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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1922

IN TWO VOLUMES

AND A SUPPLEMENTAL VOLUME

VOL. II

THE AUSTIN PAPERS

Edited by EUGENE C. BARKER

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON
1928

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FIFTEENTH REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION

JUSTIN H. SMITH, *Chairman*
E. C. BARKER
MRS. AMOS G. DRAPER
LOGAN ESAREY
GAILLARD HUNT
CHARLES H. LINCOLN

THE AUSTIN PAPERS

Edited by EUGENE C. BARKER
University of Texas

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PREFACE

The Austin Papers, 1789–1827, were published in the report of this association for 1919, Volume II. The history of the collection is summarized in the preface to that volume. This volume contains the papers belonging to the years 1828–1834. It was during these years that Stephen F. Austin was driven from his attitude of loyalty to Mexico and began to give thought to the future of Texas, either as an independent State or as a member of the United States of the North. Besides revealing the conditions in Mexico and in Texas which moved Austin to surrender reluctantly the hope of seeing Texas prosper as a Mexican State, the documents here published continue, as in the preceding volume, to shed much light on the conditions and motives which led to emigration from the United States to Texas.

Exigencies of space have made it necessary to omit a considerable number of documents which the collection contains; but the Calendar indicates the nature of all such omissions. A volume issued by the University of Texas Press in 1927 completes the publication of the Austin Papers. The material in that concluding volume extends from October 1, 1834, when the present volume ends, to Austin's death in December, 1836. It is chiefly valuable as a documentary history of the inauguration of the Texas revolution and of Austin's mission to the United States in behalf of the new Republic. A calendar of the material is appended to the Calendar of this volume.

EUGENE C. BARKER.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS,
Austin, Tex., September, 1927.

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Austin to J. H. Bell

Jany 1-1828

Dr Sir,

I am happy to find myself once more amongst my large family after so long an absence

On the 3 and 4 of Feby next the genl election comes on in the several districts for one Alcalde, two regidores or aldermen and one sindico procurador for the whole colony—these officers compose the Ayuntamiento or municipal corporation[1]—great power is given to this corporation by the laws, and much depends on getting in good and intelligent men

Kinny has positively refused to serve as Alcalde, and I think that Ira Ingram will be the best we can get—he is compelled to live in this place and it will not be as injurious to him to be absent from home as some others—in my opinion he is well qualified for the office and will do credit to the colony The Ayuntamiento must meet once a month at this place which will be a little inconvenient for those who live at a distance

I think J. H. Bell—Wm Morton and L. R. Kinny ought to be the two regidores and the sindico Procurador—or if either of these will not serve M. B. Nuckols who lives here and is a very good and intelligent man.

The nearer they could be elected to this place the better for they ought to meet at least once a month and sometimes oftener, and there is no kind of compensation allowed to them by law—Should the Alcalde be unable to act from sickness or death etc the alderman who had the highest vote takes his place which makes it still more important to elect good men—Rawson Alley has also been spoken of and he would make a good one also T. M. Duke, If you do not wish the appointment (which I presume you do not) for it will put you to great trouble owing to the distance you live from here, I think that Kinny and Morton for regidores and Nuckols for Sindico Procurador will be the best we can get—Write me your opinion on the subject and wheither Ingram for *Alcalde*—Kinny and Morton for *regidores* and Nuckols for *Sindico Procurador*, will suit the

[1] For an account of the government of Austin's colony prior to the organization of the Ayuntamiento, see an article by the editor in Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXI, 223–252. For the organization of the Ayuntamiento, ibid., 299 ff.

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people in that quarter—if not write me what ticket you think will suit them—let us try and be united and harmonious in this election

I have sent the Alcalde of that district full instructions on the subject of conducting the Election—the forms etc and a circular which will give you an idea of the nature of the new system—

remember me to Mrs Bell, it is a long time since I have seen her and I feel anxious to visit you and see you all once more. When the election is over I shall be free and will come and see you—

S F. AUSTIN

[Addressed:]
Mr. J. H Bell
Lower Settlement

RICHARD ELLIS TO AUSTIN

State of Alabama
Town of Tuscumbia
3rd Janr. 1828

D COL°

I beg leave to introduce to your aquantence and notice Mr Silus, Ephram and Benjmn Fuqua and Mr Job Ingram and Kye Ingram, these Gentlemen have emigrated to your Coloney to become permanent settlers—The Mr Fuquas are Mechanics. two of them of the best kind; they are honest and respectable men and are determined to suport the Government to which they go, I have had much conversation with Mr Silus Fuqua, on the present and future prospects of your coloney; and tho he has never seen it, he has a most corect idea of its great advantages, you will find him an inteligent man and I have no doubt will be an acquisition to your Setlement, I have known these gentlemen twelve years, the Mr Ingrams I have not known personaly but from their universal good character and the Gentlemen they go with, I feel no hesitation to recomend them to your attention;

On my arival in the U. S. I found Agriculture fast declining in all the Middle and Southern region of our country, oppressed with heavey duties on imports from a broad and taxes at home, and the people burthened with debts, many of which were no doubt contracted in more *prosperous times* that I could not help runing a parallel in my mind between the happy condition of the adopted citizens of your country and the people of this; indeed frankness and candure impels me not to withold from you the expressions of the opinions and thoughts that have so repetedly obtruded themselves on my mind; (that is) that every family ought to bless his

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happy star that conduced them to a country blessed with the finest soil in North Amarica, with plenty, health, peace and happiness—and if they act wisely (as I hope and trust they will) they will foster and cherish the Government they live in, which will be the certain means of preserving their estamible rights unimpaired; and a sure protection of their property—while on the contrary in this country there are hundreds and thousands of familes who do not own a foot of land nor have they any hope of ever doing so (I mean of any *real value*) who are barely able to sustain themselves with the most common coarse food and raiment—In the short time since my arival at home I have assertained beyond question that 40 or 50 families would emigrate with me next fall to your country if they could introduce their slaves, many of them are large holders of that description of property; and I consider it a duty I owe myself as well as you, to assure you that I shall moove to your country next fall if I can with safety bring mine; for I find I have not one slave that is willing to be sold from me;

I feel a deep interest in the prosperity of your country and hope you will do me the favour (for I shall prise it highly) to write to me by the first safe hand after the receipt of this letter; let me know if we will be alowed to bring in Slaves under any circumstances, if not what are the future prospects—what has been done with my petition, can I locate the Heseandar [hacienda] on the west bank of the colorado River

If I can bring in fifty families, I believe I can get $50. a League from them, and I should give you one half if you will reserve good land for them as I have always thought that compensation not enough for the founder of a colony in adition to his premium lands—but this will depend on the *Slave Question* can fifty good Leagues be got between the colorado and auroyo lavaca—that is now vacant—I know when you reach home how much you will be provoked and how much you will (on *many acounts*) regret the deception and fraud played off on me and many respectable citizens of your colony by William Pettus—for he even sold my boddy servant and did not take (perhaps) a dollar with him to the Rio Grande to purchase Mules for me, for his wife said in my presens she allways blamed him for not carring the money with him; nor have I received one cent for the fine mar I caried to that country for all he paid me dos not even pay the interest upon the debt—I paid for him as an inocent security Such an abuse of confidence, and once I admit friendship; proves beyond the most remote possibility of a doubt, a dereliction of all honourable principal and a depravity of *hart* that can never be reclaimed nor reformed, I believe I might use the same language to you Sir John Falstaff did to prince Henry (of Poins)

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"he is the most omnipotent villain that ever cried stand to a true man" what he has done with all the property, goods and money, he had

[Richard Ellis.][1]

Austin to Political Chief

San Felipe, January 7, 1828.

See Calendar.

Austin to Political Chief

[From Bexar Archives]

En consequencia de lo que V. S. se sirvió exponer en oficio 29 de Noviembre del p° p° año con copia traslado del oficio del Exmo Sor Comandante General en fha 17 del mismo Nov^e sobre el contrabando de Tabacos, puedo decir que me he impuesto de todo q^e se ha hecho en esta Colonia en la siembra de Tabaco. Alg^os de estos Colonos p^a curiosidad en ver hta cuanto se extiende la fecundidad de este hermoso suelo esparcieron en sus labores alguna semilla de Tabaco, y aunque la prueba de la fertilidad de la dha siembra pasó sus halagüeñas ideas no se han hecho de la producta ningun comercio, ni tampoco fué cosechado p^a este fin: Algunos no han cosechado el producto, y los que lo hicieron fué solamente para el gasto de ellos en el vicio q^e tienen de mascar tabaco. Sin embargo en virtud de lo q^e V. S. me ordene en su referido oficio tengo publicado una orden para que no se repite la dha siembra bajo este ni qualquier otro pretexto. Con lo que contesto á su citado oficio de V. S.

Dios y Libertad

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Villa de Austin 7 de Enero de 1828.

Sor Gefe del Depart° C Ramon Muzquiz.

Austin to Political Chief

[From Bexar Archives]

El dia 25 del p° p° Dic^e recibí la Superior orn del Exmo Sor. Gob^or de este Estado fha 17 de Nov^e p° p° q^e v. s. me incertio en oficio del 11 del referido Dic^e en que se ordena el establecim^to del Ayuntam^to de la Jurisdicion de Austin y en cumplim^to con la misma

[1] The end of the letter is missing. The writer can be identified by Fuqua to Austin, Mar. 28, 1828.

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se verificarán las elecciones los dias 3 y 4 del mes de Febrero proximo venidero y luego q[e] se pongan los elegidos en posesion de sus respectivos empleos daré el correspondiente aviso á V. S. de todo lo hecho en cumplim[to] con la referida orden.

Dios y Libertad

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Villa de Austin 7 de Enero de 1828.

Sor Gefe del Departam[to] C Ramon Muzquiz.

AUSTIN TO J. H. BELL

DR SIR,

I rec[d] your letter by Col Philips relative to the place that was reserved to the 1 of this month for your motherinlaw—On the first day of this Mr. Duke applied for the same place pr Mr Moore who lives in Bay Prairie and presented a letter from Moore on the subject—I was compeled to say that on that day all previous promises of the place were out, and that it was therefore vacant, and it was consequently entered pr Mr. Moore—I could not do otherwise—

I expect to be at my brothers about the 20 of this month and will call and see you, tho my stay below will be very short, not more than one day—

Remember me to Mrs Bell,

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Jany. 8. 1828—

J. H. Bell

J. ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Salt[o] 12 de Enero de 1828.

SR. D. ESTEBAN AUSTIN.

MI QUERIDO AMIGO: Con ansias deseo la llegada del correo en que V. me remita la peticion delos Amigos p[a] ese nuevo establecimiento, por que mis anhelos son por la propagacion de las luces, y de la unidad de que resulta la fuerza.

El Sr. Teran, se halla ahora en Monterrey, y pronto marchará para esa por Monclova, y los Presidios hasta Bejar.[1] Estubo en esta pocos dias, es hombre de muchas luces, conocimientos—y astucia, no facil de calarse, es necesario mucho cuidado sobre ritos, es temible pr. su dialectica y persuacion, esta poseido de un espiritu analizador de quanto alcanza con sus sentidos, y es peligroso p[a] q[n] no conoce sus

[1] Teran was on his way to Texas as head of the boundary commission to make observations preparatory to making a boundary treaty with the United States.

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opiniones masonicas. Asegura no pertenecer á ningun rito pero es falso, es escoses y novenario; mucho cuidado con sus opiniones sin que pr. esto se falte á la cultura, buen trato, y civilidad con q debe tratarsele.

Con fha del 2. del corr^te^ me escribe el Sr. Ceballos haber remitidome los tomos de decretos del congreso gen^l^ de q pienso enviar a V. el 3. tomo como le indiqué.

Por las ocurrencias politicas no há podido el Gob^no^ dar curso á los asuntos particulares desde el 23 del pasado, y pr. eso no há sido despachado el asunto del Sr. Estevan Richardson, cuya noticia servirá a V. de gob^o^.

El congreso há dado principio á sus trabajos el dia 1^o^ pero nada há hecho respecto de los asuntos de V. por falta de algunos Diputados.

Yncluyo á V. un ejemplar de la ley de Españoles dada por el cong^o^. general, como expresion de la voluntad general. Ha resultado un partido para contrariarla movido pr. los escoseses segun anuncian los papeles publicos, pero pronto será pulverizado pr. los patriotas.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Austin to Ramon Musquiz [1]

San Felipe, January 15, 1828.

See Calendar.

Austin to Musquiz [2]

San Felipe, January 15, 1828.

See Calendar.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin

Ciud^o^ F. Estevan Austin,

Laredo Enero 19, 1828.

Mi amigo muy estimado.

El Comis^o^ general de S. Luis á q^n^ dirigi la solicitud de V. con una recomendacion muy eficas p^a^ obtener el permiso de desembarcar viveres procedentes de la colonia de V. en los puertos de Matamoros y Tampico me ha contestado haver pasado dicha solicitud al Supr.

---

[1] From Translation of Empresario Contracts, p. 274, General Land Office of Texas.

[2] From Appendix to Empresario Documents, vol. 54, p. 123, General Land Office of Texas.

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Gov° con informe favorable, de cuyo resultado daré á V. oportunamente aviso.

He escrito ál Cor¹ Ciud° José de las Piedras qe se comunique con V. segun acordamos en Bexar, y yo espero qe V. le dará todos los avisos y conocimientos qe considere utiles p^a su mejor manejo principalmente cuando haya algunas ocurrencias de consideracion en la front^a.

Se me ha dado parte de una reunion como de 40, aventureros havian pasado á esta parte del sabinas con el objeto de apoderarse del dinero qe esperavan p^a. la guarnicion de Nacogdoches, y qe havian estos mandado un emisario p^a. qe inbitase á algunos individuos de esa colonia, y aunque llo dudo la verdad de estas noticias espero del zelo de V. pr. la tranquilidad y vuen orden qe tomará todas las providencias qe estime conbenientes p^a. evitar la introducion de semejantes hombres qe van á perturvar á los ciudadanos pacificos en sus inocentes ocupaciones.

He llegado á este lugar sin novedad y cuento con qe V. no dexará de escrivirme segun me ofrecio.

Tenga V. la vondad de saludar de mi parte á su Srio, reciviendo V. las seguridades del singular aprecio con qe me repito su conciudo. y amigo qe lo estima muy deveras.

ANAST° BUSTAM^te. [Rubric].

[Addressed:] Al Ciuda^no. Cor¹. Felipe Estevan Austin. Austin.

AUSTIN TO J. H. BELL

Jany. 21. 1828

DR SIR,

I recd. your letter stating that you wish to decline serving as one of the Ayuntamiento, and feel somewhat discouraged at your determination—As you personal friend, I should say you did right, but as a friend of this colony, I must say you are doing wrong—It is very important to get good men, and men of business in the Ayuntam^to. I feel no individual interest on the subject and as a mere individual I am indifferent who are elected—but in all matters connected with the welfare of this colony I cannot feel or think indifferently—As for myself I shall devote my whole time and attention to the land business and have some idea of taking a trip into the United States in order to try and bring out a large number of families in a body, but I do not wish to leave the colony again, even for a moment, untill I see the local government well organised, and this cannot be done without putting good men in office

I am getting very tired and worn down with the business and were it not my duty to the settlers who are here never to abandon

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them, I should give up my last contract with the Gov^t^ for the settling of the new Colony, and either settle myself down on a Stock farm, or seek some other country where I might hope to find harmony but *it is* my duty to persevere and for that reason, and that alone, I will go on—

you are wrong to decline serving for I think you can do an important service to the colony as a member of the Ayuntam^to^ but you have a right to do as you please, tho if you are elected the law compels you to serve—

I have heard of no opposition to Ingram and I think he will be unanimously elected I am sorry to say that Kinny has also declined serving, tho, he is excusable for his business I expect will compell him to devote all his time to his private affairs—I have not thoroughly known Kinny untill last winter he is a usefull and valuable man and I wish it was in my power to aid him in his pecuniary difficulties—

My friend we must all be united and harmonious—without this the colony never can flourish—poor Pettus is broken up—he has been imprudent in the highest degree—and has abused me and every one else—if I had the means of aiding him I would freely do so—he is in misfortune—let *that* alone be remembered and all his abuses forgotten—I send you a valuable neighbor (I hope) in Mr. Robison, I have nearly *given* him a small place merely because I think him a good man

Think better of the matter and say you will serve—My respects to Mrs Bell I can let you have some fig roots next year if the slips I brought from Bexar grow

S F Austin [Rubric]

Mr J. H Bell

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar 22 de Enero de 1828.

Sor. D^n^ Esteban Austin

Mi apreciable amigo y Sor: por el ultimo correo he recivido, tres estimadas de V. sus fhas 31. de Diciem^e^ y 13 del actual sobre cuyo contenido digo dela primera, que le solicitud que me acompaña relativa a denuncia que ha dado ha ese Alcalde de una mina de Plata y plomo cita alas margenes del rio de trinidad, por el primer correo la boy a remitir a la diputacion de mineria del valle de Santa Rosa, aquien corresponde conoser de estos asuntos, como se impondrá V. de la Ley No. 40 de 22 de Junio qe. se circuló ha esa villa en 16 de Julio

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de 1827. y en el entre tanto se recive la resolucion correspondiente, será muy del caso qe. ese Alcalde obrando de conformidad con el artº 13 de la citada Ley ampare a V. en denuncia y registro de dha. Mina a fin de que nadie se la pueda en ningun tiempo disputar. Para que no se retarde la resolucion de la diputacion de mineria, tengo dispuesto escribir a Santa Rosa para qe. la agiten y satisfagan los derechos que necesariamtº deve cobrar.

Confio en el interes qe. siempre ha tomado V. en quanto dice relacion con el beneficio general de este Deptº, y en particular de esa colio [colonia], para esperar que no dexará de la mano el nuevo Ayuntamtº á fin de que atienda con acierto á todos los obgetos de la Admon publica qe. se le recomiendan por la Ley; pues ciertamtº es una desgracia qe. los Ciudadanos que la componen no pocellan [posean] el Castellano, cuya falta no se puede superar, mas persuadido por V. de que son hombres de providad y buen juicio, me consuelo con esta idea y la esperanza que confia en V. y nuestro buen amigo Dn Samuel, de que no les escaciaran su acertada direccion en todos los asuntos que se les ofresca.

Ha sus dos segundas devo decir, que por mi parte no tendria ninguna dificultad pª combenir que Dn Gaspar Flores se detubiese en esa Villa el tiempo necesario pª concluir los asuntos de la primera colonia, por que en esto se interesa muy particularmtº V. y el mismo Dn Gaspar, aquienes tendria mucha satisfaccion en complacer; pero la orden que se me ha comunicado del Gobno dice terminantº en estos presisos terminos "he resuelto qe. el referido Ciudadano Gaspar Flores sese en el conocimiento de los asuntos de esta clase qe. se le tenian conferidos." ¿Yá V. bé mi amigo que ha cito Sor. se le ha despojado de la autoridad que se dio en el Asunto de colonizacion, y qe. legalmtº no puede ni deve meter anadie en pocecion? mas sin embargo si delo trabajado ha quedo algo qe. arregular pª berificar su entrega qe. se ponga deverá hacer al comicionado qe. le sucede, puede detenerse en esa villa lo muy preciso; pues aunque Dn Juan Nepomuceno Segin [Seguin] tiene muy buena disposicion para su edad y ninguna practica, le hace falta pª la buena Admon de Justicia de que está encargado y por tanto es de mucha necesidad, que Dn Gaspar retarde su regreso el tiempo menos posible.

Quedo impuesto de quanto V. me dice con relacion ala comicion del Alfz. seballos, y salida de los tres Españoles qe. se havian introducido ha esa Colonia, y respecto a los quince pesos siete reales qe. V. suministró a la partida de tropa, procuraré cobrarlos y entregarlos a Dn Erasmo como V. me recomienda.

Aqui se espera tener mucha carestia de mais en el presente año, y el Aytº contaba hacer un acojida en esa villa, pª socorrer la nececi-

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dad, mas en bista de lo que se me dice por V. y el Alcalde, beo frustradas las esperanzas que havia concevido, pero sin embargo, espero aun lo que V. me ofrece decir sobre este particular, en bista de los informes que hiba á tomar.

Pasemos a los acontecimientos politicos del dia, amas de lo qe. V. me ha sibido [sabido] pr las copias qe. le acompañe en mi anterior solo he podido saver despues qe. varios Estados trataban de formar una alianzá o liga, reunir fuerzas y fondos para sobre ponerse alos pronunciados en Mexico qe. triunfaron del Gob^no^ esta noticia está confirmada por diferentes personas, y si llega á realizarse está su opinion de V. muy bien funda, sobre que el fuego solo está apagado, mas no estinguido, y yó añado que por nuestra desgracia, haora comiesa la rebolucion, tan horrorosa, qual no la han tenido los mexicanos. El correo aun no llega de afuera, si lo berifica antes de la salida de este yá comunicaré aV. las noticias que recibamos.

Saludes de mi parte a los Sres. D^n^ Santiago, y Samuel.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Con precencia de lo que V, me dice en oficio de 15. del corr^te^ he excitado p^a^ que marche áconcluir los asuntos dela Colonia del cargo de V. al Ciud^no^ Gaspar Flores comicionado p^a^ este fin pr. el Sup^mo^ Gobierno del Estado, y habiendome resuelto que lo verificará ála mayor brevedad, tengo la satisfacion de Comunicarcelo áV. en respuesta de su Citado oficio.

Dios y Libertad.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

Bexar 23 de Enero de 1828.

Al Ciud^no^ Empresario Estevan Austin

SEGUIN TO AUSTIN

Bexar, January 24, 1828.

See Calendar.

JUAN ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Salt°. 26 de Eno. de 1828.

S^r^ D. ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN

Estimado amigo mio: Por la appreciable de V. de 1°. de este mes quedo impuesto con satisfaccion de haber arribado á esa su casa sin novedad, delo q me alegro infinito.

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Los asuntos que penden en el cong° promovidos pr. V. estan paralizados hta la llegada de Arciniega que salio de Bejar el 3. del corr^te^ Antes de ayer se voto el de libertad de papel sellado en esa Colonia, y quedó empatado: lo retiró la comision pa presentarlo en ocasion favorable. Es un dolor tal situacion pero es preciso obsequiar las circunstancias, mientras mejoran.

Poseo los mas vehementes deseos por que V. me dirija la solicitud p^a^. la nueva casa; ya le dije en mi anterior quanto pensaba en esta materia que me es tan complaciente.

Hemos escapado de una furiosa rebolucion por el partido escoses y novenario español. El plan de Montaño que V. habrá visto enlos papeles publicos aparecio en Otumba el 23. de Dic^e^. y se llevo tras si una multitud de escoseses y entre ellos al Vice-Presiden^te^ Brabo.[1]

Los adjuntos impresos darán á V. luz sobre varios pormenores interesantes: cayó escosia, y se afirmó para spre el edificio social bajo el regimen adoptado.

Tengo noticia del Sr. Ceballos que pr. tan angustiadas circunstancias no despacha el Gob°. general asunto algo. personal desde el grito de Montaño—entre los cuales está detenido en el Ministerio de Hacienda el del Sr. Richardson.[2]

Mantengase V. muy bueno comuniqueme sus ordenes, y mande a su ato.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Yncluyo á V. un calendario pa. el presente año.

Alexander Yhary to Austin

Laredo, January 26. 1828.

See Calendar.

Manuel Ceballos to J. Antonio Padilla

Mejico Enero 30 de 1828.

Sor. D. Juan Antonio Padilla.

Mi Estimadisimo y buen amigo: siento sobre mi corazon el extrabio que á padecido una de mis cartas dirigida á V. segun me lo

[1] For an account of this incident and of the general party situation, see Bancroft, H. H., History of Mexico, V, 35–40.

[2] In the summer of 1827 Stephen Richardson freighted a small vessel with corn and lard in Texas and sailed to Campeche. He was not allowed to land the cargo, and after some delay went to Tampico, where again he was refused permission to land and sell the cargo. There the whole cargo spoiled and was thrown into the sea. In November, 1827, Richardson memorialized the Mexican Government for reimbursement of his losses, amounting to $2,450.

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confirma su grata del 14 que acaba, pues ella le hubiera dado luces sobradas de los motivos politicos que an enervado el asunto de su recomendado Richardson á mas de las anteriores de aber dirigidose su instancia por ese Sor Gobernador con fha. de 17 de Nobiembre al Ministerio de Relaciones, de donde lo saque yo y lo pasé al de Hacienda, que con el recado de atenciones del erario para dar direccion á las topas que ivan a sostener el orden proximo a perturbarse no fué pocible lograr su despacho asta el 25 de Enero como se lo confirmara a V. la adjunta Copia pr. la que se transpira ya saldrá faborable á su ahijado la conclucion de su instancia sobre que el Admor de la Aduana Maritima de Campeche lo indemnise de sus quebrantos.

Mas entiendo que el juzgado de Hacienda aunque reproduzca lo mismo que Alamán Gefe de los empleados maritimos spre. tendrá la nececidad de esponer que dha, conclusion toca al Poder Judicial; y de consiguiente Richardson se ve precisado á pasar a Campeche ó mandar poder á sujeto de su confiansa para autorizar su demanda con invercion del expediente redundeado por el Ministerio de Hacienda al Juez de distrito de dho Estado.

Siento el que no toque á este distrito donde podrian serle utiles las personales agencias de este su muy adicto amigo de corazon

Manl Ceballos [Rubric]

Alexander Yhary to Austin

Laredo, February 2, 1828.

See Calendar.

Peter Ellis Bean to Austin

Naeogdoches, February 5, 1828.

See Calendar.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz

San Felipe, February 6, 1828.

See Calendar.

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Bill for Ferriage

Austin in Account with J. C. Peyton

January 2, 1827	Col. Stephen, F. Austin To Ferry Accompts	Dr	$ cts
	By Washington and Henry		12½
3	By Washington G[oing] and C[oming]		25
Ditto	By Henry Gowing [going]		12½
23	By negro girl gowing		6¼
24	By Negro Boy C and G		12½
26 Jany—	To self and Company g and c from a Dinner at Mr Westalls 15 persons		1.87½
By Morley	Waller G and C		12½
	By Spaniard Coming		6¼
	Self gowing		12½
28	By Spaneard gowing		12½
Feb.	Ditto By 2 Ferriages		12½
5	Ditto By Bay 3 ferriages		18¾
6	By Spaneard and Washington g and c		25
	By Washington Gowing		12½
	By Perroague after Corn		50
			$4. 18¾

Paid on settlement Oct. 11, 1828—

[Indorsed:] J. C. Peyton Ferry a/c

John Gibson to Austin—Bill of Sale

Know all men by these presents that I John Gibson, agent and attorney for Madame Catherine de Vilemont of Point Chicot in the Territory of Arkansas in the United States of the north, for and in consideration of Three Hundred and fifty dollars the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have bargained Sold and conveyed to Stephen F. Austin his heirs and assigns a certain negro woman named Fatime of about 40 years, a Slave for life the possession whereof I, as agent aforesaid do guarantee to the Said Austin his heirs and assigns against the claim of any person or persons whatsoever— In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this Sixth day of February 1828 at the Town of San Felipe de Austin, in the Colony of Austin and the State of Cuahuila and Texas.

John Gibson [Rubric]

Attest

H. H. League [Rubric]

J. B. Austin [Rubric]

[Indorsed by Austin:] Bill of Sale from John Gibson for negro woman alias Mary.

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Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar, February 7, 1828.

See Calendar.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin

Laredo Febrero 8 de 1828.

Ciud°. Ten^te^. Cor^l^. F. Estevan Austin,

Mi muy estimado amigo.

Por la apreciable de Vm. de 29 del popo. me he impuesto delas noticias qe. me comunica relativas á las malvadas intenciones de Juan B. Dayton y de Martin Parma [Parmer] los qe. en union de algunos vagamundos y aun delos Yndios barbaros pueden en efecto causar algunos daños, pero ya digo al Sor. Coronel Elozua q. tome precauciones respecto delos comboyes y espero qe. si estos criminales tocan en esa Colonia los mande V. matar pues no merecen otra cosa.

En efecto es sencible qe. Burkam nos halla engañado pues yo lo consideraba hombre de bien y lo recomende al Supremo Gob^no^ apoyandome en los informes de V. pero procuraré desengañar al gob^no^ en la primera oportunidad.

No estraño lo qe. V. me dice de Jorge Nixon y de qe. los malvados traten de destruir el prestigio de V. en esa colonia pero deve V. despreciarlos descansando en el buen concepto y amor de la mayoria delos Habitantes; devido á las virtudes qe. le adornan, pudiendo V. contar ademas con la proteccion de nuestro Gob^no^ p^a^ castigar á los perversos qe. atentan contra V. ó contra el orden publico y tranquilidad delos pacificos habitantes.

En el correo anterior diriji á V. la contestacion oficial del comisario gral. de San Luis sobre aquella pretencion de comercio de Cabotaje tan interesante, y tambien le dije a Yhary qe. remitiese aV. un ejemplar del nuevo Arancel en qe. si se permite la introduccion de maizes extrangeros y con mucha mas razon se devera permitir la de los Nacionales como son los de esa colonia, y entiendo qe. pr. Matamoros estan importando ya algunos maizes: lo qe. servirá á V. de gobierno, deviendo V. contar qe. yo recomendare tambien cualesquiera solicitud que V. dirija al gobernador de Tamaulipas p^a^ la introduccion de dho. grano.

Con esta fha, le digo al Cor^l^ Piedras se ponga en comunicacion con el amigo Benjamin Williams conforme V. me indica y espero qe. continuara escriviendo las noticias qe puedan interezarme p^a^ la felicidad de ese paiz, que deve consistir en la paz.

Las ocurrencias de la nueva revolucion sofocada en su cuna han colmado casi enteramente, y un corto numero de hombres alucinados que pudieron escaparse andan huyendo sin hallar apoyo en ninguna

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parte y al ultimo acudiran á implorar la clemencia de los supremos poderes de la Union.

Celebrare qe. V. se conserve con la salud y felicidad qe. le decea su conciudad° y am° qe. lo estima muy deveras y S. M. B.

ANAST°. BUSTAM^te°. [Rubric]

P. D.

Correspondo muy agradecido al saludo y fina memoria del Sor. Samuel Williams ofreciendole mis servicios.

[Rubric]

J. ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Salt°. 9. de Feb°. de 1828.

SR. D. ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO Y DUEÑO: Hé leido con mucha detencion su apreciable de V. de 13. del pasado en que me informa detalladam^te°, de los sucesos de Powel, Dewitt, y Kerr en materias de contrabando de tabaco, y malas consecuencias que há producido la conducta de las autoridades que han manejado estos asuntos.

Toda la carta de V. hé leido al Sr. Gob^or quien há quedado *espant*ado de las ocurrencias descritas en ella: me há dicho que acordaria tomar las providencias convenientes para la vindicacion de los dros [derechos] hollados delas personas interesadas, y castigo de los culpados: la mucha ocupacion dela sria en la ultima semana no dio lugar á estenderlas orns [ordenes] con presencia de los antecedentes: pero yo haré un lugar p^a este asunto.

El del papel sellado p^a el uso de esa Colonia y demas segun el art. 32 de la ley de colonizacion, sé qe. está concluido favorablem^te° en el congreso, pero como no se pasó á esta sria no puede ser circulado.

Un hermano mio nombrado Vicente Padilla, sugeto de honrades y conducta me há prevenido recomendarlo á V. como hombre de bien, y desea obtener su favor p^a con algunos de sus amigos de V. en que se le favoresca con un surtido de una memorita al credito á plazo regular para hacer algun negocio en los puntos privilegiados de Monclova y Rio Grande. Si fuera adoptable su peticion espero de la bondad de V. se sirva instruirme de todo p^a en caso favorable á sus intenciones emprender su viage al punto mas conveniente.

Nada ocurre de particular en esta villa que poder á V. comunicar.

J. ANTONIO PADILLA [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO POLITICAL CHIEF

[From Bexar Archives]

Siento decir á V. S. que una partida de Yndios de 37 Tahuiases, Uecos, y Comanches segun se supone entraron en las habitaciones

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fronterizas sobre el Rio Colorado cerca del Camino q^{e} le llaman del medio y robaron 8 caballos de alli, tambien he recibido noticia q^{e} robaron los caballos y efectos de tres vecinos de aquí q^{e} fueron en camino á Bejar con una partida de puercos y tambien q^{e} han robado todos los caballos de los habitantes de Gonzales. La entrada y regreso de estos Yndios fué tan repentina y las lluvias tan excesivas q^{e} ha sido imposible juntar milicianos para seguirlos, p^{r} q^{e} el punto atacado está aislado y remoto de los demas establecim^{tos}.

Este acontecim^{to} preuba q^{e} no se puede fiar en la paz con dhos Yndios hta que el Gob^{no} toman medidas eficaces para castigarlos en sus pueblos.

Dios y Libertad.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Villa de Austin 12 de Feb^{o} de 1828.

Sor Gefe del Dep^{o} C Ramon Muzquiz.

AUSTIN TO POLITICAL CHIEF

[From Bexar Archives]

El dia diez del presente mes se verificó la reunion de la junta electoral municipal de esta jurisdicion de conformidad con las superiores ordenes en la materia, y resultaron elegidas las personas siguientes el Sor Tomas M Duke p.^{a} Alcalde. Los Sors Thomas Davis y Humphrey Jackson Regidores y el Señor Rawson Alley p^{a} síndico procurador p^{a} esta jurisdicion, y Tomas Barnet, Comisario de policia y Juan D Taylor síndico pa la Comarca de Victoria, y William Kinchaloe Comisario de policia y Amos Rawls Síndico para la Comarca de Mina, como consta la adjunta copia testimoniada de la acta de la referida junta, y los referidos Yndividuos habiendo prestado el correspondiente juramento tomaron posesion desde luego de sus respectivos empleos lo q^{e} comunico à V. S. p^{a} su debido conocim^{to} Cesando con esta acta el mando civil y judicial q^{e} hta ahora he exercido en esta jurisdicion.

Dios y Libertad

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN. [Rubric.]

Villa de Austin 12 de Feb^{o} de 1828.

Sor Gefe del Dep.^{o} C Ramon Muzquiz.

Por casualidad el tintero ha emporcado la copia de la acta q^{e} debe haber sido juntado con este oficio y como no tengo campo pa extender otra no va inclusa como dho. pues está esperando el Correo. p^{o} lo verificaré p^{r} el p^{o} venidero.

SAMUEL M WILLIAMS, Srio. [Rubric]

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Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Hé visto con demasiado sentim^to^ la noticia que V. me comunica en papel de 12. del Corriente de robos cometidos p^r^ una partida de huecos y comanchez en las propiedades delos ciudadanos de esa Colonia, la que elevaré al conocimiento del Supremo Gob^no^ del Estado, pa los fines que estime comvenientes.

Dios y Libertad.

Ramon Musquiz [Rubric]

Bexar 19 de Febrero de 1828.

Al Ciudadano Empresario Estevan Austin

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Por el ófício de V. de 12. del corriente quedo impuesto de haberse verificado la eleccion de Ayuntam^to^ Const^al^ en esa Colonia conforme álo resuelto pr. el Exmo Señor Governador del Estado en Or^n^ de 17. de Nov^e^ del año popo. y suponiendo echa esta eleccion conforme álo que previenen el Art^o^ 97. y sig^tes^ del cap^o^ 6^o^ del reglam^to^ num^o^ 37. de 13. de Junio—del propio ánterior año para el Gob^no^ economico de los pueblos, solo me ócurre indicar áV. que no deve sér Copia dela ácta la que V. há de remittir p^a^ conocimiento del Gov^no^, sino de las tres listas de los Ciudadanos que fueron sufragados p^a^ Alc^e^ Regidores, y Sindico procurador. Conforme ál árto 102 de la referida Ley.

Dios y Libertad.

Ramon Musquiz [Rubric]

Bexar Febrero 19. de 1828.

Al Ciud^no^ Empresario Estevan Austin

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar 21 de Febrero de 1828.

Sor. D^n^ Estevan F. Austin

Mi apreciable amigo: por el correo anterior no pude contestar a su apreciable, haora lo berifico que me ha sido de la mayor satisfaccion que la elecion de Ayuntamiento recayera en ciudadanos de actitud, merito, buenos centimientos y dispocicion, por lo qe. me prometo que esa municipalidad será feliz, mas quando mi amigo el Sor Samuel es su Srio y V. como mas interesado que ninguno no le escaciará su acertada direccion

Espero como V. me ofrese me remitirá la nota estadistica de todas las familias que se han establecido en terrenos de este Dep^to^ sin permiso del Gov^no^. tan circunstanciada como se la pedi.

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Ala vez que recivi su carta de 29 de En° ppdo. sobre cuyos particulares se refieren los parrafos anteriores, estaban aqui algunos Yndios Comanches, y D^n^ Fran^co^ Ruis les recomendó mucho la aprencion de Dayton y su comitiba de bagamundos, la misma recomendacion se le ha hecho al Cap^n^ Guonique qe, salio ayer p^a^ sus pueblos, cuyo Yndio segun dicen es el segundo Gefe del gran Barvaquista.

De oficio digo a V. me deve remitir copias de las tres listas que se han de haber formado en la Asamblea Municipal como resultado de la regulacion de botos p^a^ Alcalde, Regidores, y Cindico procurador, para remitirlas al Gov^no^ conforme está dispuesto p^r^ la Ley

D^n^ Gaspar Flores se puso en camino p^a^ esa el Domingo 17 del actual, a quien encargue de informar a V. havia representado al Gov^no^ la nececidad q^e^ hay de dividir el basto territorio de este Dept. en dos partidos pidiendo con tal motivo el nombramiento de un Gefe subalterno que resida en Nacogdoches, y q^e^ su partido comprenda desde esa villa hasta el Rio de Savinas.

Las planchas qe. V. me remitio con su ultima han sido inmediatamente presentadas, y con la correspondiente recomendacion se dirigira la que viene con destino A. L. G. L. N. M[1] y la nuestra tubo particular gusto al informarse quantos h. h.[1] se encontró V. en ese oriente

Dentro de pocos dias tendremos en esta al General teran con su comitiba. El Comand^te^ del 11 que devia escoltar á este Gefe se Declaró p^r^ el Plan de Montaño, comprometió el regimiento, y al ultimo se cambió, con tal ocurrencia no se si esta tropa continuará para su destino.

Dn Victor Blanco en carta particular me dice remita a V. los adjuntos bidrios con fluido bacuna adbirtiendole que fuera de los bidrios bá una señal de tinta negra qe. indica q^e^ al frente y dentro está el fluido, y para qe. V. consiga con mas facilidad su propagacion le acompaño una instrucion impresa, esperando me comunique el resultado, pues si con este puz no se propaga la bacuna le remitiré de aqui mas fresco de muchas picaduras que felism^te^ he propagado, desde el mes pasado q^e^ tengo cistemada la bacuna.

En el caso de qe, tenga buen efecto dha bacuna en esa Municipalidad, sirbase V. remitirla al alcalde de Nacogdoches recomendandole de mi parte tome todo empeño en propagarla.

Saludes a Dn Samuel y Dn Santiago, y V. mande a su afmo h. amigo Q. S. M. B.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

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[1] Apparently Masonic abbreviations.

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AUSTIN IN ACCOUNT WITH J. C. PAYTON

San Felepe de Austin

Col. S. F. Austin in a/c J. C. Peyton

2nd May 1827 4 lbs sugear by Mrs. Picket	$1.00
1 doz Candels ——— Do	.50
21st June ——— 25 lbs Flour by Do	2.50
22nd Febuay 1828 by subscription to Ball	2.00
By M. M. Battle	37.00
	$43.00

Rec^{d} pay^{t} by a credit on my note June 10, 1828

J. C. PAYTON

PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 23 de Feb^{o} de 1828

Al C. ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN

MI MUY QUERIDO AMIGO: Por las dos adjuntas copias van los originales que lo son de una carta del Sr. Ceballos, y de un dictamen del Gefe de los Empleados maritimos se impondrá V. del estado que há tomado el asunto del Sr. Esteban Richardson, que aunque parece favorable si se echa al poder judicial ocasionará algunos retardos con motibo de que incumbe su conocimiento al Juez del distrito del Estado de Yucatan, ante quien debe comparecer á deducir sus dros el Sr. Richardson ó un Apoderado á su nombre.

Sin embargo que el Sr. Ceballos no tiene conexiones en Yucatan p^{a} recomendar el asunto á persona de su confianza, yo tengo Amigos que se interesarán para con el Sr. Zavala, Gob^{or} del Estado de Mexico, quien encargará el negocio á sugeto de probidad y luces que lo desempeñe en Yucatan á satisfaccion, porque me parece mas conveniente este paso, que el que indica el Sr. Ceballos de que se traslade el Sr. Richardson á aquel Estado, donde lo embolberian los cabilosos que no faltan contra las peticiones mas justas.

No obstante mi opinion, si el interesado tubiere por mas conveniente trasladarse á aquel punto, que conferir sus poderes á otro, estimaré me lo avise para yo hacerlo ál Sr. Ceballos á q^{n} le estoy reconocido por sus agencias personales

Remito á V. tres calendarios de este año para que los distribuya entre los Amigos del modo que guste. No remito el 3r. tomo de la coleccion de los Decretos del congreso gral por no haber venido sino el duplicado del 1r. tomo de la obra pr. una equivocacion.

Para que V. forme juicio de la energia de ntras leyes le acompaño un quad^{no} impreso del Expd^{te} instruido en la camara de Diputados sobre haber lugar á la formacion de causa al Vice-Presid^{te} Bravo; la resolucion de este negocio, creo dará credito á nras instituciones en las naciones extrangeras, y exemplo á los que atentan contra el actual sistema de Gobierno.

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Digame V. algo de lo que haya trabajado para la formacion de esa Casa, que deseo ver realizada.

J. ANTONIO PADILLA [Rubric]

JOSÉ MARIA VIESCA TO RAMON MUSQUIZ

[From Bexar Archives]

Circulado en 6 de Abril

Los Sres. Diputados Srios. del H. Congreso en oficio de hoy me dicen lo siguiente:

"EXMO. SOR.—Tomado en consideracion por este H. Congreso un expediente contraido á diversos puntos iniciados en el anterior congreso delos quales algunos quedaron sin resolucion, y entre ellos una solicitud del empresario Esteban Austin con que dió cuenta ese Gobierno en carta de 7. de Abril de 1825. sobre que se le permitiera la esportacion de barios frutos de su industria á los havitantes de su colonia á diferentes puntos dela republica y otros paises estrangeros, y que las piraguas balandras votes y goletas en que hicieran estos trasportes se tubieran por buenos y Mejicanos en los puertos donde arribacen: ha tenido á bien acordar la Misma H. Asamblea que se eccite el celo de VE. para que por los medios que le parescan mas eficases se sirva promover el pronto establecimiento dela Aduana Maritima de Galbeston mandada crear en la ley de 17. de Octubre de 1825. por la que quedó habilitado este puerto, con cuya medida está satisfecho el primer objeto dela solicitud del empresario, y en cuanto al otro que es el de nacionalizar sus buquez, siendo materia que corresponde al alto gobierno, á el podrán los interesados ocurrir por las patentes, e instrucciones que sean necesarias conforme álas leyes que rijen enla materia. Lo que de orden de la H. Asamblea tenemos el honor de decir á VE. pª los fines consiguientes."

Ylo traslado á VS. para su inteligencia y que lo comunique á quien corresponda pª los fines consiguientes.

Dios y Libertad Saltº. 1º. de Marzo de 1828.

VIESCA [Rubric]

J. ANTONIO PADILLA Srio [Rubric]

Al Gefe del Departamtº de Bejar.

JAMES F PERRY TO AUSTIN

Potosi Missouri March 2d 1828

DEAR FRIENDS.

We take the opportunity of writing to you by Mr James Cole who says he is going directly to your Country we feel anxious to hear

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from you as we have not heard from you for a long time, the last letter we had was from James dated in July or august last in which he said he expected to [be] a married man on the 3d of Oct. We have not heard neether by letter or otherwise since we wrote you on the 22d of July last respecting some Land in Wyth County Virginia also a Tract in Newjersay we also wrote you on the 12th of august on the same subject none of which we have had a reply to on 22d of July we enclose[d] to you a note on Bartlet Sims in favr of Alfred Sougroun for $798.61. please say whether you recd it and if so what prospect there is for collecting the money. In Stephens letter to us of the 26th of May last he expresed a wish for me to visit that country last fall I feel anxious to see the Country but the situation of my business would not permit me to leave it nor is my prospect any better at preasant. Now our Family is all well at preasent but it has pleased divine providence to deprive us of our little daughter Emely. she was taken sudenly and died in a few hours without any previas sickness the shock was verry great the loss of a near relation is surely felt but no one knows the feeling of a parent but a parent. We have since had another added to our famaly a daughter about 2 months old we call hir Eliza Margrett. the boys Joel Austin and Guy are going to school and I think progress as well as boys of there age could be expected. I know of no material change among your old acquantences W C. Carr is our circuit Judge he was here two weeks since we have a great many enquiries for you all your old acquantences and friends apear anxious to hear how you are doing Business is very dul here at present the great emigration within the last year to the Fever River Mines togather with the low price of Lead has made business verry dull Lead is only worth now at the river $4.50 and but $5.60 in Phila Potosi has been and is still improving some we are now living on the lots formaly owned by Josiah Beardsley. I expect you recollect where they are we have got a small but comfortable house built and are making some other improvements and in a short time will be tolarably conveniantly fixed for living our country has improved since you left this country but not near as much as might be expected St Louis is improving rapidly. S Perry has purchased part of old Choutº lot opposit the market in that place and is building a house in it that he has rented for $1828. pr annum. the aproching presidentle Election creates a great interest: party spirit runs very high the members of Congress in all there offitial acts are verry much governed by party spirit. and it has a great influeance in all our state Elections and Legislational proceedings Administration and Anti administration Adams and Jackson Internal improvements and state rights are the subjects of differance. I

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think it will be a close contest it is uncertain who will be the next President the friends of each are verry sanguine. I know of nothing more interesting to write you excuse the scrawl as I have not time to copy Mr Cole is just starting write to us offener

J. F. and Emily Perry

Mr. S. F. AUSTIN & J. B. AUSTIN

Give our best respects to our new sisterinlaw if we have one

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F Austin or Jas B. Austin San Felipe de Austin Provance of Texas

politeness of Mr James Cole

JOSÉ DE LAS PIEDRAS TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches, March 4, 1828.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO ANASTACIO BUSTAMANTE[1]

Exmo Señor COMANDANTE GENERAL

Al tiempo de las dificultades en Nacogdoches en el mes de Enero del año pasado El Gefe Político de Tejas estando en esta Villa me mandó levantar la Milicia de esta Jurisdiccion y ponerme bajo las ordenes del Com^dte^ Pral de Armas de Tejas C Ten^te^ Coronel Mateo Ahumada lo que en efecto hize y al mismo tpo dispache un correo extraordinario á los habitantes del Rio trinidad que vivian fuera de los limites de mi mando excitandoles en el nombre del Gov^no^ juntarse con el Sor Ahumada designando el punto y dia en que Debía verificarse la Union, en consequencia de esta excitacion se juntaron repentinamente treinta hombres montados y armados que llegaron al punto designado en paso del camino de arriba sobre la Trinidad la vispera del dia referido p^o^ las lluvias excesivas, habiendo detenido la marcha del Sor Ahumada El no llego al dho punto hta alg^s^ dias despues, y el Coronel Pedro Elias Bean hallandose por casualidad allí á la llegada de dha partida se puso á su cabeza y se adelantó hácia Nacogdoches. Entre tanto los revoltosos habiendo recibido noticias ciertas del levantamiento unanime de los habitantes de esta Colonia contra ellos abandonaron Nacogdoches el dia antes q^e^ salió Bean de la trinidad y huyeron hacia el Rio Sabinas Bean entró en Nacogdoches con la dha partida y siguió su marcha hta los Aises cerca del Rio Sabina donde se junto con los habitantes de este q^e^ ya se habían levantado y con una partida de los civicas de esta colonia bajo el mando del ayudante Lorenzo Kenny q^e^ yo mandé por disposicion del Sor Ahumada de aquí con instrucciones de pasar por una vuelta abajo de Nacog-

[1] From University of Texas transcripts, Department of Fomento, Mexico.

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doches y entrar entre este punto y el Rio Sabina con el doble objeto de levantar los habitantes de los Aises y cortar la retirada de los facciosos. La partida de trinidad considerandose parte de la tropa bajo mi mando inmediato se incorporaron previo permiso del Sor Coronel Bean con mi dho Ayudante Kinney y en unión con su partida formaron la escolta que conducieron los presos tomados en los Aises á Nacogdoches, y en aquel pueblo yo les despedí por orden del Sor Ahumada para volver á sus respectivas habitaciones. El tiempo desde que estos hombres recibieron la primera noticia p^{r} mi extraordinario hta el dia designado para su unión era muy corto, y el punto de unión retirado tres dias de camino. La estacion era lluviosa y los Rios y arroyos crecidos pero vencieron todas estas dificultades y su conducta todo el tpo que permanecieron sobre las armas, mas que quarenta dias da pruebas incontestables de su fidelidad, su perseverancia y sujecion á las órdenes de sus oficiales.

Con respecto al tpo en que se establecieron sé que la mayor parte de ellos se estableció bajo el concepto que la Ley de 4 de Enero 1823 era vijente y antes que supiesen que hubo restricciones en poblar las diez leguas litorales. Opino q^{e} lo q^{e} exponen los representantes en su solicitud es verdad y que con acreedores á ser recibidos como pobladores.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Villa de Austin, 4 de Marzo de 1828

PETER ELLIS BEAN TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches March the 5th 1828—

DIER SIR

this is a copey of a leter that I have Just Racivd from a friend of mine that Dont wish his name statid and by this you can see what is on foot By his letter—

Col^{n} Bean Sir after my Respects to you as a friend I feel it my Duty as a Cityson of this Goverment to let you now as you are the nearest ofiser to this Plase the Prosedings of a band of men that has Past this Plase a few Days agow they call them selves advans guard of a large army of Republicans, But if I should name them I should call them a Band of Robers thare is onley fifteen strong at Present and they git no Recruts hear in this Cuntrey but they say they have two or three hundrid troops hourly Expected my informasion is from the noted Doctor Daton who seems to head the Party he told me that he intendid to fall on S^{n} Antonio first if he should git men enough but if he should fail he intended to take Dilions [De Leon's] fort firs and was varry sertin that Dewits Coloney and

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Austins would Join him he also states that the Peopel on Ish bayo and those near Nacogdoches are to keep up a constant alarm in order to Draw the troops to that Plase, he says thare is fifty men on the way to meet him at the mouth of Poorwashitau the truth of this you must now for he says that Baley Anderson and a young man by the name of Blunt is in Company with them I also saw a leter from one Cap^{t} frith and Prater stated that they ware much in favour of the Plan and that M^{r} Prater would use all his influans with the Ingins he Names a M^{r} Litten who is to Join him on the Colorado with a company of men he say that they are to Join under the name of traping Expadision as to other Particulars you can inquire of M^{r} Williams who will give you this letter—

this is Sir atrew Copey of the original that is in my Posasion I also have informasion that thare is a man by the name of Cap^{t} Hall in your Colloney that is to Join with his companey this you will find out for I Dont now this M^{r} Hall this is all that I have to state to you But I hope your Pudans [prudence?] will inform your self and then Do what you may think Best and let me now

PETER E. BEAN [Rubric]

P. D.

this came from Pocan pint [Pecan Point]

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar, March 6, 1828.

