the Governor on November 17, 1827, and promulgated by the political chief of Bexar on December 11. The election was held and the ayuntamiento organized February 10, 1828. Article 3 of this document indicates that it was written before the establishment of the ayuntamiento. Between October 11 and November 8, 1827, Austin made, in Saltillo, a series of suggestions to the Governor for legislation. This document was most probably written about that time, but it is not certain that it was presented to the Governor. Compare it with a bill drawn April 30, 1831.

6. The treasurer of said seminary shall publish annually an A/C of all the receipts and expenditures of said seminary for the information of the public—

AUSTIN TO THE GOVERNOR

EXMO SOR—

Tengo el honor de esponer a V. E. qe. al dar principio ala empresa de colonizacion qe. he contratado con el Gob^no de este Estado en Texas, como Empresario, me hallo embarazado en consequencia de no haber recibido el arancel de derechos qe. los nuevos colonos deben pagar al comisionado, de modo qe. el comisionado ignora lo qe debe cobrar en derecho por su trabajo, y los colonos quedan con duda relativa al costo de sus posesiones, y muchos inconvenientes qe. resultan de esto.

Segun la ley y mi contrato con el Gob^no yo en clase de Empresario estoy comprometido de introducir las familias y presentarlas al comisionado y nada mas, pero la esperiencia ha demostrado qe. mis trabajos no paran con este hecho porqe. en primer lugar tengo qe. recibir en mi casa lo mas de los q. vienen a ver el pais preparatoria a su mudanza, de hospedarlos gastar dias y semanas en andar por los terrenos para enseñarles y informarlos como recien llegados de su situacion, tambien proporcionarles traducciones de las leyes y esplicarlas, etc., etc., despues de todo esto quando llega el colono con su familia p^a establecerse la ley requiere qe presente un documento de la autoridad de su procedencia para hacer constar sus buenas costumbres, estos documentos son todos en Ingles ó Frances y tengo el trabajo de traducirlos, despues qe. el nuevo colono esta recibido y ha escogido su terreno el agrimensor tiene qe. medirlo p^a ser puesto en posecion por el comisionado, y ninguno de los agrimensores entienden una palabra del castellano, ni tampoco entiende el comisionado una palabra del Ingles ó de medidas cientificas y exactas de tierras, y de consiguiente yo por necesidad ha de presenciar todo, examinar las medidas, calculos y planos hechos por los agrimensores y cerciorarme qe son exactos, traducirlos todo en castellano y presentarlas al comisionado en la debida forma p^a q. sean insertados en los titulos de posesion, de manera qe el trabajo del comisionado se reduce a firmar su nombre, y el Empresario á hacer el papel de una mula de carga qe. se figura que lleva todo el peso y no lleva nada del provecho—La recompensa qe. la ley asigne a los Empresarios no es suficiente como constará un corto calculo de su valor—recibe 5 sitios de tierra pa cada cien familias qe. introduzca. estos cinco sitios valen segun la ley $30. p^a Sitio qe. son $150, y si se halla en la necesidad de venderlos para mantenerse no se pueda calcular qe. podia conseguir mas qe. el primer costo. porqe. todos pueden obtener tierras al mismo precio y

por consiguiente si esta obligado por la necesidad de obsequiar todo su tpo y tambien hacer grandes gastos en el desempeño de los deberes qe. la ley no le impone queda enteram^te^ atrasado y perdido con respecto a sus intereses particulares y es en peor estado qe. el colono qe. recibi su sitio de tierra sin mas trabajo qe. el de pedirlo y el resultado sera qe. ó abandonaria la empresa ó intentará hacer especulaciones con su contrata perjuiciosos alos intereses del Estado y de los colonos. se sanaria todo esto declarando qe. el Empresario podia cobrar de cada colono una cierta cantidad qe. sea suficiente para cubrir sus gastos y endemnizarse de los trabajos estraordinarios qe. tiene qe. emprender. me parece qe. $30 por cada colono qe. recibe posecion de tierras es lo menos qe. se debe asignar al Emp^o^ por via de endemnizacion de parte de los colonos p^a^ los trabajos y gastos qe. tiene de erogar en el servicio y p^a^ el beneficio del mismo colono y es justo qe. el colono lo paga. y tambien es en conformidad con la ley, y suplico qe. se sirva V. E. circular al comisionado de mi dicha empresa de colonizacion el arancel qe. ha de observar y al mismo tpo declarar qe. el Emp^o^ pueda cobrar de cada colono qe. recibe poseciones de tierras la cantidad de $30 por via de endemnizacion p^a^ los gastos y trabajos qe. necesariam^te^ ha de emprender en el servicio de los mismos colonos. despues qe. haya llegado a la colonia—

Considero este asunto de mucha importancia a los intereses del Estado porqe. La esperiencia ha claram^te^ demostrado qe. los Empresarios se destruyen en sus intereses pecuniarios si no puedan cobrar algo de los colonos. y la misma esperiencia ha tambien demostrado qe. hay embarazos en hacer contratos con los colonos, sea pr. qe. el Gob^no^ le ingiere en dhos contratos y les anulen. ó qe. los colonos se oponen en cumplirlos, y de mi parte declaro qe. si no se me permite cobrar de los colonos lo suficiente p^a^ endemnizar mis gastos adelantarian mas mis intereses con abandonar la empresa qe. en seguirla p^o^ estoy satisfecho qe. sera lo mismo con los otros Empresarios y de esto resultará un gran perjuicio al Estado con atrazar los nuevos establecim^tos^

Protestando mis mas alta consideracion y aprecio suplico qe. se sirva VE de este asunto qe. estimo justo y conveniente

D y L

Saltillo 11 Octubre 1827 [Estevan F. Austin.]

Tengo el honor de incluir a V. E. una representacion dirigida al H. C. relativa a la organizacion provicional del Gob^no^ interior qe. estableci en la colonia de mi cargo en Texas, refiriendome a mis dos oficios de 20 de Diebre 1824 y 10 de Junio del presente año y al decreto del Gob^no^ Gral de 18 de Febrero 1823 y á las declaraciones de la Exma Diputacion Provincial de las Pro^s^ Internas orientales de Monterrey sobre la materia p^a^ la mejor inteligencia de este asunto. Suplico a VE. se sirva elevarlas al conocim^te^ de esa A. A. [altísima

asemblea] con las reflecciones qe. estime convenientes y justas en obsequio del servicio publico, permitiendome al mismo tpo observar qe. considero muy nesesario el decreto del congreso qe. pido como una medida preparatoria al establecim^to^ del systema constitucional en la dicha colonia y para quitar de rais toda duda qe. algunos puedan tener anuente a la legalidad de la administracion provisional qe. hasta ahora ha existido en el referido colonia

Logro esta ocasión p^a^ protestar á VE mis mas atentos respetos y reproducirle las muestras mas sinceras de mi gratitud

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Austin to State Congress[1]

El Ci^no^ E. F A rendidam^te^ hace presente al H. C. del Estado de Q. y T qe al principio de la empresa de colonizacion qe le autorizo el Suprema Gob^no^ Mexicano en Texas, celebro contratas con los Colonos del mismo bajo el concepto qe. tenia el derecho de hacerlo, el objeto de estos contratos fue el de crear un fondo en manos del Emprasario p^a^ el beneficio del nuevo establecim^to^ en su principio p^a^ ayudar a defender contra los Indios, y pagar los gastos del Gob^no^ interior del establecim^to^ puesto qe. en aquel tpo la situacion del Gob^no^ nacional no permitia ayudarnos y tambien para indemnizarme pr. mis crecidos gastos y pensos trabajos—Bajo estos principios empeze el referido establecim^to^. y me encargue de su Gob^no^ interior y de todos los gastos dela administracion judicial y municipal medidas de tierras y demas gastos.

En el mes de Mayo 24 el Gefe Politico de Texas visito el dho nuevo establecim^to^ y declaro nulos los contratos qe. habia yo celebrado con los colonos estableciendo un arancel dho Gefe Politico en el que mando qe. los colonos pagasen $30 por Sitio al erario publico por cada sitio de tierra—Yo consideraba ilegal esta orden porqe. ni la primera ley de colonizacion ni mi contrato con el Gob^no^ estipularon qe se pagan reconocim^to^ o quota alguno por parte de los colonos al erario publico, pero la situacion en qe. me hallaba en aquel tpo me hizo obedecerla y en consequencia de la misma tengo hechos ya dos enteros hechas al mencionado Gefe por cuenta de la citada orden es de advertir H. C. qe. yo contraté con el Supremo Gob^no^ Mexicano el introducir 300 familias, pero no contrate de administrar el Gob^no^ interior del nuevo estab^to^ ni pagar los gastos de traductores escribientes y los demas de la oficina, ni tampoco contrate dedicar todo mi tpo a este objeto por años ni menos a pagar los muchos indispensable gastos qe tiene qe. hacer al principio de aquel establecim^to^ en conciliar a los Indios barbaros por medio de regalos hasta qe. la misma poblacion amplio la fuerza necesaria p^a^

[1] Compare this document with Austin to the Colonists, June 5, 1824.

batirlos qe. aun en esta medida tuve qe sufragar el costo de armas y municiones

Sin embargo en obsequio del bien gral he sido el Gefe Judicial civil y comandante dela Milicia del dicho establecim^{to} desde el mes de Agosto del año 1823 hasta el presente y todo el trabajo, gastos y responsabilidades de un encargo tan pesado y dificil ha caido sobre mi, sin costar al Gob^{no} un peso.

La nesesidad me forzo usar de una parte de los derechos que el Gefe Politico me mando cobrar por el arancel arriba mencionado para sostener el Gob^{no} interior de la Colonia, otra parte de ellos he ya entregado al errario publico como he dicho, y lo restante no esta cobrado y sera imposible cobrarlo todo porqe. mucho de los qe. deben han abandonado el pais en consequencia del articulo 13 de la constitucion del Estado y otros no pueden verificar el pago en dinero, por no tenerlo, y con estos he convenido recibir productos del pais quando su situacion les permite hacerlo

Ademas de los enteros hechos al Gefe como antes he dicho tambien he pagado la cantidad de $4702.57 al comisionado de la referida colonia qe. le correspondia por su trabajo De la cantidad de pesos qe. gastado p^{a} la administracion del Gob^{no} interior dela Colonia y para conciliar y sujetar los Indios no puedo prefijarla con motivo de no haber llevado cuenta por menor de todo ella pero si dire qe. he tenido un Srio desde 823 bien instruido en los idiomas Yngles castellano y Frances qe. me ha costado mas de $1000 cada año y tambien escribiente cuando se necesitaban p^{a} ayudar en sacar copias de las traducciones y estender titulos de posesiones hechas por el com^{o} porqe. se debe advertir qe. los colonos no entienden el castellano y yo he tenido qe. hacer las traducciones de todas las comunicaciones del Gob^{no}, y circulu las en ingles sacando muchas copias de cada una p^{a} qe. llegan a noticia de todos los habitantes esparcidos en un terreno muy extenso. Es facil imaginar qe. los gastos de todo esto no fueron pocos y ademas tenia de abrir mi casa a todos qe. venian a ver el pais o qe. tenian asuntos qe. tratar, y por lo mas del tpo parecia un meson publico mas bien qe. una casa particular— estos crecidos gastos y los qe. erogué en mandar dos cargam^{tos} de viveres y herramientos de orleans en el principio del establecim^{to} qe. se perdieron y el otro por haber naufragado la goleta sobre la costa de la isla de Galveston y tambien los qe. hice el uno por robo de los Indios en la desembocadura del rio Colorado y en mi viaje a Mexico y demora 18 meses de ida y vuelta p^{a} atender a los negocios de la colonia, han enteram^{te} agotado todos mis fondos y aun desfalcalo capital particular, dejandome al mismo tpo. cargado de deudas mismo tp^{o} cargado de deudas de modo aun me he visto en la estrema necesidad de hipotecar la mitad del terreno qe. me coresponidia como Emp^{o} p^{a} cubrirlas

He tambien padecido mi concepto en algunos de los colonos en virtud de la medida del Gefe de Texas anulando mis contratos celebrados con ellos, porqe. dio motivo la tal medida a qe varios de mis enemigos sugiesen la voz maliciosa en qe. yo habia intentado engañar a los colonos, de modo qe. aunqe. spre animado con los mas fervientes deseos pª el bien estar y adelanto de la colonia y de mi patria adoptiva he sufrido en mis intereses en mi caracter, y he pasado muchos. años de trabajos penosos y responsables Si ahora con todo esto quedo responsable al Gobno con respecto al arancel qe. hizo el Gefe de Tejas me hallare despues de todos mis afanes y gastos de tantos años enteramte bancarrota con respecto a mis intereses pecuniarios y aun cargado de deudas—No considero qe. esto será justo y no dudo qe. V. S. ocurara a mis necesidades, pª salvar de la ruina qe. le amenaza a un sirviente publico cuyos trabajos tpo y fondos han sido fielmte dedicados al adelanto y servicio de esta su patria adoptiva

Por todo lo espuesto pido qe se sirva V. S. decretar qe. yo tenia el derecho de celebrar contratos con los colonos de mi primera empresa de colonizacion puesto qe. ni la ley gral de colonizacion del año 1823 ni mi contrato con el Gobno Mexicano lo prohibia, protesto qe. no es mi animo exigir el cumplimto de dichos contratos por qe. ya he hecho un renuncio de ellos y ahora renuncio en el mismo siendo mi unico objeto el de garantizar mi caracter de las maliciosas injurias qe. algunos han hecho injustamte contra mi como dejo indicado

Pido qe. se me autoriza cobrar de los colonos pª mi cuenta particular la parte qe. deben del arancel establecido por el Gefe de Texas el 20 de Mayo 1824 antes mencionado, con el fin de indemnizar los grandes gastos qe. he erogado el tpo. qe. he servido, y los trabajos qe he sufrido en el servicio de la patria en Gobernar la colonia tantos años a mi propio costo

Los enteros ya hechos como antes dicho quedaran en el erario publico, y pido qe se declara qe. los reclamos del Gobno contra los colonos de mi primera empresa de colonizacion en Texas con respecto a sus tierras estan todos satisfechos. La razon porqe. pido esta, es qe. ahora despues de mi salida de la colonia algunos revoltosos han esparcido la voz entre los colonos qe. el Gobno iba a exigir de ellos el pago de sus terrenos de nuevo bajo la pena de perderlos y esta nueva malicia ha causado mucho desason entre ellos y me parece conveniente a la tranquilidad de la colonia dictar la medida indicada pª la pacificacion qe se desee y tambien es justo porqe, ni la primera ley de colonizacion ni tampoco mi contrato exigian qe. los colonos pagasen ninguna pension al Gobno por via de reconocimto y en mi concepto sera injusto

Yo me obligo a cobrar los dhos derechos qe. he pedido se me concede, en productos del pais y en plazos de uno, dos y tres años en cantidades parciales y de este modo no sera gravoso en ninguna manera a los colonos, y me proporcionará algo para mi indemnizacion—porqe. es claro qe. mi objeto no es hacer especulacion sino recibir alguna recompensa justa en obsequio a tantos gastos qe he sufrido en tanto tpo y al mismo tpo satisfacer los colonos con respecto a sus tierras y a mi conducta, Por tanto suplico a esta A. A se sirva tomar esta mi solicitud en consideracion y acceder qe llevo pedido o dictar las medidas qe. se estime conveniente con respecto alos intereses del Gob^no^ como a los colonos y a mi

H. C. [Honorable Congreso] Saltillo 11 octbre 1827

Austin's Draft for Report of Committee on Colonization.[1]

[About October 11, 1827.]

La comision de Colonizacion al cual el H C refirio la solicitud del empresario E F A. tiene el honor presentar su dictamen—

La referida solicitud expone:

1° Que al principio de su empresa de colonizacion celebro contratos con los colonos con el objeto de crear un fondo en sus manos p^a^ el uso de los mismos colonos en pagar todos los gastos qe podian originarse la defensa y gob^no^ interior del nuevo establecim^to^. gastos de traducciones medidas de tierras papel sellado, derechos del comisionado y demas gastos-y tambien p^a^ indemnizarse p^a^ su trabajo y gastos individuales

2° Que el Gefe de Texas anulo dhos contratas y estableció un arancel en Mayo 1824 en qe mando q^e^ los colonos pagasen $30 por Sitio al Erario publico, y q^e^ aunque consideraba aquella medida del Gefe ilegal las circunstancias en que se hallaba le hizo obedecerle y q^e^ en su consequencia hizo dos enteros al erario publico.

3° Que el Gob^no^ echó sobre el referido empresario un encargo muy pesado responsable y costoso, qe no estaba obligado por la ley ni por su contrato desempañar, q^e^. fue el de encargarse del Gob^no^ interior del nuevo establescim^to^ en lo judicial, civil, criminal y como comandante de la milicia, incluyendose el velar de lo tranquilidad publica y defensa del establecim^to^. contra los indios barbaros como consta el decreto del Gob^no^ Imperial fecha 18 de Febrero 1823 y las intrucciones de la Exma Diputacion de las provincias internas orientales de

[1] This document is in Austin's hand. The exact date is uncertain. The journals of the legislature are not available and it is impossible to determine what disposition was made of it.

Monterrey fecha——de Junio del mismo año, y qe ha desempeñado este encargo desde el 1823 hasta el presente sufriendo todo el trabajo y gastos sin costar al Gob^no un peso. Que cortado los recursos que habia proyectado para cubrir estos gastos, en consequencia de la medida del Gefe de Texas anulando sus contratos y agotado su capital por los graves costos q^e. padecio en la perdida de dos cargam^tos. de viveres sobre la costa, su viaje de diez y ocho meses a Mexico y otros gastos en atender a los asuntos de la colonia se halló en la necesidad de usar de parte de los derechos establecidos por el arancel del Gefe de Texas p^a pagar los gastos del Gob^no interior y defensa del nuevo establecim^to y mantenerse mientras q^e. fue desempeñando un empleo publico de tanta importancia y

Por fin pide que se declare que tenia derecho para celebrar contratros con los colonos como hizo, renunciando al mismo tpo todo ventaja pecuniaria q^e. le podia resultar de tal declaracion, estando su unico objeto el de desmentir las injurias que algunos enemigos le habian echado en consequencia, de la acta del Gefe de Texas anulandoles, y q^e se le autorize cobrar para su propio uso y beneficio lo qe resta del arancel establecido por el Gefe de Texas en Mayo 1824 con el fin de indeminizarse p^a sus crecidos gastos y trabajo, qe ha emprendido como un empleado publico, ademas de lo qe su contrato le obligo desempeñar—

Tomando el asunto en la orden en qe se presente en la solicitud, el primer punto es; si el dho empresario tenia autoridad ó no p^a hacer contratos con los colonos de su primera colonia?—Para resolver esta cuestion con mas acierto hemos atentam^te examinado el contrato qe celebro Austin con el Supremo Gob^no, y no hemos podido discubrir cosa ninguna q^e prohiba tales contratos, ni tampoco parece q^e por ley cualquiera. Supuesto pues q^e no era espresam^te prohibido por la ley, ofrece la cuestion, si los dichos contratos por su naturaleza y objetos eran fundados en justicia ó no, p^a decedir esto es necesario referir a las circunstancias del caso.—

Austin formo el proyecto de colonizar los desiertos de Texas y al efecto obtubo permiso del Gob^no p^a introducir 300 familias El beneficio q^e el Gob^no buscaba era aquel numero de poblacion y en consequencia de haber logrado este beneficio dio al empresario la cantidad de tierra qe la ley asignio en la materia Austin con esta autoridad contrato con los colonos obligandose recibirles en el referido numero de familias y de ser personalm^te responsable p^a todos los gastos qualquiera q^e sean con tal q^e el colono le pagase una cierta cantidad. Austin pues de su parte se obligo a recibir el colono, atender a todos sus negocios, hacer todas sus traducciones, pagar todos los gastos de agremensores, del Comisionado, del papel sellado y todos otros, y ademas se encargo de todos los gastos del Gob^no interior del establecim^to y de su defensa contra los indios

El colono recibio su terreno sin mas trabajo ó difficultad de su parte sino el de escogerlo—El colono no era forzado emigar al pais ni a entrar en las 300 familias del contrato de Austin, pudo haber quedado en su pais nativo, ó si emigró pudo haber emprendido el viaje trabajo y gastos de presentarse al Gob^no^ en persona p^a^ pedir tierras, de manera q^e^ era libre de aceptar las condiciones propuestas por Austin ó de negarles—El contrato pues fue voluntario de parte del Colono, y el recibio un beneficio directo y importante, q^e^ fue el de ser recibido en la colonia como poblador y tambien el de tener un agente para atender á todos sus negocios y pagar todos los gastos de conseguir un titulo legitimo para sus tierras—Todo el riezgo fue de parte de Austin y el beneficio q^e^ recibiese fue contingente y remota, porq^e^ el se comprometio positivam^te^ a avanzar todos los gastos y sufrir todo el trabajo en conseguir el terreno p^a^ el colono y corrio el riezgo de no recibir recompensa de parte del colono en consequencia de su abandono del pais ó de la destruccion total de la colonia por los Indios ó otras disgracias, acontecim^to^ que fue probable aun por dos años despues de su principio—Supuesto q^e^ Austin no hubiera emprendido el viaje a Mexico y demas trabajos y gastos para conseguir el permiso de establecer las dichas familias en q^e^ modo pudieron ellos haber conseguido tal permiso?—El unico modo fue el de presentarse cada uno en Mexico con su solicitud. porq^e^ en aquel tpo, no hubo ley gral de colonizacion, el costo y perdida de tiempo consiguiente es evidente y todo esto, se salvo entrando en el contrato de Austin—Ademas Austin se comprometio con el Gobierno introducir 300 familias y nada mas, y supuesto qe el se havia ceñido solam^te^ al cumplimiento de esto en q^e^ estado hubiere quedado el colono desques de su llegada. Sin entender una palabra del idioma ni de los pasos necessarios a tomar p^a^ conseguir el titulo para su terreno, sin dinero para pagar traductores, agremensores, papel sellado y otras gastos?—es evidente qe su situacion hubiera sido sumam^te^ malo, pero por el contrato se salvo de todas estas difficultades porq^e^ tenia un agente para atender a sus negocios y avanzar al pronto lo q^e^ necesitaba p^a^ pagar los gastos necesarios, porq^e^ es evidente q^e^ la operacion y intencion de los contratos de Austin con los colonos eran favorecer a los pobres q^e^ no tenian dinero p^a^ pagar los gastos de su terreno, Porq^e^ lo q^e^ recibiese de los colonos ricos le proporcionaba fondos para avanzar p^a^ los pobres, y estos despues repagasen a Austin en productos de la tierra cuando sus circunstancias permitian, es igualm^te^ evidente q^e^ el objeto de dichos contratos era el beneficio publico porq^e^ el se obligo satisfacer todos los gastos cualquiera q^e^ sean y en estos hubieran entrado los del Gob^ne^ interior del establecim^to^ y su defensa contra los Indios.

[1°] La comision pues opina sobre este punto q^e^ Austin pudo hacer contratos con los Colonos y q^e^ en hacerlo no quebranto ninguna ley ni obro contrario a la justicia—y q^e^ el anularlos por el Gefe de Texas era un agravio a los intereses de Austin y ilegal—

2°. Tocante al segundo punto la comision advierte q^e^ el contrato de Austin no obligo a los colonos pagar $30 por sitio ni estipendio ninguna al erario publico y por consiguiente opina q^e^ el arancel del Gefe de Texas sobre la materia era ilegal y q^e^ los dichos colonos no debe nada al erario publico—

3°. El tercero punto se reduce a esta proposicion si es justo ó no que Austin recibiese alguna recompensa para sus gastos y trabajos en el servicio publico, y si se le puede conceder la remuneracion que el pide—

Todo q^e^ se necesita p^a^ determinar la primera parte de esta proposicion es averiguar si en efecto Austin ha desempeñado un empleo publico desde 1823 sin sueldo ninguno y si ha hecho servicios importantes a la patria—Sobre esta cuestion la comision opina q^e^ no hay duda, los documentos q^e^ obran en este asunto, el informe del Gob^no^ y la misma voz publica todo lo declase [declara]—Es de advertir q^e^ la impresa q^e^ Austin intento era sumamente dificil, todo Texas en aquel tiempo con la sola excepcion de Bexar y La Bahia era un puro desierto poblado de Indios barbaros y enemigos—el se metio en el centro de este desierto con sus colonos y sin otro apoyo sino la gente q^e^ llevaba se defendio de los barbaros, sin otros recursos sino los naturales del pais se mantuvo hasta q^e^ la primera cosecha suministraba a sus necesidades, y es cierto q^e^ la colonia en el dia se halla en un estado floreciente y q^e^ ya ha prestado grandes servicios a la Patria q^e^ son notorios y q^e^ las antiguas poblaciones de Bexar y La Bahia reciben grandes ventajas de ella en ser surtido de viveres y en tener un apoyo contra los indios barbaros, y es tambien cierto q^e^ el Gobierno no ha gastado un real ni en establecer, ni en gobernar, ni en defender la dicha colonia y q^e^ todo el peso y gasto de un encargo tan penoso y responsable ha caido sobre Austin desde 1823 sin recibir sueldo ó recompensa ninguna, por q^e^ se debe acordar q^e^ las tierras q^e^ recibio como Empresario era por haber introducido 300 familias y q^e^ no era obligado por su contrato Gobernar y defender las a su propio costo por muchos años. Para graduar lo importante del servicio q^e^ Austin ha hecho solo es necesario calcular quanto hubiera costado la nacion ó el estado el establacer igual numero de familias Mexicanas en los desiertos de Texas bajo las mismas circunstancias, y su ministrar a sus necesidades en su gobierno interior y defensa contra los Indios por mas de 5 años. Todas la[s] dificultades principales de establacer colonias en Texas estan ahora allanadas, ya no es desierto, hay recursos de viveres, hay fuerza física de milicianos

p^{a} defender los colonos q^{e} vayan a poblar alli, de los Indios bravos, y hay recursos los mas necesarios p^{a} sostener las tropas nacionales y á poco costo. ¿ A quien se debe este adelanto si no, a él que vencio las primeras dificultades y ha avanzado la colonizacion a su presente grado?

La comision pues opina q^{e} es claro y positibo q^{e} Austin ha desempeñado un empleo publico de mucha importancia desde 1823 y q^{e} ha gastado considerables cantidades en el servicio publico sin recibir sueldo ó remuneracion ninguna, y q^{e} es justo y aun el deber del Gob^{no} premiarle, porq^{e} si el Gobierno desprecia a este q^{e} se ha probado el mas emprendedor, el mas industrioso y el mas fiel de todos los Empresarios q^{e} han contratado establecer colonias en Texas ¿ q^{e} estimulo ó q^{e} esperanza tendran los otros de seguir con animo de sus empresas? ¿ ó q^{e} estimulo habra para otros ciudadanos a hacer grandes esfuerzos en beneficios de la patria? La comision pues vuelva a repetir q^{e} en su opinion es el deber del Gobierno premiar a este ciudadano adoptivo q^{e} ha dado tantas pruevas de su buena conducta y q^{e} ha hecho servicios tan importantes al Estado—La unica cuestion entonces q^{e} queda a resolver es. Si se le puede conceder la remuneracion q^{e} el pide—

Hemos visto en examinar el primer punto q^{e} Austin tenia facultad para contratar con los colonos y q^{e} el Gefe de Texas anulo dichos contratos estableciendo en su lugar un arancel q^{e} el formo cuya acta era ilegal y infrigio los derechos de Austin de la parte de este arancel q^{e} esta cobrado Austin ha pagado una porcion al erario publico y otra porcion el ha usado y pide q^{e} se le concede el derecho de cobrar lo restante para su propio uso.

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR

El Ciud^{no} E F. A. rendam^{te} hace presente de qe. en virtud del decreto del Gob^{no} Imperial de Mexico fecha 18 de Febrero 1823 confirmado por el del Supremo poder Egecutivo fecha 14 de Avril del mismo año, me encarga del Gob^{no} interior del nuevo establecim^{to} colonial qe. forme en Texas desde fines del mencionado año de 1823 hasta el presente tpo he Gobernado el referido establecim^{to} en lo Judicial civil y como comandante de la Milicia formando al efecto algunos reglamentos Gobernativos provisionales, y dividiendo el territorio comprehendido en el dicho establecim^{to} en 7 partidos o comarcas con un alcalde elegido pr. los habitantes en cada uno para su mejor arreglo y administracion. y en el mes de avril del presente año estableci un tribunal provisional de justicia para el dho establecim^{to} compuesto de todos los alcaldes del mismo, de todo dando parte de todo al Exmo Gob^{or} de este Estado por oficios el uno

fecha 20 de setiembre 1824 y el otro 20 de Junio del presente año y obrando spre con conocim^to^ y aprovacion del Gefe de Texas,

Considero qe la dicha organizacion provisional es legal puesto qe. emanó de una autoridad competentem^te^ constituida y qe. fue con conocim^to^ y aprobacion del Gob^no^ de Texas y del Estado pero como algunos contenciosos con el fin de trastornar el orden publico han esparcido rumores qe no es legal causando con este motivo algunas dudas y inquietudes en la materia me parece necesario ocurrir a V. S. con el fin de declar[ar] legal la dha organizacion provisional y pido qe. se decreta

1. Que la organizacion y administracion provisional hecho por el C^no^ E. F A. del Gob^no^ interior de la colonia qe. establecio en Texas esta reconocida por legal, y qe. continuara y será reconocido por legitima hasta qe. se ponga en operacion el systema constitucional en la dicha colonia—

2. Los asuntos pendientes en la referida colonia en el tribunal provisional de justicia qe. ahora existe compuesto de los Alcaldes en la dicha colonia como tambien los pendientes en los juzgados de los respectivos Alcaldes al tpo de poner en operacion allí el systema constitucional serán transferidos a los Alcaldes o jueces respectivos qe. sean establecidos en la dha colonia bajo el systema constitucional—

3. Se concede el termino de dos años desde la publicacion de esta ley a todos los qe. se sientan agraviados por algun funcionario de la dha colonia bajo la administracion provisional del referido Austin, para presentar sus quejas ó apelaciones a los correspondientes Supremos poderes del Estado, y pasado este termino no se les admiten Suplico a V. S. toma esta mi Solicitud en su alta consideracion y resuelbe lo qe. estima conveniente y justo en la materia

Tengo el honor incluir a V. E. una solicitud dirigida al H. C. relativa a los asuntos de la primera empresa de Colonizacion qe. emprendi como Empresario en Texas y suplico qe. se sirva V. E. pasarla al H. C. con las reflecciones qe. V estime justo—

11 de octubre 1827

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Austin to Governor.[1]

To his Excellency the Governor of the State of Coahuila and Texas.

Citizen Stephen F. Austin, most respectfully represents to Your Excellency, that he has been solicited by several of the inhabitants of Bexar, to settle some families on the borders of the River Colorado, at the place where that river is crossed by the road leading from Bexar to Nacogdoches, in order to found a town, at the above-

[1] Record of Empresario Contracts, p. 131. General Land Office (Texas).

mentioned crossing, with a view not only to afford the necessary facilities to the travellers of that road, but also to penetrate with the new settlements, further into the interior of the country, towards the Savage Tribes, but as this road is the Northern boundary of the Colony, I have already contracted, and as the best site for the settlement of the Town, is on the Eastern bank of the river Colorado, above the said road, and beyond the limits of any colonization contract, I am unable to effect the settlement proposed, without entering into a new contract, with the Government, for the purpose, and believing that the Settlement of said Town, will be highly beneficial affording facilities for travelling, and to the mails and Troops, frequently passing from Bexar and Nacodoches, and also prevent in some degree the incursions of the Indians, who are continually harassing the neighborhoods of Bexar, La Bahia, and the new Settlements, and infest the roads, I have considered it my duty, in order to promote the welfare and progress of that section of the State, to lay the matter before your Excellency, and recommend the establishment of the before-mentioned town, offering on my part, to discharge all the duties of Empresario, in effecting the same, and to settle in the vicinity of the town proposed, the lands which may not be within the limits of any Colonization Contract; provided the favors and privileges allowed to Empresarios are granted to me, and also that one of the stipulations of the Contract is, that each Colonist is to pay the sum of Thirty Dollars, for my services, in attending to their business, and making the translations to the completion of the title to their lands, by the Commissioner guaranteeing the contracts made between the Colonists and myself, I offer to settle One hundred families in this new Colony, but upon the conditions, that should there not be a sufficiency of land, within the limits assigned for the said new colony, to locate them in conformity with the law in the case; Your Excellency will permit me to complete to them the quantity deficient, within the limits of the colony which I have already contracted with the Government of this State.

Saltillo, Octr. 11, 1827.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

JOHN A. WILLIAMS TO JAMES E. B. AUSTIN.

Pine Bluff Trinity 14th Octbr 1827.

Mr. JAMES B. AUSTIN

SIR Inclosed you will receive a rough map of that part of the Province of Texas lying between the Trinity and Sabine, Bound north by the St Antonio road, and south by the gulf The following remarks will serve in some measure to explain it.

	Course and distance.
From the San Antonio crossing of the Atoyac to its Junction with Angeline	S 00° —21 Mile
from Nacogdoches to the Junction of Toyac and Angeline	S 41° E—35 m
from said junction to the Junction of the Angeline and Naches	S 16° E—26 m
from thence to Sabine lake	S 13° E—51 m
from thence to the pass in the Gulf	S 20° E—16 m
from thence through the pass.	S 18° E— 9 m

The width of the creeks are laid down in yards opposite the mouth of each creek where the width could be ascertained. Their length and general course could not be correctly ascertained. Their appearance on the map will perhaps be the best criterion. The width also, of some of the rivers are laid down in yards at different points

For further information I must refer you to the Map, which is laid down upon a scale of ten miles to an inch English measure. The marginal lines will aid you as to the cardinal points

I have not been able to learn anything that could be relied on relative to the waters of the San Jacinto.

The Sabine, Sabine lake, pass into the gulf and the coast on to point Bolivar and also Trinity Bay so far as it is laid down, together with creeks puting in has been laid down according to instructions rec[d] from Cap[t] Orr who has navigated these waters

The Indians Vills have been laid down partly from my own acquaintance with the geography of the country and partly by information from Cap.[t] Orr, M[r] Nash, and a Coshata Indian From the St Antonio crossing of the Atoyac down the Angeline Naches, and the Sabine lake has been laid down by my own observation as I decended these waters last March, but without compass or mathematical instruments Cap[t] Orr, however, and others who are acquainted with these waters have agreed with me in the general course and distances as laid down together with creeks The names of some of these creeks could not be ascertained consequently they were left blank I have no doubt but there are other creeks puting in which I did not discover, as the waters were very high at the time I came down. The Trinity# is laid down from the best information the inhabitants can give. But no doubts many creeks are omitted.

I am very sorry that the map which is inclosed is far from being perfect, The want of correct information from the non inhabited parts of the country—the lack of mathematical instruments when I decended the Naches and the little reliance to be put upon the report of hunters and Indians to whom I have been compelled to

The Trinity has been laid down as far, perhaps, as where the St Antonio Road will cross it. But not knowing the course and distance above the Coshata village nor the creeks puting in nor the particular point at which the road crosses I have left that blank which you may fill up at pleasure

apply renders it impossible for a map to be perfect when founded upon such vague data. But we must content ourselves with probabilities when certainties are wanting.

Jn° A Williams [Rubric]

William Pettus to Horatio Chriesman

San Felipe de Austin 19th of Oct 1827

Dear Sir owing to my Disappoint in some buisiness of importance that I did not fore see at the time I promised It is impossible for me to Come Down at this time but have sent you as correct a statement as I can of the buisiness between myself and the Ladies which I wish you to explain to them and also Leave the accounts with them if they are not right I will alwas rectify them I am truly sorry to put you and them to so much trouble but I am always ready to serve a friend and take many Libertys to use them you will see by the papers they have how the Land shall be Laid off but for fear they shall not be explicit enough I will here make a statement to you their Land is to be Laid off in the timber except the Prairie is good and Little nukes [nooks?] are not to be stood on on either side the pararie is not to be calculated where it is of now value I will Leave this to your judgement as respects that I do not wish to be particular with women and if they say my account is a fiew Dollars out of the way I will make it right at any time to their satisfaction you will pleas call and survey the Land at any rates Daniel shipman and brother will assist you or he will pay any one who will assist if he is out, of the way I will to their satisfaction you will see that Mrs Kirkingdol is to begin on the Lower Line of the League I wish you to run up the league far enough to make the Line a strait one so that they shall corner together on the line next to the river with these Directions I will Leave you to do what you think right when you Look at the ritings they hold the Ladys will assist in any way that may be in their Power say to them so soon as Samuel Williams or Col° Austin comes Home they may get thir titles when ever they send for them I will be down in that quarter in a fiew Days and call and see them your attention to these fiew Lines will verry much oblige your old friend & well wisher consider me at all expence I am yours with every sentiment of respect—

Wm Pettus

N. B you will see by the Act^s that Mrs. Kirkingdol are to have 248 Acres & Mrs. Shiggins 521 the hole Amount 769.

W. P.

[Addressed:] Capt Horatio Crisman & Mr Alcorn

THOMAS POWELL TO AUSTIN

La Baca Station 24th Octo. 1827

Colo STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DR. SIR, I presume that you will recollect of my addressing you last spring from New Orleans by General Fullerton on the subject of my missfortune in this cuntry about twelve months since—I have again arrived in the cuntry with a view of making it my future residence, I arrived in the Bay in July last, and with much difficulty I compleated the transportation of my property to this station about the 15th August, and have a second time reported myself a settler of the cun'ry, and I did expect on my arrival here that I should have been in Saltillo before this time but since I have been in the Cuntry I have been unable to attend to any business whatever, two days after my arrival at this place a rising commenced in my right hand and I presume that I have had the worst hand that you ever saw, for three months entirely deprived of the use of it, and at this time very sore and scarcely can use it at all. I shall endeavor to be in Saltillo as soon as I possibly can, but there appears to be every obsticle thrown in my way to prevent my seeking any kind of satisfaction or the recovery of any part of my property that I was robbed of last year on my arrival in the cuntry, on the 13th August last I addressed a note to his Excellency the political chief at San Antonio, by whose order I am informed my property was seized last year, that I should visit San Antonio very soon to make a demand of my property seized by his order, which I presume somewhat irritated him, and in a few days after this his Excellency issued an order to Green Dewitt Empresario of the Colony to have this place evacuated and all the colonists removed to Gonzales within thirty days from the receipt of the Order, which order was received here on the 10th of September, at a time when the crops of the Inhabitants were all standing in the Fields and myself at least 20 waggon Loads of property stored here, and not a waggon and team in the place to take away a single article, as all the waggons belonging to the place were then on a trip to San Antonio with a parcel of goods brought by some Gentlemen that came in the same vessel with me and the waggons could not possibly get back untill the time had nearly expired. I hired a man and Horse and sent him over to the Colorado to procure me all the waggons he could possibly get, I also sent to the Brasses and all the Teams that I could procure was three small waggons that could take only about 1000 lbs each, and has made one trip to San Antone and returned yesterday, and one of them has taken a Load back, and God only knows when I shall get my property away. a few days after the reception of the Order Issued by his Excellency Mr James Kerr arrived from the Brasses.

and the people finding it impossible to remove their property and to evacuate by the time stipulated, and to leave their corn standing in the Fields that starvation must be the result. the people were called together, and a peti[ti]on drawn up and signed by the same and myself, begging for longer indulgence to remove their effects and I myself drew up one individually and beged farther indulgence to remove my property, and Mr Kerr dispatched immediately to San Antone with the papers, and was detained there much longer than necessary and returned only a few days before the time expired, and did succeed in geting the time lenghtened untill the first day of December, at which time we are Ordered to evacuate the place, and unless that I can procure waggons I find that it will be impossible for me to remove my property by that time, Consequently it must be at their mercy and will to consume it as they please, as we are threatened in case we do not evacuate the place that we shall be moved by force—it appears that there is nothing but oppression in this part of the Cuntry and every thing appears to be done to impede me in the progress of my business and in order to dispute the people so that I may not obtain any proof of my treatment last year, and to drive the Americans from the cuntry, after their invitation to them to colonise the same, this Order of his Excellency Ordering the Inhabitants to evacuate the place immediately I think a most unjustifiable thing and breaths nothing but oppression. the people have made considerable improvements at the place, and I myself have a warehouse built for the reception of property coming to the Cuntry, and now without even having assertained that they are on the reserved Lands as there has never been any line run to assertain that fact, they are Ordered to evacuate the same—It will be a very hard case indeed that the colonists should loose their improvments, as they were entered into with the Empresario of the Government, if the Empresario has erred it is not just that individuals should suffer, as the Law guarantees the contracts made by their Empresarios, consequently they should be payed for their improvments—By the Colonisation Laws if I have any understanding at all this station is not within six Leages of the reserved Lands—in the unsettled state of affairs at this time I have determined that I will remove to San Antone for the present and so soon as I may effect my removal I shall proceed immediately to Saltillo to make some demand for my property taken from me last year unjustifyably—I emigrated to the cuntry being invited by the Laws of the Land to settle myself for life in a climate more congenial to my *constitution* than that of my native cuntry, and brought with me my property and including freight, Insurance, Waggonage and other contingent expences, will amount to between $7000 & 8000 at cost, the whole of which has been taken from me by the officers of the Government,

except $141—which I received in the Bay for a few articles sold and not only my property taken from me but I was actually driven from the cuntry by an armed force—I expected that I should have been admited into the cuntry as other Emigrants, and agreable to the Laws, and on my arrival in the Bay I immediately reported myself to Green Dewitt Empresario of the Colony, and stated my intention of becoming an inhabitant of the cuntry, and obtained his permission to Land my property and select any Lands in the Colony, and under the Colonisation Laws I presumed that myself and property was perfectly safe, but I was wofully deceived—I have been kept out of my property now twelve months and in a state of sufferance during that time not knowing what to do—I have every document to prove my claim but am afraid to send them on for fear that they should get lost, but I shall bring them myself when I come, I ask of the Government full payment for my property with damages and all expences that has accrued on the same—I should be pleased to have some report on this business before I start for Saltillo, in case any thing should be wanting in order that I may procure any document that may be wanting, and as to my character I have as good references as any man that ever came to the cuntry—I should be pleased to get to Saltillo before you leave that place, but I am afraid that it will be impossible—you will please do me the singular favor of having this translated and Laid before the Government, and whatever expence you may be at shall be repaid to you on sight I wish the Government distinctly to understand that I came to the cuntry as a gentleman and an honest man, and not as an imposture or swindler, and to respect the Laws of the cuntry as far as I can understand them if I have or should deviate from them, it will be through ignorance and the wrong information of others. let me beg your attention to this business—

THOMAS POWELL [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO POINSETT[1]

Saltillo, November 3, 1827

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,

SIR— At the request of my friend Mr David G. Burnet of Ohio I inclose you two letters of recommendation, one from the Hon. H. Clay and the other from the Hon. E. A. Brown.

Mr. Burnet has obtained from the Gov't of this State authority to colonise a district of Country lying west of Nacogdoches and as it is a small strip he wishes to annex to it a portion of country ex-

[1] Poinsett Papers, Pennsylvania Historical Society. Printed as transcribed by Miss Margaret Wylie, of Germantown, Pennsylvania.

tending East from said village to the Sabine river, but as this latter is embraced within the twenty border leagues reserved by the Colonization Act, it cannot be colonized without the previous permission of the President and Mr. Burnet has presented a memorial to that effect which goes on by this mail to the minister of relations recommended by this Gov't.

His object in directing his attention to this enterprise is to settle a number of reputable farmers from the State of Ohio, who find it inconvenient to provide lands in that country for their large and increasing families owing to its excessively high price. The morality, industry and agricultural enterprise which characterize the inhabitants of Ohio are well known and proverbial, slavery is unknown amongst them, they are "principled" against it, every man is a laborer, and in this particular to their other recommendable qualities, they unite a principle which is in strict accordance with the broad ideas of liberty and universal emancipation laid down in the State Constitutions, and so strenuously urged in legislative deliberations—

The restrictions as to Slavery in this State present very material obstacles to the settlement of Texas by emigrants from the southern States, and should it be the wish of the Mexican Gov't. to convert that fine portion of its territory from a savage wilderness and useless dead burthen on the nation, to a populous, civilized and cultivated state capable of contributing a material quota towards national income wealth and prosperity, sound policy, and expediency I should presume would approve of a decided encouragement of Ohio and other northern emigration. As regards national policy, I can see no objection to emigrants from our sister republic, similitude of political institutions, unity of gen^{l} interests, absence of cause for a difference in local interests and enthusiastic love of liberty, present natural and mutual guarantees of perpetual harmony and peace between the two nations. Not so with the nations of Europe, who are, and must ever be the natural enemies of American prosperity; and besides, the kind of emigrants that may be brought from Europe for colonizing purposes will not be of the class calculated to advance the lower orders of Society for the purpose of filling a contract, they will not in general possess the enterprise, perseverance and morality so indespensable to settle a wilderness, whereas emigrants from the north, to these and many other good qualities will add *Capital*—such emigrants certainly cannot be compared with the overflowings of the redundant population of Europe—

Mr. Burnet is in Nacogdoches and in obedience to his wishes, as well as to comply with my duty as a friend, I have troubled you

with this letter, and solicit such aid with the minister of relations in favor of the application as may be consistent.

I embrace this opportunity to present my warmest wishes for your health and happiness and beg you to accept the assurance of respect and esteem with which I have the honor to remain

your very Obt. Servt.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN—

P. S. Any communications relative to Mr Burnet's business which you may think proper to make will reach their destination directed to me "en la villa de San Felipe de Austin, Texas, (por el Saltillo)"

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.

Nov. 5—I enclose copies of Mr. Burnet's petition and the "informs" of the Govt.

A.

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR J. M. VIESCA[1]

EXMO SOR

Por mis informes fechas 20 de Dic^bre 1824 y 20 de Junio de 1827, V E se habra ya impuesto del sistema de Gob^no provicional q^e ha regido la colonia q^e yo he establecido en Texas. y en consequencia de no haber recibido instrucciones sobre la materia he considerado de mi deber presentar una consulta a V. E. q^e se reduce a los puntos siguientes:

1° Si se ha de continuar el sistema provisional, o si cesara, poniendo en operacion en su lugar el sistema constitucional.

2° En el segundo caso pido q^e se sirva V. E. expedir las ordenes correspondientes al efecto, esplicando con la menudencia q^e sea compatible todos los pormenores q^e se ha de observar en efectuar el referido cambio para q^e aquellos habitantes se impongan bien de ellos con el fin de evitar toda duda o equivocacion q^e podia resultar de su falta de conocim^to del idioma, ó de las nuevas formas q^e han de observar.

3° Considero de absoluta necesidad establecer por orden del Gob^no los limites de la jurisdiccion del Ayuntam^to constitucional de Austin. Hasta ahora los limites de aquella jurisdiccion han sido como sigue: Desde la desembocadura del Arroya de la Baca siguiendo dicho arroyo arriba hasta su cabecera, y de alli al norte hasta el camino de Bexar conocido por el de arriba siguiendo dho camino rumbo al Nord Este hasta las alturas que dividen las aguas de los rios San Jacinto y Trinidad, y siguiendo dhas alturas rumbo al Sur Este hasta la costa y siguiendo esta rumbo al poniente hasta La Baca al punto de comenzar.

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[1] Wagner Collection, Yale University.

4° En consequencia del modo esparcido sobre ranchos y habitaciones q^e viven aqui los habitantes y la extencion de la jurisdiccion habra una necesidad imperiosa de poner comisarios ó encargados de justicia en cada vecindad considerable. bajo el sistema provisional q^e ha regido hasta ahora esta jurisdiccion fue dividida en siete distritos o comarcas, con un Alcalde elegido por el pueblo en cada una pero segun el articulo 98 del reglamento economico de los pueblos no se puede haber mas q^e un alcalde en toda la jurisdiccion, porq^e el numero de habitantes no llega a cinco mil, y si es compatible nombrar comisarios ó encargados de justicia en cada una de las comarcas q^e hasta ahora ha tenido Alcalde me parece q^e sera de mucha importancia, y pido instrucciones sobre este y relativas al modo de nombrar dhos comisarios y sus deberes.

5° por la misma razon espuesta en el anterior punto hay una absoluta necesidad q^e el Alcalde de la jurisdiccion tenga un ministro ó alguazil para ejecutar sus ordenes y citaciones en toda la estencion de la jurisdiccion, y q^e los comisarios tambien tengan uno en sus respectivos jurisdicciones. pero como el reglamento economico de los pueblos no dice nada sobre este particular, pido instrucciones quien ha de nombrar este oficial. ¿ha de ser elegido por el pueblo, por la Asamblea electoral, o nombrado por el Alcalde y los comisarios para sus respectivos jurisdicciones. y quien ha de arreglar los derechos q^e ha de cobrar para sus servicios?

6° Si la organizacion provisional de la Milicia q^e ahora existe ha de continuar, ó si ha de ser organizada de nuevo por el Ayuntam^to de conformidad con el reglam^to en la materia.

7° Si yo en clase de Gefe provisional de la colonia he de espedir las ordenes y avisos para las elecciones y administrar los juramentos á los electos q^e la ley previene y organizar el nuevo sistema constitucional—ó es este deber del comisionado.

Suplico las instrucciones y ordenes de V. E. sobre estos puntos para q^e tengan su debido cumplim^to

Dios y Libertad.

Saltillo 6 de Nov^bre de 1827.

Exmo Sor. ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Exmo Sor Gob^or del Estado de Quahuila y Texas C Jose Maria Viesca.

JOHN GIBSON TO J. E. B. AUSTIN

Rio La Vaca November 7th 1827.

DEAR SIR,

I send a few things to the Brasos by Mr. Alley to be stored until my arrival which will be within fifteen days from the present date.

Mr James Kerr was good enough to give me a few Lines to you which you have in the Bundle of Letters.

Should there be any Persons of trust going by the way of Natchitoches to the United States — be Pleased to forward this Packet of letters by them to be Mailed at that Place.

JOHN GIBSON [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Jas. B. Austin.

WILLIAM S. PARROTT TO AUSTIN

Mexico Nov. 7th 1827

STEPHEN F AUSTIN Esqr

MY DEAR SIR It is with heartfelt pleasure I now acknowledge receipt of your much esteemed favour of the 22nd ulto — As it is presumable Mr Almy may have given you some of the most remarkable occurrences with me of late. I shall proceed without ceremony to your many *preguntas* Much excitement has and still exists among more properly speaking the Patriots and anti republicans than between the masonic brethren for what, we call *Yorkino* is strictly speaking whig, with us and *escoseses* Tory — Some name of distinction was necessary and as the parties became better known about the time we established the York writ — and as every true american flocked to our standard we were in a short time able to outweigh the anti-republicans or Scotch party and they began immediately to make a bug bar of yorkism and to charge Mr Poinsett with the crime of introducing a system or machine by which he intended to carry on all his intrigues a thousand ugly things have been said and his answer to the congress of Veracruz which I now hand you will give you some Idia of what they wished to make him appear before the public So much for the Scotch and yorkism

If you have a wish to forward a petition to the grand lodge, I will see that you have your charter, to this effect you will form a lodge in your settlement and extend a petition to the grand lodge of Mexico signed by all the members and provisional officers; The charter will cost you perhaps 50$ though I recollect of having paid 30$ for the charter of a lodge in Saltillo Please see *Jesus* Mª Ybarra of that place from whom you can get all necessary information and to whom please present my best respects — Fear not but the Yorkinos will gain the day. the poor Scotch are making their last struggle I have no doubt but the true object of masonry has been in some measure perverted with us: but at the time when the salvation of the country perhaps — depended, upon such a measure

and when it became necessary to try their strength which manifested itself in the last elections Much to the mortification of the Scotch Gentry and fortunately about that time the plan of Padre Arenas was discovered in which some of their Chieftains were complicated, I am so far from believing that the establishment of a lodge by the americans in Texas would prove injurious that I would give my vote, and whole influence to carry into effect such a laudable purpose, and would prove to be another spoke in our wheel of transcendent importance for your settlers are spoken of in the highest terms and it has been made public and generally believed that your settlers put a stop to Edwards Fields etc —

We have had for some time a state of things heretofore unknown with us owing to the intrigue of the Scotch to get possession of the reins of Government but they have so completely failed that I am convinced they will have to give over their point, at least for the moment and the great outcry seem to be in all parts. Expulsion of the old spaniard. In Michoacan Durango to the south and other parts parties of considerable force have taken up arms against them and have committed some excesses. The States of Xalisco and Mexico have passed laws expelling certain classes from their territories and particularly Mexico for having published its decree on the 16th ulto. expelling all spaniard friars—so far so good—I have just had a private interview with the President. He assures me all will go well he is a true Patriot but slack of energy—which by the bye turn out with the mañana folks to be often preferable at least in the present case I have no doubt of the fact We had formed a grand lodge and 5 symbolic lodges when Mr Poinsett arrived in the country he became a member and through his agency we received our charters from New York. We are somewhat in your case respecting the abolition of slavery though not to the same extent; they propose an indemnification to slave holders and in cases where a state is not able to make indemnition; the right of property is certainly attacked in the most flagrant manner. I hope you will have it repealed or the same principle of indemnity adopted by which we have been blessed—

It is difficult to guess who will be the next President I have no doubt but he will be an american and Patriot some speak of Guerrero, Pedraza etc etc I admire the decided character of the former but the latter possess[es] more qualifications than any other man in the Republic this is my opinion, The Scotch will try to get in Bravo—or some other Scotch brother The System of government for the territory is something like ours—The President is their executive, a representative or Delegate in the House of Representatives, a judiciary something like our territorial governments and as respects interior economy. they have a governor etc etc

In short I am convinced that differences must arise from the union of two states composed of different materials like coahuila and Texas—and that a better plan might be to separate the practicability of which you should better know than myself. The only material inconvenience which strikes me at this time is the delay of the dispatch of affairs Subject to the executive, department for the rest your situation might be bettered,

It was my intention to be more concise but have been led astray by a [desire] to satisfy your many enquir[ies] [some] of which requires a more expert [hand] than mine to do them justice I have always avoided political correspondence from motives, which have in some measure subsided, and will now with pleasure do all I can to Quench your thirst—

I shall leave Mexico for the U. S. in the month of February next. it would have been sooner but for the unexpected delay of My copartner Willson in the U. S. he will be out in the packet for this month. Hoping to hear from you often, I remain sincerely your friend obt. and humb servt

W. S. Parrott [Rubric]

I have a file of New York papers on the road and if they arrive in time for the mail [will] hand you a few

[Addressed:] Sor Don. Estevan F. Austin Saltillo

J. F. Bucheteh to S. M. Williams

Hacienda de Carrizal, the 8th 9ber 1827

Mr. Samuel W. Williams,

Dear Sir I have received your esteemed of the 10th of September by the way of Mr. Ybarra and to which I answer albut immediately. I learn in it, that you are very busy, and that the colony has sufered a good deal of feaver, and that you have wrote to your friends for the seeds in question etc Colonel Austin is here, *en Saltillo*, and has talked with Ybarra on the subject of the seeds. and I too, I had three large conversations with him on the subject of my former letters to him advising him that I had renounced my project of going to the brazos, as a minister, etc he upon the whole, was very satisfied with me. But he told me that he should be glad if I would go thither to establish a Spanish school, that he had solicited a Spanish Master for that purpose in the U. S. and could obtain none, that, at his arrival, he will try, (according to his wishes) to form a school, to Justify a teacher, and he would write me the result. and that in the meantime I would continue to write you both from time to time. As he has told me that you take the News paper called the Eagle, I shall tell you nothing of politics because you will see in

that paper all what is passing of interesting; altho I might advise you to discontinue the subscription of that one to subscribe to the *Sun* which is better and cheaper.

Since I have left Saltillo I was told by a good authority that the Provisor has named a priest to go to yours parts. and the Colonel told me he would go and see him on the subject.

This, Dear sir, is all what I can write worth of your notice, seing that the Colonel will inform you of all and he will not difer his return—in the meantime I remain your very respectfull and obedient servant

JUAN FRANCISCO BUCHETTI.