THOMAS F. MCKINNY TO AUSTIN

Nacodoches March 14 1828

D SIR

yours of the 29th of Jany has been over looked in the post office until this morning otherwise I should have immediately complied with your request I do assure you I am at all times ready to check when in my power any thing like perturbattion of the inhabitants not only of your Colony but any other part of the Country my sincere disire is that the Country prospers and any thing which would have a contrary effect would be repugnant to my feelings

That Dayton has made an attempt to raise a party there is no doubt though from the best information we can get on the subject there has not more than eight or ten men been so base as to join him—Dayton's respectability in your Colony is much more extensive than in any part of this country and the general opinon is that the only revenge he seeks is to practise villiany be it of whatsoever nature or at whatsoever place that opportunity may serve a

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few men have been provoked to connive at his attempt from the treatment they have received in this country because that Dayton declared he would commit outrages upon this country would bring down the Indians upon them and other threats to that purport.

In December last there was a [day] designated for the inhabitants [to meet for the] purpose of swearing allegiance [to the State Constitution?] Burril Thompson and Demi . . . ed and Burrel manifested [some reluctance to] take the necessary oath and . . . his hand to assign his name a[nd] . . . the day when Piedras who w[as presiding?] . . . snatched the list from his [hand. Piedras ordered?] him and Hase to march for[thwith for the uni-?]ted States without any char[ges being made] against them, or any oportunity [given them for any] kind of defence it is unnecessary to say to you that such a course was productive of displeasure among the inhabitants and until this day the cause of their banishment is unknown. The Alcalde who accompanied Piedras for the purpose of cooperating in his measures was applied to in order to ascertain the motives or the crime of which those men were charged his reply was that he was not consulted in the matter nor was the cause made known to him and he himself disapproved of the course.

Piedras has persued an arbitrary course during his time here and the civil authorities of the place have hitherto been no obstacle in his progressions though the extreme weakness of the individuals in whom those authorities are reposed serve in some measure as an apology for his doing so provided he proceeded correctly himself. For some imprudent conduct of the Coles and others to Elisha Roberts and family which conduct amounted to nothing more than hooping and howling as aparcel of blackguards frequently do and killing a dog of Roberts's they were arrested by the Military put in strings conducted to Nacogdoches commited to prison bail refused without a trial for something like ten days when the trial commenced by the Military and the prisoners asked [for] permission to interogate the witnesses who replied in [a harsh and?] haughty manner that he would proceed . . . or custom of the country and during their [trial] frequently was heard say that it seemed [to him that] americans were accustomed to treat the [officers? with] disrespect though he had brought [a guard with?] him and would sustain him self that . . . had acted cowardly in consequence of . . . was now in disrepute and many other . . . vincing that he wished to awe or [intimidate the] inhabitants into obedience . . . kind were productive of nothing good . . . Ahumado[1] is still venerated among us and he could effect more here with his walking staff than Piedras with all his bayonets. It is to be regreted

[1] Mateo Ahumada, the military commandant who preceded Piedras.

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that Piedras brought with him to this place prejudices against the American inhab^{ts} which will be difficult to remove.

Another circumstance which produced considerable excitement was two men engaged in a combat when an old gambler by the name of ward interfered in order to make peace at which time a soldier arrived with his bayonet in his hand and observing a pocket knife in Wards hand and he engauged peremptorily ordered him to put the knife in his pocket Ward did not understand only from his manner which was menacing and did not obey the order until spoken by an American who explained to him what the soldier had said Ward immediately put the knife in his pocket though by this time the combatants had retired the soldier proceeded to call a guard who arrived Ward was pointed out by the insulted soldier to the guard who without any thing like an inquiry proceeded to beat Ward with their muskets in a beastly manner broke his arm in two places in that situation conducted him to prison. Piedras observed he would make a fit subject for sweeping the streets for the next six months and it was with difficulty that he could be prevailed upon after being informed of the circumstances to let Ward out of prison these circumstances I witnessed myself and if Ward had been a respectable m[an] . . . the excitement which pre[vailed] . . . would have been serious . . . He is now punishing a citizen . . . ducting from this place . . . giving him a certain num[ber] . . . making him carry a chai[n] . . . man deserves punishmen[t] . . . to do so the truth of . . . There is nothing like money . . . inhabitants Piedras has been borrowing on the faith of the Gov^{t} for some time past and his paper is in circulation for the amount of several thousand dollars still the inhabitants are satisfied that he has a quantity of money on hand and are at a loss to know his motive for retaining it some of us are rather suspicious of his principles and rather doubt his attachment to the Gov^{t} though we may not be justifiable in so doing it is a thing which we by no means make publick

I should be glad to hear from you relative to your trip to the interior the probable success of our Ayish Byou peticion when we may hope for relief of those who are in suspence in this quarter

THOMAS F MCKINNEY [Rubric]

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO HIS COLONISTS

Public Notice

The Commissioner has arrived to conclude the business of the first Colony of the Empresario Stephen F Austin, and to Commence

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that of the second, All those persons who have not received their titles will present themselves, immediatly as the Commissioner is obliged to return in the begining of June.

Sn Felipe de Austin 16 March 1828.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

GASPAR FLORES [Rubric]

JARED E. GROCE TO AUSTIN

Bernardo, March 20, 1828.

See Calendar.

HENRY S. BROWN TO AUSTIN

New Orleanes March the 21 1828

Col AUSTON

DEAR SIR I will inform you that I am still alived and have not for got the Texas I expect that I shall start with my family for that Contry this fall there is a good deal of talk about that Country in the Missouri and there is no doubt but the disturbance that took plase in edwards Colloney Caused a good many that was strongly in the way to moove to decline tho I think when they find every thing is going on well there a good many will moove from our Country there if it was so to happin that that Country was [to] fall in the hands of our goverment how son would it be one of the gratest, or in other words if slavery was admitted there or the people Cold be satisfied that they would be safe in taking there slaves there the emmigration would be grate I wold thank you to wright me on that subject and every other one that wold give information about the tines [times] of that Country one letter from you would do more good than 20 from some other men, I have bin informed after a certain time there cold be no more [slaves?] taking there perhaps after the first of January next tho that will give time for people to move this fall it is uncertain what part of the Contry I shall settle in tho I believe that I shall try near the cost—

HENRY S BROWN

Col S F AUSTON

N b give my best respects to Mr S Williams tell him I would thank him kindley for a letter) my plase of residence Missouri Pike Co^{t} Waverley

[Addressed:] Col Stephen F Auston
Austons Colloney
Texas by Capt Harris

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Austin to Political Chief

[From Bexar Archives]

Remito á V. S. las copias de las listas de eleccion hechas en esta jurisdicion de conformidad con los formularios q° V. S. me acompañó con oficio fha 6 del corriente.

Dios y Libertad.

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric.]

Villa de Austin 25 de Marzo de 1828.

Sor Gefe del Depart° C Ramon Muzquiz

José de las Piedras to Austin

Nacogdoches, March 26, 1828.

See Calendar.

Silas Fuqua to Austin

Brazos, March 28, 1828.

See Calendar.

Austin to James F. Perry

San Felipe de Austin
March 31. 1828

Dr Brother and Sister,

On my return from the seat of Gov^t^ of this State last winter I found your letter transcribing Leamings letter relative to the claim in New Jersey, and Brother James and myself without delay executed a power of attorney in due form to Mr. Leaming and sent it direct to him in Philadelphia

I know nothing of the title deeds for land in virginia that you speak of—I remember having seen two parchment deeds for land in that country in fathers writing desk about the time he removed to Herculanium—but what became of them or wheither they were for the tracts you allude to I know not. perhaps he took them with him in the desk to Little Rock

Brother and myself will give any power of attorney that may be necessary to prosecute our claim to the Mine á Burton property but we have not the means to advance money neither can we do it at any short period

You are doubtless ere this informed by Brothers letters of the important change that has taken place in his situation. he was married on the 20 of this month at this place to Miss Eliza Martha

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Westall—he has made a good choice and I think has secured his domestic happiness—we are trying to arrange matters to set him and John Austin up in the Mercantile business in which there is a good prospect of success—tho their begining is very small he expects to be in Orleans in May or June.

I once had a sister who could spare a few moments every six or eight months to drop a line to her unfortun[ate], absent, brother—Where is she? has time swept me from her remembrance, or has she too many cares, or too much amusement to allow a half hour to past remembrance—I feel almost cut off from the world, but still something in her own handwriting would be acceptable, how many children has she, how are they disposed of—what are her future calculations She can tell me a thousand things that will be interesting, for she can write nothing that will be otherwise, It has been more than 18 months since I have rec[d] a line from her own handwriting—I never expect to converse with her otherwise than by letter—time rolls on rapidly, tell her to improve it while she can in chatting once more on paper to her brother—

We move on here slowly, but quietly—this country will present a second Eden to posterity—wheither *we* shall find it such or not depends on the progress of emigration and improvements—

Farewell—give my love to all the children and to all old friends and particularly to Elias Bates and family and other relations

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr. James F. Perry Potosi Washington County *State of Missouri*

William Robinson to Austin

Napoleon,[1] April 2, 1828.

See Calendar.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar, April 3, 1828.

See Calendar.

Austin in Account with J. H. Polley

17th Novr 1827 James B Austin To J H Polley Dr
To team work nine days and half 9.50
Aprile 5th 1828 Stephen F Austin To J. H. Polly Dr
to hawling Corn from river 8.00

[1] A landing on the Colorado River.

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William W. Rivers to Austin

Colorado River, April 6, 1828.

See Calendar.

Thomas M. Duke to Musquiz

San Felipe, April 7, 1828.

See Calendar.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin

Saltillo 9. de Abril de 1828.

Sr. D. Esteban F. Austin

Mi appreciable Amigo: Ynfortunadamente esta es la fecha en que no há recibido esta casa la consabida plancha para la G.·. . . . [1] pidiendo la patente constitucional para abrir ese Taller; y lo siento sobremanera por los vehementes deseos que me animan para obsequiar á esa casa y á V. en cuanto penda de mis debiles esfuerzos y escasos arbitrios. Hace mas de un mes que tengo puestos en Mejico en poder delh.·.G.·. Srio la suma de cincuenta p^{s}. para pagar los dros de la gran carta, y facilitar de conseguir el resto si nos llevan el maximum que es el de 60 pesos. No sé como esplicar aV. el sentimiento que me causa la no venida de la peticion: haga V. por saber suparadero por el mismo conducto que la remitio pr. que sospecho que há padecido retencion en alguna mano poco delicada, ó ignorante.

Por una casualidad supe que el Libro que mandé á C. con mi ultima carta lo pusieron deporte enla estafeta, quando expresam^{te}. mandé á un oficial, (que entendio mi orn al reves) para que se franquease. Yo ruego á V. fraternalm^{te} se sirva disimular este chasco, y cargarme en cuenta su importe, pues nunca fué mi animo gravar en nada, los intereses de V. por esa friolera que quise fuera graciosa en todas sus partes.

Parece que se logrará una asignacion regular para el comisionado de plantacion de poblaciones en ese pais: ya he hablado cŏn algunos miembros dela Legislatura, y están por hacer la declaracion favorable y precisa atendiendo á la suerte de los colonos convinados con el interes y servicios del comisionado.

Digame V. algo dela comp^{a} de Nashville, pues deseo saber como há recibido las ultimas capitulaciones celebradas pr. v. y el Gob^{o} yo me inclino mucho pa esa solicitud porque la considero compuesta de hombres de luces y filantropia.

Aqui hemos recibido noticia de la entrada de unos aventureros pr. Puente pacana en n^{o} de 15. titulandose gran-guardia de un ejercito

[1] Certain symbols, probably Masonic abbreviations, are omitted.

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Republicano, que se supone trae miras conquistadoras, sin embargo de no contar mas de 2. á 300. hombres; con otras cosas que V. habrá sabido mejor que yo: deseo saber el caracter de tal empresa; esto es delos sugetos que componen esa partida, sus recursos y conexiones; la certeza de un cuerpo del centro y retaguardia: y el de algunas personas que vivan en ntro pais, y que son citadas como comprometidas en el proyecto.

Amigo recuerdo á V. mis encargos para facilitar en tpo mi viage; y viva persuadido de la amistad desu affmo Amo.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Erasmo Seguin to Austin

Bexar, April 9, 1828.

See Calendar.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bejar 17. de Abril de 1828.

Sor D. Estevan Austin,

Mi estimado amigo: contesto á su apreciable de 7. de atual diciendo que el derecho de peticion qe. tiene las municipalidades p^{a} promover todo cuanto sea condusente a megorar el comercio, la industria, agricultura etc. etc. no se estiende hasta formar y proponer proyetos de ley, cuya prerogativa solo se le á concedido exclucivam^{te}. por la constitucion al supremo Gov^{no}. del Estado; y portanto hé tenido por conveniente desir á ese Ayuntam^{to} qe. el proyeto de ley qe. me á dirijido sobre que se tengan por balidos los contratos selebrados en pais extrangero por los colonos con los jornaleros qe. uno y otros emigren á este;[1] lo redusco á formal representacion pidiendo se espida pr. el poder legislativo dha. ley fondandola en las bentajas qe. deben resultar á las familias llá emigradas, á las qe. emigren y los perjuicios qe. recienten por falta de brazos. sin embargo en el entretanto qe. esa municipalidad me remita la representacion p^{a} apoyarla y darle el curso qe. corresponde boy á mandar copias del referido proyecto á los Sres. Navarro y Arciniega, p^{a} que bayan adelantando sus trabajos en tan importantes asuntos.[2]

Juntamente transcribo á V. de oficio resolucion del H. congreso del Estado con referencia á la exportacion qe. V. tenia solisitado, de los frutos qe. les produce su industria á esos habitantes: creo qe. con esto nada emos adelantado pues el establecimiento de la Aduana

[1] For copy of the *proyecto*, see Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXI, 311. It was passed by the ayuntamiento Mar. 31, 1928.

[2] The law was passed May 5, 1828. See Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 213.

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Maritima de Galbeston es remoto se berifique pronto y en cuanto á la nacionalizacion de Buques hemos quedado con las mismas dudas, y en mi concepto entiendo qe. á los interesados no les queda otro recurso qe. ocurrir por si ó por apoderados al Govierno de la Union, é i[g]-norado si habra necesidad de qe. sus Buques sean esaminados antes de ser nacionalizados, por quien y en que punto; y para qe. pueda V. tomar algunas noticias sobre este asunto será bueno le consulte al Sor. Terran qe. tiene inteligencia en el ramo de Marina. segun las ultimas noticias qe. hé recibido me dan esperanza de qe. muy pronto se dará la ley para que Tejas se divida en dos partidos, y aunque esta á sido promobida por mi, pedi qe. por ahora en consideracion á la actual poblacion qe. tenemos se formase un partido desde esa Villa hasta Sabinas, esto es desde la parte deste lado del rio de los Brazos hasta donde se estiende la jurisdicion de sus dos empresas por consideracion alas mismas reflecciones qe. V. me manifiesta.[1]

Los males qe. há causado a Tejas el articulo 13. de nuestra constitucion[2] son incalculables, y como es incinificante la representacion qe. tenemos en la lejislatura no hay esperanza de repararlos: no me es estraño qe. los vagamundos abentureros difundan sus maquinaciones fraguadas al biento para distraer álas autoridades y alterar la tranquilidad de los pueblos, ni tampoco el patriotismo y filantropia de esos havitantes qe. han dado diferentes pruebas de su ádecion al govierno.

El Sor. Teran salio de esta el 13, deve arribar á esa Villa con deseos de tomar de V. algunas noticias pues aunque dice qe. tiene especies de haberlo conocido en lo que no cabe duda es en que de nombre si lo conoce y tiene formada buy [muy] buena opinion de V.

El Aranzel de Aduana por falta de ejemplares no lo he circulado, y concequente alo qe. V. me dice deve cumplirse en este Dep^to^ en la parte q. trata de proivicion de efectos: yó conosco lo perjudical qe. es á Texas y lo dificil qe. será llebarlo ajusto y devido efecto, pero este mal se podria en tiempo remediar si todos los Ayuntam^tos^. representaran pidiendo se les permitiera por lo menos los articulos de mas necesidad como son Arinas, Cafe &a. &a. se introdugeran de procedencia estrangera.

Espreciones alos Sres. Dn Santiago y Dn Samuel y V. mande a su afmo. Amigo y h.^r^.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

[1] The division, on somewhat different lines, was made by Decree No. 164, Jan. 31, 1831, ibid., 281.

[2] Forbidding the further introduction of slaves.

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Padilla to Austin

Los Señores Diputados Srios. del H. Congreso en oficio fecha de ayer me dicen lo sig^te^

"Ecsmo. Sors.—Esta Legislatura há resuelto digamos á V. E. que si aun no estan cubiertas las rentas del Estado de la cantidad de doscientos ochenta y cinco pesos que se facilitó al Ciud^o^ Juan Antonio Padilla en Orden de 16. de Marzo de 1827. p^a^ el funeral del Diputado Felipe Enrique Neri, con la calidad de reintegrarla, muy breve, Cuide V. E. se verifique inmediatamente."

Y lo traslado á V. como su primer Albacea, entendido de q. pr. una clausula del Testamento del finado, dejó consignada una suma mayor de pesos cobrable del C^no^ Roberto Luis p^a^ los gastos funerales á fin de que se sirva V. cobrar esta adeudo, y satisfacer la cantidad anticipada de los fondos del Estado en la Depositoria de Bejar tan luego como pueda verificarlo.

Dios y Libertad.

Saltillo 22. de Abril de 1828.

Viesca [Rubric]

J. Antonio Padilla Srio [Rubric]

Al C^no^. Esteban F. Austin

[Margin:] Por el oficio de V. E. fha 22 del popo. Abril en qe. me translado el oficio de los Srs Diputados Srios del Honorable Congreso de este Estado en fha del dia ant^or^ Quede impuesto de qe. se ha servido el mismo congreso resolver sobre el dinero facilitado al C Juan Ant^o^. Padilla pa el funeral del Difunto Felipe Henrique Neri.— En cumplim^to^ con el dho oficio de V. E. he tomado providencias para satisfacer la cantidad de dos cientos ochenta y cinco pesos En la Depositario de Bejar con la Brevedad que sea posible Conlo qe contesto á su citado oficio de V. E.

D y L villa de Austin 2 de Junio de 1828.

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Notice Concerning Trade with Texas

Mexico, April 22, 1828.

See Calendar.

Samuel C. Hirams to Austin

San Felipe, April 24, 1828.

See Calendar.

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THOMAS M. DUKE TO MUSQUIZ

San Felipe, May 2, 1828.

See Calendar.

THOMAS M. DUKE TO MUSQUIZ

Bexar, May 2, 1828.

See Calendar.

PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Leona-vicario Mayo 3, de 1828.

Sr. D. ESTEBAN AUSTIN

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO DE MI APRECIO: (Contesto á la grata de V. de 7. del pasado Abril, diciendole que segun el estado en que se halla el negocio del Sr. Esteban Richardson, es de absoluta conveniencia que remita un poder especial á favor del Amº D. Victor Blanco, actual Vice-Gobºr del Estado, y residente en esta capital con facultad de substituirlo en persona de su confianza pª que promueva el asunto hasta concluirlo en el Jusgado de distrito de Yucatan, qe. es el Tribunal á quien corresponde. Para la expedicion del poder remito á V. un mamarracho que podrá variarse *mutatis mutandis*, salvando las formulas.

El Amº D. Victor Blanco tiene que pasar á Mejico á fines de este mes, y lleva encargo mio muy particular á cerca de este negocio: há consentido en admitir los poderes del Sr. Richardson y substituirlos formalmente en favor de algun sugeto de probidad y luces que le destine el Sr. D. Lorenzo Zavala, actual Gobºr del Estado de Mejico, natural de Yucatan, á lo que no se escusará dispuesta la amistad estrecha y armoniosa que lleva con el Amº Blanco. Bajo tales auspicios no hay miedo de que el asunto se pierda, ni sea necessario que el Sr. Richardson haga viage á Yucatan, ni envie personero. Si a V. le parece bueno este plan puede aprobarlo, y sinó me advierte todo lo que quiera y vamos á otra cosa.

No vino en este correo la iniciativa de ley de ese Ayuntamtº pr. conducto del Gefe del Departamento, como V. me anuncia en su citada carta,[1] pero de acuerdo con Navarro, tomé mis medidas pª que se presentara por la comision de colonizacion en proyeto la misma ley sin variacion; y está corriendo tramites: hay su temor de que se pierda este asunto por una faccioncilla que se há formado en el Congreso para un objeto diverso de que instruire á V. mas

[1] Probably the bill recognizing labor contracts between servants and employers. See above, Musquiz to Austin, Apr. 17, 1828.

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adelante. Los asuntos de un congreso quando se personalizan traen consecuencias funestas de mucha magnitud: la guerra que se hacen los partidos y las represalias que en consecuencia se cometen, no pueden producir otra cosa qe. el destrozo de las instituciones.

Como acabo de indicar, (entiendase todo esto y aquello con la reserva conveniente) el congreso acaba de expedir un decreto anti-constitucional enteramente como puede V. verlo por la copia que es adjunta: Este es el famoso part° de una faccion hasta del 8. contra 4. bajo el No. 50. El Gob° en uso de sus prerrogativas, y en cumplim^to de sus deberes lo há debuelto con las observaciones de que tambien acompaño un ejemplar, previo dictamen del consejo que en copia es asi mismo adjunto.[1] El cotejo de estos documentos con la ley fundamental, asombra ál genio menos avisado, del atrevimiento y descaro con que se pretende hollar á toda luz ese pacto que es la ancora de la existencia politica del Estado. Pero dejemos esta materia por un momento que yerve la sangre de solo considerarla: y vamos al caso. Es conveniente que V. haga que el Ayuntam^to de esa Villa, haga una representacion al Gob° luego que reciba la ley No. 50 si es que llega á publicarse, pidiendo su derogacion por ser claramente opuesta á la constitucion, protestando su sumision á esta que es la ley fundamental, y que si son tan graves los apuros del Erario publico, la nueva colonia está presta á contribuir con la parte que le corresponda se pide á los todos los pueblos una contribucion general p^a cubrir los gastos dela manera que lo exije el art° 205 de la constitucion, renunciando p^r esta vez los dros ó privilegios que les conceden la ley de colonizacion de 24 de Mzo de 1825 y otras.

Si V. puede lograr que en esa colonia se persuadan dela idea será muy conveniente á la estabilidad dela forma de Gob^no el sagrado respeto con que debe mirarse la constitucion, y se ponen de hecho en la necesidad de confesar su error, ó caer bajo el peso dela opinion publica, que es el Tribunal mas inexorable.

Ese defectuoso decreto No. 50 aunque se ratifique y se promulgue en el Estado, estamos ciertos que en las camaras de la union no pasa, y que se declarará nulo, pero como no hay tpo p^a q lo tomen en consideracion, p^r que llegará á Mejico despues dehaberse cerrado las sesiones prorrogadas hasta 21. del corr^te. no podrá verse hta Enero del año que entra, y habrá causado todos los males que tratamos de evitar.

A resultas de haber entendido yo las observaciones del Gob° como es de mi peculiar obligacion como serio del Gob° me ha declarado guerra la faccion dominante del congreso para mortificarme por

[1] For the decree, see Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 211. The dictamen of the governor's council and the message of the governor arguing the unconstitutionality of the law are omitted. For further discussion of the passage of the law, see Navarro to Austin, May 17, 1828.

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todos los medios que le Sugiere su falta de pudor y delicadeza. Por la comunicacion oficial que con esta fha se dirije á V. firmada en 22 del pasado vendrá en conocim^to de que quieren que yo satisfaga los 285 ps que se me facilitaron en Marzo del año pasado p^a el funeral del finado nro. Amigo el Sr. Baron.

Estando escribiendo esta carta há venido del cong^o una reconvencion sobre qué resultado há tenido la orn de 21 de Abl. relativa á mi. Aun no le doy cuenta con ella al Gob^or y no sé que acordará. Ynteresa porlo mismo que V. haga un esfuerzo porque se entere en Bejar en poder de D^n José Ant^o dela Garza, Depositario delos fondos del Estado la suma indicada á toda costa, por el Sr. Roberto Luis ó por V. haciendo cualquiera sacrificio, á trueque de cubrir esta maldita anticipacion, que sin forma ni figura de oficio se me exije pr. un cuerpo deliberante, usurpando las funciones judiciales. Reserve V. todas estas noticias pr. que dá verguenza que se tome tan baja venganza de un funcionario publico por sus opiniones politicas en defenza de la ley fundamental del Estado.

Por el correo inmediato voy á escribir á Mejico sobre todos los puntos que V. me consulta en su citada, y de lo que adquiera le daré oportunos avisos. El adjunto ejemplar de la novicima ley sobre regularizacion de cartas de naturalesa á los estrangeros darán á V. solucion sobre algunos particulares contenidos en su carta.

Tengo la mayor satisfaccion al anunciar á V. que por este correo se comunica pr. conducto del Gefe de ese Departam^to la resolucion del Ministerio de Relaciones concediendole el permiso de colonizar las diez leguas litorales desde la Baca al S^n Jacinto: digame V. en q otra cosa puedo serle util.

Parece que hay bastante quietud en toda la Republica: Bravo y complices han sido indultados pr. una ley, y espulsos de su territorio pr. seis años; acaban de salir de Mejico hace pocos dias pa sus destinos: esto prueba que triunfa la causa de la Patria y que en el Gob^o hay energia. Nada, nada se teme del partido contrario, pr. qe este está muy abatido y destrozado.

Sin duda que Guerrero será el Presidente 2^o de la Republica: está muy recomendado y tiene adquirida mucha fama y opinion: el Vice-Presid^te puedo ser Bustamante, Gomez Pedraza, ó Zavala,

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

P. S.

Remitame otra plancha de peticion p^a la G . . . . L.[1] pr. que aquella no ha venido.

Austin to Musquiz

San Felipe, May 5, 1828.

See Calendar.

[1] A symbol is here omitted.

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TERAN TO AUSTIN

Mayo 8 1828

S. D. ESTEBAN AUSTIN.

MI ESTIMADO S^r Y AM^o DE MI APRECIO: El sugeto qe. tendrá el honor de prescentar á V. esta desea como ya hé indicado establecerse en esta colonia, y p^a arreglar las cosas necesarias me pide introduccion p^a tratar á V. Me tomo la libertad de hacerlo en confianza de la buena disposic^n de V. p^a favorecerme, experando qe. p^r el conocim^to qe. tengo de este individuo desde qe. salimos de Mexico pueda dar testimonio de su honrades y actividad.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

THOMAS R. LEAMING TO AUSTIN[1]

Philad^a May 8^th 1828

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Esq

DEAR SIR

* * * * * * *

I feel disposed Sir to try to advance your interests in colonising your settlement and for this purpose would advise your sending me specific terms at length, which you grant to Settlers containing also a fuller description of the Country its face, health, situation, productions local advantages and the kind of settlers already there, their religion, whether all sects are tolerated there, if there is any established religion of the Government and how it is supported. I applied to M^r Tanner as you requested respecting publishing a map of Texas to which he acceded eagerly. He said that he would be at all the expense of engr[aving] and publishing and [furnish] you with a certain number of copies to be hereafter agreed upon. He supposed that as Coahuila was a part of the province of Texas you meant to include that. I could not answer this.

I have just seen M^r Tanner and he thinks the map should be about 45 by 33 inches and advises your laying it down on that scale. He says he could not allow you more than a dozen copies for yourself as he must rely considerably on the sale by you to disburse the expenses. Not being willing to delay writing you any longer and being about to set off on a Journey tomorrow, I am compelled to be brief in this * * *

THO^s R. LEAMING.

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[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry, Houston, Texas.

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Austin to James F. Perry

Texas May 10. 1828

My Dear Brother and Sister,

This will be handed to you by Mr. John Austin a relative of ours. he has business in St Louis and has promised to call at the mines and see you—his stay probably will be very short, tho. long enough to give him time to answer your enquiries relative to this country

John has been with me several years in this country, he is a truly worthy man and you must make him as comfortable as you can while with you—

I wrote you a short time ago and have nothing particular to say since—Brother will write you from Orleans

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

B. M. Cutter to Austin

Matamoros, May 13, 1828.

See Calendar.

J. M. de Beramendi to Austin

Bexar, May 15, 1828.

See Calendar.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bejar 15. de Mayo de 1828.

Sor. D. Estevan Austin

Mi apreciable y digno amigo: sin ninguna de V. á que contestar, me reduscо á comunicarle de parte de D. José Antoº Navarro que há conseguido se apruebe en la lejislatura del Estado una ley que garantize los contratos en paises extrangeros qe. entre los Ciudadanos coahuiltejanos y los cirbientes qe. quieran benir á serbirles;[1] anunciandome qe. para el procimo correo se sirculara por el Gobor dha. Ley.

De oficio traslado á V. la concesion qe. ha obtenido del Gobno Supremo dela Union para colonizar el terreno Lictoral contiguo á su colonia, por este suseso doy á V. la enorabuena, y como interesado qe. estava desde mucho tiempo adquerir una propiedad inmediata ala costa le recomiendo á V. se sirba reserbarme dos porciones de

[1] Decree No. 56, Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 213. For the history of the law legalizing evasion of the constitutional provision against the introduction of slaves, see Barker, *The Life of Stephen F. Austin*, 236–242.

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tierra en un local el mas bentagosamente cituado y qe. tenga las cualidades de estar inmediato á uno de esos rios navegables, sea propio para la ciembra de todos los frutos que se producen en el pais, para la cria de ganados, tenga muchas maderas, y en fin todas las riquesas á que son supsetibles esas ferazes tierras, y qe. cada una de dhas. porciones contengan una superficia de onze leguas quadradas, pues la una como dejo dho. la solisitaré para mi beneficio, y la otra será para mi Ermano Politico D. Victor Blanco, quien desde el correo anterior, me dise recuerde á V. su encargo que le hizo á la vez que estubo V. en el Saltillo con relacion á este asunto, esto es qe. V. le informase del mejor terreno qe. hubiese quedado sin enagenar en dha. colonia; y no dudando se tomara V. esta molestia espero qe. cuando selo permitan sus ocupaciones me remita noticia bastantem^te^ circunstanciada de ambas dos porciones de tierra en terminos que nos sirban de norte para instruir nuestras peticiones al Supremo Gov. del Estado.

El Sor. Teran tiene intencion de lebantar un plano topografico de todo este Departam^to^. á cuyo efecto me á pedido tome aqui noticias del terreno interior entre el Norte y Poniente, mas como V. las há adquirido muy circunstanciadas delos mejores practicos de estos terrenos ala vez que tiene inteligencia en la geografia, le digo que de ninguno otro las podrá recivir mas exactas qe. de V. y yo espero no le escaciara sus conocim^tos^ en tan importante asunto.

Por una Ley de las camaras dela Union se autoriza el Presid^to^ dela Republica pr qe. confine immediatam^te^ á todos los qe. tomaron partido por el plan de otumba [1] pudiendo ásistireles á los militares comprendidos, asta con la mitad del sueldo que disfrutaban mientras duran en el destierro, y los que deste se buelban al territoroa dela Republica antes de haber cumplido con su condena son declarados fuera de la ley: Esta dispocicion será ejemplar para los qe. cospiren contra el Gov^no^ establecido, sin embargo yo siento á los grales. Bravo y Barragán pues el equiboco de opiniones que hán tenido no destruira los importantes serbicios qe. hán prestado á nuestra independencia.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

AUSTIN AND WILLIAM RABB: AGREEMENT

San Felipe, May 16, 1828.

See Calendar.

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[1] Abortive revolution of Dec. 23, 1827. See H. H. Bancroft, History of Mexico, V, 37.

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TERAN TO AUSTIN

En la inmediac^{n} de la casa de Holland mayo 17 1828.

S. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MUY SR. MIO Y AM^{o} DE MI APRECIO: Las lluvias nos han atrasado un dia, y nos causan molestias á cada paso[1] sin embargo logre una observacion qe. no se me proporciono en los dias qe. estuve en esa, p^{a} longitud y latitud qe. aun no he calculado y corresponde al punto en qe. estuvimos campados en la reunion del cam^{o} qe. siguimos con el qe. viene de la casa de Gross ó camino de la Magdalena: deje ajuntado en un arbol el n^{o}. [nombre] *de la Virgen* qe. me ocurrio, poner a dho. paraje; p^{o} otro añadio la distancia de 6 leguas, qe. es un error, pues no baja de 8 á 9 la qe. hay de alli á Austin. Sirvase V. encomendar qe. se conserve la situacion de ese punto, p^{r}. qe. la observac^{n} p^{a} longitud fue muy buena, pues se me presento el primer satelite de Jupiter con una claridad qe. no he tenido en otro punto de Tejas.

Suplico qe. se dirija la adjunta, y qe. tenga V. bondad de expresar mi afecto á los SS. D. Samuel y D. Gaspar, y de disponer lo qe. guste, p^{a} qe. lo complasca como desea su afto. amo. y servr. q. s. m. b.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN. [Rubric]

JOSÉ ANTONIO NAVARRO TO AUSTIN

Leona Vicario 17 de Mayo de 1828.

Sor. D^{n} ESTEVAN AUSTIN

APRECIABLE AMIGO AUSTIN: Cuando recivi su amable de V. de siete de Abril po. po. aun cuando tenia efectivam^{te} mucha colera con V. por haberme faltado asus protestas guardando un criminal silencio desde qe: se fue de esta Ciudad yo, como que soy *Christiano y amigo del Sor. de la capilla* hubiera contestado a su devido tiempo, pero en verdad que no pude, porque nos ocupabamos entonces del ruidoso proyecto de Ley propuesto pr. los Diputados, Gonzales Cardenas, Rojas, el cura Sanches y nuestro amigo Arciniega, con el objeto de suspender el consejo de Govierno Gefes de Departam^{to} y de Partido y Tesorero. En efecto el tal proyecto corrio sus tramites y despues de haver sido discutido en la sesion del dia 15 del pasado qe. fue muy ruidosa y en la que conbatimos al tal proyecto, yo, Madero, Echais y Tijerina, quedó aprovado con aplauso de lo mas del Pueblo.[2]

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[1] For an account of Teran's march from San Antonio to Nacogdoches, see *Southwestern Historical Quarterly, xxix*, 257–288—the Diary of José Maria Sanchez.

[2] See Padilla to Austin, May 3, 1828, and Arciniega to Austin, May 17, 1828.

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Amigo mio, esta son las cosas del mundo. Madero y los otros qe. V. sabe eran mis antagonistas, opinaron lo mismo qe. yo en esta vez, porque á la verdad en mi juicio, semejante ley ha atacado enteram^te^ la constitucion del Estado, no obstante estar los mas á fabor de ella á ecepcion de nosotros cuatro y el Gobierno qe. la debolvio con observaciones á las qe. no se les iso aprecio y la ley se publicó, cargando nosotros solos con el descontento casi gral. de los saltilleros.

Las actas de esa discuscion se ban á imprimir y por ellas berá V. todo lo qe. se combatio y habló en pro y contra.

En medio de estas sircunstancias desfaborables á nosotros hubo la buena suerte de ganar partido y lograr como se logró qe. se sansionara la Ley sobre autorizar los contratos échos en paises estranjeros como V. deseaba y tengo la satisfaccion de anunciarle qe. irá en este mismo correo de hoy.

La reputará V. dha. Ley como un obsequio qe. le hago en pago de los corajes que V. me ha echo haser con su silencio, por cuya conducta, me havia propuesto no escrivirle nada nada, mas ya he dho. soy amigo del Sor de la capilla y he olvidado estos agrabios.

Aun le queda á V. qe. desagrabiar con una larga carta á mi tia D^a^. Ana Petra de Peña qe. esta demaciado sentida con V, porque dise que no ha visto letra suya. ayá se las componga V. con ella porque yo le perdonaré á lo mio, mas no seré abogado p^a^ eludir la Justicia en lo ageno.

Refugita, siempre hermosa y siempre linda, pero no p^a^ mi ni ningun comanche, que nosotros buscaremos pr. hay entre esas *coloradas* del norte America p^a^ que nos hagan buena mantequilla y demas, aunque no nos rezen el rosario ni la santa Novena de san caralampio.

Asegureles V. á esos compatriotas qe. mi corazon es todo de ellos, por Justicia, pr. identidad de costumbres y pr. sinpatias inpresindibles y efectivas del hombre, qe. lo qe. no se haya podido haser es asi puram^te^ por no haverse podido, pero por deceos y dilig^as^ en cuanto cabe, hase y hará en obsequio de ese Departmen^to^.

José Antonio Navarro. [Rubric]

Miguel Arciniega to Austin

Ciudad de Leona Vicario, Mayo 17, 1828.

Mi apreciabilismo amigo Austin. Por su favorecida de Vd. de siete de Abril ppdo. q. Vd. se sirve escribirme á mi y nuestro amigo Navarro, recomendandonos el proyecto de Ley q. nos adjunta, tengo la satisfaccion de decir á Vd. q. siendo nuestro amigo Navarro uno delos Yndivid^s^ q. componia la Comision de Coloni^on^ luego presentó

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el citado proyecto al Congreso quien despues de haber corrido los tramites de estilo, y puesto á votacion se aprovó afortunadam^te^ aunqe. con cierta corte pria como verá Vd. en el Decreto que por el Corr^o^ de hoy supongo le circularán á los Pueblos, digo afortunadam^te^ porque sino hubiese ordo la casualidad de estar en divergencia de oposisiones los Dip^s^ por una prop^on^ q. se hiso en Congreso pr. suspender el Consejo, Gefes de Dep^to^ y tesorero q. al ultimo salio la ley, creo seria equibocarme q. el asunto q. Vd. nos recomendó no hubiera salido ganante pero en fin ya salido no resta otra cosa qe agitar los contratos á efecto es hacerse de Sirv^tes^ y antes q. salga otra Ley q. lo impida.

No tengo otra cosa q. comunicar á Vd. por ahora, y q. verdaderam^te^ se deve la casualidad a estar Yo en este momento muy ocupado, pero en otra ocasion seré mas prolixo.

Las notic^s^ del dia ya las habrá Vd. visto en los Periodicos, parece q. los Sres. Gachupines tratan de romper guerra con nosotros ya veremos sinó salen con la cola entre las piernas.

Mig^l^ Arciniega. [Rubric]

Robert H. Williams to Austin

May 18, 1828.

See Calendar.

Austin to Teran

IMPERFECT COPY OF LETTER TO GRAL TERAN—MAY [ABOUT 24], 1828

muy estimado Sor y amigo de toda mi consideracion y aprecio He recibido la muy apreciable de V. fecha en la inmediacion de la casa de Holland 17 del corriente la carta qe. me incluyo p^a^ el Sor. Ybarra se dirigira por el primer correo. p^o^ dios sabe quando esto sera, porqe. hasta ahora no ha llegado el de Bexar, esta detenido sin duda por la inundacion. El colorado ha subido mas qe. en otros años todos los Bajos en las inmediaciones de sus margines estan inundados y las milpas destruidas. parece qe este rio de los Brazos ha querido emular el Misisipi ha exedido el crecim^to^ del año 26, y aniquilado las esperanzas de los agricultores qe. tenian habitaciones y milpas sobre sus margines. desde la salida de V hasta hoy, ha subido. parece qe. a noche llegó a su mayor altura, y espero qe. empiesara á bajar pronto. Me hubiera sido menos sencible una invasion de todos los barbaros del norte porqe. el influjo qe. tendran estas inundaciones tan seguidas sobre la imigracion y adelanto del pais sera fatal. hasta ahora nos hemos lisonjeado qe. los otros crecim^tos^ delos años 25 y 26 erán ex-

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traordinarias producidas por unas combinaciones accidentales de varios corrientes del ayire [aire] qe. causaron una union casual de gran masas de nubes, pero la observacion va probando qe. la collección excesiva de nubes en la region de las cabazeras de estos rios es el resultado de causas permanentes qe. son los vientos del Sur y Sud Este qe. siempre prevalen en los meses dela primavera, y vienen spre. cargados de vapor de las regiones meridionales del seno Mejicano— la fuerza o velocidad de estos vientos va disminuyendo gradualm^te á proporcion qe. se alejan de la costa hasta perderse en calmas ó corientes variables, y en aquel punto por consequencia ha de haber una colleccion inmensa de nubes qe. se condensan era por la attracion de las tierras altas ó por la operacion de los ayires del norte y nord ueste, y descargan torrentes.

desde qe los nuevos pobladores empezaron aqui hemos luchado contra grandes difficultades y el mismo espiritu emprendedor qe. nos traslado al centro de este despoblado nos ha spre sostenido, pero para luchar contra los mismos elementos dela naturaleza se requiere una forteleza qe. no se puede esperar encontrar en lo general de los hombres y hay justos motivos qe. temer qe. estas inundaciones y las perdidas y enfermedades fatales qe. les siguen disanimarán los habitantes enteram^te—hasta ahora no hemos recibido apoyo ó auxilio ageno. nos hemos sostenido nosotros mismos—la esperanza spre activa en su joventud nos alimentó y el mismo genio y caracter constante laborioso y perseverante de los imigrados allanaron quantas dificultades se presentaron—pero empiesa á cambiar este estado de cosas y necesitamos qe se nos estiende el brazo protector de un Gob^no liberal y decidido en favor del adelanto de Texas—sin esto nos atrazámos. Se perdera lo ya hecho, y Texas sino vuelva a un dispoblado sera nada mas qe. un asilo p^a. los Indios barbaros del norte ó fugitivos de ambas naciones y por consiguiente un peso muerto y embarasado al Gob^no Mejicano.

La proteccion qe necesita Texas es [1] quitar por 6 ó 8 años la prohibicion sobre la entrada de esclavos. 2. quitar las restricciones q. impiden la poblacion de las diez leguas litorales de la costa y 20 limitrofes, 3. estender la franquecia de derechos sobre importaciones p^a el consumo de los habitantes hasta el año 1835 sin restricciones o prohibicion alguna. no veo razones fundadas en la sana politica qe. deben impedir la poblacion de las diez leguas litorales qe. no son igualm^te aplicables a todo Texas. si se temen la poblacion sobre la costa, mucha mas temible sera la del interior, porqe. esta se compondra de la gran masa del pais, y gosaran de recursos de cavallada, ganado, y muchos otros qe. nunca habra sobre la costa. si se temen qe. facilitaran recursos a un enemigo invasor hay igual motivo a temer qe. estos recursos se facilitara de las poblaciones

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fuera de las diez leguas, porque qe. embaraso compone 10 leguas en un pais plano como este y ademas seria mas facil a un enemigo desembarcar sobre una costa despoblada qe. de lo contrario porqe. la resistencia spre seria en proporcion a la fuerza fisica qe. se podia reunir en el mas breve tpo. otro razon contra esta restriccion es qe. esta casi impossible poblar lo interior de Texas sino por medio de una escalera el pie de la cual ha ser sentado sobre la misma costa empezando la poblacion alli y internandose en el pais a proporcion qe. adquiere fuerza para sostenerse de los Indios y proporcionar recursos. La naturaleza del pais y de sus productos presente otro argumento qe. es incontestable. Texas por su naturalesa ó ha de ser agricultor o de quedar de poco ó ningun valor no es un pais de minerales—puede ser de pastores, pero qe. compone la vida pastoral? el pueblo qe. la sigue exclusivam^te^ son spre inertos, ociosos, y pobres—bien, para qe. un pais llega á ser util y rico por medio de la agricultura se necesita exportacion y comercio estrangero, porque de otro modo los agricultores solo se restringiesen a las siembras suficiente para el consumo domestico habria abundancia de comestibles y abundancia de holgazaneria y vicios, porque. tres meses de trabajo tal vez bastaria para mantener una familia en comestibles por todo el año dejando 9 meses ociosos, o por mejor decir, viciosos porqe. tal es el geniro humano qe. no puede estar torpido y sino esta ocupado utilm^te^ caeria en el primer vicio o tonera qe. se presenta. El comercio estrangero pues es el verdadero alimento ó estimulo ala industria agricultora y este comercio sera mas ó menos prevechoso al interes gral del ramo de qe hablo. cuanto son mas o menos los impedimentos al trasporte y facil estraccion de productos.

ahora vamos a aplicar esto al caso de la restriccion sobre la poblacion de las dies leguas litorales. el objeto de esta restriccion, ademas de condenar una parte considerable del pais en desierto, es privar las poblaciones del Interior de toda facilidad de estraher sus productos. los fletes de trasporte serán subidos y existerian infinitos embarasos que no los habria si habia poblacion y riqueza alli en lugar de un despoblado y miseria la consequencia es inevitable que es la de embarazar y atrazar el gran intéres agricultor de todo el pais. Siento pues por incontestable que un pais cuya costa esta dispoblado y que carece de villas maritimas no puede florecer en el ramo de la agricultura, al grado que floreceria poblando la costa—tambien digo qe. en lugar de peligrar la tranquilidad del pais por la poblacion de la costa, se lo hace en sumo grado por lo contrario y que el verdadero interes del Gob^no^ Mexicano es poblar la costa y todo lo demas de Texas con pobladores ricos, emprendedores y industriosos cuyo interes es sostener el buen orden y defender el Gob^no^ siguiendo esta politica Texas formaria un estado rico y im-

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portante de la gran confederacion mexicana—y separarse de Coahuila y formarse un Gob^no territorial con un Gobor. y jueces de un tribunal supremo de justicia nombrados y pagados por el Gob^no nacional, y una diputacion o Legislatura territorial con ampleo poder para formar las leyes interiores y organizar los pormenores del Gob^no y administracion interior y con un delegado en el congreso nacional—

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Teran to Austin

trinidad mayo 29/ [1828]

S. D. Estevan Austin

Muy Sr. Mio y Am^o: Há llegado el correo qe. creimos perdido, y me ha traedo la ap^o de V. qe. contestaré puntualm^te en Nacodoches, á donde voy solo, volviendose los demas de este punto con los carruajes pr Bejar pr. el camino de arriba. Me siento muy enfermo, y tengo recelos pr. mi concerv^on en este clima.

Manuel de Mier y Terán [Rubric]

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin

Leona Vicario Mayo 31, 1828.

Sr. D. Esteban F. Austin

Estimado Amigo y Dueño: Tengo la satisfaccion de acompañar á [V.] copia de la carta del Sr. Ceballos en que instruye suficientem^to los tramites y requisitos que han de practicarse p^a la naturalizacion de un buque extrangero, en cumplimiento del encargo que sobre esta materia me habia V. dirijido.

Yo tendré la mayor complacencia en contribuir de alg^a manera al logro de este objeto, y p^a ello le requiero me instruya el tpo en que saldrá el negocio dela Sria dela Comand^a General p^a Mejico con el fin de escribir al Sr. Ceballos p^a que agencie su despacho oportunam^te. Yo creo á V. bastante relacionado enla com^a gral p^a que pueda necesitar de mi influxo: no obstante, si V. desea alg^a recomendacion por aqui, la podré conseguir muy eficaz de parte del Sr. Viesca para con el Sr. Bustamante: Hableme V. Con toda franqueza, pues deseo servirlo.

Parece que tendremos muy buenos empresarios p^a el terreno limitrofe: el Sr. Zavala estará á la cabeza de una colonia, el Sr. Filisola, á la de otra, y el cor^l Domingues á la de otra. Yo me lisongeo de estas empresas por que darán mucha mas importancia á esto ramo de la que tiene por si mismo.

Hé sentido no ver letra de V. hace algunos dias, temo que la causa sea p^r falta de salud.

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Sirvase V. presentar mis respetos y distinguidas consideraciones á ntros. Amigos :. :. contando V. ellos en toda vez con la decidida adhesion de su mas apasionado Amº y Ato. Servor.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

"Form of Contract for Introducing Servants into the State of Coahuila and Texas"

[Prepared by Austin for the use of immigrants who wished to evade the laws excluding slavery. The substance of the document is quoted by Lester G. Bugbee in Political Science Quarterly, XIII. For the circumstances of the passage of the law legalizing such evasion, see Musquiz to Austin, April 17, 1828, and Navarro and Arciniega to Austin, May 17, 1828.]

Austin to Governor of Coahuila and Texas[1]

San Felipe, June 2, 1828.

See Calendar.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar 12 de Junio de 1828.

Sor Dⁿ Esteban Austin

Mi Estimado Amigo tengo recividas tres muy apreciables de V. de 25 y 26 de Mayo ppdo. y 2 del actual cuya contestacion recerbo para el proximo correo por estar en el de este con mi espiritu muy ocupado aconsequencia de haver recivido noticias de que mi madre se haya gravemtᵉ enferma, y muy ocupado.

Dirijo al alcalde de esa villa el Decreto No. 50 qe. determina la suspencion del Consejo de Govᵐᵒ etc adjuntando las obserbaciones del Govʳ quando la debólbió Calificandola Anti-constitucion[1] Dictamen del mismo Consejo y propociciones de los autores de dho.[2] Decreto que ha atacado el Pacto de los Coahuiltexanos; yo por mi parte he representado al Gobᵐᵒ la infraccion que. ha cometido el Congreso del Estado pᵃ qe. se manifieste a las camaras de la Union y sea anulado con este fin he acompañado dhos. Documentos esperando qe. V. influirá pᵃ que ese Ayuntamtᵒ represente en cumplimiento de sus deveres, como empleados publicos en uso del derecho concedido atodo Coahuiltexano en el artº 218 de nuestra particulʳ constitucion.

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[1] From Translations of Empresario Contracts, p. 153, General Land Office of Texas.

[2] See Padilla to Austin, May 3, 1828, and notes for those documents.

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Al Sor. Zavala, Doming[s] y Felisola se les has concedido colonizar las 20 Leguas limitrofes ignora la cantidad de terreno qe. se habrá señalado á cada uno, y á Dn Santiago Werson (?) desde la Baca hasta el Rio de Guadalupe todo el terreno litoral.

Hagame V. favor de retornar mis cumplim[tos] a Dn. Samuel.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

P. D.

He mandado fixar en esta Ciudad y la Bahia abisos al publico recomendando la aprencion del negro qe. V. me encarga.

Al Ciudadano Esteban Austin

Vale

Sn. Felipe

J. ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Leona Vicario 14 de Junio de 1828.

Sr. D. ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN.

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO: Hace mucho tiempo que no veo letra de V. y esto me tiene con cuidado pr. que solo enforme podia dejar de escribirme en contestacion á tantas que le hé dirijido, y que de ninguna hé tenido respuesta.

Se aproxima el tpo en que tengo pensado marchar p[a] ese pais: y mi embarazo consistirá en no tener un carruage p[a] hacerlo con mi familia. Ruego á V. se sirva acordarse de este encargo, y de los que le hizo mi muger á su partida para esa, pues asi me lo previene.