N. B. if through leasure you oblige me to write me again Dirrect me your letters through Mr Ybarra as you have done this last one

J. F. B.

ELISHA ROBERTS TO AUSTIN

Ayish Bayou Taxas November 8th 1827

Col STEPHEN. F. AUSTIN

Dear sir I have not heard any Tidings of the Petetion that I sent to the General Goverment for Land which makes me Rather Doubtful that the Political Chief may have Neglected sending them on as he Promised to do and I am confident that you Can do more for me in that business then any person in this Goverment I will make it worth your Trouble to get me a title I will Freely give you five hundred Dollars if you will be instrumental in procuring me a title and have it sent on to me you may Draw on me for any Expences you may be at to pay postage or any other Expences it would be a favour Ever to be acknowledged by me if you get me a title if the title is on the way I will pay you for what Trouble and Expences you may be at Col Gross has likewise promised me that he will do Every thing that he Can to have my title Carried into effect write to me and let me know how the business is going on Dear sir I with Respect your sincerr Friend

ELISHA ROBERTS

AUSTIN TO ———

Saltillo 8 de Noviembre 1827

Muy sor mio. aunqe nunca he tenido el honor de conocer a V. personalmente, y sin merito para ocupar su atencion, tomo esta libertad porqe. las actas publicas del senado prueban qe. todo hombre de honor, amante de la libertad, de la justicia y del sistema qe. nos rige encontrará en V. un apoyo.

Ye soy el primer fundador de las nuevas colonias de Texas—soy nativo de los Estados Unidos del norte y ciudadano Mexicano por haber recibido carta de ciudadania del Congreso Nacional en el año 1823—Hace poco qe. he aprendido escribir este idioma, motivo porqe. suplico qe V disimule mis espresionse crudas, y muchos errores de gramatica.

Las muchas dificultades qe. se oponian al establecim^to^ de nuevas colonias en los despoblados de Texas, y la perseverancia con que he luchado contra ellas, logrando por fin allanarlas hasta adelantar mi empresa de colonizacion a un grado qe. ofrece las mas lisonjeras esperanzas de prosperidad futura, presentan pruebas incontestables del interes y empeño qe spre he tenido en este asunto, y espero me sirvera de apologia por la molestia de esta carta.

Mi Sor Padre concibio la idea de plantar una nueva colonia en los desiertos de Texas en el año 1821 corto tpo antes de su fallecimiento y tomo algunos pasos para conseguir el correspondiente permiso del Gob^no^ de este pais, y en cumplimto de sus ultimos deseos yo he perseverado en llevar adelante la empresa. En el año 1821 Texas, con la sola escepcion de los dos presidios cortos y reducidos de Bexar y La Bahia, era un puro desierto cubierto de Indios brabos qe estaban todos en guerra con los mexicanos y decidam^te^ hostil a qualquier nuevo establecim^to^ de gente civilizada: el gob^no^ del pais en aquella epoca era todo en revolucion y faltaban recursos aun para proteger las antiguas poblaciones de Bexar y La Bahia y toda esperanza de apoyo del Gob^no^ era cortada.

En este estado de cosas yo emprendi la empresa de colonizar en Texas, eligiendo al efecto un punto central de la provincia sobre los Rios Brazos y Colorado setente leguas al Este de Bexar, sumam^te^ espuesto a los Indios y aislado en todos respectos de qualesquier recursos, estando mas de cien leguas de los limites de los Estados unidos del norte. Me costo un viaje por tierra a Mexico y diez y ocho meses de empeño entre los cambios y peligros revolucionarios de los años 1821—y—22 para conseguir el despacho de mis asuntos por el Gob^no^ Me meti con mis colonos en el centro del desierto rodeado de indios enemigos sin otras esperanzas de proteccion sino las qe proporcionó confianza en nosotros mismos, y sin otros recursos, sino los naturales del pais desierto. Los viveres qe mande de Orleans por mar se perdieron por naufragio y robo de los indios sobre la costa, dejandonos al arbitrio de sostenernos por la caza, ó abandonar la empresa y regresar a la Luisiana. El espiritu emprendedor qe nos traslado al desierto, nos sustuvo en nuestros apuros. Nuestras carabines garantizaron nuestra seguridad de los indios, y proporcionaron carne de los animales del campo. El primer año comimos mas de cien caballos mesteños. sinembargo de qe. la cosecha de este año era cortisima en consequencia de las hostilidades de los Indios

y una sequedad estrordinaria, qe aumento en sumo grado nuestras dificultades, y aunqe. infermidades muy graves acometieron a los colonos a consequencia de la mala calidad de sus alimentos y sus infinitas fatigas, vencieron todo, y la cosecha abundante del segundo año suministraba a sus necesidades y aliviaron sus padecim^{tos}. La Colonia en el dia esta floreciente en cuanto depende de sus habitantes. se ha adelantado la agricultura y la cria, plantado Maquinas, establecido escuelas, sujetado a los indios vecinos; en fin el desierto ha cambiado el aspecto crudo y salvage de la naturaleza, para el semblante gracioso y lisonjero de la civilizacion. Aquellos habitantes han dado pruebas inequivocas y incontestables de los principios de honor qe les rigen y de su adhesion y fidelidad al Gob^{no} de su adopcion—han vertido su sangre librem^{te} peliando contra los enemigos salvages de los mexicanos bajo circunstancias en qe la ley de la naturaleza, el principio de la defensa propia, hubiera justificado entrar en negociaciones y hacer paces separadas ó aisladas con ellos; no lo hizó, porqe eran mexicanos, y el enemigo de la nacion era el suyo. en las ocurrencias sobre la frontera de Nacogdoches el año pasado por su firmeza y prontitud en sostener el pabellon Mexicano, sofocaron una revolucion naciente y salvaron la frontera del Rio Grande Monclova y Tamaulipas de una guerra desoladora de barbaros, y la nacion de milliones de pesos y millares de vidas qe la sublevacion gral de los indios del norte, unidos con aventurosos y los indios del pais hubiera costado.

Estos son hechos y servicios qe hablan por si, no necesiten comentos para manifestar su importancia y se debe advertir qe desde el principio de mi empresa de colonizacion hasta el presente aquel establecim^{to} no há costado al Gob^{no} un rial, ni en establecer, ni gobernar, ni protegerlo; antes por el contrario ademas de los servicios mencionados, las tropas de Bexar y La Bahia han sido proveidas de viveres de la colonia aprecios mas acomodados qe se ha visto en aquellos puntos por muchos años, y la tesoria ha recibido alguna cantidad de rentas publicas. Si se trata de graduar lo importante de las ventajas qe aquella Colonia ha asegurado a la nacion y a este Estado, solo es nesesario reflecionar ¿qe era la situacion de Texas en el año 1821, y qe es su situacion en el dia? ¿qe hubiera costado la Nacion establecer alli y defender a su costo igual numero de familas Mexicanas ó europeos? — Ahora todas las dificultades para colonizar en Texas estan allanadas, ya no es desierto, hay recursos de viveres en abundancia, hay alguma fuerza fisica de Milicianos para sujetar a los Indios, y es facil establecer otras colonias al abrigo de las ya plantadas y a quien se debe esta ventaja sino a los qe. vencieron las primeras embarazos

Aquellos benemeritos habitantes han cumplido con su deber como hombres de honor, hombres emprendedores, ciudadanos Mexicanos:

Merecen encontrar en el Gob^no^ nacional y del Estado un Padre protector, liberal y indulgente; no dudan qe asi sucedera, pero temen qe sus necesidades no han spre llegado al conocim^to^ del Gob^no^, ó no estan claram^te^ entendidas y a esta causa atribuyan algunas medidas, y particularm^te^ una del Honorable congreso del Estado de Cuahuila y Texas, qe aunqe sea bien intencionada, en operacion esta ruinosa a sus intereses y ataca sus derechos en un modo qe sientan mas porqe en su opinion infringe directam^te^ la constitucion nacional y la del Estado.

La medida a qe refiero es el decreto del Honorable Congreso de este Estado N° 18 publicado el dia 16 de septiembre de este año relativo a Esclavos, copia del cual va inclusa.[1]

Considero qe este decreto es anticonstitucional porqe

1° Ataca el derecho de propiedad.

2° Ataca el derecho de igualdad ante la ley—

3° Es retroactivo en su operacion y

4° Espone las vidas y seguridad personal de una clase de ciudadanos

1° Todas la leyes del pais y la misma constitucion de este Estado en su 13 articulo reconocen el derecho de propiedad en esclavos, y como propiedad esta sujeto a las mismas garantias grals qe. toda otra especie de propiedad.

2° Ataca el derecho de igualdad ante la ley en privar de una parte de los ciudadanos de derechos qe se concede a todos los demas de la misma clase, es decir dos ciudadanos poseen diez mil pesos en bienes, el uno tiene el derecho de disponer del suyo por testamento, y el otro esta privado de aquel derecho, esto no es igualdad ante la ley—

3° Es retroactiva en su operacion porq. al tiempo de introducir esta propiedad en el pais, no estaba prohibido, sino al contrario sus dueños emigraron en consequencia de la espresa invitacion, del Gob^no^ por medio de las leyes de Colonizacion, y esta misma invitacion espresama^te^ garantizó el derecho de la seguridad de las propiedades, y si ahora despues se haya dado una ley privando dhos imigrados de esta misma propiedad ¿no es esta ley retroactiva en su operacion? Hoy se introduce $100.000 en consequencia de la invitacion del Gob^no^, en una cierta clase de propiedad, no prohibido por la ley, sino al contrario reconocido por propiedad y como tal garantizado por la ley; y mañana se quita dha propiedad bajo pretextos qe. es contrario a la ley ó derecho natural. ¿no es esta una ley directam^te^

[1] Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 188. Article 4 of this law declared: "Those who introduce slaves after the expiration of the term specified in Article 13 of the Constitution shall be subject to the penalties established by the general law [federal] of the 13th of July, 1824."

Article 7 provided that when slaves passed by inheritance from one owner to another, one-tenth should be manumitted.

retroactiva y sumam^te injusta ? en fin ¿ no es faltar en la buena fé del Gob^no ? considera qe. lo es.

Se dice por algunos qe la ley del Congreso gral de 13 de Julio 1824 prohibe la introduccion total de esclavos, no lo entiendo asi. el 1° articulo de aquella ley claram^te califica su objeto qe es prohibir el "trafico y comercio de esclavos procedentes de qualqiera potencia ó bajo qualquiera bandera"—lo qe esta prohibido es "el trafico", es decir la introduccion de esclavos como articulos de comercio y nada mas. Esto no impide su introduccion para el uso de la persona qe los trage. hay muchos cosas prohibidos por el arrancel, pero esto no impide traer el mismo articulo para el uso particular, por ejemplo ropa hecha esta prohibido de comercio, pero esto no impide un individuo traer su ropa de uso. El articulo 13 de la constitucion de este Estado pone este punto fuera de duda porque concede seis meses despues de su publicacion para la introduccion de esclavos. pero aunqe la dha ley excluye toda introduccion no comprehende los de mi establecim^to porqe emigraron antes de la publicacion de aquella ley—

creo que no queda duda sobre este punto y por consiguiente la ley deqe hablo es retroactiva en su operacion.

4° Espone las vidas y la seguridad personal de una clase de los ciudadanos—

Segun la citada ley los esclavos de personas qe. no tienen herederos forzosos quedan libres al fallecim^to de sus dueños, y la decima parte de los qe tienen tales herederos tambien quedan libres al fallecim^to de sus dueños luego, el unico impedimto a la libertad de todos los esclavos del estado, es la vida de sus dueños y de sus herederos forzosos si los hay, y en este sentido dha ley ofrece un premio para el asesinato el veneno y la trahesion secreta [1] Se ha intentado enredar este punto sitando algunas maximas escolasticas de Bentham y otros para probar qe. no puede existir el dro de propiedad en esclavos, pero esto es salir fuera del asunto, porqe no se debe tratar averiguar el titulo teoretico de esta clase de propiedad, sino tomar la materia como existe, y esta reconocido por ley y costumbres inmemoriales. El derecho de propiedades en sociedades organizadas existe en virtud de ley, ó costumbre, y si salimos fuera de esta regla buscando maximas ó teorias abstractas fundadas en lo qe se llama ley ó derecho natural para impugnar algun derecho particular qe ha existido de hecho y de derecho legal por ciglos, abrimos una puerta qe nos echa en un océano de dudas y dificultades. por ejemplo, los decendientes de Europeos qe. son dueños de tierras en Mexico tiene el derecho de propiedad en ellas en virtud de ley ó costumbre pero, ¿ en qe modo se establecio dha ley? por las conquistas de

[1] The law sought to eliminate this danger by providing that slaves who killed their owners should not be freed.

Cortés y otros, o por mejor decir por fuerza de armas. Esto no destruyó el derecho natural de los Indios, y la misma regla qe. destruye el derecho de propiedad en esclavos, tambien lo destruye en las tierras poseidas por los decendientes de Europeos en America, y en fin, causarian un trastorno gral en los mas de las cosas. Pongo pues por principio sentado e inegable qe las leyes recononcen el derecho de propiedad en esclavos, y como propiedad esta sujeto a las mismas garantias y reglas qe qualquiera otra especie de propiedad. Sentado esto es claro qe la ley en cuestion ataca el derecho de propiedad en quitar de los herederos lo qe es legalmente suyo. y en este, infringe la constitucion y ataca una de las bases fundamentales del sistema qe. nos rige, qe. es la seguridad de las propiedades de parte del esclavo, porqe. aunqe. el articulo de dha ley dice qe. no habrá lugar para la libertad del esclavo si el amo murió por veneno o asesinado, esto no es proteccion ninguna contra la operacion inhumana de la ley. ¿quantos modos hay de quitar la vida por medios qe al parecer fueron accidentales ó naturales? La constitucion garantiza los derechos del hombre. ?cual dro [derecho] es mas sagrado qe la vida y la seguridad personal?

Me parece incontestable qe la ley en cuestion es anti constitucional, y como toca al congreso gral calificar y decidir esta cuestion, me he dirijido a V. con la esperanza de qe. cuando se pase dha ley al congreso. V contribuyra con su eloquencia en apoyo de la justicia y de la constitucion.

Prescindiendo qe dha ley es anticonstitucional, es sumam^te^ impolitico y injusto porqe tiende directam^te^ a fomentar discontento entre los colonos y a atrasar y oprimir todos los nuevos establecim^tos^ El interes de la nacion y de este Estado en particular requiere qe se protege y fomente por todos modos las nuevas colonias de Texas, y particularm^te^ la qe yo he establecido. parece qe los infelises pobladores de Texas estan abandonados—qe. el Gob^no^ esta cansado de sus hijos adoptados—y busca medios de destruir en lugar de protegerles—no sé porqe es asi—porqe repito qe aquellos habitantes merecen la proteccion y confianza del Gob^no^—su honradez, su heroica perseverancia, su industria, su buena conducta seguram^te^ merece otro premio qe. el de ser sacrificado a teorias abstractas, ó el de caer las victimas de sospechos vagos qe son en sumo grado injuriosos a su honor, y perjuiciosos al verdadero interes del pais—La constitucion del Estado ha establecido el modo de estinguir la esclavitud, los decendientes nacen libres y no hay otro modo legal de hacerlo

confieso francam^te^ qe. mi objeto en escribir esta carta es el de formar amigos en Mexico en favor de los pobladores qe yo he establecido en Texas—Merecen el apoyo de hombres de honor y patriotas—Merecen una suerte feliz—Los Sors Zavala, Gomes Farias, Musquiz y varios otros me apoyaron en mexico cuando mis asuntos fueron

pendientes y espero qe. ni mi conducta, ni la de mis colonos han dado motivos para causarles repentir de la parte qe tomaron en nuestro favor.— Si acaso V. se digna interesarse en nuestro favor, puede V usar de esta carta en el modo qe estime mas aproposito, sea enseñandole a sus amigos, o formando una noticia ventajosa de la nueva colonia para incertar en un periodico publico. refiero V a los sors [señores] antes mencionados, a los Sors Senadores y diputados de este Estado y al mismo Gob^no^ para informes relativos a mi caracter y conducta——El Sor Ramos Arispe y el diputado de Nuevo Leon me conocen bien—

Austin's Argument Against Law Regulating Slavery.

[Saltillo, November 8, 1827.]

Un decreto de la Legislatura del Estado p^a.^ tener la fuerza y caracter de ley legitima, no debe infringir, ó aun herir, ningun articulo de la Constitucion nacional, ni de la Constitucion particular del Estado, y si lo hace es claro q^e.^ se debe derogar.

El objecto de los decretos de la Legislatura del Estado seguram^te.^ es el de promover y asegurar la felicidad prosperidad y bien gral. y particular de los pueblos de conformidad con los principios fundamentales del Systema que nos rige, y las necesidades y circunstancias particulares de aquellos ó alguna porcion de ellos; y si algun decreto, por fundado que sea al parecer en teorias plausibles, en la practica evidentem^te.^ tiende al contrario, me parece claro que se debe derogar.

En mi opinion, los articulos 5, 6, 7, y 8 del decreto N°. 18 del Honorable Congreso de este Estado son de la case arriba indicada. Los dichos articulos son anticonstitucionales.[1]

Todas las leyes vigentes relativas al derecho de propiedad en esclavos reconocen tal derecho, y el articulo 13 de la Constitucion del Estado tambien lo reconoce. Luego, los esclavos q^e.^ se hallan en el Estado dentro del término signalado en el referido articulo 13 legalm^te.^ y constitucionalm^te.^ propiedad, y como tal sugeto a las mismas leyes q^e.^ cualquier otra propiedad. El articulo 11 de la constitucion del Estado y 30 de la acta constitutiva y todos los principios fundamentales del sistema que nos rige garantiza los derechos imprescriptibles de propiedad y igualdad. Los articulos citados del referido decreto infringen estos articulos en privar una porcion de los ciudadanos del derecho de disponer de su propiedad en la misma manera q^e.^ todos los demas tienen derecho de disponer de la suya, y por consiguiente infringen la garantia de igualdad, porq^e.^ es claro de q^e.^, si se me priva de dros, que se concede á todos los demas

[1] Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 188. The law provided for the operation of article 13 of the State Constitution, which excluded additional slaves from Texas. The articles specified by Austin provided for manumission under given conditions.

ciudadanos de mi clase y circunstancias, se corta mi libertad y se destruye la igualdad ante la ley. por las leyes grals. cada ciudadano tiene el dro. de disponer de su propiedad por venta ó por testamento en la manera q^{e}. dhas. leyes prescriben, ahora si por una ley se prive los habitantes de una parte del Estado el ejercicio de este dro. ¿no será infringir la constitucion en cortar la libertad de aquellos habitantes y no se destruye la igualdad de la ley? Considero q^{e}. sí.

Ademas los articulos del decreto en question quitan de ciertos herederos una parte de su propiedad porq^{e} siendo los bienes de un difunto todos esclavos, sus herederos si no son forzozos pierdan todo, y si son forzosos pierdan la decima parte es decir, la legislatura les priva de la propriedad q^{e} las leyes grals. y la constitucion les garantizan, y en esto ademas de ser una infraccion [de] los articulos de la constitucion antes citados y un atropellam^{to} de todos los principios de derecho y de justicia tambien directam^{te} quiebra el ar^{o} 113 de la Constitucion del Estado, en su 4ª restriccion de la facultades del Gov^{or} q^{e} dice q^{e} no se puede "ocupar la propriedad de ningun particular ó corporacion ni embarazar la posesion uso ó aprovecham^{to} de ella" aun en casos de conocida utilidad gral. sin previa indemnizacion de la parte interesada á juicio de hombres buenos. pero sin embargo los articulos de la citada ley no solam^{te} embarazan el uso y aprovecham^{to} de las propriedades, sino directam^{te}. los quitan de sus dueño legítimo y mas de esto, si el dueño de esclavos al tpo. de su fallecim^{te}. debe una cantidad considerable de dinero y no tiene otro propriedad sino sus esclavos para pagar los duedos ¿es justo ó constitucional privar al acreedor inocente de su dinero, y condenarle á perderlo todo? no es esto infringir el derecho equitativo q^{e} el citado acreedor tiene en la propriedad del difunto?

Creo haber suficientem^{te} probado q^{e} los articulos en cuestion son anticonstitucionales y por aquella razon deben ser derogados; voy a probar q^{e} tienden directam^{te} al perjuicio de la nacion y del Estado y q^{e} se deben derogar por esta razon aunque no fuesen anticonstitucionales.

No se necesita argumentos para probara q^{e}. los intereses particulares del Estado como los grals. del la Nacion exigen fomentar la emigracion de extrangeros. La ley gral. de Colonizacion y la particular del Estado prueban que el Congreso Gral y tambien el del Estado consideraban este asunto de mucha importancia. El articulo —— de la ley gral. de Colonizacion dice q^{e}. ———— y el articulo —— de la ley del estado de 25 de Marzo 1825 dice —— en consequencia de estas invitaciones y bajo la fé de estas garantias los emigrados á Texas han venido traiendo con ellos todos sus propiedades, ahora si por una acta publica, una ley se atropellan de un golpe todas estas sagradas garantias, y quitan de los dichos emigrados la misma propiedad q^{e}. han introducido en el pais

en consequencia de la espresa invitacion y garantia del Gob^no. ¿que idea han de tener de la buena fé del Gob^no.? No hay necesidad de argumentos para probar que esto puede tener un influxo funestisimo contra el caracter y los intereses del Gob^no. y pueblo de este Estado y de la nacion. Es evidente que cuando a la perdida de sus propriedades se añade el peligro de ser asesinado por q^e. la misma ley ofrece este lugar a los esclavos, q^e. opinion formará el mundo civilizado de tales medidas? qualquiera hombre que se halle acostumbrado a llamar las cosas por sus verdaderos nombres dirá q^e. los Legisladores q^e. dieron semejante ley eran exaltados y entuisiastas sin razon óq^e. no tenian juicio y sentido comun para entender la operacion de la ley, ó q^e. si la entendieron, q^e. habian solemnem^te. aprobado un robo desvergonzoso y una acta inhumana y sangrenaria.

Todas las leyes vigentes y la misma constitucion del Estado en su 13 articulo como antes dicho reconocieron el derecho de propriedad en esclavos y garantiza aquel derecho, y bajo la fé de aquella garantia los dueños de esclavos los han traido á este estado; no hubo ley ni embarazo para impedirles en el pleno gozo de aquella especie de propriedad durante las vidas de los esclavos introducidos; y q^e. se halla ahora despues dictada una ley embarazando el uso y aprovecham^to. y aun privando los dueños de ella, no es ciertamente una ley retroactiva en su operacion y contrario al articulo 148 de la Constitución Federal? Considero que lo es.

Es el deber constitucional del Gob^no. guardar los derechos del hombre y velar por la tranquilidad pública y la seguridad de personas y de propriedades. veremos como estos deberes pueden conciliarse con los articulos del decreto en cuestión. Segun la citada ley los esclavos de personas q^e. no tienen herederos forzosos son libres al fallecim^to. de sus dueños y la decima parte de los que tienen estos herederos serán tambien libres al fallecim^to. de sus dueños. luego, el unico impedimento a la libertad de todos los esclavos del Estado es la vida de sus amos y de sus herederos forzosos en caso donde los haya y en este sentido la ley en cuestión directam^te. ofreco un premio para el asesino, el veneno y la trahison de parte de los esclavos. ¿es este garantizar los derechos del hombre cumplir con el deber de guardar la tranquilidad publica y velar de la seguridad de las personas y propriedades es cumplir con los preceptos de la humanidad? Concidero que no lo es—porq^e. aunq^e. el articulo 6 del citado decreto dice q^e. no habrá lugar á la libertad del Esclavo, si hay sospechos q^e. el amo murió por veneno o asesinado, esto no es protección ninguna contra la operación inhumana cruel y sangrenaria de la citada ley, quantos modos hay de quitar la vida por medios q^e. al parecer fueron accidentales ó naturales? Quien habrá oído en toda la historia del mundo civilizado q^e. un Gob^no. haya por una ley ofrecido premios

aunq^{e} sin intencion p^{a} asesinos secretos? y todo esto bajo de unos deseos philantropicos? no digo mas sobre este punto sino que fué una equivocacion—una acta precipitada—un exceso de entusiasmo en la causa de la libertad, y q^{e} no una intencion de premiar asesinos—y puede servir de precaucion por lo futuro y demostra q^{e} hay peligro aun en libertar—y q^{e} es mejor seguir el dictamen del sentido comun y de lo q^{e} las necesidades y circumstancias peculiares del pueblo requieren—q^{e} de ser regido ciegamente por las teorias de Bustamente o qualquiera otro politico entusiasta.

Es el interes del Estado en sumo grado fomentar y protejer las nuevas colonias q^{e} con mucha dificultad y empeño han principiado en los desiertos de Texas; pero los articulos en cuestion en lugar de fomentar y protejerles, tienden directam^{te} al contrario porq^{e} a mas de las razones arriba indicados se sabe muy bien q^{e} solo los habitantes de Texas tienden esclavos, y que son una especie de propriedad q^{e} se estima mas allí q^{e} cualquiera otra por ser la mas util y necesaria q^{e} pueden tener p^{a} sentar nuevos establecim^{tos} en un pais como aquel enteram^{te} desproveído de todos recursos de jornaleros o operarios, y sumam^{te} montuoso y dificil a dismontar y limpiar p^{a} la siembra y cuyos productos de algodon y azucar requieren mayor numero de brazos que cualquiera otra cosecha pero si se les prive de estos brazos en contravención directa de la ley y la constitutcion que influxo tendra sobre la imigracion por lo futuro y q^{e} estimulo ó esperanza pueden tenor los q^{e} ya están en el pais? la contestación a esta pregunta es evidente el resultado será cortar la emigracion en su totalidad, sino es de la clase mas míserable y inutil, y tambien disanimará los que han emigrado de tal modo q^{e} abandonaran el pais. para aclarar esta materia mas me refiero a las muy justas y juiciosas observancies del Exmo Go^{er} del Estado Presentado al H. C. C. del Estado al tiempo de discutirse el art^{o} 13 de la constitucion.[1]

El resultado de la destruccion de las nuevas colonias sera q^{e} en breve tpo. los Indios barbaros del Norte q^{e} estan entrando en gran numero todos los dias, unidos con los indios barbaros nativos ocuparán todo el departam^{to} destruyendo enteramente cuantos blancos hay, y los pueblos fronterizos del partido de Rio Grande y Monclova y la frontera del Estado de Nuevo Leon y Tamaulipas todos pereceran en una guerra horrorosa de barbaros El Estado Quahuiltejano se reducirá á escombros entre los cuales apenas se distinguirá las villas de Monclova, Saltillo, y Paras. esta pintura tal vez parecera extravagante, pero no es; está fundada en mi conocim^{to} practico de los asuntos y situacion de Texas y de la fuerza caracter y disposicion de los Indios. Se me dirá que la nacion Mejicana aniquilara los Indios y protejerá la frontera, etc., etc.; no pretendamos engañarnos unos con otros, la nacion todavia está naciente, esta en guerra con su

[1] See November 30, 1826.

enemigo natural y se necesita toda su atencion y fuerza p^{a} velar de la seguridad exterior y tranquilidad interior y no pueda dar a las fronteras toda la proteccion que necesitan, la nacion no ha podido sujetar los Comanches y estos en comparacion con todos los Indios de Texas unidos son una sombra; la unica esperanza pues de Texas y de Quahuila es en el fomento rapido de las nuevas colonias porq^{e} con los civiles de ellos habra fuersa fisica y efectiva p^{a} sujetar los barbaros sin el costo inmenso de mandan una fuerza de tropas desde Mexico y ademas de sujetar los Indios y proteger toda esta frontera, las nuevas colonias en breve tpo. proporcionará al Estado la mayor parte de los fondos necesarios p^{a} sus gastos, adelantaria su riqueza en los ramos de agricultura y las artes y manufacturas de toda clase, y daria un peso respetable y importante en el Gob^{no} de la nacion; todo esto resultaria del fomento de las nuevas colonias de Texas, y si se les destruyen, q^{e} valdrá el Estado, circunscrito a tres villas?

El Gob^{no} M^{o} es enteram^{te} un Gob^{no} de leyes y su stabilidad y fuersa fisica y moral depende enteram^{te} en la mas ecsacta observancia y ciega obediencia de ellas, y patricularm^{te} de la ley fundamental, que es la constitucion, de otro modo en breve tpo. se nos verá bajo un Gob^{no} puram^{te} de hombres y no de leyes. una infracción de la constitucion o de las leyes abre campo p^{a} otra y este para una tercera hasta q se destruye el prestigio q^{e} debe tener aquellos sagrados paladines de nuestra libertad y propiedad y derechos, destruye su inviolabilidad, y con esta se tambien destruye la obligacion del pueblo de observarlas, y la anarquia, o un Gob^{no} o aristocratico o despotico sera el resultado, porq^{e} el pueblo o un partido o faccion en su nombre dira si la constitucion y leyes no son inviolables p^{a} los Gobernantes, tampoco lo son para los Gobernados, y en este modo se corta de un golpe todos los lazos del pacto social.

He expresado mi opinion relativa al citado decreto no. 18 con la franquesa que debe caractisar un ciudadano libre q^{e} no tiene otras miras, ni otros deseos sino el bien de patria, protesto todo respeto para el H. C. Del Estado y p^{a} los individous q^{e} tiene el honor de componerlo, y estoy enteram^{te} persuadido q^{e} al dar el citado decreto no refleccionaron sobre las consequencias que podian resultar; fue un desaojo de liberalismo—un exceso de entusiasmo en la causa de la libertad; aprecio este entusiasmo, lo siento en comun con todos los amantes de la libertad en el mundo, es un entusiasmo justo, glorioso, y santo—pero todos estremos son peligrosos y dañosos. El decreto n° 18 fue resulto de exaltacion estrema y en obedecer el dictamen de esta exaltacion se perdió de vista, como es comun en todos exaltaciones, las consequencias que podian resultar. pero no dudo q^{e} cuando los Sors diputados toman la materia en su calma y despreocupada consideracion, quedarán convencidos q^{e} se debe derogar la citada ley.

J. Francisco Madero to Austin

La comision especial de que tengo el honor de ser presidente, nombrada por el Hon^e cong^o p^a estender el modelo de la representacion qe. se vá á hacer al Ecsmo Sr Presidente de la republica pidiendole aucilios para cortar los males que acaesen en la frontera ocasionados por los indios brabos, há acordado se pida a V. pr. mi conducto una noticia de las tribus que sepa se hayan introducido de estados unidos en nuestro territorio,—el num^o de familias á que asciendan y si seran ó no peligrosas al citado.

Lo qe. tengo el honor de decir a V. p^a—su cumplimiento ofreciendole mi consideracion y respetos.

Dios y Libertad saltillo 11. de Nov^re de 1827.

J Francisco Madero

Ciud^o Estevan Austin

Austin to J. Francisco Madero

[November 11. 1827.]

He recibido el oficio V. S. me hizo el honor dirigirme fecha 11 del q^e rige en q^e me participa q^e la comision especial nombrado por el H Congreso p^a estender el modelo de la representacion q^e se va a hacer al Exmo Sor Presidente de la republica pidiendole auxilio p^a cortar los males en la frontera ocasionado por los Indios bravos, ha acordado se me pida por conducta de V. S. una noticia de las tribus q^e sepa se hayen introducido de los Estados Unidos en nuestro territorio, el numero de familias a q^e asciendan, y si seran o no peligrosos al estado.

Desde el año 1820 q^e emigraron una partida de los Cherokes bajo la direccion de su Gefe Ricardo Fields se han entrado un numero considerable de indios de los Estados Unidos del Norte, y principalm^te en el año pasado.

Segun las mejoras noticias q^e he podido conseguir, de personas fidedignos q^e viven cerca de la puente pacana sobre el Rio Roxo, relativo al numero de familias q^e han emigrado estas llegan a 1530 en todas compuestas de los tribus siguientes:

Shawnee ó Sahuani	600
Kickapoo ó Kickapu	500
Deluas	200
Quapas	150
Cherokes	80

Una parte de los Sahuani son agricultores y algo avanzados en civilizacion, se mantienen principalm^te por la siembra y la cría estos emigraron del Estado de Misuri; la otra parte q^e es la mas numerosa y conocida por la partida de Tecumseh son celebre por su enemistad

constante a los blancos y por los muchos perjuicios q^{e} hizieron sobre la frontera de canada en la ultima guerra con los ingleses en los años 12, 13, 14, y 15; estos emigraron de cerca de las gran lagunas de Canada, les considero temibles por ser muy guerreros, bien disciplinados y armados, se mantienen principalm^{te} por la caza.

Los K. en mi concepto son todos malos, sus costumbres en lo gral. son barbaros. Se mantienen principalm^{te} de la caza. Son muy guerreros y han tenido casi continuas guerras los habitantes fronterizos de los Estados de Missuri, Illinois, Indiana, y Ohio, tambien vienen de cerca de las Lagunas de Canada.

Los Deluas son casi lo mismo q^{e} los Sahuani, parte de ellos q^{e} emigraron de Missuri son agricultores y criadores y parte q^{e} emigraron de los Estados de Indiana y Ohio son agregados a la partida de Tecumseh. Los Quapas emigraron de Arkansas; son muy infelices, ociosos, pobres, poco avansado en civilizacion y no muy guerreros, nunca han tenido guerra con los blancos. Los Cherokes son los mas avanzados en civilizacion de todos y se mantienen por la agricultura y la cria. Son muy guerreros y bien armados, no han tenido guerra con los blancos por 20 años.

Con respecto a si estos indios seran o no peligrosos, opino q^{e} por regla gral. conviene mucho al interes y seguridad del Estado no permitir en ninguna manera la emigracion de Indios del Norte, en gral. son enemigos hereditarios de todos los blancos; sus costumbres y modo de gobernarse son distinctas y no creo que puedan ser utiles, sino al contrario muy perjuiciosos por sus continuous robos, aun suponiendo q^{e} nunca intentase alterar la tranquilidad publica por una guerra abierta, y si llegase el caso q^{e} estos Indios se aumentan por la emigracion a todas sus respectivas naciones como q^{e} es muy probable si no se les impiden pueden formar un cuerpo q^{e} juntado con los Indios nativos del pais será muy formidable y en mi concepto sumam^{te} peligrosa a toda la frontera de esta Estado y la de Tamaulipas.

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR VIESCA

EXMO SOR

Por el articulo 32 de la Ley de colonizacion de este Estado fecha 24 de marzo de 1825 las nuevas poblaciones son libres "de toda contribucion como se denomine" a excepcion de los casos mencionadas en dha ley.

El papel Sellado es una contribucion q no esta exceptuado y por consiguiente no se pueda cobrar su importe de los nuevos pobladores, pero sinembargo se ha mandado cobrarlo en la nueva poblacion qe yo he contratado con el Gob^{no} en la misma manera qe en los demas puntos del Estado y considerando esta medida contrario á la ley

antes citado, me hallo en la nesesidad presentar esta consulta a V. E. en obsequio de mi deber a los nuevos pobladores y con el fin de reclamar le observancia de la ley en la materia y suplico la aclaracion del punto que a V. E. parce justo y conveniente

Para cumplir con la ley gral de papel sellado, me parece qu se pueda entregar para el uso de la nueva poblacion la cantidad de papel sellado qe sea necesario, a su costo intrinsico y no a su valor nominal de este modo se cumple con la citada ley gral y tambien con las leyes de Colonizacion

Dios y Libertad Saltillo 14 de Noviembre 1827

Exmo Sor

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Exmo Sor Gobdor. del Estado de Cuahuila y Texas C. Jose Maria Viesca

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J. M. VIESCA TO AGUSTIN VIESCA

Saltillo Novr. 20 de 1827.

Mi amadisimo hermº. Agustin: esta solo sirve pa. recommendarte eficasmte á mi amº el ciudadano Estevan Austin á fin de qe. coperes [coöperes] pr. cuantos medios estén á tu alcanse al buen exito de algunos negocios q. puedan ofrecersele en esa capital, y de q. te instruira á su ves. Entiendo q. va tendras algunas noticias del caracter y circunstancias del mensionado S. Austin, mas no obstante añadiré q. pr. su adhesion á nuestro pais, sus positivos servicios de mucho interes pª este Estado, y aun pª la republica toda pr. la conducta q. observo con su colonia, en la rebolucion q. nos havia suscitado Adam Eduaro, y pr. su formal y fino trato en lo privado, es un sujeto delo mas recomendable, y como tal digno de toda la atencion, y aprecio.

Reitero mi credido afecto á tu Pepa á sus niños, y á ti en los termª correspondientes á tu apasionado hermº

J. Mª [VIESCA] [Rubric]

HADEN EDWARDS TO———[1]

[*No. 5*]

de ellos por las tierras, a pesar de la esposicion de la ley dada por Bastrop, y de la que el nos habia informado, segun arriba ya queda dicho; mientras que el vendia las tierras bajo de una ley sin duda solamente para el solo, en la que le declaraba el derecho de hacerlo ási, y por esto las Gazetas en este Pays dicen, que todos los actos

[1] The first four pages of this letter are missing. Compare biographical statements concerning Bastrop with the latter's will, January 17, 1827.

echos por Austin, todos han sido confirmados por el Gobierno; ademas sus concesiones se estendian hasta las inmediaciones de S^nta^. Jacinta, por el Junto de Sn. Antonio, segun Bastrop el que sin duda se hallaba autorizado para este efecto, aunque yo mas bien creo, que el lo que hacia, era el faltar a los principios de la ley constitucional. Dieron las concesiones a una multitud de familias a la parte del oriente de S^nta^. Jacinta, violando de este modo las leyes de su adoptiva Nacion, y a pesar de todo esto sus actos todos han sido aprobados. En seguida Austin paso a Mexico, para conseguir la coroboracion de sus concesiones, y al mismo tiempo declarando alli a algunos Americanos amigos, y conocidos suyos del Norte, sus proyectos favoritos de separar la provincia de Texas del Gobierno Mexicano, y hacerla independiente, ó agregarla a los Estados Unidos del Norte America, luego que pudiese obtener el numero suficiente de populacion. Este igualmente era el proyecto favorito de su amigo, y compañero el Baron de Bastrop, el que siempre que nos visitaba en el Saltillo, no cesaba de hablarnos bien mal de los Mexicanos, y de su Gobierno. Yo le escuchaba con apparente approbacion, pero era con el intento de fixar la resolucion de impedir, y contrarrestar sus inicuos e injustos planes, todo lo que puedo justificar, luego que el Gobierno me lo mande con cien testigos de mis compatriotas, los que saben muy bien lo mucho que he trabajado en honor de esa Nacion, impidiendo en quanto me sea posible, que estos maquiabelicos planes se verifiquen, aconsejando a todas estas familias Ricas, y decentes que traten de emigrarse quanto antes puedan, y que los que nos combiene para nuestra completa felicidad, es no solo fixar nuestra residencia bajo la ciega obediencia, y proteccion del Gobierno Mexicano; si no es tambien permanecer fieles, sumisos, y constantes, ágregados á el, sin permitir, que discolo alguno altere la tranquilidad, y reposo del Gobierno Mexicano. Pero la desgracia es Señor, que en el dia, el Gobierno sin duda mal informado, ó [a]caso mejor engañado; tiene cerradas las puertas de su Nacion á todas las personas, que no solamente han trabajado, trabajan, y trabajarán por la prosperidad, ó integridad de la Ylustre Nacion Mexicana, sino es, que tambien estan prontos á dejar la ultima gota de la sangre de su cuerpo, por la integridad, defensa, y derechos sagrados de ella; á estos benemeritos, y dignos ciudadanos, es a quien digo, que hoy se les tiene cerradas las puertas de la Nacion, las tiene bien abiertas, y francas para sus mas hipocrita, y, sanguinarios enemigos, a los que si el Gobierno no vigila, el dia menos pensado, y de mas calma, les dará un gran chasco, y muy malos ratos, pues que sus infames planes aun no han cesado. Haora en pocas palabras voy a manifestar el Gobierno la conducta, y reputacion de Austin en este Nacion, y en particular en la provincia donde el ha vivido, y de la que ultimamente se ha emigrado a esa de Texas.

Austin en este Nacion esta señalado, y reputado aun por la mayor parte de sus conocidos, por un hombre artificioso, y bien cargado de deudas, y en su propia provincia de lo que paso a esa; la mejor opinion que tienes de un bribon trapacista, y estafador de caudales agenos, habiendo tomado los caudales fiados, y prestados, con raterias, y embustes de todos quantos amigos pudo, buscando a otros para que diesen fiansas, y credito pues el por si es bien claro que no le tenia, haciendolos a todos falsos, e imaginarios combenios que jamas cumplira, y los que despues ellos han sido obligados a pagar por el, sin esperanza alguna, ni seguridad de volverlo jamas a recibir. Creo que el congreso se acordara muy bien de la peticion echa por el, para conceder doce años de suspension por las deudas contrahidas en los Estados Unidos del Norte America, laque tan honorificamente fue desechada por ese tan respetable, y sabio Gobierno.

Haora voy en pocas lineas a manifestar al Gobierno con la misma pureza, y verdad, que con Austin la conducto escandaloso de su intimo amigo el Baron de Bastrop. En el año 1795 se presento al Baron de Caronollet [Carondolet] Gobernador de la Nueva Orleans por el Gobierno Español, al que con falsos documentos le dixo, y hizo creer que era un Baron de la Nobleza de Holanda, emigrandose a este pays huyendo de las garras de Napoleon, el que le habia confiscado todos sus bienes y propiedades, el Baron de Carondt creyo que era tal Baron, y en su consequencia el tal Bastrop obtuvo del una larga concesion de tierras, haciendo al mismo tiempo con el un ventajosa contrato de harina induciendome a mi mismo a que me uniese a el, pues que al presente el no tenia caudales ni fondos, hasta que el manifestado sus papeles a los Negociantes de los Estados Unidos del Norte quando el recibo un credito de 400,000 mil pesos fuertes, y adquiriria ademas a todo costa una accion sobre los fondos publicos del comercio de su pays, cuio cantidad o valor ascendia a la suma de setenta mil pesos fuertes en letras de cambio sobre los Bancos de Holanda en los que habia dejado depositados treinta mil libras esterlinas quando se fugo de las garras de Bonaparte: pero lo mas particular, y estraordinario es, que quando las letras, ó libranzas de cambio del tal Bastrop, fueron presentados por negociantes a los Banqueros de Holanda, les contestaron, que ni los podian pagar, ni que conocian al tal Bastrop para nada, ni que jamas habian oydo hablar de tal titulo en su Nacion, o dominios, y por consiguiente suponemos, que el tal Baron de Bastrop no era otro cosa, sino un aventurero, impostor, y Estafador de caudales de hombre de bien, y en su consequencia todos infelices que le dieron estas cantidades, todo lo perdieron, y en seguida yo mismo, y otros muchos le abandonamos, lamentandonos de nuestra desgraciada suerte, y aun de la suya misma, el que luego se huyo de esta Nacion, a esa,

y jamas por mas de veinte años volvimos á oir hablar del sus acredores. Todo lo espuesto en este memorial al Gobierno, se acreditara en forma, y con la mayor evidencia quando el gusto mandar sus ordenes. Juntamente declaro al Gobierno, que los unicos motivos que me exitan a manifestar todo lo que arriba llevo dicho, es ageno de malicia, y solamente es por la felicidad, y bien del Gobierno Mexicano, y de todos los habitantes de su Nacion, y juntamente por la justa acrisolacion de mi ónor y derechos. Me hallo estrechamente obligado por muchos á reclamar estos derechos aunque yo conosco que el magnanimo Congreso, me hara justicia sin semejantes medidas, y si asi no lo hisiese, me queda la agradable satisfacion de poseer caudales que solo me pertenecen a mi, fuera y libre de toda conciencia. Señor soy justo, puro, y neto Republicano, y no deseo otra cosa mas que verdad, justicia, paz y Libertad en Mexico. He viejado seys meses por algunos Estados, y estoy haora en donde la Compañia de Leftwich reside clamando las concesiones: Ellos estan tan completamente desanimados, que algunos quieren rendir sus intereses por diez pesos, aunque les ha costado mas de 800 á cada uno.

Todo esto que espongo es por el sincero deseo; que tengo por la prosperidad del Gobierno Mexicano, segun, que asi le consta, y en varias vezes selo tengo dicho, no obstante a todos los perjuicios, que en el dia existen contra mi, y de los que por haora no tengo esperanzas, de restaurar de nuevo. La sentencia solamente, que me fue anticipada a tan ardua empresa, y la que me emvolvio en tantas privaciones, y exposiciones, fue la entera aprobacion del Gobierno Mexicano, y gratitud de mis paysanos, por la colocacion de ellos en tan deseado pays, y sobre tan ventajosos terminos.

El premio de las tierras como moderada recompensa, por mis trabajos, y tiempo. La riqueza nunca fue mi favorable ansiedad, y si asi hubiera pensado seria en el dia bien grande, y la sola estimacion que hize de ella, fue la gratificacion, y generosidad con que soccorria las necesidades de mis paysanos.

Dios, y Libertad, el que deseo que su vida muchos anos. Nashville 22 de Noviembre de 1827

HADEN EDWARDS [Rubric]

STEPHEN RICHARDSON TO [PRESIDENT?] [1]

Estevan Richardson ciudadano constitucionalm^te^ naturalizado del Estado de Quahuila y Texas, y habitante de la villa de San Felipe de Austin en el Departamento de Texas con todo el debido respecto hace presente a V. E. q^e^ animado por deseos beneficos hacia sus

[1] The document is in Austin's handwriting.

conci[u]dadanos del Estado de Yucatan, y en consequencia de la provedencia y espresa invitacion del Exmo Sor Presidente de 4 de Julio del año 1826 en q^{e} " se excita a los Gobernadores de los Estados litorales de la mar del norte para q^{e} sus habitantes acudan a las necesidades del de Yucatan " por la introduccion en dho Estado de viveres y particularmente de mais, y encargando el Gob^{or} de este Estado " dictar con el celo q^{e} le es propio las providencias q^{e} estime mas convenientes p^{a} q^{e} los habitantes de este Estado entiendan la utilidad q^{e} pueden esperar de sus especulaciones dirijiendolas a aquel punto en q^{e} escasean los frutos y se logre asi el objeto indicado " [1]

En virtud pues de esta espresa y urgente invitacion el q^{e} suscribe luego q^{e} vio la citada orden publicada en la villa de San Felipe de Austin determino emprender una especulacion a Campeche cargando al efecto una Goleta de mais y manteca todo producto del Departamento de Texas en este Estado. y fleto la goleta chiquita Zoe su capitan Guillermo Chace y dio vela desde el rio de los Brazos en Texas con un cargamento de 600 sacos de mais y una barrica de manteca con destinacion a Campeche. Como consta del pasaporte del Sor Gefe Politico del Departam^{to} de Texas Ciuda^{no} Jose Anto^{no} Saucedo que original va agregado y marcada con el N° 1—y el manifiesto del cargamento cuyo original tambien va agregado con el N° 8

Al llegar al puerto de Campeche El administrador de la aduana de aquel puerto me ordeno salir en el termino de 48 horas sin permitir desembarcar ó vender nada de mi cargamento como consta al pie del citado pasaporte y copia certificada del oficio orden del mencionado administrador Manuel de Ytuarte fecha 17 de Nov^{bre} del mencionado año q^{e} tambien va agregada y marcada con el N° 2, y sin embargo q^{e} constaba por mi pasaporte antes mencionado y el oficio del Gefe de Texas q^{e} el capitan del puerto incerto en su oficio mencionado año q^{e} tambien va agregada y marcada con el N° 2, y al administrador q^{e} va agregado marcado N° 3 q^{e} mi cargamento no era productos estrangeros sino mexicanos y q^{e} yo havia llevado a Campeche en consequencia de espresa invitacion del Exmo Presidente, el dicho administrador persistio en su primera orden como consta en contestacion al capitan del puerto q^{e} va agregada y marcada con el N° 4

En consequencia de esta orden me hallé en la dura necesidad de salir del mencionado puerto sin vender nada de mi cargamento, y me dirigi al puerto de Tampico de pueblo v[iej]o con la esperanza de

[1] A federal law of March 29, 1827, permitted the introduction of corn into Yucatan during years of scarcity, with ten per cent exemption from duty.—Dublan y Lozana, *Legislacion Mexicana*, II, 7.

poder vender mi cargamento alli, pero despues de mas de un mes de detencion alli tuvé q^{e} echar todo mi cargamento en el mar por ser podrido, proq^{a} todos mis esfuerzos p^{a} conseguir permiso p^{a} venderlo eran inutiles como consta los papeles marcados 5. 6. y 7—de manera q^{e} el resultado de mi viage ha sido una perdida total de mi cargamento de 600 sacos de mais y una Barrica de manteca. y el flete de la goleta a la razon de $200 por mes y demas gastos con perjuicio a mis intereses particulares la cantidad de dos mil 450 pesos como consta de la adjunta cuenta marcada N° 9—

Considerando pues q^{e} tenia derecho de desembarcar y vender en Campeche mi referido cargam^{to} en virtud de la suprema orden de 4 de Julio de 1826, y q^{e} el administrador de aquella aduana obró mal en prohibir me hacerlo, y q^{e} en consequencia he sufrido una perdida de 2450 pesos injustamente, me presento a V. E. y pido q^{e} se tomo las circumstancias del caso en su alta consideracion y q^{e} se dictan las providencias q^{e} se estime justas y convenientes para reembolsarme la perdida q^{e} he sufrido, en la parte de ella q^{e} se considere justo—por tanto.

A. V E. pido se sirva acceder á mi solicitud que es de just^{a} pero no ser malicia y lo necs^{o} &c.

Salt.^{o} de Nov.^{e} de 1827.

600 sacos de mais costo en Texas 6 reales cada saco y valor en Campeche dos pesos cada saco son	1200.00
1 Barrica de manteca de tres quintals costo 1½ reals la libra en Texas—valor en Campeche 4 reales la libra—son	150.00
Flete de la Goleta 3 meses q^{e} duro el viaje desde q^{e} salio de los Brazos hasta su vuelta a la razon de 200 por cada mes son	600.00
Perjuico q^{e} he recibdio en consequencia de mi largo aucencia de mis negocios y la falta de mi capital	500.00
	2450.00

John Hinkson to Austin

December the 1—Austins Colony
1827—District of Colorado

Dear Sir in Consequence of your absence and the Commissiners I have Bin unable to procure my Land and my Business Compells me to go to new orleans Before your Return and if you will confer the Favour on me to Reserve my land untill the twentieth of July next I will Return By that time and make you promp payment Mr Rosin Aalley will survey it and make Return thereof to you if you will grant the above mentioned favour it will forever Be Acknowledged By me I am yours with Respect—

John Hinkson

Stephen F Austin

MANUEL CEBALLOS TO PADILLA

Mejico 5 de Diciembre de 1827

Sor D. JUAN ANTONIO PADILLA

Mi finisimo buen amigo. Contestando á sus dos gratas de 12 y 19 del pasado q recibi juntas en el anterior correo en union de las atestaciones de su recomendado D. Estevan Richardson, las satisfago por partes diciendo: q con relacion ála 1ª ocurri sin perdida de tiempo al Ministerio de Relaciones donde me participa V. elevó su Justa queja el agraviado, á fin de q se le indemnize del Mais perdido q transportó á Campeche, y al efecto pasé al Ministerio de Hacienda, desde donde se han hecho por este correo las reclamaciones á aquel Admor de Marina, quien de antemano ya se habia exculpado con significar q le habian faltado documentos al referido Richardson con que legitimar su comercio de Cabotage, pero ya hoy se le repite exponga si es cierto q presentó todos los q identifica en su reclamo pª con su respuesta obligarlo á la debida indemnizacion ó absolverlo en caso contrario; cuyo resultado comunicaré á V. oportunamente—

Recibi carta de su amigo y mio, q lo será, segun sus obras, el Sor D Estevan Austin, á quien con esta fha le satisfago á su afectuosa.

Luego que llegue el Paisano Ramon Flores mandaré á V. con él el Diccionario de la lengua Castellana, y la Coleccion integra de los Decretos y Ordenes del Congreso Mejicano.

Por lo que respecta á la segunda, quedo entendido de no haber padecido extravio el Pasaporte de su recomendado; é igualmente de haberse desvanecido las desconfianzas de lo acaecido en Galbeston; ojalá y asi sea siempre para que nuestras fronteras prosperen en el seno de la paz que es la unica q produce el incalculable bien de la abundancia!

Aun no há llegado nuestro Flores, y descuide V. de q con el irán los pasados encargos y los cuatro calendarios de bolsa de los mejores agrimensores para q no bayá V. a tener la desgracia q otros en encontrarse con equibocos en lugar de apuntaciones fijas

Suplico á V. me haga la gracia de poner en manos de mi hermano la adjunta, y de significarme si la pasada se entregó á mi hermana Da. Margarita Viuda de Jose Maria mi hermano, pues han dado en extraviarse por el correo, y quiero asegurarlas por el conducto de V.

Las novedades de Oajaca y Puebla siguen cada dia estraviando mas la opinion, como podrá V. verlo mas circunstanciado en los periodicos, sin haber sido otro el principio, q haberse sobrepuesto las gavillas á la soberania de los Estados, y aun quizá á la general de la

Nacion: Dios quiera q habran los ojos y retrocedan al orden, como no cesa de pedirselo este su afectisimo amigo y Capn. q

B. S. M.—Manuel Ceballos

Es Copia—

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Padilla to Austin

Saltillo 19 de Diciembre de 1827.

Sr. D. Esteban F. Austin

Estimad^mo^ Amigo mio:

No habia antes escrito á V. pr. mis muchas ocupaciones, lo hago ahora acompañandole copia de la que hoy hé recibido de Sr. Senador Ceballos, por la que verá el estado en que se halla el negocio de nro recomendado el Sr. Esteban Richardson. Tengo las mas lisongeras esperanzas de que este asunto se termine satisfactoriamente: y tendre especial cuidado de comunicarle las resultas.

Porla misma Carta verá V. la aceptacion que ha hecho en su carta el Sr. Ceballos; yo me prometo que cultivando V. su amistad, le será de mucha utilidad y beneficio para esa nueva colonia por q^u^ há dado V. tantas pruebas de filantropia, y beneficencia.

Hoy há sido nombrado Dn. Ramon Musquiz para Gefe de ese Departam^to^ y se han expedido las ordenes correspondientes. Dios quiera darle acierto en su gobierno departamental, y con beneficio de sus habitantes.

Conviene que V. se informe á fondo sobre si por el desemboque del arroyo dela Baca hacen el contrabando el Empresario Green de Witt, y sus colonos, y comuniqueme lo que pueda aclarar sobre este particular con toda franqueza, pues hay quien asegure que este es el motibo de su permanencia en el punto que ocupa.

Tambien conviene que V. me diga si los habitantes delos aiz estan ó no dentro delas veinte leguas limitrofes, y qual es la opinion que se tiene de las providencias del Coronel Piedras com^te^ de Nacogdoches sobre juram^to^ de la constitucion federal, y del Estado, y expulsion de criminales y vagos, etc Este punto y el anterior demandan reserva.

Conservese V. con toda salud, y haciendo presentes mis respetos a los Amigos de la humanidad, q pr. esto lo son mios, mande lo que guste á su ato. sego. servor. y Amigo.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

IGNACIO DE ARISPE TO ———

I, the citizen Ignacio de Arispe, hereby duly certify: That during the time I was governor pro:tem, of this State, citizen Stephen F. Austin, empresario of a colony in the department of Texas, obtained the highest opinion from the Government for his honor, love to his country and perfect discharge of the duties of his enterprise—

The same citizen Stephen F. Austin contributed most eficaciously placing himself at the head of his colonists in beating the rebels of Nacogdoches in the month of January of the present year, having united his forces to the Mexican troops by which movement their dispersion was obtained, and the death of several of their ringleaders, by which the order and tranquility of the frontier were restored.

And I give the present document for the purposes of the interested person in the Villa of Saltillo on the 21st Dec'r 1827—

Signd IGNACIO DE ARISPE

AUSTIN TO SAUCEDO[1]

Yncluyo á V. S. el testimonio de la acta del juramento de la Constitucion del Estado q[e] V. S. me devolvio por q[e] no fue extendido en papel sellado.

Por falta de papel comun no me es posible contestar á los oficios de V. S. q[e] encontre en este archivo á mi regreso pero por el correo proximo contestare á todos.

Dios y Libertad. Villa de Austin, Decr 29 de 1827.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor. Gefe del Dep[to] C. Jose Antonio Saucedo

AUSTIN TO DILLARD

Stephen F. Austin In a/c. with N. Dillard

1827

To one Beaver Hat	$15.00
To one Cloak	30.00
To one piece of Irish linen	19.50
To 3 yds Irish Sheeting /2/	6.00
To Sugar	50.00
	$120.50
Error in Linen	8.50
	$129.00

[1] Appendix to Empresario Contracts, vol. 54, p. 111, General Land Office (Texas).

AUSTIN TO GILBERT

Stephen F. Austin to Preston Gilbert Dr—

1827

To hauling 5 loads of lumber from the San Bernard to San Felipe at $16.00 per load	$80.00
Cr. by	27.94
To Balance Due	52.06

settled in a/c with S. F. Austin 1st March 1832

PRESTON GILBERT

BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Bahia del Espiritu Stº 28 1827.

Ciudº FELIPE AUSTIN

Mi muy apreciable amigo: el ciudº William Russell me presento la grata de V. de 13 del presente y en contestacion, tengo el sentimiento de decirle a V. qe no esta en mis facultades remediar los males de qe trata su citada Carta; pues estos son del resorte y conocimiento de la autoridad civil; mas sin embargo ya he oficiado al Governador del Estº Coahuiltejano suplicandole qe se vendan los efectos qe estan embargados con lo qe las tropas podran proveerse de los viveres necesarios, y los dueños de ellos aprovecharan su importe en el caso de qe se los devuelvan como jusgo sucedera; pues de otra manera pudriendose dichos efectos nadie los aprovechara ni aun el Tesoro Nacional en el caso de qe se declaren legalmente decomisados.

Las reflexiones de V. sobre la Ley de 29 de Septiembre de 1823, y sobre la de 20 de Mayo de 24 son fundadas y creo qe esta ultima dexo un hueco para dudas y devió eceptuar terminantemente a Tejas; pero el Decreto de qe acompañé á V. un exemplar supone vijente dicha Ley de 24 y derogada la de 23 por qe si no lo estuviese esta seria escusado qe el Congreso facultase al Govierno para qe se introduxesen viveres en este Departamento contratados por su cuenta sobre todo yo jusgo qe seria muy vueno qe los dueños de los efectos embargados nombrasen sus respectivos apoderados para representar sus derechos adonde corresponda. Esta es mi opinion repito me es muy sencible qe el remedio de estos males no esté en mis atrivuciones; pues deseo qe á todo hombre se le haga justicia y huviera apreciado haver podido complacer á V. en esta vez como su adicto conciudadano y amigo qe lo estima deveras

Anastº Bustamtº [Rubric]

CALENDAR OF AUSTIN PAPERS HERE PRINTED, 1765–1827.

Genealogical notes on the Austin family, 1765–1836.

Maria Austin to Moses Austin, Richmond, Va., August 24, 1789.

Moses Austin. Remarks on casting shot, August 1, 1791.

Thomas Ruston to Moses Austin, Philadelphia, June 1, 1794. Land speculations in Virginia.

Thomas Ruston to Moses Austin, Philadelphia, September 23, 1794. Virginia land warrants and other speculations.

Thomas Ruston to Joseph Burr, November 2, 1794. Speculation in Virginia lands.

Thomas Ruston to Moses Austin, November 14, 1794. Sample of copperas. Speculation in Virginia lands.

Moses and Stephen Austin to Blanchard and Lauman, March 16, 1795. Agreement in Virginia land speculations.

Moses and Stephen Austin to John G. Blanchard and George Lauman, March 16, 1795. Agreement to sell Virginia land.

Statement of account. Blanchard and Lauman to M. Austin, March 16, 1795. Land speculations.

Moses Austin to Stephen Austin, March 16, 1795. Statement of account with Blanchard and Lauman.

Statement of account. Moses Austin with Blanchard and Lauman, March 16, 1795. Virginia lands.

Thomas Ruston to Moses Austin, May 6, 1795. Virginia land.

Thomas Ruston to Moses Austin, May 11, 1795. Virginia lands and lead mines. Stephen Austin operating in England, preparing to bring lead miners.

John D. Blanchard to Austin, Philadelphia, May 17, 1795. Financial depression. Relations with Ruston. Stephen Austin's operations in England.

Thomas Norvell to M. Austin, Richmond, November 9, 1795. Concerning slaves which Austin wishes to purchase. Connections with Blanchard and Lauman.

Lead shipment of M. Austin & Co., November 11, 1795.

James Newell to M. Austin, November 20, 1795. Virginia land business.

James Newell to M. Austin, November 20, 1795. Virginia land business.

Statement of account. M. Austin and George Lauman, November 28, 1795.

Statement of account. M. Austin and Blanchard and Lauman, January 20, 1796.

Gov. Robert Brooke to M. Austin, March 23, 1796. Captain's commission in Virginia militia.

Partnership agreement, April 20, 1796. Moses Austin, Parsons Bates, and Thomas Norvell. Button factory at Richmond.

Partnership agreement. Ste. Genevieve, Mo., January 26, 1797, Moses Austin, Pierre Charles de Hault de Lassus, François Vallé, and John Rice Jones, to mine and manufacture lead in case Austin's petition for 16 square leagues around the mines of Ste. Genevieve is granted.

François Vallé to M. Austin, January 27, 1797. Agreement to grant land to the 30 families which Austin is to bring to Ste. Genevieve from Virginia.

Partnership agreement, February 24, 1797. Moses Austin and William Shreve, of Frederick County, Md. Shreve to construct and manage an iron furnace on Austin's grant at Ste. Genevieve. Commerce.

William Shreve to M. Austin, Fredericktown, June 15, 1797. Found no indication of iron in his exploration at Ste. Genevieve, so that contract of February 2 is void.

Moses and Stephen Austin, dissolving partnership, June 15, 1797.

Stephen Austin to James Austin, Philadelphia, June 29, 1797. Management of lead mines.

Passport. Martinez de Yrujo to M. Austin, July 13, 1797.

Moses Austin to Judather Kendall and Elias Bates [Dec. —, 1797]. Instructions for building furnaces and sawmill, and purchasing waste ore from old workings.

Charles Austin to Moses Austin, June 18, 1798. Transmitting bill for goods and expenses incurred by Moses Austin in his move to Missouri.

Stephen Austin to James Austin, New Haven, September 12, 1798. Yellow fever epidemic. Purchase of horses, etc.

Stephen Austin to James Austin, Philadelphia, November 16, 1798. Yellow fever epidemic. John Read, Daniel Hall, etc.

Stephen Austin to James Austin, Philadelphia, December 24, 1798. Introducing Daniel Hall and Harry Elliot.

Stephen Austin to James Austin, Philadelphia, January 24, 1799. Purchase of supplies.

Price list, February 19, 1799. Moses Austin & Co., bought of Bryan & Morrison, Kaskaskia.

Moses Austin to Lieut. Gov. DeLassus, August 17, 1799. Petition to be put in possession of his grant. Reply of DeLassus.

Bill for ferriage, November 11, 1799. Moses Austin due to Prue & Co.

Moses Austin to Lieut. Gov. DeLassus, February 5, 1800. Reviewing terms of his grant at Ste. Genevieve, the delay in putting him in possession and the damage being done the mines by ignorant practices of the local inhabitants. He has built a sawmill, a grain mill, and a furnace and wants possession before the people ruin his property.

Memorandum concerning debt, April, 1800.

Antoine Soulard to M. Austin, May 1, 1800. Concerning survey of Austin's grant. Advises compromise to save difficulty.

Lead shipments, Ste. Genevieve, May 28, 1800.

Antoine Soulard to M. Austin, June 30, 1800. Concerning survey of Austin's grant. Claims of other inhabitants.

Antoine Soulard to M. Austin, October 19, 1800. Concerning survey and title.

M. Austin to Lieut. Gov. DeLassus, November 12, 1800. Petition for order on Soulard for delivery of certificate of survey.

DeLassus to Soulard. Fragment of order.

Charles Austin to Moses Austin, Austinville, December 8, 1800. Value of property at lead mines.

T. Bellier to M. Austin, December 22, 1800. Order for 10 piastres.

Inventory of Virginia property of Stephen and Moses Austin [Jan. 10, 1801].

Charles Austin to M. Austin, January 10, 1801. Concerning property in Virginia.

Statement of Stephen Austin [Jan. 10, 1801?] concerning the business of Stephen and Moses Austin in Virginia.

Price list, January 22, 1801. M. Austin in account with George and John Fisher.

Antoine Soulard to M. Austin, February 17, 1801. Inclosing certificate of survey. Advice about procedure in New Orleans to obtain title.

Pierre Menard to François Janis, Kaskaskia, February 26, 1801. Commerce.

Antoine Soulard to M. Austin, February 27, 1801. Concerning Austin's trip to New Orleans. Surveyor's charges.

Price list. M. Austin in account with François Vallé, March 14, 1801.

Horse trading between Louisiana and Texas, March 24, 1801.

Journal of voyage down the Mississippi River by Moses Austin, April 12–May 3, 1801. Traffic on the Mississippi and Ohio.

Moses Austin in account with William Stephen, June 2, 1801. Commerce.

James Irwin to James Austin, Statesville, N. C., July 1, 1801. Inquires price of lead. Barter.

Way bills, July 2, 1801.

Thomas Hockley to Moses Austin, September 1, 1801. Sale of sugar.

Bill and price list, October 26, 1801. Pascal Detchemendy in account with Moses Austin.

Financial statement, October 31, 1801. Sugar shipped from New Orleans to Philadelphia on account of Kaskaskia merchant.

John Stuart to Moses Austin, December 5, 1801. Receipt for consignment of lead to be sold at Louisville, Ky.

Pierre Menard to ———, Kaskaskia, January 13, 1802. Commerce.

Pierre Menard to ———, January 25, 1802. Commerce.

Price list. Peter Le Croix in account with M. Austin, April 7, 1802. Commerce.

Pierre DeLassus de Luziere to M. Austin, July 31, 1802. Concerning a petition for permit to establish a powder mill.

M. Austin to Mr. Paskall, October 11, 1802. Due bill.

M. Austin to Mr. Jinkins, November 12, 1802. Lead.

Pierre DeLassus De Luziere to M. Austin, March 3, 1803. Answering two letters from Austin, one concerning certain business with Pierre Schouteau and the other concerning a passport which Austin desires and can not obtain.

Abraham Armstrong to Moses Austin, April 1, 1803. Contract for carpentering.

Bill and price list, July, 1803. George Fisher in account with Moses Austin & Co.

Moses Austin to James Richardson, August 2, 1803. Suggesting a demonstration by American residents celebrating the taking over of government in Missouri by the French.

Moses Austin to Antoine Soulard, August 4, 1803. Concerning misrepresentations against Austin by an unknown person. Austin's opinion of Thomas Madden.

Moses Austin to Aaron Elliott, August 18, 1803. Seeking settlement with S. Austin. Cession of Louisiana, opportunity for young men.

William Reed to M. Austin, September 25, 1803. Concerning hire of Negro.

Invoice of goods sent to mines by Moses Austin, September, 1803. Commerce.

Bill and price list. William Morse in account with Moses Austin & Co., November 18, 1803.

Joseph D'uelle to Charles McDormitt, December 3, 1803. Permit to settle on land.

Antoine Soulard to Moses Austin, January 3, 1804. Concerning two letters of Mr. Jones; a bill against Austin; survey of Watkins's land.

Moses Austin to Antoine Soulard, January 20, 1804. Concerning the arbitrary transactions of Thomas Madden, surveyor.

Moses Austin to ———, May 12, 1804. Bill.

Moses Austin to Daniel Phelps, June 10, 1804. Instructions concerning education of Stephen F. Austin in New England.

Moses Austin to George Fisher, July 29, 1804. Statement of account.

Moses Austin to Stephen F. Austin, December 16, 1804. Advice as to education, associates, etc.

Moses Austin to ———. Letter to Stephen F. Austin's tutor.

Invoice and price list, Marietta, June 8, 1805.

M[oses Austin?] to Benjamin Ives Gilman, June 8, 1805. Note, payable in lead.

Will C. Carr to Moses Austin, June 16, 1805. Order for payment of $59.79.

Transportation charges, July 8, 1805. Alexander McNair to Moses Austin.

Moses Austin to Gen. James Wilkinson, July 22, 1805. Efforts of John Smith to cause the removal of Austin from office. Austin's aims.

Bill and price list, July 30, 1805. Peter Menard in account with Moses Austin & Co.

Quit-claim deed, September 14, 1805. Pierre DeLassus De Luzierre to Moses Austin.

Bill and price list, December 8, 1805. Charles Boyer bought of Moses Austin.

Moses and James Austin to Falconer and Comegys, January 17, 1806. Note of hand.

Bill and price list, January 17, 1806. Moses and James Austin bought of Falconer & Comegys.

Merchant's license, February 6, 1806.

William Morrison to Nathan Pusey, April 1, 1806. Purchase of goods in New Orleans.

William C. Carr to Moses Austin, June 28, 1806. Antedated mining surveys and titles.

Bill and price list, March 30, 1806. Charles McDermit in account with Moses Austin.

Moses Austin to Andrew Henry, July 4, 1806. Asking protection against an attack by Col. Smith.

Moses Austin to Andrew Henry, July 4, 1806. Demand for protection in retaining a 3-pounder.

H. Austin to J. Bryant [Bryan?] [July —, 1806]. Concerning the attack on Austin's house on the 4th.

James Gallagher & Sons to Moses Austin, July 16, 1806. Concerning debt.

Moses Austin to John Smith T, August 7, 1806. Concerning Smith's mistreatment of himself.

Will C. Carr to Moses Austin, August 12, 1806. Opinion of Austin's procedure with John Smith T. Rufus Easton's attack on Donaldson, one of the Land Commissioners.

Moses Austin to [Albert Gallatin?] [About August, 1806?] Describing conditions in Missouri; dissatisfaction with Gen. Wilkinson's administration as governor; complaints against the land commissioners; and suggesting amendment of the land law by Congress.

Moses Austin to public [1806?]. Warning public that his Mine à Breton grant was confirmed, and that John Smith T could not give title for it.

Memorandum of agreement to sell land [1806?].

Bill and price list, February 11, 1807. Peter Menard in account with Moses Austin & Co.

Carpenter's prices. Ruggles to Moses Austin, March 17, 1807.

Frederick Bates to Moses Austin, et al., May 30, 1807. Concerning militia organization.

Moses Austin to John Francis Mericult, June 20, 1807. Adjustment of account.

Bill of exchange, June 28, 1807. Moses Austin to Elias Austin Elliott.

Dan Bissell to Moses Austin, July 6, 1807. Concerning trip by Mrs. Austin.

Timothy Phelps to Moses Austin, July 22, 1807. Congratulating Austin on his intentions, and advising self-control. Lead business.

Timothy Phelps to Moses Austin, August 6, 1807. General business; Austin's interests.

Charles Elliott to Moses Austin, August 11, 1807. Furs, corn, lead.

Timothy Phelps to Moses Austin, August 17, 1807. Arrangement to bring family from Connecticut. Subscription for academy.

Horace Austin to Moses Austin, Middletown, Conn., August 20, 1807. Emigration to Missouri.

Horace Austin to Moses Austin, August 24 [1807]. Prospect of war with England.

Bill and price list, September 10, 1807. Aaron Elliott bought of Moses Austin.

Duff Chadwell to Moses Austin, September 11, 1807. Order for shot.

Frederick Bates to Moses Austin, September 11, 1807. Commission to administer oath.

Frederick Bates to Moses Austin, September 12, 1807. Relations with John Smith T.

Timothy Phelps to Moses Austin, September 28, 1907. Lead business.

Moses Austin's postage account, September 30, 1807.

Bill and price list, October [25], 1807. Aaron Elliott in account with Moses Austin & Co.

Bill and price list, October 25, 1807. Moses Austin in account with Aaron Elliott.

Timothy Phelps to Moses Austin, November 28, 1807. Travel. Commerce.

Moses Austin to L. V. Hawkins, December 10, 1807. Note payable in lead.

John Adams, preceptor Colchester Bacon Academy, January 7, 1808. Certificate of scholarship and conduct for Stephen F. Austin.

Receipt for ore, February 12, 1808.

Joseph Ficklin to Moses Austin, Russellville, Ky., February 18, 1808. Less attention to slanders.

Bill and price list, February 27, 1808. Seth Hunt in account with Moses Austin.

Bill and price list, February 27, 1808. Moses Austin & Co., in account with Seth Hunt.

Moses Austin to Henry Austin, April 13, 1808. Goods in demand.

Moses Austin to ———, at Lexington, April 25, 1808. Lead shipments.

Tailoring bill, April —, 1808. Moses Austin in account with Daniel Black.

Statement [May 20, 1808]. Moses Austin in account with George Fisher.

Henry Austin to Moses Austin, July 18, 1808. The embargo.

Seth Hunt to Moses Austin, July 20, 1808. Business in New Orleans.

Moses Austin to Seth Hunt, July 25, 1808. Contract for purchase of goods in England for Austin.

Bill and price list, November 27, 1808. Austin in account with Alexander Frazer.

Moses Austin to Frederick Bates, ———— 27, 1808. Asking justice for Mathews and Hart. Confidence in the Government of the United States. Opposing appointment of John Smith T to the bench.

John G. Bond to Moses Austin, May 1, 1809. Lead and bills of exchange.

Moses Austin to Seth Hunt [May 3, 1809]. Concerning trade with England.

Moses Austin to Hart, Barton & Hart, May 3, 1809. Bills of exchange and lead.

Moses Austin to John G. Bond, May 3, 1809. Concerning credits and shipments to New York and Boston. Banking conditions.

Moses Austin to Bellows and Cochran, May 3, 1809. Same topics as in preceding letter.

Moses Austin to John Smith T, July 1, 1809. Answering abusive letter from Smith, and proposing submission of their differences to arbitration.

Hart, Barton & Hart to Moses Austin, July 18, 1809. Banking; lead sales. Stephen F. Austin at college.

Seth Hunt to Moses Austin, July 31, 1809. Trade with England.

W. Bullock to Moses Austin, August 1, 1809. Land claims in Missouri.

A. Partenay to Moses Austin, August 19, 1809. Order for lead.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, August 24, 1809. Order for $10.

Seth W. Hunt to Moses Austin, London, September 24, 1809. The embargo.

Moses Austin leasing a house to Timothy Phelps, December 26, 1809.

Darius Shaw to Moses Austin, January 21, 1810. Deed to house. Tannery, cattle, etc.

Memorandum of lead and shot, September 9, 1808–February 13, 1810.

Invoice and price list, March 1, 1810. Taylor, Wilkins & Co., bought of Jonathan Taylor & Co.

Bill and receipt, March 1, 1810. Taylor, Wilkins & Co., in account with Jonathan Taylor & Co.

Draft. Moses Austin on John Butler, March 2, 1810.

Note of hand. Moses Austin to Joseph Nye & Sons, New York, March 15, 1810.

Stephen F. Austin's certificate of attendance at Transylvania University, April 4, 1810.

John Bigby to Moses Austin, May 4, 1810. Bill of lading for lead ashes.

Robert S. Todd to Stephen F. Austin, Lexington, May 17, 1810. Classmate's letter.

Financial statement. Cost and profit of melting 18,199 pounds of ore, May 29-June 9, 1810.

Isaac Lewis Baker to Stephen F. Austin, July 1, 1810. Transylvania University. Biographical.

Bill and price list, July 2, 1810. Michael Hart in account with Moses Austin & Co.

Agreement to prospect for lead on Moses Austin's land, July 18, 1810.

Isaac L. Baker to Stephen F. Austin, August 5, 1810. Transylvania University. Student gossip.

Bill and price list, September 26, 1810. Moses Austin in account with John M. Arthur.

Manuel Salcedo to Francisco Montes, December 20, 1810. Commission as sergeant.

J. Austin to Stephen F. Austin, January 12, 1811. Order for goods.

George English to Stephen F. Austin, February 14, 1811. Order.

J. W. Cooper to Stephen F. Austin, February 24, 1811. Order.

Isaac L. Baker to Stephen F. Austin, February 25, 1811. Student friendship. Slave insurrection in New Orleans.

V. W. Love to Stephen F. Austin, March 8, 1811. Order for goods.

Peter Love to Moses Austin, March 20, 1811. Order for medicine.

Confirmation of appointment of Francisco Montes to be acting second alferez, March 26, 1811.

Bill and price list, April 1, 1811. Joel Tatum to Moses Austin & Co.

Receipt for lead, April 17, 1811. Francis Baldwin to Moses Austin.

Saddler's bill, April 24, 1811. Moses Austin to Francis Major.

Bill for hire of Negro, April 24, 1811. Moses Austin to Francis Major.

John Bowman to Stephen F. Austin, April 28, 1811. College mate's letter.

Thomas Todd to Charles Austin, May 11, 1811. Order for goods.

Moses Austin in account with Bryan and Morrison, May 25, 1811.

E. Lewis to Moses Austin, May 26, 1811. Receipt.

Bill and price list, June 4, 1811. Benj. Long to Moses Austin & Co.

Bill and price list, June 4, 1811. James Ray to Moses Austin & Co.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, June 4, 1811. Lead shipments.

Moses Austin to Peter W. Love, June 7, 1811. Concerning lead.

Lamarque to Austin, June 27, 1811. Request for medicine.

Christoval Domingues to Francisco Montes, Nacogdoches, June 28, 1811. Order to arrest one Querque. Bandits on Sabine frontier.

Dudley R. Tinker to Evans and Shields, July 8, 1811.

Bill and price list, September 12, 1811. James S. Ray to Moses Austin & Co.

William Perry to Stephen F. Austin, September 24, 1811. Order for medicine.

Bill and price list, October 5, 1811. Moses Austin to Mathew Wilson.

P. M. Guin to Stephen F. Austin, October 7, 1811. Order for goods.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, October 8, 1811. Sale of mill.

Bill and price list, November 22, 1811. John R. Starks to Moses Austin & Co.

Statement of account, Seth Hunt in account with Moses Austin & Co., November 24, 1811.

Felipe de la Garza to Juan Antonio Padilla, December 21, 1811. Concerning various commissions.

Bill and price list, December 24, 1811. Moses Austin in account with Solomon Dally.

J. W. Gready to Stephen F. Austin, December 31, 1811. Order for goods.

Felipe de la Garza to Juan Antonio Padilla, January 13, 1812. Concerning horses which he was to receive.

Samuel Davenport to José Goseascoechea, Nacogdoches, January 23, 1812. Horse trading.

Vicente Treviño to Miguel de Arcos, January 23, 1812. San Marcos (Tex.). Disposition of a consignment of sugar.

Samuel Davenport to Capt. Jose Goseazcoechea, Nacogdoches, March, 1812. Disagreement concerning contract for delivery of a drove of mules.

Ysidro de la Garza to Juan Antonio Padillo, Nacogdoches, March 19, 1812. Concerning certain statements.

Ysidro de la Garza to Juan Antonio Padilla, Nacogdoches, March 19, 1812. Inclosing certain receipts.

James Armstrong *v.* Moses Austin, April 3, 1812. Damage suit verdict.

Moses Austin to Stephen F. Austin, who is starting for Philadelphia via New Orleans, April 28, 1812. Advice for sailing down the Mississippi; clothes and department in New Orleans and Philadelphia; slave trade in Louisiana; conditions of voyage from New Orleans to Philadelphia.

Stephen F. Austin. Dairy [May 17-19, 1812?]--February, 1813. Observations on Mississippi River navigation; effects of earthquake at New Madrid; travel in Mississippi.

Moses Austin to Emily Austin, June 20, 1812.

Mrs. Maria Austin to Moses Austin, Philadelphia, June 21, 1812. Declaration of War with England. Anxiety.

Mrs. Maria Austin to Moses Austin, June 23, 1812. Anxiety over war. Danger from Indians. Price of lead in Philadelphia.

Christoval Dominguez to Francisco Montes, June 24, 1812. Order to punish bandits in neutral ground.

Bill and price list, July 9, 1812. Charles Staples in account with Moses Austin.

Stephen F. Austin to Moses Austin, July 12, 1812, New Orleans. His cargo sank in the Mississippi. Declaration of war. Privateers. Prices.

Edward McDonald to Micajah Morris, August 3, 1812. Order for lead in favor of Moses Austin.

Moses Austin to Stephen F. Austin, September 26, 1812. Danger from Indians and negroes.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, October 19, 1812. Lead. Militia. Indians.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, December 4, 1812. Business bad.

Memorandum of lead production [1812?].

Moses Austin to James Bryan, January 4, 1813. Effects of war of 1812 in Missouri. Indians. Project for trade with Mexico.

Joseph Hertich to Moses Austin, March 29, 1813. Receipt for lead.

Moses Austin to John Scott, May 28, 1813. Concerning the Renaut claim, and complications with Scott and John Rice Jones.

John Bowman to Stephen F. Austin, Fayette County, Ky., August 5, 1813. War politics in Kentucky.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, September 3, 1813. Trade.

Juan Antonio Padilla to Joaquin de Arredondo, September 9, 1813. Confusion of past year makes financial report difficult. Arredondo's reply.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, October 22 [1813?]. Lead business.

Edward Sharp to Moses Austin, November 11, 1813.

Bill and price list. St. Louis, November 21, 1813. Moses Austin in account with Matthew Kerr.

S. Hammond to Moses Austin, December 29, 1813. Charter of the Bank of St. Louis. Speculation at Herculaneum.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, December 30, 1813. Boat for sale.

[Moses Austin, et al.] to Missouri Legislature [December, 1813]. Petition for the inclusion of certain territory in Washington County.

Moses Austin to James Bryan [1813 or 1814?]. Lead business.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, January 13, 1814. Concerning lead trade.

Bill and price list, January 23, 1814. Stephen Austin in account with J. Pettit.

Adam Trinno to Moses Austin, Charleston, February 10, 1814. Lead trade.

José Nicolas Benites to Juan Antonio Padilla, Bexar, March 10, 1814. Receipt for order to receive gun and horse from a soldier.

Yeatman & Anderson to Moses Austin, Cincinnati, March 20, 1814. Establishing lead manufactory and want to make contracts for purchase of crude lead.

Cornelius and W. Bogart to Moses Austin, Louisville, March 25, 1814. Offer to handle Austin's business.

Elias Bates to James Bryan, June 13, 1814. Lead.

Bill and price list, July 18, 1814. Stephen F. Austin in account with Christian Wilt.

Militia report to Stephen F. Austin, adjutant of Sixth Regiment, September 1, 1814.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, September 2, 1814. Purchase of negroes.

Moses Austin to G. W. Treat, September 17, 1814. Due bill for lead.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, October 20, 1814. Purchase of salt.

Rufus Easton to Moses Austin, November 18, 1814. Asks for detailed report on lead mining and smelting to guide him in preparing legislation for Congress. Banking and confusion of the currency.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, November 25, 1814. Lead, negroes, and supplies.

Elias Bates to Moses Austin, December 12, 1814. Lead and other business.

Bill and price list, December 23, 1814. Stephen F. Austin in account with G. W. and W. H. Whitaker.

Isaac L. Baker to Stephen F. Austin, New Orleans, January 5, 1815. Battles.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, January 6, 1815. Disappointed in quantity of pork. Only 3,000 or 4,000.

Moses Austin to John S. Brickley, February 22, 1815. Memorandum concerning provisions for negroes. Furnace regulations.

Stephen F. Austin to Moses Austin, March 25, 1815. Trade.

Elias Bates to Moses Austin, September 8, 1815.

Elias Bates to Moses Austin, September 10, 1815. Commerce.

Elias Bates to Stephen F. Austin, September 15, 1815. Lead and commerce.

John Rice Jones to Stephen F. Austin, October 1, 1815. Order.

Bill and price list, October 16, 1815. Stephen F. Austin to Christian Wilt.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, January 22, 1816. General sickness. Measures of Federal Government to remove settlers on public land will ruin territory.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, January 31 [1816?]. General business.

John Scott. Announcement of political platform in candidacy for Congress, March 22, 1816. Opening of Salines and lead mines to private purchase; abandonment of Government trading houses among Indians and opening of trade to individuals; exclusion of British traders; encouragement of immigration by reduction of price of land or by reduction of the minimum quantity purchasable; relief for ousted settlers.

Court decree ordering survey of boundary of Washington and St. Louis Counties, July 17, 1816. Return of the survey by John Hawkins, August 17, 1816.

Moses Austin to Mrs. Emily Bryan, October 12, 1816. Sending a slave girl. Concerning bank stock.

Bill and price list, November 25, 1816. Stephen F. Austin in account with Benjamin Elliott. Biographical.

Stephen F. Austin in account with S. Perry & Co. December 9, 1816. Trade in iron.

Stephen F. Austin to James Perry [1816?].

Moses Austin to Stephen F. Austin [December, 1816?]. Price list.

Documents in Missouri legislative history, 1816–1818: (1) Memorandum by Moses Austin for reorganization of the Bank of St. Louis [December, 1816?]. (2) Notes by Stephen F. Austin for speech against chartering of the Bank of Missouri [January, 1817?]. (3) Bill by Stephen F. Austin for subscription to stock of a territorial bank and for raising funds by a lottery. (4) Protest against action of legislative council in passing the charter of the Bank of Missouri. (5) Bill by Stephen F. Austin to establish a lottery to raise funds for construction of roads [1817–18?]. (6) Bill authorizing acceptance of the notes of the Bank of St. Louis in payment of dues to the territory [1817–18?] (7) Bill to prohibit issuing and circulating of unauthorized bank paper [1817–18?]. (8) Memorial to Congress urging extension of protection to lead, and the appropriation of revenue from lead mines to establishment and maintenance of an academy [1817–18?]. (9) Amendment to Judiciary Bill

[December, 1818?]. (10) Petition for creation of Jefferson County [December 8, 1818?]. (11) Stephen F. Austin, opposing alteration in the judiciary system [December, 1818?].

Moses Austin to James Bryan, January 17, 1817. Concerning Bank of St. Louis.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, February 11, 1817. Financial embarrassments. Has taken over the mining business.

Price list, February 12, 1817. Stephen F. Austin & Co. bought of Simpson & Quarles.

Bill and price list, February 19, 1817. Stephen F. Austin in account with Samuel Perry & Co.

Bill and price list, February 20, 1817. Stephen F. Austin & Co. in account with Honey and Bates.

Receipts for lead, February 20 and 26, 1817.

Note of hand. Samuel Perry to Stephen F. Austin & Co., February 26, 1817.

Lottery ticket, March 8, 1817.

Bill of expense for wedding ball, April 12, 1817, paid by Stephen F. Austin.

Quarrel between Stephen F. Austin and Joshua Pilcher—Biographical: (1) Pilcher to Austin, May 13–14, 1817. (2) Austin to Pilcher, May 14, 1817. (3) Masonic committee to Austin, May 16, 1817. (4) Resolution of Masonic lodge, May 31, 1817. (5) Austin challenges Pilcher to a duel, June 1, 1817. (6) Austin's statement of the history of the misunderstanding. (7) Report of committee of arbitration, ruling that Pilcher should apologize, June 7, 1817. (8) Pilcher's apology, June 7, 1817.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, June 30, 1817. Lumber; corn.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, July 5, 1817. Bank of St. Louis.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, July 21, 1817. Commercial conditions.

Henry Frost to Moses Austin, July 24, 1817. Order for shot, to be shipped to Louisville.

E. Bates to S. F. Austin & Co., August 2, 1817. Lead.

Bill and price list, August 8, 1817. Stephen F. Austin in account with Honey & Bates.

Lead deliveries, August 8, 14, 26, 28, September 5, 20, 1817. Elias Bates's receipts to Stephen F. Austin.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, August 31, 1817. Commerce. Financial stringency.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, September 6, 1817. Commerce. Financial difficulty.

Bill and price list, September 14, 1817. Stephen F. Austin & Co. in account with Wilkins & Catron.

Contract to explore for copper, October 9, 1817. Moses Austin, Elias and Stephen Rector, R. H. Price, and T. Douglass.

Freight charges, November 6, 1817. Stephen F. Austin in account with James Staples.

Lead production, November 15, 1817. Stephen F. Austin & Co. in account with Elias Bates.

Power of attorney. Adam Brown to Moses Austin, November 15, 1817.

James Cox, Jr., to Macdonald & Ridgely, of Baltimore, December 9, 1817. Introducing Stephen F. Austin.

Robert Pogue to Heerl & Pogue, December 9, 1817. Introducing Stephen F. Austin, who goes to Baltimore to buy goods.

A. Miller to Stephen F. Austin, December 18, 1817. Draft.

Statement of account, December 24, 1817. Stephen F. Austin in account with William Kennert & Co.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, January 3, 1818. Concerning speculation in New Madrid land claims. Austin has made a location at Long Prairie, Ark. Red River Country to be opened up.

John Fitzpatrick to Moses Austin, January 17, 1818. Barter.

Bill and price list. Stephen F. Austin in account with Robert Collet, January 22, 1818.

Moses Austin to Robert Wash, February 28, 1818. Sale of slaves.

Stephen F. Austin to William M. O'Hara, March 4, 1818. New Madrid land certificates.

Occupation tax receipt, July 1, 1818. Issued to Moses Austin, retail merchant.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, July 3, 1818. New Madrid land claims.

William M. O'Hara to Stephen F. Austin, July 22, 1818. Concerning notes in the Bank of St. Louis.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, July 24, 1818. Boat repairs.

New Madrid land certificate, August 28, 1818.

John Fitzpatrick to Moses Austin, August 31, 1818. Order for salt.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, September 13, 1818. Anxious to close his business. Offered $50,000 for his Mine à Burton estate, but will not accept.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, November 2, 1818. Order for cattle.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, December 5, 1818. Boat load of flour.

James Cox, Jr., to James Bryan, December 12, 1818. Receipt for lead and shot.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, December 31, 1818. New Madrid land claim.

John L. Brickey to Moses Austin, January 17, 1819. Note.

Order for close confinement of José María de Cárdenas [by governor of Coahuila?], January 22, 1819.

Samuel W. Mullin to Stephen F. Austin, February 8, 1819. Order for goods.

Advertisement of auction sale of land and town lots in and adjoining Potosi, February 26, 1819.

Memoranda by Stephen F. Austin concerning land speculations, March 22, 1819.

Memoranda by Stephen F. Austin, March 29, 1819. Accounts.

Stephen F. Austin to William M. O'Hara, March 10, 1819. Introducing Dr. Robert Andrews. Land business in Arkansas. Establishment of Little Rock.

Appearance bond, March 15, 1819. Stephen F. Austin to answer to charge of trespass.

Stephen F. Austin to William M. O'Hara, April 5, 1819. Pleasure at getting seat of government for Little Rock. Moses Austin's business with Bank of St. Louis.

Stephen F. Austin to William M. O'Hara, April 7, 1819. Financial difficulties. Departure for Arkansas. Bank of St. Louis.

Stephen F. Austin to William Eads, April 11, 1819. Receipt for goods.

Bill and price list, May 29, 1819. Stephen F. Austin in account with J. H. Bell, Natchitoches.

Stephen F. Austin to William M. O'Hara, June 16, 1819. Retiring from the New Madrid claims speculation in Arkansas. Excellence of locations already made.

Bill of sale. James Bryan to Stephen F. Austin, June 19, 1819. Horses, mules, and cattle in Arkansas.

James Cummins to James Bryan, July 15, 1819. Salt business. New Madrid claim.

Moses Austin to James E. B. Austin, August 12, 1819. Panic of 1819. Local news.

James Farris to Stephen F. Austin, September 19, 1819. Asks settlement of his account with James Bryan.

J. H. Bell to Stephen F. Austin, September 21, 1819. Business in Arkansas. Long's expedition.

Court judgments against Stephen F. Austin, November 16, 1819.

Memorandum of Stephen F. Austin's debts [December? 1819].

Memorandum of Moses Austin's estate [1819?].

James Bryan to Stephen F. Austin [1819?].

Memorandum. Stephen F. Austin in Arkansas, January 1, 1820.

Moses Austin to citizens of Jefferson County, January 10, 1820. Concerning attack on his house by the sheriff, George Hammond.

Leroy Ferguson to Stephen F. Austin, January 27, 1820. Receipted bill for farm labor.

Moses Austin to James E. B. Austin, February 2, 1820. Remittances.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, February 3, 1820. Concerning settlement of his debts.

Moses Austin to James E. B. Austin, February 8, 1820. Currency confusion. Losses in Bank of St. Louis.

Moses Austin to James E. B. Austin, February 23, 1820. Currency confusion. Hardships. Advice.

Richard Thurmond to Stephen F. Austin, February 28, 1820. Receipts for goods.

J. Meigs to Moses Austin, March 9, 1820. Sending Austin a Spanish passport of 1797.

Moses Austin to Dr. Joseph Bowers, March 11, 1820. Concerning the medical qualifications of Dr. Cunningham.

Bill and price list, April 5, 1820. William H. Ashley in account with Moses and Stephen F. Austin.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, April 30, 1820. Enmity of Russell. Family fortunes.

Accounts for collection, May 12, 1820. Moses Austin's assets.

Moses Austin's assets, May 20, 1820.

Memoranda and price list [June]–October 7, 1820. Moses Austin at Little Rock.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, June 2, 1820. Salt production. Debts.

William Williams to Moses Austin, June 12, 1820. Concerning establishment of a glass factory in Missouri.

George Tennille to Pierre La Forge, June 13, 1820. Authorizing suit against Stephen F. Austin to collect note.

Gov. James Miller commissioning Stephen F. Austin judge of the first circuit of Arkansas July 10, 1820.

Bill and price list, September 18, 1820. Stephen F. Austin in account with William Ashbrook.

Memorandum and itinerary, November 27, 1820. Moses Austin's journey to Texas.

Elias Bates to Stephen F. Austin, December 2, 1820. Congratulations on success.

Testimonial to character of John Woolsey and Sons of Hempstead County, Ark. December 7, 1820.

Examination of Moses Austin before Gov. Martinez, December 23, 1820. Conditions on the Texan-United States frontier. Purpose of journey to Texas.

Moses Austin to Antonio Martinez, December 26, 1820. Application for permit to settle in Texas. Three hundred other families desire to settle. Influence of new constitution of Spain on emigration.

Ambrosio Maria de Aldasoro to Antonio Martinez, January 17, 1821. Secured with difficulty approval of Moses Austin's petition. Also obtained legalization of the port of San Bernard Bay.

Stephen F. Austin to his mother, January 20, 1821. Hardships of the family. Business depression in New Orleans. Friendship of Joseph H. Hawkins.

David Gallaher to Stephen F. Austin, January 20, 1821. Asks payment of a note. Hard times in Missouri.

Moses Austin to Douglass Forsythe, January 22, 1821. Leaves sick slave in his care to be cured and hired out to labor until called for.

Douglass Forsythe to Moses Austin, January 22, 1821. Receipt for slave Richmond. Inclosure gives expense account of the Negro.

Hardships of travel [Jan. 26, 1821]. Moses Austin's return from Texas to Missouri.

Moses Austin to Governor Martinez, January 26, 1821. Disclaims any connection with his companion Kirkham and five Spaniards engaged in illegal horse and mule trading.

Moses Austin to Baron de Bastrop, January 26, 1821. Loss through failure of Bank of St. Louis. Plans for return to Texas. Warns against illegal trade.

Baron de Bastrop to Governor Martinez [about Feb. 1, 1821]. Quoting portions of letter from Moses Austin of January 16. Ratification of Florida treaty by Spain. Effect of Indian treaties in Mississippi Valley upon emigration to Texas. Lafitte, Long.

Moses Austin to Felix Trudeau, February 3, 1821. Kirkham's relations with illicit traders.

Antonio Martinez to Aldasoro, February 5, 1821. Thanks for services to Texas in obtaining legalization of a port, permission for settlement of Austin's colony, and regulation of 11 presidial companies.

Antonio Martinez to Felix Trudeau, February 26, 1821. Vain search for will of William Barr. Express to notify Austin that his petition is granted. Pardon for political refugees in United States.

Baron de Bastrop to Moses Austin, March 2, 1821. Introducing J. M. Berrimendi.

Moses Austin to James E. B. Austin, March 28, 1821. Money stringency. Enthusiastic hopes for future in Texas.

Moses Austin to James E. B. Austin, April 8, 1821. Future in Texas. Sends Kentucky currency to discharge son's debts.

Isaac Jesse to Moses Austin, April 11, 1821. Bill for carpenter's labor and materials.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, April 21, 1821. Unjust procedure in closing the business of the Bank of St. Louis.

Moses Austin to James Bryan, April 22, 1821. Account with Bank of St. Louis.

Moses Austin et al., April 22, 1821. Form of contract drawn by Moses Austin for preliminary emigrants.

Moses Austin to John Metcalfe, May 9, 1821. Power of attorney to collect debts.

Moses Austin to Stephen F. Austin, May 22, 1821. Make preparations for Texan enterprise. Better times approaching.

Appearance bond, June 4, 1821. Stephen F. Austin to answer charge of trespass and damage.

Maria Austin to Stephen F. Austin, June 8, 1821. Illness of Moses Austin. Interest in Texas.

Moses Austin's death certificate, June 16, 1821.

William Eads to James Bryan and Mrs. Mary Austin, June 23, 1821. Condolence upon the death of Moses Austin.

Joseph H. Hawkins to Mrs. Maria Austin, June 27, 1821. Stephen Austin gone to explore site of colony. Condolence. Interest in the Texan enterprise.

Stephen F. Austin to ———, July 1, 1821. Privileges granted to Moses Austin and terms of settlement in Texas.

Stephen F. Austin to Moses Austin, July 4, 1821. Has met Mexican commissioners at Natchitoches. Quotes Arrendondo's permit to establish colony.

A. Sampyrac, July 5, 1821. Statement of authority given by Stephen F. Austin to sell Richmond, a slave.

Stephen F. Austin to Maria Austin, July 13, 1821. Condolence. To continue plans for Texas settlement.

Stephen F. Austin to [Joseph H. Hawkins], July 20, 1821. Reporting progress. Outlining plans for exploring grant and announcing conditions of settlement.

Maria Austin to James E. B. Austin, August 3, 1821. Death of his father. Finances.

Josef Erasmo Seguin to Gov. Antonio Martinez, August 10, 1821. Suggesting that Martinez have a house prepared in Bexar for Stephen F. Austin and companions.

Stephen F. Austin to Antonio Martinez, August 18, 1821. Translation by Bastrop of Austin's plan for distribution of land to colonists.

Maria Austin to Stephen F. Austin, August 25, 1821. Account of Moses Austin's death. Conditions in Missouri.

Josef Erasmo Seguin to Stephen F. Austin, August 30, 1821. Willingness to join Austin in commerce with Indians. Desire to obtain monopoly.

Stephen F. Austin to Baron de Bastrop, September 1, 1821. Power of attorney to represent Austin in business concerning the colony.

John C. Harbison to Stephen F. Austin, September 3, 1821. Wishes his son to go to Texas.

Baron de Bastrop to Austin, September 12, 1821. Plans for trading with Indians. Prospects good.

Baron de Bastrop to Austin, September 13, 1821. Others seeking land for settlement in Texas. Governor recognizes right of Austin to first choice.

Character certificate: John Woolsey, et al., September 17, 1821.

Dr. John M. Bernhisel, October 6, 1821. Bill for attending Moses Austin.

Austin to J. H. Bell, October 6, 1921. Permit to settle in his colony. Terms on which land is granted.

James Gaines to Andrew Robertson, June 1-October 10, 1821. Bill for service and supplies.

James Baird to Austin, October 10, 1821. Political news of Mexico. Interest in Texas.

Austin to Antonio Martinez, October 12, 1821. Report of his exploration. Boundaries desired for his colony. Plan of apportioning land to colonists. Immigrants already settled around Nacogdoches willing to move to his colony. Appointment of a justice of the peace.

Austin to Antonio Martinez, October 13, 1821. Hundreds from Missouri, Kentucky, and elsewhere want land in Texas. Suggests his own appointment as emigration agent for the Government. Protests against other grants within the limits assigned to him.

Certificate of character. James Collinsworth, October 13, 1821.

Austin to William Kincheloe, October 16, 1921. Permit to settle and build a mill. Conditions of grant and method of surveying it.

Supplies for Schooner *Lively*, October 29, 1821.

William N. Henderson to Austin, November 1, 1821. Wishes to settle in his colony. Many emigrants from the Opelousas (Louisiana) country will join him.

Robert Andrews to Austin, November 3, 1821. Emigration promised from southern Arkansas.

George Poindexter, governor of Mississippi, To whom it may concern, November 9, 1821. Character certificate of Hardy Coward.

Stephen F. Austin to James Bryan, November 10, 1821. Family finances. Advice concerning emigration. Conditions in Texas.

William F. Roberts to Austin, November 13, 1821. Austin's debts. His business in Arkansas.

Agreement between Austin and Joseph H. Hawkins, November 14, 1821. Hawkins advances $4,000 and becomes partner with half interest in profits from colonization.

Antonio Martinez to Gaspar Lopez, November 18, 1821. Translation of Austin's letters. General indorsement of his proposals. Reply of Lopez, December 15, 1821, withholding from Austin power to distribute lands, appoint judges, etc., and advising provisional settlement of colonists until location is approved by Superior Government.

Edward Lovelace to Austin, November 20, 1821. Loan of $500.

Austin to [Thomas Novell, about November 20, 1821]. Appointing Josiah H. Bell to supervise settlement of the first colonists. Appointing him sindix.

Agreement between Austin and 14 emigrants, November 22, 1821. Sound coast and rivers of Texas, build cabins and a stockade, and cultivate and harvest corn in return for expenses and land.

Joseph T. Montgomery to Austin, November 22, 1821. Asking information about Texas and terms upon which land is granted.

Austin to James Bryan, November 23, 1821. Prospects and plans in Texas. Instructions and advice.

Permit to emigrate and settle in Austin's Colony [November 23, 1821]. Terms and procedure of settlement. Character of colonists.

Y. M. Daniel to Austin, November 24, 1821. Introducing J. Alexander, a teacher.

Austin to Phillip Reddinger, November 25, 1821. Receipt for a note.

Agreement between Austin and Edward and John Lovelace, November 25, 1821. Austin to secure a grant for them adjoining Galveston Bay.

William S. Lewis to Austin, November 26, 1821. Demand note for $20.

Erasmus Ellis to Austin, November 26, 1821. Interest of Iberville Parish, La., in emigration. Wants information.

James Fort Muse to William W. Little, December 1, 1821. Satisfied with description of Texas. Plans to emigrate. Will build sawmill. Slaves.

George Tennille to Austin, December 3, 1821. Interest in Texas. Wants information.

Price list and note, December 3, 1821.

J. M. Arthur to Austin, December 4, 1821. Kentucky. Interest in Texas.

Samuel Parker to Austin, December 7, 1821. Virginia. Interest and questionnaire.

John Rice Jones to ———. December 8, 1821. Certificate of character for James Johnson, of Missouri.

James C. Shields to Austin, December 9, 1821. Kentucky. Wants to know terms of settlement.

James C. Shields to Austin, December 9, 1821. Kentucky. Hard times. Terms of settlement in Texas. His mechanical ability.

J. Cable to David Marple, December 10, 1821. Natchitoches, La. Bill for sundries.

John C. Harbison to Austin, December 11, 1821. Missouri. Wants description of Texas "politically, naturally, and religiously."

H. A. Bullard to Austin, December 11, 1821. Power of attorney to sell land.

G. Pearce to Austin, December 12, 1821. Wants terms of settlement. How make Galveston safe as a port of entry. Slaves.

Robert C. Bruffey to Austin, December 12, 1821. Austin's debts. Hard times.

James T. Dunbar and others to Austin, December 13, 1821. Baltimore. Want information particularly about government and religious toleration in Texas.

Gaspar Lopez to Antonio Martinez, December 15, 1821.

James Bryan to Austin, December 15, 1821. Much interest aroused in Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, and Missouri. Commerce.

Maria Austin to Austin, December 15, 1821. Family news.

James Evans to Austin, December 20, 1821. Introducing Dixon. People "in a great commotion" concerning Texas.

Erasmus Ellis to Austin, December 22, 1821. Introducing Dixon, and asking for information.

Receipt for a judgment against Robert C. Bruffey, surety for Austin, December 24, 1821.

Zenas Priest to Austin, December 25, 1821. Introducing Samuel Dixon.

Daniel Draper to Austin, December 25, 1821. Represents families from South Carolina. Wants information about terms of settlement, routes to Texas, liberty of conscience.

Daniel Dunklin to Austin, December 25, 1821. Wants information concerning form and stability of government, productions, attitude of people toward Americans, etc.

E. A. Elliott to James Bryan, December 26, 1821. Political and family news.

John Sibley to Austin, December 26, 1821. Introducing James Burnet. Numbers moving to join you.

James E. B. Austin to James Bryan, December 28, 1821. The Arkansas business of Bryan.

J. Sargeant to Austin, December 29, 1821. Inquiries concerning Texas for friends in Kentucky and Ohio.

James Beatty to Austin, January 5, 1822. Inquiries concerning political conditions, freight rates from New Orleans, and terms of settlement. Some families too poor to move; would he be compensated in land for transporting them?

James Gaines to Austin, January 5, 1822. Concerning the character of James Dill, of Nacogdoches.

William E. Woodruff to Austin, January 8, 1822. Progress of Little Rock, Ark. Great movement to Texas.

James Allcorn to Austin, January 8, 1822. Inquiries concerning Texas. Family of 11.

Th. H. Ficklin to Austin, January 8, 1822. Considers establishing a "clothers factory" in Texas—wool and cotton.

Joseph H. Hawkins to Austin, January 13, 1822. Introducing Mr. Murray.

James Bryan to J. E. B. Austin, January 15, 1822. Settlers going to Texas. Selection of land.

James Bryan to Austin, January 15, 1822. Hard times in Missouri. Great emigration from all the States to Texas.

Josiah H. Bell to Austin, January 17, 1822. People crowding to your colony. Beware of Dill.

John C. Brickey to Austin, January 18, 1822. Texas the "general talk throughout this country."

Maria Austin to Austin, January 19, 1822. Settlement of Moses Austin's estate.

James E. B. Austin to Austin, January 29, 1822. Arrival in Texas. Anxiety of Henry Elliott to get contract for surveying.

Andrew Mitchell and William H. McCurdy to Austin, January 31, 1822. "Considerable company of farmers" near Pensacola want to go to your grant. Terms of settlement?

David Tally. Certificate of character. Kentucky, February 1, 1822.

Antonio Martinez to Gaspar Lopez, February 6, 1822. Indian inhabitants of Texas. Boundaries. Effect of treaty of 1819 on boundary. Rivers. Need of another port, and of troops for defense against Indians, to prevent American trade with them, and to prevent infiltration of American vagabonds. Population much reduced and can be best replenished by admission of foreigners under careful supervision.

Joseph H. Hawkins to Austin, February 6, 1822. Vessels and emigrants on the way to Texas. Thousands ready to go with "one word of encouragement from you." Presents for Texan officials. His own financial distress.

Joseph H. Hawkins to Austin, February 8, 1822. Introducing John T. Hawkins. The latter's disappointment at not seeing Austin.

Robert D. Dawson to Austin, February 15, 1822. Introducing brother-in-law. "Pecuniary distress in every section of this State" [Missouri]. "Unparalleled change in the quantity and quality of our circulating medium."

John J. Clarke to Austin, February 25, 1822. Many wish to go from Mississippi to your colony. Asks for information about conditions and terms.

Austin to Sylvanus Castleman, March 1, 1822. Agreement to accept Castleman's lot in the "Common Field" of St. Genevieve, Mo., in exchange for debt on Texas land.

James Bryan to Austin, March 4, 1822. "A great number of families will move from this State and from other States." Business arrangements and plans.

James H. Penrose to Austin, March 12, 1822. Desires information. Many anxious to go to Texas. Political news of Missouri. Scarcity of money. Loan-office money worth only 3 per cent.

Antonio Martinez to Austin, March 13, 1822. Passport to go to Mexico to explain colony to Congress.

James C. Carr to Austin, March 14, 1822. Introducing Col. Charles Caldwell, of Kentucky.

Martha Marple to David Marple, March 22, 1822. Interest in the colony in Ohio and Maryland. Religious exhortation.

Austin to James E. B. Austin March 23, 1822. Adventure with Comanches. Desolation of the country from Bexar to Laredo. How to study Spanish.

Martin Allen to Austin, March 24, 1822. Asks Austin to recognize claim which he improved on the Colorado. Family of eight children.

Henry Elliott to Austin, March 25, 1822. Local news.

Samuel Shearer to Austin, March 25, 1822. Transported party of 24 or 25 to Texas in return for negro slave, Joe. Former owner now refuses to deliver him.

Roswell Mills to Austin, March 28, 1822. Terms and conditions. Will not monarchy and nontoleration check American immigration?

Austin's account with Edward Lovelace, March 30, 1822. Final settlement in 1847.

Character certificate. John Little, April 6, 1822.

Maria Austin to Austin, April 10, 1822. Families preparing for Texas. News.

A. McNair to Austin, April 11, 1822. Introducing Robert Brotherton.

Henry Elliott to Austin, April 13, 1822. Asks terms for opening mines in Texas. Hears complaints of "entire stagnation of business" in the United States.

Gaspar Lopez to Antonio Martinez, April 15, 1822. Austin's arrival in Monterey and departure for the Capital. His report on steps taken in the formation of the new settlement of Louisiana families "á q° está reducida su comicion."

James Bryan to Austin, April 15, 1822. Prospects flattering. Company of a hundred in Kentucky sending agents to Texas to inspect. Reports from East. Sends goods to trade.

R. C. Bruffey to Austin, April 16, 1822. Disappointment at not seeing Austin. Uneasy about constitution and "restrictions." Austin's debts.

Gaspar Lopez to Antonio Martinez, April 24, 1822. Continual complaints about unauthorized settlement of foreigners in Texas under pretext of belonging to Austin's establishment. Notify them that the subject is before the Supreme Government and that they can not gain titles to land until they conform to regulations that may be fixed.

T. [or J.] Reilly to Joseph H. Hawkins, April 26, 1822. Trespalacios appointed governor of Texas. He is cool toward Austin, but says he favors the colony. The subject progressing satisfactorily in Congress, but requires vigilant attention. Many other applicants for grants, and the Austin colony has much to fear from their encroachments.

Maria Austin to Austin, April 26, 1822. Family news. Reports of Indian outrages. Religious toleration.

John Hawkins to Austin, April 29, 1822. Misdoings of William Kinchelow, who claims to be your partner, has checked enthusiasm for immigration. One hundred families were ready to move from Alabama. Hardships in Texas. Report on form of government and terms.

Austin to J. H. Hawkins, May 1, 1822. Backwardness and desolation of Mexico. Government favorable to his grant. Congress works in good order but slowly. Gen. Wilkinson.

Samuel Ricker, Jr., to Austin, New Orleans, May 3, 1822. Inquiries concerning commerce in Texas.

Alijah Hull to Austin, May 7, 1822. Wants employment as surveyor. Advanced supplies for the Gutierrez Magee expedition; will the new government recognize such claims?

Austin to [Anastacio Bustamante?], May 10, 1822. American traders encourage hostility of Comanches and Lipans against Mexicans. Three routes of trade. Indians can be pacified by breaking off this commerce, supplying in its place a licensed trade under direction of Mexican Government, and strengthening the settlements of Texas.