Contesteme V. todo lo que tenemos pendiente de mis diferentes cartas. Ayer salio D Victor Blanco p[a] Mejico, y estará en aquella ciudad hta el 15 de Agosto lo mas: sino se aprovecha esta ocasion p[a] el buen despacho definitivo de asunto del Sr. Richardson, se perderá mas tiempo, y habrá mas dificultades para lograrlo.

J. ANTONIO PADILLA [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO LORENZO DE ZAVALA

San Felipe de Austin 24 de Junio de 1828

SR D. LORENZO DE ZAVALA

Muy Sor mio de toda mi consideracion, por cartas del Saltillo y del Gefe del Departam[to] de Bexar he sabido qe. V. y los Sros Filisola y Domingues estan interesados en unas empresas de colonizacion en Texas, Noticia qe. me ha sido sumam[te] agradable porqe. estas empresas dirigidas por caballeros tan distinguidos darán mucha mas importancia y peso a este interesante ramo. Considero qe. faltaria al deber qe. la amistad manifestado por V. en Mexico en el año 1823 me impone, si dejase de ofrecer a V. y a sus amigos mis cortos servicios

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en todo quanto puedo servirle y en efecto asi lo ofresco con franqueza y sinceridad.

Espero qe. V. me perdonara la molestia qe. le doy en llamar su atencion a un asunto de tanta importancia qe. el progreso de las nuevas colonias y aun la tranquilidad del pais depiende en la manera en q. esté manejado. El asunto á qe. refiero es esto. La mayor parte de los emigrados a Texas deben dinero en el pais de su procedencia, han emigrado aqui con la esperanza de poder con el tpo y la industria aumentar sus capitales p^{a} pagar sus deudas; A su llegada encuentran con un pais dispoblado sin recursos ó comercio y por consiguiente es imposible conseguir dinero p^{a} pagar estas deudas hta qe. el aumento del pais lo permite. han tenido qe. luchar contra toda especie de dificultades en su mudar y establecerse, padecieron mas qe. muerte rodeados de hambre, infermidades é Indios bravos, y por fin a merced de trabajos y miserias logran su establecim^{to} abren labores, fabrican casas y impiezan a hallarse en una situacion para viver y adelantarse. En este estado de cosas viene uno del pais de su procedencia con un reclamo y demanda del infeliz poblador todo su terreno, todo su ganadito, en fin todo quanto tiene en el mundo. no hay necesidad de argumentos p^{a} probar la dureza e injusticia de semejante demanda, solo daré unos ejemplos simples. Supongo qe. yo debo $500. pesos en el norte por cuya cantidad otorgué mi obligacion alli en el año 1818 despues estoy reducido a la pobreza por disgracias, y en el año 1821 emigro a este pais con mi familia consigo un sitio de tierra como poblador, abro mi labor, etc. en el año 1828 viene mi acreedor y procede contra mi demandando el pago inmediato de los $500 y de 8 pr. ciento pr. año de interes, qe es el interes qe se cobre en la Luisiana qe. por 10 años son $400. qe hace la suma de $900. Mi sitio de tierra en el dia no valdra mas qe. dos ó tres cientos pesos y el resultado es qe se me reduce á la miseria. El pais ahora esta floreciente, y en diez años por el aumento de la poblacion é industria el mismo sitio de tierra que yo habia adquirido á merced de tantos padecim^{tos} y trabajos y qe. mi acreedor me habia quitado por una friolera, valdra $5. o $6,000 pesos, y este valor no sera el resultado del trabajo de mi acreedor qe lo adquiere de mi, sino del progreso natural del pais y este progreso resultó de los trabajos y padecim^{tos} de los primeros emigrados—ó por mejor decir yo padesco mil muertes para establecer un desierto, adelantar el pais y beneficia la nacion á qe. pertenece y viene un estrangero p^{a} gozar todas las ventajas de mi trabajo dejandome con mi familia en la ultima miseria—digo qe esto no es justo.

Estos habitantes han sido sumam^{te} alarmados por unas comunicados publicados en las gazetas del norte diciendo qe. el ministro Mexicano en Washington habia dicho por oficio á aquel Gov^{no} qe.

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no hubo embaraso ó impedim^to^ ninguno en cobrar deudas estrangeras en Texas y en consequencia de estas publicaciones se han ya presentado muchas reclamas contra los emigrados a Texas—hasta ahora las autoridades locales no han procedido en estos casos, y es probable qe. en el otoño los agentes de estos acreedores estrangeros procederan al Saltillo p^a^ presentar sus reclamas alli. Este es asunto trascendental y grave. Si el Gob^no^ manda qe. se cobre dhas deudas sin dilacion y en el modo qe. se quiere las nuevas colonias estaran aruinadas enteram^te^ porqe el terreno y los bienes de los habitantes caeran en manos de estrangeros, y los mismos habitantes desesperados cometeran qualquier exceso. Repito qe es asunto gravissimo y soy de opinion qe. la suerte de las nuevas empresas de colonizacion depiende en el modo en qe. se dispone de ello.

Mi opinion es qe. se debe decretar por una ley, qe no se pueda cobrar de un emigrado qe se establesca en qualquiera empresa de colonizacion en Texas, ninguna deuda estrangera contratada en otro pais antes de su emigracion a este, sino en el modo siguiente—a saber—despues del año 1840 se pagará las deudas estrangeras en plazos de diez por ciento cada año sobre la deuda original, pero qe no se cobrará interes ó redito ninguno. es decir si debo $10.000, tendre qe. pagar $1000 cada año despues del año 1840 hasta pagarlo todo pero no se me cargará 6. ó 8. pr ciento ni otro pr. ciento ninguno pr año de interes sobre la deuda original [1]

Hay un rumor aqui que. en el tratado entre el gob^no^ mexicano y el del norte se ha garantizado el cobro inmediato de todas las deudas estrangeras de Texas—si asi es Texas esta aruinado tanto con respecto a su adelanto como de su tranquilidad.

La ley de qe hablo es justo porqe. con el tpo se pagará todas las reclamas estrangeras, lo qe nunca sucederá si se les cobre sin dilacion ninguna por ejemplo supongo qe yo debo $10.000 a diez diferentes personas, viene uno de ellas y me arranca toda mi propriedad y tal vez con todo no esta pagado, los otros nueve pierden sus deudas enteram^te^ y ademas yo soy destruido—esto no es justo—otra cosa es el deudor hubiera quedado en el pais de su procedencia oprimido con deudas nunca hubiera pagado ni un peso de ellos—pero va a un pais nuevo pa empesar de nuevo con la esperanza de poder con el tpo pagar todo, lo qe en efecto haria si se le dejase, pero si se le persigue cada dia perderia esperanza. Su familia caeria en miseria y tal vez por fin volveria un vagabundo ó hombre desesperado y un perjuicio publico sera el resultado.

[1] Decree No. 70, approved Jan. 13, 1829, carried into effect substantially the ideas presented in this letter by Austin. See Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 220. For procedure in passing this law, see Viesca to Austin, Aug. 8; Padilla to Austin, Aug. 9; Viesca to Legislature, Sept. 2; Austin's draft of the law, Sept. 8, 1828; and Padilla to Austin, Jan. 24, 1829. See also Barker, *Life of Stephen F. Austin*, 222–227.

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Es el politico del Gob^no^ del norte y de los hombres pudientes de los Estados del Sur embarazar e impedir la emigracion de sus conciudanos al territorio mejicano y particularm^te^ a Texas porque. los productos de Tejas de algodon y azucar pueden competir con los de aquellos estados, y saben muy bien qe no hay otro modo mas eficas de destruir las nuevas colonias, qe el de forzar el cobro inmediato de las deudas estrangeras, y tambien saben qe. si el principio en la colonizacion ya sentado en Tejas esta destruido, sera muchos años antes qe. se lograria otros establecim^tos^.

He entendido qe las leyes de las Indias no permiten el cobro forzoso de deudas estranjeras hasta pasado un tpo suficiente segun las circunstancias p^a^ qe el deudor se restablesca, y qe las propiedades adqueridas en el pais nunca son responsables p^a^ deudas estranjeras—si es qe. hay semejante ley sera de suma importancia dar a los emigrados de Texas todo el beneficio qe. pueden recibir de ella. y si no hay tal ley se debe en mi opinion decretar una, qe a lo menos protegeria los emigrados ya en el pais qe. han tenido qe. Allanar las primeras dificultades de establecer un despoblado. Los Estados Unidos del norte presente un ejemplo analago al de qe. hablo. A tpo de la revolucion aquellos habitantes debian Muchos Millones a los comerciantes ingleses. concluida la guerra y ratificada la paz con Inglaterra, los acreedores Ingleses intentaron forzar delante los tribunales el cobro de sus deudas. El Gob^no^ de los respectivos Estados advertiendo qe. muchos ciudadanos serian aruinados decretaron leyes para favorecer los deudores y protegerlos de sus acreedores estrangeros. El Estado de Virginia decretó qe. se pagase diez por ciento sobre la cantidad debiendo cada año, es decir si yo debia $1000, tendria qe. pagar $100. el primer año—dejando $900 debiendo, y por el segundo año tendria qe. pagar $90. qe son diez pr. ciento sobre los $900—y asi cada año hasta amortizar la deuda. El Estado del Carolina del sur decretaron qe. el deudor tendria el previlegio de pagar dhas deudas en bienes raices y efectos del pais avaluados por peritos, y tambien en plasos El principio en qe se fundo semejantes leyes fue qe. los Americanos habian gastado sus proporciones y tiempo en conquistar su Independencia y libertad y por consiguiente necesitaban indulgencia suficiente p^a^ poder restablerse. Los Emigrados a Texas se hallan en el mismo caso—han sacrificado sus proporciones y muchos años en conquistar un desierto y establecer un pais despoblado y la justicia, la sana politica y el bien publico todos declaran en favor de protegerlos de las garras de acreedores estrangeros, á lo menos hasta qe pueden restablececerse. Estos Emigrados han hecho un gran servicio a la Nacion Mexicana por sus esfuerzos en establecer estos despoblados, y me parece qe. la nacion debe protegerles enquanto pueda.

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Recomiendo este asunto muy particularm^te a V y al Gob^no es de muchisima importancia—ahora es facil curar, ó por mejor decir evitar el mal, pero una vez encendido los excesos de la desesperacion no habra otro paradero sino en las ruina.

One copy of this letter for Zavala one for Manuel ceballos—one for Genl. Teran[1] one for Musquiz—and one for the Gov^or. of this State *all but the first to begin at the 2d paragraph* To be added to the letter to the Gov^r of the State and Musquis before the last paragraph—

Es probable qe. en breve tpo el asesor del Estado ó el tribunal Supremo de justicia sera consultado sobre esta cuestion para saber si se pueda ó no cobrar dhas deudas estrangeras, y nos importa mucho aqui qe. se dé una opinion la mas favorable posible para los Emigrados deudores—

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Teran to Austin

Nacodoches Junio 24 1828

S. D. Esteban Austin.

Muy Sr. mio y Am^o

La escesiva transpirac^n qe. causan 5 ó 6 horas diarias de 93 grados de calor, á qe. no estoy acostumbrado me han extenuado en terminos qe. no puedo trabajar ni 4 horas al dia: á veces sube el term^o á 94 y pr. la noche si hay calma se mantiene en 81 y solam^te. á la madrugada baja á 75 ó 74. Deseo con ansia qe. lleguen mis termometros qe. he encargado á Orleans p^a. qe. remitiendo á V. uno, bien comparado, tengamos observac^s correspond^tes. aqui, en Austin y en Bejar.

Estamos conformes en la causa de las lluvias y grandes avenidas: y pr. desgracia en la de la sequedad y el calor actual: pr. qe. observo qe. á proporcion qe. avanzan las estac^s. primavera y estio las frescas reacciones del norte se dilatan en el tiempo, y son de menos intensidad, lo qe. es una consecuencia precisa de los mismos principios: las tierras mas altas y las cubiertas de bosque suben de temperatura, y la condensacion del viento S E. y de los vapores qe. este transporta, es mas lenta, ó se verificara á mayores distancias: dos retrocesos han sucedido aqui en 15 dias, y espero qe. otra no tardara; p^o ya son muy debiles: apenas traen lluvia y creo pr. esto qe. el viento S E. sera posedor pacifico, ó con poca resist^a de la region atmosferica; hta. qe. lo rechazen en octubre y nove. las masas densas del norte. Lo qe. me sorprende, pr. qe. soy habitante de la zona-torrida en Mexico, es la uniformidad con qe. gira todo lo concerniente al clima de

[1] The letter to Teran is in the Wagner collection, Yale university.

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tan vasta extension de terreno. En la cima de nras sierras, cada paso da una variedad una modific^{n} diferente de un mismo principio meteriologico; y aqui y pr. mayor extension en los Estados Unidos no hay mas qe. un mecanismo: con un hecho sencillisimo y la influencia de la latitud esta explicado el curso atmosferico de todo el siglo.

Sobre las medidas adaptables al incremento de la nueva pobla^{n} de tejas estamos igualm^{te}. de acuerdo; p^{o} con franqueza debo decir lo qe. jusgo: es muy dificil recavar una ley sobre esclavos; puede qe. de hecho se consiga algun dicimulo. Sera imposible conseguir una variac^{n} sobre las conexiones politicas de Tejas, si solo se pretende pr. medio de informes de viajeros ni funcionarios de ning^{a} especie, y sin qe. los habitantes pronuncien de un modo energico su rason y voluntad. Debe V. estimar esta reflexion qe. no he manifestado á nadie; y son muchos los qe. me han hablado de esto, tanto qe. yo creo de mi deber instruir al Gob^{o} de un deseo qe. anciosam^{te}. tienen los antiguos y nuevos habitantes de Tejas.

Por el mal terrible qe. padesco de inaccion y pereza, qe. en mi constitucion es un sintoma de muerte, no he calculado las observac^{s} del camino y pr. ahora contentese V. con la cituacion de este Pueblo.

Latitud	31°	36′	24″	
	Tiempo			
Longitud	6^{h}	18′	30″	al Poniente de Grenvich.
	Grados			
	94°	37′	30″	

Es el resultado de repetidas y buenas observac^{s} Remito á V. una noticia de un hecho qe. me ha sorprendido, suplicandole qe. me diga si algun naturalista del Norte se ha ocupado dél.

Me dijo Batres qe. V. tenia una Enciclopedia pr. un autor ingles muy recomendable; con cuyo antecedente estimare á V. me envie nota del autor, y del modo y costo de conseguir esa obra en el norte.

Notara V. mi letra muy desfigurada, y es qe. pr. efecto de mi estemac^{a} estoy tremulo. El Sr. Arispe me ha escrito varias y siempre me encarga qe. recuerde á V. su amistad y el afecto qe. le profesa.

Sirvase V. saludar á mi nombre al Sr. Williams, y de disponer del afecto qe. le profesa muy distinguido, su servr. y Amo. q. b. s. m.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

P. D. Tenga V. la bondad de exponer me su parecer sobre la cantidad de terreno qe. será suficiente conceder p^{a} el establecimiento de las familias qe. se hallan sin legitimidad en el pais, en el concepto de qe. trato de qe. todos queden establecidos.

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TERÁN TO AUSTIN

Noticia de Phisiologia vegetal, de que me he sorprehendido porque no tenia idea.

Conversando con el Cor[l] Piedras una noche de cosas de agricultura me dijo que cuando las gentes de este Pueblo querian abrir un poso, tomaban una horquilla de rama verde de durazno y se paseaban con ella por el terreno, observando el lugar en que se inclinaba, en el qe. hacian la escavacion con la seguridad de encontrar agua. Me rei de la especie y manifeste al Cor[l] que en mi juicio algun charlatan se habia burlado de su credulidad suponiendo que el hallazgo de agua, seguro en todo este pais, era obra de la varita de virtud. Se empeño en que lo creyera, anadiendo que él se habia burlado como yo del que se lo comunicó, hasta que sus propias esperiencias lo convencieron y se comprometió á hacer las que yo quisiera en mi presencia. Vino al dia siguiente trayendo algunas varitas en forma de horquillas, y por prudencia no quise estar presente á tiempo de la demostracion, sino que lo dejé obrar libremente en la huerta: despues de media hora de pasearse me llamó á gritos y vi que efectivamente el vertice de la horquilla se habia inclinado en sus manos ácia el suelo: tomé yo el instrumento de la manera que él quiso y al llegar al mismo sitio con todas mis fuerzas no pude impedir que la horquilla por una contorcion de sus fibras en los ramos laterales se dirigiera ácia el suelo:

Hemos repetido y variado el esperimento el Cor[l], el Sub[te] de Art[a] Sanchez y yo, y siempre se verifica que en ciertos lugares las horquillas se tuercen y dirigen al suelo, girando entre las manos del que las lleva: las plantas que hemos esperimentado hasta ahora tienen la virtud, son el durazno y el sauce de Babilonia. La horquilla propia es la recientemente tomada del arbol delgado (bien que yo he usado una de sauce de mas de 6″ lineas de grueso y se contorsió en un lugar con mayor fuerza) de media vara ó algo mas de altura perpendicular. Se agarra una pierna de la orquilla en cada mano, de modo que las palmas queden ácia arriba, y en esta forma se anda con mucha lentitud llevando la horquilla con el vertice arriba, desprendida del Cuerpo y á la altura de la barriga, y aun mas alta: la pausa de la marcha es importante para atender en el lugar en que la varita comiensa su movimiento de contorsion, por influencia de la humedad. Se ha hecho la esperiencia sobre un poso ya abierto y hemos hallado qe. se verifica con mas lentitud el movimiento. Estoy empeñado en observar hasta que distancia de la agua subterranea tiene lugar el fenomeno y las plantas que son mas sensibles ó simpáticas. Puede qe. este hecho sea muy sabido

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en otras partes; pero me llama la atencion porque creo es ignorado del mayor numero de las gentes con que he vivido, y en mis escasos estudios sobre los vegetales no he encontrado noticia semejante.

Tambien me parece imposible que ésta práctica introducida en este pais por los Americanos de los Estados Unidos, no haya merecido aun la atencion de los naturalistas de aquella Republica.

Nacogdoches, Junio 24 de 1828.

TERÁN [Rubric.]

DAVID THOMPSON TO AUSTIN

Nashville, June 26, 1828.

See Calendar.

GASPAR FLORES TO AUSTIN

Bexar, June 26, 1828.

See Calendar.

ERASMO SEGUIN TO AUSTIN

Bexar, June 26, 1828.

See Calendar.

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar 26 de Junio de 1828.

Señor Dn. ESTEBAN AUSTIN.

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO: sin embargo del mucho tiempo que diferido contestar a su apreciable de 25 de Mayo ppdo. acusa de mis cotidianos trabajos, en esta bez no podré llenar a todos los particulares que contiene y principiando por partes digo a la primera que mi animo y el de Dn Victor no es perjudicar alos colonos pues usando de la ampliacion de la Ley contamos obtener una merced de onse leguas cada uno.[1] Tampo queremos ocasionar a V. dificultades ni embarazo alguno, por lo que si a los intereses particulares de V. ó de sus colonias se oponen la adquisicion que pretendemos desistiremos del derecho de preferencia concedido a todos los Mexicanos y procuraremos otros terrenos en que no demos zelos ni quexas á nadie, me refiero a sus colonos que como no reconocen respecto de V. las consideraciones y gratitud ha que lo hacen digno los grandes sacrificios que le ha costado el consumar su dificultosa obra de Colonizacion le

[1] See Musquiz to Austin, May 15, 1828.

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han correspondido indignam^te^ para explicarme asi tengo los datos de su ultima recervada, los informes que me ha hecho D^n^ Gaspar, y lo poco que entendieron los Señores de la Comitiba del General Teran, quienes conmigo opinan que esos no merecen qe. V. trabaje tan asiduam^te^ por ellos. En fin buelbo a repetir nosotros queremos unos terrenos enteram^te^ libres y por tanto desisto de comprometer a V. a la injusta critica de los discolos, y por la misma ruego á V. me haga favor de tomar informes donde se haye de Sn Jacinto ha Trinidad un punto qe. contenga todas las qualidades que tengo a V. indicades quando le recomende este asunto, y que comprenda una superficie de treinta a 40 leguas quadradas por lo menos yá dentro del terreno litoral, y yá fuera; pues, Dn Victor, el Sor. Viesca, el Sor Campo, el Sor. Delgado y yó queremos reunirnos p^a^ esta pepueña colonita. Si hay facilidad de encargar á un hombre de Ynteligencia el reconocimiento de dho terreno, y que pueda dar una idea bastante circunstanciada de las cualidades de que sea mas recomendable, le estimare a V. le de esta comision y las instrucciones correspondientes pues yó satisfaré el trabajo segun se combenga con V. tengo empeño en la concecucion de este asunto hasi por mi interes particular como por el de los Señores que se han balido de mi.

A la segunda esto es el contenido de las seis proposiciones ¿que dire a V? en quanto ha todas ellas nuestra opinion está conforme, lo mismo lo esta Dn Jose Antonio y Dn Erasmo y creo que todos los hombres que conocen las bentajas que deven resultar, pero yó entiendo que será prudente esperar todo este año en que bá haver un cambiamento en el Estado y en el Gov^no^ General; pues segun la diputacion que tengamos en la legislatura, el Diputado y senadores en el Congreso General y por ultimo sepamos quien es el presidente de la republica, se comensará á uniformar la opinion de los Ayuntam^tos^ como que ellos lleban la bos del pueblo y se recabaran nuestras pretenciones, mas que debemos contar con el influxo de los empresarios Mexicanos de q. ablé a V. en mi anterior, aquienes supongo yá interesados a favor de Texas.

Ya me he esplicado algo en el primer parrafo con relacion a su segunda, todos estamos en favor de V. no desconocen la ingrata correspond^a^ de sus colones por quien ha padecido V. qual otro Robinson. si le faltan a V. al respeto y el alcalde carece de poder p^a^ sostener aV. havisemelo oficialm^te^ p^a^ solicitar un corto destacam^to^ que les auxilie, y si el tal Petis de cuyo hombre tengo largas noticias continua causando escandalos qe. pueden alterar el horden havisemelo V. p^a^ dictar las providencias que estan en mis facultades.

Yo siento muchisimo los disgustos de V. y satisfecho de la confianza con que V. francam^te^ me ha cignificado tan desagradables

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acontecimientos propongame V. las medidas que se puedan adoptar p[a] ponerlas en practica, y corregir qualquier mal que sea perjudicial ala sociedad y a V. en lo particular.

Biara marcho p[a] su destino: todos sus documentos fueron legalizados pr. mi.

Hagame V. favor de retornar mis memorias a Dn. Samuel y V. reciva la mas cordial amistad de su H.. y amigo. Q. S. M. B.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

J. ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Leona Vicario 28. de Junio de 1828.

MI QUERIDO AMIGO: pr. el ultimo correo he resivido ala vez las dos apreciables de V. de 25. de Mayo y 2. del corriente, pero siento infinito tener q. desirle no haver podido tratar nada á cerca del asunto de qe. en la ultima me habla con motivo de estar en cama hase una semana q. es la epoca en qe. resivi sus cartas, atacado de una fuerte desinteria q. me aparecio con todos los sintomas malignos q. caracterisan la peor. Estoy fuera de peligro pr. que se me asistio en tiempo y con eficaces medicinas, pero aun no estoy libre de las incomodidades q. trae consigo.

La unica dificultad q. se me ofrece en el asunto de V. es la incompatibilidad q. consibo hay en el desempeño ala vez de empresario y comisionado pr. ser diversas las atribuciones de uno y otro y en muchos casos ser necesario el informe de este para la resolucion de aquel.

Sin embargo de esta indicacion redoblaré todos mis esfuersos para q. el asunto sea despachado satisfactoriamente para el correo q. viene, y havisaré á V. de todo.

J. ANTONIO PADILLA. [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Sr. D. Esteban Austin

AUSTIN TO MANUEL DE MIER Y TERAN [1]

Sor Gral TERAN

El finominon del movim[to] de la barita p[a] indicar donde hay agua subterania, de q[e] V. me habla en su carta del 24 de presente mes, como supone V. ha causado muchas discusiones, ó por mejor decir conjeturas entre todas clases en los Estados Unidos del Norte. Digo conjeturas porq[e] hasta ahora los sabios y filosofos no han dado a este asunto la atencion q[e] en mi concepto merece, sea porq[e] originó con la gente ignorante y se le ha considerado como una preocupacion tan evidentem[te] opuesto al sentido comun y a las leyes conocidas de la

[1] From the Wagner collection, Yale University. The original draft of the letter is in the Austin Papers.

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naturaleza q^{e} no merezca investigacion filosofica; ó sea porq^{e} no han podido discurrir razones y esplicaciones q^{e} se creiera compatibles con la dignidad de la filosofia y de los sabios.

Entre el pueblo comun se llama esta ciencia, ó arte, ó facultad (porq^{e} a la verdad no sé q^{e} apelacion se debe darle) la "hechiceria de agua" y los q^{e} tienen la facultad "brujos de agua."

He entendido q^{e} empieza a llamar la atencion de hombres instruidos y q^{e} se ha publicado un tratado sobre la materia pero nada satisfactorio, no lo he visto. El nombre cientifico q^{e} algunos han dado a esta facultad es "Bletenism."

Hace muchos años q^{e} se ha practicado esta arte en el norte entre la gente comun, y pretenden q^{e} tiene ciertas reglas invariables, por ejemplo, dicen q^{e} sola una persona de todos los hijos ó hijas de los mismos parientes tiene la facultad, porq^{e} es facultad natural y no adquirida, y facultad del cuerpo de la persona, y no de la varita; q^{e} la varita del avellano (un arbusto muy comun en el norte que produce una nuez de buen gusto) es la mejor, y despues de esto la del saus, y despues de esto la del durasno; q^{e} la facultad es mas fuerte en unos que en otros, aun de los que la poseen y es mas activa en personas jovenes ó de edad mediana q^{e} en las quebrantadas por la vejez; q^{e} pueden determinar con alguna esactitud la profundidad del agua aunq^{e} sea 200 varas y si es abundante ó poca, etc. etc. Estos son las ideas q^{e} tienen comunmente sobre la particular, no pretendo decir si son fundados ó no.

Por muchos años yo burlé la idea de semejante facultad y no digo q^{e} estoy convencido, pero confieso q^{e} he suspendido mi opinion y q^{e} estoy mas dispuesto á creer q^{e} lo contrario, aunq^{e} he de creer ciegam^{te} sin poder dar razones q^{e} me satisfacen á mi mismo.

He visto algunos hechos curiosos. Un hombre hizo un pozo 40 pies de profundidad la mayor parte en una roca de cal muy dura, no hallo agua y lo abandonó, vinó uno de sus vecinos y examinó el lugar con una varita y dijo q^{e} en un cierto punto cosa de 10 varas del poso abandonado se hallaria una veta ó corriente de agua muy abundante y a una distancia q^{e} no pasaria de 20 pies de profundidad; El dueño del lugar no tenia fé pero por fin cedió y abrió otro poso en el punto indicado; la tierra y la roca era lo mismo, a lo profundidad de 17 pies halló un arroyito subterranio q^{e} tenia 1½ pies de profundidad y un pies de ancho q^{e} corrió en un canal en la roca. En otra ocasion entró un "brujo de agua" en una huerta é indicó varios puntos donde havia agua; despues el dueño hizo hacer el mismo experim^{to} por otro "brujo" y el segundo indicó los mismos puntos q^{e} el primero, con sola una variacion q^{e} no pasó de una vara. He visto muchos ejemplos de esta naturaleza y hay hombres en el norte q^{e} tienen tanta fé en la materia q^{e} nunca pretenden hacer un

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poso sin previa consultacion con uno del "arte." Yo por mi parte no puedo menos q^{e} decir, hay algo muy estraordinario en todo esto.

La idea q^{e} es facultad natural y no adquirida y solo poseida por un corto numero de personas es ciertam^{te} singular, pero no mas q^{e} infinitos otros finominos de la naturaleza.

Puede ser q^{e} la organizacion peculiar del cuerpo de siertas personas produce una especie de sympatia atractiva hácia el agua, y esta atracion estando concentrado a una punta por la varita se hace aparente, como por ejemplo con la electricidad q^{e} spre sale con mas fuerza de una punta q^{e} de un cuerpo grueso ó redondo, y parece q^{e} la tierra ha de servir de conductor para esta atracion, porq^{e} la barita no mueve sobre un puente encima del agua. he visto esperim^{tos} de esto, y lo q^{e} V. dice q^{e} la varita tenia el movim^{to} de contorsion con mas lentitud sobre un poso abierto q^{e} á su lado corobora lo mismo; y tambien parece q^{e} ciertos vegetales son mejores conductores p^{a} esta atracion q^{e} otros; y aunq^{e} esto parece singular hay casos analogos en la electricidad, por ejemplo una masa de hierro spre tiene la misma fuerza atractiva p^{a} la electricidad pero si no hay un conductor electrico no pasará el fluido. Si se junta la masa de hierro por una varieta de vidrio ó un hilo de seda a una maquina de electricidad bien cargada, no pasaria el fluido, pero juntandolo con una barita de hierro ó otro conductor electrico pasa el fluido en el momento, y tambien unas substancias conduce el fluido con mas facilidad q^{e} otras. Tal vez puedemos suponer q^{e} el misterio de la varita es algo analogo a estos finominos bien conocidos de la electricidad y aunq^{e} sabemos q. asi es, no puedemos decir porque y como es. no sabemos porq^{e} el hierro, la humidad, la madera verde, etc., etc., son conductores de la electricidad, y el vidrio, la seda, la sera, etc., etc., no lo son.

Repito q^{e} en mi concepto esta materia no ha recibido de los sabios la atencion q^{e} merece, puede ser q^{e} todo es una quimera y elusorio, pero hay tantos ejemplos de acierto en los q^{e} pretenden tener la facultad, q^{e} a lo menos hay motivo q^{e} dudar q^{e} hay algo en la idea vulgar de la "hechiceria de agua" q^{e} merece investigacion filosofica.

Entre otros ejemplos de q^{e} he sabido es el siguiente; una persona q^{e} no poseó la facultad tomo la varita y no hubo movim^{to} ninguno, pero otra persona q^{e} la tenia agarro el primero, por los brazos, una mano sobre cada brazo de manera q^{e} el primero paseaba delante con la barita en sus manos y el segundo siguió tras de él teniendole por los brazos, y en esta situacion luego q^{e} llegaron al lugar donde hubo agua la varita tenia el movim^{to} de contorcion lo mismo como si estuvó en manos del q^{e} poseó el "arte." Yo sospeché q. el movim^{to} fue dado por la estucia del segundo dando algun movim^{to} a los brazos del primero; pero ambos dijeron q^{e} no fué asi.

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Villa de Austin 30 de Junio 1828.

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AUSTIN TO TERAN [1]

Villa de Austin 30 de Junio 1828.

Sor Gral MANUEL MIER Y TERAN

MUY SOR MIO Y AMG° DE TODA MI CONSIDERACION. tengo a la vista la apreciable de V. fecha 24 del presente siento mucho que V ha padecido tanto de las calores y de la enfermedad de nuestra clima. Desde el principio de este mes hemos experimentado calor escesiva y sequedad, pero estamos en lo gral, todos libres de calenturas o otras infermedades. Apreciaré mucho tener un termometro arreglado al que tiene V en ese, y al que tiene el Sor Bastro en Bejar, para poder formar idea del temperam^to comparativo de dhos puntos.

Las reflecciones de V relativas al clima y los vientos de esta region me parece muy justas y acertadas. Si pasa V el invierno en Tejas veria muchos cambios de temperatura y de los vientos tan repentinos, y al parecer sin causa, q^e sin duda causaria sorpresa, porq^e sera tan diferente de lo q^e se esperimenta encima de los cerros dentro de los tropicos. Alli la altura y la localidad obrando contra el influjo de la latitud produce una uniformidad estraordinaria todo el año, pero aqui es todo lo contrario.

Aprecio sobremanera lo q^e V me dice relativa a las medidas adaptables para el adelanto de Tejas. Con esta carta incluyó una relacion historica de esta Colonia q^e prometi dar a V. y tambien una carta relativa al cobro de deudas estrangeras en Tejas. este es asunto enterasante, y estimaria infinito si V se consideraba libre para darme una opinion sobre la materia en el concepto de q^e sera fielm^te reservado de todos. La razon porq^e indico esto, es q^e no se las ideas del Gob^no en este particular y me serviria de guia tener alguna intimacion de lo q^e probablem^te se puede esperar.

Doy a V las gracias para el apunto de la latitud y longitud de ese punto si tenia el calculo de la observacion en el arbol de la virgen cerca de la casa de Groce y del paso del rio trinidad me serviria mucho en arreglar el mapa.

La Enciclopedia q^e tengo es del Dr. Rees publicado en Ynglaterra y reempresa en Filadelfia. Se puede conseguirla en Orleans. Creo q^e el precio no bajará de 200p^s con respecto a la cantidad de tierra q^e sera suficiente dar para el establecim^to de las familias q^e se hallan sin legitimidad en el pais, me parece q^e habra infinitas dificultades si se sigue la ley de colonizacion como esta ahora, porq^e en muchos casos no se puede conceder un sitio a cada uno por estar establecido tan inmediato el uno al otro. Me parece q^e quatro labores ó quatro millones de varas quadradas en superficie es suficiente, y q^e no se

[1] From Wagner collection, Yale University.

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puede dar mas sin causar mucha confucion. Si V daria una vuelta a los aizes veria q^e^ en algunos puntos un sitio enclueria seis ó siete habitaciones ¿ q^e^ regla se puede adoptar p^a^ decedir cual de los seis tomaria todo el sitio y q^e^ remuneracion se daria a los demas? Una labor no basta p^a^ proporcionar madera, pastos, etc., pero con quatro habra suficiente, el pais sera mejor poblado y las tierras divididas en porciones mas acomodadas a todos.

Me dice del Saltillo y de Bejar q^e^ el Gob^no^ ha concedido la colonizacion de todas las tierras limitrofes a los Sros Zavala Filisola y Domingues, no me dicen quando piensan verificar su colonizacion. Suplica q^e^ V dé al Sor Arizpe las gracias de mi parte p^a^ el recuerdo q^e^ se ha servido mandar me, y de presentarle de mi parte la seguridad de mi consideracion y amistad en todo quanto puede servir mi inutilidad.

Sirvase V disponer con franqueza del q^e^ tiene el honor de quedar su atento servidor y amigo q S. M. b

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Inclosure]

Apuntes relativos a la Colonia de Austin en Texas, formados en Junio 1828.

El proyecto de colonizacion en Texas

Moses Austin nativo del Estado de Connecticut uno de los del norte, fue distinguido por un caracter emprendedor y activo; dueño de una Mina de plomo en el Estado de virginia fue el primero qe introdujo mineros y artisanos habiles en este ramo de industria, de la Europa, y el primero qe. estableció en los Estados Unidos del norte la manufactura de Municiones menudas. ó balerias de plomo, planchas de plomo y botones de metal, a cuyo efecto hizó venir de Ynglaterra maestros en dhos ramos. En el año 1798 habiendo recibido noticias de las minas ricas de la alta Luisiana, qe en entonces perteneció a España y ahora compone el Estado de Misuri, emprendio un viage para esplorar aquel pais bajo la proteccion de pasaportes del Ministro Español con quien tenia relaciones de amistad. El resultado de su viage fue una determinacion de emigrar a la alta Luisiana, y consiguió del Gob^no^ Español una concesion p^a^ las principales minas de plomo y se trasladó alli con su familia en el año 1799 adquirio una fortuna considerable pr. las minas y las varias mejoras qe. introdujo, pero en el año 1818 padecio grandes perdidas por la quiebra del banco de San Luis y otras disgracias, y habiendo recibido noticias de Texas de algunos viageros, formo la idea de plantar una nueva Colonia en el medio de sus despoblados y á este efecto en el quinquagesimo septimo año de su edad emprendio un viage desde Misuri a Bexar capital de Tejas cosa de seis cientas leguas, y el 17 de Enero de 1821 consiguio del Comandante Gral de las Provincies Internas Orientales, el Gral Joaquin Arredondo, y de la Exma Diputacion de dhas Provincias en Monterrey, autoridad pa. establecer tres cientas familias estrangeros en Tejas. Volvió al Misuri y falleció en Mayo del mismo año, de una enfermedad del pecho qe. le acometio en los rigores del invierno a su vuelta entre Bexar y Nachitoches, dejando a su hijo Estevan F. Austin encargado de llevar adelante la empresa de colonizacion.

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Estevan F. Austin nacio en el Estado de virginia. A la edad de veinte y uno años fue elegido diputado en la Legislatura de Misouri y spre gozaba la estimacion y confianza de sus vecinos y conocidos. fue reelegido deputado en cada eleccion mientras qe. quedo en Misuri, y despues fue nombrado uno de los Jueces del Territorio de Arkansas, pero apenas habia tomado posecion de este Empleo quando lo renuncio para emprender la colonizacion de Tejas visitó la capital de Bexar en el verano del referido año de 1821 en compañia con los Sros. Dª Erasmo Seguin y Dª Juan Berramendi qe fueron despachados pr. el Gobernador de Texas á Nachitoches pª encontrar al Sor Austin padre. Llegó en Bexar en Agosto y examino el pais sobre los rios Guadalupe, Colorado Brazos, y Trinidad etc. eligiendo el distrito entre el arroyo de la baca y el rio San Jacinto y al sur del camino de Bexar para la nueva Colonia.

En aquel tiempo todo Texas con la sola escepcion de los dos presidios cortos de Bexar y La Bahia era un puro despoblado infestado por Indios barbaros qe. estaban todas en guerra con los Mexicanos, y decidamtº hostiles á qualquier nueve establecimtº de gente civilizado. Desde el rio sabinas hasta Bexar no hubó veinte almas civilizadas, y estos se hallaron sobre las margenes del rio sabinas—En Nacogdoches solo hubo una familia y tres solteros. El Gobno en aquella epocha era trastornado y todo Mexico en revolucion. En este estado de cosas la esperanza encontró poco en qe. apoyarse, y la idea de colonizar en Texas fue ridiculizado por los Amigos del joven Austin, qe se empeñaron mucho en persuadirlo abandonar la empresa; sinembargo, este, habiendo heredado algo del caracter emprendedor de su Padre, y respetando su ultima voluntad sobre el particular, siguio adelante, y en el mes de Diciembre 821 llegó de la Luisiana sobre el rio de los Brazos con las primeras familias y empezó la nueva Colonia.

Estos primeros colonos se metieron con sus familias en el centro del desierto, rodiados de Indios enemigos sin otros recursos sino los naturales de un pais despoblado, y sin otras esperanzas de proteccion sino las qe. proporcionó confianza en si mismos. Austin mandó Goletas de orleans cargadas de viveres, herramtos semillas etc. pero nunca llegaron a sus destinos. una, estravió por falta de conocimiento de la costa, otra, hizo naufragio y el cargamtº fue robado por Indios dejando a los colonos el arbitrio de abandonar la empresa y regresar a la Luisiana, ó de sostenerse pr. la caza. El espiritu emprendedor qe les habia trasladado al desierto, les sostuvó en sus apuros, y las carabinas garantizaron seguridad de los Indios, y proporcionaron viveres de los Cibolos, osos, benados, y otros animales sylvestres del campo. El primer año los emigrados comieron mas de cien caballos mesteños sin embargo de qe. la cosecha de este año fue cortisima a consequencia de las hostilidades de los Indios y una sequedad estraordinaria, y aunqe. infermidades muy graves acometieron a los Colonos en consequencia de la escacez y mala calidad de comestibles y las infinitas fatigas y privaciones; vencieron todo, y la cosecha del segundo año suministrada a sus necesidades, y alivió sus padecimtos.

Entre tanto Dª Estevan Austin en el mes de Marzo del año 1822 visitó á Bexar para arreglar los asuntos de la colonia con el Gobno y el Gobernador de Texas Dª Antonio Martinez le dijo qe. era necesario ir a la Ciudad de Mexico para obtener del congreso nacional qe. acaba de instalarse, una confirmacion de la concesion hecha por las autoridades Españoles á su padre Moses Austin. Esta noticia le desanimó muchisimo, porqe. separarse de la Colonia tanto tpo en su infancia era ariesgar todo. Los colones necesitan su presencia para estimularlos, y ademas quedarian en un estado de incertidumbre hasta su vuelta; mas no hubo remedio, fue necesario emprender el viaje y en el fin de avril llegó en la ciudad de mexico haciendo el viage por monterrey

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Saltillo, San Luis Potosi, etc. Los caminos en aquel tpo eran todos infestados por ladrones, y en fin hubo poco orden ó subordinacion en ningun ramo dela policia. El antiguo despotismo acabo de caer, el pueblo gritaron libertad con entusiasmo, pero el nuevo Gob^no^ todavia no habia tomado forma ni fuerza para corregir todos los disordenes consiguientes a una reduccion entera en los asuntos politicos. Para protegerse de los ladrones Austin se disfrazó en el trage de un mendicante ó hombre muy pobre; tenia un compañero paysano suyo qe. era uno de los oficiales del Gral Mina, y esto favoriso su disfrage, porqe. dijeron qe. habian perdido todo en la expedicion de Mina, y qe. iban a Mexico para pedir recompensa para sus servicios a la patria del Gob^no^.

Austin á su llegada en Mexico se halló en una situacion bastante embarazada, sin conocim^to^ ninguno del idioma castellano, sin conocidos ó amigos, estrangero y el Gob^no^ en confusion, y la opinion publica vacilante relativa al systema qe. debian adoptar. Corto tpo despues de su llegada Iturbide fue proclamado Emperador y los acontecim^tos^ resultados de esto, añadidos con los sucesos del mes de Agosto y la encarcelacion de los Sros diputados, y los del fin de Octubre y la disolucion del Congreso, ocuparon la atencion del Gob^no^ de tal manera qe. Austin no consiguio el despacho de su negocio hasta el 18 de Febrero 1823, en qe. dia recibio del Emperador plena autoridad para establecer la nueva Colonia qe. habia empezado en Texas. Sinembargo no salio de Mexico porqe. el horisonte politico evidentem^te^ indicó un gran cambio en el Gob^no^ lo qe. en efecto sucedio, y Iturbide fue destronado en el mes de Marzo, y el Congreso restablecido en sus derechos y libertad. Austin para asegurar mas la legalidad de su negocio presentó al Congreso el despacho qe. consiguio del Emperador en 18 de Febrero, qe. aprobado por el mismo congreso el dia 11 de avril y por el Supremo Poder Executivo el dia 14 del mismo del año de 1823.

Concluido el gran y enteresante negocio qe. causó su visita á Mexico, Austin salio de alli el fin de avril, un año despues de su llegada—regreso a Texas. Habiendo En este tiempo aprendido el castellano Incontró con su colonia casi abandonada en consiquencia de su larga aucencia, y el estado de incertidumbre en qe. los emigrados habian quedado tanto tpo. de modo qe. tenia qe. empezar de nuevo, y hacer nuevos esfuerzos para reanimar la emigracion.

El Baron de Bastrop fue nombrado comisionado para posecionar a los Colonos en union con Austin de sus tierras y en el año 1824, este, completo el numero de tres cientas familias qe. habia contratado establecer, aunqe. no fueron todas posecionados entonces de sus terrenos en consequencia de la aucencia del dho comisionado para desempeñar sus deberes como diputado en el Congreso del Estado de Cuahuila y Texas en Saltillo. El Sor Gaspar Flores fue nombrado comisionado p^a^ remplazar al Sor Bastrop y concluir los negocios pendientes de la primera colonia y atender a los de la segunda Empresa del dho Austin.

Por el decreto del Gob^no^ Supremo de 18 de Febrero 1823, Austin fue encargado de la administracion de la colonia en lo civil Judicial y Militar, encargo qe. añadido con los deberes y ocupaciones de Empresario, era bastante pesado y costoso como el Gob^no^ no asigno salario ninguno para este objeto. Los Colonos no entendieron una palabra del idioma castellano, y no hubo traducciones ni aun ejemplar ninguno del codigo de las leyes del pais ni estuvieron impuestos en las costumbres usadas en los Juicios y procedim^tos^ civiles y Judiciales ni aun del genio y caracter del pueblo y gob^no^ de la nacion qe habian adoptado Austin tenia instrucciones generales para administrar Justicia. preservar el buen orden y en fin Gobernar la nueva Colonia en el mejor modo qe. pudó hasta qe. sea organizado de otra manera, y en virtud de esta autoridad formó unos reglamentos provisionales p^a^ el arreglo de la adminstracion en todas

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sus ramos. Empleó un Secretario instruido en los idiomas castellano, Frances é Yngles qe. fue Dⁿ Samuel M. Williams, este Sor es nativo de los Estados del norte y ha contribuido mucho al bien del establecimᵗᵒ en el ramo de su empleo.

Desde el principio del establecimᵗᵒ hasta el dia el Gobᵒ no ha proveido la colonia con un cura ó sacerdote y en consequencia no hubó modo de celebrar casamientos segun previene la Yglesia. en tales circunstaancias la ley de la necesidad obligó a los colonos casarse en la forma mas legal qe. su situacion permitió, y celebraron sus casamᵗᵒˢ delante del Alcalde, ó Juez como es costumbre y legal en los Estados Unidos del norte.

Durante los primeros años los Indios embarazon la colonia notablemᵗᵉ robaron muchos caballos y mataron un numero considerable de los colonos y entre ellos una familia entera con la madre y tres niños. Tuvó Austin qe. contener los Indios en el principio con regalos y la politica hasta qe. adquirio el establecimᵗᵒ fuerza pª batirlos y entonces tomó medidas ofensivas y al efecto se hizó varias espediciones contra los Indios y una hasta los pueblos de los Tahuacanos y Huecos, y persiguió los Carankahuases sobre la costa hasta el presidio de la Bahia. El manejo de los Indios y las varias espediciones contra ellos fue muy costoso á Austin sobre quien todo esto caió y atrazó el adelanto del establecimᵗᵒ muchissimo—se debe advertir qe. en aquel tpo no hubo en todo Texas cinquenta soldados nacionales, porqe las compañias presidiales de la Bahia y Bexar havian decaido enteramᵗᵉ por falta de fondos. y los habitantes de aquellos dos puntos padecieron tantas miserias qe. apenas se sostuvieron

Austin dedico los mejores años de su joventud su capital, arriesgó su salud, su vida, su todo, en esta empresa qe ya havia costado la vida y grandes gastos á su Sor Padre. Los colonos recibieron grandes ventajas de sus trabajos y sacrificios pues por ellos obtuvieron una entrada legal en el pais lo qe en aquel tpo no pudieron haber conseguido de otro modo, y recibieron tierras en plena propiedad sin el trabajo de un viage ala Capital y la molestia y los infinitos gastos y tramites de emplear traductores y presentar solicitudes á los Gobernadores ó otras tutoridades supremas Austin entregó sus titulos en sus propios manos sin trabajo ó molestia ninguna de parte de ellos—el fue su agente, su traductor, su gobernador, su protector y todo el peso del trabajo, de los gastos, de la responsabilidad al Gobᵒ. Supremo y al juicio publico, todo caió sobre el, sin contar a las molestias y laberintos infinitos en qe. diariamᵗᵉ se hallaba comprometido como el organo de comunicacion con el gobᵒ y el director de unos habitantes acostumbrados a ver publicadas por la prensa todas sus leyes y ordenes supremas, y naturalmte. zelozo en todo qe tocaba a su libertad ó derechos civiles—y consideró qe. en justicia y en derecho podia y debia cobrar de cada colono algo para remediarle de semejantes trabajos gastos y quehaceres proque. es de advertir como ya dicho qe el Gobᵒ. no asigno salario ninguna pª la administracion de la colonia, y es tambien de advertir qe. Austin por los terminos de su contrato se obligo solamᵗᵉ a introducir tres cientas familias y no a tomar sobre si el peso y los gastos de gobernarlas y defenderlas á su costo por seis años como hisó; es tambien de advertir qe. el terreno qe. adquerio en clase de premio como Empresario, no pudo remunirarle por semejantes gastos, porqe. dho terreno no tenia valor ninguno entonces, y no pudo haberlo vendido por lo suficiente para mantenerse y el Gobⁿ de la colonia por dos años. Austin pues consideró qe. en justicia, en derecho y en buena fé los colonos debian pagarle algo, y mas quando el mismo Austin publico en las Gazetas de la Luisiana en el año 1821 antes de la salida de los Emigrados de aquel pais qe una de las condiciones de ser admitido en su colonia fue la de pagar le un tanto, fue un contrato publico entre los colonos y Austin, y considerandolo asi el intento cobrar de los colonos de con-

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formidad, pagable en productos del pais en plazos de ono[uno], dos tres y quatro años, y a precios subidos adjustados entre los mismos colonos.

No hubó dificultad entre los colonos en pagar hasta qe. algunos discolos circuló la voz qe. la ley de colonizacion no obligo a los colonos pagar nada, y como el hombre esta spre dispuesto á olvidar los servicios de otros y aun sus mismas promesas quando estas rocen con sus intereses propios, los colonos se alborotaron y quejaban de Austin por haber intentado cobrar algo de ellos—y por fin el Gefe de Texas se entremetio en la materia qe. animo alas quejas imaginarias y sin fundacion, y Austin se halló en la necesidad de sacrificarse en sus intereses pecuniarios ó de sacrificar la colonia, no dudo qe. parte seguir, cedio a las circunstancias y abandonó el primer plano de cobrar la cantidad qe. publicó en las gazetas de la Luisiana qe. cobraria. El Gefe de Texas estableció un arancel parte del cual Austin ha apropiado a satisfacer los gastos de la administracion, pero como ha tenido qe. cobrar dho arancel en lo general en productos del pais a precios muy subidos, y muchos de los colonos no han pagado nada, unos por pobreza, otros porque piensan qe. el arancel es iligal, y como Austin tenía qe. pagar de lo cobrado los derechos del comisionado, los Agrimensores, el papel sellado y otros derechos, no ha dejado nada de consideracion para repagarle de sus gastos y por consiguiente el se halló en el dia atrazado en sus asuntos pecuniarios por su empresa de colonizacion en lugar de ser beneficado Sin contar su tpo desde 1821 y la vida penosa qe. ha pasado en semejante laberinto de dificultades y responsabilidades cumplicadas.

Austin desempeño el encargo de la administracion de la colonia hasta el año 1828 quando se eligio un Alcalde y el Ayuntam^{to} constitucional, y el Gob^{no} habiendo estendido autoridad á Austin p^{a} completar la colonizacion de las tierras qe. quedan vacantes entre el arroyo de la Baca hasta el rio San Jacinto y sur del camino de Bexar el se ha dedicado a esta segunda empresa con su actividad y perseverancia acostumbrada aunqe. la esperiencia ha satisfecho qe. un Empresario no puede conseguir de semejante empresas ninguna remuneracion correspondiente al trabajo y a las dificultades qe. tienen qe. vencer.