Austin's memorial to Congress, May 13, 1822. Documented review of his procedure and present state of the colony. Asks (1) that limits of the grant as described by him be approved, and that the quantity of land which he promised colonists be confirmed; (2) that the colonists be given titles and placed in possession; (3) that he be allowed to settle additional families after filling contract for the first 300; (4) that he and his family be given land in compensation for his expenses and labor; (5) that he be allowed to found towns; and (6) that he be given letters of citizenship. In return for these concessions he promises (1) to explore and map the coast and harbors; (2) remove obstructions from rivers to open navigation; and (3) organize the settlers into companies of carabineros to defend the Province.

Gen. James Wilkinson, Mexico, May 15, 1822. Introducing Austin. When he left New Orleans, March 13, more than 200 families had gone to settle in Austin's settlement.

Austin to James E. B. Austin, May 22, 1822. Election of Iturbide. Public demonstrations of joy, but some dissatisfaction. Congress favorable to the colony, but no progress. Attend to your studies and religion.

Austin to Iturbide, May 25, 1822. Congratulation upon elevation to throne. His loyalty to Mexico.

Joseph H. Hawkins to Austin, May 30, 1822. Introducing Seth Ingram.

Joseph H. Hawkins to Austin, May 31, 1822. Relations with Erwin's company. Must keep on good terms with all. Expenses. Debts.

Samuel Ayers and others to Austin, Lexington, June 6, 1822. Formed a "Texas Emigrating Society" to investigate conditions in Texas and Mexico and terms of settlement. Will the Government be a republic, will freedom of worship be allowed, etc.?

Thomas P. Hart to Austin, June 6, 1822. Introducing Elijah Noble, who represents the "Texas Emigrating Society" of Lexington.

Austin to Minister of Relaciones, G. Calderon, June 6, 1822. Colony in critical condition on account of his absence. Asks special action on his case because it rests on a different basis from other applications for grants. Pledges settlement of 10 inhabitants to the square league in his grant in two years. Promises various public improvements.

John Sibley to James E. B. Austin, June 6, 1822. Sends Spanish translation of Thomas Paine's Rights of Man. Spain resents recognition by United States of Spanish-American independence. "Emigrants in very great numbers seem setting that way."

Henry Clay to Austin, June 7, 1822. Introducing Elijah Noble.

Edward Lovelace to Austin, June 26, 1822. Coast explorations. Excellence of Galveston harbor. Drought. No corn.

Austin's power of attorney to Gen. Arthur G. Wavell, June 26, 1822. To form stock company in England to develop Austin's grant.

Elijah Noble to Austin, June 29, 1822. Unable to get to Texas. Asks information about status of slavery, freedom of religion, and conditions of trade.

Austin and Arthur G. Wavell. Agreement, July 4, 1822. To form stock company to develop Texas.

Arthur G. Wavell's application for a grant in Texas, July 4, 1822.

Austin to J. E. B. Austin, July 5, 1822. Learn Spanish. Cultivate the governor. Do not discuss politics. Be attentive to church. Business going slowly, but is hopeful. Impressions of Mexico City.

Oliver J. Morgan and J. H. Overton to Austin, July 10, 1822. Introducing George Feazle.

McCoy & Scanlan to Austin, July 15, 1822. Trading terms.

Joseph H. Hawkins to Austin, July 23, 1822. Disbursements on the colony. Slavery.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell et al., July 26, 1822. Introducing Col. Andrew Erwin. Prospect of liberal constitutional government. "Success of the settlement depends on the harmony and morality and industry of the settlers."

David T. W. Cook to Austin, July , 1822. Came to Texas to see you "in behalf of myself and many others." Wants land.

Austin to [Joseph H. Hawkins?], August 6, 1822. Political conditions in Mexico.

Arthur G. Wavell to Austin, August 10, 1822. General information. Warning against Mr. B.

Contract for freighting wool from Texas to New Orleans, August 20, 1822. Austin and Salvador Carrasco.

Austin's plan for organization of Mexican Congress, August —, 1822. Combination of existing institutions, the Spanish constitution and the Constitution of the United States.

José Maria Grimaldi to Austin, September 7, 1822. Asks Austin to employ two maestros and other workmen for iron works near Durango. Description of the works.

Austin to Emperor Iturbide, September 8, 1822. Reviews his case to date. Asks immediate action on his grant.

Arthur G. Wavell to Austin, September 10, 1822. Experience with pirates in the Gulf.

Hugh McGuffin to Austin, September 13, 1822. Reports of your death. Emigration checked by bad crops in Texas, but considerable movement continues. "A good many appear to wish that it may be a free country from slavery; others in favor of slavery."

Francis Bigham. Character certificate, October 16, 1822.

Robert C. Bruffey to Austin, October 16, 1822. Losses in coming to Texas and disappointment in learning nothing of Government and status of the colony. Write information about Government, toleration, terms.

Robert C. Bruffey. Draft on Austin, October 16, 1822.

Austin to Emperor Iturbide, November 6, 1822. Review of his case. Injury caused to himself and colony by delay. Petition for approval of the limits of his grant, extension of titles to the 300 families contracted for, permit to settle 200 additional Catholic families, authority to select his own premium lands in compensation for establishment of the colony, authority to organize militia, and immediate establishment of local government.

Matias Ximenes to Austin, November 9, 1822. Concerning reclamation of abandoned silver mines.

Arthur G. Wavell to Austin, November 16, 1822. Arrival in London. Prospects good.

Arthur G. Wavell to Austin, November 21, 1822. Needs official confirmation of grant in order to do business. Great prospects.

Austin to [Edward Lovelace?], November 22, 1822. Summary of political movements in Mexico. Difficulty over the status of slavery. Mexicans not prepared for a republican government.

Arthur G. Wavell to Austin, December 2, 1822. Need confirmation of the grant in order to do business. Price list of various commodities.

Robert Andrews to J. E. B. Austin, December 7, 1822. Reports from Stephen F. Austin. Business in Saltillo. Inclosure from James Hewitson.

Arthur G. Wavell to Austin, December 10, 1822. Can sell land and raise capital only when has official confirmation of the grant to show. Plan to develop mines.

José Felix Trespalacios to Austin, December 15, 1822. Provisions for the welfare of Texas. Wants assistance in breaking up bands of thieves stealing horses and mules in Texas and selling them in the United States.

Austin to J. E. B. Austin, December 25, 1822. Waiting for Emperor to approve the colonization law. Celebrations in Mexico City.

Mexican politics, December, 1822. Santa Anna's proclamation of a republic, December 2, 1822. Honors to Iturbide in the Capital, December 14.

Austin to Emperor Iturbide, January 1, 1823. Application for letters of citizenship.

Austin to J. E. B. Austin, January 1, 1823. Opinion of Trespalacios. Advice. Mexican politics.

Austin to José Felix Trespalacios, January 8, 1823. Colonization law proclaimed. Inexpressible vexations and difficulties in obtaining its passage. Slaves introduced by colonists remain so for life, but their children born in the Empire become free at 14. Difficulty in getting this provision.

Austin to the Junta Instituyente, January 16, 1823. The nature of government. The Junta has no authority to frame a constitution. Suggests constitutional congress.

Samuel S. Pearson [to Austin], January 20, 1823. Expert shipbuilder and mechanic. Wants to settle in Texas.

Arthur G. Wavell to Austin, January 23, 1823. Recent "wildcat" speculation in Spanish America has made English capital cautious. Wants confirmation of grant, description of coast, map, etc. Plans to export timber from Texas.

Robert Andrews to J. E. B. Austin, January 25, 1823. Mexican political news. Commercial projects. Mexican character.

Austin to Emperor Iturbide [about Jan. 31, 1823]. His absence, drouth, and hardship causing colonists to return to United States. Plea for prompt approval of his petition.

Arthur G. Wavell to Austin, February 17, 1823. Business conditions in England. Mosquito Coast speculations. Plans for Texan speculations dependent on confirmation of grant.

Austin to Juan Miguel Riesgo [Feb. 19, 1823]. Asks explanation of phraseology approving his application.

Pedro Fernández del Castillo to Austin, March 3, 1823. Returns papers for Bustamante to sign, passport, etc.

Anastacio Bustamante to Gaspar Lopez, March 3, 1823. Recommending Austin.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, March 3, 1823. Passport.

Robert Andrews to Austin, March 4, 1823. Mexican traits.

John Tumlinson to Baron de Bastrop, March 5, 1823. Local government in Austin's colony. Need of laws.

James Wilkinson to Austin, March 6, 1823. Asks Austin's assistance in discovering and obtaining a grant to a suitable tract of land for a colony in Mexico.

Robert Andrews to J. E. B. Austin, March 8, 1823. Mexican politics.

Austin to José del Valle, March 10, 1823. Interpretation of fifth section of his concession. History of his enterprise.

Notes on the deposition of Emperor Iturbide [Mar. 7-10 (?)], 1823. Sovereignty of the people.

James E. B. Austin to J. H. Bell, March 16, 1823. Provisions of imperial colonization law. Work of S. F. Austin in its passage. Slavery. Scarcity of corn.

Confirmation of Austin's grant, March 20, 1823: (1) Bustamante to Lopez, March 20, quoting minister of relaciones who transmits dictamen of the Council of State and the imperial decree. (2) The dictamen of the Council of State, January 14, 1823: (*a*) In the quantity of land to be assigned to colonists let Austin conform to the colonization law of January 4; not sufficient information to define boundaries of the grant; (*b*) authorize Austin, with accredited commissioner, to extend titles to settlers; (*c*) let Austin introduce additional families beyond the first contract, but stipulate settlement, for precautionary reasons, in the interior, near native populations; (*d*) grant Austin premium lands as provided by the colonization law in compensation for his labors; (*e*) allow Austin to establish a town, conforming to certain stipulations; (*f*) his application for letters of citizenship must await action of Congress; (*g*) let

him organize militia, administer justice, and preserve order pending organization of the government. (3) Decree of the Emperor in conformity with this dictamen, February 18, 1823. (4) Explanation of the fifth point of the decree. (5) Minister of State to Garcia, April 14, 1823, notifying him that the Supreme Executive Government has approved Austin's request that his grant be reconfirmed on terms of (2) and (3) above. (6) Austin to Garza, May 27, 1823, asking (*a*) definition of his authority as judge, (*b*) authority to make war on hostile Indians, (*c*) his rank in the militia, (*d*) establishment of a legal port in Texas and authority to grant clearance to vessels. (7) Garza's transmittal of this letter to the provincial deputation, May 28. (8) Report of a special committee of the provincial deputation, June 2. (9) Recommendations of the provincial deputation, June 11. (10) Garza's decree in accordance with (8) and (9), June 16, 1823.

Project of a constitution for the Republic of Mexico, March 29, 1823.

Joseph H. Hawkins to Mrs. Maria Austin, March 29, 1823. Austin's success. His own advances exceed $7,000.

Austin to Congress, April 5, 1823. Asks confirmation of Iturbide's decree of February 18.

Robert Andrews to Austin, April 19, 1823. Wants surveying in the colony. Introducing Ramos Arispe.

Austin to J. E. B. Austin, April 23, 1823. Starting home. Description of Querétaro. "Fryars and clergy are at work to produce a new revolution."

Littleberry Hawkins to Austin, April 24, 1823. Prosperous outlook in Texas.

Hanna and Hawkins to Thomas C. Banks, April 25, 1823. Power of attorney. Commerce.

Robert Leftwich to Austin, April 30, 1823. Thanks of himself and Haden Edwards for advice about procuring land grants. Mexican politics.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, May 4, 1823. Famine conditions in Bexar. Indians checked. Many letters of inquiry. Enemies of the Austin grant have discouraged emigration from the United States. Paper money.

J. H. Bell to Governor Trespalcios, May 4, 1823. Describes administration of justice against horse thief; asks approval or instructions.

Robert Andrews to Austin, May 9, 1823. Surveying in Texas. Practice of medicine in Coahuila.

Austin to J. E. B. Austin, May 10, 1823. Settlers must keep out of politics. Prospect of federal republic. His colony safely approved.

Robert Andrews to Austin, May 15, 1823. Surveying. The people and country from Monterey to Parras.

Robert Andrews to Austin, May 16, 1823. Surveying. Mexican characteristics.

Austin to [Baron de Bastrop, May 17, 1823]. Announcing arrival at Monterey.

Austin to Junta Gobernativa of Texas, May 17, 1823. Success of his mission. Proud of Mexican citizenship.

Austin to J. E. B. Austin, May 20, 1823. Sentiment strong for Federal Republic. Evils of Central Republic. The clergy. The people "priest ridden," superstitious, and fanatical.

Robert Leftwich to Austin, May 20, 1823. Politics in Mexico City. Congress.

Arthur G. Wavell to Austin, May 22, 1823. Speculations in London awaiting confirmation of Austin's grant.

J. B. de Arispe to Austin, May 24, 1823. Mexico City. Politics. Austin's letter of citizenship.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, May 25, 1823. Concerning a business transaction of Gov. Trespalacios. Good crops. Commerce.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, May 25, 1823. Same subjects as above.

James Hewitson to J. E. B. Austin, May 26, 1823. Commerce. Trespalacios declared a traitor.

Austin to Felipe de la Garza, May 27, 1823. Asking definition of his authority to administer justice, make war on hostile Indians, and issue clearances to vessels; and that his rank in militia be determined and a port legalized.

Austin to ———, May 28, 1823. Effects in Mexico of religious intolerance and influence of the clergy. Federal v. Central Republic.

A plan of Federal Government, May [31], 1823. Relative merits of Central and Federal Republic. Central government essentially aristocratic; clergy and capitalists would gain control of the army and be impregnable; Mexico City, like Rome, would be mistress of the Provinces. Difficulties of establishing Federal system would be lightened by the plan that Austin presents. The plan itself, "taken principally from the Government of the United States of America," follows.

Littleberry Hawkins to Austin [about May 31, 1823?]. Commerce. Character of Bastrop.

Austin to ———, June 12, 1823. Introducing Sebastian Mercado, 10 years a refugee in the United States.

Austin to J. E. B. Austin, June 13, 1823. Uses of adversity. Federal system proclaimed in the Provincias Internas de Oriente. The Mexican people.

Luciano Garcia, military commandant of Texas, to Baron de Bastrop, July 16, 1823. Quoting letter from Garza defining Austin's authority.

Austin to Col. Charles Caldwell, July 17, 1823. Advantages of settling in Austin's colony. Federal system. Good crops. Character of settlers.

Austin to J. M. Guerra [about July 18, 1823?]. Meeting at Bexar amended the proclamation of Coahuila so as to promise obedience to present Congress as well as to the new one which is to meet and establish the Federal system. Indians murder alcalde of Colorado.

Receipt given by Austin for a mule, July 28, 1823. Judicial procedure.

Luciano Garcia to Austin, August 2, 1823. Wants to buy 2 dozen chickens and a pair of fat hogs. General scarcity at Bexar.

Moses Morrison to Robert Kuykendall, August 3, 1823. Karankaway Indians.

Hotel bill. Jared E. Groce to Warren D. C. Hall, August 3, 1823.

Bastrop to the people of Austin's colony, August 4, 1823. Proclamation of Austin's authority. Inclosure: Austin's order to a militia commandant to take possession of certain property and to reconnoiter the Colorado.

Bastrop to James Cummins, Alcalde pro tem of the Colorado settlement, August 5, 1823. Official notice of Austin's authority in the colony. Same to Andrew Robertson, with statement of Austin's military authority.

Austin to colonists [Aug. 5, 1823?] Increase of standing military force at his own expense.

Austin to colonists, August 6, 1823. Announcing confirmation of his grant and his authority with the commissioner to issue titles. Terms of payment for the land. Colonists must allow him to direct their relations with the Government. Must respect Catholic religion. Indians.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, August 6, 1823. His expenses in surveying land and issuing titles. Colonists must repay. Wants a secretary, blank books or writing paper, ink powder. Waco Indians.

Bastrop to the colonists, August 9, 1823. Austin's authority. Procedure in issuing titles.

Austin to Luciano Garcia, August 10, 1823. Petition for appointment of Father Francisco Maynes to be pastor of the colony.

Note on Austin's assumption of civil and military authority, August 10, 1823.

Austin to Luciano Garcia, August 11, 1823. Indian depredations. Asks for 10 soldiers and a sergeant.

Austin to Bastrop, August 12, 1823. Surveying and assigning lands.

Election return, August 16, 1823. James Cummins elected alcalde of the Colorado district. List of voters.

Robert Andrews to Austin, August 23, 1823. Plans drug business. Appreciation of Texas.

Austin to Garcia, August [about 25], 1823. Depredations of Tonkeway Indians. Ultimatum to them. Inclosure reports desertion of soldier and theft by him of only good horse left by Indians.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, August 29, 1823. Seeking a site for capital. Too busy to select land for himself, asks Bell to do it for him.

Form of land certificate [Aug. —, 1823].

Austin's license to Dr. Johnson Hunter to sail a coasting vessel [Aug. —, 1823?].

——— to Bastrop [about Aug. —, 1823?]. Concerning disputed land claim.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, September 5, 1823. Judicial procedure. Collection of debts contracted before coming to Texas.

Robert Andrews to Austin, September 5, 1823. Plans for business in Texas, The Viesca family at Parras.

Luciano Garcia to Felipe de la Garza, September 16, 1823. Concerning the salary of the soldiers enlisted by Trespalacios to protect the colony.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, September 28, 1823. Wishes the people to move closer together for protection. Wants settlers "to be satisfied, if such a thing is possible."

Tariff exemption for Texas, September 29, 1823. Seven years' exemption on all imports for use of its inhabitants.

Robert Andrews to Austin, October 4, 1823. Applying for grant of land on Red River; also for office of surveyor general for Texas. Asks Austin for testimonial to be placed before Congress.

W. Stevenson to Austin, October 5, 1823. Many want information about terms of settlement. Austin's Arkansas business. Sends Jefferson's Manual.

J. Cable to Austin, October 14, 1823. Delay in settling in Texas.

Samuel M. Williams's deposition concerning loss of horses and responsibility therefor, October 18, 1823. Judicial procedure.

Price list. Austin to Jared E. Groce, October 18, 1823.

Austin to Jared E. Groce. Note, October, 1823. Land sales.

Austin to Jared E. Groce, October 19, 1823. Agreements for the rental of three slaves.

Austin to Luciano Garcia, October 20, 1823. Depredations of the Tonkawa Indians and his punishment of them.

Austin to Luciano Garcia, October 20, 1823. Expulsions of bad characters from the colony and measures to prevent the settlement of others in the future.

Austin to Garcia, October 20, 1823. Settlers will accept any form of government adopted by majority of the Nation, but prefer a federal republic.

Austin to Luciano Garcia, October 20, 1823. Reasons for not collecting tax from settlers. Asks for interpretation of provision exempting them for six years.

Austin to ———, October 20, 1823. Terms for obtaining land. Measures to exclude undesirable immigrants; must be moral, industrious, and "free

from the vice of intoxication." Catholic Church established, but private worship will not be disturbed. No "exhorters" allowed.

Terms of settlement in Austin's Colony. Proclamation, October 30, 1823.

Public notice, October 31, 1823. Procedure to be followed by immigrants upon arriving in the colony.

Asa Mitchell to Samuel Dixon, November 5, 1823. Borrowing pair of pistols.

James Cummins to Captain Dickson, November 7, 1823. Concerning ownership of a dog.

Austin to Capt. Dickson, November 10, 1823. Instructions for surveying.

George Nixon to Austin, November 14, 1823. Gen. Eugenio Cortes reports at Mobile that Austin has no authority to grant lands, and that slaves are freed in Mexico.

James Hepburn to Austin, November 15, 1823. Concerning the Aguila and the Diario del Congreso, Mexico.

Austin to Francis Bigham, November 17, 1823. Receipt for $1,291.80, to be applied toward payment for land.

Subscription of corn to pay expenses of delegate, Erasmo Seguin, in Congress, November 22, 1823.

Austin to Col. J. M. Guerra [about Nov. —, 1823]. Asking to be allowed to continue in service, as protection from Indians, the 14 soldiers detailed for the colony by Trespalacios and to increase the force to 30. Payment of these men?

James Cummins to Austin [about Nov. —, 1823]. Asking for powder.

J. Thomas to Austin, December 1, 1823. Introducing John Hall.

Price list, December 1, 1823.

Austin's proclamation, December 2, 1823. Local government.

Austin to provincial deputation at Bexar, December 2, 1823. Informing them that the colonists have subscribed 100 fanegas of corn toward Seguin's expenses.

Election proclamation, December 3, 1823. To elect alcalde for district of San Felipe.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, December 4, 1823. Barter. Conflicting land claims.

Militia election notice, December 5, 1823. Protection against Karankaway Indians.

Militia organization, December 5, 1823.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, December 6, 1823. Measures for excluding bad characters. Payment for land in cows and calves.

Election return, December 20, 1823. Alcalde of San Felipe district.

Robert Kuykendall to Austin, December 27, 1823. Commerce. Austin as colonial clearing house.

Austin to [Erasmo Seguin, about January 1, 1824?]. Difficulties on account of Indian hostilities and retarded condition of colony, due to long absence in Mexico. Thinks constitution should recognize as citizens all settlers residing in the country when it goes into effect. Uncertain status of slavery and want of religious toleration are obstacles to colonization.

Election return and oath of office, January 1, 1824. Sylvanus Castleman alcalde of San Felipe district.

Philip T. Dimmitt to Austin, January 4, 1824. Reports large thefts of horses and mules at Bexar. Commerce.

Philip T. Dimmitt to Austin, January 4, 1824. Power of attorney to reclaim stolen horses and mules.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, January 8, 1824. Advice about farming land. Shaping settlement for defense against Indians. Judicial procedure. Hawkins dead.

Austin to Benjamin Fowler, January 8, 1824. Commerce.

Decree of supreme executive power (federal) against public meetings, January 10, 1824.

Erasmo Seguin to Austin and Bastrop, January 14, 1824. As member of committee on colonization will oppose certain emigration to Texas. Will present subject of slaves. Business as a member of Congress.

Bastrop to Austin, January 20, 1824. Appoints Austin his deputy in extending titles to settlers.

Austin to Lucas Alaman, January 20, 1824. Review of the history of his undertaking, analysis of difficulties, and suggestion of remedies.

Judicial regulations and forms, January 22, 1824.

Horatio Chriesman to Austin, January 23, 1824. Surveying.

Austin to John P. Coles, January 25, 1824. Concerning provisional civil and criminal codes.

Constable's bonds, January 26, 1824.

John W. Hall to Austin, January 30, 1824. Austin's services to colonists.

E. N. Bradley to Austin, January 31, 1824. Land business.

John P. Coles to Austin, January 31, 1824. Judicial procedure. Jury. Character of settlers.

J. Child to Austin, February 1, 1824. Opponents of Austin's colony in United States oppose emigration. Indians in Texas.

Austin to John P. Coles, February 2, 1824. Judicial procedure. Confirmation of verdict.

Austin to Bastrop, February 3, 1824. Asks legislature to authorize a recorder's office.

Anthony R. Clarke to Austin, February 3, 1824. Bad characters around Nacogdoches. Local election. Monroe doctrine. False reports of Austin's colony spread by criminals expelled from it.

Thomas M. Duke to Austin, February 5, 1824. Land business.

Hugh McGuffin to Austin, February 12, 1824. Emigration.

Provincial deputation of Bexar to Ayuntamiento, February 12, 1824. Quoting Erasmo Seguin, deputy in Federal Congress, December 23, 1823, opposing union of Coahuila and Texas and asking instructions.

José Antonio Saucedo to Sylvanus Castleman, February 14, 1824. Assuring him of Austin's complete authority over the colony.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, February 15, 1824. Robbery. Indians. Business.

Josiah H. Bell to Austin, February 25, 1824. Judicial procedure. Slavery.

Charles Douglas to Austin, February 26, 1824. Monroe doctrine. England and the United States. Wants Austin's influence in helping Leftwich obtain colonial grant for Tennessee company. Depression in the United States. Banks.

Austin to James Cummins, February 26, 1824. Tariff exemption for seven years. Thanks for subscription of corn to pay expenses of Seguin.

James W. Jones's deposition concerning Mrs. Jane Long, February 26, 1824. Economic conditions.

J. H. Bell's receipt for salt, February 28, 1824. Austin as a clearing house.

Austin's receipt for orders drawn on him by surveyors, March 1, 1824. Austin functioning as a clearing house.

Austin's bill of credit, March 1, 1824. Clearing house.

John Andrews to J. E. B. Austin, March 5, 1824. Order for a drawing knife.

Randall Jones to Austin, March 5, 1824. Concerning Mrs. Long. Judicial system. Economics.

Austin's certificate of Mexican citizenship, March 9, 1824. Granted May 22, 1823.

José Antonio Saucedo to Austin, March 16, 1824. Rejection of request for recorder of legal documents because that a duty of the Alcaldes.

Bastrop to Austin, March 18, 1824. Proclamations to Alcaldes. Bastrop and Saucedo are Austin's friends, and the other members of the local government wish him well. Suggests his own election to State Congress to represent the colony.

José Antonio Saucedo to colonists, March 18, 1824. Beneficent intentions of the Government. Austin's authority.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, March 20, 1824. Estate of Joseph H. Hawkins. Expenditures in Texas.

James Cummins to Austin, March 23, 1824. Approves colonial regulations. Indians.

James Grant to Austin, March 23, 1824. Difficulties of transportation. Commerce. Cotton.

Erasmo Seguin to Bastrop, March 24, 1824. Union of Coahuila and Texas an experiment; may later organize as territory. European movements affecting Mexico. Citizenship of the colonists. Abolition of slavery being urged and bill already presented; hopes to get labor by settlement of Mexican vagrants in Texas. Toleration for private worship.

Seth Ingram to Austin, March 25, 1824. Surveys. Indians.

Proclamation by Austin, March 31, 1824. Militia organization. Commission and instructions to Josiah H. Bell. Immigration. Indians.

Alcalde's court docket, April 1, 1824.

Saucedo to Austin, April 6, 1824. Announcing assumption of office of political chief.

Bastrop to Austin, April 7, 1824. Proclamations of political chief should convince colonists of Austin's authority and of the validity of titles. Concerning election of deputy to State congress, and necessity of having one to protect the colony. Reports of the income of Austin from land fees. Unauthorized settlements in Texas.

Agreement for hire of slave, April 12, 1824. Castleman to Austin,

Austin to Carter and Fowler, April 13, 1824. Commerce.

Saucedo to minister of relations, April 15, 1824. Unauthorized settlement of immigrants in East Texas, and difficulty of controlling them.

J. Thomas to Austin, April 15, 1824 Introducing Thomas Westall.

J. Thomas to Austin, April 15, 1824 Debtors in Texas. Slavery.

Juan Bautista de Arispe to Austin, April 17, 1824. Forwarding Austin's letter of citizenship. Shall the eastern interior Provinces be united into one State, or shall each Province form a State? Commerce.

Mrs. Erasmo Seguin [Maria Josefa Agustina Bezerril to Austin, April 20, 1824. Asks for hoes and an ax.

Bastrop to Austin, April 20, 1824. If Nuevo Leon separates from Texas and Coahuila the Congress will meet at Saltillo. Wants certain supplies if he is elected.

Austin to military commandant of Texas, April 20, 1824. Karankaway Indians.

Austin to José Antonio Saucedo, April 20, 1824. Bastrop elected to represent the colony in State Congress. Has received the acta constitutiva.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, April 20, 1824. Election of Bastrop. Celebration of the acta constitutiva.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, April 20, 1824. Instructions for taking oath to acta constitutiva and electing Bastrop.

Election of Bastrop to represent the colony, April 20, 1824.

Austin to Mrs. Joseph H. Hawkins, April 20, 1824. Condolence on death of her husband. Austin's philosophy. Condition of the colony.

Erasmo Seguin to Bastrop, April 21, 1824. Advantage of the union of Coahuila and Texas. Fees for surveying. Political confusion in national affairs.

Samuel Sexton to Austin, April 22, 1824. Emigration to Texas. Debtors.

George H. Robb to Austin, April 24, 1824. Commerce. Transportation. Judiciary.

Marriage bond—John Crownover and Nancy Castleman, April 29, 1824.

James Gaines to Austin, April 30, 1824. Receipt for $5 for two hoes.

Proclamation—Austin to the settlers, May 1, 1824. Congratulations on adoption of federal system. His responsibility to the settlers. Attitude toward Indians.

Josiah H. Bell to Austin, May 1, 1824. Oath to the acta constitutiva. Militia election.

James Cummins to Austin, May 3, 1824. Indian treaty. Militia organization. Oath to acta constitutiva.

Austin to James Cummins, May 4, 1824. Military reorganization.

Austin to mother and sister, May 4, 1824. Instructions for moving to Texas. Philosophy of life. Conditions in the colony.

Austin to J. E. B. Austin, May 4, 1824. Instructions for moving mother and sister to Texas. Transportation. Commerce. Condition of the colony.

Marriage permit—Betsey Bright to Noel Roberts, May 10, 1824.

Bastrop to Austin, May 10, 1824. If Federal Congress passes emancipation law, it may be possible to obtain some concession in favor of colonists who already have slaves in Texas. Union of Nuevo Leon with Coahuila and Texas would be unfavorable to toleration, because it has clerical deputies and is accustomed to the ecclesiastical yoke. Announces his election to the State congress. Will go if Austin wishes it and will find money and supplies for him.

Constable's subpœna, May 13, 1824. Judiciary.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, May 15, 1824. American settlers in east Texas resent the order to move to interior and blame Austin for it. Character of settlers in east Texas contrasted with those of the colony. Rumors that Austin's colonists will not get titles to their land.

Militia election, May 15, 1824.

Political chief's proclamation, Saucedo to Colonists, May 20, 1824. Defining limits of Austin's colony and Austin's authority therein.

Land fees fixed by the political chief, José Antonio Saucedo, May 20, 1824.

Proclamation of political chief (Saucedo), May 21, 1824. Assuring the colonists of Austin's ample authority.

Anthony R. Clarke to Austin, May 22, 1824. Americans in east Texas object to the establishment of catholicism as the State religion. Opposition to moving to the interior. Bastrop and Austin suspected of having selfish interest in this. Horse thieves.

Philip T. Dimmitt to Austin, May 22, 1824. Request for payment of a draft.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, May 23, 1824. Death of mother.

Austin to [alcalde], May [24], 1824. Transmitting civil and criminal code approved by political chief. Judicial procedure. Indian policy.

Forms and writs [May 24, 1824?]. Judiciary.

Austin to alcalde of San Felipe, May 24, 1824. Announcing Bastrop's election. Indians.

John P. Coles to Austin, May 25, 1824. Judicial procedure.

Austin to colonists, May 25, 1824. Calling a meeting to frame instructions for deputy in State congress.

Austin to provincial deputation, May 25, 1824. Acknowledging election of deputy to State congress.

Austin to provincial deputation, May 25, 1824. Instructions to deputy.

Austin to provincial deputation, May 25, 1824. Acknowledging declaration of war against Tahuayas Indians.

Austin to provincial deputation, May 25, 1824. Reporting that colonists have taken oath to acta constitutiva.

James Cummins to Austin, May 25, 1824. Militia organization.

José Antonio Saucedo to Austin, May 25, 1824. Unable to use the corn contributed by colonists toward expenses of their deputy in Congress. Return to them with thanks.

Austin confirms a militia election, May 28, 1824.

Mathew Scobey to Austin, May 29, 1824. Wants information about Government and land titles. Crop failure on Red River.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, June 3, 1824. Hawkin's estate and his expenditures for the colony. General Wilkinson.

William Cooper to Austin, June 4, 1824. Land.

Randall Jones to Austin, June 4, 1824. Suggesting instructions to deputy in State congress. Slavery, registering marks and brands, forbidding the killing of deer and horses for skins, forbidding the burning of the prairie.

Proceedings of a meeting to instruct deputy in State congress [June 4, 1824?]. Slavery, election of local officers, jury trial.

Proceedings of a meeting to instruct deputy in State congress, June 5, 1824. Request of National Congress privilege of raising and exporting tobacco. Request State congress to safeguard slavery.

Austin to colonists, June 5, 1824. Review of history of grant, and of his contract with colonists charging 12½ cents an acre for land. Intervention of the political chief and misinterpretation of the colonization law. Austin's heavy expenses in governing the colony, surveying, caring for land titles, etc.

Austin et al. to provincial deputation, June 10, 1824. Transmitting petitions to Federal Congress concerning tobacco monopoly and slavery.

Petition to Congress, June 10, 1824. Privilege of raising tobacco. Argument for encouragement of agriculture.

Petition to Federal Congress concerning slavery, June 10, 1824. Law under which the colony was established recognized slavery; slaves necessary to furnish labor to improve the country; not intended for trade.

Anthony R. Clarke, June 12, 1824. Position of the unauthorized settlements in east Texas. Attitude of the settlers toward Austin. Character of Gaines.

J. Cable to Austin, June 13, 1824. General conditions of the time.

Amos Rawls to Austin, June 13, 1824. Karankawa Indians.

Austin to Amos Rawls, June 14, 1824. Preparations for campaign against Karankawas. Committee on memorials to Congress. Land titles.

Philip T. Dimmitt to Austin, June [15], 1824. Defending Austin's right to collect payment for settling on lands in the colony. Hostility of certain agitators. Father Garza wants a tax. Slavery. Bastrop.

James Gaines to Austin, June 18, 1824. Explaining restlessness of settlers in east Texas. Bad characters on the Sabine.

Austin to José Antonio Saucedo, June 20, 1824. Steps to complete titles to settlers. First contract for 300 families nearly completed. Drouth.

Austin to José Antonio Saucedo, June 20, 1824. Asks for a priest, or for authority to perform civil marriages

José Antonio Saucedo to Austin, June 22, 1824. Urging collection of land fees due the Government. Commissioner to extend titles.

José Antonio Saucedo to Austin, June 22, 1824. Land fees for Government. Titles.

José Antonio Saucedo to Austin, June 22, 1824. Regulations for local government.

Organization of militia battalion, June 22, 1824.

Militia officers, June 22, 1824.

Austin to Amos Rawls [June 22, 1824?]. Method of dealing with Indian horse thieves.

José Antonio Saucedo to Austin, June 23, 1824. Transmitting order to local alcaldes concerning land fees and titles.

Samuel Norris to Austin, June 24, 1824. Judiciary.

Philip T. Dimmitt to Austin, June 25, 1824. Bastrop's character.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, June 25, 1824. Concerning a draft on Hawkins. Uneasy reports from Mexico.

William Trimble to Austin, June 26, 1824. Introducting Green DeWitt.

Thomas M. Duke to Austin, June —, 1824. Waco and "Towaash" Indians.

Austin to commissioners [Duke and Selkirk] to Waco Indians [June —, 1824]. Powers to make treaty.

Austin to Waco Indians—a talk [June —, 1824].

John P. Coles to Austin, July 7, 1824. Austin's right to collect 12½ cents an acre for land. This based on contracts with immigrants and can not be affected by interference of political chief.

Dr. John Sibley to Austin, July 7, 1824. Introducing Mr. Cherbonier.

Dr. John Sibley to Austin, Natchitoches, July 8, 1824. Good report of Texas. Mexican Constitution good, except article establishing Catholic religion, which he thinks will be tacitly disregarded in Texas. England and the holy alliance. Mail service between Mexico and United States. State and National politics.

José Antonio Saucedo to Austin, July 10, 1824. Lack of rain not sufficient cause for failure of colony. Settlers must remember that good and bad years alternate. Sends Bastrop to extend titles.

José Antonio Saucedo to Austin, July 10, 1824. Difficulties of his position. Father Garza will visit colony in October to perform marriages. Bastrop must depart for State congress August 20.

José Antonio Saucedo to Austin, July 10, 1824. Instructions to prepare for Father Garza's visit in October to perform marriages and baptisms.

José Antonio Saucedo to Austin, July 10, 1824. Authorizing appointment of a secretary for the colony.

Militia election return, July 10, 1824.

Proclamation by Austin, July 12, 1824. Applicants for land must present themselves by November 1, 1824.

Copy of decree of July 13, 1824. Abolishing the slave trade.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, July 18, 1824. Death of their mother and James Bryan. Plan to move sister and family to Texas.

James Cummins to Austin, July 19, 1824. Judiciary. Land.

Father Francisco Maynes to Austin and Bastrop, July 21, 1824. Political news. Plans visit to colony to perform marriage and baptisms.

Martin C. Allen to Austin, July 25, 1824. Land.

Aylett C. Buckner to Austin, July 25, 1824. Land.

Aylett C. Buckner to Josiah H. Bell, July 25, 1824. Commerce.

Land title—Thomas Boatright, July 26, 1824. Procedure in granting land.

Wyly Martin to Austin, July 31, 1824. Application for land.

Austin to [Ramos Arispe? July 31, 1824?]. Completed at last the settlement of first 200 families. Exercised great care in the selection of the families.

Argument for right of the colonists to hold slaves. Explanation of the contracts with colonists requiring them to pay 12½ cents an acre for land. Need of a superior judge for the colony.

Anthony R. Clarke to Austin [July? —, 1824]. News of Iturbide's departure from England for Mexico. United States and Texas. Politics.

License to keep a ferry at San Felipe [July? —, 1824].

A. G. Wavell to Austin [about July —, 1824] Asking information about the colony.

Austin to A. G. Wavell [about July —, 1824]. Discouragements.

Austin to Thomas Westall, contract for hire of slaves, August 1, 1824.

L. B. Hawkins to J. E. B. Austin, August 3, 1824. Commerce in Texas. Character of Mexican population.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, August 6, 1824. J. H. Hawkins's expenditure for the colony. Austin's plans for settlement with his estate. Crops in Louisiana.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, August 8, 1824. Report in New Orleans of rebellion in Austin's colony. Mexican character unfit for self-government.

Erasmo Seguin to Austin, August 11, 1824. Concerning memorials to Congress (concerning tobacco monopoly and slavery). Colonization law recognizes validity of contracts between empresarios and colonists. Congress voted down resolution that all emigrants must be Catholics.

J. Cable to Austin, August 16, 1824. Commerce.

José Antonio Valdez to Bastrop, August 18, 1824. Indian thefts.

John Sprowl to Austin, August 18, 1824. Horse stealing.

Josiah H. Bell to Austin, August 18, 1824. Surveying.

Hugh McGuffin to Austin, August 18, 1824.

Agreement between Austin and Horatio Chriesman for surveying. August 20, 1824.

Agreement—Austin and José Andres Ramírez, August 20, 1824. Austin to purchase 50 or 100 mares.

Randall Jones to Austin, August 22, 1824.

James Cummins to Austin, August 25, 1924. Karankawa Indians.

Josiah H. Bell to Austin, August 25, 1824. Surveying.

Alaman to Saucedo, August 25, 1824. Permit no Americans to settle in Texas.

Austin to José Antonio Saucedo, August 26, 1824. Settlers on the San Jacinto want Austin's colony extended to include them.

Austin to Saucedo, August 26, 1824. Nominates Samuel M. Williams to be the secretary of the colony. Registration of titles.

Austin to Saucedo, August 26, 1824. Acknowledging receipt of law concerning sealed paper.

Austin to Saucedo, August 26, 1824. Acknowledging order to alcaldes concerning payment of land fees.

Austin to Saucedo, August 26, 1824. Acknowledging notice that Bastrop will grant titles to colonists.

Austin to Saucedo, August 26, 1824. Attack by the Karankaway Indians.

Austin to Saucedo, August 26, 1824. Petition of colonists for a curate.

Austin to Castañeda, August 26, 1824. Acknowledging letter from Secretary of State, etc., February 25.

Austin to Saucedo, August 26, 1824. Acknowledging letter from Secretary?

Austin to Saucedo, August 26, 1824. Concerning a Mexican fugitive who escaped to the United States.

Austin to José Antonio Saucedo, August 26, 1824. Difficulty in collecting money from colonists. Impossible to build chapel for Father Garza by October.

J. Cable to Austin, August 28, 1824. Transmitting mail.

Austin's journal of campaign against Karankawas, August 30–September 7, 1824.

Bastrop to Austin, August 30, 1824. Receipt for $2,821.56½ for commissioner's fees.

William Kincheloe to Austin, August —, 1824. Statement of land dues.

William Johnson to Austin, Woodville, Miss., September 2, 1824. Introducing George Huff, expert mechanic. Immigration.

José Antonio Saucedo to Pablo de la Llave, September 2, 1824. Asks for interpretation of law of July 13, 1824, concerning slavery and slave trade. Is it intended to prevent further introduction by immigrants, and does it free slaves already brought in?

William Anderson to Austin [Mississippi], September 4, 1824. Emigration. Introducing George Huff.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, September 6, 1824. Marriage of sister to James F. Perry. Will return to Texas alone. Note by Emily at bottom.

John A. Williams to Austin, September 8, 1824. Moving from Nacogdoches to Austin's colony. Slaves. Cotton.

Bastrop to Austin, September 9, 1824. Cattle. Iturbide's death. Bastrop departing for State congress.

Andrew Erwin to Austin, September 11, 1824. Tennessee. Interest in Texas. Qualities of Jared E. Groce.

Henry Holstein to Austin, September 11, 1824. Impediments to emigration to Texas.

John P. Coles to Philip T. Dimmitt, September 14, 1824. Thinks prospect of the acquisition of Texas by the United States very doubtful.

J. Botts to Austin, September 14, 1824. Hawkins estate. Much immigration from the Mississippi next spring.

William Stafford to Austin, September 16, 1824. Immigration.

Receipt for Government fees on land, Miguel Arciniega to Bastrop, September 16, 1824.

Francis P. Wall to Austin, September 16, 1824. Great numbers going to Texas from Louisiana and Mississippi. Can land be obtained without settlement?

Militia order, September 18, 1824. Austin to A. Robinson.

José Antonio Saucedo to Lucas Alaman, September 19, 1824. Transmitting copy of a newspaper of the United States forecasting a treaty of limits with Mexico which would extend boundaries of the United States to the Rio Grande. Arguments against this.

J. Thomas to Austin, Alexandria, September 20, 1824. Introducing immigrants.

Mrs. Erasmo Seguin to Austin, September 20, 1824. Reports from Mexico that the constitution is nearing completion.

Saucedo to Austin, September 21, 1824. Bastrop has delivered $1,000 of Government fees on land and reports that colonists are to be allowed two years to pay remaining $11,000. This contrary to Government instructions, but is approved on condition that Bastrop becomes responsible for collection.

John Hawkins to Austin, September 21, 1824. Washington County, Mo. Evil reports check emigration to Texas. Merchants opposed to anyone's moving. Truth barely reaches Red River going northward before it is "detected and stopped." Mexican Constitution good, except religious intolerance. Conditions in Missouri.

Bastrop to Austin, September 22, 1824. Bequeaths to Austin, in case of death, one-third of the land fees due him as commissioner. Difficult task to be representative of Texas in the legislature; measures already begun contrary to the interest of the Province. Karankawa Indians.

Saucedo to Austin, September 22, 1824. Getting Bastrop off to Saltillo. Sympathy with Austin on death of his mother. Austin may increase his premium in lands to five haciendas.

Francisco Maynes to Austin, September 24, 1824. Curate.

Francisco Maynes to Austin, September 28, 1824. Thanks for the petition which colonists have made to have him appointed their curate. Wants catechism in English.

Martha Marple to Austin, September 29, 1824. Administration of estate of David J. Marple.

Bill for surveying, Seth Ingram to Austin, September 30, 1824.

Bill for surveying, William Selkirk to Austin, September 30, 1824.

Austin to Seth Ingram, September 30, 1824. Receipt for notes and due bills.

Bill for surveying, Horatio Chriesman to Austin, October 1, 1824.

Austin to Seth Ingram, October 1, 1824. Contract for surveying.

Austin to Supreme Executive Power of the Republic, October 1, 1824. Petition to be allowed to settle two or three hundred additional families.

Austin's explanation to Supreme Executive Power [October 1, 1824?]. Recites labor and expense of founding the colony, the contracts with the colonists to pay 12½ cents an acre for land, the annulment of the contracts by the political chief, and his desire to recoup losses. Argues advantage of allowing him to settle the vacant lands between the holdings of present colonists in order to avoid conflicts. The petition which this document reinforces is missing.

José Geronimo Huizar to Saucedo, October 1, 1824. Austin's treaty with Karankawa Indians.

John Ruland to A. McNair, October 3, and A. McNair to Austin, October 8, 1824. Recommending Zadock Woods.

James Dill to Austin, October 7, 1824. Judicial procedure.

Littleberry Hawkins to Austin, October 7, 1824. Review of his trading ventures in Texas in 1822. Character of the public men.

A. McNair to Austin, October 8, 1824. Introducing Capt. Joseph McCoy.

G. A. [Mrs. Joseph H] Hawkins to Austin, October 9, 1824. Hawkins' estate and interest in the colony.

Price list, October 10, 1824. [Texas.]

Surveyor's accounts, October 11, 1824.

Drug bill, St. Louis, October 12, 1824.

Robert C. Bruffey to Austin, October 13, 1824. Austin's Missouri debts.

Board bill, Texas, October 21, 1824.

Bartlett Sims to Austin, October 22, 1824. Surveying difficulties. Groce.

William Bunaugh to Austin, October 24, 1824. Warning him against an undesirable immigrant.

James E. B. Austin, George Huff, and Joseph Servison. Contract to build sawmill, gristmill, and cotton gin. October 26, 1824.

Agreement to grant land—Austin to Charles Morgan and Samuel Sexton, October 26, 1824.

Austin to Gaspar Flores, October 27, 1824. Acknowledging decrees of State congress.

Citizens of San Jacinto to Austin, October- 1824. Petition for appointment of J. Hunter as surveyor.

Austin to priests and authorities of La Bahia [about Nov. 1, 1824]. Concerning modification of treaty with Karankawa Indians.

John P. Coles to Austin, November 1, 1824. Concerning disputes among the colonists about the amount of land granted them. Groce.

James Gaines to Austin, November 1, 1824. Complicated trading.

Jared E. Groce to Austin, November 6, 1824. Land business.

James Nelson to Austin, November 6, 1824.

Elijah Allcorn to Harrison and Hopkins, Natchitoches, November 6, 1824. Commerce.

Austin to Gaspar Flores, November 6, 1824. Incorporated 23 families settled on the San Jacinto into his colony.

Austin to Supreme Executive Power of the Republic, November 6, 1824. Labor in establishing the colony. Needs legal port to facilitate necessary trade. Four cotton gins ready to gin cotton which can not ship without a port. Wants to introduce 200 or 300 additional families.

Austin to State congress, November 6, 1824. Asks State congress to intervene with National Government to permit to settle additional colonists and to open a port on the coast, preferably at Galveston.

John P. Coles to Austin, November 9, 1824. Groce's land. McNeels immigrating from east Texas.

Martin Allen to Austin, November 9, 1824. Immigration.

James Gaines to Austin, November 10, 1824. Complex barter. Gaines' claims for land as a member of the Gutierrez expedition. Complaints made against Austin by his colonists.

Hugh McGuffin to Austin, Natchitoches, November 12, 1824. Austin's wagons have arrived to meet J. E. B. Austin and his sister.

Benjamin Lindsey to Austin, November 14, 1824. Land.

Thomas Westall to Austin, Winchester [Tenn.], November 14, 1824. Immigration. Commerce.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, November 16, 1824. The Hawkins estate, and Hawkins' interest in the colony.

List of members of the Legislature of Coahuila and Texas [Nov. 16, 1824 (?)].

Bastrop's proposals in State congress, November 16, 1824–August 4, 1825, with action of the congress thereon. Also correspondence with Manuel Cevallos: (1) Resolution asking State congress to indorse: (*a*) Petition of colonists for permission to raise tobacco. (*b*) For appointment of a suitable political chief in Texas. (*c*) For legalizing port of Galveston. (*d*) Indorsing certain recommendations of Señor Musquiz for the benefit of Texas. (*e*) For reduction of postal rates in Coahuila and Texas. (*f*) For framing instructions to representatives in National Congress. (2) Bastrop to Cevallos and Viesca, May 2, 1825: (*a*) Argument for granting to Texas the privilege of raising tobacco; (*b*) urging payment of back salary to political chief of Texas; (*c*) urging measures to protect the settlements in Texas from Indians (especially Comanches) and to provide means of giving presents to the peaceable Indians. This cost $6,000 a year under the old régime. (3) Memorial presented by Bastrop to State congress, March 6, 1825, to be indorsed by it and forwarded as a petition to the National Congress for relief of Texas: (*a*) Description of geography, climate, and population of Texas. Population consisted of 2,000 at Bexar, 800 at La Bahia, 2,400 in Austin's colony, and some 10,000 on the Sabine frontier who had settled there without authority; a thousand of these, at least, were criminals from the United States, and 2,000 more turbulent characters who recognized no law but that of force. (*b*) Indians: The friendly ones steal cattle, and the hostile tribes kill and rob whenever they can. Trouble with both groups aggravated by lawless Mexicans who live among them. Need presidial troops to protect settlements. (*c*) Americans on the Sabine carry on illicit trade with Indians, exchanging arms for stolen horses and mules. Try to arrange treaty with the United States stopping this. (*d*) Importance of allowing Texas to cultivate tobacco. (*e*) Plea for redemption of the paper money issued by Gov. Trespalacios in 1822. (*f*) Plea

for legalizing the ports of Galveston, Matagorda, and Brazos. (4) Viesca's reply acknowledging receipt. (5) Cevallos' reply. (6) Bastrop to Cevallos, August 1, 1825: Glad the Government is to resume policy of giving presents to friendly Indians; urges a reform of unequal postal rates; explains that Saucedo's salary as political chief, and not his own, is in arrears; Trespalacios' paper money. (7) Cevallos' reply. (8) Bastrop to Viesca, August 19, 1825: Repeating his petitions for permission to cultivate tobacco in Texas, open ports, extend mail system and reduce rates; suggesting treaty with United States to prevent illicit trading with Indians; describing unauthorized settlements on eastern frontier and presenting plans for solving the problem; renewed hostilities of the Comanches. (9) Viesca's reply, October 4, 1825. (10) Bastrop to Cevallos, August 22, 1825, describing depredations of the Comanches at Bexar and on the frontier. (11) Cevallos to Bastrop, September 14, 1825: Measures of the Federal Government to protect Texas from Indians; ports of Texas will be opened in a fortnight. (12) Bastrop to Cevallos, September 26, 1825, thanking him for his efforts. (13) Cevallos' reply, October 12, 1825, explaining delay in military program for protection of Texas. (14) Bastrop to Viesca, October 31, 1825, thanking him for attention to petitions.

Bill of sale for laves, November 16, 1824. Samuel and Elizabeth Pharr to William Pettus.

James Tumlinson to Austin, November 17, 1824. Land.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, November 18, 1824. Memorandum of duties.

Joseph Servison to Austin, November 20, 1824. Plans for improvements, mills, steamboats, etc.

J. Cable to Austin, November 20, 1824. Commerce. Return of the wagons sent by Austin to meet his mother and sister at Natchitoches.

George Huff to Austin, November 21, 1824. Emigration from Mississippi.

William Johnson to Austin, November 21, 1824. Emigration from Mississippi.

Dr. John Sibley to Austin, November 21, 1824. Claim of late Dr. Robinson against Mexican Government, which he traded to William Alexander Danlin. European news. Presidential election of 1824.

Churchill Fulshear to Austin, November 22, 1824. Asking him to hire from Col. Groce a negro man.

George Huff to Austin, November 24, 1824. Emigration from Mississippi. Bastrop's letter saying that Austin keeps part of the fees for land does Austin great hurt.

Austin to Andrew Robinson, November 26, 1824. Commission as captain in militia.

Austin to William S. Brown, November 26, 1824. Commission as lieutenant in militia.

Seth Ingram to Austin, November 27, 1824. Dissatisfaction of settlers over inequality of land grants. Difficulty of division of land when two single men united to form a "family."

Boone Whiteside to Austin, November 28, 1824. Application for land.

James Whiteside to Austin November 29, 1824. Concerning land.

Timothy Flint to Austin, Alexandria, November 29, 1824. Asks Austin for an article, Texas and the Provincias Internas, to be used in "Recollections of ten years spent in the valley of the Mississippi."

Martin Allen to Austin [Nov. - , 1824]. Land. Trade.

Austin to Humphrey Jackson [Nov. —, 1824]. Commission and instructions as alcalde.

Price list and land office currency [Nov. —, 1824].

Price list, December 1, 1824.

Contract for hire of slaves, December 3. 1824.

John Cooke to Austin, December 3, 1824. Land claims. Settlers of San Jacinto glad to be included in your colony.

Solomon R. Bolin to Austin, December 5, 1824. Immigration.

Gaspar Flores to Austin, December 6, 1824. Copy of Federal Constitution. Military plans to protect Texas from Indians.

Austin to Gaspar Flores [answering letter of Dec. 6, 1824]. Measures that are necessary to people Texas: (1) Free immigration with privilege of introducing slaves for personal use; (2) colonization commission composed of one Mexican and one American; (3) open ports to trade with Europe and the rest of the world. Summary of advantages which the State would enjoy from such measures.

J. Thomas to Austin, Alexandria, December 6, 1824. Introducing Thomas Hooper.

Green DeWitt to Austin, December 6, 1824. Asking Austin's advice in applying for colonization contract.

Dr. John Sibley to Austin, December 10, 1824. State (Louisiana) and national politics. Internal improvements. Europe. Can buy up claims of Gutierrez's men if Mexican Government will recognize them.

A. H. Adams to Austin, December 11, 1824. Land. Immigration.

R. Carpenter to J. E. B. Austin, December 13, 1824. Wants work as surveyor.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, December 14, 1824. The Hawkins estate.

John Botts to Austin, New Orleans, December 15, 1824. Concerning a dispute about a horse. Sends Austin a cake of soap and a quire of paper.

Austin to his sister (Mrs. James F. Perry), December 17, 1824. Good immigration from Mississippi. "Some with a number of negroes." Hopes to gain religious toleration. Pioneer conditions.

Character certificate—Coatsworth P. Welborn, December 20, 1824.

Character certificate—Samuel C. Hirams, December 20, 1824.

Austin to governor of Coahuila and Texas, December 20, 1824. Description of local government in Austin's colony. Need of ayuntamiento. Conditions in Nacogdoches. Need of legalized ports to promote cotton and other agricultural industry.

Election returns, December 22, 1824.

Memorial by Austin to the Legislature of Coahuila and Texas, December 22, 1824: (1) Wants copy of law concerning settlement of estates of deceased persons. (2) Law concerning debts contracted before entering colony. Thinks law should exempt them from prosecution for 12 years. (3) Law concerning deeding and conveying lands. Describes the method he has been following. (4) Asks whether English and French may be used in deeds and records. Has used Spanish consistently, but not "one in a hundred" of the colonists understands Spanish. (5) Asks how to procure sealed paper for 1825. (6) Asks instructions for punishment of thieves, robbers, etc. Position on frontier exposes settlement to rogues of both nations. (7) Argument for establishment of mail service as far as the Sabine; United States would establish a line to connect with the Mexican route. (8) Repeats request for permission to settle additional families and asks about slaves. (9) Instructions for treatment of fugitive slaves from the United States, and for the punishment of kidnappers of free negroes who bring the negroes to Texas. (10) Has Austin authority to punish counterfeiters of Louisiana bank paper who circulate it in Texas? (11) Is he authorized to establish provisional regulations if laws on certain subjects are not available? (12) Suggests appointment of superior judge and

his own relief from judicial duties. (13) Toleration for Protestant preaching and worship.

Memorandum of points for the legislature [Dec. 22, 1824]. Concerning surveying and surveyors.

Austin to John McIntire, December 22, 1824. Statement of account in payment for a trip to Natchitoches.

J. D. Bludworth to Andrew Robinson, December 22, 1824. Bill of sale for a horse.

Francisco Garcia to Samuel M. Williams, December 26, 1824. Concerning reconciliation with one Mora. Gratification over the constitution. Commerce.

R. R. Royall to Austin, December 28, 1824. Concerning Spanish land grants which he has bought near Nacogdoches.

Austin to Saucedo [about Dec. —, 1824]. Asking that he be relieved of judicial functions.

Bastrop's work in Legislature of Coahuila and Texas, January 1, 1825: (1) Resolution and argument for appointment of a political chief in Texas. The office made necessary by the rapid colonization of the province, and by conditions on the eastern frontier where many unauthorized settlements exist. (2) Report of a special committee indorsing the resolution and presenting a bill.

Proclamation by Austin creating district of Bravo, January 1, 1825. Changing Brazos district to Bravo. Election return.

Anthony R. Clarke to Austin, January 2, 1825. Plans for moving to Texas. House of entertainment.

Humphry Jackson to Austin, January 6, 1825. Judicial procedure. Roads and improvements.

Gaspar Flores to Austin, January 7, 1825. Great delay in mail service. Only one copy of the Federal Constitution sent to Bexar, so can not send copy to Austin. Presidential election in Mexico.

Francis Biggam to Austin, January 8, 1825. Emigration from Mississippi. Transportation routes. Prejudice and falsehood delay development of Austin's colony.

Robert Lewis to Austin, January 9, 1825. Difficulties of trade in northern Mexico. Indians troublesome.

Election return, January 10, 1825. James Cummins alcalde of Colorado district.

John P. Coles to Austin, January 11, 1825. Judicial business. Complicated trading. Character of James Gaines.

John P. Coles to Austin, January 11, 1825. Land transfers.

Rawson Alley to Austin, January 11, 1825. Land business.

John P. Coles to Austin, January 12, 1825. Land business. Trade. Economic conditions.

José Antonio Saucedo to Austin, January 12, 1825. Poor mail service. Bastrop's provision for division of his dues as land commissioner between Saucedo and Austin. Suggestion for collection of dues.

William Little to Austin, January 13, 1825. Private land sales. Vital statistics.

J. Iiams to Austin, January 15, 1825. Concerning land and surveying.

Seth Ingram to Austin, January 16, 1825. Concerning land and surveying.

James A. E. Phelps to Austin, January 16, 1825. Fever of emigration in Mississippi and "adjoining State." Report concerning abolition of slavery has checked movement.

A. H. Philips to Austin, January 17, 1825. Land.

Thomas Gray to Austin, January 19, 1825. Land.

Juan Martin de Beramendi to Austin, January 19, 1825. Concerning the $11,000 due from colonists on land fees; and about the contribution of grain made by the colonists for the deputy of the province in Congress.

Knight and White to Austin, January 22, 1825. Concerning land and surveying.

Thomas Gray to Austin, January 23, 1825. Misunderstanding about the land that he desired.

Thomas M. Duke to Austin, January 23, 1825. Request for certain land.

Erasmo Seguin to Austin, Mexico, January 26, 1825. Acknowledging letter from Austin, November 5, 1824. His term in Congress expired December 24, 1824; therefore he has passed on to his successor, Cevallos, Austin's requests. Permission to settle additional families and to open the port of Galveston well advanced in Congress. Asks Austin to get a carriage for him in New Orleans.

Rafael Ramos y Valdez to Austin, January 27, 1825. Concerning legalization of the port of Galveston, the State legislature can do no more than make recommendations to Congress. To-day finished discussion of the law providing for political chief of Texas pending passage of constitution. Begin consideration of colonization law next month.

Rawson Alley to Austin, January 29, 1825 Surveying.

J. Hams to Austin, January 29, 1825. Asks about land for two families wishing to move from East Texas to Austin's colony. Each has about 17 slaves.

George Huff to Austin, January 29, 1825. Emigration from Mississippi. Land. Mills.

James A. E. Phelps to Austin, January 29, 1825. Sends garden seed.

Archibald Austin to Austin, New York, January 30, 1825. Plans for trade with Texas and asking for information about products.

A. W. McClain to Austin, January 30, 1825. Misunderstandings concerning land.

James Grant to Austin, January 31, 1825. Land.

David H. Holstein to Austin, Alexandria [about Jan. —, 1825]. Conditions in Louisiana. Cotton prices. Great many emigrants passing through for Texas.

George Robinson to Austin, February 2, 1825. Land.

Austin to Father Juan Nepomuceno Peña, February 1, 1825. Replying to Peña's letter of January 14, 1825. Rejoicing at promise of a priest for the colony. Children unbaptized and five civil marriages awaiting ministrations of the church. Asks about divorces for two men whose wives have deserted them.

Thomas Hooper to Austin, February 2, 1825. Emigration from Louisiana.

Austin to governor of Coahuila and Texas, February 4, 1825. Has filled contract for 300 families. Many others entering Texas, but, as he has no authority to grant them land in his colony, they settle on the Trinity and the Neches. No municipal organization there, and this enables a few criminals and turbulent characters to cause great trouble. Suggests organization of local government there as the settlers request, and asks for permit to settle 300 additional families in his colony. Sends map of Galveston Bay.

Austin to governor of Coahuila and Texas, February 4, 1825. Order being disturbed by immigrants from various Mexican settlements. Provisional regulations have been adequate for his settlers, but asks laws for restraint of these men.

Austin to Congress of Coahuila and Texas, February 4, 1825. Arguments for the opening of the port of Galveston.

Austin to governor of Coahuila and Texas, February 5, 1825. Application and argument for coasting trade to Refugio, Soto la Marina, Tampico, Orleans, and Atacapa. Colonists want to export corn, butter, pumpkins, cotton, and other products.

Bastrop in Legislature of Coahuila and Texas, February 9, 1825. Bill and argument of a committee for State colonization law. The argument confines itself to a few points: (1) The merits of the empresario system, and the amount of land to be allowed empresarios for the introduction of each 100 families. (2) The quantity and price of land to be allowed immigrants. (3) The restriction of land sales by the Government to natives only. (4) A pledge to make no radical change in the colonization law before the expiration of at least six years. The bill was passed with few changes, and is omitted.

James F. Perry to Austin, February 14, 1825. Business. Presidental election. Family news.

William Anderson to Austin, Wilkinson County, Miss., February 15, 1825. Land.

Juan Martin de Beramendi to Austin et al., February 15, 1825. Ordering the arrest of a Frenchman, Andrew Valentine, for horse stealing.

H. Johnson to Austin, February 15, 1825. Introducing Ira Ingram.

Juan Martin de Beramendi to Austin, February 15, 1825. Pleased with progress of republican government. Concerning Indians and robbers.

Charles Douglas to Austin, Tuscumbia, Ala., February 15, 1825. Great interest in Texas, but emigration checked by uncertainty on several points: (1) Will freedom of worship be winked at? (2) Are slaves safe? Can they be held as "working servants"? (3) Character of the soil? Climate? Navigation? etc., etc. Political news of United States and of Europe.

Juan Nepomuceno de la Peña to curates and others, February 18, 1825. Notifying them that he intends making an ecclesiastical visitation in Texas.

P. S. Slocum to J. E. B. Austin, Natchitoches, February 20, 1825. Political news, State and National. Adams will probably be elected President.

Kinchen Holliman to Austin, Woodville, Miss., February 21, 1825. Hard times delay his moving to Texas.

Martin de Leon to Austin, February 22, 1825.

H. Connell to Austin, Woodville, Miss., February 26, 1825. Emigration to Texas.

James Holloway to Austin, February 27, 1825. Receipt for $40 for freighting.

William Johnson to Austin, February 28, 1825. Emigration. Adams elected president.

H. Connell to Austin, March 1, 1825. Intentions to move to Texas.

William Johnson to Austin, March 1, 1825. Introducing William P. Perkins.

James Cummins to Austin, March 3, 1825. Concerning land.

Thomas Earle to Austin, March 5, 1825. Concerning land.

Austin to his colonists, March 5, 1825. Concerning Land Office money.

Thomas Westall to Jared E. Groce, March 5, 1825. Commerce.

Isaac D. Ogiem to Austin, March 9, 1825. Proposal to build gins, saw mills, etc.

Price list, March 15, 1825. Price of powder.

Austin to Gov. Rafael Gonzales, March 16, 1825. Taking oath to the Federal Constitution and to the State congress. Salute of 23 guns and a barbecue.

Bastrop to Austin, March 19, 1825. Congress moves slowly. Law creating political chief for Texas is passed, and colonization law passed lacking nine articles. Much opposition to Texas in the Congress and he has to pledge votes for a proposal before presenting it in order to get it passed. Opposi-

tion also in Bexar to the new settlements. Suggests that Austin be the next representative from Texas. Musquiz has declined office as senator for Coahuila and Texas in the National Congress and Bastrop is electioneering for Ramos Arispe, but fears that the Saltilleros will oppose him. Comanches are raiding in Coahuila. Military measures for protection of Texas. Few copies of Federal Constitution have yet arrived. Sends Austin the only one he has been able to get. Rumor of Spanish invasion assisted by France and Holy Alliance. Commerce. Details of passage of colonization law. Thinks José María Viesca will be elected to succeed Musquiz. Interesting glimpse of "log rolling." Great schemes for Texas.

William Brenaugh to Austin, March 19, 1825. Wants land. Has 12 negroes.

J. Cable to Austin, March 21, 1825. Adams elected President. Rumors of treaty with Mexico annexing Texas to the United States.

Gaspar Flores to Bastrop, March 21, 1825. Transmitting with hearty indorsement new ideas of Austin for development of this unfortunate province.

John S. Wills to Austin, Brown County, Ohio, March 22, 1825. Inquiries about opportunities for professional men. Rumors of assimilation of Mexico by the United States.

John P. Coles to Austin, March 26, 1825. Land business.

Austin to Horatio Chriesman, April 1, 1825. Order to go with a force of militia to arrest Andrew Valentine and others at the house of Sartuche on Trinity River.

Austin to alcalde of Nacogdoches, April 2, 1825. Concerning arrest of Valentine.

Humphrey Jackson to Austin, April 3, 1825. Judicial procedure in the case of the schooner *Mary*. The settlers east of San Jacinto wish to remain in Austin's colony.

Austin to Gov. Gonzales, April 4, 1825. First contract for 300 families filled. Three hundred more anxious to come. Many petitions from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Some already arrived, and some on the road. Has expelled some bad characters from the colony, and they have spread damaging reports about the colony. Government will not be deceived. Petition for permit to settle 500 additional families. Argument: (1) The 300 families already settled too weak for adequate defense against Indians—need reinforcements; (2) vacant lands between settlers in his colony should be distributed by himself to avoid conflicting claims; (3) if the port of Galveston is opened, the settlers can not get full advantage from it without additional colonists; (4) the country can only be enriched by foreign trade, and must have more population in order to produce enough commerce to attract foreigners. Suggests that new settlers be allowed to bring slaves and keep them and their descendants as slaves. Otherwise the immigrants will be confined to the poorest class and development of the province will be much delayed.

Austin to Juan Martín de Beramendi, April 4, 1825. Procedure in case of Valentine.

Austin to alcalde of Nacogdoches, April 4, 1825. Judgment in the case of José María Averdaño, held at Nacogdoches for horse stealing. Defendant had previously been investigated by a jury of six men in San Felipe and acquitted. Austin affirms this previous verdict and awards damages to defendant for second arrest.

Austin to alcalde of Nacogdoches, April 4, 1825. Sends copy of Federal Constitution, which he must return because it is the only copy which the archives contain.

Gov. Rafael Gonzales to Austin, April 6, 1825. Answering Austin's of February 4: Provisional regulations of the colony shall extend to punishment of

new arrivals from the interior, of whom Austin speaks. Such persons from the interior as have the proper character to receive lands as colonists.

Bastrop to Austin, April 9, 1825. Received Austin's letters of January 1, 27, and February 5, 18. Introduced resolution to-day to indorse your petition for opening of port of Galveston. Work of Bastrop in legislature. Needs money, but don't send it by J. E. B. Austin, because he ought to be elector to choose Bastrop's successor.

Mrs. Emily Perry to J. E. B. Austin, Mine à Burton, April 10, 1825. Biographical.

Robert Lewis to Austin, April 11, 1825. Trade and transportation from New Orleans.

John K. Williams to John Sarver and John Dickenson, April 12, 1825. Agreement to sell land.

Saucedo to Austin, April 14, 1825. Regrets inability of colonists to pay land fees due the Government. Col. Ahumada approaching with 200 dragoons and $18,000 to maintain them. Bastrop writes that he will return in August. Asks for a hat and a ream of paper. Wants Austin to serve as his subaltern in San Felipe and Nacogdoches.

Aylett C. Buckner to Austin, April 20, 1825. Thinks Austin is treating him unfairly in distribution of land. Recites his claims and makes a strong case.

Dr. John Sibley to Austin, April 20, 1825. Congress taking steps to open a road from St. Louis to Santa Fé. Attention also to improvements of navigation of Red River, which will divert Santa Fé trade to this route. Cotton trade. Egyptian crop has failed England and created strong demand. Great South American trade from United States. Political news.

Horatio Chriesman to Austin, April 20, 1825. Report of search for Valentine, whose arrest Austin ordered.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, April 21, 1825. Introducing [James] Kerr, who is going to Texas with all his family, white and black.

Juan N. Seguin to Austin, April 22, 1825. Erasmo Seguin writes that Austin's business goes well in Mexico. Sends Austin a copy of the Constitution and part of a periodical. Keep the former but return the latter.

Dr. John Sibley to Austin, April 26, 1825. Medical advice.

Price list, April 26, 1825. Commerce. Biographical.

Bastrop to Austin, April 27, 1825. Mail service reformed. Ahumada takes 200 infantry and 100 cavalry to Texas, and this force will be increased. Report of scarcity of corn at Bexar. Much opposition in legislature to colonization of Texas by Anglo-Americans, because of the fear that they will bring about annexation of the province to the United States. It would be a good move if the colonists could supply Ahumada with corn at reasonable price.

Land Dues [Apr. —, 1825].

Juan Bautista de Arispe to Austin, May 1, 1825. Efforts to obtain legalization of port of Galveston. Pleased at reports of increase in settlement. Friendly attitude toward Edwards and Leftwich.

Berry and Battle to Austin, May 1, 1825. Bill for carpentering.

William Blanks to Austin, May 1, 1825. Fear of contest over his land.

Militia election proclamation [about May 1, 1825?].

Vote of the senate to legalize the port of Galveston and establish a customhouse. May 2, 1825.

Austin to alcalde of Nacogdoches, May 5, 1825. Forwarding instruction of Beramendi concerning passports.

Bastrop to Austin, May 6, 1825. Contracts for settlement of 2,400 families have been made with Edwards, Leftwich, Thorn, and DeWitt. New contract for Austin to settle 300. Passage of the colonization law was for a time en-

dangered by a plan which Ramos Arispe said was made by Gen. James Wilkinson. Dog in the manger plan. Gave him much difficulty. Reports status of the various Texas projects, most of which are satisfactorily disposed of. Will have 100,000 people in Texas in four or five years, and can then wield more influence. Complains that Austin has neglected him, neither building his house at San Felipe nor sending him money at Saltillo.

Bastrop to Austin, May 6, 1825. Order on Austin for 50 fanegas of corn to be delivered from next crop.

Sam Sexton to Austin, May 9, 1825. Concerning land for Sexton and Morgan.

H. Johnson, governor of Louisiana, to Bastrop, May 9, 1825. Concerning recovery of 10 African negroes stolen from Alabama while under adjudication of Federal district court.

Austin to Gov. Rafael Gonzales, May 10, 1825. Acknowledging receipt of notice (1) that Great Britain has recognized the independence of Mexico, (2) that Saucedo has been appointed political chief of the department of Texas, and (3) that the provisional regulations for the colony apply to natives who enter Texas from the interior.

Austin to Saucedo, May 10, 1825. Acknowledging notice of Saucedo's appointment as political chief.

Joshua Child to Austin et al., Port Gibson, Miss., May 12, 1825. Introducing Hugh Connell. Prospects of "large emigration of citizens of wealth and respectability."

Martin Allen to Austin, May 12, 1825. Concerning land.

Robert Leftwich or Haden Edwards to Austin, May 12, 1825. Grant finally obtained. Suggests agreement among empresarios concerning local government and price of land. Bastrop's fidelity and efficiency.

Jacob Betts to Austin, May 13, 1825. Very angry and disappointed over his allotment of land.

John P. Coles to Austin, May 13, 1825. Concerning a stolen negro.

Deposition of Wm. Pryor concerning a stolen slave, May 16, 1825.

William Pettus to R. R. Royall and Austin, May 16, 1825. Deed of trust to secure lien on slaves.

Austin to Saucedo, May 18, 1825. High water has delayed taking of a census ordered April 13.

Austin to alcalde of Nacogdoches, May 18, 1825. Transmitting order of political chief for arrest of Domingo Losoya and others for horse stealing. Trading with United States.

Austin to Saucedo, May 18, 1825. Arrest of Domingo Losoya and others. Passports.

Gov. Rafael Gonzales to Austin, May 18, 1825. Ordering Austin to send to the political chief $1,000 at once and an additional $1,000 in three months—fees from land.

Saucedo to Austin, May 19, 1825. Austin need have no uneasiness concerning the attacks of an unnamed person. Has sent Austin's letter on to Bastrop, who will know how to make the best use of it. Asks Austin for two or three reams of good paper, for the want of which important public business is delayed. Ahumada.

John Clark to Austin, May 24, 1825. Has some of Austin's property which he left in Arkansas. Asks about trade to Texas.

R. M. Cartwright to Austin, May 25, 1825. Asking instructions for procedure in selling property under an execution. Judiciary.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, May 27, 1825. Shipping Austin's books. Cotton now 35 cents a pound. Groce should gin and sell.

William Kincheloe to Austin, May 30, 1825. Angry reply to letter from Austin taking him to task for misstatement concerning land.

John Ingram to Austin, May 31, 1825. Land.

Isaac Mathews to Austin, May 31, 1825. Traded a horse for 640 acres of land. Wants title.

Regulations for immigrants [May? —, 1825]. (1) Report intentions and file character certificate on arrival. (2) Get permission to select land. (3) Arrange to pay certain fees, including $60 to the empresario for each league.

Form of agreement [May? —, 1825]. Payments to be made for land by colonists.

Austin to Mrs. E. M. Perry, [May —, 1825]. New contract to settle 500 families. Authority to sue for Missouri and Arkansas property.

Austin to Warren Buford [May —, 1825?]. Summary of the colonization law and other terms of settlement.

P. S. Le Hicks to Austin, June 2, 1825. Asks what provision Government has made for granting land to participants in revolutionary struggles.

Saucedo to Austin, June 2, 1825. Quotes letter from governor saying that he has ordered Austin to deliver to Saucedo $1,000 for salary and expenses of his office.

Saucedo to Austin, June 2, 1825. Will take the $1,000 partly in cattle and other commodities. Bastrop ill. Ahumada expected with troops about June 15.

J. E. B. Austin to Mrs. Emily Perry, June 3, 1825. Hopeful condition of Province. Austin's plans. Priest coming to organize a church.

Benjamin Carrico to Austin, June 3, 1825. Statement of facts in case of the schooner *Mary*. Judicial procedure. Commerce.

Benjamin Carrico to W. B. Allen, June 3, 1825. Power of attorney to act in case of schooner *Mary*.

Humphrey Jackson's memorandum concerning the case of the *Mary*, June 4, 1825.

Juan Antonio Padilla to Austin, June 4, 1825. Congratulates himself on having "given the first stroke of the pen" in authorizing the colony. Replies to two queries: (1) Galveston has been opened by Congress, but has received no official notice; (2) the subject of schools has occupied much attention of the Government, asks Austin for definite proposals.

Martin F. Maher to Austin, June 4, 1825. Administration of estate of David J. Marple.

Martin F. Maher & Co. to Austin, June 4, 1825. Authority of Mathew Adams to settle estate of David J. Marple.

Thomas Hooper to Austin, Alexandria, June 4, 1825. Land.

Austin to Gov. Rafael Gonzales, June 4, 1825. Accepting conditions of contract to settle 300 additional families.

Austin to Gov. Rafael Gonzales, June 4, 1825. Describing boundaries of his colonies.

Jesse H. Cartwright to Austin, June 5, 1825. The case of the schooner *Mary*. Commerce.

John P. Coles to Austin, June 6, 1825. Transmitting census.

Saucedo to Austin, June 6, 1825. Austin need not bear the expense of the arrest of Lozoya and guarding his drove of horses. Other criminals.

Hamilton N. Yett and Alexander Calvit to Austin, June 6, 1825. Note for payment of dues on land.

Austin to Saucedo, June 6, 1825. A. C. Buckner and Alexander Jackson have called a meeting to denounce you for your schedule of land dues; me for collecting the fees fixed by the schedule; and the commissioner and me for

granting more land to some than to others. Going to arrest them and send them to Bexar for trial, and at same time ask for an investigation of my conduct by the Government.

Austin to the colonists, June 7, 1825. Explains his authority under the Government, declares that he is willing to have a public investigation of his acts under this authority and has asked for one, but that the procedure of Buckner is illegal and harmful to the colony. Therefore he has ordered his arrest for trial at Bexar. Documents to support his statements.

Subpœna for witness, June 7, 1825. To testify concerning seditious conduct of Buckner.

Austin to Horatio Chriesman, June 7, 1825. Twenty men to be on guard during investigation of Buckner.

Austin to sheriff, June 7, 1825. Order for arrest of Buckner.

Amy White to Austin, June 7, 1825. Conflict of surveys.

Aylett C. Buckner to Austin, June 10, 1825. For the good of the colony suggests a referendum.

William and Andrew Rabb to Austin, June 10, 11, 1825. Concerning the Buckner case.

Jared E. Groce to Austin, June 11, 1825. Indorsing action in the Buckner case.

Austin to James Cummins, June 13, 1825. Announcing settlement of the Buckner case.

Austin to Saucedo, June 15, 1825. Buckner and Jackson deceived by false reports. Proved to them that they were mistaken concerning authorities and they declare willingness to obey. Has released them.

Austin to Juan José Hernandez, June 15, 1825. Introducing Eliseo Otley, who wishes to import tobacco and other things.

Juan Antonio Padilla to Austin, June 18, 1825. Answering letter of May 3, concerning the introduction of slaves. Colonization law too general to mean anything. Federal law of July 13, 1824, prohibits African slave trade, but not introduction by immigrants for their own use. Doubts whether the provision in Iturbide's colonization law is in force, because the law itself repealed, though Austin's first colony regulated in conformity with its terms. Feels sure that slavery secure, because no money to indemnify owners, which would be necessary.

Philip T. Dimmitt to Austin, June 19, 1825. Commerce.

Austin to William Pettus, June 20, 1825. Passport. Trade in horses with United States.

Austin to Gov. Rafael Gonzales, June 22, 1825. Has sent $1,000 to political chief, as requested May 18. Could not collect it all from colonists on land fees and had to use money received from sale of sealed paper as well as his personal credit for small loans. Most of first colonists poor; suffered much in early years, and this year lost first crops by overflows. The rich colonists who expected to come this spring prevented by high water and fear of the loss of their slaves. Thus the Government loses its fees and the settlers lose prospect of selling them land. Can not raise the second $1,000 demanded without selling cotton crop, and can not do that until port is legalized.

Austin to Saucedo, June 23, 1825. Sending $1,000 by J. E. B. Austin. It includes fees for stamped paper as well as land dues. Agreed to pay the courier 12 reales a day.

Austin to James E. B. Austin, June 23, 1825. Delivery of the $1,000 to be delivered to Saucedo.

James E. B. Austin to Austin, June 23, 1825. Receipt for the $1,000; Saucedo's receipt dated July 1; $830 in specie, the balance in gold ore.

David W. Price to Austin, June 25, 1825. Sale of cattle. Specie payment.

Morgan A. Heard to Austin, Natchez, June 26, 1825. Concerning establisiment of a printing press at San Felipe.

Austin to Mrs. John Hall, June 26, 1825. Judicial procedure.

J. Child to Austin, June 26, 1825. Rapid emigration from Mississippi to Texas.

Jacob Betts to Austin, June 27, 1825. Apology for letter of May 13.

R. C. Langdon to Francis Keller, June 28, 1825. Wants to establish a press and publish a paper in Texas. It would do much to counteract false reports in Ohio and Kentucky.

Juan Antonio Padilla to Austin, July 2, 1825. Passage of decree opening port of Galveston delayed by adjournment of Congress. Will be passed early next session. Sends application for 11 leagues of land approved by governor.

Bill of sale for cotton gin. George Huff to John Austin, July 3, 1825.

Philip T. Dimmitt to Austin, July 6, 1825. Has been accused of connection with Andrew Valentine, horse thief.

John Carr to John Sprowl, July 11, 1825. Introducing Doctor Le Hicks. Sprowl transmits letter to Austin, July 13.

James Barnett to Austin, July 13, 1825. Asking whether Mexican Government will repay advances which he made to Trespalacios in 1820.

Bastrop to Austin, July 16, 1825. Assisted Green De Witt in getting an impresario contract. Now Pedro Elias Bean accuses him of having embezzled public funds in Missouri and of being a fugitive from justice. Asks Austin to investigate, and if true the contract will be canceled. Bastrop and Austin have enemies who would like nothing better than to take advantage of such a situation. Hostility of Saltillo to Texas.

Juan Antonio Padilla to Austin, July 16, 1825. Remits documents concerning the new colony. Extra session of Congress called. Papal letter to American bishops and archbishops.

Austin to Robert Lewis, July 16, 1825. Bill and drafts.

Austin's deposition in the case of Groce v. Keep, July 18, 1825.

Saucedo to Austin, July 18, 1825. Received the $1,000 brought by J. E. B. Austin. Wants to know how much of it was produced by stamped paper, since governor may not approve use of the money from that source.

Procedure on a maritime insurance case, July [19?], 1825. Keep and Groce. Trade with New Orleans.

Jared E. Groce to Hyde and Merit, July 19, 1825. Dr. Inila Keep has abused his confidence, deceived Hyde and Groce, buying goods on credit and charging same to Groce.

Saucedo to Austin, July 19, 1825. Concerning complaints against Austin by George Nixon. Padilla's 11 leagues. Drafts of Austin in favor of Thomas Westall. Campaign against Karankaways.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, July 20, 1825. Concerning cotton trade between Texas and New Orleans.

James Grant to Austin, July 24, 1825. Trade with Mexico.

Mateo Ahumada to Austin, July 24, 1825. Asks Austin to obtain small boats for reconnoitering the coast in campaign against the Indians.

Miguel Arciniega to Austin, July 24, 1825. Power of attorney to receive 11 leagues of land for Juan Antonio Padilla.

Erasmo Seguin to Austin, July 24, 1825. Agrees with Austin that exclusion of slaves from Mexico will confine immigration to the poorest classes but federal congress set against slavery. Sure that State legislature will give the most favorable interpretation possible to the law. Garrison to be established at Nacogdoches to maintain order. Port of Galveston legalized, but officers not

yet appointed. Austin stands well with the Government, and need not fear the misrepresentations of George Nixon.

Saucedo to Austin, July 24, 1825. Introducing Col. José Sandoval (retired).

Martin de Leon to Austin, July 24, 1825. Wants Austin's assistance in avoiding boundary conflict with De Witt's grant.

Mateo Ahumada to Austin, July 26, 1825. Asks Austin to have boats made according to his best judgment.

Francisco García to Austin, July 29, 1825. Concerning trade and industry.

Gov. Rafael Gonzales to Austin, July 29, 1825. Concerning inability to collect land fees from colonists. The State law allows six years for payment, but this does not apply to the first colony, which was established under federal decree.

P. Powell to Austin, July 30, 1825. Concerning land.

Aylett C. Buckner to Austin, August 10, 1825. Desiring Austin's good offices in a dispute with James Cummins.

Austin to Saucedo, August 11, 1825. Concerning exportation.

James Gaines to Austin, August 13, 1825. Slave stealing. Outlaws on the eastern frontier. Organization to suppress them.

Eligio de Albarado to Austin, August 13, 1825. Desires leather coat which Austin offered him.

James Gaines to Austin, August 13, 1825. Concerning a Negro stolen from Louisiana.

Morgan A. Heard to Austin, August 14, 1825. Introducing Robert Gillespie, of Alabama.

Alexander Calvit to Austin, August 16, 1825. Concerning land.

Austin to Saucedo, August 16, 1825. Necessary to appoint a notary public to attest public documents and record them in a book. The alcaldes do not know Spanish; are unaccustomed to preserving papers; the number of alcalde districts is increasing, and the result will be confusion and loss of titles and important documents unless there is created a central recorder's office. He should have a seal, and should be paid by fees. Recommends Samuel M. Williams.

J. E. B. Austin to Mrs. Emily Perry, August 17, 1825.

Austin to J. B. Bailey, August 17, 1825. Concerning horse trading.

Saucedo to Austin, August 18, 1825. Quotes letter from governor, July 29, saying that messenger's fee for taking the $1,000 from San Felipe to Bexar was too high.

Austin to Saucedo, August 18, 1825. Completed investigation of business of DeWitt.

Draft of a bill and argument thereon by Austin, concerning slavery, August 18, 1825. Permit introduction of slaves by immigrants for their own use until 1840. Those so introduced and their children to be slaves for life, but grandchildren to become free the men at 25, the females at 15. Precautions against importation from Africa and against taking them from the country to evade ultimate emancipation. Domestic trade permitted where colonists buy for their own use.

Austin to Gov. Rafael Gonzales, August 20, 1825. Transmitting memorial on slavery which he wishes submitted to the legislature.

Austin to Saucedo, August 20, 1825. Report of Comanche depredations in Bexar and La Bahia. Fears attacks will spread to scattered settlements. Can not take colonists from their necessary farm work to make campaign. Recognizes duty of citizens to assist each other, but under the circumstances sees nothing to do but try to maintain peace with the Comanches, trying to enjoy the advantage of the distinction which they make between Americans and Spaniards.

Austin to Saucedo, August 20, 1825. Has finished taking census according to form previously furnished; will now have to do the work over because the new form requires the ages of all classes to be given.

Richard R. Royall to Austin, Tuscumbia, Ala., August 23, 1825. His report of Texas has caused great excitement and men of character and large estates are considering emigration. Asks particularly about status of slavery and religious freedom. False reports circulating about conditions in Texas.

J. B. Bailey to Austin, August 23, 1825. Commerce. Concerning contract with a Spaniard.

Andrew Erwin to Austin, August 29, 1825. Leftwich and the affairs of the Nashville Company, stock of which is selling at about 100 per cent advance. Concerning the business misfortunes of A. Erwin, Groce & Co.; and the character of Groce.

Austin to Saucedo, August 30, 1825. Inclosing notice published in a Natchez paper saying that the Government invites the followers of Gutierrez to return to Texas and receive land. Asks instructions.

Austin to Saucedo, September 2, 1825. Concerning land granted to a Mexican colonist.

Austin to Alcalde of Nacogdoches, September 2, 1825. Transmitting model for census report.

Joshua Marsh to Austin, September 4, 1825. Concerning collections of debt. Status of slavery in Texas.

Laurence Richard Kenny to John P. Coles, September 6, 1825. Concerning a deed.

Austin to Laurence Richard Kenny, September 6, 1825. Concerning the dispute that Kenny is having with Coles about deed.

Laurence Richard Kenny to Austin, September 6, 1825. Concerning deed which Austin is witholding.

Aylett C. Buckner to Austin, September 7, 1825. Asks whether military services in Gutierrez expedition or with Mina entitle one to preference in selection of land. Designates 2 leagues that he wants.

Austin to Saucedo, September 8, 1825. Discussion of means for campaign against the Comanches.

Austin to Saucedo, September 8, 1825. Reports rumors and suspicious circumstances concerning preparations of Fields and Cherokees to attack settlements.

Austin to Saucedo, September 8, 1825. Acknowledging receipt of decree No. 18.

Austin to Saucedo, September 8, 1825. Acknowledging notice that President has called session of Congress.

Austin to Saucedo, September 8, 1825. Answering governor's complaint that messenger's fees were too high for carrying $1,000 to Bexar.

Austin to Mateo Ahumada, September 8, 1825. Concerning hostilities of Comanches and poor preparation of the colonists for war.

Austin to Juan Martin de Beramendi, September 8, 1825. Concerning murder of John Dickinson by Indians, and administration of his estate.

Austin to Mateo Ahumada, September 10, 1825. Concerning plan of procedure against Comanches and their allies. Austin's desire to maintain neutrality. Karankawa hostilities resumed.

Austin to Saucedo, September 13, 1825. Asks interpretation of certain provisions of colonization law and of his contract to settle 500 families: (1) Provision for appointment of commissioner and making surveys only after settlement of 100 families will cause confusion in claims; asks appointment of a permanent resident commissioner, or authority to act himself until commis-

sioner arrives. (2) What fees shall commissioner charge? (3) What fees may the empresario collect to reimburse his expenses in keeping records, giving presents to Indians, keeping open house for travelers, etc.? (4) Is he required to collect tax to build school houses and churches?

John R. Harris to Austin, September 15, 1825. Concerning boats which Austin desires.

Austin to B. W. Edwards, September 15, 1825. Interpretation of the colonization law. Analysis of his difficulties as empresario.

Administration of estate of Samuel Dixon, September 21, 1825.

John H. Fowler to Austin, Miller County, Ark., September 22, 1825. Asks help in apprehending a swindler. Choctaws are shortly to possess our country, and large number of settlers will emigrate to Texas.

Clark Robinson. Affidavit concerning forgery, September 22, 1825.

William P. Perkins to Austin, September 27, 1825. Asks concerning method of holding his claims.

Austin to colonists, September 28, 1825. Referendum on war with Comanches, Wacoes, and Tahuacanas. His own views are in favor of neutrality if it can be maintained, awaiting settlement of Robertson's and DeWitt's colonies.

John P. Coles to Austin, September 29, 1825. Concerning a disputed land title.

John P. Coles to Austin, September 29, 1825. Transmitting census.

J. Erwin to Austin, September 30, 1825. Character of Jared E. Groce, and the business of Erwin, Groce & Co. in the United States.

Humphrey Jackson to Austin, September 30, 1825. Concerning judicial business as alcalde. Case of the Schooner *Mary*.

Benjamin W. Edwards to Austin, October 1, 1825. Answering Austin's of September 15. Plans for colonizing his brother's grant. Austin's difficulties due to ignorance of human nature.

Thomas B. Bell et al. to Austin, October 3, 1825. Request to treat with Karankawa (?) Indians.

John G. Purnell to Richard Fields, October 4, 1825. Exhorts Fields to remain at peace with Mexican nation and American settlers.

Mrs. Emily M. Perry to Austin, October 12, 1825. Concerning settlement of the old business of Austin & Bryan in Arkansas.

Robert Lewis to Austin, October 13, 1825. Trade with Mexico. George Nixon against Austin.

William A. Sheldon to Austin, October 15, 1825. Asks information concerning terms of settlement, conditions of cotton culture, etc. Some cotton trade already between Texas and New Orleans.

James Norton to Austin, October 15, 1825. Intention to move to Texas. Abusive publications against Austin.

F. H. Rankin to Austin, October 16, 1825. Land.

Saucedo to Austin, October 17, 1825. Concerning Sandoval's land.

Saucedo to Austin, October 17, 1825. Has transmitted to the governor the substance of Austin's letter of September 8 concerning messenger's fees, etc.

Saucedo to Austin, October 17, 1825. Appoints Austin to put colonists in possession of lands, pending appointment of a commissioner. The other questions raised by Austin's letter of September 13 referred to the governor for answer.

N. Rightor to Austin, October 20, 1825. Inquires about Texas. Conditions in Arkansas.

James Cummins to Austin, October 22, 1825. Land business.

Austin to Mrs. Emily M. Perry, October 22, 1825. Crop conditions. Business in Arkansas. Biographical.

James E. B. Austin to Mrs. Emily M. Perry, October 28, 1825. Improvements in Texas. Crop conditions. Efforts of the Arkansas Gazette to injure the colony.

Aylett C. Buckner to Austin, November 2, 1825. Concerning land disputes, and empresario's difficulties.

F. Durcy to François Grapp, Saltillo, November 10, 1825. Urging him to use his great influence with Richard Fields and the savages to dissuade them from attacking the colonists in Texas.

J. E. B. Austin to Emily M. Perry, November 10, 1825. Biographical. Business education recommended.

John Randon. Contract to hire slaves to J. E. B. Austin, November 14, 1825.

Robert Williams to Austin, November 18, 1825 Concerning slaves.

David M. McCormick to Samuel M. Williams, November 21, 1825. Local barter.

Articles of partnership. James E. B. Austin and John Austin to build and operate a cotton gin. November 22, 1825.

George S. Pentacost to Austin, November 25, 1825. Personal business.

George Y. Bright to Austin, November 26, 1825. Commerce—New Orleans to Texas.

Erasmo Seguin to Austin, November 27, 1825. Transmitting decrees. Sickness in Bexar.

Price list, November 28, 1825.

M. Wilkinson to Austin, November 29, 1825. Introducing John Mathews, the "numeriousness" of whose family takes him to Texas.

Bastrop to Austin, December 1, 1825. Concerning the business of Robert Lewis.

George Orr to Austin, December 1, 1825. Asks for translation of colonization law.

John McArthur to Austin, December 6, 1825. Introducing John Mathews.

Austin to Mrs. Emily M. Perry, December 12, 1825 Slow improvement of Texas. False reports published. Topographical conditions at mouth of Brazos River. Owns no slaves. Biographical.

Emily M Perry to Austin, December 18, 1825. Biographical.

Saucedo to Austin, December 19, 1825. Request for a second $1,000.

Benjamin Lindsey to Austin, December 20, 1825. Land. Emigration.

John Smith to Austin, December 25, 1825. Representing friends in Kentucky, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Wants information concerning commercial privileges, religious toleration, and oath of allegiance.

H. Johnson to Austin, December 29, 1825. Concerning depredations in Louisiana of banditti on the Sabine who steal horses and slaves and take refuge in Texas.

Census report, District of Colorado, [December 31, 1825].

Austin to Moses Morrison et al., January 4, 1826. Appointment and instructions as election judges.

Austin to Alcalde of San Felipe [Jan. 4, 1826?]. Order for archives.

John P. Coles to Austin, January 7, 1826. Concerning a guardianship. Indian relations.

Haden Edwards to Austin, January 9, 1826. Difficulty with settlers in east Texas.

John McGaffey to State government. January 10, 1826. Petition for permit to establish a road through the Neches bottom and a ferry across the river.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826 Report on foreigners between Brazos and Trinity Rivers. All are applicants for land in Austin's colony

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Can not collect dues from the colonists for their land. Bad crops last year on account of overflows and lack of labor. Doubts the legality of the fees fixed by the political chief.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging order to make a chart of the port of Galveston.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledgment of information concerning shipping clearances.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging President's proclamation of surrender of San Juan de Ulua.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging list of contributors to tobacco factory in Saltillo.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging information that secretary of justice and ecclesiastical affairs is acting as minister of the treasury.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging extension of a law.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging officio of the State Department concerning admission of foreigners from Great Britain and the United States.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging receipt of treatise on diphtheria.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging receipt of the decree legalizing the port of Guazacoalco.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Receipt of order concerning three Spaniards.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging decree legalizing port of Mansanilla.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging provisional regulations for vice consuls.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging copy of treaty between Mexico and Colombia.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging decree establishing battalion of militia in Chiapas.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging decree provisionally legalizing the port of Galveston.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging State law suspending the alcabala.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging officio of minister of relaciones concerning certain individuals.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging order of the President concerning a foreigner who appeared in village of Huihuitoca.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Order from governor concerning soldiers of Gutierrez.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Order concerning a deserter.

Austin to political chief, January 10, 1826. Acknowledging resignation of Lucas Alaman as minister of relaciones.

Austin to Erasmo Seguin, January 10, 1826. Concerning the port of Galveston.

Austin to Mateo Ahumada. January 10, 1826. Carrying out orders concerning a cargo of munitions expected at Galveston.

Austin to political chief, January 11, 1826. Report of sealed paper sold by his office.

Alexander Calvit to the public, January 11, 1826. Certain property belongs to his wife and is not subject to execution.

Austin to commandant at La Bahia, January 12, 1826. Promising to look out for stolen horses.

Bartlett Sims to Austin, January 14, 1826. Wishing to borrow a compass. Colonization.

John McGaffey to Austin, January 15, 1826. Asking Austin to support his petition for permit to establish ferry on the Neches.

A. G. Wavell to Austin, January 17, 1826. Authorizing B. R. Milam to settle with Austin.

John Castleman to Austin, January 17, 1826. Depredation of Wacoes.

[Austin to political chief?] January 18, 1826. Statement of receipts from stamp tax.

Austin to McCormick, January 21, 1826. Order for corn subscribed to pay salary of Deputy in Congress.

J. B. de Arispe to Austin, January 23, 1826. Transmitting copy of federal constitution.

Littleberry Hawkins to Austin, January 25, 1826. Introducing Dr. Jacob Fry.

Littleberry Hawkins to Austin, January 26, 1826. Introducing William Haydon.

Austin to Emily M. Perry, January 28, 1926. Biographical.

D. Crozer to J. E. B. Austin, Jessamine County, Ky., February 9, 1826.

W. Christy to Austin, February 10, 1826. Introducing G. W. Heines. Conditions in St. Louis.

George Shannon to Austin, February 16, 1826. Introducing William Haydon and Jacob Fry.

Littleberry Hawkins to Austin, February 17, 1826. Introducing William Lafaughn.

Littleberry Hawkins to Austin, February 18, 1826. Mrs. Hawkins has received offer for her interest in Austin's colony. Asks advice. Interest of Kentucky in the colony.

H. Reynolds to Austin, February 20, 1826. Receipt for wages.

William Vince to Austin, February 20, 1826. Bill and receipt.

R. R. Royall to Austin, February 21, 1826. Dangers of travel. Texan interest in Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

I. C. Devan to Austin, February 24, 1826. Wants clerical employment.

L. W. Baker to J. E. B. Austin, February 26, 1826. Inquiry concerning Texas.

J. E. B. Austin to Emily M. Perry, February 28, 1826. Biographical. Rapid immigration.

Haden Edwards to Austin, February 28, 1826. Explanation of friction with inhabitants of east Texas.

Daniel E. Bayles to Austin, March 2, 1826. Receipt for wages.

Austin to Raleigh, March 7, 1826. Statement of account.

Green DeWitt to Austin, March 9, 1826. Introducing immigrants.

Austin to George Orr, March 10, 1826. Advice to avoid conflict with Mexican authorities.

Austin to Commandant at La Bahia, March 14, 1826. Acknowledgement of order to watch for stolen horses.

Armistead Moore to Austin, March 15, 1826. Texan interest in Kentucky.

John C. Walker to Austin, March 15, 1826. Inquiry concerning Texas.

Austin to political chief, March 16, 1826. Organization of militia.

Austin to political chief, March 17, 1826. Transmitting census of his colony.

Austin to political chief, March 18, 1826. Examination of a contest between one Grey and Martin De Leon. Judicial procedure, and protest against arbitrary interference of executive authority.

Austin to political chief, March 18, 1826. Compliance with order to prevent exportation of horses without passports.

Austin to political chief, March 18, 1826. Instructing one Parker to appear before political chief.

Austin to political chief, March 18, 1826. Report of inspection of the port of Galveston. For the present the mouth of the Brazos a more convenient port for the colonists.

Austin to political chief, March 18, 1826. Proceeds of stamp tax.

Austin to political chief, March 18, 1826. Answering complaint of one Edward McLocklin that he had refused to give up a Negro man for whom McLocklin had an order. Character of McLocklin and other claimants.

Austin to Rafael Antonio Manchola, March 18, 1826. Reporting purchase of vessel and equipment by order of military commandant of Texas.

Austin to Mateo Ahumada, March 18, 1826. Reporting purchase of a sloop according to Ahumada's orders. Itemized statement of cost.

Austin to Erasmo Seguin, March 18, 1826. Urging temporary establishment of customhouse at mouth of Brazos instead of at Galveston. Inclosing notes for chart of Galveston Bay and Island.

Louisiana Advertiser to Austin, March 18, 1826. Receipt for subscription.

Martin De Leon to Austin, March 19, 1826. Insisting on release of his property which has been attached in Austin's colony and warning him the plaintiff will have to pay all costs accruing through delay.

Walter C. White to Austin, March 20, 1826. Statement of account.

Depositions and schedule of debts in the case of the bankruptcy of Dr. Imla Keep, March 20, 1826.

Austin to political chief March 27, 1826. Statement of expenses incurred in charting Galveston Bay and Island.

Austin to Mateo Ahumada, March 27, 1826. Inclosing order which he has published forbidding trade with hostile Indians (Indios de guerra).

Austin to Mateo Ahumada, March 27, 1826. Plans to accompany Ahumada on exploration of coast. Report of Indian movements. Conditions which made it impossible to wage war on the Indians the preceding autumn. Some excited young men now agitating for war against the Wacoes, but Austin refused permit for such a campaign because not ready for organized war.

John P. Coles to Barlett Sims, March --, 1826. Account and price list.

Saucedo to Austin, April 3, 1826. Asking for list of colonists ready to be placed in possession of land and for nomination of two surveyors.

John P. Coles to Austin, April 6, 1826. Asking instructions concerning jurisdiction in Robertson's colony.

Austin to Mateo Ahumada, April 6, 1826. Quoting a report of April 4, by Capt. Ross of the destruction of a party of marauding Tahuacanos.

James Small to Austin, April 6, 1826. Deposition concerning loss of $20.

Saucedo to James E. B. Austin, April 9, 1826. Receipt for $16, 6½ reales for stamped paper.

Robert Desha to Austin, April 10, 1826. Introducing travelers.

Jesse Thompson to Austin, April 17, 1826. Decline of price of cotton.

Austin to chief of the Cherokees, April 24, 1826. Asking cooperation and outlining plan for campaign against Waco and Tahuacano Indians. Austin's relations with Shawnees in Missouri.

Willi m S. Hall to Austin, April 27, 1826. Advice concerning Indian campaign.

Minutes of a militia meeting [about Apr. 28, 1826?].

Juan Francisco Buchetti to Austin, April 29, 1826. Instructing Austin to make preparation for his residence in the colony as priest. Reports are that there are few Catholics in the colony and that Austin does not require certificates from his colonists showing that they are Catholics.

Austin to Mateo Ahumada, April 30, 1826. Reciting plans for war against Tahuacanos and Tahuiases, and asking approval for cooperation of Cherokees and other Indians in the campaign. Ahumada's answer opposes use of Indian allies and promises force of cavalry if campaign can be delayed.

Austin to members of militia [about May 1, 1826]. Address urging discipline and obedience during campaign against Waco and Tahuacano Indians.

Scriggins in account with Pettus, May 1, 1826. Price list.

Affidavits concerning an attack on Tonkaway Indians, April 27–May 2, 1826.

Mateo Ahumada to Austin, May 4, 1826. Suspend contemplated campaign against Wacoes and Tahuacanos until preparation can be made for a decisive movement.

John Roe to Austin, May 5, 1826. Order for sum due for services with Indians.

L. R. Kenny to Austin [about May 5, 1826]. Indians.

Bastrop to Austin, May 6, 1826. Order for $270.

Austin to Cherokee Indian chiefs, May 8, 1826. Withdrawing plans for war against Waco and Tahuacano Indians.

Austin to Ahumada, May 8, 1826. Acknowledging receipt of order of May 4, and giving reasons for carrying out previous plans for war on the Wacoes, Tahuacanos, and Tahuiases.

Austin to Saucedo, May 8, 1826. Expressing willingness to receive land from the State in reimbursement of expenses in exploring and charting Galveston Bay.

Austin to Saucedo, May 8, 1826. Asking for a commissioner to give titles to colonists, and nominating official surveyors.

Austin to Erasmo Seguin, May 8, 1826. Acknowedging establishment of mail service between La Bahia and Nacogdoches via San Felipe. Can not accept appointment as postmaster, but recommends Sam M. Williams.

Austin to Saucedo, May 8, 1826. Prevented by his numerous duties from answering promptly certain official communications. Labors of Austin.

Austin to Saucedo, May 8, 1826. Concerning delivery of certain articles belonging to Martin De Leon. Suspension of provisional regulations for government of the settlements until they can be revised.

Austin to J. H. Polly [about May 8, 1826]. Order for sheriff's sale.

Costs of court in case of Keep v. Groce, May 10, 1826.

Robert Lewis to Austin, May 12, 1826. His disputes with the comisario of Santa Rosa. Prospect of trade between north Mexican States and Texas. Bastrop.

James Grant to Austin, May 13, 1826. One George Nixon is trying to discredit Austin with certain Mexican authorities.

James J. Ross to Austin, May 13, 1826. Report of an expedition against Waco Indians.

Austin to J. J. Ross and A. C. Buckner, May 13, 1826. Instructions for expedition against Indians.

Bartlett Sims to Austin, May 14, 1826. Report of a scouting expedition after Indians.

S. R. Ober to Austin, May 16, 1826. Asking Austin to assume and pay a note of Moses Austin's.

Austin to Saucedo, May 17, 1826. Acknowledging receipt of decree investing governor with extraordinary power.

Austin to Saucedo, May 17, 1826. Publication of order forbidding trade with Indians.

Austin to Saucedo, May 17, 1826. Acknowledging manifesto of State congress concerning radical ideas of certain ayuntamientos.

Austin to Saucedo, May 17, 1826. Receipt of a decree of Congress.

Austin to Saucedo, May 17, 1826. Acknowledging information that vice governor is acting in place of the governor.

Austin to Saucedo, May 17, 1826. Receipt of militia regulations and related documents.

Saucedo to Austin, May 17, 1826. Appointment of a commissioner to grant titles in Austin's new colony. Bastrop's employment in the legislature delays title in the first colony.

Saucedo to Austin, May 18, 1826. Concerning commissioner to grant titles in the second colony. Can Austin procure for him a strong cot and a pair of low-heeled shoes?

Saucedo to Austin, May 18, 1826. Rumors of Indian hostilities make it difficult to transport corn already bought to Bexar, and great scarcity threatens. Can the colonists not furnish from 50 to 70 fanegas?

Austin to Mateo Ahumada, May 18, 1826. Willingness of the Cherokees to join in war on Tahuacanos, Wacoes, and other tribes. Reports of hostile preparations. Conditions of militia service.

Roster of a detachment of militia, May 18, 1826.

Austin to Saucedo, May 18, 1826. Acknowledging order of President concerning foreign ecclesiastics.

Austin to Saucedo, May 18, 1826. Receipt of a decree of Congress.

Austin to Saucedo, May 19, 1826. Report on Indian relations. Building forts on the frontier. Trial of important case by a jury.

Austin to Saucedo, May 19, 1826. Explanation of an order given by the alcalde of the Colorado district to attach certain property of Martin De Leon. Judicial procedure. Turbulent character of the De Leons.

Austin to Saucedo, May 19, 1826. Transmitting statement of births and deaths and a summary of the census of the colony.

J. Blair to Austin, May 20, 1826. Offering services in fortification of coast.

J. Blair to Austin, May 22, 1826. Asking Austin to transmit certain documents to the general government.

William Harris to Austin, May 22, 1826. Judicial procedure. Economic conditions.

S. A. Anderson to Austin, May 28, 1826 Payments for land. Indians.

James Norton to Austin, May 29, 1826. Interest in Texas. Commerce and shipping.

Austin to [Saucedo] [about May 31, 1826]. Introducing David G. Burnet.

Austin to Capt. W. S. Hall (?), [May —, 1826?]. Reprimanding him for carelessness in executing orders to press equipment for Indian campaign.

Saucedo to Austin, June 1, 1826. Concerning commissioner for second colony; interpretation of colonization law; countermanding order for corn.

Austin to military commandant, June 3, 1826. John Roe is inciting "Tanhua" Indians to war.

Austin to [governor of Coahuila and Texas], June 5, 1826 Asking permit to settle coast lands.

Austin to Mateo Ahumada, June 6, 1826. Waco Indians have deserted villages and gone to the Tahuiases on Red River.

James Cummins to Austin, June 9, 1826. Concerning an elopement.

John P. Coles to Austin, June 12, 1826. Unfavorable opinion of Bartlett Sims; unfit for Indian fighting.

Militia report for Austin's colony, June 14, 1826.

J. E. B. and Stephen Austin to Emily M. Perry, June 15, 1826. Biographical. Growth of colony.

Austin to Mateo Ahumada, June 16, 1826. Report of expedition against Wacoes.

Asa Mitchell to Austin, June 18, 1826. Conduct of wreckers at mouth of the Brazos.

Asa Mitchell to Austin, June 18, 1826. Commerce. Manufacture of salt.

Saucedo to Austin, June 28, 1826. Quoting letter from governor concerning tobacco monopoly, and forbidding introduction of tobacco from Austin's colony to the interior.

Samuel Norris to ———, June 27, 1826. Asking assistance for mail rider.

Saucedo to Austin, June 29, 1826. Land titles; Indians; Bastrop's delay at Saltillo in legislature. Repeats request for low-heeled shoes.

John Bradley to Austin, June 30, 1826. Announcing settlement on certain land.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, June 30, 1826. Asking Austin to buy cotton gin for Victor Blanco and have it shipped to mouth of Brazos. Arrangement to pay for it.

J. M. Carbajal to mother, July 2, 1826. Experiences in Kentucky after leaving San Antonio, Tex.

Thomas Jamison to Austin, July 3, 1826. Misunderstanding concerning division of land.

Austin to Saucedo, July 3, 1826. Acknowledging report of changes in governor's office.

Ellis H. Bean to Austin, July 5, 1826. Advising Austin to evade constitutional liberation of slaves by converting them into indented servants.

A. Carnahan to Austin, July 6, 1826. Account and price list.

Austin to the public, July 6, 1826. Calling election of delegates to revise judiciary system and to frame tax regulations.

William S. Hall to Austin, July 8, 1826. Asking information concerning election of militia officers.

Bartlett Sims to Austin, July 10, 1826. Applying for certain land.

Saucedo to Austin, July 14, 1826. Sending copy of that part of the State constitution concerning slavery. Ironic reference to advantages of union with Coahuila.

Samuel C. Hirams to Austin, July 15, 1826. Concerning building a house for Austin.

William Laughlin to Austin, July 15, 1826. Judicial procedure. Resistance to an officer.

James Kerr to Austin, July [15, about], 1826. Indian hostilities.

Samuel C. Hirams to Austin, July 16, 1826. Concerning house building.

James Hope to Austin, July 17, 1826. Trade, currency, and Indians.

William Laughlin to Austin, July 17, 1826. Judicial procedure.

Austin to Saucedo, July 17, 1826. Reporting attack on Gonzales by Comanche and Tahuacano Indians.

Austin to Saucedo, July 17, 1826. Asks instructions concerning procedure for legal separation of husband and wife.

Bastrop to Manuel Cevallos, July 17, 1826. Acknowledging receipt of Federal decrees and measures for welfare of Texas. Thanking Cevallos for

setting him straight about Bustamante, who is on way to Texas for Indian war. Colonization business in Texas.

Nicholas Whitehead to Austin, July 18, 1826. Wishes to buy certain land, paying in cotton and tobacco.

James Kerr to Austin, July 18, 1826. Indian hostilities.

John Foster's affidavit concerning counterfeit money, July 18, 1826.

John A. Williams to Austin, July 19, 1826. Maladministration of government in east Texas.

B. W. Edwards to Austin, July 21, 1826. Describing abuse of justice at Nacogdoches and persecution and misrepresentation of his brother, Haden Edwards.

B. J. Thompson to Austin, July 22, 1826. Turbulence at Nacogdoches. Asks Austin to indorse his request for permission to organize a volunteer company for protection against Indians.

T. Farelly to Austin, July 25, 1826. Asking assistance in collecting debt from one Peter Tyler. Enclosures.

Austin to Saucedo, July 26, 1826. Order for payment of certain sum to James Austin.

Saucedo to Austin, July 27, 1826. Constitutional abolition of slavery is the result of the union with Coahuila. He foresaw the danger but could not prevent the union. Father Maynes appointed vicar for Texas.

James Kerr to Austin, July 30, 1826. People forced to move because of Indian hostilities.

James Cummins to Austin, July 31, 1826. Must abandon settlements on the frontier because of Indian hostility.

Austin to Saucedo, July 31, 1826. Acknowledging order to exclude Spanish subjects.

Austin to Saucedo, July 31, 1826. Acknowledging governor's order concerning reimbursement for expenses in surveying Galveston.

Austin to Saucedo, July 31, 1826. Acknowledging five federal decrees.