La colonia de Austin en el dia esta floreciente en quanto depiende de sus habitantes—se ha adelantado la agricultura y la cria, fabricado molinos de agua para sacar tablas y moler granos—despepitar Algodon y otras maquinas, establecido escuelas, sujetado a los Indios vecinos. En fin el desierto ha cambiado el aspecto crudo y salvaje de la naturaleza para el semblante gracioso y lisongero de la civilizacion. El caracter de sus habitantes es agricultor, emprendedor, industrioso, pacifico y facil a gobernar; prueba qe. poseen la ultima calidad es qe. desde el principio Austin les ha gobernado sin el apoyo de un soldado, sin necesidad ninguna de fuerza y aun sin una carcel ó casa de correccion qe. no lo hay en la jurisdiccion hasta el dia, y nunca ha habido un crimen capital comitido pr. un colono y solo un caso de robo ratero. Han dado pruevas inequivocas de patriotismo y honor y de su adhesion al Gob^{no} de su adopcion—han vertido su sangre librem^{te} peleando contra los enemigos salvages de los mexicanos, y en los acontecim^{tos} de Nacogdoches del año pasado, por su firmesa y prontitud en sostener el pabellon mejicano sofocaron en su infancia una revolucion naciente y salvaron el pais de una guerra desoladora de Indios barbaros y aventureros. Viven esparcidos cada uno sobre su sitio de tierra y se dedican a la siembra de Algodon, la caña de azucar, mais, frijoles y todo especie de legumbres, y a la cria de ganado particularm^{te} ganado mayor y cerdos; los Indios todavia no permite la cria de caballardas en gran numero—tienen un pequeno comercio

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con Orleans y venden su algodon allá y pueden tener un comercio de cabotage muy importante con los puertos Mexicanos, pero hasta ahora no han podido lograr lo por falta de las reglas necesarias relativas á este ramo, y los pasaportes correspondientes de cabotage.

Este establecim^to^ no ha costado al Gob^no^ un rial, ni en plantar ni en gobernar, ni en defenderlo, antes por el contrario ademas de los servicios indicados las tropas y los habitantes de Bejar y La Bahia han sido proveidos de viveres de ello, á precios mucho mas acomodados qe. se ha conocido desde el año 1811. Para formar idea adequada de las ventajas importantes qe. resultan a la nacion de esta colonia solo es nesesario refleccionar ¿Cual era la situacion de Texas en el año 1821 y cual es su situacion en el dia? ¿y quanto hubiera costado á la nacion establecer igual numero de familias mexicanas ó Europeas en estos desiertos bajo iguales circunstancias? Ahora todas las dificultades de colonizar en Tejas estan allanadas, ya no es desierto, hay recursos de viveres en todas partes y en abundancia, hay fuerza fisica de milicianos para sujetar a los Indios y es facil plantar otras colonias al abrigo de las ya establecidas En 1821 Texas era disconocido, ahora por las publicaciones hechas en las gazetas del norte por Austin y sus amigos esta bien conocido en aquella nacion y aun empieza a llamar la atencion de emigrados de Ynglaterra. Austin abrio el camino y ahora es facil seguirlo.

Texas bien poblado con gente emprendedor e industriosa formaria un Estado importante de la gran federacion mexicana y ademas de proporcionar un comercio extensivo, tanto estrangero como de cabotage, y un aumento notable de las rentas publicas, pondria en seguro abrigo de los barbaros toda la frontera del rio Grande desde Nuevo Mexico hasta Matamoros, y esto sin costar a la nacion un peso. En el dia la proteccion de esta frontera cuesta Millones a la nacion y con todo no esta protejido. Los habitantes estan estrechados a los presidios, los bienes del campo estan aniquilados sin esperanzas de poder restablecerse, y los Indios entran quando quieren, y roban, matan, y destrozan a su antojo, pero poblado Tejas, estos Indios desparecieron delante de sus milicianos emprendedores y todo el rio grande gozaria de la paz y seguridad; en fin el progreso y adelanto de gran parte de los estados de chihuahua, cuahuila y Texas Nueva Leon y Tamaulipas y el territorio de Nuevo Mexico depiende del progreso de las nuevas colonias de Texas, porqe. si estas se atrasan y queda despoblado el pais por gente civilizado sera ocupado por los Indios barbaros del norte qe. estan emigrando en gran numero cada año y por aventureros vagabundos y fugitivos de las dos naciones vecinas, y estos, añadidos con los Indios nativos del pais destruirian las villas y pueblos del rio Grande enteram^te^ y Texas en lugar de ser un beneficio volveria a ser un peso muerto y aun un perjuicio a la Nacion Mexicana

Ninguna otra empresa de colonizacion ha progresado en Texas, y la prosperidad de esta ha resultado principalm^te^ de los esfuerzos personales de su fundador pero esta, y las demas nuevas empresas caerian en decadencia y ruina si no estan protejidas eficasm^te^ pr el Gob^no^. Tejas necesita una politica adequada á su localidad, sus productos y el genio y caracter de sus habitantes, y sin esto no puede florecer. Por la naturaleza del pais el ramo preponderante de industria en Tejas ha de ser la agricultura, y esta, qe. en efecto es la base fundamental de la verdadera riqueza de un estado, no puede florecer sin comercio estrangero y de cabotage, y una politica liberal de parte del Gob^no^.

Las nuevas colonias son todavia nacientes y en su infancia y como pabulos necesitan la proteccion del brazo y asistencia paternal

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La proteccion q necesita Texas del Gobierno es

1° Quitar por seis u ocho años [todas] restricciones sobre la entrada de esclavos para el uso de los emigrados coñ el fin de proporcionar brazos para los ramos de la agricultura y manifacturas, y para fundar nuevos establecium^{tos} y abrir labores en tierras montuosas y deficil á limpiar,

2° Estender la franqueria de derechos sobre importaciones pr. el consuma de sus habitantes hasta el año 1835 sin restriccon ó prohibicion ninguna.

3° Conceder a Tejas el privilegio de sembrar Tabaco para esportar a paises estrangeros.

4° Arreglar el comercio de cabotage para qe. no habra embaraso ninguno en llevar los productos de Texas a los puertos mexicanos y establecer un modo de espedir patentes de cabotage y de naturalizacion a los buques de Texas por el Gefe del Departam^{to} de Bejar ó el Gob^{no} del Estado Sin la necesidad de occurrir hasta Mexico y dar fianzas alli, porque. de otro modo los gastos la desuarza los tramites y la dificultad de obtener fiadores en un punto tan lejano en lo gral privaria á los colonos de Tejas de los beneficios de este ramo.

5° Decretar leyes para favorecer los colonos qe. deben dinero en el pais de su procedencia con el fin de protejer les de las garras de acreedores estrangeros hasta qe pueden restablecerse en esta pais nuevo, y al efecto no se debe permitir el cobro de ninguna deuda extrangera hasta despues del año 1840, y entonces en plazos muy acomodados,

6° Separarse de Cuahuila y formarse Tejas en Territorio con un Gobernador, secretario y tres jueces nombrados y pagados por el Gob^{no}. nacion^{al}—Dhos Jueces compondran el tribunal Supremo de justicia territorial Una Legislatura territorial elegido cada dos años por el pueblo de Tejas—dha Legislatura con aprobacion del Gobernador como es costumbre debe tener amplia facultad para decretar todas las leyes necesarias p^{a} el Gob^{no} y regimen interior del territorio, y arreglar todos los pormenores de la administracion interior en todos sus ramos y sin otras restricciones algunas sino las constitucionales. Tambien debe tener un delegado en el Congreso Nacional

[Endorsed by Austin:] Apuntos relativos a la Colonia de Austin formados en junio 1828—por Estevan F Austin.

E. M. Perry to Austin

[About July 1, 1828.]

My Dear Stephen,

We received your letter of March 31st, which was most welcome, for it was better than twelve months since we had recived a line from eather your or Brown, I had began to think that the unfavourable reports that we heard was *true* or that you had got so much taken up Colonizing that your Sister was forgotten; you accuse me of neglect, and forgitfullness you sencure me wrongfully my Dear Brother, your are never absent from my thoughts; often O! how often do I think of you, and lament that we cannot meet once in a while, if you could only look in on me, and see what a family I am surrounded with, you would not be surprised that every moment of my time was Imploy'd. I shoud of writen you oftener but Mr. Perry being obliged to write on business, thought that it would be just the same as if I had written myself, I wil indeavor to

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write to you oftener in futer; but you do not receive all the letters, that are sent to you I wrote you a very long letter by Mr. John McCormick, and also wrote to you by James Cole last winter neather of those letters I dont expect you have ever received, as I have heard that the men never went to Texas, so you see My Dear Brother that you are still remembered by your Sister and all your old Friends; Judge Carr is now hear, he always inquires very particularly after you, he is still a Widdower, his Daugh [ter] Maria, I am told has grown up a very pretty and Amiable Girl, she keeps house for her father, and you know how particular he is, Verginia and Cordelia are also with him he has but three Children, and Welthy— Adeline Lewis is also a Widdowe with one Child a Girl, she keeps house for her Father, in Herculaneum— Elias looks old he is inclined to be disapated, him and Honey are still ingaged in manufactoring Shot but do not do the business that they formily did. H[erculaneum] I am told looks as if it was poverty struck, business is very dull every where, led is low, the Fever River mines have drawn great numbers of the miners from this part of the country. the Cir. Court sits hear this week the Suit of Price against the Perrys comes on. the Supreme Court gave it against price, but that did not sattisfye him, and he has now sued Ruggles Samuel John and James Perry, God knows how it wil terminate this time Price since he has been in possession of the Mine A Burton Propperty has nearly extricated himself from debt; their has been an immence quantity of *mineral* raised off of that land, and still continue to make discoverys, it is the opinion of all your old Friends that if you would come on, their might be something done in the business. I cannot se for my part why you cant visit Missouri, what are you spending toiling and labouring your life a way for in that Wild Country you have no Family to provide for, is it possible that you cannot relize a nought [enough] (after incountering all you have for several year back) to ennable you to Visit and Spend a few months, with those old Friends and acquaintances that never will for git you, you ought to recollect that our Family are a very short lived race, a few years more and we shall be mouldering in the dust with our fore Fathers— why then my Dear Stephen will you bury yourself in that remote region, your life is pretty well spent few years more you will be 40—you are now alone not incumbered with a family— You have now open'd the road for Brown and since he has made Choice of a companion to share with him the cares and vexation of the troublsome world, it is necessary that he should make evry exertion to make himself comfortable and independent; but you my dear Stephen have no one but your self, and is it possible that after an absence of so many year that you cannot visit your Sister, who you very well know cannot go to see you I have

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thought a great deal on this subject and have almost concl^{ed} within myself that you have lost all desire to see me or my children again I am very well convinced that Brown and his Lady will visit me, if kind Providence will only Smile on them I am in hopes that we shall be able to git some thing from Fox Mr. Leaming says that the estate is worth 6 or 7 thousand Dollars, and that he thinks Fox will compromise—which will be much better than going to Law, I wish My Dear S. that you would try and settle and arrange your busines so that you could spend the nex Fall and Winter in Missouri—

[E. M. PERRY.]

ANASTACIO BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Matamoros Julio 5, 1828.

CIUDADANO ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

MI AMIGO MUY ESTIMADO. Con la apreciable de V. de 2. del corr^{te}, he recibido la representacion delos habitantes del Rio Trinidad, la q. pasaré al Ciudadano Gobernador Coahuiltejas con informe favorable p^{a} q. la eleve al Supremo Gobierno dela Union con el suyo deseando q. dha. instancia tenga buen exito.

Quedo impuesto con sentimiento delos males q. han causado en la salud y en los cembrados las grandes avenidas de esos Rios, inundando sus margenes, mas q. en otros años, y no extraño q. el Gral. Terán haya sido atacado de calenturas por la mansion larga q. ha hecho sobre el Trinidad.

Yo celebraré mucho q. semejantes males tengan pronto término, y q. V. en union desus buenos colonos y amigos disfrute dela perfecta salud q. le desea su coinciudadano y verdadero amigo q. lo ama con la mas cordial sinceridad.

ANAS^{to} BUSTAM^{te}. [Rubric.]

P. D.

Despues delas primeras noticias q. se divulgaron anunciando una proxima invasion de españoles nada se ha vuelto á decir y espero q. V. me comunicará con oportunidad lo q. sepa por allá digno de consideracion, respecto delo q. pueda ocurrir en la frontera.

[Rubric.]

AMOS EDWARDS TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches July 7th 1828

D. SIR

I crossed the Sabine on the first day of June and the season being so far advanced the roads so bad, and corn so scarce and high, that I was compell^{d} to decline proceeding into the province further than

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this place with my family, untill I take a ride through and view the different parts of the Country and make my selection for a permanent Settlement.—

I have just received your message by Majr M. A. Heard and intend to visit you as soon as I possibly can, after making the necessary provisions for the comfort of my family during this season as they will have to remain in this place until I explore, select a situation and provide the necessary buildings for their comfort—my wish and intention is to try to procure a good healthy situation as near the Gulf as I can find such an one and as near the scite as possible that will most probably be the principal seaport of the Country, and I shall wish your advice and assistance in making such selections so far as you can give them to me without too much trouble and inconvenience to yourself. I believe that you have a better general knowledge of the Country than any other man in it, and that you will give me the most correct information in your power relative to the Country generally, and particularly that part binding on the Gulf. I have a considerable interest in the Nashville Companys Grant and it would probably be more to my interest to settle in that Grant than any other part of the province—as I could induce a great many families to emigrate to the section of country that I select for my residence, but I begin to think the Grant will never be colonised by the present Company, unless some three or four of us will take all the trouble upon us pay all the expense and undergo all the privations dangers and difficulties of colonising the Grant and then give the balance of the company their full share of the lands without any charge. I was in Nashville in March last and prevailed on the Directors named in the late Grant to have a meeting and try to make the necessary arrangements for colonising the Grant and forward instructions forthwith to Majr League on that subject, call in their Old scrip and make new scrip agreeably to the form you gave them. they promised me that they would do so and calld a meeting which was attended by a bare majority and they only talked of what they would do and concluded to call another meeting in a short time when they expected to have a full Board and then would do every thing necessary and immediately thereafter commence operations in every way necessary for colonising and promised to inform me what they did before I left Kentucky, where I remained untill the 3d. of May and heard nothing more from them Most of the Directors hold very small interests in the Grant viz. ⅛ of a share and they care very little about it as scarcely one of them ever intend emigrating to the Country. I should probably have settled in that Grant if the Company had done what they ought, to colonise it, but as they have not I have

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determined to locate myself where my Judgment induces me to believe is the best place for my own private interest after seeing you and getting the best information I can.

It will be some weeks before I can leave here to look at the country, and I shall be glad to receive a letter from you as soon as convenient informing me whether you will be absent from home any time this season and if so at what time as I do not wish to go there in your absence, and any other information that you may deem important will be thankfully received.

AMOS EDWARDS

[Addressed:] Col: Stephen F. Austin San. Fellippi de, Austin

TERAN TO AUSTIN

NACODOCHES JULIO 8 1828.

S. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

MUY SR. MIO Y AM° DE MI ATENCION: Son en mi poder las apreciables de V. y le doy mil gs. pr. la nota historica de la colonia y pr. las reflexiones sre. el fenomeno qe. comunique á V. El asunto de deudas de los colonos es muy importante, y me ocuparé del en el [correo] venidero, pr. qe. el actual es de mucha tarea pr. la correspond^a qe. me ha venido y exige pronta contestacion.

Sirvase V. decirme si la enciclopedia del Dr. Rees comprende la botanica y la soologia sistematicam^te y si podria V. desprenderse de su ejemplar pr. la cantidad qe. me dice sera conseguida en Orleans, á qe. añadiré algo mas pr. los costos de conduccion; respecto á qe. se me dificulta encargarla pr. falta de un corresponsal.

Dispense V. mis molestias, sirvase saludar al S. D. Samuel y disponer de su ato. amo.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

JOHN AUSTIN TO MRS. E. M. PERRY

Steam Boat Oregon, July 10, 1828.

See Calendar.

J. ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Leona vicario 12. de Julio de 1828.

SR. D. ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN

MI QUERIDO AMIGO Y DUEÑO. Tengo la mayor complacencia en dirijir á V. el adjunto testimonio de las condiciones con que el Gob° há podido despachar la contrata y autorizacion de V. sobre colonizar las diez leguas litorales sobre la costa en frente de la antigua colonia.

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Como S. E. el Gob^{or} há deferido en este asunto el proyecto que le presenté redactado, segun el acuerdo previo que tubimos, hé procurado puntualizar minuciosam^{te} cuanto habia digno de ser arreglado en la materia. Si V. tubiere que hacer alguna observacion substancial á cerca de cualq^{a} articulo, espero, por nuestra amistad, tendrá la bondad de manifestarme con franqueza, bajo el concepto de que si fuere racional y juiciosa, se variará inmediatam^{te} puesto que el Gob^{o} desea el mejor acierto sin perjudicar los dros. de nadie.

Hé creido no deber hacerse mencion de Gaspar Flores por que la comision de éste está limitada á la contrata de las 500 familias de 27. de Abril de 1825. y la que á V. se confiere ahora es peculiar al terreno litoral. Pero bajo de otro respecto será conveniente que la empresa de las 500 familias tenga alguna demora ó suspension mientras yo puedo pasar á esa con el caracter de comisionado general, que es bajo cuyo aspecto me puede ofrecer algunas ventajas que sabré impartir con mis amigos.

Yo hé calculado que el terreno litoral concedido á V. desde la Baca al S. Jacinto comprende una area como de 400 leguas, suponiendo una faxa de 40 leguas de largo sobre diez de ancho. V. puede con mejor conocim^{to} rectificar este calculo: pero yo debo advertirle que tenga presente lo que dice el art 12 de la ley de colonizacion sobre premio de tierras que concede á los empresarios. La primera colonia de las 300 familias, no deberá contarse para este caso, porque aún no estaba dada la ley de 24 de Mzo de 1825, á que.me refiero. Asi pues haremos esta cuenta. 500 familias de la contrata de 27 de Abril de 1825.—100. dhas de la de 20 de Nov^{re} de 1827: suma total 600: hasta 800, que es el *maximum* de premio que la ley concede á los empresarios, restan 200: y si V. contrata pr. 300.—ó 400. no tiene dro á premio mas que por 200 por que con estas se completa el n^{o} en que fixó la ley el *maximum* aunque introdusca mas: Esta es mi opinion sobre el particular, pero V. podrá discurrir con mas tino en la materia: tanto V. como yo tenemos enemigos, y estos no dejarán pasar qualq^{a} cosa que adviertan sobre qe. molernos. Esta es la razon por qué el art^{o} 5^{o}. de la contrata se redacto en los terminos que V. verá; y siguiendo los principios del art^{o} 12 de la ley se pusó el 6^{o} de las capitulaciones en estos terminos. "El empresario tendrá dro de percibir las tierras que *en proporcion* de las familias que introdusca *designa* el art^{o} 12 de la ley de colonizacion del Estado" etc., ¿cual es en proporcion? el art^{o} lo dice muy terminantemente.[1]

Yo deseo que V. comprenda todas estas observaciones, y el fin que me propongo en hacerlas, que no es otro que el de poner el honor del Gob^{o} y el de V. á cubierta de los tiros dela maledicencia. Si

[1] See Austin to Governor of Coahuila and Texas, July 29, 1828.

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V. considera que (ofreciendo introducir en la faja litoral 300 familias bajo el concepto de que no tendrá dro á premio mas que por 200. conforme ála ley) queda suficientem^te^. indemnizado de su trabajo y penas consiguientes, con solo percibir de las 100. restantes, los dros de comisionado, y una cuota como empresario segun el art 9. de la ley de colonizacion del Estado, puede en mi concepto contestar sobre este punto extender su oferta hasta el n° indicado de 300 familias. Esta opinion es tanto mas fundada cuanto que si V. llega á ofrecer la introduccion de 400, ó mas familias por exemplo, el Gob° ciertam^te^ podrá reducir este n° al que jusgue conveniente con el pais que vá á poblarse, y está en su politica hacer que queden algunos terrenos vacios despues de establecidas las familias contratadas por consideracion á varios objetos que no debe perder de vista, y no hay inconveniente para decirlos; y son: 1°. El Gob° tiene obligacion de obsequiar los diplomas que expida el Sup° de la Union á favor de algunos militares, que tengan dros a trras. al tenor de lo q dice el art° 10. de la ley de 24 de Mzo de 1825. ¿ y si están ocupados todos los terrenos, en donde les librará sus porciones? hé aqui un compromiso: 2°. Durante el termino de los seis años que concede la ley á todo empresario para la introduccion de las familias que contrata, suele presentarse tal ó tal Mexicano que desea establecerse dentro de aquella demarcacion, y tiene dro á pedir ó comprar desde uno hasta 11. sitios, y el Gobierno la facultad de poder concederselos conformé á la ley: en casi iguales circunstancias se halla cualquiera colono: acuerdese V. de D. Roberto Luis.: Y sino hay tierras vacantes que conceder ó vender á un Mejicano, ó que conceder á un extrangero, ¿ no es un inconveniente muy grave para el Gob° por que no tubo la prudencia de hacer dejar para estos casos algunos terrenos vacios, en que exercer sus atributos, tal vez con personas muy acreedoras por sus meritos y servicios hechos a la Patria verse en la dura alternativa de, ó dejar sin tierras á algun n° de familias de las contratadas, lo que equivale á una falta de buena fe enlos contratos, ó repelar las instancias de sugetos benemeritos é industriosos, que podrian influir en el beneficio del pais de un modo muy eficaz? 3°. Dentro de poco tiempo será revocable el art° 25. de la ley de 24. de Mzo. de 1825, que con sabia prevision dispuso no lo fuera en el termino de seis años: cuando llegue este plazo y se conosca la importancia de variarla, que será cuando el pais esté casi enteramente publico, ¿ No será responsable ante la opinion publica de este adquirido un valor mucho mayor que el que designa el art° 24. Pero si por falta de prevision en Gob° no há cuidado de retener algunos terrenos vacantes con cuyo producto aumentar el erario publico,¿ No será responsable ante la opinion publica de este descuido, en una materia tan interesante al beneficio dela Hacienda

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del Estedo? Dejémos que el interes particular obre en la agricultura, artes industria, y comercio, pero el Gob° no descuide ni un solo instante de las materias que pertenecen á su administracion.

Estos son los motibos capitales por que el Gobo enlas contratas que há celebrado, há cuidado de no permitir la introduccion y establecimiento de un numero de familias excedente al numero de leguas calculadas en la area demarcada, sino que mas bien ha considerado que quede vacante una tercera ó cuarta parte de todo el terreno, para proveer á los objetos indicados. Há tenido presente que el sobrante de estas tierras no será dela prima calidad, ni los sitios mas ventajosos y utiles, pero este es un inconveniente inevitable pr que es indudable que los primeros probladores escogeran los puntos de mas provecho; y en cierto modo tiene dro de hacerlo por que no les está prohibido escoger á su voluntad el sitio que mejor les acomode: pero esta idea no es tan funesta como á primera vista parece, por que siendo todo el pais de Tejas y una gran parte de Coahuila que le es adjacente, generalmente de la primera calidad casi no hay muchos puntos preferentes respecto de otras, á lo menos se puede decir esto con relacion á la agricultura. De que resultará que los terrenos que queden sobrantes no serán de tan peor condicion que no tengan pretendientes, quando lo contrario debe presumirse, y su valor habrá a crecido naturalm^te^ en razon de la problacion, y de la seguidad particularm^te^ respecto de los Yndios barbaros.

El gobierno que obra por un sistema de reglas fixas y constantes apoyadas en la razon y la sana politica no teme q. sus actos sufran todo el examen mas rigoroso del pueblo: quando há obrado bien, se afianza mas, y cuando nó, sufre justamente la severa critica dela opinion publica.

Me hé difundido demasiado en una materia que V. conose mejor que yo: y pasemos á otra cosa.

Tengo anticipadas algunas insinuaciones al Sr. Gob^or^ para dejar este destino, y que me comisione en esa para la planta de poblacions repartimiento de terrenos etc. y me há prometido de hacerlo al tpo que yo quiera; lo unico que se dificulta es la persona que ocupe mi lugar, y sobre esto ya se trabajará para que se encuentre uno que se posea de los dros y deberes del Gob^no^ Yo estoy cansado de servir esta clase de destinos y despues de haber sacrificado mi salud y mi reposo, no hé sacado otro fruto que adquirirme enemigos perseguidores de mi reputacion; quando es lo unico que hé procurado conservar ilesa: pero este es el resultado necesario de todo hombre que se atreve á ponerse al frente delos negocios publicos. Nada extraña me es esta clase de recompensas que tiene de llevar sobre sus hombros toda persona publica.

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Acabo esta carta contra mi voluntad, porque se me queda mucho q decir, y protesto continuar en otra vez. sale el correo

D. Erasmo me mandó un docum^{to}. en que consta haber enterado en la Depositoria de Bejar los $280. ps. de los funerales del dif^{to} nro Amo. Baron: doy á V. las debidas gracias.

Su Amo. que lo estima

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Elisha Roberts to Austin

Ais Bayou, July 18, 1828.

See Calendar.

Frost Thorn to Austin

Nacogdoches 22 July 1828.

Dear Sir/.

On my return from N. Orleans about 6 Weeks since, I was put in receipt of your letter stating a Law had passed, that servants could be indented etc—

The entelligence I immedeately made public, and am induced to believe the Law will be of great service to this Country. It has made a material change in the feelings of many valuable Emgrants and I will have it published in N. Orleans, that it may have publicity in the U. S.—

Mr. Amos Edwards had Just arrived from Kentucky with several slaves, which would have required much management to secure. but this Law at once places him at ease on that subject.

Our Alcalde is not over active in promulgating the Laws—therefore your Letter in this case was usefull— should anything occur interesting to our section of the Country, you will confer a fav^{r} by noting it, to some one residing at this place.

Gen^{l} Teran keeps himself much reserved and I believe his residence with us will correct many evils that has much injured the country. I have no doubt but the proceedings at this place on the part of the alcalde has done more injury to the Country than any other cause. Most of the Transcient persons that visit here return disgusted.

My Colony is at this time totally ocupied by the Indians. The Cherokees and Shaunesse are Agriculturists, and do not live in villages but in a compact settlement. They raise much corn. and I have myself this season purchased from the Cherokees alone, not less than 1000 Dollars worth of Corn and pease.

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My belive is, that it would improve there condition to Colonise them— I will write to you frankly on this subject, in the course of a short time

F. THORN [Rubric]

To Coln. S. F. Austin
St. filepe—

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar, July 23, 1828.

See Calendar.

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO ALCALDE OF SAN FELIPE

Bexar, July 23, 1828.

See Calendar.

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar 24 de Julio de 1828.

Sor. Dn ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI APRECIABLE AMIGO: por el correo anterior recivi sus dos estimadas de 24 de Junio y 1° del actual a que no pude contestar por las ocupaciones de mi destino, haora qe. lo egecuto digo a V. que las dificultades y dudas qe. V. me consulta estan fuera de la esfera de mis limitados conocimientos, pero esto no obstante refiriendome al contenido de su segunda que trata del hombre delinquente qe. ha arrestado el Alcalde de esa Villa devo manifestar a V. qe. la practica qe. he bisto observar en asuntos de igual naturaleza está reducida quando se obra de oficio ha formar un sumario breve que dé al juez la probabilidad necesaria a formar juicio de que el reo es delinquente, en este caso dispone se asegure con prisiones y eleba el sumario aproseso esto és abre todas quantas diligencias sean necesarias para inbestigar la berdad hasta sacar conbicto el reo quando este está inconfeso (como supongo lo estará Juan Paker en razon de no haver havido denunciante) bericada esta operacion, y precedida la confesion concarga y careos quando son necesarios y que resulta el delinquente acredor auna pena a que por la Ley reglamentaria de Justicia no está autorizado el Alcalde sentenciar, remite la causa a pareser del asesor del Estado y con arreglo a lo que dictamine arregla sus determinaciones alteriores. Sobre las dificultades que pulsa para qe. en el entre tanto se mantenga en seguridad el reo no hay otro recurso qe. ocupar ala milicia nacional en su custodia del modo menos graboso: en quanto a derechos de jusgado estos se cubren si el preso tiene de que como berá V. del Aranzel qe. dirijo por este mismo correo ha esa municipalidad.

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Estube a la vista de qe. el Alcalde de aquí ebacuara las declaraciones que le pidio recivir el de esa villa, los qe. yó mismo le dirigi a buelta de correo, y segun estoy informado creo qe. este hombre Paker sacrificó y robó a su Compañero de biaje, yo combengo con V. de que es muy necesario que los asesinos y mal hechores sean castigados ejemplarm^te^ por que de esto depende nada menos que la seguridad publica, y si este desgraciado resulta conbicto espiará su delito en un patibulo.

Hasta aora no hay declaracion por autoridad competente para qe. los qe. hayan causado deudas en pais estrangero puedan ser compelidos al pago, ignoro si en los tratados selebrados por nuestro Gob^no^ con el de los Estados Unidos de America se habrá acordado este asunto, si hasi fuese no se que decir a V. pues en mi concepto se questa la libertad ala soberania de los Estados: La Ley a que V. se interesa me parese conbeniente y para qe. se proponga por nuestros Diputados en las seciones Ordinarias del mes de Septiembre digame V. abuelta de Correo su determinacion.[1]

Por este Correo confiero a V. un comicion importante del Gob^no^. no tengo otro de quien hechar mano en esa Colonia y por tanto tenga V. recignacion para llebar con paciencia los trabajos que se le infieren.

He representado al Gob^no^ del Estado la necesidad qe. hay de auciliar al Alcalde y Ayuntamiento con un Hombre de instruccion en los asuntos Judiciales y Gubernatibos qe. se ofrecen en esa colonia, y qe. entienda el idioma Yngles, el resultado de esta solicitud comunicaré a V.

Quento con el favor de V. respecto de escoger y darme noticia del terreno de que le tengo ablado p^a^ Dn. Victor y sus amigos; creo qe. V. no me entendió ó yo no me esplique al manifestarle no querer de ninguna manera perjudicar alos Colonos, ni menos esponer a V. a sus injustas quexas si se me recerbaban las porciones de tierra dentro de los terminos de esa Colonia.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO EMILY M. PERRY[2]

Texas, July 24, 1828

DR SISTER

Lewis Morrison will hand you this, he has passed through the country, tho [he] has not had an opportunity of seeing the best part of it he can give you some account of the country etc—

I am likely to have a serious difficulty with Col. [Anthony] Butler relative to the old business at the Mines— I fear that he is an unprincipled man— I wish you to get all the Lead and account

[1] See Austin to Lorenzo de Zavola, June 24, 1828.
[2] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry, Houston, Tex.

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Books of mine, for the year I worked the mines in partnership with Butler, it was the last year I had his negros—we had them three years in all, two years on hire and one year him and myself worked the mines in partnership—there was nothing made of consequence that year and I sent a full statement of the business of that season to Butler, he has not produced it and seems to wish that I should pay him five or six thousand dollars. I wish you to get the Lead Book of that year and send [it] to me by Mr. Honey should he come out next fall and all the other Books of that years business— I suppose they are with the other Books of Father— The Lead Book is principally or all in Ballards hand writing—

I hope John Austin paid you a visit and gave you an account of the state of things here and some idea of the labor and difficulties I have struggled through in settling this wilderness I have nothing particular to write you— Brother and his wife are well, they are down the Brazos River at this time near the coast. I saw them a few days ago but we did not at that time know that Morrison would start so soon which [is] the reason he did not write you— The people here are generally healthy tho we have a severe drought, the crops however are abundantly sufficient— We have general peace and tranquility all over the country and the settlements are progressing slowly but surely When I came here there was not one civilized being within two hundred miles of this colony and now I have near three thousand in it, and there are many large farms and valuable improvements—but I am myself still poor as to disposable means—my object has been to settle the country more than to speculate and the expenses I have had to undergo have more than equalled what I have rec^{d} besides I have had some old debts to pay off the amount of the new Madrid claims which I bought in S^{t} Louis was over nine thousand dollars— I gave my notes for them and let Bryan have them all—I never received any thing from them and am still struggling along to pay for them also the balance due Butler for the hire of his negros all fall on me and I am working through that as fast as I can—

do not fail to collect all the Books I have written for and be careful not to send them except by a safe hand

Remember me to Mr Perry and all friends

your brother
S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Send the enclosed to Mr Carr without delay

[Rubric]

Write me how political parties stand as regards Benton and Barton which of them stands highest, and which of them is supported

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by the Perrys and by Wm C. Carr and Elias Bates— I am myself very much pleased with Bentons political course in the Senate—

I opened this after it was sealed

We have Isaac B Desha in irons here for murdering a man on the road between this and San Antonio—his tryal is progressing, there appears but little doubt of his guilt—

[Address:] Mrs Emiley A Perry Potosi Missouri p^r Mr Lewis Morrison

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Austin to Manuel Ceballos

San Felipe de Austin 28. de Julio de 1828

Sor D. Manuel Ceballos

Muy Sor mio de mi mas alta consideracion, Se ha publicado en las Gazetas del norte una orden del Gob^no Mexicano declarando qe. todo buque qe. se encuentra sobre la costa de Texas no destinado a un puerto legitimamente habilitado sera perseguido y tratado como contrabandista.[1]

En consequencia de esta orden no hay modo de trasportar familias ni efectos de colonos por agua. El objeto de la referida orden evidentem^te es el de cortar comercio ilicito, y no de escluir la trasportacion de familias qe. emigran al pais para establecerse, y se puede efectuar el primer objeto completam^te sin poner embarazo al segundo, variando un poco la orden y haciendo una escepcion de buques destinados a la colonia de Austin.

El puerto de Galveston esta habilitado provisionalm^te pero no hay establecim^to ninguno alli, ni en su inmediacion, los puntos de desembarco para colonos son la desembocadura del Rio de los Brasos, la del Colorado y la del San Jacinto segun la destinacion de los emigrados al uno ó al otro. Forzar todas disembarcar en Galveston ó otro punto determinado sera obligarlos en lo general hacer largos viages por tierra qe. seran costosos y dificultosos por la poca poblacion y la escaces de facilidades de trasporte. Suplico pues qe. se sirvera V. en obsequio del adelanto de esta colonia, representar al Gob^no Supremo al gran perjuicio qe. resulta en prohibir la entrada de buques en los diversos puntos de esta colonia, y si es posible conseguir una modificacion de la orden de tal manera qe. no comprendera buques destinados a la Colonia de Austin en Texas.

Desde aqui no pueda haber contrabando porqe. si se intenten llevar efectos prohibidos al interior no pueden pasar la Bahia y Bexar, ni tampoco pueden salir de esta sin qe. se lo conoce, y lo qe. se consume en esta colonia no perjudicaria a la renta en ninguna manera porqe.

[1] For the order, see Poinsett to ———, Apr. 22, 1828.

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no hay aduana ni estanco aqui, y mucho beneficio resultara en adelantar la colonia en su infancia

Los habitantes de esta colonia han tenido qe. luchar contra tantas dificultades y han padecido tantas perdidas y miserias en establecerse en estos desiertos qe. me parece son acreedores a la proteccion del Gob^no^ en este particular; y mas cuando en estenderselo no se perjudique a la renta publica en ninguna manera.

Yo esperaba familias por agua y venian por Orleans, pero me escriben de alli qe. a consequencia de la referida orden no se encuentra buques para Texas sino a precios muy subidos y aun no entonces, de modo qe. es en efecto privarme de la facultad de cumplir con el contrata qe. he celebrado con el Gob^no^. como Empresario de introducir familias en Texas, y no creo qe esto fue el objeto del Gob^no^.

Yo responderé qe. no habra estraccion ninguna de efectos prohibidos fuera de esta Colonia si asi manda el Gob^no^ pero estamos forzados por la necesidad de traher harina, Café y otras cosas de primera necesidad de orleans porqe. es absolutam^te^ imposible conseguir los de otra parte y privarnos de este privilegio hasta qe. hay algun comercio de cabotage y hasta qe. la colonia esta avanzado un poco mas, sera destruirnos enteram^te^.

Suplico la atencion de V. a este asunto qe. tanto nos interesa. Espero familias en el otoño qe. bajaran el Rio Misisipi para embarcar en Orleans, y si despues de llegar alli no pueden hacerlo seran aruinados, y nos atrazara muchissimo aqui, ademas del gran compromiso en qe. yo me hallaré, porqe. he escrito qe. pueden venir sin embarazo por aquel conducto, hice asi porqe. no supé de la publicacion de la orden de qe. hablo hasta ahier qe recibi noticia de ella de Orleans.

Los buques usado en trasportar familias y efectos de orleans son balandras y Goletas chicas porqe. solo estas pueden entrar en las rios qe. he mencionado por falta de agua sobre las barras

La orden de qe. hablo fue comunicado por conducta del Sor Poinsett ministro del norte en Mexico, y si hay variacion como pido debe ser comunicado por el mismo conducto para qe sea publicado en las Gazetas del norte a fin de quitar toda duda sobre el particular porqe. si hay la mas minima los dueños de buques se aprovechará de ellea para pedir fletes exorbitantes de los emigrados.

Suplicando qe. V. me dispensa la molestia qe le doy quedo con toda consideracion y respeto su muy atento servidor q. s. m. b.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

P. D. Incluyo a V. la orden de qe. he hablado como fue publicado en una Gazeta de orleans. Es una medida muy justa y necesaria para cortar el contrabando y todo qe yo pido es una escepcion en

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favor de mi colonia y soy pronto á tomar sobre mi la responhabilidad de garantizar qe. no habra estraccion ninguno de efectos prohibidos de esta colonia a ninguna parte spre qe. el Gob^no^ me da una orden al efecto y me autoriza emplear los milicianos civicos para perseguir los qe intenten llevar efecto prohibido fuera de ella.

Como he ya dicho nuestras existencia demande qe se nos permita traher algunos articulos de primera necesidad de orleans, y de enviar nuestro algodon alli a vender hta qe. hay comercio a otras partes. Todo el comercio qe. tenemos es una friolera, pero en nuestro estado infantil es de suma importancia a nosotros, y no puede perjudicar a la renta publica en ninguna manera.

Cada familia qe viene por agua conduce viveres por seis meses ó un año, y las herramientas y muebles de casa nesesarias p^a^ establecerse en un pais nuevo y privarlas de este privilegio sera impedir su emigracion enteram^te^.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Al Sor. D. Manuel Ceballos Senador in el Congreso nacional in la ciudad de Mexico.

[Indorsed:] Letter to Ceballos relative to the ports—not sent, the same subject was more fully represented in Sep^r^ 1828.[1]

AUSTIN TO RAMON MUSQUIZ [2]

[From Bexar Archives]

Acabo de recibir los documentos que V. S. me trasladó en fha 23 del que rije relativos á los criminales fugitivos de los Estados Unidos del Norte Benjamin F. ———, Augustin B. ———, y otros que se hallan sobre el rio Trinidad cuya arestacion el Gob^no^ Sup^mo^ ha mandado, y que V. S. me ha encargado verificar.

El Alcalde de esta Jurisdicion me ha informado que el dia 8 del presente mes, dos de los referidos recibieron pasaporte de él para ir con una partida de reses á Bejar que se llaman William ——— y Franklin ——— supongo que estos dos individuos se hallan ahora en Bejar, y de consiguiente estos dos se puede agarrar en Bejar facilmente, este asunto demanda mucha reserva y precaucion por que los dhos Individuos son hombres desesperados, y han declarado que solo cederian sus personas con la vida y a mas de esto han contratado relaciones de amistad y de matrimonio segun

[1] See Austin to the President, Sept. 8, 1828, and to Ceballos, Sept. 20.

[2] For other correspondence on this subject not printed, see in the Bexar Archives: Musquiz to Austin, July 23; Austin to Musquiz, Aug. 9; Austin to Orr, Aug. 11; and Duke to Musquiz, Aug. 11. In the Austin Papers: Santos to Austin, Aug. 5; Duke to Musquiz, Aug. 6; and Orr to Austin, Sept. 14.

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he entendido en el lugar donde viven, que es aislado en un monte y si llegan á recibir noticia es mas que probable que ententaran juntar partidarios para su defensa, y en este caso yo no tendré otro arbitrio sino el de hacerles fuego en el concepto de que está de mi obligacion asegurar las personas indicadas sean vivo ó muerto en cumplim^to^ de la orn de la Superioridad al efecto.

Hago esta insinuacion para q^e^ V. S. queda impuesto con anticipacion de la probabilidad del estremo de que hablo y tambien para que V. S. obre con los dos que se hallan en esa de tal manera que no escapan ni tendran lugar á noticiar á los otros antes que Yó puedo llegar sobre el Rio Trinidad, y tal vez será bueno ocultarles p^r^ ahora la verdadera causa de su prision para evitar la sospecha que sus hermanos en Trinidad estaban tambien en peligro.

Tan luego que puedo reunir una partida á propósito saldré en el desempeño del encargo q^e^ V. S. me ha dado, y si no acierto el objeto no será por falta de zelo ó actividad de mi parte.

Dios y Libertad.

Villa de Austin, 29 de Julio de 1828.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Señor Gefe del Depart^o^ C. Ramon Musquiz.

AUSTIN TO THE GOVERNOR [1]

San Felipe, July 29, 1828.

See Calendar.

JOHN SIBLEY TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches July 30^th^ 1828

DEAR SIR.

I have Just Rec^d^ your friendly letter dated Austin 17^th^ June, which of us is in debt in our literary Accounts is a subject I am not disposed to discuss at present, I will say that I am glad always to Receive a letter from you and will with pleasure communicate anything to you I may possess of sufficient Interest to excite your attention— we were soon informed of the arrival of Gen^l^ Taran at Nacogdoches. Col Piedras commanding at that post lately made us a visit and spent ten days here, through him I Rec^d^ some communications from the Gen^l^ particularly what he found the latitude, longitude, Elevation and degree of heat at Nacogdoches, and that he was

[1] From Translation of Empresario Contracts, p. 155, General Land Office of Texas. For discussion of the provisions of this contract see Padilla to Austin, July 12, 1828.

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waiting to meet us to designate the Boundary line, on that subject I have only been informed officially that the treaty between our Gov^{t} and Mexico relative to the boundary and some other matters was Ratified by the Senate of the U. States on the first of May and Returned to Mexico to be Exchang^{d} and might be expected back in September and that the treaty of 1819 was Recognised generally. the treaty has not been published and will not be untill it returns, I have not been informed of the Particular Stipulations. I have no Knowledge of the oppointment of a commissioner on Our part. there is a Report that I shall be named, but I have receiv^{d} nothing official about it, If I should I shall Serve and have great pleasure in being associated with Gen^{l} Taran for whose Character I feel the greatest respect.— I am happy to learn that the Intestine difficulties in Mexico have subsided, such might have been expected, experience will no doubt tranquilise such Ebilutions, all governments have experienced the Same; Primary schools and enlightning the people is the Surest Course.

The Subject of Our Presidential Election has produced, and keeps up more excitement than any thing has ever done in the United States, the Choice of Electors comes on in November next, both Parties affect to be sanguine of success, for my own part I believe Mr. Adams will be Reelected, and the cause of the administration seems to be gaining ground. the Printed paper Enclosed I think is a fair Exhibition of the case as it now Stands.—

I am glad to hear that the Gov^{t} of Mexico have concluded to settle those Belts of Neutral territory, it would have been impossible to have kept those reserves free from Banditties of Murderers and outlawes— There seems to be some difficulty between the three Allied Powers against Turkey about the division of what may be conquered from Turkey. France and England hang Back; but Russia will go on single handed If they should decline We have no certain Accounts of Actual fighting being commenced Nor of the Russian Army crossing the Pruth. The Greeks will no doubt become indepen^{t} of Turkey tho. not yet acknowledged. there is a great Commotion in Europe. the English are Arming and so the French. The Brittish are withdrawing their Troops from Portugal and the French from Spain— Lord Wellington the Present prime Minister has gone over to France, for something about Greece and Turkey it is seposed. The Sperit for Internal improvement in the U. S. was never at such a height Rail ways are taking place of Canals as having the advantage of costing one third less, not being interrupted by Frost, the carriages propelled by Steam can freight

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as low and move Eight Miles an hour, whereas Canal Boats go only four.—

I had last winter a Visit from Geo. Sibley of Missouri his wife and her sister Miss Easton. they spent two Months with us and took away with them M^rs^ Sibley, Hopkins Sibleys widow, and her Daughter Ann. and son Harry; George has lived at Fort Ozage and they all left here for that place, but on arriving at S. Charles where Judge Eastons family Reside, George on Visiting and going over a Tract of Land he had owned for 15 years near that place which he never before had examined was persuaded to settle there and there they all are, they live in the Town the land they are improving comes within half a Mile; the Ozage farm and stock are kept up where they have an hundred Breeding Mares and Jennies etc. Judge Easton has the Dropsey and cannot live long. they give an account of the Beauty and improvements of St. Louis, Increase of Population and Wealth surpassing any Town in the West, Cincinnati Excepted.— they speak of the New Splendid Churches, Court and Market House as in an superior stile. the Jefferson Barracks 6 miles below where two Regiments of U. S. Troops are kept called the School of practice they mention as an Elegant Establishment giving great life and vareity to St. Louis. the Troops that were at Council Bluff are mov^d^ down a few miles above Old Fort Ozage and is called the Cantonement Levinsworth where is a Regiment. the State of Missouri is rapidly advancing in population Wealth and improvements and are for the Reelection of Mr. Adams Col Benton to the contrary notwithstanding—

Our Town of Natchitoches improves slowly. we have a large tolerable handsome and well finished Catholic Church Nearly done a good looking Belfrey and a good Bell. Several New Houses have been built since you were here, but the distruction of the great fire is scarsily repaired. all the Small Towns on the Steam Boats navigable Waters seem not to flourish. If an inhabitant wants a Twist of Tobacco he sends for it by a Steam Boat to his Agent in N. Orleans, it is sure to come in a few hours, at half what the little Jew shops would take for the Same Article—Alexandria from that cause, the Overflow and unhealthiness of the place is almost abandoned Houses and Lotts have fallen 300 pr Cent or More.—

The Planters in this Parish since the fall of Cotton (many of them) are preparing for sugar. the Ribbon Cane brought from China comes to perfection in about a Month less time than the Creole cane no doubt from the experiments already made it will succeed well in this Parish; but you have the soil and climate for that Article; but cannot be extensively used without Slaves.—

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Our Election for Gov^{r} Members of Congress and state Legislature is just over have not got the Returns for Govr. or Congress. Judge Derbigney, Butler, Marigney and Gen^{l} Thomas are the Candidates for Congress in this district Brent and Overton. we have from this Parish in Our Legislature A man by the name of Dyers Debleau and Benj^{a} Matyear.— Johnston Our Present Sheriff was married a few days ago to the Daughter of M^{r} Benj^{m} Bullitt— Col Quarles of Arkensas to Mad^{me} Grosvenor— Mr. Cable and his wife live apart. Several Accidents have hapened by steam Boat Boilers Bursting, the car of Commerce lately, and killed and wounded 57 persons, Two have been Burnt and one sunk in Red River.—

I did not see Capt. Jones, probably when he called I was out about three Miles where My family are at a Summer residence; where we have good Water and Air. No Musketoes and Milk not Bitter, M^{r} Cable has informed me he had sent you a Packet of papers which will keep you Along till you Receive more— If the Gov^{t} of Mexico was better organised, so that one might be protected in person and property and Religion I should feel Enclined to move into it.—

17th-July. By the Steam Boat Beaver we have the Election Returns so far as to assertain that Judge Derbigney has a Majority of Votes for Governor. that Judge white a young man (son of Doct^{r} White who died Parish Judge of Attackapa) and lately been Acting as City Judge of New Orleans, has been Elected Member of Congress in place of M^{r}. Livingston; Derbigney and White are for the Reelection of M^{r}. Adams President. M^{r}. Livingston for Jackson M^{r}. Marigney and Judge Butler opposed to Derbigney as Governor are Jacksonites. The Votes of Louissiana will be for Adams (President). M^{r}. Gurley of Batton Rouge (Adams) is Reelected by a large Majority. Missouri and Illenois for the administration; and we now believe Adams will certainly be Reelected— I sepose you were Acquainted with Our Captain Grosvenor; while he was in your Country: Accounts Came on here Satisfactory to his wife that he had another wife in New York. she had a decree Nullifying her Marriage with Grosvenor, and was in March last married to a Col Quarles, a Lawyer from Little Rock in Arkensa Territory, the Col after living here with her a short time went to Arkensas and Returned sooner than he had appointed he soon appeared dissatisfied and went away Again, it is thought will not soon if ever Return to her again. The Col is a light made, small Man Very Genteal, well informed, a Schollar, and stands high at the Bar is I should think under 35.— there is a Col Oden living

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here from Arkensa also, a Man of Wonderfull Physical and Intellectual powers, was, but not now an intimate friend of Col Quarle's—

JOHN SIBLEY [Rubric]

P. S—you have not informed me about my claim on the Estate of Mc. Farlane.—Since Writing the above we have had more particularly the Return of our Election Derbigney will be our Governor—White for Congress in place of Livingston. Gurley Reelected—Overton in place of Brent.

SAMUEL PARKMAN TO AUSTIN

Petit Saw Bluff Missouri August 1st 1828

COL AUSTIN

SIR A desire which I have for some time entertained to have a knowledge of the distinguishing characteristics of the Province of Texas has been of late much increased by the perusal of some of your letters published in the papers of this country. I write at this [time] to request a minut description of the country but the more particularly of that part of the country in which you are established I am under the impression that you have obtained of the Mexican Government an extensive Country which you are now Colonizing. For the sake of brevity I will condense the subjects of my enquiries into the following questions. How far is your Colony from the Gulf Coast? Is the country Mountainous or level. How Large are the Rivers Colorado and Brasos? Do they in any considerable degree afford facilities for navigation? What proportion do the rich lands bear to the poor or barren lands? I have taken the Idea that lands along the rivers are extremely fertile but that the intermediate hills were dry and barren. Am I right? Is it a timbered Country What is the extent of your grant? Is it Surveyed? Is the country in general explored and Surveyed? What enducements can you hold out to a Surveror who is a complete master of the business in all its branches? Are you in want of a person to assist you in making your map of the Country? Are the unoccupied lands in the hands of the general Government of Mexico as in this Country? What Route would you recommend to emigrants from the States on the Ohio River. What time is required to Sail from your Colony to the port nearest to the City of Mexico. I have now given you some of the leading points uppon which I desire information. There may be others which may occur to you if so I shall be grateful for their insertion. I have an intention of visiting your country if the prospects shall appear favorable. I am a Surveyor and in that business would wish to be employed either in Texas or elsewhere in

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the Mexican Provinces. I am aware that the number of my enquiries may intrude uppon your leisure but you may rest assured that in giving me the desired information you will confer a verry particular favor and not only on myself but a verry considerable number of my acquaintances who have some Idea of emigrating I must request that you will answer as early as convenient

SAMUEL PARKMAN

COL AUSTIN

San Felippe de Austin Texas

P. S. If convenient I would be happy to see a small map of your colony Direct to Petit Saw Bluff La Fayette Co Missouri via St. Louis Missouri

AUSTIN TO POLITICAL CHIEF

[From Bexar Archives]

El artículo 36 de la ley reglamentaria de la milicia nacional local de este Estado de 23 de Junio de este año prescribe entre otros requisitos para ser oficial el de " ser Mejicano p^{r} nacim^{to} "—Este requisito ha hecho nacer una duda sobre la cual considéro de mi deber consultar al Supremo Gob^{no} del Estado p^{r} conducta de V. S. La duda á que refiero se reduce á esto. Yo en comun con todos los habitantes de esta Colonia he solemnente prestado un juramento de observar y guardar la Constitucion Federal, la del Estado, y las leyes generales de la Federacion y las particulares del Estado. Yo estuve nombrado Com^{dte} de la Milicia de esta Colonia con el grado de Ten^{te} Coronel por la Exma. Diputacion y el Sor Com^{dte} General de las Provinciales Internas Orientales en Monterey en el año 1823, y el dia 23 del p^{o} p^{o} mes se sirvió V. S. espedirme una orden como tal Comandante de la Milicia de esta Jurisdiccion, pero yo no soy Mejicano por nacim^{to} y por consiguiente la Ley espresamente prohibe que yo puedo ser oficial de dho cuerpo de modo que me hallo en el embarazo de disimular mi juramento ó de faltar en obedecer la orden de V. S. porque segun dichas leyes yo no puedo ejercer funcion ning^{a} como oficial de la milicia por falta del requisito legal y si lo hago aunq^{e} por orden del Gob^{or} me parece que será faltar á la obligacion que me impone mi juramento por que la orden del Gob^{or} no puede ser superior á la ley ni alterarla.