Austin to Saucedo, July 31, 1826. Acknowledging decree of Congress saying that Mexico would treat with Spain only on the basis of independence.

Austin to Saucedo, July 31, 1826. Acknowledging decree repealing extraordinary powers of the governor.

Austin to Saucedo, July 31, 1826. Acknowledging federal decree abolishing titles of nobility.

Austin to Saucedo, July 31, 1826. Acknowledging decree of Congress prohibiting export duties on certain products.

Austin to Saucedo, July 31, 1826. Acknowledging special authority granted the governor.

Austin to Saucedo, July 31, 1826. Acknowledging request for list of those settled without permission between Colorado and Trinity Rivers.

Austin to Saucedo, July 31, 1826. Acknowledging order concerning tobacco trade.

Austin to Saucedo, July 31, 1826. Acknowledging information that governor has leave of absence to leave the State.

Austin to Ahumada, July 31, 1826. Reporting return of Tahuacanos to their villages to harvest corn.

H. H. League et al. to Austin, August 2, 1826. Petition for permit to establish a town on the Colorado River and Matagorda Bay.

Martin Allen to Austin, August 3, 1826. Deposition concerning character of Peter Ellis Bean.

Mateo Ahumada to Austin, August 3, 1826. John Harris has delivered the vessel purchased from him and has been paid.

Littleberry Hawkins to Austin, August 6, 1826. Concerning his and Mrs. J. H. Hawkins's claims. Active emigration from Kentucky to Texas.

Austin to Saucedo, August 7, 1826. Introducing George Orr, who presents a petition concerning organization of the unauthorized settlements on the Trinity.

Austin to governor of Coahuila and Texas [Aug. 7, 1826?]. Suggesting definition of boundaries of his colonies.

Austin to Saucedo [Aug. 7, 1826?]. Has forwarded to governor a petition concerning boundaries of his grants and a memorial concerning slavery.

Form for power of attorney [Aug. 7, 1826?]. Authorizing George Orr to act for the Republican Volunteers of 1812.

James Kerr to Austin, August 8, 1826. Friction with Martin De Leon.

Manuel Cevallos to Bastrop, August 9, 1826. Opposing immigration of foreign Indians; suggesting mixed colonies of native Mexicans and Europeans; reporting purpose to garrison Nacogdoches.

Saucedo to Austin, August 10, 1826. Commissioner ready to extend titles to settlers in second colony. Asks report on numbers and suggests agreement on fees.

Austin to Saucedo, August 11, 1826. Forwarding with mild indorsement B. J. Thompson's request for permission to form a company of volunteers.

Austin's suggestion for a land tariff [Aug. 11, 1826?].

Jesse Thompson and J. C. Peyton to Austin, August 11, 1826. Distress at prospect of abolition of slavery. Intention to hasten back to the United States. Trouble in Edwards's colony.

Austin to State congress, August 11, 1826. Memorial concerning slavery. Slaves in first colony introduced under guaranty of Federal law, and it would be an act of bad faith to liberate them. State constitution apparently contemplates liberation and compensation, but no machinery for determining amount of compensation and no resources for paying it. Necessity of slave labor for improvement of Texas. Constitution should at least exempt those of the first colony.

Austin to Juan A. Padilla, August 12, 1826. (1) Must be allowed to collect from the colonists sufficient fees to compensate him for expense and labor in establishing and directing the colony. Reviews early difficulties, of which colonists are ignorant or have lost sight. Asks Padilla to present case to governor and obtain authority for him to collect enough from new colonists to maintain himself. (2) Urges organization of regular government in the colonies with a sub-chief and a judge. Both should be Mexicans if possible, and judge should know English, French, and Spanish. Hitherto Austin himself has done the work of such officers. Administration has never cost the State a cent. (3) Complains of false charges that he collects from the colonists fees in excess of those prescribed by the political chief, and explains his methods and motives. (4) Suggests delimitation of his colonies and applies provisionally for permission to settle the coast. (5) Need to found a town at mouth of the Brazos and another at mouth of the Colorado. (6) Begs Padilla to use influence with State congress to prevent liberation of slaves, which would ruin the province and reduce many families to beggary.

Francisco García to Austin, August 12, 1826. Asking whether Austin has some cattle for sale.

Owen H. Stout et al. to Saucedo, August 13, 1826. Petition for relief against Martin De Leon.

Austin to ayuntamiento of Bexar, August 14, 1826. Inclosing memorial to Congress concerning slavery, pointing out effects of abolition upon progress of the province, and urging use of influence against it.

Austin to Saucedo, August 14, 1826. Informing him of the calling of meeting of representatives to concert plans of defense and offense against Indians.

Austin to Saucedo, August 14, 1826. Movements of various Indians.

John Ingram to Austin, August 16, 1826. Application for land.

James Kerr to Austin, August 18, 1826. Report on topography at mouth of Lavaca River.

Austin to Emily M. Perry, August 21, 1826. Conditions in the colony—Indians, crops, slavery, biographical.

James Gaines to Austin, August 21, 1826. Inquiries concerning disturbing rumors. Slavery.

Saucedo to Austin, August 22, 1826. Election for State representative. Important to elect Bastrop or Padilla. Has been doing something on subject of slavery.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, August 22, 1826. Authorities at San Antonio have made strong protest against abolition of slavery. Feels sure that slaves of the first colony will be safe. Valuable services of Bastrop in representing interests of Texas. Much regret at union with Coahuila. Saucedo approves collection of fee from colonists to reimburse you for labor and expense. Other matters.

James Kerr to Austin, August 23, 1826. Excesses of Martin De Leon. Saucedo favors cordial relations with the Cherokees.

Elias R. Wightman to Austin, August 23, 1826. Application for town site.

Austin to Saucedo, August 25, 1826. Acknowledging three Federal decrees.

Austin to Saucedo, August 25, 1826. Reporting concerning investigation of conditions in Edwards's colony.

Austin to Saucedo, August 25, 1826. Acknowledging information.

Austin to Saucedo, August 25, 1826. Acknowledging nomination of Bustamante to be commandant general.

Austin to Saucedo, August 25, 1826. Acknowledging information of a misprint in a law.

Austin to Ahumada, August 25, 1826. Acknowledging a letter.

H. H. League to Austin, August 25, 1826. Asking information concerning the Government.

Richard Fields to Austin, August 27, 1826. Reporting movements and intentions of Comanches. Cherokees will cooperate with colonists.

Austin to Saucedo, August 28, 1826. Asking approval of a plan formulated by a local convention for maintaining a standing militia force on frontier.

Austin to colonists, August 28, 1826. Calling an election.

Austin to Saucedo, August 28, 1826. Investigation of character of Peter Ellis Bean.

Austin to Ahumada, August 31, 1826. Acknowledging letter of War Department concerning Indians.

Green De Witt to Austin, September 3, 1826. Borrowing tools.

Green De Witt to Austin, September 3, 1826. Indians. Transportation. Colony affairs.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, September 3, 1826. Bastrop. Slavery.

James Gaines to Saucedo, September 5, 1826. Reporting turbulence at Nacogdoches and accusing Austin of disloyalty to the Government.

Samuel Norris to Austin, September 5, 1826. Defending James Gaines and accusing Austin of violation of legal regulations.

Alexander Curcier to Austin, September 5, 1826. Loss of a cavallada of mules and horses. Requesting Austin's assistance in recovering them from Tahuacanos and Wacoes.

Saucedo to Austin, September 6, 1826. Payment to J. E. B. Austin of certain funds due Austin.

Littleberry Hawkins to Austin, September 6, 1826. Publishes description of Texas in Kentucky papers. Interest in Texas. Santa Fé trade.

Littleberry Hawkins to Austin, September 6, 1826. Asking for best mail route to Texas.

Samuel C. Hirams to Austin, September 8, 1826. Building for Austin.

Austin to Saucedo, September 11, 1826. Discouragement of the colonists over uncertainty concerning slavery. Indians.

Saucedo to Austin, September 12, 1826. Regretting arrival of electors at Bexar. Recommending Robert Lewis.

Stephen Holmes to Austin, September 12, 1826. Asking assistance in collection of a debt.

D. W. Smith to Austin, September 12, 1826. Application for land.

John Austin to Austin, September 13, 1826. Asking for ginning supplies and other supplies.

Dr. John Sibley to Austin, September 15, 1826. General news of the United States and Europe.

Samuel C. Hirams to Austin, September 16, 1826. Introducing F. W. Johnson.

Nicholas Clopper to Austin, September 16, 1826. Judicial procedure. Suit for debt. Enclosures.

James Cummins to Austin, September 19, 1826. Lost horse.

H. H. League to Austin, September 20, 1826. Immigration from Tennessee.

Saucedo to Austin, September 21, 1826. Must enforce laws against importation of certain goods. De Witt's settlement on the Lavaca temporarily approved. Judicial system must wait on the constitution.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, September 23, 1826. Constitution will exclude slavery, but slaves of the first colony will be safe. Legislature hostile. Bastrop's services to Texas.

George Orr to Austin, September 28, 1826. Asking for titles to land.

John Iiams to Austin, September 30, 1826. Misunderstanding concerning survey. Austin's reply.

Francisco Maynes to Ayuntamientos and local authorities, September 30, 1826. Quoting the bishop's pastoral instructions.

F. W. Johnson to Austin, October 1, 1826. Application for employment.

Austin to Humphrey Fullerton, October 2, 1826. Immigration. Swiss colonists. Slavery. Constitution.

Samuel Norris to Austin, October 3, 1826. Conditions in east Texas.

Saucedo to Austin, October 5, 1826. Bastrop expects favorable change in slavery article of constitution. No supplies for Indian campaign.

Saucedo to Williams, October 5, 1826. Passport. Regrets Austin's illness.

J. L. Philips to Austin, October 5, 1826. Deposition.

Austin to Ahumada, October 5, 1826. One of the Spaniards banished from Texas is delayed by illness.

Austin to Saucedo, October 5, 1826. Certain Spaniards banished from Texas.

John McNeel to Austin, October 9, 1826. Delay in payment of dues.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, October 10, 1826. Leaving Saltillo. Favorable attitude of legislature toward slavery. Friends of the colony.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, October 11, 1826. Introducing a trader.

Austin to Saucedo, October 14, 1826. Asking that his secretary be empowered to sell stamped paper.

J. L. Dumanday to Austin, October 15, 1826. Concerning recovery of oxen stolen by Indians.

Saucedo to Austin, October 19, 1826. Concerning extension of boundaries of Austin's first colony.

Henry Austin to Austin, October 20, 1826. Experiences in Mexico. Questions concerning trade with Texas. Demand for live oak.

Enoch Brenson to Austin, October 23, 1826. Judicial procedure.

Samuel C. Hirams to Austin, October 23, 1826. Concerning building.

Austin to Saucedo, October 24, 1826. Transmitting report of births and deaths.

Austin to Victor Blanco, October 24, 1826. Defending himself against misrepresentations of James Gaines.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, October 31, 1826. Horse trading in Mexico. Political gossip.

Benjamin Deckerd to Austin, October 31, 1826. Land business.

John D. Martin to Austin, November 1, 1826. Introducing Benjamin F. Foster.

Alexander Hodge to Austin, November 1, 1826. Application for land.

Austin to Bastrop, November 3, 1826. Suggestions for legislation—judicial system, digest of laws, sub-political chief, recording titles, land fees, appointment of commissioners to extend titles.

Felix Robertson to Austin, November 5, 1826. Texan emigration from Tennessee.

William Carroll to Austin, November 5, 1826. Introducing B. F. Foster.

John Sprowl to Austin, November 5, 1826. Character of James Gaines.

James F. Perry to Austin, November 5, 1826. Title to Mine a Burton tract. Biographical.

Robert Desha to Austin, November 6, 1826. Introducing B. F. Foster.

J. C. Payton to Austin, November 6, 1826. Application for land.

Saucedo to Austin, November 7, 1826. Quoting vice governor's instruction for demarkation of coast reserve.

Austin to Saucedo, November 7, 1826. Inclosing a memorial to the ayuntamiento of Bexar concerning tariff.

Austin to ayuntamiento of Bexar, November 7, 1826. Interpretation of law exempting colonists from tariff duties.

J. R. Harris to Austin, November 9, 1826. Judicial procedure.

Austin to Saucedo, November 9, 1826. Nominating S. M. Williams to sell stamped paper.

Depositions concerning counterfeit gold piece, November 10, 1826.

James Kerr to Austin, November 11, 1826. Troubles of DeWitt's colonists with Martin De Leon.

James Kerr to Austin, November 12, 1826. Trouble with De Leon.

Horatio Chriesman to Austin, November 13, 1826. Delay in surveying due to sickness.

Joseph W. Brown to Austin, November 14, 1826. Inquiries concerning constable's fees.

Henry W. Munson to Austin, November 15, 1826. Describing boundaries of Atascosito district.

Bastrop to Austin, November 18, 1826. Doings of the legislature. Slavery article of the constitution recognizes existing slavery, forbids future introduction of slaves, and frees children at birth.

Erasmo Seguin to Austin, November 18, 1826. Reciprocal hospitality.

Austin to members of State legislature, November 20, 1826: (1) urging extension of two years for introducing slaves into Texas after adoption of constitution, (2) urging that children of slaves be not liberated until age of 25.

Austin to Saucedo, November 21, 1826. Explaining purpose of his memorial to ayuntamiento of Bexar of November 7.

Austin to Ahumada, November 21, 1826. Recommending a gunsmith.

Impeachment proceedings against Alcalde of Nacogdoches, November 23, 1826. Fredonian rebellion.

Nicholas Dorsey to Austin, November 26, 1826. Qualifications to teach school.

Austin to ——— Robbins, November 28, 1826. Borrowing mules to pay Anthony Butler.

Governor to Legislature of Coahuila and Texas, November 30, 1826. Opposing abolition of slavery.

Green DeWitt to Austin, [about December 1, 1826]. Asking assistance in case of Thomas Powell, charged with illegal sale of tobacco.

Austin to Saucedo, December 3, 1826. Reporting disturbances at Nacogdoches.

Austin to R. H. Williams, December 4, 1826. Probate procedure.

Austin to Saucedo, December 4, 1826. Movements of the insurgents at Nacogdoches.

Austin to Mateo Ahumada, December 5, 1826. Acknowledging order to assist military detachment.

Robert Lewis to Austin, December 8, 1826. Mexican towns joining Austin in petitioning legislature to extend time for introducing slaves.

James Norton to Austin, December 13, 1826. Persecution of Green DeWitt and others by Doctor Oldivar.

Samuel C. Haddy to Austin, December 14, 1826. Providing for a Mexican woman.

Robert Rankin to Austin, Washington County, Ala., December 14, 1826. Abolition of slavery will deter some from going to Texas but will be an added inducement to others. Religious toleration desirable.

Austin to John A. Williams and B. J. Thompson, December 14, 1826. Advising them to make peace with the Government and desert the Fredonian rebellion.

Austin to postmaster at La Bahia, December 15, 1826. Passport for courier with dispatches concerning rebellion.

Austin in account with Nicholas Clopper, December 15, 1826. Price list.

Austin to Saucedo, December 16, 1826. Reporting conditions in Nacogdoches. Fredonian rebellion.

Elosua to Orr, December 16, 1826. Reporting that term has expired for filing petitions for compensation for service in the early struggle for independence.

John P. Coles to Austin, December 17, 1826. Rumors of Indian hostilities.

Alexander Calvit to Austin, December 18, 1826. Concerning a crime for which he will return to be tried.

Austin to Saucedo, December 22, 1826. Acknowledging communication from President concerning war with Comanches.

Austin to B. J. Thompson, December 24, 1826. Urging him to make his peace with the Government and abandon the Fredonian rebellion.

John Cameron to Austin, December 25, 1826. Application for land.

B. W. Edwards and H. B. Mayo to inhabitants of Pecan Point, December 25, 1826. Objects of the Fredonian rebellion. Soliciting cooperation.

B. W. Edwards to James Ross, December 26, 1826. Urging him to join the rebellion against Mexico.

B. W. Edwards to Aylett C. Buckner, December 26, 1826. Urging him to join the rebellion.

B. W. Edwards to Jesse Thompson, December 26, 1826. Inciting to rebellion.

Elisha Flowers to Austin, December 26, 1826. Application for land.

——— to Austin, December 26, 1826. Judicial procedure.

B. W. Edwards to Bartlett Sims, December 27, 1826. Inciting to rebellion.

Peter Ellis Bean to Austin, December 28, 1826. Warning Austin of effort to raise rebellion in his colony.

Deposition of Candes Metcalf, December 28, 1826. Saying that she was never married to Peter Ellis Bean.

Election return, December 29, 1826.

Patricio de Torres to Austin, December 29, 1826. Movements of the insurgents in Nacogdoches.

Manuel Hernandez to Austin, December 29, 1826. Forwarding an express to Ahumada.

Peter Ellis Bean to Austin, December 31, 1826. Reporting efforts to avert insurrection at Nacogdoches.

Austin to John Sprowl, January 1, 1827. Urging him to abandon the Fredonian rebellion.

Austin to Burril J. Thompson, January 1, 1827. Urging him to desert the insurgents. Government just and invincible.

Austin to inhabitants of the district of Victoria, January 1, 1827. Urging them to volunteer in service of the Government to suppress Fredonian rebellion and to adopt resolutions of loyalty.

Thomas M. Duke to Austin, January 3, 1827. Anxious to serve Government in suppression of Fredonian rebellion, but his neighborhood is menaced by Karankawa Indians and he fears to leave.

Randall Jones to Austin, January 3, 1827. People support the Government in contest with the Fredonian rebellion.

Peter Ellis Bean to Austin, January 4, 1827. The insurrection is breaking up.

Mateo Ahumada to Richard Fields, chief of the Cherokees, January 4, 1827. Asking for conference, and assuring him that the Government will grant land and do justice to the Cherokees.

Saucedo to Richard Fields, January 4, 1827. Assuring him of the Government's good disposition toward the Cherokees, and asking for a conference.

Austin to John D. Hunter, January 4, 1827. Assuring him of general amnesty for the Cherokees and the Fredonians and promising land for the Cherokees.

Thomas M. Duke to Austin, January 4, 1827. Transmitting resolutions of loyalty to the Government.

Austin to his colonists, [January 5, 1827]. Strong argument against the imprudence of the insurgents and for loyalty of the colonists.

Resolutions of loyalty by the citizens of San Felipe, January 6, 1827. Satisfied with the Government and condemn the insurrection at Nacogdoches.

George Orr to Austin, January 7, 1827. Loyalty to Government; no sympathy for insurgents.

Resolutions of loyalty—district of Bravo, January 9, 1827. Disapproval of the insurgents Disgust at their inciting Indians.

Affidavit of John C. Morrison, January 11, 1827. Reporting movements at Nacogdoches.

B. W. Edwards to ———, January 12, 1827. The Fredonian rebellion.

Humphrey Jackson to Austin, January 13, 1827. Judicial procedure.

Gaspar Flores to Austin, January 15, 1827. Nominating surveyors.

Muster roll of Captain Johnson's company, January 16, 1827. Fredonian rebellion.

Bastrop's will, January 16, 1827.

H. H. League to Austin, January 18, 1827. "Mania for emigrating to your country" from Tennessee. Uneasiness caused by Fredonian rebellion.

Richard Ellis et al. to Austin, January 22, 1827. Reporting failure of mission to the insurgents.

Austin to Militia, [January 22], 1827. Fredonian rebellion.

Committee report appraising wagon and teams employed for military service, January 24, 1827.

J. C. Tanner to J. E. B. Austin, January 24, 1827.

James Kerr to Austin, January 24, 1827. Causes of broils.

James Kerr to Austin, January 24, 1827. Suspicion of British intrigue among Cherokees.

Austin to Cherokee chiefs, January 24, 1827. "Talk" to detach them from the insurgents. Loyalty of the colonists. Generosity of Government.

Resolutions of loyalty—DeWitt's colony, January 27, 1827.

Edmund Bean to Peter Ellis Bean, January 28, 1827.

Austin's expense account in the Fredonian rebellion, January 29, 1827.

Jared E. Groce to Saucedo, January 29, 1827. Appeal for a new hearing in a law suit.

James Davis to Austin, Nashville, January 30, 1827. Prohibition of slavery would be a great bar to emigration to Texas.

Austin to Gaspar Flores, January – , 1827. Nominating two surveyors.

Affidavits concerning seizure of guns in DeWitt's colony, February 2, 1827.

Burril J. Thompson to Austin, February 2, 1827. Seeking Austin's intervention for pardon.

John A. Williams to Austin, February 7, 1827. Repulse of insurgents.

Francis Biggam to Austin, February 13, 1827. Disquieting reports from Texas.

James Hope to J. E. B. Austin, February 16, 1827. Asking for garden seed from Mexico.

Burril J. Thompson to Austin, February 17, 1827. Conditions at Nacogdoches which caused the uprising there. Desires to make his peace and return.

John Sibley to Austin, February 18, 1827. Political news. English designs on Cuba.

Bill for military transportation, February 22, 1827. Jesse Thompson to Ahumada.

J. E. B. Austin to Mrs. E. M. Perry, February 23, 1827. Fears effect of the Fredonian rebellion upon immigration. Report of sale of Texas to United States. This is certain in future if not already accomplished.

James Kerr to Austin, February 24, 1827. Property seized by De Leon.

James Kerr to Austin, February 26, 1827. Movements of Indians.

J. Tate to Austin, February 27, 1827. Proposal to establish a sugar mill in return for land.

Austin to José Antonio Navarro, February 27, 1827. Buying certain merchandise for Navarro.

Austin to S. M. Williams, March 4, [1827]. Fredonian rebellion.

P. T. Dimmitt to S. M. Williams, March 6, 1827. Collection of a note.

Felix Robertson to Austin, March 8, 1827. Asking assistance for Nashville company. Prospects of great emigration to Texas.

William Scott to Austin, March 10, 1827. Judicial procedure.

J. A. Padilla to Austin, March 10, 1827. Concerning death of Bastrop.

Dr. John Sibley to Austin, March 12, 1827. Report that United States has acquired part of Texas. British designs on Cuba.

M. Slocum to Austin, March 13, 1827. Disclaiming responsibility for statements which he has published in his paper.

Saucedo to Austin, March 19, 1827. Concerning settlement in the "reserved" land near the coast.

Saucedo to Gaspar Flores, March 19, 1827. Notifying him of his appointment as land commissioner.

R. W. Edwards to Ahumada, March 25, 1827. Thanking him for considerate treatment of defeated insurgents.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, March 26, 1827. Announcing arrival in Texas.

M. Slocum to Austin, March 27, 1827. Disapproval of the insurgents. Purchase of Texas.

J. Cable to Austin, March 28, 1827. Performance of certain commissions.

Ben R. Milam to Austin, March 30, 1827. Distressed at exclusion of slavery and at the admission of the Shawnee Indians.

Mateo Ahumada to Benjamin W. Edwards, March 31, 1827. Answering letter of 25th and lecturing him on liberality of Mexican Government.

Green DeWitt to Austin, April 3, 1827. Movements of Karankawa Indians.

William Bloodgood to Austin, April 4, 1827. Land troubles.

Power of attorney to receive a trunk, April 6, 1827.

Bustamante to Austin, April 7, 1827. Thanking him for detailed account of the insurrection and for his assistance in suppressing it.

Thomas Corwin to Ira Lewis, April 7, 1827. Collection of debt.

H. H. League to Austin, April 11, 1827. Assistance for the Robertson colony.

J. Hunter to Austin, April 12, 1827. Judicial procedure.

Walter Sutherland to Austin, April 12, 1827. Land.

Austin to colonists, April 12, 1827 Election notice.

Bustamante to Austin, April 14, 1827. Asking advice and assistance in transporting troops.

John R. Harris to Austin, April 15, 1827. Judicial procedure.

Austin to colonists, April 16, 1827 Closing business of first colony. Land fees.

Austin in account with Alexander Calvit, April 16, 1827. Bill and price list.

Receipt for goods, April 18, 1827.

[Saucedo?] to inhabitants of Pecan Point, April 19, 1827. Advice concerning local government and relations to United States.

Secretary of War to Austin, April 19, 1827. Thanking Austin for services against the insurgents.

Bustamante to Austin, April 19, 1827. Acknowledging letter.

Austin to Saucedo, April 24, 1827. Explaining why general election was not held.

J. H. Polley to public, April 28, 1827. Receipt for two notes. Commerce.

Austin to Capt. Dillard, May 1, 1827. Land.

A. R. Clarke to Austin, May 4, 1827. Land and trade.

A. Dillar to Austin, May 4, 1827. Commerce.

S. T. Angier to Austin, May 7, 1827. Land.

Austin and Thomas Westall, sureties for S. M. Williams, collector for stamped paper.

Gaspar Flores to Austin, May 10, 1827. Instructions for surveyors.

Austin to Flores, May 12, 1827. Acknowledging instructions for surveyors.

Treaty with the Karankawa Indians, May 13, 1827.

Bustamante to Austin, May 14, 1827. Concerning treaty with Karankawas.

Bustamante to Austin, May 19, 1827. Transmitting thanks of the Government for assistance in the insurrection.

Pettus *v.* Reed, May 21, 1827. Judicial procedure.

Austin in account with J. C. Peyton, May 23, 1827. Commerce.

Austin to Saucedo, May 22, 1827. Reasons for failure to hold general election in the colony.

George Orr to Austin, May 23, 1827. Concerning theft of horses.

J. E. B. Austin to E. M. Perry, March [May] 24, 1827. Austin's part in putting down rebellion. Immigration from Ohio. Slavery.

Austin to James F. Perry, May 26, 1827. Cost of travel. Slavery. Immigration.

J. E. B. Austin to E. R. Wightman, May 26, 1827. Contract to made a deed.

Francisco Ruiz to Austin, May 28, 1827. Wacoes and Tahuacanos want peace.

Samuel Bridge to Austin, Arkansas, May 29, 1827. Influence of Indian wars on emigration. Introducing R. M. Williamson.

Austin's toast on promulgation of State constitution July 27 [May 29], 1827.

J. A. Padilla to Gaspar Flores, May 31, 1827. Instructions for recording titles.

Tacitus Clay to Austin, May 31, 1827. Land. Scarcity of writing materials.

Hanson Alsbury to Austin, June 1, 1827. Reputation of colony rapidly increasing in the United States. Jackson-Adams campaign distressing the country.

Austin to Saucedo, June 1, 1827. Acknowledging six federal decrees.

Austin to Saucedo, June 1, 1827. Will report condition of militia by next mail.

Austin to Saucedo, June 1, 1827. Will have Williams report on sale of stamped paper.

Austin to Saucedo, June 1, 1827. Acknowledging communication from War Department concerning military plans for Nacogdoches.

Francisco Ruiz to Austin, June 2, 1927. Chiefs of Tahuacano and Waco Indians wish to make peace and are going to San Antonio. They say Comanches wish peace. Austin's part in bringing Wacoes and Tahuacanos to terms.

Bustamante to Austin, June 2, 1827. Inclosing copy of a convention with Karankawa Indians.

William Scott to Austin, June 2, 1827. Receipt for grinding corn and hire of boat.

Byrd Lockhart to Austin, June 3, 1827. Application for permit to settle.

[S. T.] Angier to Austin, June 3, 1827. Application for land.

Peter Ellis Bean to Austin, June 3, 1827. Announcing peace with Waco and Tahuacano chiefs.

John W. Hall to L. R. Kenny, June 4, 1827. Asking aid in correcting false statements.

Austin to Saucedo, June 4, 1827. Will report families settled in the coast reserve.

Austin to Saucedo, June 4, 1827. Concerning recruits for garrisons.

Austin to Saucedo, June 4, 1827. Reporting oath to the State Constitution.

Austin to Bustamante, June 5, 1827. Acknowledging receipt of the Karankawa treaty. Banquet celebrating promulgation of the constitution.

Administrator's sale of land, June 11, 1827. J. B. Miller, admr. of Thos. Gray.

Robert D. Dawson to Austin, June 16, 1827. Concerning collection of a note.

P. T. Dimmitt to J. Allcorn, June 17, 1827. Asking intervention to commute a sentence.

Bustamante to Austin, June 19, 1827. Tahuacanos, Wacoes, and Comanches have made peace. Glad to avoid thus the cost of a general campaign.

Austin to Saucedo, June 20, 1827. Transmitting a report on local government in the colony.

J. M. Cortes to Austin, June 24, 1827. Asking assistance in collecting a debt.

Willis J. Powell to Austin, June 24, 1827. Inquiring about the colony.

J. Cable to Austin, June 26, 1827. Introducing William Calahan.

M. Slocum to Austin, June 25, 1827. Publication of Texan matter in Natchitoches.

Austin in account with Faris and White, June 25, 1827.

C. B. Penrose to Austin, June 27, 1827. Desires to establish a distillery in Texas, and submits proposal for admission of molasses free of duty.

Saucedo to Austin, June 28, 1827. Second request for list of families settled in the coast reserve.

C. B. Penrose to Austin, July 1, 1827. Application to Government for privileges in connection with establishment of a distillery.

David G. Burnet to Bustamante, July 2, 1827. Policy of United States, inaugurated in 1823, of removing Indians to reservations west of Mississippi will lead to invasions of Texas. Warns Government against granting land to such Indians.

Saucedo to B. R. Milam, July 7, 1827. Quoting orders of superior government that empresarios must enforce restrictions prescribed by the colonization law.

Samuel A. Cartwright to Ira Lewis, July 8, 1827. Recommending a resident physician.

Francis Biggam to Austin, August 1, 1827. Slavery. Commerce.

Mrs. J. H. Hawkins to Austin, August 4, 1827. Concerning division of the premium lands in the colony and sale in England.

D. Elizondo to Austin, August 25, 1827. Concerning Bastrop's estate.

Miguel Arciniega to Austin, August 25, 1827. Distrusts peace with the Indians. Charges of Nixon and Madero that Austin and Saucedo are in collusion in sale of public lands, which he does not believe.

H. H. League to Austin, August 28, 1827. Business in Saltillo. Disturbances in the colony.

Mary W. Ellis to Austin, September 3, 1827. Message to her husband.

C. B. Penrose to Austin, September 10, 1827. Asking advice on subject previously proposed.

H. H. League to Austin, September 10, 1827. Asking Austin to act for the Nashville company in Saltillo. Disturbances in the colony.

H. H. League to Austin, September 10, 1827. Stockholders in the Nashville company. Plans of the company.

M. M. Battle to Austin, September 12, 1827. Contract to build a house.

Jesse Thompson to J. E. B. Austin, September 17, 1827. Asking the loan of 12 Spanish mares.

Phineas Smith to J. E. B. Austin, September 23, 1827. Acknowledging news of his brother's death.

Austin in account with John Cummins, October 5, 1827. Price list.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 10, 1827. Plans for returning to Texas.

Austin's draft of a bill to establish a seminary of learning, [October 11, 1827?].

Austin to the governor, October 11, 1827. His gratuitous labors in the colony. Asks authority to charge each grantee of land $30. Inclosing memorial on local government.

Austin to State congress, October 11, 1827. Memorial reciting misunderstandings growing out of his contracts with colonists to pay for land. Expenses of local government and administration. Petition for a resolution declaring that Austin had the legal right to make such contracts.

Austin's draft for report of Committee on Colonization, Saltillo, [about October 11, 1827]. Approval of Austin's contracts with colonists requiring fee for lands. Political chief not authorized to annul these contracts. Austin abandons these fees but wants legislation to vindicate his honor. Outline of his labors and expenses in public service. Urge the granting of his petition.

Austin to governor of Coahuila and Texas, October 11, 1827. Describing local government, especially judicial system, and asking legislative approval until the constitutional system is established.

Austin to the governor, October 11, 1827. Petition to establish a town.

John A. Williams to James E. B. Austin, October 14, 1827. Notes for map of East Texas.

William Pettus to Horatio Chriesman, October 19, 1827. Concerning surveys.

Thomas Powell to Austin, October 24, 1827. Protesting against order issued by Saucedo for the settlement on the Lavaca to be evacuated. Commerce.

Austin to J. R. Poinsett, November 3, 1827. Transmitting petition from David G. Burnet asking permit to establish a colony from Ohio in the border reserve. Exclusion of slavery checks immigration from Southern States; presumes the Government will encourage movement from the free States.

Austin to Gov. Viesca, November 6, 1827. Asking whether the provisional local government is to continue or be superseded by the constitutional system. Certain recommendations for local government.

John Gibson to J. E. B. Austin, November 7, 1827.

William S. Parrott to Austin, November 7, 1827. Masonic political organizations in Mexico—York and Scotch rites. Political conditions. Poinsett.

J. F. Buchetti to S. M. Williams, November 8, 1827. Will not be priest for the colony, but Austin wishes him to teach Spanish there.

Elisha Roberts to Austin, November 8, 1827. Asking assistance in getting title to land in east Texas.

Austin to ——, November 8, 1827. Reviewing establishment of his colony and presenting argument against the State law No. 18 providing for emancipation under certain conditions. Object to gain friends for the colony in Mexico.

Austin's argument against Decree No. 18, which regulates inheritance of slaves, November 8, 1827.

J. Francisco Madero to Austin, November 11, 1827. Asking for an estimate of number of Indians in Texas from the United States upon which to base action of State congress.

Austin to J. Francisco Madero [Nov. 11, 1827]. Information concerning Indians in Texas who emigrated from the United States. Danger to the country.

Austin to Gov. Viesca, November 14, 1827. Pleads that general exemption from taxation should relieve colonists of the stamp tax on documents.

J. M. Viesca to Augustin Viesca, November 20, 1827. Introducing Austin. His services to the State.

Haden Edwards to ——, November 22, 1827. Attacking the honesty of Austin and of Bastrop.

Stephen Richardson to [President?], November —, 1827. Mistreatment by port officers at Campeachy and Tampico.

John Hinkson to Austin, December 1, 1827. Land.

Manuel Ceballos to Padilla, December 5, 1827.

Padilla to Austin, December 19, 1827. Forwarding letter from Ceballos. Ramon Musquiz appointed political chief of Texas.

Ignacio de Arispe to ———, December 21, 1827. Certifying the high character and loyalty of Austin.

Austin to Saucedo, December 29, 1827. Forwarding attestation of oath to the constitution.

Austin in account with N. Dillard, D[illegible]mber —, 1827. Price list.

Austin in account with Preston Gilbert, December —, 1827.

Bustamante to Austin, ——— 28, 1827. Disagreeing with Austin's interpretation of a law.

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Antonio Martinez to Moses Austin, February 8, 1821. Quoting permit of the commandante general to establish 300 families in Texas on conditions, and suggesting procedure. Translation in A Comprehensive History of Texas (Wooten, editor), I, 470–471.

Antonio Martinez to Stephen F. Austin, August 14, 1821. Recognizing Austin as his father's successor, and directing him to explore for a site for the colony. Household goods and tools which are not for sale admitted free of duty. A Comprehensive History of Texas, I, 471-472.

Antonio Martinez to Stephen F. Austin, August 19, 1821. Approving Austin's proposal of a plan for distributing land to colonists. A Comprehensive History of Texas, I, 472.

Antonio Martinez to Stephen F. Austin, August 24, 1821. Appointing Austin governor of his colony pending establishment of the local administration by the Government. A Comprehensive History of Texas, I, 472.

Stephen F. Austin's Journal, June 18-September 21, 1821. His first trip to Texas. Exploration for site of the colony. Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, VII, 286–307.

Luciano Garcia to Austin, July 16, 1823. Informing Austin that he has appointed Bastrop commissioner of the Government to cooperate with him in establishing the colony. Translation in A Comprehensive History of Texas, I, 476.

Luciano Garcia to Bastrop, July 26, 1823. Quoting letter that he wrote to Garza, July 22, informing him of Bastrop's appointment as commissioner. Instructed him to lay out a town, which he has named provisionally San Felipe de Austin. Translation in A Comprehensive History of Texas, I, 476.

José Antonio Saucedo to the Inhabitants of the Trinty, Neches, and Dist. of Nacogdoches, January 22, 1827. In A Comprehenesive History of Texas (Wooten, editor), I, 522–524.

Austin "To the Inhabitants of this Colony," January 22, 1827. Calling them to arms to assist in suppressing the rebellion at Nacogdoches printed in Foote, Texas and Texans, I, 266–268, and partially printed in A Comprehensive History of Texas, I, 532.

INDEX.

Compiled under direction of EUGENE C. BARKER, Editor.

Acta Constitutiva, sworn to in Texas, 769, 770, 780, 782, 805.
Adams, A. H., 989.
Adams, Francis, 1516.
Adams, John, preceptor, 144.
Adams, John Quincy, 845, 988, 1050, 1053, 1060, 1078.
Adams, Mathew, 1118.
Adkinson, Mathew, 391.
Ahumada, Mateo, 946, 1058, 1075, 1092, 1101, 1113, 1155, 1160, 1196, 1197, 1254, 1285, 1299, 1304, 1315, 1321, 1338, 1353; Indians, 1359, 1395, 1432, 1439, 1444, 1472; buys boat, 1398; military measures, 1510, 1529; Fredonian rebellion, 1561, 1605, 1610, 1618, 1622.
Aikin, David, 360.
Ainai Indians, 1338, 1424.
Ais Indians, 473.
Alabama, interest in and emigration to Texas, 707, 1004, 1046, 1052, 1105, 1183, 1266, 1531, 1685.
Alabama Indians, 702, 736, 1316, 1322.
Alaman, Lucas, 719, 880, 897; letter from Austin, 725.
Albarado, Eligio de, 1164.
Aldasoro, Ambrosio Marie de, 372, 382.
Alexander, J., 436.
Alexander, James, 733, 839.
Alexander, Isaiah M., 433.
Alexander, Reno, 415.
Allcorn, Elijah, 772, 910, 934, 971, 996, 1068.
Allcorn, J., 1659.
Allcorn, James, 461, 996.
Allcorn, James D., 772.
Allcorn, John H., 772.
Allcorn, William, 996.
Allen, Beverly, 1492.
Allen, Martin, 488, 857, 937, 980, 1092, 1319, 1397, 1569.
Alley, Abraham, 1244.
Alley, Rawson, 686, 733, 1023, 1025, 1086, 1244, 1305.
Alley, Thomas, 1234; drowned on Indian campaign, 1359.
Alley, Thomas V., 491, 496, 732, 1244.
Alley, William, 1244.
Allin, W. H., 1116.
Allouti, 949, 1260.
Allsberry, 770.
Allsberry, C. G., 772, 996, 1457.
Allsberry, G., 932, 938.
Allsberry, Hanson, politics, 1651.
Allsberry, Horatio A., 1244.
Allsberry, Thomas, 785.
Almonte, Juan N., 558, 565.
Alm[illegible], 1707.
Anderson, Asa, 1244.
Anderson, John, 166.
Anderson, Jonathan, 1522.
Anderson, [illegible] V., 131.
Anderson, William, 899, 1043.
Andrade, Gen., 588.
Andrews, John, 258, 748, 1606.
Andrews, Joseph, 294.
Andrews, Robert, 5; New Madrid land speculation, 337, 339, 341, 344; interest in Texas, 421, 471; accompanies Austin to Mexico, 487, 531, 537; opinion of Mexico and Mexicans, 574, 582, 584, 630, 637, 640, 642, 672, 687, 693, 696.
Angier, Samuel T., land, 1636, 1655.
Animas, Las, silver mine, 552.
Antimony mine, 220, 223.
Antoñito Karankawa chief, treaty, 1640.
Apadache Indians, 1338; battle, 1424.
Arciniega, Miguel, 675, 742, 896, 1144, 1156, 1327; reports charges against Austin by Madero and Nixon, 1676.
Arcos, Capt. Miguel de, 200.
Arizpe, José Ignacio, governor of Coahuila and Texas, 1768; friendly to Austin, 1484; commends Austin, 1731.
Arizpe, Juan B., 634, 646, 647, 758, 766, 1084, 1270.
Arizpe, Miguel Ramos de, 630, 637, 638, 656, 668, 696, *719, 758, 767, 1057, 1088, 1157, 1236*; *letter from* Austin, 863.
Arkansas, settlement of, 327, 329, 330, 333, 341, 342, 344, 345, 350, 361, 369, 476; the Austin business in, 854, 891, 1221, 1227, 1228; interest in and emigration to Texas, 414, 424, 449, 461, 842.
Arkansas Gazette, hostility to the Austin colony, 1230, 1238.
Armos, De, 535.
Armstrong, Abraham, 84, 106.
Armstrong, James, awarded damages against Moses Austin, 202.
Armstrong, Robert, 742, 1333.
Aro, Manuel de, 202.
Arredondo, Joaquin de, 3, 228; permit to settle Texas, 400.
Arthur, John M., 180, 440.
Arze, José Joaquin de, 942.
Ashbrook, William, 387, 698.
Ashley, C., 1221.
Ashley, William H., 357, 392.
Ashton, Stephen, 367.
Assemblies, decree against, 722.
Astor, John Jacob, 104.
Atascosito district, boundary of, 1504; opposed to Fredonian rebellion, 1573.
Austin, Anna Maria, birth and death, 1.
Austin, Anthony, 7.
Austin, Archibald, 154, 1027.
Austin, Mrs. Archibald, 94.
Austin, Charles, 15, 35, 39; appraising value of property in Virginia, 57–61.
Austin, Charles A., 161, 165, 190, 196, 202.
Austin, Elias, 1.
Austin, Elijah, 94.
Austin, Eliza Fuller, birth and death of, 1.

Austin, Emily Margaret Brown (Mrs. James Bryan, Mrs. James F. Perry), 1, 6, 260, 1358, 1427, 1605, 1644; education of, 2, 3; letter of advice from Moses Austin, 210; marries James F. Perry, 890; letter, 991, 1072, 1108, 1113, 1168, 1221, 1228, 1232, 1238, 1239, 1260, 1268.

Austin, Henry, 110, 130, 147, 171, 214, 238, 1027, 1269, 1644; trading experiences in Mexico, 1478.

Austin, Horace, 130, 133, 134, 135.

Austin, James, business manager in Virginia, 36, 41, 43, 45, 75, 101, 133, 138; justice of the peace, 144, 165, 182.

Austin, James Elijah Brown, 2, 213, 214, 316, 329, 345, 353, 354, 384, 385, 388, 405, 434, 447, 449; education of, 3; arrival in Texas, 5; death of, 5; letters to, 487, 517, 524, 530, 560, 565, 584, 631, 644, 650, 670, 854, 890, 1072, 1233, 1234, 1262, 1267; characterization of, 464, 1274; letters from, 458, 471, 493, 589, 635, 648, 649, 1050, 1113, 1168, 1229, 1232, 1268, 1358, 1430, 1445, 1482; gives up watch to pay brother's debt, 497; services, 688, 707, 717, 719, 748, 767, 787, 792, 799, 854, 997, 1139, 1196, 1272, 1306, 1351, 1389, 1430, 1450, 1461; buys horses in Tamaulipas, 1416, 1427, 1430, 1482; importance of Bastrop's work in legislature, 1461; report on slavery in legislature, 1430, 1446, 1461, 1473; Fredonian rebellion, 1605, 1644, 1683, 1698.

Austin, John, 732, 803, 836, 855, 899, 905, 982, 1017, 1144, 1164, 1234, 1622; cotton gin, 1454.

Austin, John P., 1027; commission merchant, 1479.

Austin, Maria (Mary), birth of, 1; death, 6, 760, 851; letters from, 7, 211, 394, 405, 408, 430, 467, 491, 500; her anxiety about Indians in Missouri during War of 1812, 213; settlement of estate in New Jersey, 230; preparations to move to Texas, 784.

Austin, Moses, 324, 339, 346, 353-355; and family, record of, 1; temperament, 105, 112, 130, 145; sketch of, by Schoolcraft, 1241; description of, 1308; views on education, 92, 93, 95; letter of advice to Stephen F. Austin, 202; advice to daughter, 210; land speculation in Virginia, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15-25, 27; captain in Virginia militia, 28; lead business in Virginia, 21; establishes button factory, 28; lead mining partnership in Missouri, 29; partnership with William Shreve for manufacture of iron, 32, 35; dissolves partnership with brother, 35; passport to Missouri, 37; expenses of moving to Missouri, 40; granted land in Missouri, 31; inventory of partnership property in Virginia, 57-61; journal of voyage down the Mississippi, 69; is refused permission to establish powder mill, 82; proposes address of congratulation on transfer of Louisiana to France, 85; letter to Gallatin on conditions in Louisiana, 115; advising reform, 119; difficulty over land claims, 47, 49, 54, 55, 56, 57, 66, 105; quarrel with Soulard, 86; misunderstanding about surveys, 91; quarrel with John T. Smith, 97, 111, 112, 123, 136, 137, 152, 157; refusal to surrender cannon, 109; judge of court of common pleas, 97, 113; commissioned to administer oath, 137; member of territorial council of Missouri, 224; interest in the Renaut claim, 224; petition for enlargement of Washington County, 245; asked for report on lead mining, 242; plan for a territorial lottery, 268; merchandizing in Missouri, 47, 64, 76-80, 84, 88, 93, 101, 130, 162, 171, 196, banking, 232, 234; plan for revising charter of Bank of St. Louis, 265; pressed by Bank of St. Louis, 341; losses in Bank of St. Louis, 379, 387, 408; account with Bank of St. Louis, 1491; contract to explore for copper, 321; wishes to move north, 333; refuses to sell Mine à Burton, 333; sale of real estate, 336; valuation of estate, 350; assets, 360; accounts due him, 359, 390; settlement of debts, 354, 355; trouble over subscription to build courthouse 352; proposes trade to Mexico in 1813, 223; the Texas venture, 3; itinerary and expense, 368; examination at San Antonio, 370; application for permit to found colony, 371; permit granted, 372; return to Missouri, 375, 377, 379, 381; plans for colony, 379, 385, 389, 394; illness and death, 394, 395, 396; copy of permit to settle Texas, 100; death, 4, 6, 394, 395, 404, 408. *See also* Lead.

Austin, Richard, 7.

Austin, Stephen, 1, Virginia land speculation, 13, 19, 35; letters to James Austin about Virginia business, 36, 41, 43, 45; statement of account against Moses Austin, 63, 87; misfortunes, 87.

Austin, Stephen Fuller, 1094, 1104, 1123, 1142, 1190, 1193, 1211, 1414; birth, 1; death, 6; education, 2, 92, 93, 95, 135, 144 (certificate of scholarship), 171; letters from college mates, 172, 174, 178, 183, 188; orders on, 182, 183, 185, 194, 198; selling a mill, 195; transporting cargo of lead to New Orleans, 202; diary of voyage, 205; loss of cargo, 216, 218, 224; adjt. in Missouri militia, 241, 1506; in Missouri Legislature, 265, 334; opposing Bank of Missouri, 272, 283; petition for protective tariff on lead, 290; petition for federal support of academies in Missouri, 291; opposing amendment of judiciary system of Missouri, 294; takes possession of mines, 3, 300; merchant, 300, 301, 318, 323, 325, 326, 328; New Madrid land claims and speculation in Arkansas, 327, 329, 330, 333, 337, 339, 341, 342, 344, 345; gives a wedding party, 305; quarrel with Joshua Fletcher, 306; financial stress, 331, 349; account with Bank of St. Louis, 334; wishes to go to White River or to New Orleans, 364; commission as judge of first Arkansas circuit court, 365; employed in New Orleans, 368, 373; edits Louisiana Advertiser, 374, 385; coolness toward colonization of Texas, 393; hears of father's illness and death, 394, 401; adopts his father's plans, 397; debts, 374, 393, 425, 427, 446, 453, 490, 497, 929; debt to Anthony Butler, 1523, 1658; intends to marry when family is out of debt, 335; first trip to Texas, 4, 399, 401, 402, 405, 406; plan for distributing land, 407, 415, 418, 421, 430, 431, 448, 512, 550, 592, 548; exploration of Texas, 417; proposes creation of immigration commissioner, 420; agreement with Hawkins, 428 (*see* Hawkins, Joseph H.); agreement with emigrants, 433; first trip to Mexico, 5, passport, 483; letters describing trip, 487, 504; discussion of Indian relations in Texas, 507, urges confirmation of his grant, 511, 518, 524, 543, 548, 575, 580, 584, 628; confirmation, 590, 727; describes Iturbide's elevation to throne, 517; coronation, 534, 536; Mexican politics, see Calendar, April, 1822-June, 1823; notes on deposition of Iturbide, 586; suggestions for organization of government of Mexico, 538, 568, 601, 633, 656; views of Mexican church, 645, 658, 664, 672; baptized a protestant, 467, political views, 568, 598, 601, 644, 653, 656, 675, boundary of first colony 513, 521, 590, 591, 594, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1417, 1617;

letter of Mexican citizenship, 515, 564, 593, 647, 718, 724, 727, 750, 758, 766; partnership with General Wavell, 527, 528, 536, 544, 553, 555, 558, 572, 576, 646, 668, 1257; reports of his death, 546, 1478; enemies to his grant, 636; definition of his powers, 595, 597, 651, 683, 742, 753, 780, 796, 998, 1130, 1167, 1203; terms to settlers, 435, 441, 603, 679, 681, 682, 703, 705, 1106, 1110; address to colonists, 678, 679, 705, 713, 714, 715, 746, 759, 781, 811, 852, 1054, 1127, 1208, 1570, 1587; address to Cherokees, 1593; friction over land, 714, 752, 761, 795, 797, 811, 828, 832, 845, 865, 874, 904, 931, 976, 1022, 1023, 1029, 1076; schedule of land fees, 1084, 1111; charges against by Madero and Nixon, 1676; reviews services and expenses and explains need of fees from colonists, 1410; cannot eat nor make clothes of land, 1412; Saucedo approves fees, 1432; memorial to legislature concerning land fees, 1689, 1692; petition for additional colonization contracts, 913, 935, 936, 999, 1024, 1035, 1065, 1120, 1353; to colonize coast, 1376; to settle Little Colony, 1697; plan for trade with Texas Indians, 411, 507; relations with the Indians, 702, 727, 783, 842, 843, 844, 948, 994, 1068, 1181; referendum to colonists, 1208, 1246, 1300, 1305, 1315, 1321, 1332, 1338; measures to defend frontier from Indians, 1423; petition on slavery and tobacco, 811, 825, 942, 946; petitions and arguments on slavery, 825, 864, 984, 999, 1170, 1180, 1406, 1422; asks legislature to extend time for admission of slaves and not to emancipate children under 25 years old, 1507; enlists Mexicans in behalf of slavery, 1529; protest against slavery law, 1713, 1716; suggestions for legislation, 1486; outlines judiciary bill for Texas, 1486; hopes of commerce with England, 986, 1066; petition for ports and coasting trade, 996, 1037; argument on necessity of free commerce for Texas, 1495, 1510; charts Galveston Bay, 1249, 1254, 1268, 1271, 1272, 1281, 1288, 1299, 1325, 1392; support of education, 604; bill to establish a seminary, 1686; burdensome duties, 1327, 1410, 1488, 1687, 1689; history of his colony, 1689; trouble with de Leon, 1276, 1284, 1291, 1328, 1344; plans for ranching, 1416; building a house, 1451, 1682; relations with Haden and B. W. Edwards, 1201, 1272; introducing George Orr with petition for organization of settlements on Trinity river, 1399; explains endorsement of B. J. Thom; son, 1481; Fredonian rebellion, 1527, 1528, 1532, 1538, 1555, 1461, 1562, 1570, 1587, 1595, 1605, 1610, 1626, 1633, 1642, 1644; lost cannon in Fredonian expedition, 1596; awaiting state constitution before urging Perry to move, 1427; speech on state constitution, 1648; closing first colony, 1631; instructions to record titles, 1649, Bastrop's executor, 1583; books, 698, 876, 1290. *See also* Robertson Colony.

Austin, Stephen F., and Company, 300.

Austin, Stephen F., Jr., son of J. E. B. Austin, 6

Austin Papers, sources and history of. *See* Preface.

Austina, town of, 387.

Avendaño, José María, 1011.

Ayers, Samuel, 521.

Bailey, J. B., 712, 770, 782, 924, 1169, 1185.

Bailey, Smith, 773, 782.

Baird, 393.

Baird, James, 416, 433, 772, 839, 851, 924.

Baize, Joseph, 996.

Baker, Elisha, 126.

Baker, Isaac Lewis, letter from, at Transylvania University, 174, 178, 183; Battle of New Orleans, 245.

Baker, Joseph, 772.

Baker, L. W., 1267.

Baker, Thomas, 166.

Baldwin, Francis, 187.

Baldwin, Henry, 226.

Baldwin, John, 1269.

Ballew, Page, 930.

Balsle, James R., 1681.

Banking, 242, 260.

Bank of Missouri, 272, 283; rivalry with Bank of St. Louis, 316.

Bank of St. Louis, 265, 272; bill for subscription to stock by territory of Missouri, 281; bill authorizing notes of, 286; in straightened condition, 343; failure, 379, 387; Moses Austin's account with, 1491.

Bank, Second United States, 242; opposition to in Missouri legislature, 287.

Banks, Thomas C., 632.

Barkus, reports fraudulent land claims, 161.

Barnett, James, 1146.

Barnett, Thomas, 773.

Barr, William, his will not in archives of Bexar, 383.

Barrett, Richard, 763.

Barrow, Alexander, 1681.

Barrow, Mathew, 1681.

Barrow, William, 1681.

Barton & Worts, 153.

Bassett, 1586, 1591.

Bassett, John, Indian trader, 1511.

Bastrop, Baron de, 379, 380, 384, 408, 412, 413, 414, 515; miscellaneous services, 582, 644, 669, 683, 709, 718, 723, 724, 737, 742, 750, 751, 752, 757, 761, 764; commissioner for Austin's first colony, 600, 640, 642, 672, 677, 683, 718, 724, 737, 767, 836, 840, 849, 882, 887; English books of, 639; proclamations, 677, 783; election to represent Texas in legislature, 752, 761, 768, 771, 791, 803, 841; instructions to, 804, 809, 825; labors in, 904, 942, 995, 1006, 1017, 1038, 1056, 1071, 1075, 1082, 1087, 1089, 1147, 1154, 1157, 1164, 1237, 1322, 1326, 1336, 1364, 1375, 1384, 1390, 1401, 1402, 1417, 1429, 1431, 1445, 1461, 1474, 1477, 1486, 1495; pro-slavery, 1390, 1431; reports great opposition to Texas in legislature, 1057; divides fees with Austin, 904; asks Austin for money, 1505; more than 25 years in Texas, 951, has known H. Edwards 30 years, 961; death and will (including biography), 1578, 1613; biographical notes, 1723.

Bates, Edward, 1492, 1493.

Bates, Elias, 2, 3, 38, 223, 239, 244, 252, 253, 294, 304, 318, 323, 368, 373, 395, 799, 891.

Bates, Frederick, 126, 137, 151, 332, 891.

Bates, Henry, 2, 27.

Bates, James, 319.

Bates, Moses, 2, 192.

Bates, Parsons, 2, 28.

Bates, William, 203, 219, 227.

Battle, Mills M., 996, 1085, 1589, 1592, 1637, 1663; contract to build house for Austin, 1682.

Baty, Edward, 1569.

Baylie, Briton, 702.

Bayles, Daniel E., 930, 1271, 1499.
Bean, Edmund, 1595.
Bean, Ellis H., advice for evading abolition of slavery, 1368.
Bean, Peter Ellis, 739, 829, 1147; deposition concerning marriages, 1397, 1443, 1551, 1595; grant of land on Neches, 1462; Fredonian rebellion, 1533, 1535, 1551, 1553, 1561, 1626; Indians, 1653, 1656.
Beason, B., 1014, 1244.
Beatty, James, 460.
Beck, Mrs., boarding school, Lexington, 1.
Becerra, Manuel, treaty with Karankawas, 1639.
Bedford, George A., 1681.
Bell, Josiah H., 344, 348 419, 432, 466, 555, 589, 630, 681, 689, 693, 695, 709, 714, 721, 743, 748, 753, 769, 770, 773, 798, 859, 876, 879, 911, 1635; granted land by Austin, 415; letter of encouragement from Austin, 533.
Bell, Thomas B., 1220, 1244.
Bellor, T., 59.
Bellows & Cochran, 153, 156, 159, 162.
Benavides, Bernardino, 202.
Benavides, Sergeant José M., 200.
Benedict, John C., 294.
Benifield, Robert, 415.
Benton, Thomas H., elected to Senate, 1042, 1493.
Benavidez, Juan M. de, 4, 384, 639, 761, 1022, 1041, 1045, 1060, 1099, 1197.
Bernard, port of, opened, 373, 382, 383, 400, 403, 474, 950, 957, 964, 967.
Bernbisel, Dr. John M., 394, 415.
Berry, Bradford, 1520.
Berry, Mandus, 996.
Berry, Peter, 214.
Berry, Robert, 1578.
Berry, William, 782.
Betts, Jacob, 686; land troubles, 1094, 1142; settlement broken up by Karankawas, 1559; treaty with Karankawas, 1639.
Bexar, in 1822, 475; ayuntamiento, addressed by Austin on slavery, 1422; supports Austin's petition on slavery, 1146.
Bexar Archives, IV.
Bibb, of Kentucky, 132.
Bibb, Thomas, slavery, 1096.
Bickley, J., 176.
Bidais Indians, 1424.
Bigby, John, bill of lading, 171.
Bigham, Francis, 708, 1012, 1601; character certificate, 546; emigration, 1673.
Bill of lading, 171.
Bird, Amos, 166.
Bird, Charles L., 136.
Bishop, Jonathan, 569.
Bishop, Robert H., 171.
Bissell, Dan, 130.
Black, Daniel, 148.
Blackburn, Benjamin, 173.
Blair, L., 1315.
Blanchard, John D., Virginia land speculation, 13 20, 22.
Blanco, Victor, 618, 919, 1365; attacked by bandits on Rabine, 215; vice governor Coahuila and Texas, 1368, 1394, 1432, 1481.
Blanks, William, 1085.
Bloodgood, [illegible] land prices, 1625.
Bludworth, J. D., 1083.
Blurton, John, 1578.
Blythe, James, 171.
Board of Land Commissioners in Missouri, 113, 117.
Boatwright, Friend, 717.
Boatwright, Thomas, 717, 760, 859.
Bodley, Mrs., 172.
Bogart, Cornelius and Wilks, 238.
Boggs, Andrew, 491.
Boise, A., 166.
Bolin, Solomon R., 982.
Bond, John G., 155, 156, 162, 196; letter from, 153.
Bossier, Placide, 1453.
Bostwick, Caleb, 1220.
Botts, John, 895, 908, 920, 990.
Bouic, Francis V., 254.
Bouis, Expedient, 294.
Boundary of Austin's first colony, 513, 524, 550, 591, 594, 794, 880, 930, 934, 982, 1025, 1121.
Bowen, John D., 1681.
Bowers, Dr. Joseph, 350.
Bowl, Cherokee chief, 1338; declines to join Fredonian rebellion, 1587.
Bowman, John, 996, 1214; to Stephen F. Austin, 188, 226.
Bowman, John J., 1569.
Boyd, Dr. G. D., 1426.
Boyer, Charles, 100.
Bradford, Mr., 208.
Bradford, Charles, 251.
Bradford, Simon, 1681.
Bradley, E. N., 733.
Bradley, Hugh, 351, 456.
Bradley, John, 351, 782, 1365.
Brady, J. G., 311, 315.
Brands, recorder for, requested, 737; refused, 751, 752.
Branom, Lieutenant, 832.
Bravo, district of, opposes Fredonian rebellion, 1573.
Brazos, port of, 951, 957, 967, 1088, 1117, 1276; need of town at mouth of, 1418.
Brenaugh, William, 1060.
Benson, Enoch, surveying, 1479.
Breton, Mine à, 29, 56, 123.
Brickey, John S., 259, 335, 496, 891; instructions for managing leadsmelting furnaces, 248.
Bricky, John J., 243.
Bridge, Samuel, Indians, 1647.
Briggs, Edmond L., 1295.
Bright, Miss, 176.
Bright, B., 1211.
Bright, Betsy, permit to marry, 799.
Bright, David, 717, 779, 790, 908.
Bright, George Y., 1235.
Bright, Judy, 790.
Brinker, Abraham, Missouri legislature, 1493.
Brinson, E., land prices, 1625.
Brock, Thomas, 391.
Brodnax, John, 989.
Brodnax, Thomas, 989.
Brooke, R., governor of Virginia, 28.
Brookhart & Reese, 166.
Brooks, Beauford, 1063.
Brotherton, Robert, 493, 1014, 1244.
Brown, [illegible] 202.
Brown, Adam, 94, 95.
Brown, Alexander, 1320.

Brown, Ephraim, 798.
Brown, Henry, 738.
Brown, James, 1089.
Brown, Jeffry, 738.
Brown, John, 1503.
Brown, Joseph, 1292.
Brown, Joseph W., constable's fees, 1504; 1577.
Brown, L., 304.
Brown, Maria. *See* Austin, Maria.
Brown, Samuel P., 335.
Brown, Samuel S., 839.
Brown, W., 294.
Brown, William, 294, 359, 1292.
Brown, William S., 977.
Bruffey, James, 890.
Bruffey, Robert C., 340, 349, 374, 393, 446, 473, 463, 496, 547, 800, 925.
Bryan, Emily. *See* Austin, Emily.
Bryan, Guy, 104, 1233.
Bryan, Guy M., custodian of Austin Papers, IV; 6, 377, 395, 627.
Bryan, James, 6, 161, 166, 192, 195, in Arkansas, 327, 331, 344, 345, 359, 363, 367; letter to, 218, 220, 222, 228, 230, 234, 236, 239, 241, 242, 243, 247, 254, 262, 299, 316, 317, 319, 320, 327, 330, 332, 333, 334, 335 354, 358, 363, 387, 388, 396, 426, 434; letters from 449, 459, 463, 465, 481, 495; debt paid, 929.
Bryan, Mary Elizabeth, 6.
Bryan, Moses Austin, 6, 627.
Bryan, Stephen Austin, 6.
Bryan, Timothy, 785.
Bryan, William Joel, 6.
Bryan & Morrison, 47, 190.
Buchetti, Rev. Juan Francisco, curate for Austin's colony, 1310; education in Texas, 1709.
Buckner, Aylett C., 636, 685, 706, 763, 858, 1019, 1244, 1245, 1318, 1331, 1332, 1339, 1357, 1359, 1360, 1453; letter, 1076, 1123, 1131, 1132, 1162, 1193, 1230; urged to join Fredonian rebellion, 1546, 1569.
Buckner, John W., 391.
Buckskin clothing, 223, 467.
Buford, Warren, 1110, 1236.
Bullard, H. A., 445.
Bullard, Judge Murray, 849, 939.
Bullard, T., 324, 337.
Bullet, Judge, 254.
Bullock, W., letter from, 160.
Bunaugh, William, 927.
Burnam, Jesse, Capt. of militia, 686, 807, 839, 1244, 1399.
Burnet, 496.
Burnet, David G., 1349, 1429, 1431, 1434, 1469, 1589; memoir on Indian policy of the United States, 1667; introduction to Poinsett, 1703.
Burnet, James, 458.
Burnett, Pumphrey, 1244, 1569.
Burns, 131.
Burns, Arthur, gun, 1599.
Burr, Aaron, 145.
Burr, Joseph, 11, 12, 13, 23, 27.
Burton, Mine á. *See* Breton.
Bustamante, Anastacio, addressed by Austin on Indians in Texas, 507; commends Austin, 581, 591; to subdue Indians of Texas, 1376, 1390, 1430, 1438, 1471, 1620, 1626, 1630, 1634; treaty with Karankawas, 1639, 1641, 1654, 1657; other treaties, 1660; Indian policy of United States, 1667, coasting trade, 1732.
Bustamante, Carlos Maria, theories of, 1719.
Bustillo, Francisco Xavier, 1468.
Butler, Anthony, 170; hires slaves to Austin, 241; judgment against Moses Austin, 388; Austin's debt to, 1523, 1658.
Butler, Elijah, 391.
Butler, J., 166.
Butler, James R., 491.
Butler, John, 144.
Butler, Thomas, 172.
Butler, William A., 185.
Butler, Capt. Tepeniah, 1224, 1348.
Button factory in Richmond, 28.
Byrd, Major, 1574.
Byrd, Micajah, 1574, 1552.

Cabeen, William, 167.
Cable, Jared, 444, 971, 1060, 1092, 1620, 1621, 1662.
Caddo Indians, 1556.
Cahoe, Lipan chief, 1607.
Calderon, G., minister of relations, 523.
Caldwell, Col. Charles, 483; letter from Austin, 673.
Calahan, William, 1662.
Calhon, Fredonian rebellion, 1600.
Callahan, Joseph, 782.
Callier, Jim, Fredonian rebellion, 1558.
Calvit, Alexander, 1123, 1165, 1255, 1631; asks assistance of Austin, 1537.
Calvit, Mrs. Alexander, 1611.
Cameron, John, petition to colonize Texas, 1376; colonization, 1541.
Cameron Colony, 1402.
Camp, John, a vicious slave, 204.
Campbell, J. D., 627.
Campbell, William, 1680.
Campos, Juan Vicente, 942, 1060.
Cannon, Bill, 173.
Cantu, José Bernardino, 599.
Car, Peter A., 161.
Carbajal, José Maria, 921, 1366.
Cárdenas, José M., 355, 1099, 1475.
Carillo, Manuel, 942, 945, 1157; revises slavery article of State constitution, 1474; vote on slavery, 1505.
Carita, Tonkawa chief, 783; death of, 1301, 1341.
Carnahan, A., 1369.
Carothers, W., 718.
Carpenter, R., 989.
Carpenter's wages and prices, 124.
Carr, Charles, 144, 148, 149.
Carr, James C., 453.
Carr, John, 1146.
Carr, Will C., 97, 105, 112, 404, 793, 854, 916.
Carrasco, Salvador, wool trade, 537, 561, 639.
Carraway, James, 421.
Carrete (Carita), Tonkawa chief, 783, 1301, 1341.
Carrico, Benjamin, 1064, 1102, 1115, 1122, 1217.
Carroll, William, introducing agent of the Tennesee Company, 1189.
Carson, John, death, 1456.
Carter, Benjamin, 294.
Carter, Samuel, 748, 773, 782, 1189.
Carter, Samuel C., 763, 771.
Cartwright, Jesse H., 1074, 1102, 1116, 1122, 1217.
Cartwright, R. M., 1102.
Cartwright, Samuel A., 1673.
Cartwright, Thomas, 996.

Casa Mata, plan of, rejected by Texas, 638.
Casey, F., 166.
Castañeda, Carlos E., V.
Castillo, Pedro Fernandez del, 595; forwarding passport to Austin, 580.
Castleman, 379, 380.
Castleman, John, 773; Indians, 1258.
Castleman, Nancy, marriage bond, 779.
Castleman, Sylvanus, 481, 678, 685, 714, 717, 719, 732, 742, 763, 780, 789, 792, 851, 859, 908, 995.
Cavenah, Charles, 1569.
Ceballos, José Manuel, Senator from Coahuila and Texas, 945, 952, 953, 955, 964, 966, 967, 968, 1059, 1461, 1542, 1729; thanked by Bastrop for assistance to Texas, 1376; colonization of reserved lands, 1402.
Ceballos, Manuel Santivañes y, member of congress for Coahuila and Texas, 1023.
Census of Austin's Colony, 1008, 1182, 1188, 1212, 1244, 1275, 1345, 1489.
Chadwell, Duff, 136.
Chance, Samuel, 1244.
Chandler's store, on Ais Bayou, 1447.
Chaplin, Chichester, 1517.
Character of colonists, 673, 702, 703, 705, 716, 728, 733, 735, 738, 743, 788, 803, 863, 880, 961, 992, 998, 1015, 1034, 1044, 1063, 1065, 1071, 1095, 1110, 1163, 1165, 1206, 1284, 1361, 1372, 1374, 1375, 1379, 1643, 1659.
Cheatham, Leonard P., 1681.
Cherbonier, Mr., 847, 1077, 1080.
Cherokees, 1323, 1338, 1424, 1470; apply for land in Texas, 637; organizing alliance, 1195, 1220, 1231; letter from Austin, 1307, 1316; in Fredonian rebellion, 1544; invited to conference, 1565, 1575, 1592, 1605, 1669, 1721.
Cherry, John, 1578.
Chicago, University of, IV.
Chicken thief, a small vessel of disreputable character, 1391.
Child, Judge Joshua, 735, 888, 973, 1052, 1091, 1142.
Chino, Indian chief, 783.
Choctaw Indians, 702, 800, 1322, 1342, 1424, 1575; treaty, 456.
Chouteau, Auguste, 224.
Chriesman, Horatio, 731, 771, 773, 839, 871, 886, 910, 911, 1063, 1067, 1079, 1340, 1357, 1373, 1457, 1503, 1599, 1700; surveying, 877.
Christy, Major, 916.
Christy, William, 1263.
Church, in Mexico, 645, 653, 664, 671.
Cinclear, Duncan, 1578.
Clampit, Ezekael, 1769.
Clark, Daniel, 145, 369.
Clark, John, 698, 1101, 1131, 1320.
Clark, Thomas, 772.
Clarke, Anthony R., conditions in East Texas, 738, 797, 528, 865, 1009; trade, 1635.
Clarke, John J., 480, 1009.
Clarks, Gilbert, 369.
Clay, Henry, 848, 1703; introducing Elijah Noble, 526; negotiation for Texas, 1620.
Clay, Tacitus, 1650.
Clapper, Nicholas, commerce and judiciary, 1456, 1534.
Coahuila and Texas, union of, 740, 757, 761, 767, 781, 791; opposed in Texas, 1057, 1088, 1390, 1432, members of first legislature, 942.
Coast colony of Austin, petition to establish, 1417.
Coast reserve line, 1617; settlement in, 1656, 1665.
Coasting trade, 691; petition for, 1037, 1162, 1393 1471, 1726, 1732.
Cobb, Richard, 177.
Coco (Coke) Indians, 473, 702, 711, 759, 895, 948, 1338, 1640.
Cockran, James, 1578.
Coffee, Col., 209.
Coit, Samuel T., 1479.
Colchester Academy, 2, 95; certificate to Stephen F. Austin, 144.
Coleman, 393.
Coleman, Daniel, slavery, 1098.
Coleman, James, Jr., 34.
Coles, John P., 731, 733, 736, 760, 772, 803, 825, 845, 852, 895, 911, 926, 931, 932, 936, 937, 961, 1009, 1014, 1016, 1062, 1068, 1095, 1122, 1190, 1211, 1245, 1301, 1354; opinion of Bartlett Sims, 1355; Indians, 1536; elected alcalde, 1552; Fredonian rebellion, 1574.
Collet, F., 328.
Collet, Robert, 328, 393; judgment against Austin, 349.
Collier, George W., 1163.
Collier, Green D., slavery, 1090, 1163.
Collier, Robert, 1090, 1163.
Collinsworth, James, character certificate, 421.
Colonization law, federal. *See* Calendar for Austin's letters, April, 1822–May, 1823; also, 589.
Colonization law, state, 1025, 1038, 1057, 1059, 1082, 1087, 1093; ambiguity of, 1199, 1201, 1351; report of committee concerning Austin's fees, 1690.
Colorado frontier settlements, 1392.
Colorado River, obstruction to navigation, 513.
Comanche Indians, 473, 487, 507, 947, 948, 954, 957, 961, 1053, 1181, 1194, 1196, 1197, 1208, 1246, 1281, 1300, 1360, 1374, 1395; plan for great campaign against Bexar and Rio Grande, 1421, 1440, 1452, 1537; Fredonian rebellion, 1547, 1548; depredations, 1697; wish peace, 1653, 1656, 1660.
Comerges, John, 104.
Commerce, 88, 103, 127, 128, 139, 147, 162, 190, 202–210, 218, 219, 220, 222, 223, 237, 238, 241, 243, 251, 252, 317, 320, 325, 327, 338, 343, 356, 361, 364, 371, 393, 411, 413, 416, 434, 449, 496, 506, 532, 537, 557, 573, 577, 596, 632, 635, 640, 646, 648, 649, 651, 669, 688, 691, 700, 714, 716, 717, 720, 735, 743, 746, 748, 756, 763, 778, 780, 787, 789, 826, 847, 870, 884, 901, 904, 918, 932, 934, 941, 949, 971, 980, 994, 1013, 1027, 1037, 1052, 1055, 1059, 1068, 1074, 1081, 1087, 1097, 1113, 1119, 1137, 1138, 1149, 1154, 1155, 1162, 1167, 1222, 1235, 1249, 1273, 1280, 1286, 1291, 1330, 1349, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1365, 1377, 1378, 1389, 1393, 1428, 1433, 1445, 1449, 1454, 1456, 1460, 1471, 1472, 1475, 1478, 1482, 1495, 1526, 1534, 1609, 1611, 1622, 1636, 1643, 1665, 1684, 1701, 1731; Austin urges trade with England, 986, 1054. *See also* Money, Discounts, Price list, and various commodities.
Compton, John, 1292.
Compton, L. B., 1292.
Conaughton, Patrick, abused by DeLeon, 1421.
Connell, Hugh, 1051, 1053, 1091.
Conner, John, 124, 369, 392.
Connor, Jeremiah, 311, 312.
Connor, Silas G., 392.
Conrad, Peter, 1026.

Constitution of Mexico, Austin on, 538, 568; Austin's suggestions for, 601, 653, 656; oath to, 1056.
Constitution of Coahuila and Texas, 1371, 1390, 1462; article 13 on slavery, 1407, 1471, 1472, 1505; slavery article opposed by governor, 1524; age for liberation of slave children, 1505; finished, 1614, 1645, 1657, 1731; Austin's remarks on, 1648.
Contreres, José, 996.
Cook, Colonel, 224.
Cook, David T. W., 535.
Cook, J., 851.
Cook, James, 1014, 1244.
Cook, Nathaniel, 855.
Cooke, John, 975, 982.
Cooper, J. W., 183.
Cooper, Stephen, 390.
Cooper, Thomas, 390.
Cooper, William 809, 996, 1244; counterfeit gold piece, 1378, 1500.
Copper, contract to explore for, 321.
Cordova, Julio, horse thief, 689.
Corn, subscribed for salary of Congressman, 709, 713, 746, 769, 806.
Cortes, J. M., and Huppé, commerce, 1661.
Cortes, John, 1621.
Cortines, Ignatio, 1014.
Corwin, Thomas, 1627.
Coshatti Indians (also Cushatti), 702, 736, 800, 1194, 1316.
Cotton, 237, 239, 370, 372, 462, 756, 807, 820, 888, 896, 901, 914, 927, 935, 952, 971, 976, 985, 988, 994, 996, 1028, 1031, 1037, 1053, 1055, 1066, 1104, 1144, 1154, 1166, 1184, 1223, 1230, 1234, 1238, 1268, 1271, 1276, 1358, 1365, 1427, 1454, 1478, 1481, 1611; price affected by War of 1812, 216.
Cotton, John, 1578.
Counterfeit money, 1378.
Covoner, Francis B , entitled to New Madrid land claim, 332.
Coward, Hardy, character certificate, 425.
Cox, James, Jr., 325, 334.
Cox, Nathaniel, 537, 754, 773, 990, 1079, 1104, 1154, 1189, 1674; Hawkins estate, 808, 871, 941.
Coy, John M., 702.
Craddock, Pleasant, 1681.
Crawford, William, 1569.
Crawford, W. H., 848.
Criddle, John, 1381.
Crittenden, Robert, 1228, 1388; Secretary of Arkansas, 366.
Crockett, Maj. R., 1263.
Croix, Peter le, 81.
Cronkrite, Dr. Lyman, 1673.
Crops, 1392, 1427; abundant, 1359.
Crownover, John, 996; marriage bond, 779.
Crownover, John C., 772.
Crownover, Mitchell, 772.
Crozer, D., 1262.
Crunk, James, 782.
Cubas, Ignacio de, 745.
Cullen, Patrick, 360.
Cummins, James, in Arkansas, 345; in Texas, 633, 678, 686, 706, 710, 711, 732, 746, 755, 783, 794, 806, 811, 825, 852, 856, 879, 911, 918, 1054, 1133, 1162, 1227, 1244, 1354, 1370, 1391, 1458; Fredonian rebellion, 1586, 1607.
Cummins, John, commissioner to Cherokees, 1307; Fredonian rebellion, 1592; trade, 1684.
Cummings, William, 1062.
Cunningham, Father, 176.
Curcier, Alexandre, victim of Indian depredations, 1449, 1476.
Curran, Thomas, 1388.
Currency, confusion of, 242, 353, 354, 355, 385, 386; forms of 708, 713, 716, 748, 798, 820, 842, 960, 981, 1000, 1015, 1016, 1054, 1089, 1113, 1306, 1365, 1378, 1457, 1608, 1635, 1682.
Cushatti Indians (*see* Coshatti).
Cushing, Colonel, 185.
Curtis, Cyrus, 294.
Curtis, Washington, 1333.

Dameron, D. B., 516.
Daniel, Edward, 1681.
Daniel, Y. M., 436.
Danlin, William Alexander, 974.
Davenport, death of, 988.
Davenport, Samuel, horse trading, 199, 209.
Davis, Jack C., 1211.
Davis, James, 294; land, 1598.
Davis, John, 1681.
Dawson, Dr. R. D., 327.
Dawson, Robert D., 479; Austin's debts, 1658.
Dayton, Dr. Lewis B., 1633; causes commotion in Austin's colony, 1677, 1680.
Deavers, Thomas, 1578.
Decelle, 106.
Deckerd, Benjamin, 1484.
Decrow, Daniel, 1220.
Delaware Indians, 1307, 1554, 1575, 1669, 1721.
De Leon, Fernando, treaty with Karankawa Indians, 1641.
De Leon, Martin, aggressions of, 1344, 1402, 1421, 1435, 1446, 1501, 1526, 1530, 1590, 1599, 1606, 1624, 1701; treaty with Karankawa Indians, 1639.
Delgado, Karankawa chief, makes peace, 1640.
Delgado, Clement, 1459.
Delgado, José Manuel, 1654.
De Mass, Charles, 772.
De Mass, Lewis, 772.
Demonbrun, J. B., 104.
De Moss, Abram, 1681.
De Moss, John, 1244.
De Moss, M., 1244
De Moss, Peter, 1244.
Derbin, attacked by Indians, 1377.
Desha, Robert, Austin's life in Missouri; introducing agent of Texas Association (Robertson Colony), 1493.
Despalier, Martin, 1005.
Detchemendy, Pascal, 55, 59, 66, 67, 79.
Devan, Ireton C., 1267.
Dewees, William B., 686, 1014, 1244.
De Witt, Green, 842, 961, 987, 1058, 1082, 1084, 1087, 1093, 1109, 1138, 1147, 1159, 1170, 1229, 1271, 1304, 1325, 1364, 1372, 1374, 1390; annoyances of De Leon, 1402; boundary with, 1435; begins settlement on Lavaca, 1444, 1460; seizure of cargo of goods, 1495; attacked by De Leon, 1501, 1503, 1510, 1526, 1530, 1590, 1599, 1624; treaty with Karankawas, 1639.
De Witt's colony, loyalty during Fredonian rebellion, 1594.
Diaz, Rev. Antonio de Leon, 916.
Dickinson, Edward, killed by Indians, 1196, 1197, 1279.

Dickinson, John, 1073.
Dickinson, Lemuel, 1569.
Dill, James, 460, 466, 764, 780, 793, 797, 917.
Dill, Mrs. (James), 1512.
Dillahurty, Isaac, 421.
Dilliar, A., 1636.
Dilliard, John B., 369, 415.
Dilliard, Capt. N., 1598, 1635, 1731.
Dimmitt, Philip, 648, 669, 720, 798, 823, 841, 870, 895, 918, 1137, 1145, 1611, 1659.
Dinwiddy, Mr., 204.
Discount rates, 155, 157.
Ditch, Jonathan M., 391.
Divorce, in Texas, 1033, 1375.
Dixon, Samuel, 452, 706, 707, 712, 733, 772, 960; estate of, 1206, 1223.
Dodge, Henry, sheriff, 103.
Dodge, Israel, 84.
Doggett, Jacob, 351.
Domingues, Christoval, 193, 215.
Dominguez, Diego, horse thief, 1079, 1122.
Donaldson, James Lowry, caned by Easton, 113, 117.
Donelly, James, 773.
Donnell, Rev. Thomas, 6.
Dorsett, Capt., 1511.
Dorsey, Nicholas, linguist, 1523.
Dortiz, Americi, 996.
Dowlin, James, 294.
Dowlin, Patrick, 771, 773, 782
Douglas, Charles, 1065, 1081; letter to Austin, 745; religion and slavery, 1045
Douglass, Thompson, 311, 312, 315, 321.
Drake, a mulatto, 1284.
Drake, Aaron, 1578.
Drake, James, 1578.
Drake, John, 1578.
Draper, Daniel, 454.
Drumm, Stella M., IV.
Dubois, 1604.
Dubois, Leonard, 1512; slavery, 1095.
Dubreuil, Antoine, 99.
D'Uelle, Joseph, 90.
Duke, Thomas M., 739, 1023; expedition to Waco Indians, 842; Fredonian rebellion, 1570, 1585, 1969.
Dumanday, J. L., asking Austin's aid in recovering lost animals, 1176.
Dunbar, James T., 447.
Duncan, Mr., cargo wrecked, 1361.
Duncan, Meredith, 1577.
Duncan, William, 1271.
Dunham, Daniel A., 1681.
Dunklin, Daniel, sheriff, 340, 349; letter, 455.
Dunklin, William, 345.
Dunn, A. C., 203.
Dupaugh, Joseph, 782.
Durey, F., Indians, 1231.
Durham Hall, 3.
Durrett Collection, IV.
Durst, Joseph, 1447, 1448, 1516, 1528.
Duty, George, 698, 1014, 1348.
Duty, Joseph, 1244.
Dyer, C., 1319.

Eads, Matthew, 166.
Eads, William, 343, 396.
Earl, Thomas, 1217.
Earle, Thomas, 1054, 1472.
Early, James, 1054.

Easton, Rufus, 166, 351; canes Donaldson, 113; asks for report on Missouri lead mines, 242.
East Texas, settlers in, 763, 772, 793, 797, 829, 835, 876, 917, 932, 959, 994, 1005, 1007, 1034, 1067, 1095, 1163, 1165, 1248, 1272, 1284, 1379, 1380, 1386, 1447, 1481, 1488, 1490, 1511, 1602, 1610. *See* Fredonian rebellion.
Eccleston, E., schoolmaster, 632, 682.
Echavarria, Col. Juan M. de, 229.
Edens, John, 414.
Edmonson, James, 709.
Education, in Missouri, 200, 304; in Texas, 1117, 1157; Austin's ideas of public, 601; bill to establish a seminary, 1686; teacher, 1709.
Edwards, Amos, 251.
Edwards, Benjamin W., Austin's advice to, 1201; letter, 1218; angry with Austin, 1246; difficulties of Haden Edwards's colony, 1380; instigating confusion, 1447; Fredonian rebellion, 1542, 1545-1550, 1555, 1574, 1575, 1586, 1605, 1618, 1622.
Edwards, Haden, applies for land in Texas, 499, 631; known to Bastrop for thirty years, 961, 1057, 1072, 1082, 1084, 1087, 1093, 1246, 1266; trouble with old settlers, 1270, 1272; difficulties and efforts to settle colony, 1382, 1428; contract to be annulled, 1434; complaint against by William Taylor, 1438; confusion among old settlers, 1447; impeachment of Norris, 1511, 1516; Fredonian rebellion, 1538, 1555, 1586; accusation of Bastrop and Austin, 1723.
Edwards, Ninian, minister to Mexico, 799, 848.
Elam, John P., 772.
Elder, Robert, 772, 996.
Elections, 717, 719, 768, 771, 793, 803, 806, 851, 995, 1009, 1014, 1369, 1429, 1432, 1443, 1452, 1552, 1629, 1634.
Eleven league grants, 1144, 1156.
Elguezn, Francisco, 1354.
Elizondo, Dionicio, 942; Bastrop's estate, 1675.
Elliott, Aaron, 87, 99, 101, 136, 140.
Elliott, Austin, 133, 138.
Elliott, Benjamin, 260.
Elliott, Charles, 132 138, 154, 160.
Elliott, Elias, 127, 139, 222, 359, 456.
Elliott, Henry, 44, 45, 252, 260, 360, 427, 434, 445, 449, 458, 471, 481, 488, 494.
Elliott, John, 547.
Ellis, Erasmus, 294, 437, 452.
Ellis, Mary W., inquiries about husband, 1678.
Ellis, Richard, 1183, 1266, 1678, mission to Fredonian rebels, 1586.
Elosua, Antonio, 946, 962, 983, 1058, 1082, 1136.
Embargo, 118.
Emigration to Texas, interest in, 388, 412, 414, 419, 421, 423, 424, 425, 427, 432, 436, 437, 438, 440, 441, 443, 445, 449, 450, 452, 454, 455, 459, 460 462, 464-466, 469, 472, 476, 479-485, 488-491, 495, 509, 521, 523, 526, 528, 531, 546, 572, 699, 707, 712, 735, 740, 743, 765, 778, 842, 889, 890, 897, 898, 916, 937, 941, 970, 972, 973, 976, 982, 987, 989, 991, 992, 999, 1004, 1012, 1020, 1026, 1030, 1033, 1043, 1045, 1046, 1050-1053, 1055, 1074, 1091, 1110, 1141, 1143, 1165, 1183, 1185, 1208, 1223, 1224, 1236, 1237, 1243, 1260, 1262, 1263, 1265, 1266, 1273, 1306, 1318, 1399, 1450, 1459, 1485, 1489, 1493, 1531, 1584, 1598, 1601, 1612, 1628, 1644, 1651, 1673, 1685; mania for, 1584, 1644; and *see also* different states.
England, relations of United States with, 154, 162; conspiring against Texas, 1591.

English, George, 183.
English, William, 1284; Fredonian rebellion, 1558.
Erwin, Andrew, applying for land grant in Texas, 498, 505, 520; returns to United States, 533, 535; Tennessee Land Company, 893; opinion of Jared E. Groce, 1187, 1681.
Erwin, James, 1186, 1213.
Erwin, John P., 1681.
Erskine, David M., 162.
Evans, James, 452.
Evans, T. E., 166.
Evans, Thomas, 294.
Evans and Shields, 193.
Ewington, Daniel, 1569.

Falconer, Peregrine, 114.
Falconer and Comegys, 100.
Famine conditions in Texas, 590, 635, 676.
Farelly, Terrence, collection of debt, 1388.
Farias, Valentin Gomez, 719, 758.
Farrar, Doctor, 312.
Farris, James, 347.
Farris, Robert C., 329.
Feazle, George, 531.
Fees, *see* Land fees.
Fendley, J., 294.
Fenwick, Doctor, 106.
Fenwick, C., 166.
Ferguson, Leroy, 353.
Fernback, Mateo, 584.
Ferriage rates, 866.
Ferris, W. A., 1663.
Ficklin, Joseph, 161, 251, 1367; advice to Moses Austin, 145.
Ficklin, T. H., 462, 1493.
Ficklin, William, 305, 392.
Field, John F., 1348.
Field, Capt. J. T., 1225.
Fields, Richard, Cherokee chief, 637, 1435, 1452; organizing confederation, 1195, 1220, 1231, 1338; reports hostile intentions of Comanches, 1440; in Fredonian rebellion, 1544, 1547, 1548, 1554, 1561, 1563, 1575, 1605; death, 1610.
Filhiol, Gramont, 439.
Filhiol, John, 438.
Fin, Santiago, 1095.
Fisher, Dr. George, 55, 64, 76, 79, 84, 93, 149.
Fisher, John, 55, 64.
Fitzgerald, David, 702.
Flint, Timothy, asks Austin for an article on Texas, 979.
Flint and Gibson, 166.
Flores, Gaspar, 929, 934, 983, 984, 1011, 1061, 1065, 1072, 1336, 1351; commissioner for Austin's second colony, 1403, 1431, 1471, 1518, 1638; surveyors, 1577, 1599; recording titles, 1649.
Flores, José, 1365.
Florida, interest in Texas, 472.
Florida treaty, 525; Texas boundary in, 848.
Flowers, Elisha, land, 1549.
Fomento, Mexican department of, IV.
Forder, Peter, 448.
Forsythe, Douglass, 375.
Fort on Colorado, 1391.
Foster, 496.
Foster, Benjamin F., agent of the Texas Association (Robertson or Tennessee Colony), 1485, 1489, 1493.
Foster, Isaac, 1075, 1378, 1500.
Foster, John R., commissioner to Cherokees, 1308, 1323, 1332; counterfeit money, 1378, 1500.
Foster, Randolph, 1055.
Fowler, Benjamin, 722, 763, 771, 773.
Fowler, John H., 1206.
Fitzpatrick, John, 327, 332.
Findly, John, 352.
Fitzgibbon, William, 733, 736, 737, 803.
Frame, David, 773, 782.
Franks, Burrel, 1643.
Frazer, Alexander, 151.
Frazure, James, 772.
Fredonian rebellion, 1510, 1527, 1528, 1532, 1535, 1538, 1544–1549, 1550, 1551, 1553–1576, 1584, 1586, 1592–1596, 1602, 1604; measures of general government to suppress, 1614; *see also* Edwards, B. W. and Haden.
Freight charges, 322.
Friley, Hiram, 772.
Frith, John W., 1515, 1600.
Frontier defense, 1441; *see* Militia and Military measures.
Fry, Dr. Jacob, 1260, 1262, 1264.
Fulcher, Graves, 772.
Fuller, Benjamin, 1.
Fullerton, Humphrey, 1349, 1632; contract to settle colonists, 1431; Swiss emigrants, 1469.
Fulshear, Churchill, hires slaves, 976.
Fulton, Samuel, 898.
Fur trade, 104, 132, 190, 244, 903.

Gagnes, Jean Baptiste, 1518.
Gaines, Gen. E. P., 1615.
Gaines, James, 416, 1635; letter from, 460, 764, 780, 796, 797, 820, 834, 932, 937, 1014, 1163, 1165, 1346; trouble maker, 1379, 1383, 1386, 1428, 1446, 1448, 1470, 1475, 1490; complains of Austin, 1447, 1451; in Fredonian rebellion, 1519, 1535, 1610.
Gains, Mr., 12, 13.
Gales, Amos, 772.
Gallaher, David, 374.
Gallaher, James, and Sons, 110.
Gallatin, Abraham, 170.
Galveston harbor, 526, 1066, 1072, 1084, 1086, 1088, 1117, 1144, 1157, 1167, 1179, 1236, 1239, 1249, 1252, 1254, 1260, 1272, 1281; port of, 935, 936, 943, 947, 951, 957, 964, 967, 1024; excellence of, 1036; chart of, 1288, 1299, 1325, 1392; map, 1035.
Gamble, A., Clerk of Court, St. Louis, 330.
Gamble, J., 166.
Garcia, Francisco, 1003, 1050, 1160, 1420.
Garcia, Lucio, Governor of Texas, 600, 672, 676, 677, 695, 701, 702; goes to Tamaulipas, 757; ranching, 1416, 1482.
Garcia, Ygnacio, sergeant, 199.
Garner, whipped from Texas, 716.
Garret, Charles, 656, 717, 772, 851, 996.
Garza, Alferez Cogetano de la, 757.
Garza, Eugenio de la, 996.
Garza, Felipe de la, 197, 195, 597, 600, 638, 654, 656, 669, 670, 672, 695; ranching, 1416, 1483.
Garza, Rev. Refugio de la, 834, 836, 983, 1465; needed to perform marriages in the colonies, 850, 884.
Garza, Ylario, 371, 600.
Garza, Ysidro de la, 201.
Gates, Charles, 772.
Gates, Ranson, 772.
Gates, Samuel, 772, 911.
Gates, William, 772.

Genealogical notes, Austin family, 1.
Gibson, John, 1706.
Giger, John, 352.
Gilbert, Leonard, 66.
Gilbert, Preston, 1569, 1732.
Gill, Capt. A. B., 1163.
Gilleland, Daniel, 686.
Gillespie, Robert, 1165, 1266.
Gilman, Benjamin Ives, 96.
Gilmore, John, 360.
Gilmore, William, 773, 791.
Givens, C. C., 930.
Glass, manufacture of, 364.
Goin, Thomas D., 1578.
Goliad, description of in 1822, 475.
Gonzales, Rafael, governor Coahuila and Texas, 1056, 1065, 1071, 1090, 1100, 1135, 1161, 1180, 1432, 1484; resigns office as governor, 1368.
Gooden, William, 1361.
Goseascoechea, Capt. José, 199, 200.
Graham, James, 415.
Grant, James, 756, 1030, 1155, 1330.
Grant, William G., 1055.
Grapp, François, Indians, 1231.
Graves, Richard, 1569.
Gray, Thomas, 686, 1021, 1023, 1244, 1589; trouble with de Leon, 1276; death, 1658.
Grayham, James, 369.
Gready, J. W., 198
Green, David B., 1681.
Green, Drury, 38, 41.
Green, Horace, 1681.
Greenville, Mississippi, in 1813, 208.
Gregoir, 166.
Greig, John, 993.
Griffin, Clarissa, 1606.
Griffin, James, 1578.
Grimaldi, José Maria, iron works in Durango, 541.
Groce, Jared E., 676, 700, 701, 766, 908, 933, 936, 1055; 1133, 1149, 1150, 1293, 1328, 1433; characteristics, 894, 1213; petition to legislature on slavery and tobacco, 811, 825; cotton, 1104; characterization and business in the United States, 1185; large land grant, 1204; supplies for troops in Fredonian rebellion, 1596.
Groce, L. W., 1120.
Guajardo, José Maria Valdez, 942, 1157.
Guernsey, Aaron, 294.
Guerra, José Mariano, Secretary to General Bustamante, 1640.
Guerra, Juan, 669, 674.
Guerra, J. M., 710.
Guest, O., 166.
Guin, P. M., 195.
Guthrie, Robert, 1654.
Gutierrez, Francisco Antonio, 942, 1060.
Gutierrez de Lara, José Bernardo, 764, 939; claims of volunteers, 1187, 1193, 1253, 1346, 1401, 1535; removed from office, 1430, 1435.
Guyard, John F., 453.
Guyard, Robert Peter, 340, 349, 360.

Hadden, John, 839.
Haddy, Samuel C., 1531.
Hall, H., Fredonian rebellion, 1600.
Halcomb, John, 415.
Hall, Bill, 835.
Hall, Daniel, 43, 45.
Hall, G. B., 1636.
Hall, J. W., 1015.
Hall, Jack, 835, 932, 937.
Hall, John, 712, 733.
Hall, Mrs. John, 1141.
Hall, John W., land, 1656.
Hall, Warren D. C., 676.
Hall, William S., 1309, 1340, 1350, 1357, 1370.
Halstead, Dane, 523.
Hamilton, David, 1320.
Hamilton, James, sheriff in Arkansas, 506.
Hammond, George, 305, 352.
Hammond, Samuel, 123, 224, 294, 325; banking in Missouri, 232.
Hampton, General, 185.
Hampton, John P., 546.
Hampton, L. T., 1512.
Haney, James, 1577.
Hanna, John, 632, 699, 918, 920.
Hanson, J. or T., 315.
Hanson, William, 523.
Hapburn, John, 294.
Harbison, John C., 412, 445.
Hardin, Augustin B., 1578.
Hardin, Franklin, 1578.
Harding, John, 1681.
Harding, William, 1681.
Hargrave, Samuel, 360.
Harris, Egbert, 413.
Harris, Isaac, 1578.
Harris, John R., 930, 934, 982, 1285, 1498; sale of boat for military use, 1201, 1216, 1398, 1439; judiciary, 1630.
Harris, William, 1347.
Harris, William J., 930.
Harrison, death of, 919.
Harrison, A., 1244.
Harrison, George, 930, 1220, 1568.
Harrison, Henry, 1244.
Harrison, Thomas B., 433.
Harrison, William, 326.
Hart, Michael, 176.
Hart, Mrs. Nat., 172.
Hart, Thomas P., 523.
Hart, Barton & Cox, 156.
Hart, Barton & Hart, 154, 156; letters from, 159.
Hartt, Dr. G. C., 440.
Harwood, Benjamin, 390.
Hatcher, Mattie Austin, V.
Hawkins, Edmund, 1675.
Hawkins, Major John, 259, 449, 456, 502; conditions in Missouri, 900; false reports of Texas, 901.
Hawkins, Major John T., 136, 478, 921.
Hawkins, Georgia (Mrs. Joseph H.), 773, 895, 921, 923, 1265, 1674.
Hawkins, Joseph H., 373, 397; partner with Austin in the Texas Colony, 398, 423, 428, 476, 520, 527, 532, 628, 669; death of, 722, 773, 786; family of, 773, 808, 1399; estate, 491; expenditures of, 808, 872.
Hawkins, Littleberry, conditions in the colony, 631, 632; trading, 635, 639, 648, 669, 677, 870, 917; introducing emigrants, 1260, 1264, 1366; emigration from Kentucky, 1399, 1450.
Hawkins, L. V., 144.
Haydon, William, 1260, 1264.
Haynes, Henry, 1294.
Hays, Demetrius, 1551, 1600.
Hazleton, Luke S., death of, 1456.

Heard, A., 1622.
Heard, Morgan A., 179, 1141, 1165, 1183.
Hedenbergh, Peter, 1366.
Heerl, S. and J. Pogue, Baltimore, 326.
Heines, George W., 1263.
Helms, Thomas, 415.
Hempstead, Edward J., 392.
Henderson, Charles, 1320, 1527.
Henderson, John M., Kentucky, 1262.
Henderson, William N., 423.
Henesley, William, 772.
Henry, Andrew, 891, 903; demand of cannon from M. Austin, 109–111.
Henry, James, abused by De Leon, 1421.
Hensky, James, 772.
Hensby, J., 851.
Hepburn, James, 708.
Hernandez, Jesus, horse thief, 1099.
Hernandez, Juan José, 1135.
Hernandez, Manuel, commands detachment at mouth of Brazos, 1529, 1553.
Herrera, José M., minister of relations, 519.
Herrington, William, 392.
Hertich, Joseph, 224.
Hewitson, James, 558, 649, 650.
Hickman, 842, 987.
Hilburn, Ambrose, 908.
Hicks, Dr. P. S. le, 1112, 1146.
Hicks, Jenkins & Company, 171.
Hill, Robert, 1051.
Hill, Thomas, 1681.
Hinds, Elbert, 1447.
Hinkson, John, 1728.
Hirams, Samuel C., 993, 1357, 1371, 1373, 1374, 1434, 1451, 1456, 1463, 1480.
Hirst, John, 433.
Hockley, Thomas, 76.
Hodge, Alexander, land, 1486.
Hogan, James, 738.
Hogan, Walter, 738, 798.
Hogan, William, 392.
Holland, Edward, 772.
Holland, Francis, 772, 1552.
Holland, William, 739, 772.
Holley, Horace, 347.
Holley, Mary Austin (Mrs. Horace Holley), 1029.
Holliman, Kinchen, 1050.
Holliman, Michael, 1052, 1053.
Hollimon, Griffin H., 546.
Holloway, Daniel, 1014, 1244.
Holloway, James, 1052.
Holloway, Lewis, 1015, 1244, 1520.
Holmes, Stephen, collection of debt, 1453.
Holstein, David H., 1030.
Holstein, Henry H., 894.
Holthan, J. G., 439, 975, 988.
Homestead law, roots of, 693, 765, 996, 1255.
Honey, John W., 262, 369, 394, 405, 434, 560, 925.
Honey and Bates, 303, 318.
Hooper, Thomas, 996, 1033, 1089, 1120, 1293.
Hope, James, 1062, 1373, 1509, 1602.
Hope, Prosper, 1509.
Hopkins, Jonathan, 1244.
Hopson, Samuel, 1207.
Hord, Isabella, 1492.
Horse trading in Texas, 69, 199.
Horton, Josiah, 1051.
Horton, William D., 1459, 1585.
Houston, Sam, member of Texas Association of Tennessee (Robertson Colony), 1681.
Huber, Joseph Antonio, 1433; Fredonian rebellion, 1555.
Huff, George, 887, 889, 927, 970, 972, 973, 976, 1026, 1043, 1053, 1144.
Huff, Jacob, 1026.
Hughes, Isaac, 1347
Hughes, Hudson, 433.
Hughson, Isaac, 930.
Hughson, James, 930.
Huitt, Rowland, 415.
Huizar, José Geronimo, 916.
Hull, Alijah, surveyor, 506; in Gutierrez-Magee expedition, 507.
Hunt, Abijah, 208, 209.
Hunt, Seth, 96, 97, 145, 149, 150, 153, 155, 156, 160, 162, 196; Renaut Claim, 225.
Hunter, Capt., Indian agent, 1384.
Hunter, Mr., 206.
Hunter, Eli, 1131, 1244, 1569.
Hunter, John Dunn, in Fredonian rebellion, 1544, 1547, 1548, 1564, 1586, 1591, 1605; death, 1610; journal, 1591.
Hunter, Johnson, 414, 1479, 1498, 1577, 1612, 1628, 1630; licensed to sail coasting vessel, 691.
Hurt, Lewis, 1569.
Hyde, Charles, 1601.
Hyde, Richard, 1682.
Hynes, Andrew, 1682.

Ibarra, Jesus Maria, masonry, 1707.
Ilam., John, letter, 1018, 1025; survey, 1463.
Illinois, interest in Texas, 427, 449, 491.
Indiana, interest in Texas, 506.
Indians, in Missouri during War of 1812, 213, 217, 219, 220, 223; mourning custom of in Mississippi, 209; trade, 257; exclusion of British from, 257; trade with in Texas, 381, 411, 413, 508, 800, 835, 948, 1068, 1335, 1519; presents to, 958; hostilities and depredations in Texas, 635, 638, 640, 652, 675, 676, 678, 655, 658, 701, 710, 718, 727, 736, 755, 759, 768, 803, 805, 806, 830, 840, 876, 879, 895, 905, 916, 946, 948, 953, 957, 961, 965, 969, 983, 994, 1051, 1058, 1068, 1181, 1194, 1196, 1197, 1208, 1219, 1222, 1231, 1258, 1279, 1281, 1300, 1304, 1307, 1315, 1319, 1331, 1337, 1338, 1341, 1358, 1359, 1364, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1376, 1390, 1391, 1395, 1403, 1423, 1424, 1430, 1432, 1435, 1440, 1444, 1449, 1471, 1481, 1489, 1536, 1537, 1549, 1559, 1607, 1624; Fredonians make treaty with, 1543, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1550, 1554, 1575, 1605; policy of United States menaces Texas, 1456, 1667. *See also* various tribes.
Ingram, Ira, 920, 1045, 1580.
Ingram, John, 1320, 1321; letter, 1105; land, 1424, 1569.
Ingram, Seth, surveyor, 520, 686, 717, 759, 772, 839, 851, 908, 910, 911, 925, 977, 1019, 1599.
Internal improvements, 988, 1455.
Iron, mining and manufacture, 32, 166; trade, 261; furnaces in Durango, 541.
Iron, John, 717, 908, 917.
Irwin, James, 75.
Irwin, William, 835.
Iturbide, Agustin de, proclaimed emperor, 517; addressed by Austin, 518, 543, 548; deposition of, 586, 631, 638.

Jack, Old, a slave, 248.
Jackson, Alexander, 716, 748, 885, 1123, 1133, 1241, 1569.
Jackson, Andrew, 848, 988, 1048, 1050, 1053, 1060.
Jackson, Francis James, hopes in England that he will settle relations with United States, 102.
Jackson, G. E., 166.
Jackson, Humphrey, 1010, 1051, 1103, 1116, 1216, 1577, 1628, 1630; instructions from Austin, 980; services, 934.
Jackson, John G., 876.
Jackson, Steven, 1164.
Jackson, Thomas, 13.
Jameson, Robert, 391.
Jamison, Thomas, 686; land, 1367.
Janis, François, 67, 132, 166.
January, Thomas, 1569; Indians, 1560.
Jefferson County, Missouri, petition for creation of, 293.
Jeffries, R. S., 989.
Jennings, Jacob, 632.
Jennings Camp, 632, 920, 1460.
Jesses, Isaac, 387.
Johnson, constable, 1379, 1479
Johnson, Absolom, 144.
Johnson, Charles, 771, 773, 782.
Johnson, Edward, 369.
Johnson, Francis W., introduced to Austin, 1476; application for surveying, 1468.
Johnson, H., Governor of Louisiana, 1243.
Johnson, Hugh B., company in Fredonian rebellion, 1577.
Johnson, James, character certificate, 442.
Johnson, John, 369, 1206.
Johnson, William, 887, 973, 1033, 1090.
Johnson, A. W., 1681.
Johnston, Benjamin, justice of the peace, 202.
Johnston, Henry, 849.
Johnston, J. S., 849.
Jones, Henry, 773, 1454.
Jones, James, 1055.
Jones, James W., 746.
Jones, John, 773, 782, 930, 938; clerk of court, 39, 340.
Jones, John Rice, 29, 32, 39, 53, 99; Renaut Claim, 224, 253; judge, 340, 349, 442.
Jones, Oliver, 1306.
Jones, Randall, 749, 760, 809, 839, 879, 1055; Fredonian rebellion, 1560.
Jones, Ronald, 924.
Jones, William, 1515; Fredonian rebellion, 1600.
Jonny, Capt., wrecker, 1361.
Journal of Voyage down Mississippi, 69.
Judd, Mr., 20, 21.
Judiciary, of Missouri, bill for amendment, 292; in early Texas, 583, 596, 597, 599, 636, 652, 675, 677, 693, 713, 727, 729, 731, 733, 736, 742, 755, 760, 794, 800, 810, 993, 998, 1000, 1006, 1010, 1036, 1068, 1071, 1102, 1116, 1124, 1150, 1167, 1195, 1205, 1217, 1255, 1276, 1284, 1324, 1343, 1347, 1369, 1372, 1374, 1375, 1378, 1397, 1412, 1417, 1422, 1456, 1472, 1479, 1500, 1527, 1549, 1577, 1596, 1612, 1625, 1628, 1642, 1655, 1659, 1660, 1697, 1705; Austin's outline of a system for Texas, 1486.
Junta Instituyente, Austin advises form of government, 568.
Jury, trial by, 733, 736, 810, 1068, 1328, 1343.
Kalahan, J., 851.
Karankawa Indians, 473, 1436, 1549, 1559, 1624; hostilities, 676, 711, 715, 736, 759, 768, 769, 803, 831, 876, 879, 883, 885, 895, 905, 913, 916, 1069, 1153, 1198, 1220; treaty with, 916, 930, 948, 1198, 1220, 1639, 1654, 1657.
Keck, George, 448.
Keechi Indians, 1309, 1338, 1424.
Keep, Imla, 933 1149, 1150, 1433, 1596; bankruptcy in Louisiana, 1292, 1328.
Kellar, John F., 369.
Keller, 1454.
Keller, Francis, 1141, 1142.
Kelley, Elijah, 414.
Kellyham, Joseph, 773.
Kemper, Col., 185.
Kempf, John, 173.
Kendall, Judather, 38, 53, 221, 294; agreement to sell land, 123.
Kendle, Judather, *see* Kendall.
Kennedy, Samuel, 771, 773.
Kenner, William, 36, 40, 128, 203.
Kennert, William, and Company, 326.
Kenny, John, 930, 1372, 1374.
Kenny, Laurence Richard, 772, 792, 811, 851, 852, 1190, 1206, 1218, 1322, 1362, 1601, 1656; alcalde, 995, 1006; Fredonian rebellion, 1600.
Kent, Joseph, 58, 62.
Kentucky, politics, 227; interest in and emigration to Texas, 419, 440, 443, 449, 479, 483, 495, 521, 523, 526, 528, 785, 1143, 1243, 1260, 1262, 1263, 1265, 1399, 1450.
Kerr, James, 1079, 1429, 1435, 1460; surveyor of De Witt's colony, 1325, 1330, 1364; Indians, 1372, 1374, 1377, 1390, 1625; De Leon, 1402, 1501, 1503, 1510, 1606, 1607; applies for town site, 1425; Fredonian rebellion, 1580, 1590, 1591; treaty with Karankawas, 1639.
Kerr, Matthew, 231.
Kickapoo Indians, 1554, 1669, 1721.
Kilpatrick, Alexander, 1051, 1205, 1286.
Kimball, Daniel, 1005.
Kincheloe, William, 633, 759, 887, 909, 1019, 1104, 1131, 1241, 1245, 1569; receives land from Austin, 421; sails to Texas, 476, 502.
Kirkham, James, 377, 381.
Kuykendall, Abner, 681, 683, 717, 996.
Kuykendall, Gibson, 717
Kuykendall, Joseph, 686, 717, 773.
Kuykendall, Robert, 518, 676, 686, 715, 717, 722, 853, 886, 1131, 1244.
Krunk, James, 1361.

Labaume, José, petition for reward as an old patriot, 1570; Bastrop's heir, 1582.
Labaume, Victoriana, Bastrop's heir, 1582.
Lacount, Baptiste, 1007.
Lafaughn, William, 1264.
Lafayette, General, visit to United States in 1825, 1078.
Lafferty, J., 167.
Lafitte, Jean, 370.
Laforge, Alexander, 1658.
Laforge, Pierre, 365.
Lamb, John, 294.
Lamar Papers, IV.