Segun la ley no puede haber organizacion ninguna ni provisionalmente de esta Jurisdiccion porque no hay mas que dos Mejicanos p^{r} Nacim^{to} radicados aquí permanentemente, uno es Antonio Mancha que antes fué sirviente de Don Erasmo Seguín, y el otro es José Leal de oficio vaquero. ni uno ni otro de ellos sabe leer ni escrivir.

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La milicia local es el unica fuerza con que contamos para defendernos de los Yndios, y para preserver el buen orden y la ley de que hablo nos ha privado enteram^te^. de este recurso por la imposibilidad absoluta de organizarla.

Hasta recibir resolucion superior sobre la duda de que consulto me considero suspendido por la Ley de todo mando ó autoridad como oficial de la milicia pero sin embargo cumpliré la orn de V. S. antes mencionado aunq^e^, sea en calidad de ciudadano particular, y al efecto salgo el dia de mañana.

Dios y Libertad

Villa de Austin 2 de Agosto de 1828

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric.]

Señor Gefe del Depart^o^. C Ramon Musquiz

MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar, August 3, 1828.

See Calendar.

J. G. DE LOS SANTOS TO AUSTIN

August 5, 1828.

See Calendar.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches, Agosto 5 de 1828.

Sr. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO Y SR.: quedo entendido de lo que V. me dice acerca de la Enciclopedio del Dr. Rees, y espero me haga el favor de decirme si trata sistematicamente la botanica y la zoologia. Remito á V. termómetro para que se sirva observarlo siquiera cada dos horas al dia, y algunas en la noche antes de acostarse, haciendome favor de darme las noticias necesarias para poder hacer un cotejo; é igualmente le suplico vuelva á tomar la temperatura de la agua del poso p^a^ saber en qe. estado se halla.

Mis muchas ocupaciones no me permiten por ahora estenderme,

MAN^l^. DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

LORENZO DE ZAVALA TO AUSTIN

6 de Ag^to^ de 1828

Sr. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO: he recibido muy atrasada la de V. de 23 de Junio, y quedo enterado de lo qe me espone sobre los reclamos delos

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acredores delos colonos. Estoy dispuesto á protegerlos, y creo qe mi protecion valdra alguna cosa. Yo creo qe los colonos tienen razon, y pueden contar con qe yo nolos decampararé. En el proximo correo contestaré aV. mas estensamente y le dare razon de lo qe. pienso hacer sobre todo

Doy á V. gracias por sus generosas ofertas. Nos auxiliaremos mutuam^te^ y este es el modo de progresar.

L. de Zavala [Rubric]

Thomas M. Duke to Musquiz

San Felipe, August 6, 1828.

See Calendar.

Gaspar Flores to S. M. Williams

Bexar, August 7, 1828.

See Calendar.

José Maria Viesca to Austin

Leona Vicario 8 de Agto de 1828

Ciudadano Estevan F. Austin

Muy Sor. mio y amigo de toda mi consideracion y aprecio: La grata de V. fha. en 25 del pasado Junio qe. no pude contestar con la brevedad qe. quisiera pr. un accidente qe. me puso en cama en esos dias, me instruye muy por menor, y con toda claridad de los enormes perjuicios qe. gravitarian sobre esos colonos, y sobre los progresos de nuestra naciente Poblacion si huviera de exigirse de aquellos qe. pagasen sus deudas con traidas en los Estados Unidos del Norte antes de su establecim^to^ en este Pais, en los irregulares terminos que pretenden sus acredores.[1] Veo palpablem^te^ amigo mio, qe. en el plan qe. V. me propone, y puede adoptarse pr. providencia Legislativa se concilian todos los estremos de la Justicia, de la Politica etc. etc., y pr. lo tanto no dude V. qe. aceptando por mi parte con todo empeño, no omitire diligencia alguna á fin de qe. igualm^te^ se acepte pr. esta Legislatura. Al efecto tengo dispuesto sé le presente pr. este Govierno el proyecto de decreto respectivo tan luego como se reuna en las procsimas seciones del mes qe. entra, y entre tanto estaré á la mira de cualesquiera consulta, ú ocurrencia qe. pueda sucitarse pr. los acredores sobre aquel tan delicado punto,

[1] See Austin to Zavala, June 24, 1824.

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y haré todos los esfuerzos posibles pr. evitar á esas colonias los males de tanta trascendencia pª el Estado qe. pudiesen ocasionarse con pretensiones tan injustas.

Tengo el honor de repetirme de V. su sincero amigo

J. Mª Viesca [Rubric]

—

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin

Leona vicario Agosto 9. de 1828.

Sr. D. Esteban F. Austin.

Mi estimadmo Amigo: Está tomado en consideracion el asunto que V. recomienda al Sr. Gobor y á mi sobre pago de deudas extrangeras, y acordado se haga una consulta ó iniciativa de ley á la legislatura en su proxima reunion de sepe sobre la que trabajaremos para que pase.[1]

El Gobo ha visto con dolor que no puede auxiliar al Ayuntamiento de esa villa con un srio de las calidades que lo pide su Alde en Ofo de 27. de Junio ulto que dirijio al Gefe del Departamento motibando la falta de cumplimiento en las leyes y ordenes del Gobo. Estoy autorizado para decir á V. manifieste al Ayuntamiento, que piense bien sobre este asunto; que acuerde los medios ó arbitrios con que puede contar pª pagar un srio que sepa los dos idiomas, y la direccion de los negocios que diga que cantidad podrá darle anualmte por su trabajo, y que otras conveniencias le podran resultar de admitir y desempeñar el destino: que considerados y acordados todos estos puntos por el Ayuntamiento, puede invitar candidatos si le parece mas facil en los Estados Unidos del norte, y hacer venir el que se preste, con tal que no sea Español de nacimiento: y si no que lo haga presente al Gobo pr. conducto del Gefe Politico para solicitarlo en Mejico por conducto del Senador. El plan propuesto en cualquiera de los dos extremos será sin duda aprobado por el Gobo. Este es el unico medio que hay legal para, que esas autoridades puedan ir ya que V. no puede por sus peculiares atenciones auxiliarlas en esta parte.

Yo que deseo por la mia prestar algun servicio á esa Corporacion, me tomo la libertad de acompañar á V. copia de la ordenanza municipal de un pueblo del Estado, que es el papel mejor arreglado que se há presentado sobre este particular, para que tomandose el trabajo de traducirlo al ingles, lo presente á mi nombre al Ayuntamiento, como una muestra de mi cariño, para que tomando de su contenido lo adaptable para esa municipalidad, tenga á lo menos un modelo á que arreglar la que esta obligada de formar por la ley nº 37. de 13. de Junio de 1827. artº. 150.

[1] See Austin to Zavala, June 24, 1828.

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Hé querido remitir ese modelo, no porque piense que en esa colonia no hay sugetos literatos y bien instruidos en toda clase de negocios, pero soy disculpable si se atiende al objeto á que me dirijo. Entre otros es el pral que esta clase de documentos desea el Gob° sea por lo general formado de una manera uniforme, por que siendo constantes los principios del regimen constitucional, es menester concluir en que en todos los pueblos se deben adoptar los que pertenecen al ramo municipal, y desembolverse y aplicarse con las modificaciones y variaciones que las costumbres vicios, virtudes y demas circunstancias de cada poblacion exijan particular y peculiarm^te^ al genio, indole y caracter de sus habitantes. Asi sirvase V. manifestarlo á los sres del Ayuntam^to^ indicandoles de mi parte que ya que son miembros dela gran familia Mexicana, les será util adoptar las virtudes de los Mexicanos, y nunca sus vicios. Baste ya de municipios y vamos a otra cosa.

Está decidido que yo tomaré la comision de todas esas colonias, y por lo mismo será conveniente que V. vea en donde he de tomar mis onze sitios que tengo adquiridos del Gob° para lo que obtendré una resolucion favorable. Podrá ser mas util tomarlos en tres puntos distintos de tres ó menos sitios entendido que yo he de escoger uno acaso en S. Jacinto para establecer mi residencia. Esto será decidido á nra vista. Algunos Amigos y enemigos mios me han indicado sus deseos aunque por sentimientos contrarios para la proxima diputacion al congreso general. A todos hé desengañado con mi ineptitud, por una parte y con mis perjuicios por otra: quiera Dios no insistan en su temeridad porque soy arruinado. No me escuso de servir á mi patria, sino en cuanto entiendo que esta no, puede apetecer el sacrificio inutil de uno de sus hijos, cuando hay millares que la pueden obsequiar con mas lustre.

Escribame V. constantem^te^.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Austin to Musquiz

San Felipe, August 9, 1828.

See Calendar.

Austin to George Orr

San Felipe, August 11, 1828.

See Calendar.

Thomas M. Duke to Musquiz

San Felipe, August 14, 1828.

See Calendar.

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ANASTACIO BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Muy reservado

El Exmo Sor. Secretº del Despacho de la Grª y Marina en oficio de 22. de ppdo. me dice lo qe. sigue.

"E. S.—El Gobº save pocitivamente qe. muchos Españoles residentes en N. Orleans, han propuesto al Gefe de la Ysla de cuba hacer una incurcion en las costas de Texas para internarse y sublevarse á la Yndiada cuya propuesta la repiten con esfuerzo ofreciendo dar fondos para la empresa, organisandola pronto y sin ruido. En esta virtud, me ordena S. E. dar conocimiento de ella á V. E. para su inteligencia advirtiendole qe. el numº de gente con qe. cuentan semejante idea es de 400 o 500, hombres, y qe. si llega á tener efecto, V. E. resivirá el aviso directo de N. Orleans."

Y lo incerto á V. pª su inteligencia y afin de qe. por su parte tome todas las medidas de precaucion qe. esten á su alcance y le dicte su acreditado celo por la libertad de la Patria qe. ha adoptado en el caso de qe. se verifique la incurcion proyectada estando muy á la mira de Galveston y demas puntos de la costa inmediatos á esa Colonia, en qe. el enemigo pueda intentar hacer un desembarco, y dando igualmtº prontos avisos de las novedades qe. crea de consideracion á los Comandantes de la Bahia y Nacogdoches, para qe. estos lo hagan al Pral. del Estº con quienes podrá V. ponerse de acuerdo para la comun defenza, comunicandoles asi mismo las noticias qe. V. adquiera de los movimientos ó planes del Enemigo, informandose de las personas fidedignas qe. vengan de orleans y Nachitoches, con tal astucia qe. pr. las preguntas no vengan en conocimiento de qe. por nuestra parte se tiene ya aviso de la proyectada expedicion.

Dios y Libertad.

Matamores Agtº 15. de 1828.

ANASTº BUSTAMtº [Rubric]

Ciudº. Tenteº Corl F. Estevan Austin Gefe de la Colonia de este nombre.

ANASTACIO BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Matamª Agtº 15–828–

Ciudº Tenteº Corl F. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI CONCIUDno Y AMIGO MUY ESTIMADO. Los españoles, principalmteº. aquellos q. han sido expulsos de nuestra Republica deseosos de vengarse y de volvernos á sojuzgar, no menos q. enardecidos del celo rabioso qe. les causa el q. nosotros hayamos abierto la puerta al comercio extrangero no cesan de maquinar contra nuestra tranquilidad y libertad, como lo acredita el proyecto de invadirnos los q. se ha-

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llan en Orleans de acuerdo con el Gefe de la Ysla de Cuba, segun se impondrá V. por el aviso reservado q. le comunico de oficio.

Yo no creo q. ellos conseguirán las ventajas q. se prometen, pero no dudo q. de sus barbaros sentimientos q. se empeñen en llevar acabo tan temeraria empresa, pero cuento con la cooperacion no solo de las tropas de mi mando, sino con la de la Milicia civica q. se halla álas orns. deV. cuyos sentimientos é interes estan identificados con los naturales del pais, pues q. silos españoles llegasen á sojuzgarnos todos correriamos igual suerte y seria perdido el fruto de tantos afanes con q. han logrado establecerse esos laboriosos pobladores; por lo q. espero q. hará V. quanto esté de su parte p^{a}. adquirir noticias de mobimiento del enemigo, comunicandolas q. considere dignas del conocimiento del Com^{te} del Estado, y tomando todas las providencias q. estime oportunas p^{a} nuestra comun defensa.

Tenga V. la bondad de saludar de mi parte á su Srio., aceptando las seguridades del particular afto. con q. me repito de V. su conciudadano y amigo q. lo ama con la mas cordial sinceridad.

Anast^{o} Bustam^{te} [Rubric]

Alexander Yhary to Austin.

Matamoros, August 15, 1828.

See Calendar.

W. A. Ficklin to Austin

Jackson La August 17 1828

Dear Sir:

The object of my writing you is to ascertain the prospects your colony offers—to the young and enterprising When quite young I had the pleasure of knowing you at Potosi where my father continues to reside. five years ago I left home for the purpose of educating myself with those means only which industry Supplied—last March the degree of Doctor of medicine was conferred upon me by The Transylvania school, and am now engaged in the practice of my profession— the patronage extended to me is quite flattering to one of so little experience as myself—

But the time for accumulating a fortune in this country by the practice is past, and with it the only inducement the country ever offered to emigrants—

what is the size of San Filipe de Austin. its distance from the gulf from the city of Mexico and from Natchidoches the number of inhabitants in your colony, and the density of the population—

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the Health and the prospect a Physician would realize. I am well aware how much I trespass upon your time—upon your kindness—in inviting your attention to Subjects interesting to myself alone—I cannot offer in palliation the kindness—your family has always extended to mine, nor the marked friendship of your late excellent mother towards myself to her admonition am I more indebeted than to any other human being for the resuscitation from that state of obscurity, into which the early pecuneary misfortunes of my family had thrown me.—

You are already apprised of the unhappy state into which political Schism has thrown our republic— in S Carolina open oposition is threatened to the tariff how far their threat will be carried into effect we can form no idia. their leading Politicians take a promenent stand with the opposition. verry considerable doubt exists of the relection of Mr Adams—. I cannot but hope there is a redeeming spirit in the land which will counteract the effects of military deeds upon the deluded multitude—

The Respects of an old Schoolfellow to you Brother

W. A. Ficklin

Mr. S F Austin

H R Schoolcraft Esqr A Scientific gentleman who for a considerable time during your absence resided with your father has received a high appointment by government in a Southern Exploring expedition

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Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Con esta fha. digo al Alcalde de esa Villa lo que sigue.

Estando determinado por el artº 15. del decreto nº 58. qe. al Gobno corresponde señalar el cupo de hombres qe. toque á dos ó mas municipalidades qe. por dha. Ley deven formar escuadrones ó Batallones de milicia civica nacional, esta bien no se halla organisado con arreglo al referido decreto la Milicia Nacional local de esa jurisdicion, debiendo hasta tanto no se berifique dha. organisacion quedar en el Estado qe. se hayan las compañias de Milicia civica qe. se formaron con arreglo al anterior reglamento de 8. de Abril de 1823, y respecto á la duda qe. áV. le ocurre por el contenido del artº 36. del referido decreto dirigire la consulta necesario al Exmo Sor. Gobor de este Estado y con el resultado dare á V. oportuno aviso.

Y lo trascrivo á V. para su inteligencia y en respuesta a su oficio de 2. del corriente en qe. trata del propio asunto.

Dios y Libertad

Bejar 20. de Agosto de 1828. Ramon Musquiz [Rubric]

Al Ciudno Empresario Estevan Austin.

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MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar, August 20, 1828.

See Calendar.

MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar, August 21, 1828.

See Calendar.

J. ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Leona vicario 23. de Agosto de 1828.

Sr. D. ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN.

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO Y DUEÑO: Recibi la muy apreciable de V. de 28. del ppdo. Julio á que debo contestar diciendo, que el Gob° tiene demasiada buena reputacion de V. y que en tal concepto le merece la mayor confianza para llenar los objetos de colonizacion con aquel interes que inspira el deseo del acierto á que V. aspira para beneficio de los habitantes y del mismo pais que há adoptado por Patria. El Gob° jamas se arrepentirá de haber protejido á V. en sus utiles empresas. Este concepto puede publicarlo, si necesario es, por las prensas: la conducta franca del Gob° no teme la maledicencia ni la mordacidad de todos los Zoylos del mundo.

Hé considerado conveniente para V. remitirle, como lo hago, una copia legal de su ultimo oficio sobre la contrata de colonizacion en las tierras litorales, con el Decreto relativo del Gob° para que agregado por V. al papel de capitulaciones, sirva de perfeccion al contrato en manera que haga fé. El original queda aqui unido al Expediente para los mismos fines; por manera que si pr. una casualidad se perdieran los documentos que V. tiene referentes á este asunto, con pedir al Gob° nueva copia autorizada, la obtendria autentica, y tan valedera como la primera.

Por mi opinion no hay inconven^{te} para que deje de considerarse la isla de Galveston incluida en la ultima contrata como parte connexa con la costa litoral: para evitar toda duda haga V. una exposicion fundado en que al tpo. de remitir su primera instancia sobre colonizar en los terrenos litorales, no lo expresó por que creyó que seria una prolixidad, pero que habiendo considerado mejor la cosa, le parece por no estar expresam^{te} puesta la isla en la concesion, ser conveniente se declare para prevenir toda duda ó reclamo que le sea perjudicial.

A esta ligera observacion se acumulan las demas razones que V. me expresa en su citada carta, diciendo que al establecimiento de la aduana debe haber alguna villa, ó poblacion cualquiera, por que

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enviar los empleados á un punto desierto es lo mismo que no enviarlos ó impedir que hagan su oficio o con provecho al Gob°.

No escribo esta representacion por que V. es capaz de formarla mucho mejor; pero aun cuando asi no fuera, yo estoy aqui p^a apoyarla; en el concepto de que si ha de ir á la resolucion del Gob° de Mejico, podré influir para q se recomiende por el Gob° de oficio, y en lo particular la recomendaré eficasmte. á mi apoderado el Sr. Ceballos, que es capaz de pelearse con el Ministro por conseguir lo que cree justo, y sele encarga.

Por nuestras leyes, no es ciertam^te tan respetada la propiedad, como lo es sin duda en los E. U. cuando al particular dueño de un terreno se le permite fundar una poblacion, vendiendolo en pequeños porciones á los que quieren alli establecerse. Lea V. con bastante cuidado el art° 35. de la ley de colonizacion del Estado de 24. de Marzo de 1825. á que se contrahe el 5° de la misma ley. Vea V. el art° 113. de la constitucion parrafo 4°. de las restricciones de las facultades del Gob^or: y encontrará en estos textos el modo legal de atacar la propiedad con el pretesto de *utilidad general.* Estas nociones fueron tomadas de los publicistas españoles que formaron la constitucion de Cadiz, en la que verá V. los mismos principios en las restricciones de las facultades del Rey.

Las teorias exactas de los publicistas extrangeros que consagran á la propiedad los respetos de *Sagrada*, asustarón á nuestras legisladores, por su rigidez de principios y por que no estaban sus oidos acostumbrados á oir semejantes doctrinas. El tiempo y los hechos nos irán marcando la senda que debamos sequir p^a ser felices: no basta predicar principios luminosos, es menester practicarlos: el exemplo es el vehiculo mas poderoso para la imitacion.

De lo dicho podrá V. inferir qe. vengo á concluir con desaprobar el plan que me indica sobre fundar una villa en la punta oriental de la isla de Galveston con provecho conocido del dueño del terreno; pero no es asi. Mi objeto es hacer á V. presente los inconvenientes legales q pueden presentarse para la consecucion del proyecto, fundados en leyes existentes. Un caso supuesto ilustrará el asunto. A nombre de V. ó de Juan se extiende un titulo en forma de un sitio de tierra en el punto mas acomodado y esquisito para una villa en el paraje mismo designado con esta nota

Comienza á trabajar: edifica su casa, abre su labor, etc etc. Se pretende fundar la poblacion á pedimento del empresario, ó del comisionado; este por su obligacion debe escoger el terreno mas á proposito: no halla otro que el indicado pero le dice al Gob° *es de propiedad particular*: se instruye un Exped^te en que resulta probada hasta la evidencia la utilidad conveniencia y necesidad de fundar alli la villa: se dan los tramites que previene la constitucion (art° 113)

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para ocupar la propiedad de un particular, se decreta, y se executa indemnizando á la parte interesada; dandole en otra parte igual terreno en dimension, però no en calidad ni circunstancias. Y hai me tiene V. con todo el proyecto en tierra sin que pueda evitarse ni por el diablo: solo de una manera podria conseguirse no incomodar al propietario de aquella tierra, qe era diciendo que no era á proposito p^{a} fundar una poblacion: pero este paso era lo mismo que destruir el proyecto por otro lado sin poderlo remediar, ni lograr provecho.

V. conocerá por lo expuesto que es impracticable un plan productivo, como V. me indica: lo mejor será dejar correr las cosas por un turno, escojer los puntos mas ventajosos que ofrescan mayores incentivos por su localidad y demas circunstancias al ojo especulador de un extrangero que quiera adquirirlos por compra, cuando por el natural progreso de la poblacion hayan adquirido un precio suficiente á indemnizar los trabajos y privaciones de su primer poseedor.

Ninguna cosa de estas hé manifestado al Sr. Viesca por su suma delicadeza, el Am^{o} Blanco está en Mejico todavia, y espero verlo antes de mi partida.

Yá habré cansado á V. con mis difusas narraciones, pero confio en su prudencia y calma que aunque no son caractéres sino de un Holandés, V. los posee en sumo grado.

Dela remesa del carruage y sillon depende en cierto modo mi viage: Si V. puede activarla, solo agradeceré mucho. Tambien necesito p^{a} el intento una caravina fulminante que no sea pesada y un par de pistolas dela misma calidad con sus correspondientes avios de dedales fulminantes polvora etc

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Description of Texas[1]

August, 1828.

See Calendar.

Governor Viesca to the Legislature[2]

En los nuevos establecim^{tos} coloniales del departamento de Bejar se han establecido y plantado con arreglo á la ley de colonizacion del Estado algunos hombres qe. han dejado causadas deudas en el paiz de su procedencia de mayor ó menor cuantia. Los acreedores luego q. han sabido q. estos Colonos están establecidos en la nueva

[1] This article was subsequently attached by Austin to a section of his map of Texas. There is a copy also in a clipping, without date, from the Galveston News.

[2] For the origin of this measure see Austin to Lorenzo de Zavala, June 24, 1828. The law as passed departed somewhat from this outline presented by the Governor. Austin's bill below, September 8, 1828.

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patria adoptiva y q. son propietarios de algun terreno han comisionado sugetos que los persigan en justicia para el pago de sus creditos, q. con el tiempo han acrecido en razon de los excesivos censos q. reportan sobre los Capitales, y p^{a} el efecto pretenden los comisionados ocupar los terrenos adjudicados á los nuevos Colonos, sus casas labores, ganados etc. etc hasta cubrirse de sus capitales intereses, dejando al deudor reducido al mas lamentable estado de miseria y á su inosente familia tirada en el campo, sin alcanzar siquiera lo muy preciso p^{a} satisfacer las necesidades mas urgentes.

Tal estado de Cosas ha puesto en consternacion á Muchas familias de aquel paiz q. por desgracia se hayan agoviados del peso de deudas contrahidas antes de su emigracion segun noticias fidedignas con q. se haya el Gobierno á cerca de este particular; y deseoso este de q. se provea de remedio oportuno á semejantes pretenciones. Conciliando los dros. q. tienen los acreedores á indemnizarse de sus creditos sin q. sea á costa del territorio del Estado y con el menor perjuicio posible de los deudores en uso de la prerrogativa q. me concede el art^{o} 113. de la constitucion, precento al H. Congreso el adjunto proyecto de ley q someto gustoso á su examen y deliberacion; y para cuyo conocimiento expondré los fundamentos en q. se apoya.

Por el art^{o} 27. de la ley de Colonizacion esta prevenido á los pobladores q. no puedan enagenar sus tierras sino hasta despues de haberlas cultivado en su totalidad, y no antes. Bien examinada esta parte del art^{o} se conoce claram^{te} q. los legisladores no quisieron conseder á los nuebos Colonos el dro. de vender sus propiedades pr. el lapso del tiempo, sino cuando las hubieran cultivado enteram^{te} y ya se vé q. un sitio de tierra puede no estarlo enteramente sino hasta pasados diez, quince, ó veínte años, a menos q. el colono poseedor de esta tierra tenga bastantes recursos y actividad para cultivarlo enteramente por exemplo á los cuatro, cinco ó seis años desu adquisicion: En este caso se debe suponer una de dos cosas: ó q. este colono activo laborioso y poseedor de suficiente capital no tiene reato de deuda alguna anterior á su emigracion, y entonces está fuera toda la dificultad, ó la trajo contrahida, y en este supuesto puede comodam^{te} satisfacerla sin necesidad de apremio judicial, pero nó con las tierras adquiridas pr. virtud de la ley, sino con los frutos ó utilidades sacados de esas mismas tierras ó con sus otros recursos.

Por otra parte si hubieramos de permitir q. un extrangero por ser acreedor de un colono admitido y plantado en el paiz, tubiera dro. para appropiarse en pago de su credito del terreno q. á su deudor se le habia concedido para cultivarlo seria lo mismo q. hecharnos encima todas las deudas de los Colonos poniendo en poder de los estrangeros sus acreedores nuestras tierras, sin fruto ni provecho alguno para el Colono ni p^{a} el Estado el Colono quedaria reducido á la ultima miseria, el paiz en manos de extrangeros, y las colonias

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arruinadas y destruidas enteramente. Asi que, en opinion del Gobierno el arto. 1° del proyecto favorese mas bien la causa del Estado, esto es, la integridad de su territorio, q. el interes de los Colonos ó lo q. es lo mismo favoreciendo á estos, se favorece directamente al Estado. No hay q. esperar q. todos los nuevos colonos q. vengan á establecerse en el paiz sean hombres sin deudas y poseedores de gruezos capitales por q. como estos tienen lo necesario p^{a} satisfacer sus necesidades sin las privaciones, riesgos, é incomodidades q. ocasiona la emigracion á un pais nuevo desierto, y plagado de salvages, fieras y otros animales q. molestan al hombre es de creer q. los que hacen y emprenden tales expediciones son sugetos de una mediana ó escasas fortuna, y tal vez cargados de deudas por accidentes q. no estubo en su mano remediar; y lo aventuran todo por salbar su existencia, procurarse una propiedad con q. llenar sus necesidades, y atender á sus creditos con los sobrantes de su industria. Y por lo mismo las tierras no pueden ni deben estar afectas al pago de esas deudas sea cual fuere su origen y proceda., si es q. fueron contrahidas en pais extrangero antes de la emigracion al Estado: y si este no tiene obligacion de reconocerlas, mucho menos debe permitir q. con sus tierras se paguen.

El termino q. Señala el art° 2° del proyecto es el minimo posible q. se debe conceder á los Colonos con el fin de q. considerando á estos en estado de pagar sus duedas despues del año 1840. por los progreso á q. para entonces debe venir el pais, no les sea gravoso desprenderse de una parte de sus sudores y fatigas en beneficio de sus acreedores, en los terminos q. prescribe el art° 3° siguiente.

el 4° y ultimo esta fundado en q. el Estado no está obligado á reconocer los exsorvitantes intereses q. en paises extrangeros como en el de los Estados unidos del Norte se cobra por los creditos q. es de un seis, ocho y hasta diez por ciento anual: contentesele, si quieren los acreedores, con q. sus deudores los colonos del Est° les paguen la suerte pral por decimas en cada año hasta la extincion, obsequiando asi la equidad y buena fee: en intelig^{a} de q. ni á esto está siquiera obligado el Estado para con estrangeros á quienes nada les debe por este ni otro respecto.

Lo q. comunico á V S. S. para conocimiento y resolucion del Honorable congreso.

Dios y Libertad

Leona Vicario 2 de Sep^{te} de 1828.—José María Viesca.—Juan Antonio Padilla Secretario.—Sores. Diputados Srios. del H^{e} Congreso del Estado.

Es Copia

MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar, September 4, 1828.

See Calendar.

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AUSTIN TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC[1]

copia de una memoria al Exmo Sor Presidente.

EXMO. SOR. Como Empresario del primer establecim^to^ colonial de familias estrangeras en Texas y en cierta manera el encargado de los intereses de los colones, tanto de los de esta mi patria adoptiva en quanto pertenece al adelanto y bien estar de esta poblacion naciente, me dirijo con el mayor respecto al Exmo Sor Presidente con el fin de esponer con la brevidad posible los males y perjuicios qe. recayan sobre estos pobladores, y el atraso consiguiente al adelanto de este establecim^to^ en consequencia del ultimo arancel maritimo y las ordenes estrechas recientemente circuladas relativas al comercio sobre la costa de Texas; y de sugerir para la consideracion del Gob^no^. Supremo algunas medidas qe. en mi concepto removarían los males sin perjuicio alguno a la renta publica, y qe. tendrian notable influxo en el fomento de esta nueva poblacion qe. tanto interesa al Estado y qe. ya ha costado tantos trabajos penibles p^a^ plantar, protestando al mismo tpo qe. el unico objecto qe. me mueve es el bien comun de la patria á qe. pertenesco.

Es claro qe. la politica en qe. se fundó el systema de prohibiciones es la de protejer y fomentar la industria nacional por la exclusion de articulos estrangeros qe. competieren con los naturales, y es sabia y nesesaria como medida gral. Pero en un pais tan estenso como esta la nacion Mexicana puede haber lugares en qe. por circunstancias peculiares el systema de prohibiciones causaria ruina entera sin provecho ninguno a nadie— Considero qe. esta nueva poblacion se halla presisam^te^ en este caso.

Pocos años hace qe. este pais era un puro despoblado y aun en el dia esta casi lomismo. Esta poblacion es la unica de las nuevas empresas qe. ha progresado y ella es naciente y todavia no tiene los elementos ni los recursos indispensables para poder sostenerse y progresar sin traer muchos articulos de otras partes. No se siembre aqui el trigo, ni puede sembrarlo con ventaja porqe. no se da por el calor excesivo del temperam^to^. Tampoco se lo siembre en Bexar ni en otra parte de Texas. El unico recurso pues para conseguir harrina es de traherla de Orleans ó del Saltillo. De aqui al Saltillo, hay mas de dos cientas leguas de trasporte por tierra y el camino despoblado y espuesto a los Indios. La harina de alli costaria a lo menos $20 el quintal entregado aqui, y esto en dinero porqe. no hay producto ninguno de esta qe. se puede llevar a vender en aquella. Es claro pues qe. el arancel nos prive enteram^te^ del uso de pan y esto sin provecho ninguno a los qe. siembran trigo porqe. estamos imposibilitado de comprarlo. Nos hallamos en el mismo caso con respecto al cafe y los mas de los articulos prohibidos.

[1] See Austin to Ceballos, July 28, 1828, and Sept. 20.

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El unico articulo con qe. contabamos por ahora para proporcionarnos dinero es Algodon qe hemos vendido en Orleans. Este recurso, esta cortado enteram^te con las ultimas providencias cerrando la embocadura del Rio de los Brazos, de modo qe. estamos ahora aislado en este desierto sin comercio ó comunicacion ninguna y sin aun la posibilidad de procurar muchos articulos de primera nesesidad. Ademas de estos males las familias qe. he contratado establecer deben venir por agua de Orleans y hay una necesidad absoluta qe. traxesen viveres y muchos articulos de primera necesidad.

Para evitar estos males y dar a esta Colonia el estimulo en su infancia qe. es indispensable p^a salvarla de decadencia y ruina propongo a la consideracion del Supremo Gob^no las medidas siguientes.

1° Que se concede a Colonia y Jurisdiccion de Austin en Texas libertad p^a introducir franco de derechos por el solo consumo de sus habitantes todo articulo de qualquier pais qe esté en paz y amistad con la Republica mexicana, sea prohibido ó no por el Arancel gral. maritima.

2° Se prohibe qe. se vende ó lleva articulo alguno de ilicito comercio qe. el colono introduce en virtud de esta gracia por su consumo fuera de la dha jurisdiccion a parte ninguna qe. no goce del mismo privilegio so[bre] pena decomiso y las mercancias de licito comercio qe. se llevan fuera de ella pagarán los derechos conforme al arancel y á las leyes vigentes.

3° Se prohibe qe. qualquier estrangero no comprendido como colona ó qe. no sea legitimam^te establecido y avecindado en la dha colonia como poblador segun la ley, puede gozar en ninguna manera de los privilegios concedidos por esta gracia so[bre] pena decomiso.

4° Se habilite la boca del Rio de los Brazos en Texas para el comercio de la jurisdiccion y Colonia de Austin estrangeros y de cabotage y para la entrada de familias imigradas agregandole al efecto como receptoria maritima dependiente a la aduana de Galveston.

5° Se encarga a todas las autoridades locales de la Hacienda de Texas el exacto cumplim^to de estas providencias para velar qe. no habra extraccion ilicita de efectos estrangeros introducidos en la dicha jurisdiccion en Virtud de esta gracia, y se autorisa al comisario de la jurisdiccion de Austin dar pases ó guias de los productos del pais qe se llevan a vender en otras partes sea en buques ó por tierra.

6° Estos privilegios duraran dies años desde la fecha de la gracia a menos qe. se justifique qe. los habitantes abusan de ella para perjudicar la renta nacional

Las razones en qe. se fundan estas medidas son las siguientes Supuesto qe. es objeto interesante dar fomento a esta nueva colonia en su infancia, y qe. es absolutam^te imposible qe sus habitantes

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pueden conseguir los articulos de primera nesesidad qe. son prohibidos pr. el arancel gral. es evidente qe. llevar en rigoroso efecto el dho arancel sera imposibilitar a los Colonos subsistir y de consiguiente qe, la colonia ha de decaer enteram^{te}. Es claro pues qe. hay una nesesidad imperiosa de permitir por ahora la entrada de articulos prohibidos. Sentado esto, la unica dificultad es conciliar los privilegios qe. he pedido con los intereses de la renta nacional y con los de otras partes del pais, y esto en mi concepto se hace pr. el articulo 2° y los siguientes, por los cuales se prohibe la estraccion de articulos prohibidos por el arancel fuera de la Jurisdiccion y se sujetan los de licito comercio estrahidos fuerta de ella á las leyes vigentes. El articulo 6° estimulará a cada individuo sea empleado ó no, a velar estrecham^{te} qe. no habra abusos pr. el temor de perder la gracia. el articulo 3° escluye todo estrangero qe. no sea colono de la gracia y esto es justo porque. el unico objeto es auxilliar a los colones legitam^{te} establecidos, y los comerciantes estrangeros tendran qe. sugetarse al arancel gral. El interes de los mismos colonos tambien ofrece una garantia qe. no habra abusos en este particular

Hay una nesesidad qe. habra un punto de desembarco p^{a} las familias y un puerto para el comercio de la colonia, porqe. sin esto no puede progresar, ni tampoco puede el empresario cumplir con su contrato con el Gob^{no}. La desembocadura de los Brazos es el unico qe. el dia ofrece comodidad para estos objetos, es central a la poblacion, tiene una entrada de 6 á 7 pies de agua y sirve muy bien p^{a} balandras y Goletas, es poblado y proporcione recursos p^{a} las familias a su primera llegada y facilidades p^{a} el comercio de la Colonia. Galveston esta habilitado provisionalm^{te} pero en el dia esta inutil a esta Colonia por su despoblado, retirado de las poblaciones y dificil á aproximar. Este puerto es seguro y servira p^{a} buques de tamaña quando esté mas poblado el pais y el comercio mas extenso y puede quedar habilitado como esta sin qe. el otro puerto qe. pido p^{a} la colonia lo perjudica en ninguna manera. Se puede tener un comercio de cabotage de esta colonia con Matamoros, Tampico, Vera Cruz etc. y p^{a} este objeto hay nesesidad de la facultad qe. pido al comisario de la jurisdiccion para dar pases o guias de los productos del pais trasportados de aqui p^{a} evitar decomisos y embarazos en otras partes.

El bien estar y progreso de esta colonia depiende en gran parte del resultado favorable de esta negocio, y considerando qe. esto, esta enteram^{te} ligado con el bien comun de esta parte del territorio Mejicano tomo la libertad de recomendar el asunto con empeño a la alta consideracion del Gob^{no} con el fin de proponer al Congreso nacional las medidas legislativas qe. se estime justas y nesesarias en la materia; suplicando qe. al Exmo Sor Presidente perdonara mi im-

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portunidad y qe. se la atribuye la verdadero motivo qe. es el adelanto de este pais y el bien comun de mi patria adoptiva.

Jurisdiccion de Austin 8 de Septiembre 1828—Exmo Sor Estevan F. Austin—Exmo Sor Ministro de Relaciones.

Es copia

AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Indorsed:] Memorial to the President asking privileges for the Colony.

AUSTIN'S BILL CONCERNING DEBTORS

Proyecto de ley, propuesto por E. F. A. 8 de spre. 1828[1]

La Legislatura del Estado de Cuahuila y Texas teniendo en consideracion el adelante y prosperidad de las nuevas colonias de Texas, y las infinitas dificultades trabajos y perdidas qe. han sufrido los Colonos en establecerse en un desierto, y los atrasos y perjuicios qe resultarian tanto a los mismos colonos como a la patria si se permite qe. acreedores estrangeros persiguen los emigrados deudores por deudas contratadas en otros paises antes de su emigracion a este y les exigen el pago en dinero sin demora ó indulgencia alguna, y deseando la Legislatura conciliar la justicia y los intereses de los acreedores estrangeros con los de las poblaciones nacientes—ha tenido a bien decretar y decreta. Que hasta pasado el año 1840 ningun colono emigrado qe sea legitimam^te^ establecido en cualquiera empresa de colonizacion en este Estado puede ser molestado en su persona o propiedad por ningun acreedor por deudas contratadas en pais estrangeros antes de su emigracion a esta, y despues del referido año de 1840 se puede exigir de los referidos deudores el pago de sus deudas estrangeras en plazos de 10 pr. ciento cada año sobre la deuda original sin interes o redito ninguno y no en otra manera

[Indorsed:] Project of law relative to foreign debts

[ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN.]

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR JOSÉ MARIA VIESCA

[About September 8, 1828?[2]]

Segun los articulos 7 y 149 de la constitucion y el articulo 6 del decreto n° 37 no puede haber Gefes de partido en Texas puesto qe. aquel departam^to^ se compone de solo un partido

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[1] See Austin to Zavala, June 24, 1828, and Viesca to Legislature September 2, 1828. The law as passed Jan. 13, 1829, is in Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 220.

[2] The date of this document can not be definitely determined. Its general tone shows it to have been written relatively early, and the reference to the "trastorno del orden" such as occurred at Nacogdoches "el año pasado" seems to fix it in 1828. During September and October of that year Austin was suggesting legislation on a variety of subjects. Hence this document is probably of that period.

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Considero de absoluta necesidad variar esta organizacion y formar nuevos partidos; la mucha extension de aquel departam^to^ presenta grandes dificultades en atendar a los negocios publicos por un solo Gefe colocado en Bexar. La parte oriental del departam^to^ esta poblando con nuevas colonias cuyos pobladores en lo general no entienden el idioma castellano, ni estan impuestos en las leyes y costumbres del pais porqe, estando recien llegados el tpo. no les ha permitido imponerse de ellas. No viven en poblaciones, sino esparcidos sobre ranchos y habitaciones y se dedican a la agricultura y la cria y suelen tienen [tener] necesidades distintas a los que habiten en pueblos. Aquella parte del departam^to^ tambien tiene un largo trecho de frontera maritima y Colindante y tambien tiene muchos tribus de Indios barbaros y por su situacion esta espuesta a ser turbada por estos, ó por la entrada de gente mala y por estas rezones necesita la presencia de un Gefe para organizar los nuevos pobladores, instalar sus ayuntam^tos^ traducir las ley[e]s y instruirlos en estas y en las costumbres de su nueva patria, tener la vista sobre la costa y la frontera velar en persona de los movim^tos^ y conducta de los Indios y por medidas prudentes dirijirlos indirectam^te^ a aprender nuevas costumbres preparatorias á conducirlos á la vida civilizada-velar en persona de la tranquilidad publica y la ejecucion de las leyes, y con presencia de las necesidades peculiares de aquellos habitantes y de los informes de los ayuntam^tos^ informar el Gob^no^ relativos a las reformas de las leyes qe la esperiencia demuestran sean necesarias, ó las nuevas que la situacion local y ocupaciones peculiares de aquellos habitantes requieren, para qe. la Legislatura con estos datos pueda ocurrir con mas acierto a las necesidades y mejor organizacion de aquello remota y importante porcion del Estado, porqe. estando el mismo Gob^no^, y sus instituciones nacientes, y la porcion del pais de que se trata muy remota y dispoblada pero poblando todos los dias, no se pueda esperar que en el principio se dictará todas las leyes adecuadas para su situacion local y necesidades particulares—Los alcaldes y los vocales de los Ayuntam^tos^ aunqe. entendieren el idioma castellano en lo gral no se compondran de hombres de las luces y experiencia qe se necesitan en aquellos puntos, pero no habra una decima parte de ellos qe entenderán el idioma ni las formas necesarias, y si no hay otro recurso sino hasta Bexar al Gefe del Departam^to^ se esperimentara infinitas dificultades en al confusion de idiomas, y en determinar con accierto entre informes contradictorios, discrepantes y calentados, y el trastorno del orden sera el resultado como sucedio en Nacogdoches el año pasado, y en mi opinion sucedera muy amenudo si no hay otros funcionarios sino el Gefe de Departmen^to^ los Alcaldes y los Ayuntam^tos^.

Me parece pues claro que se debe dividir el partido de Bexar.

Si los fondos del Estado no permite el gasto de dos Gefes de Partido, se puede nombrar solo uno para la parte oriental del De-

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partam^{to} pero en este caso se debe amplear su sueldo y asignarle suficiente para pagar traductores y escribientes, porq^{e} la misma necesidad requiere qe todas las leyes y ordenes del Gob^{no} serian publicadas alli en ambos idiomas, y por consiguiente el Gefe del partido tendria el trabajo de hacer las traducciones y de sacar los ejemplares necesarios para cada Alcalde y cada Ayuntam^{to} y sus deberes serian mas pesados y costosos qe los del Gefe del Departam^{to}.

Para formar tres partidos me parece la division siguiente.

1° todo el territorio del Departam^{to} situado al poniente de una linia qe seguira el arroyo de la Baca desde su desembocadura hasta su cabezera y de alli linia recta al norte hasta el rio Colorado y siguiendo este arriba debe formar un partido cuya cabezera debe ser la ciudad de Bexar.

2 Todo el territorio al este de la mencionada linia y al poniente de una linia qe se tirará desde el punto sobre la costa entre medio de los rios Sabina y Trinidad y de alli rumbo al Norte Siguiendo los altos qe dividen las aguas de los rios Trinidad y Neches hasta un punto qe sera Este de la cabezera del rio San Jacinto, y de dicho punto al poniente hasta las dichas cabezeras de San Jacinto y de las mismas rumbo al norte siguiendo los altos qe. dividen los rios Trinidad y Brazos—debe formar otro partido cuya cabezera debe ser la villa de San Felipe de Austin

3 y todo el territorio al Este de la ultima mencionada linia debe formar otro partido cuya cabezera debe ser en Nacogdoches.

Si se forme solo dos partidos de todo el Departam^{to} el segundo partido debe comprender todo el territorio al Este de la linia arriba deliniada para formar el partido de Bexar y su cabezera debe ser en la villa de San Felipe de Austin por ser el punto mas centrico, pero tambien debe ser el deber del Gefe del partido recorrer con frecuencia todo su partido y visitar las tribus de Indios, y todos los diferentes establecim^{tos} Estas reflecciones emanen de un deseo ardiente p^{a} ver florecer mi patria y estan fundadas en las razones qe la esperiencia me han demostrado en el tpo. qe he administrado los asuntos del Gob^{no} en las nuevas colonias en Texas y las presento a V. E. p^{a} hacer el uso de ellas que estime conveniente protestando al mismo tpo mi mas alta consideracion y respeto y suplicando qe sirba V. E. disponer su gusto de la inutilidad de el que queda su atento servidor y amigo.

GOVERNOR VIESCA TO LEGISLATURE OF COAHUILA AND TEXAS

Saltillo, September 10, 1828.

[Messages suggesting changes in Decree No. 58, militia regulations. Among other things he calls to the attention of the legislature the point raised by Austin, that the law declares that only native-born citizens are eligible to office.]

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J. M. Balmaceda to Austin

Bejar Sep^te 10 de 1828.

Ciud^no Cor^l Felipe E. Austin

Mi apresiable amigo y h.: la Asamblea Electoral de este Partido q. selebró su reunion el Domingo q. pasó, segun la constitucion del Estado, ha tenido la dignacion de elegirme pr. uno de los representantes al Congreso del mismo pr. este Departamento: con cuyo motivo y en atencion asi mismo á los lasos q. me unen con V. aprovecho esta ocasion p^a ofrecer á su disposicion mi persona en el nuevo destino q. me ha confiado la Patria.

Ygualmente he creido q. no sirviendole á V. de molestia solicitarme en ese nuevo establecimiento un Guaguin pequeño p^a mi transporte y el de mi familia al Saltillo, se sirva proporcionarmelo en clase de venta, con tal q. esté lo mas fuerte y bien acondicionado posible, q. su construccion sea p^a ser tirado p^r dos caballos, q. tenga su respectiva cuvierta de lienso encima, y en cuanto á sus dimenciones q. sea como en el q. acaba de venir de esa colonia á esta ciudad la familia de M^r Robb, ó en suma q. sea un carro de los medianos q. sirven p^a conduccion de familias, con sus respectivas dos guarniciones p^a los tiros, q. yo proporcionaré aqui. El D^r Brown q. supongo será dador de esta lleva mis instrucciones verbales al efecto, y el mismo podra ser el conductor si acaso se consigue pronto, ó si se retardare su consecucion me lo podra V. remitir en una ocasion oportuna ó avisarme p^a yo disponer. El importe de los q. han vendido aqui, segun el q. yo quiero, no ha pasado de 60 ps., pero esto no obstante V. no se pare en cinco ó dies pesos, y con su aviso entregare aqui el dinero á quien V. dispongo.

Tenga V. la bondad de disimular esta molestia q. le infiere su verdadero amigo y h.: q. b. s. m.

José Maria Balmaceda [Rubric]

José Candido Arcos to Austin

Bexar, September 12, 1828.

See Calendar.

James and John Austin to —— Austin

Exmo Sor

Santiago y Juan Austin Naturales de los Estados Und^os del norte y habitantes legitimamente establecidos y avecindados de conformidad con la ley en el nuevo establecim^to. Colonial del Empresario Estevan F Austin en Tejas, desde el ano 1823 y ciudadanos del

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Estado de Cuahuila y Tejas en virtud de la constitucion como acreditan los certificaciones adjuntas con el mayor respecto hacen presente a V E. qe deseando fomentar el comercio y prosperidad del referido nuevo establecim^to^ hemos comprado una Goleta de construccion Americana del norte cuya discripcion va espresado de pie como consta el adjunto docum^to^ certificado por el Alcalde constitucional de esta Jurisdiccion. El objeto pral qe hemos tenido a la mira en esta compra es el de llevar productos naturales de Texas a vender en los puertos mejicanos y de comerciar bajo la bandera de nuestra patria adoptiva y con el fin de poder lograr este objeto qe es sumam^te^ interesante al progreso de las nuevas colonias de Texas y del cual los puertos de Matamoros Tampico y otros del seno mejicano pueden recibir grandes ventajas en su surtido de algunos articulos de este pais particularmente, mais, manteca camotes etc pedimos la Superior aprobacion a la compra dela referida Goleta qe. hemos hecho y qe. se sirve concedernos un patente de naturalizacion y la licencia competente para qe. la dicha Goleta sea recibido y tenido por buque Mejicano.

Igualm^to^, representamos qe. ser obligado a levar la dicha Goleta en lastre al puerto de matamoros ó Tampico para practicar alli los transites necesarios antes de poder llevar cargam^to^ sera un perjuicio grandissimo a los interesados tanto a los intereses de esta nueva colonia, porque. en el dia hay sobrante de mais qe se puede vender en aquellos puertos con ventaja a estos habitantes y beneficio a aquellos y particularm^te^ a la tropa qe componen sus guarniciones, en consequencia de la escases alli a causa de la sequedad y el mais se desmerecen pronto aqui y no pueden conservar mo. tpo. En obsequio, pues del interes publico tanto de estos como de aquellos habitantes y de la nacion pedimos qe. se sirva V E. concedernos su Superior Licencia para llevar cargam^to^ de productos del pais en la dicha Goleta en su primer viage qe. hace al puerto de Mos. [Matamoros] ó de Tampico y qe al efecto se autoriza al Com^o^ particular de la Jurisdiccion de Austin para dar certificaciones del cargam^to^ de la dicha Goleta a fin de evitar decomisos y embarasos en la aduana de Matamoros ó Tampico En la inteligencia qe. la dicha Goleta puede salir y entrar por el Rio de los Brazos en la colonia de Austin en Texas.

Yo el Ciud^o^ Estevan F Austin Empresario [de] un establecim^to^ de familias estrangeras en Tejas Certifico en quanto puedo y el derecho me permite qe. consta por los archivos del mismo establecim^to^ bajo mi cargo qe. Sant^o^ B. y Juan Austin han sido ligitimam^te^ establecidos y avecindados de conformidad con la ley en este establecim^to^ desde el año de 1823 y ante y al tiempo de publicarse la constitucion Nacional Federal y la del Estado de C. y T. fueron asi establecidos y qe prestaron el debido juram^to^ al publicarse en esta Jurisdiccion

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las referidas Constituciones. En fe de lo cual firmo esta en la Villa de San Felipe de Austin a los 12 dias del mes de Sep^te de 1828 con testigos de asistencia.