Lamarque, 192.
Land commissioners, Board of, in Missouri, 105, 113, 117; land troubles, in Missouri, 47–57, 66, 91, 105; fraudulent claims, 161.
Land commissioner in Texas, 592, 594, 600, 672, 724, 737, 767, 836, 840, 882, 887, 1002, 1199, 1226, 1325, 1336, 1364, 1403, 1638; form of land certificate, 691.
Land fees in Texas, 795, 811, 828, 832, 836, 845, 865, 874, 882, 890, 899, 904, 914, 976, 983, 1017, 1022, 1072, 1075; 1088, 1093, 1107, 1111, 1112, 1123, 1129, 1138, 1149, 1169, 1196, 1226, 1241, 1248, 1255, 1404, 1410, 1432, 1488, 1687, 1690, 1698; schedule of, 1083, 1111, Austin justifies fees, 1410, 1488; can not eat nor make clothes of land, 1412; Saucedo approves fees, 1432; explanation to governor, 1687, 1698; friction with colonists over, 714, 722, 752, 761, 795, 811, 828, 832, 845, 1211.
Land Office of Texas, Archives of, IV.
Land speculation in Virginia, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 24, 25–27.
Land system, of Texas, 407, 415, 418, 421, 429, 430, 435, 449, 512, 550, 591, 592, 593, 594, 600, 672, 677, 682, 691, 695, 737, 795, 811, 836, 840, 901, 977, 978, 1002, 1199, 1226, 1325, 1404, 1415, 1432, 1638.
Langdon, Richard C., printer, 1141, 1142
Laplant, Madame, 166.
Lassus, Camille de, 105.
Lassus, Charles de Hault de, 29, 32, 47, 49, 53, 57.
Laughlin, William, 1372, 1374.
Lauman, George, land speculations, 14–20, 22, 27.
Lead, petition for protective tariff on, 290.
Lead, mining in Virginia, 11, 21, 24, 28, 37, 43, 58, 60, 75; in Missouri, 29, 35, 38, 55, 80, 100; manufacture, 99; business, 128, 130, 144, 153, 154, 155, 156, 159, 161, 166, 173, 177, 187, 192, 197, 202, 205, 213, 215, 216, 217, 218, 220, 222, 224, 236, 237, 238, 239, 242, 247, 252, 255, 304, 319, 322, 323, 334; production of, 166, 173, 221, 222, 244, 323.
Lead mines in Missouri, 1043; reserved from public sale, 256. *See also* Lead.
League, Hosea H., petition to found town of Matagorda, 1395, 1436; asks Austin to report conditions in Texas, 1430, 1459, 1534; introducing colonists, 1584; representative of Robertson Colony, 1612, 1627, 1677, 1679, 1680.
Leake, Walter, 547.
Leckie, William R., 1298.
Lecroix, John L., 1292.
Lee, Isaac, 369, 415.
Leeper, George, 369, 415.
Leftwich, Robert, applies for land in Texas. 499, 505, 715, 803, 961, 1057, 1072, 1082, 1084, 1047, 1093, 1185, 1215, 1364, 1381; thanking Austin for aid, 633, 645. *See also* Robertson Colony.
Legislature, hostile to Texas, 1462.
Legras, Gilbert, 1292.
Lemberson, Richard, 294.
Leon, Rev. Antonio Diaz de, 916.
Leon [illegible], John, 294.
Leon, Martin de, *see* DeLeon.
Leslie, Ziba, 930.
Lewis, Dr., death of, 1456.
Lewis, Elisha, 3, 190.
Lewis, Ira, 1673; debt, 1627.
Lewis, Robert, 1542, 1675; trade, 1013, 1074, 1149, 1222, 1235, 1237, 1330, 1434, 1452, 1582, 1614; slavery, 1529.
Lewis, William S., 433, 437.
Lewis, William T., 421.
Library, Texas State, collections of, IV.
Liddell, Moses, 421.
Liendo, Mariano, 1580.
Ligon, William B., 1515; Fredonian rebellion, 1555.
Lindsey, Benjamin, 940, 1242.
Lipan Indians, 473, 507, 770, 948, 1301, 1607.
Little, John, 773; character certificate, 491.
Little, William, 526, 1017.
Little, William W., 433, 438, 773, 1635.
Little Colony, application of Austin to settle, 1697.
Little Rock, Arkansas, beginning of, 339, 361; sold, 388.
Lively, the, a schooner, 4, 422, 426, 476, 488, 496, 514, 518, 525, 526, 561, 565, 635, 638, 897, 913, 1348, 1410, 1690.
Live oak, trade in, 1478.
Llanos, Rafael de, 599, 669.
Lobo, Bishop José Leon de, 1313, 1465.
Lockhart, Byrd, 1594; Indians, 1608, 1624; land, 1654.
Lomo de Torro, 1562.
Long, Benjamin, 191.
Long, Charles Y., 369.
Long, Dr. James, invasion of Texas, 348, 370, 381, 498; killed, 505.
Long, Mrs. Jane, 747, 749, 1611; denied a pension, 1369.
Longueville, Peter, killed by Indians, 803.
Long Prairie (Arkansas), Austin's interest in, 327, 340, 333, 344, 345, 351, 353.
Lopez, Caspar, 429, 472, 483, 495, 581, 591; disapproves Austin's plan for distributing land, 430, 448; protests against unauthorized settlements, 497.
Losano, Alferez Vicente, 200.
Loxoya, Domingo, horse thief, 1099, 1122.
Lottery of territory of Missouri, for subscription to bank stock, 208, 281; for building roads, 285; to maintain Potosi Academy, 304.
Louisiana, interest in and emigration to Texas, 423, 433, 436–438, 445, 488, 531, 699, 712, 773, 897, 937, 992, 999, 1033, 1045, 1055, 1110, 1223, 1224, 1348, 1601, 1673.
Louisiana Advertiser, subscription, 1290.
Louisiana Purchase, 85, 87; effects on land claims, 117–120.
Louisiana-Texas, frontier conditions, 193, 199, 200, 727, 738, 743, 762, 763, 793, 798, 835, 876, 927, 949, 959, 1007, 1090, 1095, 1163, 1165, 1243; bandits, 215; King pardons fugitives from Texas, 404; horse stealing, 560.
Love, Peter W., 186, 192.
Love, V. W., 185.
Lovelace, Edward, loan to Austin, 431; agreement for land, 437; Austin's debt to, 490; report of *Lively*, 526; letter from Austin on conditions in Mexico, 554, 894.
Lovelace, George, 437.
Lovelace, John, 437.
Lovelace, Richard, 437.
Lovell, Benjamin, plans to colonize, 1376.
Lloyd, Henry P., 1681.
Lucas, James B. C., 114, 232.
Luce, William, 1320.
Lucy, William, 167.

Ludlow, James C., petition to found town of Matagorda, 1395, 1436, 1458.
Luziere, Pierre de Lassus de, letter from, 82, 83; deed from, 99.
Lyklama-Neyholt, Georgina Wolfelina Francisca de, wife of Bastrop, 1581.
Lynch, James, 772.
Lynch, N., judiciary, 1472.

McArthur, John, 166, 224, 1237.
McClain, A. W., 1014, 1029.
McClenehan, 107.
McClenehan, Josiah, 392.
McClinton, John, 369.
McClasky, John, 839.
McCollough, Dr., 176.
McCormick, the Widow, lawsuit, 1577, 1630.
McCormick, Arthur, 1499.
McCormick, David, 717, 772, 995, 1234.
McCormick, John, 782.
McCoy, 841.
McCoy, Capt. Joseph, 923.
McCraw, Samuel, 23.
McCroskey, Lt. John, 851, 1569.
McCullough, Robert, 392.
McCurdy, William H., 472.
McDonald, Edward, 217.
MacDonald and Ridgeley, Baltimore, 325.
McDormitt, Charles, 90, 107.
McFarland, Achilles, 772, 996.
McFarland, John, 714, 717, 719, 732, 737, 1531; ferryman, 866; debt, 1615.
McGaffey, John, petition to keep a ferry, 1247, 1257.
McGarrock, Hugh, 58, 62.
McGarrock, James, sr., 58, 62.
McGilbury, Daniel, 369.
McGuffin, Hugh, 8, 365, 376, 401, 1003, 1041; letters by, 545, 740, 877, 949.
McHaws, Reuben, 1206.
McIntire, Maj. John, 174, 1003.
McKay, John M., 774.
McKinney, Thomas F., trade, 1683.
McLane, A. W., 1244.
McLarin, John, 1569.
McLaughlin, James L., 369.
McLean, Daniel, 1552.
McLocklin, Edward, 1284.
McLoughlin, J., 1584.
McMullin, Samuel, 359.
McNabb, Archibald, 104.
McNair, Alexander, 97, 442, 493, 916, 923.
McNair, James, 1014, 1244.
McNeel, John, debt, 1475.
McWalters, Russell H., 598.
McWilliam, 732.
McWilliams, William, 772; debt, 1661.
Madden, Thomas, 56, 66, 67, 86, 1[illegible].
Madero, J. Francisco, 648, 661, 919, 1721; charges against Austin, 1675.
Maher, Martin F., 1118.
Mail service, 944, 951, 954, 955, 957, 961, 982, 1011, 1017, 1059, 1326.
Major, Francis, saddler, 147, 148.
Mancha, Antonio, 998.
Manchola, Rafael, 1250; commandant at Goliad, 1579, 1590, 1599, 1611, 1624.
Mansfield, James, 760.
Map of Texas, by Austin, 514, 516, 524, 549, 565.
Marcus, James, 982.
Mariguey, Villere, 849.
Marks and brands, recorder for, requested, 737; refused, 751, 752.
Marple, David J., 440, 444, 484, 488, 830, 875, 906; estate of, 1118.
Marple, Martha, 483, 906.
Marriage bond, 779; marriage permit, 700; marriages delayed for lack of priest, 830, 850, 857; marriage customs, 1032, 1354.
Marsh, Joshua, 1180.
Marsh, Shubeel, 782.
Marshall, John, 414.
Marshall, Sam B., 1681.
Martin, James S., 1681.
Martin, John D., introducing agent of the Texas Association, 1485.
Martin, William, 760.
Martin, Wyly, 862.
Martinez, Antonio, governor of Texas, 3, 370, 372, 377, 380, 382, 383, 406, 417, 419, 429; approval of Austin, 430, 448; gives Austin passport, 483; arrival at Mexico, 561.
Mary, schooner, 1054, 1102, 1116, 1122, 1217.
Maryland, interest in Texas, 447, 485.
Mason, Mr., boarding house keeper in New Orleans, 204.
Mason, Missouri land claims, 105.
Massey, Israel, 699.
Matagorda, port of, 950, 957, 964, 967, 1088, 1117; petition for grant to found town of, 1395, 1418, 1436.
Mathews, E., 392.
Mathews, Isaac, letter, 1105.
Mathews, James, 1236, 1569.
Mathews, Samuel, 392.
Mattson, Richard, 1378, 1427; petition to found town of Matagorda, 1395.
Matthews, William, 1569.
Mattindale, Richard, 294.
Maxwell, James, 66, 91, 111, 157, 224.
Maynes, Rev. Francisco, 680, 685, 689, 857, 905, 906, 1390, 1465.
Mayo, H. B., 1515; Fredonian rebellion, 1542, 1555.
Mayo, John W., 1515.
Meaned, John, 392.
Mears, William, 391.
Meetings, federal decree against, 722, 1124, 1128.
Meigs, Henry, 354; sends Moses Austin a Spanish passport of 1797, 356.
Meigs, Josiah, 500.
Menard, François, 103.
Menard, Pierre, 97, 80, 98, 125.
Menchaca, Indian chief, 1653.
Meravalia, Señora Condesa de, Austin's landlady, 719, 758.
Mercado Sebastian, 656, 669.
Mericult, John F., 75, 79, 127.
Merrill, Manning, 1.
Metcalf, Candee, deposition concerning marriage, 1571.
Metcalf, John, 390.
Methodists, excursions of, 788, 991.
Mercer, Robert, 415.
Mexico, Moses Austin thinks of trading in, 223; politics of, 561, 562, 566, 574, 584, 586, 634, 635, 638, 645, 647, 654, 673, 675, 694, 725, 766, 777, 857.
Mexico, City of, description, 515, 531, 653, 671.
Michaud, François, 562.
Mier, Rev. Servando, 719.

Miliam, Benjamin R., 531, 1030, 1257, 1259, 1269, 1330, 1611, 1615, 1621, 1671, 1672; applies for land in Texas, 498.
Milican, John, 733.
Milligan, John, Commissioner to Cherokees, 1307.
Military measures for defense of Texas, 962, 963, 965, 966, 963, 1058, 1072, 1075, 1082, 1101, 1113, 1254, 1285, 1300, 1432, 1441, 1529, 1614, 1630, 1634.
Military school, association for (Missouri), 126.
Militia, 596, 598, 599, 652, 672, 677, 678, 685, 695, 710, 713, 715, 742, 759, 771, 783, 793, 806, 807, 838, 851, 879, 883, 885, 897, 934, 976, 977, 980, 994, 1063, 1067, 1086, 1131, 1163, 1193, 1274, 1301, 1305, 1308, 1309, 1317, 1323, 1332, 1338, 1340, 1352, 1357, 1370 1424, 1440, 1587, 1652, 1665, 1706.
Militia report, 2d battalion, 6th regiment of Missouri, 240.
Millan, Jim, 798.
Miller, A., 326.
Miller, Anthony, 930.
Miller, Edmond, 772.
Miller, Henry, 9.
Miller, James, 76, 79, 1578.
Miller, James, governor of Arkansas, 366.
Miller, Samuel, 1357.
Miller, Samuel R., 772.
Miller, Simon, 772, 839, 858.
Millican, James, 911.
Millican, Robert, 911, 976.
Millican, William, 911, 1211, 1378.
Mills, Roswell, 490.
Mina, General Xavier, 1076.
Mina, citizens of oppose Fredonian rebellion, 1568 (names listed, 1569).
Mine à Breton, 29, 56, 123.
Mines, reign of terror at, 131.
Miraballa, Condeza de, 758 (*see* Meravalia).
Mississippi, interest in and emigration to Texas, 421, 425, 490, 546, 735, 889, 897, 970, 972, 973, 976, 991, 999, 1012, 1026, 1043, 1050, 1051, 1053, 1074, 1091, 1142, 1144, 1208, 1673.
Mississippi River, 216, 218, 219; journal of voyage down, 69; rules for navigation of, 203; diary of voyage down, 205.
Missouri, banking in, 232, 234, 272, 283; description of, 115; Spain's colonization policy in, 116; effects of American purchase, 116; land frauds, 117; recommendations for military defense, 121; documents concerning legislative history of, 1816–1818, 265 (for contents *see* Calendar, December, 1816); education in, 133; petition for appropriation of revenue from public lead mines to support academies, 290; Potosi Academy, 304; judiciary bill, 292; speech on judiciary bill by Stephen F. Austin, 294; public land in, 254; land system in, 258; militia report, 240; politics, 255, 482; territorial council of 224; territorial lottery, 268; lottery for bank stock, 268, 281; lottery for building roads, 285; interest in and emigration to Texas, 412, 419, 440, 442, 445, 449, 450, 452, 454, 455, 459, 460, 461, 462, 464, 466, 469, 479, 481, 482, 491, 890, 900, 916, 982, 989, 1236, 1237, 1263, 1651.
Missouri, Bank of, 272, 283.
Missouri Historical Society, IV.
Mitchell, Andrew, 472.
Mitchell, Asa, 693, 706, 733, 771, 773, 924; reporting wreck of schooner *Apalachu*, 1341; commerce, 1502.
Mitchell, Henry H., 473.
Mitchell, John, 733, 932.
Mitchell, John D., 1041.
Money, 242, 347, 353, 354, 355, 385, 386, 708, 713, 716, 748, 798 820, 842, 980, 981, 1000, 1015, 1016, 1089, 1113, 1255, 1306, 1365, 1378, 1457, 1473, 1500, 1608, 1611, 1635, 1682.
Money, paper, in Texas, 636, 950, 955; scarcity and discounts, 155, 157.
Montañez, Gregoria, 582.
Montes, Francisco, *sergeant*, 182, 186; *alferez* 193, 215, 371.
Montgomery, Joseph T., 433.
Montgomery, William, 38, 41, 167.
Mood, William, 532
Moore, Armistead, 1273.
Moore, Isaac, 1578
Moore, J. H. beef, 1454
Morgan, Capt., 241.
Morgan, Charles, 1223.
Morgan, Oliver J., 532.
Morgan, Sexton, 929
Morris, Micajah, 217.
Morris, Robert, finally at large, 77
Morris's Boat Yard, 2
Morrison, J., 348.
Morrison, John C., describes Fredonian rebellion, 1574.
Morrison, Lieutenant Moses, 583, 675, 676, 678, 685. 688, 1244, 1245.
Morrison, William, 103.
Morse, William, 89.
Morton, Charles, 176.
Morton, Isaac L., 170.
Morton, William, 773, 929.
Mosquito Indians, land speculations, 573, 578.
Motte, Mine la, 107.
Muligen, John, 433.
Mullin, Samuel W., 336.
Mullins, Mathew, 38, 41.
Mullins, Timothy, 38, 41.
Munson, Henry W., 1643; wish to be included in Austin's colony, 1025; land, 1463, 1577; boundary of Atascosito district, 1504.
Munson, Micajah, 1025.
Munson, William, 772.
Muro, Rev. Miguel, 916; treaty with Karankawas, 1639.
Murphy, Francis, 391.
Muse, James Fort, 438.
Mush, Big, Cherokee chief, refuses to join Fredonian rebellion, 1587.
Músquiz, Ramón, 533, 649, 742, 919, 1365, 1475; marriage to Francesca Castañeda, 743.
Músquiz, Melchor, 1057.
Músquiz, Rafael, 942, 945.
Muster roll, 1569, 1577.
Murray, Abram P., 1681.
Murray, William, 1296.

Nacogdoches, captured by Fredonians, 1553.
Nacogdoches Archives, IV.
Nacodochito Indians, 473.
Nadaco Indians, 473.
Nalls, Robert, 1244.
Nancarrow, John, Bastrop's manager in Louisiana, 1583.
Nash, Mr., 1699.
Nash, Thomas, 1578.
Nash, William, 1578.
Nashville Company. *See* Robertson Colony.
Navarro, José Antonio, 675; trade, 1609.

Neelly, James, 34.
Neelly, William, 34.
Neff, John, 390.
Negro Legs, John, Indian, 1555.
Nelson, James, 433, 782, 934.
Nelson, Jesse, 1102, 1116, 1122, 1217.
Neri, Conrado Lorenzo, father of Baron de Bastrop, 1581.
Neri, Felipe Enrrique. *See* Bastrop, Baron de.
Ness, David, 1220.
Newberry, Thomas, 163.
Newell, James, 20, 25, 27, 58, 62.
Newfield, A., 167.
Newman, Joseph, 840, 1320, 1569.
New Madrid, effects of earthquake, 206; claims, purchase of, 300; land speculation, 327, 329, 330, 335, 337; Little Rock, 339; land certificate, 332.
New Orleans, negro insurrection in, 164; battle of, 245.
Newspapers in early Texas, 644, 672.
Neyholt, Agustin Liklama, 1551.
Nichols, Ro. C., 1674.
Nicholls, Thomas C., 446.
Nicholson, J. R., 547.
Night, James, 1578.
Nixon, George, 707; abuses Austin, 1139, 1152, 1157, 1331, 1676.
Noble, Elijah, 521, 526, 528.
Nonintercourse act, 162.
Norris, Alexander, 415.
Norris, Nathaniel, 1590.
Norris, Samuel, 840, 1363; letter to Austin, 1448, 1470; impeachment of, 1511; in Fredonian rebellion, 1528, 1553, 1555, 1559, 1591.
Norton, James, 1224, 1345, 1594; aggressions of De Leon, 1529.
Norvel, Thomas, 10, 12, 13, 22, 28.
Norwell, Thomas. *See* Norvell.
Novell, Thomas, 418, 431.
Nuckols, M. B., 930, 1457, 1663.
Nugent, 1528.
Nye, Joseph, & Son, 170.
Nye, Seth W., 170.

Ober, S. R., 1344.
Oden, R. C., 1228.
O'Donohn, Mrs., 631.
Ogle, William, 391.
Oglem, Isaac D., 1055.
O'Hara, William M., 318, 330, 339; New Madrid land certificates, 329, 337, 347; Little Rock, 339, 341; sold Little Rock, 388.
Ohio, interest in and emigration to Texas, 450, 454, 490, 785, 1062, 1143.
Oldivar, Dr. José Lucinio. *See* Oliver.
Oliver, 121.
Oliver, Dr. [illegible] Injure DeWitt, 1526, 1530, 1590, 1592, 1595.
Oliver, Thomas, 165, 169.
Onis, Luis de, 371.
Onis, Treaty of, 525; restricted boundary of Texas, 473, 845.
Only Son, schooner, 476, 521, 553.
Orr, George, 1247, 1248, 1272; petition for organization of settlements on Trinity river, 1399; provisionally included in Austin's colony, 1462, 1477; attorney for Gutierrez volunteers, 1401, 1535; abuse of, by De Leon, 1421; alarmed by Fredonian rebellion, 1573; judiciary, 1643; information for map, 1699.
Ortiz, José Nazario, 1579.
Osborn, Benjamin, 1569.
Osborn, Nathan, 1014, 1244.
Overton, J. H., 532.
Overton, James, 1681.
Overton, John W., 1681.
Owens, John, 930.

Padilla, Juan Antonio, 197, 198, 199, 201, 237, 853, 995, 1152, 1156; reports effects of revolution of 1812 in Texas, 228; letter, 1117, 1144, 1148, 1730; opinion of slavery legislation, 1135, 1523; Austin argues need of fees from colonists, 1410, 1429; attorney for Austin, 1420; friendly interest, 1474, 1484; proves Bastrop's will, 1578; executor, 1583, 1613; instructions for recording land titles, 1649.
Page, Eliza, 1009.
Page, William A., 1009.
Paine, Samuel, 42.
Paine, Thomas, *Rights of Man* translated into Spanish, 525.
Palafox, town of, 965.
Palmer, Martin. *See* Parmer.
Pardo, Manuel, order for close confinement, 335.
Parish, Joel, 1681.
Parker, 636, 770; imprisoned at La Bahia, 1433.
Parker, Jesse, 835.
Parker, Joshua, 375, 932, 1246, 1281, 1321, 1534.
Parker, Laura Bryan, 7.
Parker, Miss M., 176.
Parker, Samuel, 441.
Parks, William, 1244.
Parmer (Palmer), Martin, 1515; Fredonian rebellion, 1528, 1553, 1555, 1558, 1575.
Parrott, William S., Mexican politics, masonry, 1707.
Partenay, A., order for lead, 161.
Passport, to Moses Austin, 37; to Stephen F. Austin, 581; required, 1087, 1122, 1138, 1280, 1363, 1433.
Paterson, James, 1681.
Paterson, Nelson, 1680.
Patton, Robert, 1244.
Patterson, Col. Thomas, 1292.
Pavia and Viann, 1453.
Payton, J. C., slavery, 1405, 1428; letters, 1490, 1493; trade, 1643.
Pearce, G., 445.
Pearson, Samuel S., 572.
Pecan Point, 695, 696, 960, 1622, 1633; people invited to join Fredonian rebellion, 1542.
Peck (Pike?), complains of Austin's charge for land, 762.
Pelmare, William, 782.
Penniman, 93, 95, 107.
Penniman, Mrs., death of, 154.
Pennington, J. M., 772.
Pennsylvania, 491.
Pennsylvania Historical Society, IV.
Penrose, C. B., distillery, 1663, 1665, 1678.
Penrose, James H., 482.
Pentacost, George S., 1235, 1569.
Peña, Rev. Juan Nepomuceno, 599; asked by Austin to appoint curate, 1032; pastoral letter, 1049.
Pepi, Justo, 1579.
Peregoy, Nathan W., 448.
Peres, Ignacio, 641.

Peres, José Manuel, 962.
Pereyra, José Antonio, alcalde of Saltillo, 1579.
Perkins, J., 131, 132.
Perkins, William P., 1053, 1208.
Pero, Lewis, 166.
Perpetual motion, Moses Austin inquires about a machine, 223.
Perry, Col., 173.
Perry, Emily Margaret Austin. *See* Austin, Emily.
Perry, Emily Rosannah, 6, 1492.
Perry, Mrs. Emmett L., V.
Perry, James F., 5, 6, 1041; marries Emily Austin Bryan, 890; condition of the Austin estate in Missouri, 1490; Austin advises to await passage of State constitution, 1427, 1645.
Perry, J. E. B., 6.
Perry, John, 219.
Perry, Robert, abused by De Leon, 1421.
Perry, S., & Company, 261.
Perry, Samuel, 304, 854.
Perry, Samuel Stephen, 6, 1492.
Perry, William, 194, 374.
Peter, John W., 782.
Peters, David, 1578.
Peterson, John, 772.
Pettigrew, John W., 369.
Pettit, J., 237.
Pettus, Freeman, 699, 739; lawsuit, 1642.
Pettus, William, 489, 717, 743, 760, 772, 918, 1580, 1678, 1700; buys slaves, 969, 996, 1068, 1096, 1138, 1184, 1319, 1428; alarming reports in East Texas, 1447.
Pettus, William G., 443.
Petty, John, 717, 926, 1244.
Peyton, J. C. *See* Payton.
Pharr, Elizabeth, sells slaves, 969.
Pharr, Samuel, sells slaves, 969.
Phelps, Daniel, 2, 92.
Phelps, James A. E., slavery and religion, 1090, 1097.
Phelps, Lamar, 897.
Phelps, Timothy, 94; advises Moses Austin to control his temper, 130, 131; letters, 138, 142; leaves [illegible].
Philadelphia, yellow fever in, 41, 43; politics in, 77.
Philips, 642.
Philips, A. H., 1021.
Phillips, Bernard, 433.
Phillips, Isam, 1569.
Phillips, J. L., judiciary, 1472.
Pickett, Mrs., 1433, 1611.
Piedras, José de las, 1730.
Pier, Monsieur, 641.
Pilcher, Joshua, quarrel with Stephen F. Austin, 306.
Piracy, in Gulf of Mexico, 544, 555, 573, 577.
Pitts, Col., 400.
Poage, Robert, 326.
Poindexter, George, 421.
Poinsett, Joel R., 1703; negotiation for Texas, 1606; York lodges, 1708.
Poissot, Sylvestre, 675.
Political chief for Texas, law for, 943, 1007, 1008, 1024, 1057.
Pollard, 42.
Pollard, Henry F., gun, 1599.
Polley, J. H., sheriff, 1328, 1635.
Pope, Mrs., 176.
Pope, John, 227.
Pope, N., 167.
Porras, Salvador, wool trade, 537.
Port Gibson, in 1818, 208.
Port, opening of, in Texas, 598, 652, 902, 905, 935, 936, 943, 947, 950, 951, 957, 967, 985, 994, 1024, 1036, 1066, 1072, 1084, 1086, 1088, 1117, 1144, 1157, 1167, 1179, 1236.
Post, Justus, 322.
Postage, Moses Austin's account, 140; rates, 941, 954, 955, 957, 964.
Postlewaite, John, 251.
Potosi (Missouri) Academy, 304.
Powder, scarcity of in Texas, 711, 712, 714.
Powell, P., 1161.
Powell, Thomas, attacked by De Leon, 1526, 1530, 1701.
Powell, W. J., 1662.
Poyner, George, 104.
Prairies, beauty of, 1426.
Prater, [illegible].
Prater, William, 772.
Pratt, J., [illegible], 166.
Pratte, land claims, 105.
Pratte, Baptiste, 104.
Prestage, William, 433.
Prewitt, Pleasant M., 996.
Price, Andrew, 203.
Price, David, 700, 1140.
Price, Miss E., 176.
Price, Rusdon H., 321, 855, 926, 1490.
Price list, 47, 49, 60, 64, 68, 75, 78, 79, 81, 84, 89, 92, 93, 96, 98, 100, 101, 107, 124, 126, 136, 140, 145, 147, 148, 151, 168, 176, 180, 186, 187, 190, 191, 194, 195, 196, 198, 215, 231, 237, 240, 245, 273, 260, 262, 300, 301, 303, 305, 318, 321, 322, 328, 343, 357, 361, 365, 367, 378, 387, 416, 422, 440, 444, 632, 676, 700, 712, 714, 716, 748, 763, 780, 820, 859, 886, 908, 924, 925, 926, 972, 981, 1003, 1052, 1056, 1081, 1085, 1140, 1144, 1148, 1205, 1236, 1265, 1271, 1288, 1291, 1297, 1311, 1319, 1409, 1427, 1455, 1458, 1531, 1589, 1595, 1605, 1631, 1632, 1643, 1654, 1663, 1682, 1684, 1731.
Prieto, Pedro, 199.
Priest, Zenas, 454.
Printing press, first in Texas, 413, 1143. *See also* Newspapers.
Procela, Luis, 1516.
Procela, Pedro, 1067, 1068, 1070, 1100.
Proclamation, 678, 679, 705, 713, 714, 715, 746, 778, 781, 794, 796, 852, 1009, 1051, 1080, 1107, 1127, 1351, 1369, 1443, 1570, 1587, 1629, 1631, 1648.
Props, Daniel, 369.
Prudencia, Karankawa chief, 1198.
Price & Company, 49.
Pryor, Jefferson, 996.
Pryor, William, lavery, 1095.
Pugh, Samuel M., 369.
Purnell, Dr., 642.
Purnell, John G., Indians, 1220.
Purvis, Thomas, 933.
Pusey, Nathan, 103.

Quapaw Indians, 1456, 1069, 1721.
Querétaro, description of, 631.
Querque, order for arrest of, 193.
Quiches Indians, 473. *See also* Keechi.
Quick, John C., 1315.
Quin, Daniel C., 702.
Quinto, Manuel, horse thief, 1099, 1122.
Quirk, Edmond, 379, 445, 834.

Rabb, Andrew, 1016, 1131, 1133, 1244, 1320, 1569.
Rabb, John, 772.
Rabb, Thomas, 839, 1016, 1131.
Rabb Thomas J, 1244, 1320, 1569.
Rabb, Judge William, 755, 840, 1131, 1133, 1244.
Raleigh, William, 772.
Ralls, Benjamin, 977, 1244, 1569.
Ramey, Lawrence, 1051, 1053.
Ramirez, José Andres, agreement to sell mares to Austin, 878.
Ramos, Cayetano, 942, 943
Ranaz, 1604.
Randon, John, slaves, 1233.
Randson, Isaac, 930
Rangers, 678, 710.
Rankin, F. H., 1225.
Rankin, James, 325, 352, 392.
Rankin, Robert, slavery not a bar to immigration, 1532.
Ranolds, wrecker, 1361
Rashall, Baptiste, 636.
Rawls, Amos, 830, 841, 839, 840, 885, 1244, 1370, 1569.
Rawls, Daniel, 1569.
Ray, Elijah L., 294
Ray, James, 191, 194.
Ray, John R., 1578.
Read, John, 43.
Read, John C., 1569.
Read, Robin, 182.
Real estate advertisement, 336.
Recorder, 837, 997, 1169, 1171, 1487, 1649; office of requested, 737; refused, 751, 752.
Rector, General, 555
Rector, Elias, 321.
Rector, Stephen, 311, 312, 315, 321.
Rector, William, 506.
Redinger, Philip, 436.
Redmon, John, 1389.
Red River, steamboat navigation on, 1455.
Reed, John C., law suit, 1642.
Reed, William, 88
Reeder, Micajah, 686.
Reese, William, 415.
Reilly, T (or J.), describing colonization business in Mexico, 498, 520, 732
Religion, 484; religious toleration, desired by emigrants to Texas, 447, 490, 497, 501, 522, 528; religious conditions and restrictions in Texas, 650, 685, 689, 704, 705, 71 758, 770, 786, 788, 791, 797, 836, 847, 850, 857, 883, 884, 891, 905, 991, 1000, 1005, 1032, 1046, 1049, 1110, 1114, 1183, 1242, 1274, 1310, 1354, 1364, 1390, 1483.
Renaut claim, 160, 197, 224, 350.
Reves, William, 415.
Rich, James, 296.
Richardson, James, 85
Richardson, Stephen, 712, 906; asks for passport for coasting trade, 1471, 1720, 1729, 1730
Richmond, a slave, 375, 401.
Richmond, David, 996, 1190.
Ricker, Samuel, Jr., 506.
Rickey, Joseph, 15.
Ridgway, James, 580.
Riesgo, Juan Miguel, 380.
Rightor, N., 449; conditions in Arkansas, 1227.
Rio, Ximeno del, 631, 637
Roach, Andrew, 1217
Road building, lottery in Missouri, 288.
Roan, J., 1680.
Roark, Elijah, 772, 996
Robb, George H., 778.
Robbins, William, Fredonian rebellion, 1592.
Roberts, Dr. B., 251.
Roberts, Elisha, 1710; slavery, 1379, 1384; Fredonian rebellion, 1554.
Roberts, John S., 1515
Roberts, Noel, 1772; permit to marry, 790.
Roberts, William, 782, 1578.
Roberts, William F., 294, 427
Robertson, Felix, 1186, 1304; introducing agent of the Robertson Colony, 1489; asking Austin's assistance, 1612, 1681.
Robertson, James R., 1681.
Robertson, John M., 1681.
Robertson, Sterling C., 663, 1681; deposition concerning character of Bean, 1443.
Robertson Colony, the, 1185, 1304, 1485, 1499, 1493, 1585, 1608, 1612, 1627, 1677, 1679, 1680. *See also* Erwin, Andrew.—Leftwich, Robert.—Texas association.
Robins, Nathaniel, 1633.
Robins, William, 996, 1457; lends Austin mules to pay Butler, 1523.
Robinson, Dr., 974.
Robinson, Andrew, 416, 533, 535, 678, 681, 772, 839, 885, 897, 911, 932, 937, 976, 1068.
Robinson, Caleb R., 1244.
Robinson, Clark, 1207.
Robinson, George, 722, 1031.
Robinson, George, jr., 709.
Robinson, Jesse, 1559.
Robinson, John or Jacky, 1453.
Robinson, Samuel W., 693.
Robison, John, 1459.
Robison, Peyton, 1681.
Robison, William B., 1681.
Rodrigues, Fernando, 1322.
Rodriguez, Ambrosio, 1506.
Rodriguez, José Antonio, 599.
Rodriguez, Vincent, 1014.
Roe, John, 1227, 1321, 1352; Indians, 1377.
Rojo, Francisco, 1017.
Rolland, Hugh, 1681.
Rose, Doctor, 167.
Rosillo, battle of, 229.
Ross, Capt. James J., 686, 715, 755, 1014, 1244, 1304, 1331, 1332, 1343, 1357; urged to join Fredonian rebellion, 1545.
Ross, James P., 732.
Ross, Reuben, colony, 1402.
Roxo, Capt., 1051.
Roxo, Indian Chief, 1434.
Roy, R., 851.
Royall, Richard R., 1266, 1685; letter, 1004, 1052; slavery, 1096; slavery and religion, 1183,
Rue, Wallace, 1520.
Ruggles, Maj. Martin, 241.
Ruiz, Francisco, Indians, 1647, 1653.
Ruland, John, 916.
Rumsey, Mrs., keeper of a Broadway boarding house, 203.
Russell, 359.
Russell, Gen. R. S., 228.

Russell, W. J., 1221, 1732; ship captain, contract with DeWitt, 1444.
Ruston, Thomas, Virginia land speculation, 10-13, 20, 35.

Sabine lake, 1699.
Saddler's bill, 187.
Saint Genevieve, Missouri, in 1799, 2.
St. Louis, Bank of, 265, 272; bill for territorial subscription to stock in, 281; bill authorizing notes 286; election of directors, 299; pressed by Bank of Missouri 316; in straitened condition, 330; failure, 379, 387, 408; Moses Austin's losses in, 455, 1491.
St. Louis County (Missouri), boundary of, 259.
Salcedo, Manuel de, Gov. of Texas, 182.
Salt licks in Missouri, reserved from public sale, 256; manufacture of salt, 345.
Saltpetre, 221.
Sambrano, Juan Manuel, 762, 791, 803, 804, 942; president of the junta of Texas, 186; attacked by bandits on Sabine, 215
Sampyrac, Ambroise, 376, 401, 426, 434.
San Bernard, port opened, 373, 382, 383, 400, 403, 474, 950, 957, 964, 967.
Sanders, 1674.
Sanders, Lewis, 144.
Sandia (or Sandilla), Tonkawa chief, 688.
Sandobal, José, 1153, 1158, 1188, 1226.
San Felipe, surveyed, 908; jurisdiction of, 1177, 1705; district of, opposes Fredonian rebellion, 1572; bill to establish seminary, 1686.
San Jacinto, settlers on, included in Austin's colony, 880, 930, 934, 982, 1061, 1121.
Santa Fé trade, 891, 904, 1027, 1029, 1077, 1451.
Sappington, Roger B., 1681.
Sargeant, J., 459.
Sarver, James, 1075.
Saucedo, José Antonio, 954, 1510, 1527, 1617, 1618, 1656, 1660, 1665, 1701; secretary of junta of Texas, 186, 600; political chief of Texas, 691, 742, 761, 762; proclamations to colonists, 753, 761, 764, 786; settlers on frontier, 763; fixes land fees, 795; letter, 1017, 1075, 1091, 1100, 1112, 1122, 1125, 1134, 1152, 1158, 1166, 1169, 1181, 1187, 1194, 1225, 1274, 1299, 1304, 1327, 1335, 1341, 1345, 1362, 1403, 1429, 1460, 1470, 1477, 1633, 1672, opposed union of Coahuila and Texas, 1390; slavery in the state constitution, 1371, 1390; Indians, 1374, 1375, 1549; approves land fees, 1432, 1452, defines coast reserve, 1493; Fredonian rebellion, 1527, 1528, 1536, 1554, 1562, 1563, 1588 (offers amnesty), 1611.
Schell, Henry, 243.
Scobey, Matthew, inquires about land, 807.
Scobey, Robert, 772.
Schoolcraft, Henry Rowe, 1358; asks for biography of Moses Austin, 501.
Schools in Texas, 1117, 1157.
Scott, Judge Andrew, 366, 854, 1388.
Scott, James, 166.
Scott, John, 224, 354, 392, 1490; political platform 255.
Scott, Thomas C., 1293.
Scott, William, 330, 934, 1217; judiciary, 1612, 1629, 1630, 1654
Sealed paper, receipts from. *See* Stamp, Tax, and Land fees.
Secretary of Austin's colony appointed, 881; duties, 1413.
Seguin, Josef Erasmo, 4, 383, 399, 406, 411, 413, 644, 675, 1011, 1023, 1053, 1072, 1075, 1156, 1235, 1254, 1288, 1326, 1434, 1506; member of Congress from Texas, 708, 718, 723; on union of Coahuila and Texas, 740, 757, 775; opinion on land fees, 873; suggested for colonization commissioner, 986.
Seguin, Mrs. Josef Erasmo, letter, 767, 899.
Seguin, Juan, 797.
Seguin, Juan N., 1079, 1433, 1506.
Seldon, Judge, 854.
Selkirk, William, 717, 739, 845, 851, 908, 909, 1569.
Sepúlveda (sepulver), José, 917, 1384, 1386, 1512, 1516; Fredonian rebellion, 1528, 1535, 1590.
Sertuche, 1063, 1067, 1517.
Servon, Joseph, 887, 927, 970, 972, 973.
Sexton, Samuel, 778, 1089, 1150.
Shakelford, Benjamin, 472.
Shannon, George, 172, 1264.
Sharpe, Edward, to Moses Austin, 171, 230.
Sharpe, Richard, 523.
Shaw, Darius, 126; bill of sale for farm and equipment, 164.
Shawnee Indians 1307, 1325, 1554, 1622, 1669, 1721.
Shearer, Samuel, 489.
Shelby, David, 771, 773, 782, 839.
Shelby, John, 1681.
Sheldon, Asad., 1361.
Sheldon, William A., cotton, 1223.
Shelboleth, name, 220, 222.
Shields, Mr., 1372, 1378.
Shields, James, 166, 173.
Shields, James C., 443.
Shot, loc. method of casting, 9; in demand, 24; manufacture in Missouri, 29, 43, 55; sale of, 80, 136.
Shrader, Judge, 133.
Shreve, William, 32, 35.
Shrewsbury, H., 1033.
Sibley, Dr. John, 402, 458, 494, letters from, 524, 847, 874, 987, 1077, 1080, 1453, 1455, 1615; disapproves Indian policy of United States, 1456; opinion of Fredonian rebellion, 1601.
Sigler, Fredonian rebellion, 1600.
Silver, James, 166.
Simonton, Robert, 294.
Simpson, George, 391.
Simpson and Quarles, 300.
Sims, Bartlett, surveying and Indians, 772, 911, 913, 941, 981, 1016, 1256, 1303, 1324, 1332, 1333, 1340, 1342, 1350, 1357, 1470; urged to join Fredonian rebellion 1550, 1568, 1709.
Singer, William H., 709, 782, 895.
Singleton, Washington, 1569.
Slaughter, Henry, 930.
Slavery, 424, 511, 567, 589, 701, 704, 707, 718, 723, 743, 749, 774, 788, 790, 809, 810, 827, 831, 852, 864, 873, 884, 892, 895, 919, 949, 959, 969, 982, 984, 999, 1005, 1019, 1025, 1046, 1070, 1066, 1088, 1090, 1095, 1096, 1118, 1157, 1163, 1185, (bill and argument on) 1170, 1180, 1183, 1213, 1214, 1255, 1284, 1579, 1105, 1127, 1128, 1429, 1447, 1448, 1452, 1469, 1477, 1481, 1502, 1505, 1540, 1580, 1698, 1622, 1705; Bean's scheme for evading abolition, 1468; in state constitution, 1371, 1390, 1645; early form of article 13 of constitution, 1407, 1418, 1471; amended by Austin's influence, 1474, 1505; age for liberation of children, 1505, 1510; Austin's memorial in be-

half of first colonists, 1401, 1406; ayuntamiento of Bexar, 1422; report on by J. E. B. Austin, 1420, 1446, 1461; advocacy of by the governor, 1523; by inhabitants of Rio Grande valley, 1529; Austin's protest against decree No. 18, 1715–1716.
Slaves, hire of, 88, 166, 188, 192, 241, 338, 339, 375, 701, 763, 869, 976, 982, 1243, 1609; sale of, 128, 142, 203, 241, 243, 247, 328, 969, 1096; fugitive, 333; land allowed settlers in Texas in proportion to, 407, 418, 441, 512; price, 1407; stolen, 879, 1090, 1095, 1206; trading to Spanish settlements on Red River, 204, in Missouri lead mines, 217; insurrection in New Orleans, 181; value in Virginia, 59–62.
Slocum, Milton, newspaper harmful to Texas, 1616, 1662; opinion of Fredonian rebellion, 1620.
Slocum, P. S., 1050.
Small, James, 1306.
Smeathers, William, 772, 990.
Smith, Benjamin Fowler, 782.
Smith, Christian, 930.
Smith, D. W., land, 1453.
Smith, E., Indians, 1578.
Smith, George, 885, 1001, 1683.
Smith, J. J., and Company, 925.
Smith, James, 990.
Smith, John, tells our federation, 1242.
Smith, John B. S., 392.
Smith, John T. (Secret Smith T.), 97; quarrel with Moses Austin, 109, 111, 113, 116, 157, 177, dismissed from office, 137; favored Burr, 152.
Smith, Phineas, 1881.
Smith, Thomas A., 322.
Smith, William, 1503.
Smuggling, 371, 377, 507, 566, 1013, 1087, 1460.
Smyth, George, 915.
Smyth, Jesse, 993.
Smyth, John, 221.
Smyth, Samuel, 390.
Snider, Gabriel S., 1244, 1320.
Sojourner, Loid, 1241.
Soldado, Karankawa chief, makes peace, 1640.
Solis, José Guadalupe, 1579.
Soulard, Antoine, 53–56, 65, 67, 90, 167, quarrels with Moses Austin, 83; land disputes, 91, 105, surveyor general, 117.
Soule, H., 506.
Spaniards, expelled from Texas, 1472, 1473.
Spark, John, 392.
Sparks, Col., 185.
Spence, William, 1320.
Spencer, Thomas, 970.
Spencer, William, 773.
Sprowl, John, 870, 1119, 1379, 1405, 1428, 1490, 1512, in Fredonian rebellion, 1555.
Stafford, William, 856, 995.
Stamped paper, objection to as a forbidden tax 1385, 1722; receipts from, 1258, 1306. *See also* Land fees.
Stamper, Mrs., 1.
Staples, Charles, 215.
Staples, James, 391.
Staples, Samuel, 304.
Stapp, Elijah, 1271.
Starks, John R., 195.
Starbuck, Alexander, 294.
Stephen, John, 392.
Stephen, William, 75.
Stephens, Thomas, 772.
Stephens, William, 772.
Stevenson, Robert M., 392.
Stevenson, William, 369, 415, 697, 1206.
Stewart, Joel, 369.
Stewart, Joseph, 782.
Stewart, Robert, 294.
Stewart, William, 294.
Storch, John A., 173.
Storts, John, 38, 41.
Stout, Owen H., 773, 782, 977; abused by DeLeon, 1421, 1435.
Strand, Samuel, 1578.
Strange, James, 1064, 1103.
Strickland, Joab, 294, 360.
Strickland, Jonathan, 392.
Strother, French, 167.
Stroup, Peter, 392.
Stuart, James M., 115.
Stuart, John, 80.
Sugar, 70–79; production of, 370, 372, 1053.
Surveying, prices of, 908–911, 924, 930, 977, 978, 1002, 1016, 1019, 1022, 1025, 1325; instructions for, 1648.
Sutherland, Walter, land, 1629.
Sutton, William, 996.
Swiss colonists, 1469.

Tahuacano Indians, 473, 675, 726, 755, 813, 844, 918, 1005, 1059, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1208, 1300, 1304, 1307, 1315, 1321, 1323, 1332, 1338, 1359, 1364, 1374, 1395, 1424, 1449; want peace, 1647, 1653, 1656, 1660.
Tahuias Indians, 473, 803, 805, 813, 948, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1199, 1307, 1315, 1323, 1355, 1360, 1364, 1395, 1424.
Tailoring charges, 148.
Talbot, E., 1681.
Talbott, John, 369.
Talbott, Thomas H., 415.
Talbott, William, 415.
Tally, David, 717, 1055; character certificate, 472.
Tannehill, J., 1680.
Tanner, J. C., 1589.
Tariff, exemption of Texas, 696, 746, 1494.
Tate, J., sugar manufactory, 1668.
Tatum, Joel, 150.
Taxation, system of for local government, 1570.
Taylor, Jonathan, & Company, 168, 170.
Taylor, John D., 1372, 1374.
Taylor, William, 772, 1558; complaint against Haden Edwards, 1438.
Taylor, Wilkins & Company, 168, 170.
Teale, George, 993.
Tecumseh, the Prophet, 213.
Tennessee, interest in and immigration to Texas, 743, 765, 941, 1185, 1273, 1274, 1306, 1459, 1485, 1489, 1493, 1584, 1598, 1612, 1628.
Tennessee Company, to colonize Texas. *See* Robertson Colony.
Tennille, George, 440; New Madrid land speculation 337, 343, 345; Austin's debt to 1658.
Texas, General Land Office of, IV; State Library, IV; description of in 1822, 472; description of in 1824, 935; description, 947, 993, 1007–1008; acquisition by United States discussed, 896, 898, 1061; land system of, 591, 592, 593, 594, 660, 672, 677, 682, 691, 695, 747, 795, 811, 836, 840, 941, 977–978, 1007, 1228, 1425; office of commissioner for, 944.
Texas association, list of land holders and directors, 1680. *See* Robertson Colony.

Texas Emigrating Society (Lexington, Ky.), 721.
Texas Indians, 47.
Thomas, Bevis L., 792.
Thomas, Ezekiel, 1216.
Thomas, Maj. Isaac, 1141, 1292.
Thomas, J., 712, 765, 898, 986.
Thompson, Burrell, 1547; disturbances in East Texas, 1286; asks permission to raise militia company, 1287; Austin's endorsement, 1403; report by Gaines, 1417; Austin's explanation, 1481; in Fredonian rebellion, 1528, 1532, 1538, 1555, 1570, 1600, 1662.
Thompson, Jesse, 1307, 1362; slavery, 1405, 1428, 1490; urged to join Fredonian rebellion, 1548, 1589, 1606, 1683.
Thompson, John W., sheriff, 930.
Thorn, Frost, 962, 1082, 1087, 1516, 1615.
Throop, William, 369.
Thurmond, Richard, 351, 356.
Thurman, P., 537.
Tiffin, Edward, 506.
Tijerina, José Antonio, witness Bastrop's will, 158.
Tillinghast, Captain, 1.
Tinker, Dudley R., 193.
Tobacco, trade and production, 669, 677, 717, 722, 765, 791, 810, 826, 920, 942, 946, 949, 952, 956, 1025, 1071, 1088, 1135, 1250, 1362, 1377, 1389, 1392, 1494, 1450, 1490, 1652.
Tobar, John, 1244.
Todd, Robert S., S. F. Austin at Transylvania University, 172.
Todd, Thomas, 190.
Tone, 977.
Tone, Thomas J., 1569.
Tong, James F., 709, 851, 996.
Tonkawa Indians, 473, 652, 688, 701, 726, 835, 840, 876, 948, 1068, 1301, 1304, 1319, 1342, 1378, 1607.
Toole, Patrick, 433.
Torac, Joseph, 1244.
Torres, Patricio de, in Fredonian rebellion, 1537, 1552.
Trammel, Nicholas, 876, 1095, 1284, 1516.
Transylvania University, certificate to Stephen F. Austin, 171; college students' letters from, 172, 174, 178, 183, 188.
Treat, H. W., 90, 192, 241.
Trespalacios, José Felix, 498, 920, 1061, 1070, 1145, governor of Texas, 505, 530, 560, 565, 567, 570; note to Austin, 520, 636; issues paper money in Texas, 676, 950, 955; dishonest trading, 686; outlawed, 651, 672.
Trevino, Alexandro, 648, 762, 983.
Trevino, Vicente, 260.
Trimble, Judge William, 842.
Trinity River, settlers wish to be included in Austin's colony, 1025; settlements on, 1394, 1399, 1408, 1417, 1460; settlers instructed to petition government for inclusion in Austin's colony, 1442.
Trinn, Adam, 257.
Trouard, B., 675.
Trowbridge, Mrs., 1702, 1703.
Trudeau, Felix, 381, 383.
Truxeau, Zenon, 99, 5, 106, 67.
Tumlinson, Elizabeth, 1244.
Tumlinson, James, 856, 970, 1244.
Tunnelson, John, 130, 1014, 1227; local government established by Indians, 477.
Turche, Diego, 1099.
Turneur, L., 1569.
Tyler, Peter, 1388.

United States, negotiation for Texas, 1061, 1606, 1615, 1620, 1622; Indian policy, 1667; citizens of, in Fredonian rebellion, 1575.

Valdés, Rafael Ramos y, port for Texas, 1024.
Valdez, Rev. José Antonio, 875, 1468; Karankawas, 1639.
Valdez, José Antonio Ramos, 942, 943, 1157.
Valentine, Andrew, horse thief, 1044, 1063, 1067.
Vallé, Baptiste, 106.
Vallé, François, 29, 31, 32, 47, 105, 426.
Vallé, José del, 584.
Valle, Santiago del, 942.
Vandorn, Isaac, 1569.
Varela, Mariano, 942, 1157.
Varner, Martin, 436, 636, 772, 785.
Vasquez, Felis, 996.
Velasco, need of town at mouth of Brazos, 1418.
Venilez, Fernando, 996.
Viduarri, Francisco, 942.
Viesca, Agustin, representative of Coahuila and Texas, 945, 952, 958, 963, 1060.
Viesca, José Maria, Governor of Coahuila and Texas, 942, 1060, consulted by Austin, 1705.
Viesca family, enlightenment of, 694.
Vince, William, 930, 1216, 1265.
Vince, John, 930.
Virginia, 441.
Vital statistics, 1480.

Waco Indians, 675, 682, 755; expedition to, 842, 844, 948, 1068, 1195, 1208, 1219, 1246, 1300, 1307, 1315, 1321, 1323, 1331, 1338, 1359, 1364, 1377, 1395, 1424, 1440, 1449, 1607; want peace, 1647, 1653, 1656, 1660.
Wages, 126, 148, 187, 191, 195, 367, 679, 908, 1003, 1085, 1265, 1271, 1299, 1451, 1454, 1632, 1654, 1682.
Wagley, Abraham, 415.
Wagley, John, 415.
Wagner, H. R., collection at Yale University, IV.
Walker, Federal, 479.
Walker, James F., 524.
Walker, John C., 1263, 1274.
Walker, William, 1263.
Wall, Francis P., 897.
Wane, Handy, 1552.
War with England, threats, 136, 147, 148; War of 1812, 154, 162, 211, 213, 219; effect on prices, 216, 220, 225; battle of New Orleans, 245.
Warfield, Dr. E., 1263.
Warren, John A., 996.
Warrington, John, 772.
Wash, Robert, buys slaves of Moses Austin, 328.
Washington, Mississippi, description of in 1813, 208.
Washington County (Missouri), petition for enlargement of, 259; boundary of, 259.
Waters, 487.
Waters, John, 1681.
Watkins, Isaac, 1681.
Watt, Josiah, patent for casting shot, 9.
Wavell, Arthur G., partnership with Austin, 527, 528, 530, 544, 554, 555, 558, 572, 579, 646, 868, 869, 1257, 1591, 1622, application for land grant, 529; in Natchitoches in 1820, 1384.
Weeden, 78.

Weber, John H., 304.
Weightman, Elias R., *see* Wightman.
Welborn, Coatsworth P., 992.
Weller, John B., 1658.
Wells, Mr., owner of wrecked schooner, 1361.
Westcott, George, 77.
Westcott, Henry, 77.
Westall, Thomas, 765, 869, 941, 1055, 1081, 1153, 1158, 1187; surety bond, 1637.
Westcott, Robert, 167.
West, Benjamin, 930.
Weston, Cato, 208.
Wharton, Sam L., 1681.
Whatley, Michael C., 1552.
Whatley, William A., V.
Whitaker, George W., 251.
Whitaker, Peter, 733, 736, 803.
Whitaker, W. H., 251.
Whitaker, William, 733, 736, 803.
White, Allen, 702, 771, 773.
White, Amy, 1132.
White, Joseph, 1523.
White, Walter C., 1291.
White, Will, 1681.
Whitehead, Nicholas, 1320, 1377.
Whitesides, Bolin, 772, 1211.
Whiteside, Boone, 978.
Whiteside, Henry, 1211.
Whiteside, James, 772, 911, 978, 1552.
Whitlock, William, 930.
Whitteley, Rev. Mr., 3.
Whittlesey, Joseph, 126.
Wiant, David, wrecker, 1361.
Widerman, Trams, 123.
Wightman, Elias R., 1179; petition to found town of Matagorda, 1395; 1146, land, 1646.
Wilburn, Daniel, 369, 415.
Wilkins, Charles, 170.
Wilkins and Catron, 321.
Wilkinson, J. T., 244.
Wilkinson, General James, 97, 808, 1264; partiality for Spanish customs in governing Louisiana, 115; oppressive land regulations, 118, 145; at New Orleans during war of 1812, 216; in Mexico, 500 505, 516, 519, 525; asks assistance of Austin in obtaining land in Texas, 583; colonization plan causes Bastrop trouble, 1088.
Wilkinson, James J., 392.
Wilkinson, Joseph B., distillery, 1664.
Wilkinson, M., 1236.
Wilkinson Lieut. Walter, 224, 392.
Williams, Edward G., 433.
William, George, 1569.
Williams, Henry, 1569.
Williams, J., 851
Williams, James, sentenced to banishment, 1379, 1384, 1386, 1512.
Williams, Joab, 1569.
Williams, John, 773, 930.
Williams, John A., 892; conditions in East Texas, 1379, 1428, 1447, 1481; in Fredonian rebellion, 1532, 1601; notes for map, 1699.
Williams, John J., 739.
Williams, M., 1244.
Williams, Nancy, 1220.
Williams, Oliver, 453.
Williams, Robert H., 1234; collection of debt, 1501; judiciary, 1527, 1549, 1569
Williams, Samuel M., 700, 852, 862, 878, 1184, 1234, 1265, 1306, 1310, 1326, 1431, 1435, 1446, 1470, 1471, 1476, 1500, 1611, 1621, 1627; appointed secretary of Austin's colony, 881, 928, 929, 970, 982, 1003, 1063, 1070, 1080, 1096, 1106, 1150, 1161, 1164; Austin suggests for public recorder, 1168, Fredonian rebellion, 1563, 1610; administrator of stamped paper, 1637, 1652; recorder, 1649.
Williams, Solomon, 996, 1569.
Williams, Thomas, 686, 1244.
Williams, Thomas T., 1220.
Williams, William, wants to manufacture glass, 364.
Williams, Will, 1681.
Williamson, Robert M., introduced to Austin, 1648.
Willis, Thomas A., 546.
Wills, John S., 1062.
Wilson, Berry, 369.
Wilson, Mathew, 195.
Wilson, N., & Company, 167.
Wilson, Stephen, 1675.
Wilson, Stephen R., 466.
Windham, Moses, 1320, 1569.
Winfrey, Jacob, 1578.
Wing, Peter, 433.
Wilt, Christian, 232, 240, 253
Winn, W. R., 1489.
Wisconsin Historical Society, IV
Wood & Dunn, 166.
Woodbury, John L., witnesses Bastrop's will, 1583.
Woode, Jacob, 392.
Woodley, Stephen, 190.
Woodruff, William E., 161
Woods, Zadock, 916, 1354.
Woodson, Samuel, 396.
Woolsey, John, 369, 414.
Woolsey, Samuel, 369.
Woolsey, William, 369.
Wright, James, 369.
Wright, Narrish, 1294.

Ximenes, Matias, mining, 572, 639.

Yale University, Wagner collection of, IV.
Ybarra, Jesus Maria de, 1579.
Yeatman & Anderson, red and white lead factory at Cincinnati, 238.
Yellow fever, epidemic in Philadelphia, 41, 43
Yett, Hamilton N., 1123.
Yokums, the, Fredonian rebellion, 1558.
York, Thomas, 1574.
Young, James C., 166.
Yrujo, Carlos Martinez de, passport to Moses Austin, 37, 370.

Zacharie, James W., commerce, 1622
Zavala, Lorenzo de, 719, 758.