De assa. De assa.

yo T. M. D. [Thomas M. Duke] Alcalde constitucional de la Jurisdiccion de Austin en el Departam^to de Texas Estado de C y T. Certifico en qto puedo y el dro me permite, qe. consta por los archivos de la misma Jurisdiccion qe Sors Santiago B. y Juan han sido legitimamte establecidos y avecindados de conformidad con la ley en esta Jurisdiccion desde el año de 1823 y qe. prestaron el debido juram^to a la constitucion Federal de la Nacion Mexicana y la particular del Estado de C. y T. al publicarse en esta Jurisdiccion y certifico igualm^te qe. los dichos individuos son hombres del mejor caracter, conducto y costumbres.

En fe de lo cual doy esta para los fines qe. convenga y lo firmo con testigos de assa [asistencia] en la villa de Austin a los 12 dias del mes de Spre. de 1824

De assa. De assa.

George Orr to Austin

September 14, 1828.

See Calendar.

M. M. Battle to James and John Austin

Cotton Gin Sep^r. 16 1828.

Mr. Mills M Battles

	To J. and J Austin—	Dr.
	To 10 lbs Coffee Sent by Barret @ 4/c [four bits]	5.00
15	To 20 lb Ditto @ 4/c	10.00
	To 16 lbs. Suger c. 2/c	4.00
	To Your order on S. F. Austin	$19.00
		7.12½
		$26.12½
	Deduct 2 lbs. coffee	1.00
		$25.12½

J. E. B. Austin to Austin [1]

September 16^th 1828:

D^r Brother

I received your letter by M.^r M^cNutt, John has concluded to go up to S^n Felipe and will take up the papers you enclosed— Cap.^n Martin will go up with John to arrange the bonds for the money

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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he has loaned us, he lets us have the use of the Money three years at 6 p^{r} cent. and we are to give him good security. We stated to him that we would either give you as Security, or execute a Mortgage on this place— he says either will do—and if the loan was for a shorter period he would not require security, you can do as you think best in the subject.— I have noticed the contents of your letter relative to the management of this place and am much pleased with your ideas of Economy as they accord precisely with my own, and afford me much satisfaction to perceive you determined to pay more attention to your own interest than heretofore, a thing I have so oftened wished— I am sensible if you continue in the same way of thinking, a few years will entirely relieve you from embarassment, and enable you to spend the remainder of your life in ease and comfort. As to our future plans I have concluded to remain here for the present year, and am now employed putting the Gin in good order for the present crop— My calculation was if Williams joined us to have gone to S.^{a} Felipe, but not receiving an answer from him on the subject we conclude that he has probably abandoned the idea.— I wish to get Leal and his wife down as soon as possible, and I want them started down while John is at Town if they want any assistance Leal may hire Francisco, Antones Son, who knows the way—and I will pay him here—

There are some things at town that I want to get down as I have little or nothing to commence housekeeping with and if they are left there may get lost, and if brought here will be saved, and be of service to me— I will try and get Keller to go up in his boat and bring down everything that you may not want— I am anxious to get as many cattle as I can and if you can procure any I will attend to the Collection of them. The cattle that is owing to Betts I want for Bowen and Betts has promised me to settle with him. I have two cows and two heifers at Robins; and the cows I expect have calves, and perhaps the heifers I want Leal to get Francisco and drive them down I purchased in the first place three cows—and two heifers—one cow I let Sam Pettus have and the others are still there— Enclosed I send an a/c against Battles which you can charge on y.^{r} Books in y.^{r} Settlement with him, remember that all goods furnished him is cash—also all debts paid by us for him is the same— I also send two other against Slaughter which you can also charge

I have paid Phillips and Slaughter considerable which can be ascertained by having My a/c with Richardson and Davis drawn off also—charge Slaughter with one dollar paid McKinstry and Phillips 1.88 paid W. C. White— Widow Gilbert has an a/c against us part is paid which can be ascertained by referring to my a/c with

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R P D. in y.r Settlement with Phillips ask him if he procured any thing on my a/c from McKinstry— Battles took some powder from the old office to pay a Spaniard for coming down here— also he has made use of considerable plank for himself which he must be charged with If I can leave home I will come up and arrange these a/cs myself but I shall be so confined that I think it doubtful whether I can leave home. If you have any notes or a/cs due in this Settlement if you will send them down by John we will Collect them this fall— John will go to Jacksons sale and if there is any thing to be sold that will be of service to us he may purchase— I am going to make a crop this season and if the Negroes hire low we should like to hire them— The window Glass is in the old house back of the office—two boxes 10 by 12. and one 8 by 10. the paint is in the same house also the oil— I think the best plan is to hire the house to Whitesides he ought to give at least 20 or 25 dollars p.r Month.

Bowen has arrived—poor McKinstry is dead—it is very Sickly in N. Orleans— Eliza sends her love—

J. B. Austin [Rubric]

P. S. Eliza has two heifers at town one of them is in the bend below cow a black—and the other is at Kuykendals, a muly— if Leal can find them I want him to drive them down

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Austin to Ceballos[1]

San Felipe de Austin 20 de Septe 1828

Sor D. Manuel Ceballos.

Muy sor mio de toda mi consideracion, en consequencia de la oferta generosa qe. V. tuvo la bondad hacer pr. conducto del Sor Padilla de interesarse en el asunto de procurar los documentos nesesarios pa la naturalizacion de buques estrangeros de esta colonia incluyo a V. una solicitud de mi hermano Santiago, y primo Juan Austin, suplicando qe. tenga V. la bondad de presentarla al Exmo Sor Ministro de Guerra y Marina á quien entiendo se ha de ocurrir. Yo me ofresco como fiador para ellos y de dar cuantos fiadores sean requiridos a la satisfaccion del Gobdor del Estado ó el Gefe del Departamto en Bexar, ó el comisario del mismo, ó a el qe. nombre el Gobno

Debo manifestar qe. la mira qe. me mueve en este asunto es el bien comun de la colonia. Hace tpo qe. he excitado a varios intentar establecer un comercio de cabotage con los puertos del sur, pero des-

[1] Consult Austin to Ceballos, July 28, 1828; Austin to the President, Sept. 8, 1828; and to Minister of Relaciones, Oct. 7.

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animado por el mal exito del viage de uno de los pobladores a Campeche[1] ninguno ha querido ariesgarse

Hay un sobrante considerable de mais, manteca de puerco camotes etc. aqui qe. se puede vender con estimacion en los puertos del sur y sera dar un nuevo estimulo a la industria de estos habitantes el abrir una puerta para el espendio de sus productos, y al mismo tpo se auxillaria los puntos del sur qe carecen de nuestros productos. Las ventajas y bienes qe resultarán de este comercio son evidentes, pero para gozar de ellas se necesita del Gob^no algo mas qe. la naturalizacion de buques. El puerto de Galveston es la unica ahora habilitado y este esta inutil a los habitantes de esta colonia por ser despoblado, retirado y dificil a aproximar y las mismas objecciones son aplicables a Matagorda por ahora el unico punto para la salida y entrada del comercio de esta colonia es la embocadura del rio de los Brazos. Considerando este asunto de mucha importancia he ocurrido sobre ella en derechura al Exmo Sor Presidente y he presentado una memoria en la materia a S. E. por conducto del Exmo Sor Ministro de Relaciones pidiendo la habilitacion de la embocadura del Rio de los Brazos para el comercio de esta colonia y la entrada de familias imigradas.

Galveston o Matagorda sirvira para puertos mayores y para buques grandes cuando esté mas poblado el pais y el comercio mas estenso y entre tanto le necesidad absoluta requiere la entrada y salida de buques chicos en los Brasos porqe. la poblacion de la colonia esta principalmente sobre las margenes de este rio ó cerca de el y obligar a sus habitantes llevar los productos gruesos, pesados, y abultados a aquellos puertos lejanos en el estado en qe. ahora se halla el pais sera en efacto privarlos enteram^te de todo comercio con sus productos. y ademas el transito de familias destinadas a los Brazos, sera mas dificil y costoso desde qualquier de aquellos puntos qe. desde Nueva Orleans sin contar los embarazos de desembarcar en un puro y completo despoblado.

Considero qe la verdadera política del Gob^no con respecto a las nuevas colonias de Tejas es promover eficazm^te a esta qe. es la unica qe ha progresado ó qe. aun existe excepto en nombre a fin de salvarla de decadencia y ruina en su infancia para qe. pueda servir como, punto de apoyo para el establecim^to de otras en el interior entre los Indios barbaros.

Hasta ahora la esperanza fundada en las miras de prosperidad futura qe. yo pinté a los colonos les ha animado sostener las dificultades de establecerse en un desierto, pero hace seis años qe. les he alimentado con esta prospectiva y empiezan a desanimarse, y confieso a V. qe. en el dia la colonia esta atrazando en lugar de progresar y

[1] Stephen Richardson, see above, Padilla to Austin, Jan. 26, 1828.

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es en gran p[e]ligro de caer en ruina si no esta apoyada por el brazo paternal del Gob^no.

El apoyo qe. necesitamos y qe. he pedido en mi memoria al Exmo sor Presidente es libertad para introducir por 10 años libre de derechos para el solo consumo de los habitantes de la colonia todo articulo cualquier a estrangero sea prohibido ó no: Habilitar la embocadura del Rio de los Brazos, y por falta de un oficial de la Aduana aqui autorizar al Comisario de la Jurisdiccion dar pases ó guias de los productos naturales del pais llevados a vender en otras partes sea por agua ó por tierra a fin de evitar los embarazos y perdidos en las aduanas maritimas como sucedio en Campache.

Con respecto a articulos prohibidos puede haber una objeccion a causa de hacer excepciones en un Systema Gral, pero considero qe. quando el bien publico evidentem^te exige tal excepcion qe. debe disparecer la dificultad. Tal vez no hay punto en toda la Republica qe. se halle en iguales circunstancias qe. esta con respecto a su localidad sus nesesidades, Y la imposibilidad absoluta de surtirse de otras partes de muchos de los articulos de primera nesesidad qe. son prohibidos. Esta Colonia esta aislado en el centro de un dispoblado y en su infancia. Si no se permite la introduccion de harina estrangera estarémos prohibidos absolutam^te el uso de pan porqe, no se siembra el trigo aqui ni puede sembrarlo nunca por el temperam^to. El punto mas cercano de conseguir trigo es Monclova ó Saltillo y el trasporte de alli es mas de 200 leguas por tierra y el camino despoblado y espuesto a los Indios. Estamos en el mismo caso con respectof a los demas articulos prohibidos con la excepcion de carnes, Mais, Manteca de puerco, azucar, miel de caña aguardiente y legumbres y estoy contento qe. se haga una excepcion de ellos, aunqe. he pedido una exempcion total, pero despues de alguna refleccion me parece qe. tal vez sera mejor exeptuar estos articulos, por razon qe. no importa mucho a la colonia si son exceptuados ó no, y puede haber mas dificultad de conseguir del congreso una exempcion total qe. de conseguirla con alguna modificacion. Sin embargo familias emigradas deben ser permitidas traher por su uso lo qe. gustan, porqe en muchos casos salen de sus antiguas habitaciones con un surtim^te de viveres por un año producto propio de sus manos y seria una dureza y perdida no permitirlas introducirlo aqui para mantenerse el primer año. Con respecto al tabaco no hay estanco aqui y si lo hubiera no venderia un quintal de Tabaco en un año porqe. no fuman. El unico modo qe. estos probladores usan del Tabaco es mascar, y p^a esto esta labrado en un modo peculiar de manera qe. no hay motivo de escluir este articulo, porque. Seria incomodar mucho a los habitantes sin provecho ninguna á la renta, sin embargo si perece qe. esta es una objeccion grave al asunto estoy

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contento qe. se lo prohibe vale mas tener harina y las demas cosas qe Tabaco.

En fin para decir todo en pocas palabras, la politica qe. recomiendo al Gob^no con respecto a esta colonia es alimentar y sostenerla en su infancia, concediendo al efecto quantas gracias conducentes a su prosperidad y adelanto qe. sean compatibles con el interes publico. que en mi opinion es el mejor y tal vez el unico modo de estraher Texas de su estado despoblado y de hacer lo verdaderam^te util a la nacion Mexicana, porqe. una vez plantada esta colonia en prosperidad sera facil establecer otras en su inmediacion internando en el pais progresivam^te hasta poblarlo todo pero distruida esta quedara la mayor parte de Texas despoblado en poder de Indios barbaros por muchos años. Ademas considera qe. estos benimeritos pobladores qe. encontraron las primeras dificultades del descierto y qe. han dado tantas pruevas de fortelesa, de su adhesion al Gob^no de su adopcion y de su patriostismo merecen qe. el Gob^no se digna tomar los bajo su alta proteccion.

Se puede decir qe. la idea de establecerse en este desierto fue temereraria y la empresa sumam^te dificil y arriesgosa al tpo. qe. la emprendimos, sinembargo lo hemos logrado a merced de mil padecimtos. y esto sin costar al Gob^no un rial. Ahora humildem^te solicitamos proteccion, no de tropa, ni de dinero, ni de caudal ninguna nacional, sino solam^te libertad para traer de otras partes lo indispensable p^a vivir en nuestra infancia hasta avanzar un poco el pais. y libertad para tener un comercio desde el Rio de los Brazos con los puertos Mexicanos del seno mejicano al Sur para vender alli nuestros productos sobrantes.

Me refiero a mi memoria al Exmo Sor Presidente fecha en este mes antes mencionada para esplicar a V. mas menudam^te este asunto suplicando qe se sirve V. interesarse en ella tanto en la solicitud qe. va inclusa en quanto estiman justo.

Ademas de las razones evidentes qe. he mencionado en favor de mi memoria hay otra qe. en mi concepto es de muchissimo peso. qe. es esta.

La Nacion Mejicana hasta ahora ha producido pocos productos de la agricultura p^a esportacion a paises estrangeros Sus esportaciones han sido principalm^te en plata y oro qe es una especie de comercio qe. todos los autores sobre el economico politico declaran el menos provechoso a un pais porqe. no resulta ventaja en el cambio y una nacion de minas en lo gral carece de los grandes adelantos en la agricultura y la manufacturas a causa de la capital y el numero de brazos empleados en las minas, y la mania casi universal en todos de hacer fortunas en ellas, y la consequencia es una dependencia casi entera sobre estrangeros para muchas cosas qe. se pudiera producir

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en el pais. Es evidente qe. el congreso nacional ha tenido presente este mal en adoptarse el sistema de prohibiciones forzando por ello a los Mejicanos á dedicarse a la agricultura y las manufacturas. Mas hay dos modos de promover la agricultura, el uno es por el Systema de prohibiciones p^{a} cortar competicion de articulos estrangeros con los naturales, y el otro es promover la esportacion a paises estrangeros de productos naturales. Este ultimo systema es el qe. ha seguido los Estados Unidos del Norte desde el principio y a ello se puede atribuir enteram^{te} la prosperidad estraordinaria de la agricultura de aquel pais. porqe. las prohibiciones influyen mas sobre las manufacturas qe. sobre la agricultura y en lo gral perjudican a esta que necesita comercio estrangero para llevar a mercados estrangeros los productos sobrantes de los labradores y traher en vuelta librem^{te} todo articulo qe requiere el agricultor o labrador y aquellos requieren la esclucion entera de competicion estrangera, En el norte no se adopto el Systema de protejer las manufacturas hasta desde muy pocos años quando el pais fue muy avanzado en agricultura y riqueza por medio del comercio estrangero y hasta qe tenia todos los elementos tanto de capital como de brazos sobrantes nesesarios para establecer manufacturas.

Ahora aplicaremos estas ideas a esta Colonia cual corta como esta en el dia y creo qe hallaremos un argum^{to} fuerte en favor de las gracias qe he pedido.

Uno de los productos mas principales de aqui es el algodon. Estos pobladores estan acostumbrados a sembrarlo y prepararlo en el mejor modo para vender en los mercados del Europa y particularm^{te} en Inglatierra. Hay quatro molinos para despepitar el algodon ya en operacion y tres otros fabricando, y se les aumentara el año entrante por la fabrica de otros. Hasta ahora hemos vendido nuestro algodon en Orleans a gran perdida a causa de los embarazos de los derechos de estrangeria. El algodon de Tejas debe ir en derechura a Europa, pero esto no puede ser por ahora por la falta de capital y un comercio suficiente p^{a} llamar la atencion de los capitalistas. Nuestro unico recurso pues es el de venderlo en Orleans, ó de llevarlo a Tampico o vera Cruz a vender a los comerciantes Ingleses ó Franceses y este ultimo es evidentem^{te} el mejor porqe. el algodon tendra el mismo valor en Vera Cruz a los comerciantes Ingleses qe. en Orleans y tal vez mas porqe. en lo gral los fletes de alli son menos qe. de Orleans a causa de la falta de productos gruesos ó abultados del pais p^{a} recargar los navios en su vuelta a la Europa.

Mas la compra de nuestro algodon por los Ingleses ó Franceses en vera Cruz ó Tampico presentaria a los dueños de Haciendas y los labradores Mejicanos un ejemplo qe. sin duda les estimularia a dedi-

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carse al cultivo de este articulo porqe. el temperam^to^ y las tierras de los Estados del Sur son mas adaptables al cultivo de este producto qe. Texas y no puedo imajinar otra razon porqe. los mejicanos no se han dedicado ala siembra de Algodon p^a^ esportacion a paises estrangeros sino es la falta de conocim^to^ del provecho qe. se sacaria de ello.

Hay motivo de hacer la refleccion qe. la Inglatierra buscaria otros recursos para surtir sus manufacturas de algodon, qe. de recibirlo de los Estados unidos del norte. Se funda esta refleccion en la ultima Tarifa ó Arancel del Gob^no^ del norte decretado por el congreso en este año, por el cual se ha puesto derechos tan subidos sobre las manufacturas estrangeras qe. opere en muchos casos como una prohibicion total, y es muy probable qe. esto causaria de parte del Gob^no^ Ingles medidas de retalacion y tan luego qe. peudan conseguir algodon de otras partes no dudo qe. escluyrian al de los Estados del norte. La politica de aquellos Estados es levantar sus manufacturas encima de las de Inglatierra, y seguram^te^ este de su parte hara quanto permiten las circunstancias para contrabalancar semejante politica, adoptando al efecto medidas ofensivas contra la introduccion en Su territorio de productos Americanos, y me parece qe. la nacion Mejicana puede sacar grandes ventajas de esta lucha entre aquellas dos naciones, si se puede estimular a los mejicanos dedicarse a la siembra de Algodon

Una examinacion lijera del comercio de los Estados Unidos del norte con Inglatierra en el solo articulo de algodon presentaria pruevas de su importancia. En el año 1800 la esportacion de este articulo no llego a 40000 sacos de 16 arrobas (hablo de algodon despepitado y limpio) y en el año 1827 escedio 600.000 sacos. El precio en Inglatierra ha variado de 4 á 15 pesos la arroba no tengo presente las tablas estadisticas dela esportacion anual de este producto y por esta razon hablo en lo gral. pero se puede ver el estado anual y exacto de ella por referencia al estadistica del comercio de los Estados Unidos del norte desde su establecim^to^. Si acaso el Gob^no^ Mejicano determine protejer systematicamente y eficasmente el cultivo de algodon como producto de esportacion en grande, me parece qe. hay varias medidas qe. se puede adoptar al efecto por providencias Legislativas y diplomaticas, a fin de promover su siembra y facilitar su trasporte y venta en mercados estrangeros. una de ellas es conceder a esta colonia las gracias qe he pedido. Las cosas mas grandes suelen tener principios muy pequeños. Este es el curso natural. Si el Gob^no^ nos permite empiezaremos las esportacion de algodon desde esta colonia, daremos un ejemplo a los mejicanos y manifestaremos hta la evidencia qe es el interes de los labradores en todo Mejico dedicarse al cultivo de este producto—En el norte se empezo la esportacion de algodon desde una sola villa y en canti-

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dades muy cortas. El resultado animó a otros hta qe. se estendio el cultivo al grado a qe. ha llegado alli. Las ventajas qe. los Estados Unidos del norte han sacado de este articulo han sido inmensos, y me parece facil qe. mexico por una politica sabia podia sacar las mismas y aun mayores. En mi concepto este asunto merece toda la atencion y refleccion del Ministro dela Hacienda, El Presidente y El Congreso Nacional. Mexico tiene una populacion muy numerosa qe. se puede emplear ventajosam^{te} en el cultivo del algodon, como es el populacho qe. tanto abundan en las ciudades y villas. y se avanzaria infinitam^{te} mas la gran mase de la riqueza y prosperidad nacional empliandoles en la siembra de algodon qe. en las manufacturas.

Parece pues qe. concediendo los privilegios qe he pedido para esta colonia se salvara de ruina y decadencia un nuevo establecim^{to} qe puede ser de suma importancia ala nacion Mexicana como punto de apoyo para el fomento de las poblaciones en lo interior de los despoblados de Texas, y de este modo poner en abrigo de los salvages toda la frontera de los Estados de Chihuahua y Cuahuila y Texas Nuevo Leon y Tamaulipas. Se aumentaria la gran masa de la prosperidad y riqueza nacional por el fomento de la agricultura, y especialmente se establecera un nuevo ramo de comercio con Inglatierra importantissimo qe es la esportacion de algodon y se estimularia a los mejicanos a dedicarse al cultivo de este producto por las pruevas de su valor qe. nuestras ventas en Tampico ó vera Cruz presentarian. y ademas de todo esto, estos habitantes adoptados tendran una comunicacion directa é intima con los mejicanos naturales y formarian relaciones y lazos fuertes de comercio, amistades personales e intereses reciprocos cosas sumam^{te} importantes para producir una amalgamacion completa entre los dos de intereses de idioma y costumbres

Tal vez causaria en V una sonrisa el verme aludir a la politica de tres naciones poderosas, y a los grandes principios del politico economico para sacar argumentos en favor de lo qe. he pedido para mi pobre criatura la colonia de Austin en los despoblados de Texas— He dedicado mi vida a esta empresa: y un padre cuya dicha en este mundo esta toda centrado en la prosperidad de su unico hijo, no puede sentir mas interes por el, qe. siento yo para esta colonia y esto me ha de servir de escusa por mi empeño y ademas soy mejicano y todas mis esperanzas futuras mis deberes, intereses, y pensam^{tos} son todos mejicanos.

Suplico qe. se sirva V. presentar esta carta al Exmo Sor Ministro de Relaciones para servir de esplinacion mas menuda de mi memorial al Exmo Sor Presidente sobre la materia.

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AUSTIN TO TERAN[1]

San Felipe de Austin 20 de Sep^re 1828.

Sor Gral. D. MANUEL TERAN

MUY ESTIMADO GRAL DE TODO MI APRECIO. Acompaño a V copia de las observaciones termometricas hasta el dia de hoy.

La unica variacion q^e he advertido en este verano en comparacion con los otros desde q^e conoci a Texas, es q^e ha sido un poco mas seco. En lo gral los meses de Junio y Julio son secos; este año estendió la sequedad hasta el principio de este mes. La salud de los habitantes ha sido mejor este q^e en años pasados, resulta, segun opino, de la sequedad que causó una evaporacion pronta del agua depositada p^r el crecim^to del Rio y las lluvias excesivas de la primavera, en los bajos de los Rios y las llanuras planas.

Las cosechas, con la excepcion de Algodon, son cortas a causa de la seca. El Algodon es planta q^e enraice muy hondo y de consequiente no esta expuesto a perderse como plantas cuyas raices no entran tanto en la tierra. En mi opinion el Algodon ha de ser el producto principal de exportacion de Texas y me admiro mucho q^e no se ha dedicado al cultivo de ello en los Estados del Sur, particularm^te en Vera Cruz, Tabasco, Yucatan, etc., como producto de exportacion a Europa. Treinta años pasados la exportacion de este producto de los Estados del Norte fue insignificante; En el año 1827 excedio 600,000 bultos ó sacos de 16 arrobas q^e valen en Europa mas q^e 30.000.000 de pesos. Que manantial de riqueza. En los Estados del Norte la agricultura ha suplido la falta de las minas de plata y oro, y ¿q^e causa hay para impedir q^e en Mexico se añade a las minas esta misma manantial? Mexico tiene tierras y el clima adaptables al cultivo de algodon, y brazos sobrantes, como prueva el numero del populacho q^e abunda en las ciudades y villas. Todo q^e falta es dar les direcion, estimularlos a dedicarse a la siembra de algodon, y el modo de hacer esto es excitar su interes, es decir manifestar hasta la evidencia q^e es su interes dedicarse al cultivo de este producto, y esto es facil hacer dandoles un ejemplo, porq^e lo que es palpable y evidente a la vista spre tiene mas influxo y peso, q^e lo q^e se demuestre por argumentos. El modo de q^e se puede darles tal ejemplo es este. De esta colonia se puede esportar el año entrante y aun en este año cosa de 500 bultos ó sacos de algodon todo preparado en el mejor modo para el mercado de la Europa. Hasta ahora hemos vendido nuestro algodon en Orleans a una perdida a causa de los embarazos de los derechos de estrangera, y seria mucho mejor llevarlo a Vera Cruz a vender a los comerciantes Ingleses y Fran-

[1] From the Wagner collection, Yale University.

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ceses porq[e] tendria el mismo valor alli a ellos q[e] en Orleans y tal vez mas porq[e] en lo gral los fletes de Vera Cruz a Europa son menos q[e] de Orleans a causa de la falta de productos gruesos a cargar los buques en su vuelta. Ahora si el comercio de cabotaje fue arreglado de manera q[e] hubo una comunicacion libre y seguro desde esta colonia a Vera Cruz llevariamos nuestro algodon alli, y su venta en aquella ciudad a los Ingleses y Franceses presentaria a los dueños de Haciendas, dos ejemplos importantes, el uno, pruevas del valor de este producto como articulo de esportacion, y el otro, el modo en q[e] se debe prepararlo para llevar al Europa. Pero para lograr esto se necesita del Gob[no] algunas medidas q[e] son habilitar la desembocadura del Rio de los Brazos y arreglar el comercio de cabotage de manera q[e] no habra dificultad ninguna en llevar productos de Texas a Vera Cruz ó Tampico ó a qualquier otro puerto mejicano.

He presentado una memoria al Presidente sobre este asunto pidiendo la habilitacion de los Brazos, porq[e] se ha circulado ordenes cerrando toda la costa con la excepcion de Galveston q[e] es punto despoblado y de consiguiente inutil y ademas esta retirado. Aquel puerto sirvera quando esté poblado el pais y tenemos comercio directa con Europa. Entre tanto hemos de ir por necesidad a Orleans ó a Tampico ó Vera Cruz. Tambien he pedido exempcion de derechos y de la operacion del ultimo arancel maritima, porq[e] estamos en nuestra infancia en esta colonia y a la verdad necesitamos la proteccion del Gob[no]. El arancel nos priva del uso de pan, y de los mas de las cosas de primera necesidad. Vale mas dejar el comercio de Texas libre y no poner aduanas por dies años, ni tener prohibiciones para q[e] pueda avanzar el pais de su estado despoblado; oprimirlo ahora en la infancia de los establecim[tos] sera sofocarlos, y esto sin provecho ninguno a la renta porq[e] el comercio de Texas en el dia no basta para pagar los sueldos de los oficiales de la aduana.

Veo por las ultimas Gazetas del Norte q[e] el horizonte politico de aquella nacion esta un poco nublado. Parece q[e] aquel pueblo ha perdido su caracter reflexivo y filosofico y q[e] han vuelto locos. Hay mucha exaltacion a causa de la eleccion y mas a causa del ultima tarifa ó arancel por el cual se ha puesto derechos tan subidos sobre muchas manufacturas estrangeras q[e] opere como una prohibicion. El objeto es protejer manufacturas domesticas pero en hacerlo se oprime la clase agricultor y comerciante. Dudo la sabiduria de semejante politica. Creo q[e] la agricultura es la base fu[n]damental y solida de la riqueza de una nacion, y q[e] no se debe perjudicarla para protejer las manufacturas hasta q[e] esté muy poblado el pais y q[e] hay un sobrante de poblacion y brazos. Por el ultimo arancel del norte los mas de los manufacturas Ingleses son casi excluidas. Ahora ¿supuesto q[e] el Gob[no] Ingles adoptase medidas ofensivas ó de re-

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taliacion y al efecto excluiese el algodon de los Estados Unidos del Norte de su territorio? En tal caso Mexico tendria un mercado para su algodon sin la competicion del norte, y si los Ingleses pudieran conseguir algodon de otra parte, no dudo q^{e} veriamos el caso q^{e} he supuesto en muy breve tpo. A lo menos me parece q^{e} sera una politica sabia de parte de Mexico estimular a sus habitantes dedicarse a la siembra de algodon, y creo q^{e} conceder a esta colonia las gracias q^{e} he pedido tendra notable influxo en la materia, porq^{e} las cosas mas grandes ha de haber un principio y esto frequentm^{te} es muy pequeño. Asi en efecto fue en el norte con el algodon; se empezó su exportacion desde una villa en cantidades muy cortas, y el resultado de la primera esportacion animo a otros dedicarse a su cultivo, asi sin duda sucedera, por el ejemplo q^{e} la venta y exportacion de nuestro algodon en Vera Cruz tendra sobre los mejicanos.

Si se puede conseguir p^{a} esta colonia los privilegios q^{e} he pedido nos adalantaremos, y de otro modo creo q^{e} nos atrasaremos y tal vez todo caira en ruina.

Quedo su atentisimo amigo y servidor

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO ANASTACIO BUSTAMANTE

(oficial)

El oficio de V. E. fecha 15 de Agosto po. po. fue entregado a mi secretario D. Samuel Williams por extraordinario de la Bahia el dia 31 del de su fha. en mi ausencia, motivo porq. no acusé su recibo por el ultimo correo.

Sin perdida de tpo tomé las medidas qe. V. E. ha indicado para estar a la mira de Galveston y toda la costa de esta Colonia para guardar de la invacion del partido de espānoles qe menciona V. E. y puedo con seguridad asegurar V. E. qe si no vienen un mayor numero qe. 500 hombres daran mal cuenta a los señores de la Habana de su empresa-El patriotismo de estos habitantes y su adhesion al gob^{no}. Mexicano son bien acreditadas y tengo toda y entera confianza en su firmeza y valor. Hasta la fecha no hay novedades ningunas en esta jurisdiccion. D y L. 20 de spre. 1828.

E. F. A[USTIN]

(private)

Ex^{mo} Sr D. ANASTASIO BUSTAM^{te}.

Quedo impuesto por la carta y oficio de U. del 15 de po. po. del proyecto temerario de los Españoles de invadir a Texas.

Estoy seguro qe. si desembarcan en este despoblado pereceran sin remedio-Estos carabineros les tocaran musica de cada pozo y cada barraca qe. en breve tiempo les causaria baylar su retreta ó fuga.

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Hay una dificultad en la organizacion de la milicia civica de esta colonia, segun la ultima ley reglamentaria de la milicia dada por este Estado nadie puede ser oficial de ella qe. no sea mexicano por nacimto. En esta jurisdiccion hay dos Mexicanos por nacimto. avecindados ambos baqueros. y no entienden una palabra del idioma ingles ni pueden leer ni escribir nombrarles oficiales será una burla. No veo ni la necesidad ni la politica ni la justicia de semejante ley. qe. especie de diciplina ó organizacion ó confianza puede haber en un cuerpo de milicia cuyos oficiales no entienden una palabra del idioma de los soldados? Semejante exepcion es en efecto decir a los pobladores nuevos El Gobno. no tiene confianza en Ustedes y os mira con sospecho" qe. causa han dado estos pobladores para semejante idea? yo me considero suspendido por la ley de la comandancia de la milicia de esta colonia, porq. no soy mexicano de nacimto. de modo qe. ahora no hay oficial ni organisacion ninguna de la milicia en esta colonia, sin embargo si vienen los espanoles estos habitantes daran pruebas qe. son Mejicanos y no extranjeros-por un impulso de patriotismo juntaran alrededor del pabellon de su patria como particulares, y como tales pelearan hasta sus ultimos suspiros en su defensa.

Puedo encargar a un amigo de confianza en orleans velar de la conducta de los Españoles alli y noticiarme de qualquier movimto. qe. se advierte y no perderé un momento en comunicar todas noticias q. reciba y sean dignas de notar.

Espero qe. tendré la satisfaccion de presentar á U. las enhorabuenas pa. su eleccion á la Vicepresidencia de la Repiblica, y si ha sabido U. q. la eleccion ha terminado en su favor suplico qe. las reciba desde ahora. Considero q. la elevacion de U. á aquella dignidad es un honor qe. le debe justam^te^ la nacion por sus grandes servicios á la patria y acreditada actividad y talento.

Nuestro comercio de cabotage todavia no esta corriente he presentado una memoria en la, materia al Exmo Sr. Presidente fecha en este mes—hay sobrante de maiz, camotes, manteca de puerco aqui qe se puede vender en Matamoros y Tampico pero no hay comunicacion. Algunos individuos van á salir de aqui en breve tpo para Matamoros en una balandra ó bote de cosa de diez toneladas construido en esta colonia Su madera construccion tripulacion y cargamto. de este vote todos son verdaderamente y legitimamente Mexicanos, llevaran certificaciones á este efecto del Alcalde y comisario de esta Jurisdiccion y de mi por falta de otra persona para darlas y depiendo mucho en la amistad de U. pa. noticiar al administrador de aquella aduana sobre el particular pa. evitar embarazos. Este es un experim^to^ qe. van a hacer si salen mal desanimara a otros. 20 de Sepre. 1828.

[E. F. Austin.]

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Walter C. White to Austin

San Felipe, September 24, 1828.

See Calendar.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin

Nacodoches Sep^te^ 29/1828.

S. D. Estevan Austin

Muy Sr. mio y Am^o^ de mi aprecio: Por las observaciones qe. ha tenido V. la bondad de remitirme veo qe. esa villa es un poco mas caliente qe. este pueblo, y qe. estan sujetos una y otro á los mismos vientos, á excepcion de interrupciones locales qe. ocasionan las lluvias: lo singular es qe. comparando con observaciones de Veracruz en al mes de Julio qe. constan en un periodico qe. me han remitido, resulta qe. en este pueblo ha hecho mayor calor durante los dias de dho. mes, y qe. las noches son aqui constantem^te^ mas frescas. Me parece qe. Bejar es tambien mas caliente qe. este pueblo, aunqe. todavia no tengo observac^s^ en qe. fundarlo. Luego qe. pase el equinoxio tuvimos aqui un S E. qe. condujo tanta cantidad de nubes en 4 dias qe. duro, qe. hubo al fin una descarga de lluvia, la mas grande qe. he visto aqui, y ha sido el ultimo calor excesivo, pr. qe. despues el N E. con nubes se nos ha fijado, comenzando las lluvias de invierno.

Son importantes las reflexiones de V. sobre el algodon y confirmo con ellas la idea qe. tenia de ser el ramo principal de exportacion del pais. Si Veracruz etc. no ha tomado parte en el cultivo de ese fruto p^a^ approvecharse del consumo qe. se hace en Ynglaterra se debe atribuir á la falta de brazos, pues con respecto á la extension de aql. Estado su poblacion es muy corta, y esta distribuida con desigualdad. pr. la atraccion qe. debio hacer la ciudad de ese nombre en tantos años como fue el unico canal de comercio qe. permitio la España, y puntualm^te^ el terreno qe. rodea á la ciudad es el menos fertil de aq^l^ parte: tambien se debe pensar qe. á los algodones mejicanos no los solicita el extrangero pr. qe. se lo presentan con el hueso, no habiendose conocido antes la industria de despepitarlo.

He escrito á Mexico solicitando la habilitacion de la bahia de Galveston pareciendome qe. seria la mas importante á todo el pais, comprendiendo á este pueblo qe. se va aumentando considerablem^te^ la actual prohibicion en la costa de Tejas resulta en mi juicio de mala intelig^a^ del nuevo arancel, qe. no debe comprender á esta parte de la republica, privilegiada especialm^te^ pr. decretos anteriores.

Si pudiese V. remitirme con el correo a qn. yo dare una gratificacion la parte botanica de la enciclopedia, me convendria muy bien

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p[a] formar juicio de toda la obra, protextando qe. cuidaré mucho de devolverla en el caso qe. no la tome. No se si esto sera posible pr. la forma de volum[a] qe. tenga, y asi queda á la descrecion de V.

Sirvase V. saludar á mi n[a] al S. D. Samuel, y recibir las exp[a] de verd[o] afecto.

M. TERÁN [Rubric]

M. M. BATTLE TO AUSTIN

Col S. F. AUSTIN

please pay Mr. Florence Stack or his order One hundred and five Dol[s] in the Manner following, (Viz) Thirty Eight and a third dollars in cash, and a Mule at Cash price, and Cows and Calves at Cash price, to complete the above Sum and Charge the same to my a/c it being the amt. due him for work on your building.

San Felipe 30[th] of Sep[t] 1828

M. M. BATTLE [Rubric]

[Indorsements:] Accepted to be paid as within specified

October 1, 1828—

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Rec[d] on the fifteen dollars in Cash W[m] Moore

Rec[d] Sixty dollars in cattle

Rec[d] sixteen dollars and fifty cents Walter White

Rec[d] eight do Mr. Cooper—

AUSTIN IN ACCOUNT WITH MILLS M. BATTLE

Col Stephen F. Austin to Mills M Battle Dr.

1826		
Decr.	Repairs on yr House for a Ball, and Stools	$2.
1827		
Jany 27	Mounting Cannon for Nacogdoche Camp[t]	6
	7 Bushels Corn Loaned John Austin	7
Octr 27	5 days work Mr. King Hawling Timber	5
	Boarding the same 75 cts pr day	3.75
Novr 17	to 5 days boarding of Woods and Ewing while a Hawling Timber at 75 cts	3.75
	1 pair Shoes for Shepherd Boy	1
1828		
Feby 10	Making a Desk and Work for the Secretary	5
May 9	Removing the Westall House	10
October 1	Building yr House pr Contract	600
	Hewing 325 feet of Joice over and above the Contract at 5cts	16.20
	Making 4 windows for Gable Ends of your House at $2.00	8
		$667.70
	Deduct $50—for not finishing the house	$50
		617.70

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Cash	$200	$200
paid	174. 57⅓	
	25. 42⅔	
	8. 33⅓	
deduct cash proportion of 50 Dollars for not finishing	17. 09⅓ in cash due	
Property	467. 70	467. 70
paid	272. 41⅔	667. 70
	195. 28⅓	
deduct trade part of 50 dollars for not finishing	41. 66⅔	
	153. 61⅔ trade due	

Tell Williams to send down the cross cut saw and the size of the window so as to make the Shutter

---

Gaspar Flores to Austin

Bexar, October 2, 1828.

See Calendar.

Austin to Minister of Relaciones [1]

Exmo sor, En apoyo y esplenacion mas particular de la memoria qe remití a V. E. el 8 del mes pasado relativa a las medidas qe. considero indispensables al adelanto de la colonia de Austin y de consiguiente del de todo Texas, suplico la atencion de V. E. a las reflexciones siguientes.

Protesto qe. las miras qe me mueven en este gran asunto son generales y nacionales mas bien qe. locales y particulares a esta colonia Trato de animar las nuevas colonias de Texas, de fomentar la agricultura en general y particularm^te^ de dar principio a una nueva epocha en la historia de la agricultura, el comercio, y el adelanto general de la Republica Mexicana por la estencion de un ramo de industria qe. aqunqe. conocido en Mexico hasta ahora no ha llamado la atencion de los Mexicanos al grado qe. merece, qe. es la siembra de algodon en grande como producto de esportacion a Europa.

Debo pedir la indulgenia de V. E. por los errores de idioma qe. sin duda abundan en este papel, a consequencia de mi falta de conocim^to^ del castellano, pues hace pocos años qe. lo he aprendido.

Es evidente el interes y la politica de Mexico promover la agricultura en todos sus ramos y particularm^te^ en los qe. proporcione un sobrante de productos p^a^ esportar a paises estrangeros. Las esportaciones de Mexico hasta ahora han sido principalm^te^ en oro, plata y grana, un comercio qe. sin duda es el menos provechoso al pais, porque

[1] See Austin to President, Sept. 8, 1828, and other documents there cited.

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no ofrece ventaja ninguna en el cambio, no estimula el giro marinero por los pocos buques y marineros empleados en su trasporte, y una nacion de minas en lo general carece de las grandes y solidos adelantos en la agricultura y las manufacturas a causa de la capital y el numero de brazos empleados en las minas y la mania casi universal de especular en ellas. La consequencia es evidente—dependencia sobre estrangeros p^{a} muchas cosas qe. se puede producir en el pais—desigualdad de riquezas, unos abultando Millones por una Mina, y otros perdiendose en especulaciones inutiles, de qe. resulta la demoralizacion y ignorancia del pueblo, a causa de la opulencia desmedida de una clase, y la pobreza y dependencia de otra

Es claro qe. el congreso nacional ha tenido presentes estos males en adoptar el sistema de prohibiciones, queriendo por este modo estimular a los Mexicanos a dedicarse a la agricultura. Hay dos modos de promover la Agricultura—el uno por el systema de prohibiciones, para cortar competicion de articulos estrangeros con los naturales y el otro por la esportacion de estos a paises estrangeros, y la agricultura nunca florecerá en grande en ningun pais sino se combina estos dos modos de protejerla; porqe es muy facil subsistir por la agricultura, y si no hay esportaciones ó venta para los productos sobrantes, los labrodores se restringirán solam^{te} a la mera subsistencia y no emprenderan siembras en grande.

En los estados unidos del norte la agricultura ha progresado a un grado qe. causa admiracion y se puede atribuirlo enteramente á las esportaciones a paises estrangeros. La agricultura ha suplido alli las riquezas de las minas de oro y plata. Las esportaciones de productos de la agricultura en el año 1827 excedio 50.000.000 de pesos. Todo esto fue productos sobrantes despues de surtir el mercado domestico y las manufacturas de la republica. Estos 50.000.000 de pesos se vendieron en mercados estrangeros a gran ventaja al comerciante, trayendo en vuelta dinero y los productos de cada rincon del mundo, proporcionando una renta inmensa en las aduanas maritimas y enpleando Millares de buques y Marineros nacionales.

En el año 1827 en valor de las esportaciones en el solo articulo de Algodon (sin contar las cantidades consumidas en el pais en las manufacturas y esportadas en paños, indianas, etc.) llegó a 29.359.545 pesos como consta la ultima memoria del Ministro de la Hacienda de aquella Republica. Es de advertir qe. esta cantidad inmensa es producto de los estados situados al sur del paralelo de 36 grados de latitud y tal vez no iguala la vigesima parte del territorio Mexicano aproposito al cultivo de este producto.

¿q^{e} razon hay porqe. en mexico no se puede añadir a las minas, este mismo manantial de riqueza nacional? El clima y las tierras de los estados mexicanos en lo general son mas adaptables al cultivo

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de algodon qe. en la republica del norte, la calidad del algodon Mejicano es igual y aun superior a la de aquella y prueva es qe cada año hay grandes importaciones en orleans a gran costo de semilla de algodon Mexicano desde Tampico y Alvarado; Mexico tiene brazos abundantes para este ramo como demuestra el numero crecido del populacho de las ciudades y villas y Haciendas qe en lo general carecen de empleo productivo y se debe advertir qe. el cultivo de algodon proporcione la ventaja de poder emplear mugeres y niños de ocho años por arriba. Mexico pues tiene todos los elementos nesesarios, para emprender la siembra de algodon en grande.

¿Es el interes o no de la nacion emprenderlo? creo qe. no cabe duda qe lo es. Considero qe le primer objeto de una nacion nueva debe ser la agricultura; porque en mi concepto esta es la unica base solida y permanente de la independencia estabilidad y riqueza nacional. Los adelantos de la agricultura por el curso natural— influyen los del comercio y de la clase marinero y las manufacturas. Algunos años de paz y prosperidad en este ramo demostraria un influxo notable en el aumento de la poblacion y de las mejoras permanentes tanto nacionales cuales caminos, canales, puertos ciudades y fortificaciones Maritimas, y el aumento de buques y marineros; como de particulares en Haciendas, molinos y grandes labores con las proporciones de regadio estendidas por todas partes hasta el ultimo grado qe. permita las aguas y las localidades. Las manufacturas debe ser objeto segundario en comparacion con la agricultura porqe. forzarlas por prohibiciones antes de tiempo y prematuramente sera paralizar el comercio estrangero, embarazar a los labradores forzandoles pagar precios subadissimos para articulo de manufactura domestica qe. podrian conseguir bajos de otras partes en cambio de productos.

En una nacion tan estenso como Mexico las prohibiciones generales no puede dejar de tener una operacion muy desigual y aun opresiva haciendo una parte qe. carece de ciertos productos, dependiente sobre otras qe. los tiene, y esto en muchos casos sin una ventaja correspondiente de comercio ó cambio interno, como en efecto sucede en Texas en el articulo de harrina qe. no produce, ni puede conseguir de ninguna parte del territorio Mexicano sino a un costo de trasporte tan excesivo qe. opera como una interdiccion entera de comer pan.

Parece qe. hay ciertas reglas ó leyes naturales qe. influyen el hombre en todas partes y todas clases, y ninguna mas qe el habito. Se puede decir qe el hombre es esclavo de ello. Aquella parte del populacho Mexicano qe. tanto abundan en las ciudades y villas sin ocupacion productivo son ociosos por habito. Siempre han vivido asi porqe. bajo el antiguo Gob^no^ no hubo estimulo al trabajo. Pero darles estimulo y dirigirles alas ocupaciones del campo y en breve

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tiempo adquiririan otros habitos; de industria y agricultura, y para hacer esto se debe emplearles en el principio en la siembra del producto qe. ofrece el mayor provecho con el menos trabajo pesado ó dificil, con el fin de acostumbrarles a un cambio de habito por grados, y el algodon es presisam^{te} el producto mas aproposito al efecto. Es una planta de muy facil cultura, enraice muy hondo y no esta espuesto como otras plantas de perderse por la falta de agua. En los estados Mexicanos del sur produce tres y cuatro años seguidos sin la necesidad de sembrarlo cada año. Es muy facil a cosechar porqe. es trabajo liviano en qe. se puede emplear mugeres y niños, y por una Maquina qe le despepita a muy poco costo y una vez despepitado no es tan abultado para trasportar.

Supuestas estas ideas fundadas en la verdad y la sana politica ¿cual es el mejor modo de estimular a los mexicanos a dedicarse a la siembra de algodon en grande como producto para esporta a paises estrangeros?

El hombre es un ente imitativo, y esta mas dispuesto a imitar ó a seguir el ejemplo de otros qe de emprender de si mismo. Me refiero particularm^{te} a la clase comun y laborioso qe no goce de las ventajas de un entendim^{to} ilustrado. Con esta clase se necesita ejemplos qe. son evidentes y palpables a la vista para demostrar la utilidad de una medida qe. en teoria seria claro y evidente á otros, y de consiguiente considero qe. el mejor modo de estimular a los labradores y jornaleros mexicanos a la siembra de algodon es demostrar las ventajas qe. resultan de ello por su venta a los Ingleses, Franceses ó alemanes en Vera Cruz ó Tampico.

Los habitantes de la colonia de Austin en Texas son acostumbrados a la siembra de algodon y de prepararlo en el mejor modo para el mercado Europeo. Tienen quatro molinos p^{a} despepitarlo en operacion y tres otros fabricando qe se completará en un mes, y pueden esportar este año de 500 á 600 bultos ó sacos de algodon limpio de 15 arrobas cada bulto. Esta cantidad va aumentando cada año a gran paso. Por ahora tendremos qe. enviarlo a Orleans, ó a Vera Cruz a vender a los Ingleses ú otros porqe. no hay communicacion directa desde aqui con Europa ni puede haber hasta qe. aumenta las poblaciones y el comercio de Texas sufiente p^{a} emplear buques grandes p^{a} llevar nuestros productos en derechura á Europa y es nuestro interes ir a vera Cruz en preferencia, porqe el algodon tendra el mismo valor alli a los comerciantes qe. en Orleans y tal vez mas, porqe. en lo gral los fletes desde vera Cruz a Europa son bajos á causa de la falta de productos gruesos ó abultados p^{a} recargar los buques en su vuelta, y se evitaria los gastos y embarasos qe. se encuentran en la Aduana de Orleans a causa de los derechos de estrangeria sobre el algodon.

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La compra del algodon de la colonia de Austin por los comerciantes Ingleses Franceses ó Alemanes en Vera Cruz ó Tampico presentaria un ejemplo y una prueva evidente y palpable a los Mexicanos, tanto del modo de prepararlo p^{a} el mercado Europeo, como del provecho qe. se saca de ello y de este modo se estimulará a los Mexicanos a dedicarse a su cultivo mucho mas qe por mil pliegos de argumentos y calculos teoreticos.

Puede parecer ilusoria la idea qe la venta de algodon de esta colonia naciente en los puertos de vera Cruz ó Tampico tendrá algun influxo en generalizar su cultivo por todo Mexico—Las cosas mas grandes tienen principios muy pequeños y avanzan por grados, y en muchos casos principiar es lo mas importante—La historia de las manufacturas de Inglaterra demuestra la verdad de esto. Algunos artizanos espelidos de Francia, los paises bajos y España por opiniones religiosas y otras causas, entrodujeron alli las manufacturas de algodon, lana, y seda, y de este principio insignificante la Inglaterra ha inundado el mundo con sus manufacturas. En los Estados del norte empezaron la esportacion de algodon desde una villa en cantidades muy cortas y en mal estado y de éste principio corto, la siembra de este producto ha estendido al grado á qe. ahora se halla.

El pais sobre el rio Grande y sus margines y particularm^{te} en los partidos del rio Grande, Monclova, Saltillo y Parras en el Estado de Cuahuila y Texas ofrece grandes proporciones en tierras fertiles y agua para la siembra de algodon y si este ramo florece en Texas no dejara de estenderse por el influxo del ejemplo a todos los pueblos vecinos. Algunos capitalistas emprendedores para poner en corriente botes de vapor u otros apropositos sobre el rio Grande abreria una salida para los productos hasta muy en el interior y pocos años resusitaria aquel pais de la pobreza y miseria en qe ha sido sumergido desde la jornada dolorosa de Bajan por la guerra estermedora de la revolucion y de los Indios barbaros. En fin una vez estendido y generalizado el cultivo de algodon como producto para esportar, cada rio en la nacion qe. ofrece proporcion de navigacion seria llenado de botes, y la actividad del comercio y de la industria pareceria en todas partes, y habra proporcion de comprar mercancias estrangeras sin ser obligado a pagar en oro y plata, y Mejico en lugar de ser agotado cada dia de los metales por el comercio estrangero reciberia todo qe. necesita de otras partes en cambio de sus productos de la agricultura y las riquezas de las minas quedarian en el pais circularian con abundancia entre todas clases.

Hay motivo de hacer la reflexion qe la Inglaterra buscará otros recursos para surtirse de algodon qe. de recibirlo de los Estados del norte. Se funda esta reflexion en la politica qe han adoptado en aquellos Estados con respecto a la proteccion de sus manufacturas.

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Han puesto derechos tan subidos sobre los mas de las manufacturas estrangeras qe. opera en muchos casos á una prohibicion, y como hubo un espendio inmenso de manufacturas Ingleses en aquellos Estados el perjuicio es grande y sencible al interes manufactura de Inglaterra, y es mas qe. probable qe. causará medidas de retaliacion en el articulo de algodon Americano. En este caso el algodon de Mejico puede llenar el hueco en el mercado Ingles causado por la exclusion del de los Estados del norte y todo el manantial inmenso de riqueza qe. por muchos años ha entrado en las bolsas de los agricultores del norte por algodon sera dirigido a las de los mejicanos.

Mas, para lograr este grande objecto me parece indispensable algunas medidas de parte del Gob^no^. Mexicano y entre ellas conceder los privilegios qe. he pedido p^a^ la colonia de Austin en Texas. Es decir libertad para introducir Libre de derechos por diez años todo articulo nesesario para el consumo de sus habitantes y para el adelanto del establecim^to^ en su infancia sea prohibido ó no por el arancel habilitar la desembocadura del rio de los Brazos en dicha colonia y establecer una comunicacion libre y facil entre ella y los puertos mexicanos por medio del comercio de Cabotage.

La colonia de Austin es el unico de todos los nuevos establecim^tos^ de Texas qe ha progresado o qe aun ofrece esperanzas de progresar, y esta ha avanzado a merced de mil trabajos y esfuerzos personales de parte de su fundador y de los primeros emigrados. Nunca ha recibido auxilio ninguno del Gob^no^ y no ha costado a la nacion un rial en establecer, defender ó gobernar y en este particular presente el unico ejemplo qe. he conocido de un establecim^to^. de esta naturaleza en un puro desierto despoblado sin qe. haya costado grandes cantidades al Gob^no^ en dinero y considerables esfuerzos. La ciudad de Bejar capital de Tejas qe contiene dos mil habitantes y ha sido fundado 150 años, cuesta en el dia millares de pesos cada año para defender de los Indios, sin contar los millones qe ha costado para fundar y defender desde el principio. La colonia de Austin siete años de edad tambien contiene dos mil habitantes y se ha fundado y progresado y defendido sin costo ninguno ala nacion, sino al contrario ha prestado grandes servicios militares en sujetar los Indios vecinos y en sostener las autoridades atacadas por una faccion en Nacogdoches, y en el dia proporcione lo mas de la carne de reces y puercos para mantener la guarnicion y aun los habitantes de Bejar y la Bahia. Pero sinembargo de qe la colonia ha progresado de si misma hasta el dia, no puede avanzar mas y atrazará sin la proteccion eficas del Gob^no^. Las esperanzas de prosperidad futura qe yo [preste] a los emigrados les animaron al trabajo y a la perseverancia; han abierto grandes labores y estan en estado de poder vender un sobrante considerable de productos cada año y por la falta de una salida para este sobrante empiezan a desanimarse

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muchissimo, y hay muchos qe. tratan de abandonar las labores qe. han abierto con tanto trabajo y buscar otro modo de vivir, deciendo "qe estimulo hay pª sembrar mais ó algodon pª podrir en casa.—no hay salido ni venta—y aunqe. el Gobno ha sido estrechado a abrir los puertos de Matamoros Tampico y Yucatan a la entrada de mais y viveres estrangeros a causa de la escaces alli, nosotros qe somos Mexicanos y qe nos hemos sacrificado para establecer una parte despoblado del territorio mejicano, no puedamos enviar neustro mais qe esta podriendo en nuestros graneros a los mismos puertos mejicanos qe son abiertos para estrangeros, y estamos forzado a vender nuestro algodon en el puerto estrangero de Orleans cargado de la perdida de los derechos de estrangeria; ni tampoco puedamos traher de otras partes lo indispensable para poder vivir y adelantar en nuestra infancia; ni de puertos estrangeros, por las prohibiciones del arancel, ni de los Mexicanos por falta de comunicacion" de manera qe aun la esperanza con qe yo he alimentado estos habitantes por 7 años empieza a perder todo su influxo, y la colonia esta en mas peligro de ser atrasada y destruida por esta causa qe. por las hostilidades de los Comanches y todos los Indios de Texas juntos. La colonia pues necesita el apoyo eficas y pronto del braso paternal, no en dinero, ni en tropa, ni en caudal ninguna nacional, sino libertad para traher de otras partes lo indispensable para poder vivir y progesar en su infancia, y libertad para comerciar con los puertos de la nacion a qe pertenece con el fin de vender sus productos sobrantes con seguridad sin el peligro de comisos y perdidas como sucedio en Campeche con una Goleta cargada de mais de aqui qe se perdio enteramte porqe. el administrador de la aduana no permitio su desembarco.

En el estado en qe. ahora se halla los asuntos en Inglaterra con respecto al algodon y el sentimiento causado por el ultimo arancel de los Estados unidos del norte, la llegada de un solo navio en Liverpool cargada de algodon mexicano de buena calidad tendria muchissimo influxo y haria mucho ruido porqe es cierto qe hay una disposicion en los Ingleses a buscar otros vecinos para conseguir este articulo qe del norte y prueva es qe han estimulado su importacion de las Indias orientales de Egipto y del Brasil Ahora mismo pues es el tiempo mas favorable para qe. Mexico se aprovecha de los circunstancias para dirigir la atencion de los Ingleses hacia esta Republica para conseguir algodon y el modo de hacerlo sin perdida de tpo, es conceder lo qe he pedido para esta colonia a fin de echar el algodon de aqui en vera Cruz ó Tampico en lugar de orleans.

Puedamos tambien esportar de aqui a los puertos mexicanos Mais, frijoles, camotes Puercos vivos, Manteca Mantequilla, carne de puercos salada y varios otros articulos. En el dia no hay comercio ninguno

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en ellos porqe. no hay salida pero una vez en corriente el comercio habra estimulo a dedicarse a estos productos.

Ademas de las ventajas nacionales comerciales y agriculturas de qe he hablado, conceder los privilegios a esta colonia qe. he pedido sera salvar la de ruina y decadencia entera, y lo cierto es qe si esta colonia se atrasa todo Tejas quedara despoblado y abandonado a los barbaros por muchos años y de consiguiente sera un peso muerte, un embarazo y un gasto a la nacion. Al contrario si este establecim^to florece servira por punto de apoyo para otros establecim^tos en el interior del pais entre los Indios barbaros, y en muy pocos años los milicianos, y el progreso natural de los nuevos establecim^tos destruyiran a los Indios, y de este modo pondrán en seguro abrigo, sin costo ninguno al Gob^no no solam^te a Texas, sino á toda la frontera del rio Grande desde nuevo Mexico hasta Matamoros, y la civilizacion la agricultura los artes y las manufacturas floreceran donde ahora no se encuentran mas qe fieras sylvestres del campo y Comanches barbarissimos.

Los privilegios qe he pedido tambien tendran el efecto de causar una comunicacion directa y intima entre estos habitantes adoptados y los mejicanos naturales; habra enlazos entre ellos de intereses comerciales mutuos, de amistades personales, y de idioma: y de este modo se producirá una amalgamacion completa entre los dos y se asegurará aquella union qe de todas las otras es la mas fuerte, la union de amistades particulares y de obligaciones y intereses mutuos y comunes.

Hay muchos Empresarios nombrados para colonizar en Tejas, yo fuí el primero—entré en el pais quando era todo desierto, sin recursos ningunos, infestados por indios hostiles, las guarniciones de Bejar y La Bahia acabadas y los habitantes de aquellos dos lugares reducidos a los mayores apuros. Desde el rio Sabinas hasta el Bejar no hubo viente almas civilizadas y estas eran sobre las margines de aquel rio temiendo internarse mas—Yo tenia todas las primeras dificultades a vencer tanto del desierto como de los Indios y soy el unico qe ha logrado su empresa, lo hecho á merced de siete años de trabajos pesadissimos. Los otros Empresarios aunque. encontraron el pais muy avanzado en comparacion de lo qe era quando yo empezé, no han avanzado un solo paso sino es en especulaciones imaginarias y proyectos ideales y vanos todo lo hecho en adelantar los nuevos establecim^tos de Tejas, ha sido por mi, y los emigrados emprendedores qe. me acompañaron, y espero qe quando se toma en consideracion nuestros trabajos, nuestra perseverancia, y el gran y solido beneficio qe resulta a la nacion de nuestros esfuerzos, y los qe resultarán en adelante, qe el Gob^no se dignará estender nos su proteccion. Estamos mejicanos, y como tales rendidamente

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pedimos la proteccion de nuestros conciudadanos y el apoyo del brazo fuerte y paternal de nuestro Gob^no^—y lo pedimos en un modo qe. no costará nada a la nacion conceder, sino al contrario, tendra un beneficio nacional incalculable en el adelanto de la agricultura, y el comercio en lo gral y los establecim^tos^ de Cuahuila y Tejas en lo particular amas de manifestar al mundo qe. Mexico no abandone ni desprecie a los industriosos y emprendedores de otras naciones qe. buscan un domicilio en su seno.

Villa de Austin 7 de octubre de 1828.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Exmo Sor Ministro de Relaciones interiores y esteriores de los Estados Unidos Mejicanos.

[Indorsed:] Exposition to the minister of relations relative to the commerce of the colony and the planting of cotton etc. Oct. 7, 1828.

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR VIESCA

[October 7, 1828?][1]

El ciudadano E. F. A. Empresa^o^ nombrado por el Gob^no^ para el establecim^to^. de familias estranjeras en Texas rendidamente comparece ante V. E. y hace presente que desde el —— de —— de 1824 se decretó la habilitacion del puerto de Galveston por el congreso nacional pero hasta el dia no se ha nombrado ni organizado los oficiales de aquella aduana.

Igualmente representa qe. los mas de las familias estan radicados sobre los margenes del Rio de los Brazos, qe este rio teine 7 pies de agua sobre la barra desemboque en el seno Mexicano cosa 18 á 20 leguas al poniente de Galveston y qe, la comunicacion entre los dos es arriesgoza por la necesidad qe hay de entrar en alta mar para pasar del uno al otro, qe Galveston en el dia esta despoblado y qe. los Brazos ofrece comodidades y facilidades para el desembarco de emigrados y para el comercio de la jurisdiccion de Austin en cuya inteligencia hay una necesidad imperiosa qe se habilite los Brazos para el comercio de dha jurisdiccion y particularm^te^ para le entrada de familias Si hay inconveniente en habilitar los Brazos como puerto separado talvez no habra en hacerlo en clase de dependiente o agragado al de Galveston qe es mucho mas inmediato qe. Matagorda es decir qe. se permita la entrada y salida de buques librem^te^. desde los Brazos como si fuera puerto separado, pero qe. los oficiales de su aduana serian sujetos al de Galveston como el puerto principal.

Igualm^te^ representa qe la familias emigradas indispensablem^te^ deben traher viverro muebles, herramientas y varias otras cosas para su propio uso y consumo mientras qe se establescan en este pais nuevo

[1] An undated draft.

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y de consiguiente existe la necesidad de una licencia para introducirlos libres de derechos y libre de las restriciones impuestas sobre articulos prohibidos por el arancel maritima.

Igualmente representa qe la colonia y jurisdicion de Austin por ser todavia en su infancia carece de los recursos indispensables para poder conseguir muchos articulos prohibidos de primera necesidad sino es de paises extranjeros y de consiguiente seria muy conducente a su adelanto y prosperidad concederle por algunos años una exempcion de prohibiciones con la exepcion solamente de Azucar, miel de caña, mantecas, carnes, maiz, aguardientes y legumbres q. ya produce el pais suficiente para la mantencion de sus habitantes. Igualm^te^ representa qe. el estado infantil y nuevo de estos establecim^tos^ parece requerir algunos privilegios a los puertos nuevos para estimularlos en el principio como exempcion par algunos años de derechos sobre los articulos introducidos p^a^ el consumo de sus habitantes qualquiera otra franquicia ó gracia qe la superioridad estime justo y conveniente al interes publico.

Movido por el deseo para el adelanto y bien comun qe spre le ha animado el susfrascrito ha elevado este importantisimo asunto al conocim^to^. de V. E. para qe si V. E. lo estimase justo se le presente al H. Congreso del Estado con el fin de ser elevado al Nacional acompañado con la iniciativa qe aquella H. cuerpo estimen justo y conveniente en el modo qe. previene las leyes en estos casos.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin

C. Ten^te^ Cor^l^ Estevan F. Austin

Matamo^s^. Oct^e^ 13. de 1828.

Mi conciud^o^ y amigo muy estimado. En efecto, seria una temeridad de los Españoles invadir ese territorio como V. Adbierte en su apreciable de 20. del ppdo. pues en el permanecerian seguram^te^ no solo pr. la falta de recursos en un pais desierto, sino por el patriotismo de esos valientes carabineros qe. aprovechandose de las ventajas qe. ofrecen los bosques y barrancas les harian pagar muy caro su temerario arrojo, y justam^te^. confiado en esto yo no he tenido cuidado alguno pr. esa parte.

En vista de las pruebas de fidelidad y ovediencia qe. la milicia civica de la colonia de V. ha dado al gobierno Mejicano, creo qe. nadie deverá desconfiar de ella y q. los lejisladores del Estado pr. una equivocacion ú olvido dictaron con generalidad q. nadie pudiese ser gefe de dha. milicia si no tubiese la circunstancia de haber nacido Mejicano y siendo muy justas las observaciones de V. a este Respecto me voy á tomar la libertad de acompañarle una copia de su carta al Ciud^o^ governador del Estado con el objeto de qe. se modifique la Ley Reglamentaria de dha. Milicia y espero q. la H^e^ Lejislatura

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tomara en su consideracion las fundadas reflecciones y sentimientos de V. pues seguram^te^ al ejecutar la mencionada Ley no tubo presente q. en su Colonia no hay Mejicanos pr. Nacim^to^ capaces de mandar la Milicia.

Quedo enterado de la representacion q. V. ha dirijido al Ciud^o^ Presid^te^ sobre el comercio de cabotaje y espero tenga buen resultado.

Por lo qe. respecta a la Balandra ó pequeño Buque cuya venida anuncia V. á este puerto con efectos de ese pais hablaré al Adm^or^ de esta Aduana y crea V. q. tendrá buena acojida siendome muy grato el saber q. este ensayo se hase con una embarcacion aunq. pequeña construida en esa colonia tripulada con jente de la misma y cargada con producciones de su suelo, pues V. sabe el interes q. siempre he tenido pr. los progresos de ese establecim^to^ planteado á costa de tantos trabajos.

Doy á V. las devidas gracias pr. la en hora buena con q. me felicita en su citada carta pr. haber sufragado algunas lejislaturas de la Republica, pero segun la mayoria de votos no recaherá en mi tan delicado y peligroso encargo de lo q. me alegraré y reciviré gustoso la enhorabuena estando muy conforme con mi actual suerte: mas sean cuales fueren mis futuros destinos siempre será de V. su conciud^o^ y amigo afect^mo^ q. lo ama con la mas cordial sinceridad y desea complacerle.

ANAST^o^ BUSTAM^te^ [Rubric]

Saluda á Vmd con todo afecto en union del am^o^ Yharry su conciudadano

GUERRA [Rubric]

JOSÉ M. BALMACEDA [1] TO AUSTIN

Bexar, October 1, 1828.

See Calendar.

RAFAEL A. MANCHOLA TO AUSTIN

Bahia, October 18, 1828.

See Calendar.

J. ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN [2]

Leona vicario Oct^e^ 18. de 1828.

Sr. D. ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN.

AMIGO MIO: No hé tenido tiempo en los correos pasados para escribir á V. como deseaba. Hé recibido sus dos apreciables de 9. y 22. del pasado Sep^e^ y le doy mil gracias por su eficacia en procurarme

[1] Representative elect to the legislature.

[2] A brief account of the circumstances reported in this letter is in H. H. Bancroft, History of Mexico, V, 40–45.

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un carruage en que trasportar mi familia á Tejas, y siento sobremanera la perdida que há sufrido en sus intereses por encargar uno á Orleans con un sugeto qe. abusó dela confianza de V. y demas que pusieron en sus manos el fruto de sus trabajos.

Al paso que yo deseo salir pronto de este pais se me oponen dificultades que no me es facil remover. Cuando recibi la ultima de V. enque se sirve facilitarme el carruage en que debe venir á esta el Sr. Balmaceda con su familia, se me informó que este Sr. no saldria de Bejar para el Saltillo sino hta Diciembre ó Enero: esta noticia ha sido pª mi un pesar, por que al paso que veo dilatado mi viage, siento infinito los gastos causados por V. en mi favor sin provecho. Dentro de cuatro semanas pienso salir lo mas tarde, y para ello me voy á empeñar con mis Amigos para conseguir un coche, ó cualquiera otro carruage. Si el edificio se desploma, como puede suceder, no me coje debajo.

Tristisima es la idea que presenta nuestro estado actual de cosas. Por los papeles publicos sabemos que el Sr. Pedraza está nombrado Presidtº dela Republica por 10. votos contra 9. que sacó el Sr. Guerrero pr. la votacion de las Legislaturas. El General Santa Ana con tal motibo, siendo vice Gobºr del Estado de Veracruz, promovio una rebolucion con 800 hombres, y se hizo fuerte en Perote declarando nulas las elecciones hechas en favor de Pedraza, y pidiendo con las armas que las legislaturas obsequiasen el voto de los pueblos declarandose en favor de Guerrero. Esto sucedio del 11. al 12. de Septº y hasta el 25. no se habia disparado un tiro. En ese dia y el 27. hubo sus encuentros no de mucha consecuencia pª el partido de Sta Ana. ni para el Gobº.

Para esas fhas ya el congº genl. habia dictado una ley que es la de 17. de Sepº poniendo fuera dela ley á Sta Ana, y sus partidarios si dentro de un termino que le señalara el Gobº no desponia las armas, y se sugetaba á las leyes: parece que esta medida y otras dictadas por el Gobº han atizado el fuego dela rebolucion. Del 28. de Sepº hasta el 4 del corrtº hay noticias muy adversas al Gobº como V. verá pr. el manuscrito quele acompaño, y que me há comunicado el Sr. Ceballos por el correo de hoy.

Otro de los sucesos que mas han acibarado mi alma, es la ultima ocurrencia que ha habido en estas circunstancias; y es la fuga repentina del Sor. Zavala, Gobºr del Estado de Mejico, despues de haberse declarado en la Camara de Senadores que habia lugar á la formacion de causa, por auxiliador de la rebolucion de Santa Ana. Este hecho, segun el correo, parece que ha sido muy injusto por parte de la Camara: yo siento sobre mi corazon este acontecimiento por muchas causas. Zavala es un hombre de mucho prestigio en la Republica, y si se une á Sta Ana y dirije la rebolucion, puede costar

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muy caro al Gob° al senado, y á sus perseguidores. El resultado será contra la Patria, y este es mi dolor, que hijos predilectos como Zavala desgarren el seno de la Madre, por vengar sus propias injurias. Yo veo un horizonte muy obscuro, y cargada la atmosfera de muchos gases enbueltos en espesas y condensadas nubes: temo mucho por la existencia de la forma de gobierno: si las ballonetas nos hande dar la ley, se acabó la constitucion, murio el sistema federal, y seremos segura presa de un ambicioso sin limites, y justamente el ludibrio de todas las naciones. Nunca hé deseado que Pedraza sea Presid^te de la Republica, y si Guerrero: pero nombrado el l° conforme á la Constitucion, es menester callar y sufrirlo por su cuatriencio, antes qe. ver colocado en el sillon de Presid^te al benemerito Guerrero, contra lo establecido en la carta fundamental, aunque asi lo quiera y desee todo el resto dela Nacion. Somos locos y vicoños, Amigo mio; aún no sabemos gobernarnos por leyes, sin duda queremos latigazos, como los esclavos, algun dia nos pesará no haber tenido cordura para conducirnos. ¿Que diran de nosotros las naciones estrangeras? que ni sabemos gobernarnos ni tenemos juicio para nada: que merecemos quedar unidos al carro dela tirania como esclavos, indignos de tener libertad. Son tristisimas las ideas que ocupan mi corazon. Hasta ahora no habia presentadose en la Nacion una crisis tan temible: elementos de disolucion se presentan á mi imaginacion pr. todas partes, y no conosco el medio de evitar una gran catastrofe. V. me tendrá por un visionario lleno de funestidades; puede haber motibo para esta persuacion; pero lo que yo veo es una conflagracion gral.

Para govierno de V. le acompaño en copia el proyecto que en forma presentó el Gob° al cong° al abrir el ult° periodo de sus sesiones ordinarias de Sep^e sobre deudas de esos colonos; y aunque habia mayoria en la Legislatura p^a aprobar el l° art° y desechar ó modificar los demas no llegó á tratarse del asunto, y quedó pendiente con mucho sentimiento mio para las sesiones de En°.

Yncluyo á V. varios papeles publicos para que de ellos colija el estado politico de nusstra nacion. Las tierras mias las tomaré seguramente en las litorales de V. y acaso algun sitio en S. Jacinto ó Trinidad sobre la Bahia de Galveston: á ntra. vista arreglaremos este asunto.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Application for an Eleven League Grant

October 23, 1828.

See Calendar.

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Nathanial Cox to Austin

New Orleans 24. Oct. 1828.

Dear Sir,

The Enclosed is from Madam Carbajal's son at Lexington and recommended to your Care— please give it a conveyance.

Our Cotton Market holds out but little inducement for recommending you to make shipment this way. We have rec[d] of the new crop about 6000 Bales, and not yet sold 500— there then has been a few small sales Made to complete cargo of Vessels at 9 to 11 cents, and one lot of Very fine cotton we sold as high as 12 cts.— Prices continue low in Europe— the stock on hand heavy— and the demand for cloth and yarns greatly diminished, so that I see but little prospect for the Cotton planter— All the State of Louisiana which will grow to maturity the sugar cane will be planted with it— as the prospect is so much better— this I think would be the most advantageous for your country to grow under Existing circumstances.

Nath. Cox.

Colo. Stephen F. Austin,
Texas

Austin to E. M. Perry[1]

San Felipe de Austin Oct. 25. 1828

D[r] Sister

I rec.[d] your kind and affectionate letter the other day and sent it down to Brother—he came up a few days since with his wife and is now here—he informs me that he wrote you by way of Orleans just before he left home—

I truly sympathise with you on the loss of your infant—tho I have seen so much trouble and misery amongst my fellow beings that I doubt wheither we should too deeply grieve for the departure of innocence and purity from this wretched world— There is another and a better one, to doubt it would be to convert the shadows which surround us in this life into the most horrible darkness

I send this by Mr Brown of St Charles and he has only a few moments to wait being now on his way therefore cannot write you a long letter. I wish you to inform me what plan you have adopted or think of adopting as to Joel and Austin—

Brother is about engaging in the Mercantile business and I think will soon be enabled to do an extensive and profitable one—

I am as yet at work at colonization and shall necessarily be tied down here for some time to come—it is a troublesome business and re-

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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quires much more preserverance and patience than any one can imagine who has not tried it— But I *will* go through with it—

You ask me how I like my sister in law— I am very well pleased with her, and think Brown has made a happy choice— they live very happily together and have the prospect of an heir this winter or early in the spring, tho I presume he has written you relative to his family matters—

I wrote you to send me the old Lead book kept by Ballard during the year I worked the mines in partnership with Butler. M.r Ballard knows that nothing was cleared that year. I sent a statement of the a/cs. to Butler, but he pretends to claim (as I am informed) Many thousand Dollars I know not exactly what kind of a man Ballard is but have always thought him an honest man and I do not think he will forward Butlers unjust claims to injure me— I wish Mr Perry to sound him as he may deem prudent on the subject— The truth is that the mines cleared nothing the year Butler and myself worked them in partnership and I therefore owe him nothing on that score

This country has been very healthy this year and we are getting on pritty well in every respect— I will pay you a visit some time but cannot tell when. it shall be as soon as possible— I know you cannot visit me and I do not wish you to take such a journey— It is too long, and exposed to some dangers— Remember me affectionately to Mr Perry and all old friends and acquaintances

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

[Address:] Mrs Emily M. Perry Potosi Missouri Mr J Brown

Erasmo Seguin to Austin

Bejar Octe. 30, 1828.

Sr. D. Estevan Austin.

Estimado amigo. Tengo ala vista su apreciable de 21. del presente y por ella veo q. con dolor há savido pr. noticia q. D. Gaspar le comunico a D. Samuel la revolucion ó pronunciam.to de Santana; pero como V. dice muy bien este caudillo nó tiene opinion es muy conocido y nó creo q. hay mucho q. temer. Hé advertido q. del Saltillo le remiten a V. papeles publicos y como creo q. ellos le darán una idea clara del estado de cosas, omito hacerlo como lo haria sino fuera por eso: Nosotros spre. estaremos unidos, y no habra novedad pr. los Indios. Yá veremos quando se trate de poner los empleados dela Aduana de Galveston loq. puedo hacer pr. Ntro. Amigo Samuel, pues me parece q. si le atiende alas ventajas q. se sacarian del pr. conocim.to. en el idioma Ingl.s y Español sele puede destinar como

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empleado de ella; qúando Vs. reclamen los empleados de la expresada Aduana será muy bueno q. me lo avise V. pª recommendarlo a Mejico, pero pr. ahora nó lo considero necesario.

Me ocurre decir aV. hablando del sugeto q. me dice existe en esa colonia q. es sospechoso, elq. lo mande salir fuera si acaso nó es vecino, y q. entre los demas no deje V. como lo há hecho hasta ahora de infundirles confianza y seguridad, ocultandoles aquellos pasos falsos q. suelen dar en el Saltillo y q. V. conoce q. tienen remedio pues yó me alegro mucho dela reforma q. hizo la Legislatura tratando de Milicia o de sus oficiales y mucho mas me alegro q. nó se hubiera hecho publico aquel primer decreto, pr. loq. de mi parte le doy aV. un millon de gracias.

Capitulo de otra cosa. Mi Compº Beramendi y yó estamos tratanto de poner un rancho y de comprar un corto numero de bacas: Deseamos saber aque precio podra comprarse hay de la edad de 2. años y dela de 3. pª arriva, y si aV. le combendria darnos algunas pr. el dinero q. le mandamos a Padilla pr. su cuenta; por lo tanto suplico aV. sesirva avisarme de uno y otro pª resolvernos averificar en ese punto la compra si nos tiene cuenta: advirtiendo pª mas inteligencia qe. el ganado qe. se trata de comprar deve ser manso.

Toda mi casa retorna aV. sus expresiones.

ERASMO SEGUIN [Rubric]

J. ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Leona Vicario 1º de Novre. de 1828.

Sr. D. ESTEBAN AUSTIN.

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO: Por la priesa de empaquetar los papeles impresos que remiti áV. en el ultimo correo se quedó olvidado la copia dela iniciativa y proyecto de ley presentada pr. el Gobº en 2. de Sepª ultimo al H. Congº al abrir sus sesiones, sobre deudas delos colonos contraidas antes de su emigracion á ese pais. Ahora la remito cumpliendo con aquella oferta.

Nuestra guerra civil esta encarnizada, como verá por el adjunto impreso que hoy hé recibido de Mejico: las entrañas de la Patria estan rasgadas por dos partidos que luchan á costa de ella: me parece que en esos bosques hay mas tranquilidad que entre estos montes y llanuras.

Mi viage se vá dilatando por embarazos que há traido la circunstancia politica dela Nacion, pero sea como fuese estoy resuelto á mercharme dentro de quince dias: muy ostigado me tiene este oficio, á pesar de mi dedicacion al trabajo.

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Me escriben de Mexico que nro ministro plenipotenciario cerca de Washington, el Sr. Obregon sabiendo del estado politico de su patria, se colgó del candil se su casa, á causa del delirio en que entró. Puede ser que las gazetas americanas digan algo de este suceso extraordinario, y muy sensible para los mejicanos: digame V. si sabe alguna cosa por los periodicos del norte.

Aun no recibo contestacion del Sr. Ceballos sobre la solicitud de V. para la naturalizacion de buques: pr. el correo proximo voy á instarle ácerca de este particular; y de oficio se excitará al Sup° Gob° para el establecimiento dela aduana de Galveston, que es tan interesante.

Reciba V. expresiones de mi Esposa y mande a su Am°

J. ANTONIO PADILLA [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO JAMES WHITESIDE

DR SIR,

I am in a little pinch for twenty dollars to take up a note of Tho^s Slaughters that is in the hands of Richardson and Davis—I owe this Money to Slaughter for shingles for the house and have not got it by me— If it is possible you will very much oblige me by lending me that sum and paying it to Richardson and Davis and taking up Slaughters note and giving it to him— I hope you will try and accomodate me for I am too much engaged in the office at this time to leave here and ride about through the Country to make collections

S. F. AUSTIN

Nov^r 2, 1828—

[Addressed:] Mr. James Whiteside

THOMAS F. MCKINNEY TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches Nov. 3rd 1828

D. COL.

I should certainly have written to you Since my arrival from my wild voyage from Orleans but I have been so immerced in business of an unpleasant nature that I could attend to nothing in reality

I was not aware of having to deal with Col. Piedras when I made a contract with a M^r Mora in Orleans to bring freight from there to this country in a Keal Boat I likewise contracted with some Americans and with them I have had no difficulty but unfortunately the goods I received of Mora has proved to belong to the Col. and he has used every means to influence Mora to relate palpable falshoods for the purpose of injuring me and had Mora not been a man of integrity he certainly would have put me to much trouble though when ever we have come to an arbitration or suit I have fortunately had every decision in my favour but I find [Piedras] the most inde-

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fatigable man in dishonesty I ever knew he still Contemplates more suits against me relative to the boat Concern and I have become so fatigued with his molestations that I have almost dispaired of ever getting a fair settlement with him I had rather make any sacrifise which my circumstances would admit than cavel with him eternally.

His conduct in this place renders a residence here unpleasant and unsafe I have presumed to make a brief relation of his acts to Gen[l] Bustamante without having the slightest acquantance with the general but the facts were such as I hope he will at least investigate the matter and there his conduct will appear in its true feature my trip which would have been otherwise prosperous has already sunk two hundred and fifty or three hundred Dollars and where the loss will stop is uncertain. If I could dispose of My land in the Colony I should be relieved of some little embarasment which otherwise I must labour under. John Williams the bearer of this communication tells me he will buy it of me on seeing you if the title suits him you will render me a favour by aiding the sale so far as is consistent with your ideas of the matter

Our land difficulties and confusion here I hope will be at an end when the Comisioner arrives as I am informed he is comis[d] for the purpose of adjusting all diferences relative to land If the situation of your buisness would permit you to come on with the comisioner I think much good would arise there from to the inhabitants though perhaps in reality none to yourself.

I confess My silence ever since my arrival requires an apology though I should assure you my dear sir be happy at all times to hear from [you] hoping the greatest prosperity may attend you

THOMAS F. MCKINNEY [Rubric]

Col. Stephen F. Austin

NB Accept of the respects of Mrs. McKinney And if Possible for you to visit this country we would be glad you would call Stay with us

Sincerely

McK

MANUEL CEBALLOS TO AUSTIN

Mej[co] Nobre 5, de 1828

SOR D[n] ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MUI SOR MIO Y DE MI APRECIO luego qe. resibi su grata del 20 de 7bre: y con ella la solicitud y docum[tos]. pa la naturalizacion del buque estrangero de esa Colonia, perteneciente á su Ermano D[n] Santiago y primo Dn Juan Austin cuide se presentara al Ministerio de Marina pa su pronto y faborable despacho; y consecuente á lo qe ofresio á V. salió la orden p[a] ese Comand[te] de Marina, qe. lo

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es el E. S. Bustamante, que diriji el 25. de Oct^{e} afin de qe. les expidiera la patente respectiva á los interesados, prebios los requisitos legales de qe. instrui á V. desde qe el Exmo Sor Teran me recomendo este asunto, como interesante á esas Colonias, y p^{a} ebitar qe. en lo subsesibo tubieren otro quebranto sus recomendables colonos: lo mismo qe. participe a V. pr. Conducto del Sr Padilla con aquella fha, y se lo confirmo pr. esta.

Apresiare qe la empresa proporcione á V. y á sus gentes las grandes bentajas que les deseo, pues apetesco su felisidad y la de esos paises:, y mucho mas el ser el instrum^{to} de ambas este su mas adicto amigo y afmo capellan qe. B. S. M.

MAN^{l} CEBALLOS [Rubric]

N.

Si algunas dificultades se presentaren pr. ese Comandante general, sirbase V. manifestarmelas para allanarlas; y lo mismo lo mas qe se ofresca a V. y á todos esos Colonos en otras materias qe les interesen, pues aunque en Enero sesan mis funsiones, tengo amigos en los Ministerios qe. podran proteger la justisia de sus petisiones.

Vale

[Addressed:] Al Ciudadano Estevan Austin en la Colonia del mismo nombre por

BEJER

CAÑEDO TO AUSTIN

He recibido la comunicacion de V. de 7. del ultimo Octubre en que manifestando sus deseos por la prosperidad y adelanto de la Colonia que esta á su cargo, solicita al efecto que sele concedan los privilegios qe. ya ha pedido para introducir libres de derechos por diez años todo articulo necesario para el consumo de sus habitantes y para el adelanto del establecimiento, como tambien para habilitar la desembocadura del rio de los brazos en dha Colonia y establecer una comunicacion libre entre ella y los puertos mexicanos por medio del comercio de cabotage.

El Ex^{mo} Sr. Presidente á quien di cuenta se ha servido resolver diga á V. en contestacion que se pondrá oportunamente en conocim^{to} del congreso general la esposicion de V. para que se sirva resolver sobre los privilegios qe. en ella pide, por no estar en las atribuciones del Supremo Gobierno hacerlo; y que en el entretanto remita V. la memoria de 8. de Septiembre á que se contrae en la comunicacion que contesto pues no se ha recibido en esta secretaria

Dios y Libertad.

Mexico 15. de Nov^{e} de 1828.

CAÑEDO [Rubric]

Sr. D. ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.

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VICTOR BLANCO TO AUSTIN [1]

Leona vicario 15 de Nov^{e} 1828

SOR. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO: En Mejico recivi la mui apreciable de V. de 25 de Mayo ultimo con el caracter de reservado en la q^{e} se sirve proponerme el proyecto de la empresa de los terrenos limitrofes lo q. le he agradecido infinito por el beneficio q. de ello nos resultariá a ambos unico fin q. V. se propuso y yo abria adoctado gustoso si p^{a} aquella fha. no ubiera tenido el Sor. Zavala echa solicitud de la mayor parte de dhas. tierras como empresario y p^{a} su logro me havia encargado a mi el exito, y aun q. hasta la fha. no las ha conseguido sin embargo ya vera V. q. me imposibilitó en poder pedir yo por mi dha. empresa.

Si en lo subsesivo le ocurriere a V. alguno otro proyecto yo tendre el mayor gusto en acompañarle pues estoi combencido en los deseos q. le animan asia mi beneficio asi como de sus talentos y honrades.

Mi Hermano D. Ramon dejó en mi poder la q. V. le escribió con fha 8. de Sepb^{re} prox^{o} p^{o} en la q. le hace una referencia de su viaje a Trinidad y la descripcion de los terrenos q. examino por si mismo y su opinion de los mejores de ellos con el plan correspond^{te} de cuyo empeño y eficacia le estoi a V. sumam^{te} reconocido.

Yo he pedido p^{a} mi los onse sitios q. en el concepto de V. son los mejores aprovechandome en esto de sus conocim^{tos} y travajos, lo q. me pareció mejor en clase de compra y asi se me han concedido por el Gov^{no} como lo vera V. por la copia q. le acompaño con el fin de q. en interin pasa el Amigo Padilla a esa q. segun me asegura saldra de aqui en todo este mes y mientras se me dá por él la posecion me haga V. el favor de cuidar de q. no se coloquen familias, en los terrenos q. se me conceden p^{a} evitar los perjuicios a ellas y a mi, y por lo q. respecta alas q. haya establecidas en el ojo de agua y demas aun q. lo han echo sin contar con el gov^{no} ni tener p^{a} ello justo dro., sin embargo ami me seria mui sencible q. se perjudicaran y p^{a} q. esto no sucede me ocurre el medio de q. a mi nombre los haga V. bér como aquellos terrenos se me han concedido; y como ya abran echo costos en labores etc. puede V. dejarselos en arrendam^{to} por un termino qe. no pase de cinco años imponiendoles V. la renta q. le paresca bien, y p^{a} q. dhas. familias aseguren una propiedad les puede aconsejar q. piden tierras arriba o abajo de las mias pues amas de q. ya he inclinado al gov^{no} p^{a} q. seles dén, y esta an ello, yo estaré ala mira p^{a} su despacho faborable, pero q. sus solicitudes las hagan con prontitud p^{a} q. aseguren la propriedad por q. ay muchos intersados y

[1] This incomplete letter is indorsed by Austin: "Letter from Victor Blanco."

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sera sensible q. a otros seles den primero por no haverlas pedido ellos.

Los indios conchates no creo sean molestados en manera alguna.

Tengo en mi poder el proyecto de ley sobre deudas de estrangeros, en Enero hare por q. se presente y sea despachado, y tambien creo q. en lo subsesivo se consederá por el Gov^no de la Union el desembarco de familias y de sus efectos por la embocadura de los Brazos, y todo se arreglará p^a la felicidad de esas colonias por quienes V. ha travajado tanto.

Ramon y Tijerina en clase de pobladores pidieron otras dos porciones de a 11 sitios de los demarcados por V. en el plan y sus instancias pasaron a informes.

Nuestro buen amigo Zavala recivio su carta de V. y tubo mucho gusto, pero ya sabra V. como dho. amigo se fugo en Tlalpam por haver sido acusado de complicidad con Sta. Ana ante el senado quien declaró haver lugar a formacion de causa, pero él no se ha unido con aquel rebolucionario ni creo q. tenga parte ni sea delincuenta el tiempo avidenciara. Se ha.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin

Leona vicario 15. de Nov^re. de 1828.

Sr. D. Esteban F. Austin.

Mi estimado amigo: contesto ásu ultima apreciable de 20. del pasado, tributandole mis agrdecimientos por sus continuados favores. Como hé dicho á V. otra vez, pienso llevar facultad para escoger mis onze sitios comprados, juntos ó separados en los parajes que mas me acomoden: bajo este concepto jusgo que me será conveniente tomar uno ó dos en Matagorda sobre la orilla del rio á su entrada á las lagunas, otro, ó dos en la Baca, y asi en el colorado, Brazos, ó S. Jacinto, Trinidad, ó Sabinas. Parecerá aV. extraño este proyecto, y no deja de serlo en efecto, pero lleva sus conveniencias, y disventajas como todas las cosas de los hombres: al fin mi opinion es que todos somos locos bajo de algun respecto mientras vivimos, y que solamente entramos á ser cuerdos cuando bajamos al sepulcro. No obstante mi proyecto sufrira sus modificacion^s á nra vista, y cuente con que me dejo persuadir de la razon, y se escucharla con docilidad.

De un momento á otro arribará á esta mi succesor, y luego le haré entrega de este oficio, que doblem^te me há sido recargado en estos ultimos dias. Por mas que hé apurado mis recursos para habilitar la marcha de una pesada familia que tengo á mi cargo no me han correspondido satisfactorim^te mis calculos por defecciones que no há estado en mi mano evitar. Asi que como ultimo arbitrio voy á ocurrir al Sr. Viesca para que delas rentas se me facilite un auxilio en

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calidad de reintegro de cuatrocientos á quinientos pesos para expensar mis gastos de viage hasta Bejar; y cuento con que V. si sus facultades se lo permiten, me situará en Bejar ó en la Bahia una igual cantidad para verificar el pago luego de mi llegada, á fin de que no haga falta para las atenciones del servicio del Estado; que yo prometo reintegrarla á V. en esa Villa con los primeros rendimientos de mi comision.

Dije que en la Bahia podia situarseme dha cantidad, porque pienso hacer el viage de aqui á Matamoros p^a^ la Bahia, á Bexar, por la seguridad que presta el camino de la costa con preferencia á los de Laredo y Riogrande.

Nuestros asuntos politicos continuan todavia en mal estado, aunque ya está tomado Perote por las tropas del Gobierno: los adjuntos papeles impresos darán á V. alguna idea á cerca del estado que guarda la rebolucion de Santa Ana.

Antes de que viniera el reclamo de V. y del Ald^e^ de esa Villa sobre las calidades que exijio el art^o^ 36. del Reglam^to^ No. 58. dela Milicia nacional, ya el Gob^o^ habia elevado al congreso una iniciativa pidiendo la reforma del expresado art^o^ y de otros que V. verá por la adjunta copia. El caracter de franqueza y buena fé que ha observado el Gob^o^ en este asunto y otros mas graves que há versado con el congreso, y la entereza con que todas veces há emitido su opinion, harán spre honor al digno Gob^or^ que por fortuna tenemos al frente delos negocios. El estilo podrá alguna vez sufrir la nota de fuerte, ó irrespetuoso acia el cuerpo legislativo, pero en su favor se puede alegar, que esa es la propriedad de un republicano decir la verdad desnuda tal como la siente sin los adornos dela retorica. Ello es que el Cong^o^ se convencio de la fuerza delas razones del executivo, y expidio un decreto que es el No. 69. adj^to^.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Austin to Military Commandant

November 17, 1828.

See Calendar.

Austin to Military Commandant

[From Bexar Archives]

El dia 15 del presente se presentó a mi un indio Lipan que dice que es hermano del Capitan Castro de Cuelga y me dijo lo q^e^ sigue

Que un indio que vive con los Comanches pero de otra nacion le. havia dicho q^e^ en el ultimo ataque q^e^ les Comanches dieron a los Lipanes sobre el Rio Colorado, murió el hijo del Capitan Barba-

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quisto y con este motivo se enojaron á un exceso el referido Barbaquisto y todos los Comanches y q[e] en un gran consejo acordaron hacer una campaña gruesa de tres à quatro cientos hombres con el fin de acabar con todos los establecim[tos] de los Rios Colorado, San Marcos y Guadalupe hasta Martin de Leon y La Bahia y la vecindad de Bejar, dando por razon q[e] no querían paz con los amigos de los Lipañes y Tankahues. y q[e] se debe verificar la dicha campaña en fin de este y principio del mes que entra. Esto es lo que me dijo el referido Lipan y me pido avisar al Alcalde de La Bahia para que este avisa al Capitan Lipan el Cojo.

Sin perdida de tiempo puse un oficio a los Sors Alcaldes de Guadalupe y Victoria y avisé a los pobladores sobre el Colorado y San Marcos para estar con algun cuidado.

No sé por mi parte que grado de crédito se debe dar á esta noticia, no hay duda q[e] el Lipan la recibió como me dijo pero no sé quien es el otro indio de q[e] el la recibió. El Lipan pensó que la noticia era verdadera.

Doy esta noticia a V. S. en los terminos que la recibí.

Dios y Libertad

Villa de Austin 17 de Nov[re] de 1828.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric.]

Sor Comandante Pral de Coahuila y Texas.

ALEXANDER THOMPSON TO AUSTIN

Mexican Schooner "Louisiana,"
Galveston Bay, November 17, 1828.

See Calendar.

MATHEW BRENNAN TO AUSTIN

Galveston Bay, November 18, 1828.

See Calendar.

FERNANDO GUEVARA TO AUSTIN

Galveston Bay, November 18, 1928.

See Calendar.

WILLIAM RABB TO AUSTIN

Nov 24 1828

DEAR SIR

I have again been compelled to abandon my place above the La Bahia road, much against my will I do assure You, So long as the upper Settlement maintained their ground I did not dispair

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being able to complete my mills; but after being deserted by my neighbors I deemed it useless, and perhaps unsafe, to remain there any longer;—however, I do not dispair of returning in a short time—nothing within my power shall be wanting to reestablish a Settlement at that place;—For this purpose I shall make such proposals to those who wish to Settle in that part of the colony as cannot fail being accepted by all who wish well to the country half my land at that place will I give, if necessary, to effect this desirable object—could the uper settlers view the importance of maintaining that place in the same light that I do, I am sure they would be less captious and hard to please than I am afraid will be found to be the case—If that settlement is suffered to break up and disperse it will be a misfortune to the colony that many years may not be able to retrieve— The late visits of the Comanchas must be ascribed to the misconduct and imprudence of some of the inhabitants themselves, who for the sake of a little base dishonest self interest would sink the colony in irretrieveable ruin—If some means could be devised to keep the Tonkuays and Lapans from coming among us, it is probable we should not be troubled with the Comanchas—unless they wish to commence unprovoked hostilities against us,—Two Indians of the Shawneys tribe came to my place more than a month ago, stayed with me several days and then started up the river to explore the country of the San Sabo—They have not returned at the time they appointed, which was last wednesday,

Considering the punctuality of Indians in keeping such appointments I think it very probable that they have been killed by the Comanchas, as they are now in the country through which they were to travel— These Shawneys had traveled a great deal through the U. S. were men of considerable intelligence, and must have had a good deal of influence with their nation— They said that if they liked the upper country their people would commence settling 35 or 40 miles above the San Antonio road within three months after their return—they left 58 deer skins, a little ammunition and some other Indian trinkets with me—I have brought them away and will leave them with Mr. Newman

WILLIAM RABB

Col. Stephen F Austin

ANTONIO ELOSUA TO AUSTIN

Comand[a] Principal de Coahuila y Texas.

Por el oficio de V. de 17 del actual quedo enterado de que el dia 15. de dho. mes se le presentó á V. un Yndio Lipan que dice ser hermano del Gefe de esa Tribu Cuelga de Castro, diciendo que un Yndio, que vive con los Comanches, de otra Nacion, le dijo que en

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el ultimo ataque que dieron los Comanches álos Lipanes havia muerto el hijo de Barvaquista y que con esta motivo havian acordado hacer una Campaña de Cuatro cientos hombres para acabar los Establecimientos de este departmento.

Doy á V. las gracias por su eficacia en haver comunicado tan oportunam^te^ esta noticia, la cual no es de despreciarse sin embargo de que parece podrá resultar incierta, por que despues estubo en esta ciudad el Cap^n^ Comanche Queyunes con varios de los suyos, mandado por Barvaquista á bisitarnos, y por el mismo y los de su parcialidad supe que les havian dado ese ataque álos Lipanes y robadoles la caballada, pero no dijeron qe. hubiese muerto en la Accion ningun hijo de Barvaquista; antes por el contrario qe. habian matado áun Lipan.

Pero sobre todo, por lo mucho que interesa ála Seguridad de nuestra Patria y por que ciertam^te^ no podemas fiar ciegamente en la feé de los Barvaros, espero y me prometo del celo de V. que hará todo lo posible p^a^ adquirir cuantes otras noticias pueda sobre este asunto, y qe. me las comunicará segun es combeniente.

Dios y Livertad. Bejar Noviembre 25. de 1828.

Ant^o^ Elosua [Rubric]

Señor Empresario dela Villa de S. Filipe de Austin Ciud^no^ Ten^te^ Coron^l^ Estevan Austin.

Antonio Elosua to Austin

Bexar, November 25, 1828.

See Calendar.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar 27. de Novie^me^ de 1828.

Sor. Dn. Estevan Austin

Mi estimado amigo: en el Saltillo recivi la que V. tubo la bondad de dirigirme con el Plan del Terreno que le havia recomendado escoger, e instruciones relativas al asunto; por su eficacia doy aV. las mas esprecivas gracias por mi parte y á nombre de Dn Victor, quien se quedó con dho. documento en su poder como el principal interesado en este asunto.

No me olvidé en aquella Capital de aberiguar el resultado de la Ley que V. propuso sobre deudas contraidas en pais estrangero, supe qe. el Gov^ne^ hizo la correspondiente iniciativa al congreso, mas no pudo despacharse en razon de que se encorto [encontro] alguna resistencia entre los Diputados, no fué desechada por lo que

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creo que recomendandose este asunto a nuestros nuevos Diputados, se consiguirá la Ley en las proximas seciones de Enero.

Por el correo de hoy ha recivido una resolucion del Govno General permitiendo al del Estado conceder las tierras qe. Ocupn los abitantes de Sn. Jacinto a Trinidad por representacion que dirigieron por conducto del Sr. Hor [Orr], aquien podrá comunicar V. esta noticia pa su satisfaccion y las de los interesados, manifestandoles que dentro de poco tiempo tendran el comicionado que bá á nombrar el Govno del Estado.

Ablé al Sor. Viesca sobre el interes qe. V. tenia pa que se abilitara el puerto de los Brasos, y me dixo que hera muy necesario qe. V. como Empresario y el Ayuntamto de Sn. Felipe lo solicitaran con energia y por conducto de la Legislatura pa que esta estendiese la correspondiente iniciativa pa las camaras del congreso General

Hagame V. favor de saludar a Dn. Santiago y Dn. Samuel de mi parte.

Ramon Musquiz [Rubric]

José Antonio Navarro to Austin

Bexar 27 de Nove de 1828:

Sor. D. Esteban Austin

Mi amigo Estimado: Yo estoy en esta ciudad desde el dia nueve del actual qe. llegué algo molestado del camino y no havia podido escribir á mis amigos, sin embargo de qe. V. se olvida de mi, pues no recivi de V. mas que una qe. conteste desde el Saltillo, en fin, yo soy muy apacionado y no puedo desentenderme de mis amigos y en tal concepto estoy siempre aqui asu disposicion.

El correo de hoy no nos trae cosa de nuebo sino algunos indicios de qe. Santana caerá irremisiblemte bamos á otra cosa.

Como ya no soy Legislador, sino comerciante nesecito de molestar á V. como lo hago ahora suplicandole qe. si hay café y polbora actualmte en esa villa, me consiga pr. su mano trecientas libras del primero qe. no pase la libra de dos reales y ocho @ de Polbora de la mejor calidad ó de la corrte. qe. hale en Orleans a 7 ps. la arroba.

Conseguidos qe. sean estos encargos me hase V. favor de abisarme á buelta de correo pa ir ó mandar pr. ellos mandando juntamente el importe de ellos, pues son articulos qe. nesesito pa surtir en este inbierno.

Si por una fatalidad no hay dhos articulos hahora en esa villa y está algun barco proccimo pa orleans y V. tiene arbitrio de encargarlos pr. cuenta mia, lo agradeceré mucho y quedaré entendido de remitir inmidiatamte qe. V. me abise el dinero pa costo y flete de mar.

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Tengo a lo menos seis mulas qe. poder bender y dos ó tres caballos buenos. digame V. si podró mandarselos, si es qe. se benderan á algun buen precio.

Sobre todo mi encargo de café y polbora si lo hay hahora, no se olbide abisarme p^{a} traerlo prontam^{te} qe. aqui no le hay mucho diciendome al mismo tiempo algunos otros articulos qe. puedan comprarse prontamte. en ésa villa con alguna comodidad, principalmte. mais qe. quiero mandar las mulas por un poco porque perdi enteram^{te} mi labor.

Si V. quiciere continuar nuestra correspond^{a} amistosa tendrá mucho gusto este su amigo qe. por hahora se limita á estos encargos.

Jose Antonio Navarro [Rubric]

P. D.

Tengo demasiado interes en qe. V. de informe de si aun bibe mi amigo D. Juan cortés de Natchitoches, porque me han dado la fatal noticia de que quedaba proximo á morir y como qe. tengo algunos asuntos con dho. amigo espero qe. V. se informará, si es dable escribiendole á el mismo ó á otro de sus amigos de Natchitoches pa. saber lo cierto, pues aunque yo escribo temo qe. pr. el conducto se atrase mi carta.

Vale.

Juan Vicente Campos to Austin

Saltillo, November 29, 1828.

See Calendar.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin

Leona vicario Nov^{re}. 29 de 1828.

Sr. D. Esteban F. Austin.

Estimado Amigo: Hasta el 20. del corriente funcioné en esta oficina como srio. del Gob^{o} En ese dia se recibio del cargo mi succesor D. Santiago del Valle, y comenzo el 21. sus trabajos.

Aunque han pasado ocho dias, todavia no se me despacha en mi comision, pero están ya reunidos todos los materiales p^{a} ello.

Como dije á V. en mi ultima estoy en hacer mi viage por el Refugio ó Matamoros, y en su consecuencia suplico á V. tenga efecto mi encargo sobre situarme en Bejar ó la Bahia el auxilio que le indiqué, por que hé tenido que expensar considerables gastos en avio, mozos, etc.

Por el correo de hoy se há recibido dentro dela correspondencia del Gob^{o} la adjunta carta rotulada para V. que hé pedido el favor de que se me facilite para remitirla á V. como lo hago con mucho gusto mio, por que supongo que contiene alguna resolucion favorable sobre naturalizacion de buques de construccion estrangera, ó cosa semejante.

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La rebolucion todavia continua, presentando un aspecto ya adverso ya favorable para el Gob°: de todos modos, los males en cualquiera estremo son ciertos para la patria.

No hé recibido papeles publicos y por eso no remito á V. cosa alg^a de esta clase Reciba finas expressiones de mi muger.

J. ANTONIO PADILLA [Rubric]

EMILY M. PERRY TO J. E. B. AUSTIN[1]

Herculaneum November 29.^th 1828—

I received a few days since Mr Dear Brothers, letter of Sep.^r 28, which gave me the most sincear pleasure, as I have not had any letter from eather of you since M.^r J. Austin was up; I was very much disapointed in not seeing him as I had a great many inquires to make, respectting you and my Sister I have not words to express to you the pleasure, that I felt when I heard that you were Married; I have no doubt but what you will enjoy life much more than you ever did; you now have some inducement to exert yourself to acquire an independence, which I have no doubt you will do, If it only pleases the Almighty to spare your lives;—

I am on a Visit to this place, and shall see all your numerous Cousins; Adeline Lewis, is living with her Father; and the Sisters of her deceas'd Husband are living with her, one of the Young Laydes, is to be Married to Morrow night, which is the reason of my being hear, I expect to see the most of our relations that live in this County—their is very little alteration with them, since you left here excepting in Deaths, the Town of Herculaneum is all going to Naught; I do not know when I shall visit it again, for when I look at our old *habitation* it brings to mind Friends and seans that have long gone by, it casts such a gloom on my feelings, that it is with difficulty that I can appear chearfull, in the Midst of our Friends, Mary Honey has four Children one Daughter, Maria W. three, Adeline one, Old Aggy call to see me today, she looks very like old times, she inquired very particularly after you, and Master Stephen, and express'd a great wish to see you boath, poor old Jack is number'd with the Dead—&c.

Tell Stephen that M.^r Woodson had his house *burnt* to the Ground, when he was Clerk of the Court, and that *all the Papers* relating to the Butler business were burnt, not *one* to be *found*, so he may give himself no uneasiness on that business; Judge Carr intends writing to him very fully respecting the business—

I shall look for you and Sister Next Spring, you must not wait to make a *fortune*, for if you do, I shall think that you do not want

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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to see *me;* but wish only to make a show and *parade*, for James, I know that you inherit all our Dear Fathers Pride, and ambition, I once possess'd my share of it, but misfortune and trouble has compleatly humbled me; I want you to come and see how *happy* I live with my Dear good Man, and to see what a handsome Family of Children, I have, it is very old fashion for one to write about ones Husband and Children, I trust I may always be so far out of Fashion as to praise merit where it is deserving, you could visit Missouri, and return in 6 weeks, Sister would only have to stop at New Orleans— procure a Fashionable Bonnet and two or three Fashionable Dresses, and she would Eclips us all Fashionables at Potosi; but indeed My Dear Brother you must visit us in the Spring; we shall know by that time wheather there can be any thing recover'd in Jersey, the last accounts were very flattering—

I send you by M.^{rs} Lockhart a box of Roots and more gardin seed; I hope long ere this the box of seed that I send in October have arrived safe, I wrote to Sister and inclosed the letter, and a little bundle in the Box; I must bid you Adieu for the house is full of *Girls* and they keep such a fuss and chattering around me that I hardly know what I am doing—tell Stephen that I have a most *amiable* and *beautifull Girl* picked out for him the *Daughter* of an old Friend and favourit of his—she very much resembles a Laydy that he once was very *partial* too—

Present my most affectionate love to Sister, and Brother, you must all of you write to me often, and believe me always your truly

attached Sister

E, M, PERRY

[Address:] James E. B, Austin Esq.^{r} S.^{t} Filippi d.^{e} Austin— Provence of Texas

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AUSTIN TO ABNER KUYKENDALL

Mr ABNER KYKENDALL

Please let Mr. Achilles McFarlan have four Cows and calves out of those you intend for me.

I will take all the Cows and calves you have to spare but cannot go up now to receive them and must start down the River tomorrow, I will send up my brother to attend to the business and receive the cows—

Decr. 3, 1828.

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.]

order for four cows

Received of Abner C Kuykendall fore Cows at one hundred dollars

ACHILLES MC.FARLAN

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Austin and Rufus Stone—Agreement

December 5, 1828.

See Calendar.

Alexander Thompson to Austin

Vera Cruz, December 6, 1828.

See Calendar.

Austin to Thomas Boatright

December 10, 1828.

See Calendar.

Austin to Thomas M. Duke

San Felipe, December 9, 1828.

See Calendar.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin

Leona vicario 13. de Dic^{e} de 1828.

Sr. D. Esteban F. Austin.

Estimado Amigo: Nro. estado politico cada vez está mas critico: la rebolucion há hecho progresos espantosos: el 3. del corriente estaba situado el Gob^{o} con las camaras dentro de su palacio por los civicos insurreccionados por el Gen^{l} Lobato. En aquel dia se trataba de facultar al Gob^{o} extraordinariam^{te} para que terminase la rebolucion; y no sabemos que suerte habrá corrido: los amantes del orn y de la constitucion tememos los funestos resultados de un trastorno general. La sangre há corrido á torrentes dentro de la ciudad federal y fuera de ella. Por el Sur sehá levantado el Gen^{l} Montes de Oca y otros Gefes con 3.000 hombres proclamando la expulsion general de españoles y la destitucion del Ministro de la Guerra Gomez Pedraza.

La fuerza actual con que contaban en el Palacio federal los Supremos Poderes es de seis á setecientos hombres; y están reducidos al solo edificio. Los Santanistas están apoderados de la Ciudadela y del resto de la ciudad. Aseguran que en el primer encuentro perecieron 800 hombres de una y otra parte

Si á la reunion del congreso g^{l} en el proximo Enero no calma la rebolucion por una medida legislativa, la nacion vá á ser embuelta en mil desastres y desgracias, y puede ser que seamos intervenidos por el Gob^{o} ingles, anglo-americano, frances ú otro que tenga interes

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en que no seamos tan aturdidos. Temo mucho este caso, pero puede darse.

Todo presenta un aspecto melancolico y triste. Mi espiritu está muy abatido. Deseo con ansia salir de aqui p^{a} ocuparme en mi comision, pero un accidente há detenido mi marcha. La verificaré luego que mi hija salga con bien de su parto q está muy proximo y convalesca unos pocos dias. Hé formado el plan de llevarla comigo, y no desisto de este proposito por que la deseo su bien estar

Hé llegado á entender algo á cerca de la presa que se hizo en la Bahia de Galveston de un buque llamado *Derechos del hombre* por un guarda costa Mexicano, sin conocimiento delas autoridades locales: pasado mañana escribiré á Mejico recomendando fuertem^{te} este asunto, á pesar de que el estado politico del Gob^{o} no presenta sino motibos de dificultad; pero yo repitiré mis cartas, y haré que por el Gob^{o} de este Estado se haga el reclamo conveiente.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin

C. Tent^{e} Coron^{l} Estevan F. Austin.

S. Fernando Dis^{e}. 17. de 1828.

Mi siempre estimado amigo. Es muy laudable y muy justo el interes con q. V. se empeña por los progresos de esa empresa, y estando en consonancia sus deseos con los mios, le acompaño el adjunto pasaporte q. he expedido en clase de provisional atendiendo ala necesidad mientras q. pueda hacerse con todos los requisitos q. exige el Sup^{mo} Govierno segun se la ha comunicado áV. de oficio por conducto del Sor Elosua, y celebraré q. todo se állane p^{a} q. se logren las ventajas á q. V. aspira.

Por lo q. respecta álos comanches hasta ahora no dán indicios de nuevo rompimiento con nosotros, pues antes bien han asegurado los capitanes q. han ido á Bexar estar en el mejor sentido la mayoria de ellos para continuar la paz, mas no por esto devemos estar enteram^{te}. descuidados, pareciendome q. la noticia del Lipan es supuesta y q. la guerra la harán los comanches alos Lipanes por q. estos les han rovado cavallos hace poco tiempo.

No dude V. q. sacarán ventajas los q. conduzcan puercos y demas ganados gordos á Matamoros pues todo se vendera bien.

Los amigos Guerra y demas corresponden ala memoria de V. y yo me repito como siempre su conciud^{o}. y. amigo q. decea complacerle, y lo estima muy deveras.

Anast^{o}. Bustam^{te}. [Rubric]

P. D.

Despues de escrita esta recivi la apreciable de V. de 1^{o} del presente, y en contestacion me remito á lo q. llevo dho áñadiendo q. al capitan

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de Puerto, y al Admor. de Matamoros les digo lo q. vera V. en mi adjunto oficio q. le traslado pa q. todo se állane; y si el capitan del Buque trajere los Documtos q. exije la Suprema orn sele dara tambien el correspondte pasaporte para q. pase á presentarse al Comte de Marina á fin de q. lo havilite de Rol &a.

Por lo q. respecta á comanches, tancahuases y Lipanes quedo enterado del golpe q. dieron los primeros alos segundos, y ala verdad q. lo tienen bien merecido por q. los Lipanes y tancahues rovaron hace poco tiempo álos comanches.

En lo gral se puede fiar de la paz de todos los Yndios, mientras q. ellos vean una fuerza capaz de castigar sus agreciones, lo q. servira á V. de govierno, pareciendome q. los comanches son los mas consequentes, pero siempre es necesario tener precaucion con todos, y tratarlos bien, mientras q. no falten ellos a los tratados de amistad.

Adios mi amigo pues no tengo tiempo para mas.

[Inclosure]

Al Admor de la Aduana Maritima de Matamoros digo hoy lo q. copio.

"Hoy digo al Comandte del Bravo de Santiago lo siguiente. El E. S. Srio de guerra y Marina en oficio de 25. de Octubre ultimo me dice lo siguiente. E. S. El Presidte. ha dispuesto q. remita á V. E. como lo ejecuto la adjunta instancia q. le han presentado Mr. Santiago y Mr. Juan Austin vecinos de Tejas solicitando Nacionalizar una Goleta pa el comercio de cabotaje á fin de q. mandando V. E. recojer la escritura legal de propiedad del Buque Patente orijinal de la Nacion á q. pertenecia con el permiso q. deve haber mediado del consul respectivo espida el pasaporte interino de Navegacion ecsijiendo anticipadamte de los interesados fianza del valor del Buque estenciva á estar y pasar pr. todas las Leyes Maritimas en q. se comprehende la de q. el Capitan, Piloto y dos terceras partes de la Tripulacion, cuando menos, sean nativos avecindados en la Republica, espresandose en dho. pasaporte, las dimenciones del Buque, nombres y clases de los individuos de su dotacion con sus medias filiaciones, y todo provicional hasta q. haciendo viaje á Veracruz se habilite de Rol y demas pr. aquel comandte de Marina. Del resultado dará V. E. cuenta á este Ministerio pa la devida constancia. Y teniendo noticia de q. la goleta Eclipse es la q. se trata de Nacionalizar y de q. deve arribar de un dia á otro en ese puerto con cargamento de frutos del pais, incluyo á V. el adjunto duplicado del pasaporte provicional q. se remitio al empresario de la colonia de Austin pa qe. lo entregue V. al ciudno. Capitan de dha Golefa pr. haber salido antes de recivir el principal segun he sabidó ĕ imponiendo de la inserta orn. suprema á fin de q. si le es posible ecsiba los documtos q.

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se espresa los cuales me remitirá V. inmediatam^te^ p^a^ estenderse el pasaporte interino de Navegacion con la circunstancia q. espresa la citada orn. suprema y q. con el pueda presentarse al Com^te^ de Marina Nacional de Veracruz; en cuyo caso esperará el resultado en ese puerto. Traslado lo á V. p^a^ su inteligencia y fines consiguientes incluyendole copia del pasaporte provisional q. é estendido pr. duplicado al Capitan de la repetida Goleta."

Y lo inserto á V. p^a^ su inteligencia.

Dios y Libd.

San Fer^do^. Dbre. 20. de 1828.

ANAS^to^ BUSTAM^te^ [Rubric]

C. Ten^te^. Cor^l^ Felipe E. Austin

DAVID PORTER TO AUSTIN

Vera Cruz, December 26, 1828.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN IN ACCOUNT WITH WILLIAM COOPER

Stephen F. Austin

With William Cooper ---------- Dr.

			$ cents
January			
this 1828	To	Two Bottles Whiskey By Singleton	1.00
Aprile 14		4 lbs Sugar and 2 lbs Coffee	2.00
19		By L. R. Kinney recd one gallon Whiskey	2.00
		3 lbs Coffee and 6 lbs Sugar	3.00
May 5		2 Gallons Whiskey at $2 pe Gallon	4.00
		2 qts Whiskey and 2 lbs Sugar W. Whiting	1.50
		2 qts Whiskey and 2 lbs Sugar W. Whiting	1.50
			13.50
Sepr 22nd		for Order Brought by Indian	1.12½
		2 Quires letter paper	1.00
Nov. 29		2 Sheets Drawing Paper	12
Dec. 26		1 quire do do	1.00
			16.75
		Assumption for Leall	3.00
			19.75

J. ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Leona vicario 27. de Dic^e^ de 1828.

Sr. D. ESTEBAN AUSTIN.

ESTIMADO AMIGO: Tengo el favor de anunciar á V. que la rebolucion de Mejico que dió principio la noche del 31°. de Dic^e^

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terminó el dia 4. de Dic^{e} despues de un vivo y sostenido fuego entre los pronunciados y las tropas del Gob^{o} durante los cuatro dias indicados, con advertencia de que el dia 3. comenzó el fuego á las 6 dela mañana y terminó á las 6 dela tarde

El resultado de este choque fué que Pedraza y sus satelites saliesen precipitadam^{to} de Mejico: el Gob^{o} ó por mejor decir el Presid^{te} nombró para Ministro de la Guerra al Sr. D. José Joaquin de Herrera, q^{n} renuncio el 8. de Dic^{e} y le sucedio en ese Dapartam^{to} el Gen^{l} Vicente Guerrero.

Desde el 5. aparecio la libertad y el orn enla ciudad federal, y comenzó á restablecerse hta el 17. que son las ultimas noticias. El Gob^{o} quedó en libertad y asi lo há manifestado á la nacion pr. una Circular del 9. que remitio pr. extraordinario á todas partes y pr. el correo de hoy sale p^{a} los pueblos del Estado.

El Sr. Zavala está repuesto en su Gob^{o}: el Sr. Tornel en el suyo de Gob^{or} del Distrito: el comisario g^{l} de Mejico há sido reemplazado por el patriota Antonio José Baldés. Há habido diferentes mutaciones como fruto de la lucha entre la opinion contra un partido formidable que existia en el seno del Gob^{o} cuyo foco era el Ministro Gomez Pedraza; la caida de este funcionario no es la caida del Gob^{o} Este existe en toda su plenitud, y exerciendo el poder que le concede la Constitucion: asi lo há publicado oficialmente uno de sus organos el Ministro de Relaciones.

La noche del 24. del corr^{te} dió á luz mi hija una niña, sana, y robusta, habiendo quedado la parida igualm^{te} sana: ambas continuan con salud, y la primera con buena convalescencia. Tengo la satisfaccion de ofrecer á V. la recien nacida, como una criada y servidora. Este es un paso felis que facilitará mi marcha dentro de pocos dias, que será luego que restablesca la madre, y enduresca un poco la niña.

Mi muger se reproduce a disposicion de V.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Antonio Elosua to Austin

Comand^{a} Principal de Coahuila y Texas.

El Exmo. Sr. Comand^{te} Gral. de estos Estados en oficio de 30. de Noviembre popo. se há servido decirme lo que ála letra es como sigue. [He quotes the document enclosed in Bustamante to Austin, December 17, 1828.]

Dios y Livertad. Bejar Dic^{re}. 27. de 1828.

Ant^{o} Elosua [Rubric]

Señor Empresario dela Villa de San Felipe de Austin

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George Tennille in Account with J. Austin

[December (?) —, 1828.]

Judge Tennel [George Tennille]
Bot from J B and J. Austin—

½ Doz Cups and Saucers @	$1.00	1 Bottle Mustard @ 4½	$0.50
½ Doz Spoons	.50	2 Handkfs @ 75 and 5/	1.37½
1½ Doz plates	.37½	2 lbs Tobacco @ $2.00	10.00
1 lbs Tea	3.00	6¾ Yds. Hamdton Stripe @ 6½	5.06¼
1 Carving Knife	0.75	2 lbs Powder @ $1.00	2.00
1 Wilson Ditto	0.50	4 lbs Lead @ 25	1.00
1 Tea Pot Brittania	3.50		
6 lbs Sugar a 209	1.20		
10 lbs Coffee @ 3½	3.75		$35.51¼

Tennel's Act with J. B. and J Austin

José Antonio Navarro to Austin

Bexar 8 de Enero de 1829

Ciudadano Estevan Austin

Mi caro amigo y Sor mio: contesto á su muy grata de 15 de Dizᵉ qe. recivi por Jose Luis, por no haverlo podido aser en el anterior correo á causa de los padecimᵗᵒˢ de mi Espiritu con las cosas de Mejico, de manera qe. tube por mas prudente callar hasta mejor ocacion.

Esta es hahora qe. afortunadamᵗᵉ han calmado un tanto cuanto las agitaciones politicas aunque de un modo paliatibo es desir con trapos calientes al enfermo y no como una curacion radical, pues qe. ha sucumbido el Govierno se puede decir y ya V. verá qe. esto no es muy honroso por mas que nos engañemos nosotros mismos y por mas qe. se le quiera dar vivos de Justicia al lebantamᵗᵒ

Por mi parte, confieso qe. atendiendo á mis afectos en lo personal, del Sor Guerrero, Zavala, etc que me prodigaron muchas consideracion sin merecerlo, devia yo apreciar el exito como ha sucedido, mas hablando politicamᵗᵉ y de un modo Juicioso y constitucional, digo y diré siempre qe es una miseria pª el Govierno el que se haya sucumbido á las peticiones de un Gral arrojado, con detrimᵗᵒ del pacto social y agravio de las Lejislaturas qe. havian sufragado pª Presidente conforme á su constitucion. Tan pesimo ejemplo abre la puerta pª repetir otro y otro al genio emprehendedor sin mas calificacion de Justicia qe. la fuerza bien dirijida. Puede ser y yo deceo qe. se componga Mejico sea como fuere, pero como me afecto mucho de aquellas cosas qe. creo qe. son Justas, siento aun la misma ganancia cuando es acosta de depreciones, en fin el tpo. hablara por todo.[1]

[1] For the method by which Guerrero obtained the presidential chair see H. H. Bancroft, History of Mexico, V, 35–40.

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Le acompaño p^{a} qe. V. se inponga afondo la qe. recivi en el anterior, de Tijerina[1] y despues verá por la copia qe. la dirije á V. el Gefe, como ha calmado todo enteram^{te}. y V. podrá deducir de ello lo qe. le paresca.

Como nos puede ser muy util en Mejico nuestro Diputado Campos, le incluyo á V. tambien la qe. me escribio ofreciendome sus servicios en dha capital. Es por tanto muy del caso p^{a} nosotros el qe. V. me escriba de cuando en cuando qe. pueda hablandome historicam^{te}. sobre los males y reformas qe. necesitan las Colonias, pues qe. pienso dirijir copias de sus cartas al mismo Sor Campos como se lo he prometido y lo hise remitiendole la qe. recivi anteriorm^{te} de V. porque me parecio qe. podria servir de lus p^{a} las primeros trabajos en el congreso Gral.

Agradesco infinitam^{te} la eficacia de V. en hacer como me ofrece mis encargos á Orleans y espero que me dara abiso p^{a} remitir inmediatam^{te} el dinero qe. importen ellos y los fletes hasta esa villa á donde iré ó mandaré á traerlos.

Se me ofrece demas hahora, el qe. V. me contrate á mi nombre treinta fanegas de mais lo mas varato qe. sea posible, en el rio colorado y cuando no se pueda, en el de los Brazos, por de este lado p^{a} obiar incomodidades de parajes. hagalo V. pr. mi, abisandome á buelta de correo de estar contratadas, aunque V. se oblique á recivirlas, presisam^{te} en todo el mes de Marzo y Abril, pues entonces mandaré mis mulas qe. actualm^{te} he mandado al colorado por un poco.

El dho mais me interesa mucho, porque no le tengo p^{a} el gasto y creo qe. V. no holvidará el comprar las 30 fanegas indicadas, abisandome p^{a} remitir el importe.

Ha echo V. muy mal con hacerme su am^{o} porque soy un hombre muy importuno y no le ofresco otra cosa qe. mi reciprocidad sin limites.

En tal concepto, no me dará V. otro dia mas placentero qe. es quando V. me ocupe en algo que pueda serle util.

J. Ant^{o} Navarro [Rubric]

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar, January 8, 1829.

See Calendar.

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[1] Tijerina, a deputy in the Legislature of Coahuila and Texas.

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Luciano Garcia to Austin

Bexar, January 8, 1829.

See Calendar.

Austin to Minister of Relations

January 12, 1829.

See Calendar.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz

He recibido noticia de qe. el Sor Gaspar Flores Comisionado de esta colonia ha sido elegido alcalde de esa capital en cuya virtud manifiesto a V. S. qe. es de absoluta necesidad qe. el dicho Com^do^ permaneciera en esta a lo menos hasta avril para concluir siquiera a los asuntos pendientes de su comision pues delo contrario van a resultar grandes perjuicios al adelanto de esta Colonia a causa de la mucha demora e embaraso en completar los asuntos ya comensados por el si es qe. no se le permite fenecerlos ahora en cuya inteligencia y en obsequio del bien publico suplico qe se sirva V. S. permitir la permanencia en esta del dicho Comisionado por lo menos hta el mes de Avril

[Estevan F. Austin.]

12 de Enero 1829
Sor Gefe del Dep^to^ C. Ramon Musquiz

Austin to Vincente Campos

Villa de Austin 12 de Enero 1829

Sor. D. Vincente Campos,

Muy Sor mio de toda mi consideracion, Recibi la de V fecha 29 de Novb^re^. po. po. en qe. se ha servido V. tener la bondad de comunicarme su eleccion a la Camara de Diputados en el Congreso Gral. y recordandome de la disposicion qe. spre ha animado a V. en mi favor en el adelanto de la empresa pesada de fomentar este nuevo establecim^to^ en los despoblados de Texas y ofreciendo sus servicios en el destino de Diputado

Quedo infinitam^te^ agradecido de la bondad de V. y suplico qe. me perdonará la molestia, si desde luego me aprovecho de ella en llamar la atencion de V. á una memoria qe. remiti al Gob^no^ gral en fecha de 8 de Septiembre del año pasado pidiendo qe. se habilite la desembocadura del rio de los Brazos, como receptoria maritima dependiente de la Aduana de Galveston, ó de cualquier otro modo

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con tal qe sea habilitado para el comercio estrangero y de cabotage y particularm^te^ para la entrada de familias emigradas con sus Muebles de casa, herramientas, viveres y efectos.

Este asunto es de suma importancia, pues segun las ordenes esctrecha qe se ha circulado ultimam^te^ sobre la materia estamos aislados y encerrado en este desierto sin poder traher los articulos de primera necesidad de otras partes, y lo peor qe todo es qe. yo no puedo cumplir con los contratos qe he celebrado con el Gob^no^, para la introduccion de familias, pues las mas de ellas deben venir por agua de Orleans, y seria sumam^te^ sensible si un buque armado nacional apresase una Goleta fletada de familias y la llevase con mugeres y niños y todo a vera cruz, a causa de ser destinado a los Brasos qe no es punto habilitado, y en esta inteligencia y en obsequio del adelanto de la patria suplico qe. se sirva V. abocarse con el Exmo Sor Ministro de Relaciones, p^a^ qe. por conducto del Gob^no^ se proponga al Congreso la habilitacion de los Brazos y la exemcion qe he pedido de derechos por diez años

La mas perfecta harmonia y paz reinan en esta parte del territorio Mexicano—tenemos una suspencion de hostilidades por los Indios lo llamo suspencion porqe. temo qe. si por las desgracias patrias se reduce la guarnicion de Bejar los Comanches encenderán de nuevo la guerra pero los males son bastante pesados quando en efecto llegan, sin anticiparlos y no me estiendo mas sobre este punto.

Me aprovecho de la ocacion p^a^ manifestar de nuevo mi respecto y consideracion, y de renovar las espreciones de mi vivo reconocim^to^ p^a^ la bondad de V. hacia el qe. tiene el honor de quedar su muy atento servidor y afectissimo amigo Q. S. M. B.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO ———[1]

San Fern^do^ 14 de En^o^ de 1829.

See Calendar.

ANASTACIO BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

San Fern^do^ 22 de En^o^ de 1829.

C. Teniente Cor^l^ ESTEVAN F AUSTIN

MI AMIGO MUY ESTIMADO. Es en mi poder la apreciable carta de V. de 22 del ppdo. en que me recomienda á su primo C. Juan Austin al q. sera atendido como corresponde en cuanto sele ofresca p^a^ ya V. sabe que lo aprecio y deseo complacerlo.

[1] Filed with José Cándido Arcos to Austin, January 1, 1829, which is omitted. Arcos to Austin, November 28, 1829, is also omitted.

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En orden ála patente ó pasaporte de Navegacion, ya he dicho á V. por el correo ordinario y por el conducto del Ciud^no^ Comand^te^ Elosua los docum^to^ que se necesitan pudiendo Vastar, entretanto se consiguen dhos. docum^tos^ y requisitos el pasaporte provicional que remití á V., cuio duplicado tiene ya en su poder el referido primo de V. quien arrivo sin novedad al Bravo de Santiago, y p^a^ que no benga á molestarse hta. esta villa, le mande decir por conducto del comand^te^ de aquel punto q. se regrese á esa colonia con dho—pasaporte prov^l^ p^a^ que se consigan los docume^tos^ y demas requisitos que previene la Sup^ma^ ord^n^ pudiendo despues volver al Bravo Santiago.

Es regular que el primo de V. haya tenido una benigna acojida y buena venta por que yo le he recomendado bien al comand^te^ del Bravo y al Adm^or^ dela Aduana de Matamoros con lo q. contesto ála citada Carta de V. repitiendome su Conciud^o^ y amigo quelo estima muy deveras.

Anas^to^ Bustam^te^ [Rubric.]

Erasmo Seguin to Austin

Bexar, January 22, 1829.

See Calendar.

Ayuntamiento of San Felipe to Political Chief

[From Bexar Archives]

El articulo 13 de la Ley n^o^ 58 reglamentaria de la milicia local nacional del Estado previene que el Batallon de infanteria de Texas se alista en Austin, Nacogdoches, y adyacentes, y el articulo 14 previene que se aumentará esta fuerza conforme los Empresarios comiensan á introducir las familias de su contrata.[1]

Esta Corporacion encuentra muchas dificultades en organizar la milicia conforme al citado articulo 13 deducidas, unas, de la mucha extension del territorio comprendido en el batalion; y otras, en la naturaleza del país, del enemigo indiano q^e^ le hostiliza, y del servicio en que se ha de emplear la milicia.

La situacion espuesta á los bárbaros de toda esta frontera, emperiosam^te^ requiere una organizacion la mas compacta que sea compatible, á fin de que los Gefes estén á la mira inmediate de sus subalternos, tanto para velar de su disciplina como para espedir prontamente las ordenes que alguna novedad repentina pudiera requirir: Segun la organizacion prescrita en el referido articulo 13 toda la plana mayor puede ser vecinos de Nacogdoches ó de Austin segun

[1] This decree is omitted from the official publication of the laws of Coahuila and Texas. On the subject of this petition see Austin to Musquiz, Aug. 2, 1828, and Governor Viesca to the legislature, Sept. 9, 1828.

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prepondiese los votos de uno ó otro extremo del territorio del Batalion, y estos extremos distan 90 leguas uno del otro. En Austin y adyacentes, incluyendo el distrito del atascosito abajo del pueblo de los Cushatée sobre el Rio Trinidad y el distrito de Gonzales sobre el Rio Guadalupe se puede formar un Batalion que sube de 800 hombres y va aumentando rapidamente por los emigrados de los Contratos de los Empresarios Austin y De Witt, y con fundam^{to} se crée que en Nacogdoches inclusivos los establecim^{tos} del Rio Trinidad arriba del pueblo de los Coshatées, y sobre los Rios Neches, Angelina, Atoyac, los Ayses, y el Rio Sabina, se formará otro batalion de 500 hombres por lo menos. Se puede advertir que Galveston, y la costa de Austin son los puntos mas espuestos de toda la costa de Tejas, al ataque de un enemigo por agua á causa de los puertos que contiene, y he aquí otra razon porque la milicia de Austin y adyacentes debe tener una organizacion compacta, para no gastar tiempo en circularse las ordenes y juntarse la milicia.

Por otra parte infanteria no es la fuerza que se puede usar con ventaja contra los Yndios sino la cavalleria, ó infantes montados, porque es claro que en un país despoblado, y en una guerra con Yndios en q^{e} el acierto enteram^{te} depiende de la celeridad de los movim^{tos} y en largas marchas dentro de un despoblado en que se ha de llevar provisiones por 30 ó 40 dias no sirve la infanteria, han de ser montados precisam^{te} para seguir al enemigo aunque baten á pie.

En esta inteligencia este Ayuntam^{to} ha creído de su deber en obsequio de la seguridad publica presentar esta consulta á V. S. á fin de que si está conforme con las ideas de V. S. se la eleva al Exmo Señor Gob^{or} del Estado.

La consulta se reduce pues á que su Excelencia el Gobernador aumenta la fuerza á dos bataliones en lugar de uno en virtud del articulo 14 de la citada ley, ó en el caso de créer su Excelencia que se requiere reformar el articulo 13 que se pase esta consulta al Honorable Congreso al efecto en la inteligencia de que en el concepto de este Ayuntamiento se debe formar un batalion en Austin inclusivos los establecim^{tos} del Rio Guadalupe comprendidos en la Colonia del Empres^{o} Green De Witt, y de los del Rio de la Trinidad abajo del pueblo de los Coshatees, y otro batalion en Nacogdoches inclusivos los establecim^{tos} sobre el Rio Trinidad arriba del pueblo de los Coshatees, y los de los Rios, Neches, Angelina, y Atoyac, los Aieses y Sabina, y que el Batalion de Austin sera organizado como cabelleria, ó infanteria montada.

Este Ayuntamiento igualmente considere que será muy conducente al mejor servicio y seguridad formar una compania de Caballeria ligera como parte integra del Batalion siendo su oficialidad conforme

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á la de una compania de Caballeria y se suplica que se le autoriza organizar una compania de esta clase como parte integra del Batalion.

Dios y Libertad

Villa de Austin 24 de Enero de 1828.

F. WHITE [Rubric]
H. H. LEAGUE [Rubric]
THOMAS DAVIS [Rubric]
SAMUEL M WILLIAMS, Srio [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departamente C Ramon Musquiz.

JUAN ANTONIO PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Leona vicario 24 de En° de 1829.

Sr. D. ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN.

ESTIMADO AMIGO: Quedará V. sorprendido al recibir esta, fecha en esta Cap[l] despues de que ya debia estar en esa, ó por lo menos en Bejar. Pero la dicta considerada á mi hija en su post parto de 40 dias, se cumplirá el 1° del qe. entra y del dos al tres emprenderé mi marcha precisamente p[a] Bejar por Monclova, Candela, la Punta Laredo á Bejar. Hé variado de ruta porqe estoy informado que de Matamoros ala Bahia es intransitable el camino para carruages por los muchos pantanos que se forman en los derrames que hace el rio delas nueces y otros parajes en que se aglomeran las aguas en tpo de lluvias, como en el actual. Ya verá V. q. tengo razon p[a] este proceder.

Por fin há resultado nombrado el Gen[l] Guerrero p[a] segundo Presid[te] de la Republica, y p[a] vice el Sr. Bustam[te] El adjunto docume[to] oficial demuestra este hecho: van dos ejemplares para que mande V. uno á la gazeta de N. Orleans ó de otro punto de los Estados unidos p[a] que se inserte en los periodicos, si lo jusga conven[te].

Estoy violento por que no acaba de salir la ley de deudas extrangerás: está aprobado el art° 1° del Decreto con la agregacion que V. me hizo: es decir es general p[a] todas las adquisiciones hechas á virtud de las leyes generales de colonizacion y particulares del Estado: El Decreto reducido á tres art[s] está en revision p[r] que el 3° contenia una especie ó concepto absurdo que no acomodó al Gob°.[1]

Una ley gen[l] de Tabacos saldrá pronto bajo las bases de que se siembre y cultive en toda la republica y se extraiga de ella p[a] el com° extrangero, pagandose una pension moderada á la federacion y otra al Estado por el consumo que se haga a este fruto en el interior, y libre de dros á su exportacion, ojala q. dieran una ley aboliendo la

[1] On this topic see Austin to De Zavala, June 24, 1828, and documents there cited.

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N° 18. de Sep° de 1827. sobre esclavos, entonces si que se podria asegurar la riqueza de Tejas en muy pocos años, pero tiempo vendrá enque se deroque esa ley y el art° 13. dela constitucion, y desde alli datará la felicidad de ese Departamento: los medios son legales, y yo tendré el gusto de conferirlos con V. á nra vista: y entretanto espero sus orns p^a Bejar su Am°.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Austin to Bustamante

Exmo Sor. he recibido el oficio de V. E. fecha 20 del po. po. en qe. me encierta el oficio qe se ha servido V. E. dirigir al capitan del puerto del brazo de Santiago de Matamoros relativa ala naturalizacion de la Goleta Eclipse solicitada por Santiago Austin y Juan Austin vecinos de esta, igualm^te he recibido el pasaporte provisional qe. se ha servido V. E. estender p^a la dicha Goleta interim se practican las diligencias prevenidas por la Orden Superior del Exmo Sor Ministro de Guerra y Marina, hasta qe haciendo viage a vera Cruz se habilite de Roll

La dicha Goleta salio de esta con un cargam^to de frutos del pais p^a Matamoros y aun no ha vuelto, cuando vuelva entregare a su capital [capitan] Juan Austin el pasaporte qe. me acompaña V. E. y no se perdera tpo en practicar todas las diligencias prevenidas p^a obtener el patente de naturalizacion

Suplico qe se sirva V. E. recibir de parte mia y de la de los interesados tanto de la de todos estos habitantes las gracias mas espresivas por el empeño de V. E. en este asunto qe tanto emporte al adelanto gral del comercio y prosperidad de este establecim^to nuevo.

Dios y Libertad

San Felipe de Austin 25 de Enero 1829.[1]

E. F A

Exmo Sor Com^te Gral Anast° Bustamte

Austin to William Selkerk

Mr. Selkerk or Weightman

Dr Sir. We shall endeavor to find you at some place on the coast and wish you to fire the prairie at different places as you go along— In case we do not find you, I wish you to continue on the meanderings to the forks of Karankawy, and then go to John Browns, where you will find a letter of instructions S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Kellers Jan^y 27 1829

[Addressed:] Mr. Wm. Selkerk or E. R. Weightman Matagorda

[1] At the same time Austin acknowledged receipt of the passport transmitted by Colonel Elosua at Bexar on December 27.

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THOMAS WHITE TO AUSTIN[1]

Franklin Louisiana 31st Jan^{y} 1829

DEAR SIR

As I contemplate becoming a resident of Texas, I feel great solicitude about the nature of the population which will inhabit the country I have been informed that you permit no one to settle within the limits of your colony unless they produce vochers sufficient to convince you that they possess a good moral character indeed I beleive such is the law and I was truly glad to hear that you were disposed to rigidly inforce it— But I am fearful you may be imposed on for I do no of some very bad men who I have been told are going there. There are a number of criminals who after serveing in the state prisons who it is said when they are turned out look towards Texas. The planters here have a most desperate oppinion of the population there orriginating I presume from such vilains as has been driven from among them and who have taken shelter in that province There are others of my acquaintance whom I got acquainted with before I came to this state who I have understood are now on their way there. I beleive they are from Tennassee and Alabama and I can assure you that I know no good of them I do not wish to make specific charges but be strict in your enquiries about character— I do not wish to mention names because I may see them when I arrive there— A Gentleman expects to leave Attakapas shortly for the purpose of exploreing your country If he gives a favourable report I shall certainly remove there and endeavour to carry along with me a numerous train of friends who I am sure you will find to be honest and industerous citizens and who will bring with them considerable property— The Gentleman above alluded to feels some apprehension of danger of robery by persons liveing on the opposite side of the Sabine river from this and is waiting to get company to go with him a planter told me not long since that persons who stole his horses fled to the spanish country meaning Texas. I mention these things to you to apprise you of the objections which the most respectable class of citizens have to comeing to your country thinking it probable that you would adopt some means to have those lawles fugatives from the laws of their country driven away from this province As it regards your Colony I have confidence in what I have heard that your *intention* is only to admit respectable persons But I am fearful that some persons haveing the appearance of gentlemen will impose themselves— I heard the other day of a man from New York who says that he is an intimate friend of Bur going to Texas from what expressions which I heard he dropt I fear you will find him a restless sperit and perhaps a troublesome fellow— Will you be so good as to write

[1] See Austin's reply, Mar. 31, 1829.

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me and let me know whether it is dangerous traveling on the other side of the sabine in consequence of Robbers— I have heard also that you have obtained an extension of your colony pray let me know at what time I could obtain land in it as I was informed that it was probable it would be ready for settlement this winter if that be the fact do let me know and the terms on which I could obtain lands for my self and five or six other families— I removed to this state last year and have not purchased land yet— nor shall I purchase largely untill I see your country or Know more about it from the Gentleman who is about to visit it

THOMAS WHITE

Ps

I shall leave here in a few days for St Martinsville where I would thank you to write me

Since writeing the within I have been told by a gentleman that there is liveing near the sabine a man by the name of William Knight who brok geoil here and frequently crosses the river and commits depredations on the state of Louisiana would it not be wise to send a force and detect him and his bandits I presume that the commander of the Mexican Troops at Nacogdoches would order him and his gang arrested if information was given of the character of Knight and his associates

[Addressed:] Colo S. F Austin Natchitoches Louisiana The post master will be so good as to foward this to San Felipe de Austin Texas

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AUSTIN IN ACCOUNT WITH CLOPPER & CO.

Col S F Austin

To Clopper's and Co

		Dr.
1828		
Apr 16 1pr Shoes		2.50
May 6 1pr do do		2.50
20 1 box shoe blacking		.37
June 1 Bottle Castor oil		2.00
June 18 3 yd domestic ord Antonia		1.31
Sundriess for W C White wife		
9 doz screws a 25	2.25	
12 pr But hinges 62	7.50	
8 doz screws 25	2.00	
		11.75
1829		
Jany Waggon 4 days		6.00
		$26.43¾

Supra Cr. By Dr. J hunter 8.00

Lott No.

Col S F Austins acc

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Bauzan to Austin

Rec[d] of S F Austin three cows in payment of Mr. M. M. Battles order for the Amount
Feb[o] 15 1829

Bauzan

Austin to David Porter

San Felepe de Austin 16 Feb. 1829

Dr Sir:

I had the pleasure of seeing Capt. A. Thompson of the navy during his visit to the coast of Texas last fall, and in a conversation with him I learned that you had it in contemplation to procure a grant from Government on the Guazacualco river with the view of establishing a number of families, and the Cap. suggested the possibility of your giving a preference to Texas when fully apprised of its advantages in point of soil, locality, and temperature. Never having seen any part of the Guazacualco country I cannot pretend to a correct opinion as to its relative advantages or disadvantages when compared with Texas, and can only say that the discription I have rec[d] of it from several intelligent men who professed to have explored it has left an impression on my mind that, as a country, Texas is greatly its superior. It is true that our climate will not admit of the culture of coffee or cacao, and other tropical productions but we can boast of the quality and abundance of our cotton crops and sugar and all the other productions of Louisiana and Mississippi succeed very well. The pasturage, or "range" as we term it, is certainly superior to any thing I have ever seen in any country, and the facilities for raising Cattle horses, mules, sheep and hogs, etc. almost exceeds credibility. The general appearance of this country is pleasing and in many places beautifull, being diversified with extensive broad Prairies clothed with the most luxurient growth of grass and groves of timber, rivers creeks streamlets and elevated undulating tracts. The latter, in general commence from thirty to fifty miles from the coast and extend far into the interior before the country becomes hilly The facilities of interior navigation are considerable and susceptible of extensive improvements, and no country is better adapted for the cheap construction of good roads, our harbors will not admit vessels of the largest class, but are sufficiently deep for brigs and the smaller class of merchant ships and are very safe and secure from gales The climate of Texas I deem to be decidedly superior in point of health and salubrity to any portion of north America in the same parallel The margins of our

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rivers in common with all the rivers of the world are somewhat subject to fever and agues and other complaints incident to similar situations but I think that the practical experience of seven years justifies me in saying that the rivers of Texas are less liable to diseases than any river of the U. S. below latitude 36. Situations back from the rivers, or near the Coast are remarkably healthy—

The munificent and liberal policy of the Gov[t] towards emigrants has drawn many very worthy and valuable settlers from the United States of the north and they bring with them the enterprise, perseverance and industry which forms so prominent a trait in the national character of our native country. When I Commenced this settlement in 1821. Texas was an uninhabited desert. This colony at the present has about 3000 inhabitants and settlements are extending in other sections. The great interprise and industry of the north American emigrants must and will make this a rich and valuable country. We shall next year be able to export a considerable amt. of cotton and it is considered by many that if the "Tariff System" is continued by the Gov[t] of the U. S. a discrimination will be made by G. Britain in the article of cotton which will give to that of other countries a decided advantage in the English market over the United States—be this as it may the planters of Texas can compete with those of the U. S. for the means of subsistence here can be raised cheaper and no capital of consequence will be required, at least for several years, to procure land. And besides this labor here will produce more than in any part of the U. S. within my knowledge, not even excepting the Red River country, owing to the superior fertility of our soil.

Should the suggestion made by Cap Thompson, that you might possibly prefer this country to Guazacualco be correct, and you should wish for information as to any particular sections I will take great pleasure in affording it so far as may be within my power. I believe that the country embraced within the following limits has not been granted to any Empresario, that is, begining at the Mouth of the San Jacinto River and folowing up it ten leagues (which is the extent of the reserve made by the law of 18 August 1824 of lands bordering on the coast) thence Eastwardly following the said reserve line to the 20 league reserve, thence northwardly following this last line to the main road leading from Nacogdoches to Nachitoches, thence Eastwardly along that road to the Sabine, and down the Sabine to its Mouth and along the coast to the mouth of San Jacinto— The 20 league reserve line spoken of is also agreable to the Gen[l] colonization law of 18 Aug. 1824 which reserves ten leagues on the coast and 20 leagues on the boundary line of the U. S.

The above tract is about 120 miles north and south and 60 east and west and will admit of good settlements. The Naches and

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Trinity rivers run through it both navigable and they both afford good pine cypress and cedar oak and ash timber in abundance and numerous situations on creeks for Mills. The proximity of this tract to the U. S. would cause it to settle rapidly— The Naches discharges into Sabine Lake which may be connected with an eastern arm of Galveston Bay by a cut of not more than two or three Miles through low prairie as I am told.

I expect that a cousin of mine Mr John Austin will visit vera Cruz shortly with the Schooner Eclipse for the purpose of procuring a Mexican register in proper form. A provisional pasport has been issued for her by the Com^{t} Gen^{l} Bustam^{te} which I am informed is sufficient to carying the cargo from here she is owned entirely by Mexican citizens We shall be able next year to supply a considerable amt. of Beef Pork, lard, Bacon and peas and Butter and Sweet Potatoes should those articles be wanting for naval supplies, they perhaps may be had on better terms from here than from any other quarter of the Mexican territory—

With the most sincere desires for your health and happiness I have the honor to remain your Most Obt. Sert.

[Indorsed:] Letter to Commodore Porter

Austin to Governor Viesca[1]

villa de Austin 16 de Feb^{o}. 1829.

Exmo Sor Gob^{or}. del Estado de Cuahuila y Tejas, C. Jose M^{a}. Viesca

Exmo Sor. Animado por los mismos deseos para el adelanto gral de mi patria qe. spre me han influido desde qe. emprendi el establecim^{to} de los despoblados de Texas, me dirijo a V. E. con el fin de presentar algunas refleciones generales sobre la materia como explanatorias de un systema permanente qe. en mi opinion se debe aceptar p^{a}. promover y estender la agricultura.

Siento por base fundamental qe. las tierras, el clima y las localidades del Estado de Cuahuila y Texas todas indican qe debe buscar su riqueza y felicidad en la agricultura mas bien qe. en la cria o en las minas y de consiguiente qe todas las leyes y medidas de la Legislatura y Gob^{no} del Estado deben ser fundades sobre esta misma base es decir fomentar, proteger y estender la agricultura spre.

Para el mejor acierto se debe primero echar una ojeada sobre los productos qe se quede sembrar con mas ventaja en el Estado—estos son varios, segun las diversidades de las tierras y el clima. En

[1] In general compare this letter with Austin to the President, Sept. 8, 1828, and to Minister of Relaciones, Oct. 7, 1828.

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parras y Saltillo y el Departam^{to} de Monclova el vino, aguardiente de uvas, Trigo algodon y tabaco son los qe. ofrecen mas provecho p^{a} exportar a otras partes, y a estos se puede sin duda añadir el aceituno. En el Depto. de Texas el Algodon, el Tabaco, Mais y toda clase de legumbres y tal vez azucar son los principales productos y de estos el algodon es el qe. ofrece mas provecho p^{a} exportacion a Europa y en mi concepto el primer y principal anelo del Gob^{no} debe ser fomentar el cultivo de este producto porqe. con solo este articulo se pueda dar estimulo á todos los demas ramos de industria qualesquiera qe sean y enriquecer el estado.

Segun la ultima memoria del Ministro de la Hacienda de los Estados Unidos del Norte las exportaciones de aquella Nacion en el solo articulo de Algodon en el año 1827 excedio 29.000.000 de pesos sin contar los millones consumidos en el pais por las manufacturas domesticas y esportadas en paños Indianas y para el consumo domestico.

El algodon alli ha suplido la falta de minas de oro y plata. Los Mexicanos trabajan las Minas y compran de los comerciantes Europeos las mercancias, estos los compran de las manufacturas Europeas, y estos ultimos mandan el mismo dinero alos Estados Unidos del norte p^{a} comprar Algodon, para hacer nuevos cargamentos de generos p^{a} vender en Mexico, y asi es qe. por fin el paradero del oro y plata de Mexico es en las bolsas de los agricultores del norte america

Que motivo hay para impedir qe Mexico no recibiese una parte de esta misma manancial, por mi parte no veo impedim^{to} ninguno. todo qe es necesario es fomentar estender y generalizar el cultivo de Algodon con el objeto de pagar a los comerciantes estrangeros para sus mercancias en este producto en lugar de oro y plata, y de este modo retener estos metales en el pais

Puede haber diversas opiniones relativo al mejor modo de fomentar estender y generalizar el cultivo de algodon, en este pais, pero hay ciertas medidas tan evedentes en si qe. me parece no debe caber duda en adoptarlas como son

1°. Fomentar los nuevos establecim^{tos} de Texas. Todos estos nuevos pobladores estan acostumbrados al cultivo de algodon entienden la fabrica de maquinas p^{a} despepitar y prepararlo en el mejor modo p^{a} el mercado Europeo y si dhos establecim^{tos} florecen van a dedicarse casi enteram^{te} a este producto, y su cultivo no dejará de estenderse por todo el estado hasta Saltillo por el influxo fuerte del ejemplo, secundado por los conocimientos de los practicos en este ramo qe. poco a poco van internandose y esparciendo si por todo el Estado para fabricar molinos de algodon etc. Ademas de esto se empiesará la esportacion al Europa desde Texas y esto sera el primer eslabon de la cadena comercial inmensa qe. rapidam^{te} va a estender

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por todo Mexico, porqe. hasta ahora no ha habido esplotacion ninguna de algodon del territorio Mexicana a Europa y los Ingleses no creen qe. pueden surtir sus manufacturas con este articulo de otra parte sino del norte, y por esta sola causa ha sometido a la tarifa ó arancel ruinoso pa. sus intereses qe. dicto el Gob^{no} del norte el año pasado, pero una vez convencidos los Ingleses qe. podian conseguir algodon de Mexico de igual calidad con el del norte y no cabe duda qe. excluirian a este como medida de retalacion por el arancel delos Estados del norte por el cual se ha excluido los mas de sus manufacturas de aquella República.

Para fomentar los nuevos establecim^{tos} de Texas se necesita solo una acta del Gob^{no} qe. es derogar la ley 18 sobre esclavos y suspender el articulo 13 de la constitucion por 10 años con esta medida el Estado de C. y T. en muy pocos años tendra mas riqueza y comercio qe qualquier otro estado de toda la federacion Mexicana.

Se requiere tambien qe. se habilite la desembocadura del rio de los Brasos concediendo a la jurisdiccion de Austin alguna exempcion de derechos. En Septiembre y octubre del año pasado presente una memoria sobre este asunto al Exmo Sor Ministro de Relaciones cuyas copias van inclusas.

2°. Otra medida general es permitir la entrada franca a todas maquinas de algodon, y la cotensia y cuerdos usados en formar los bales ó bultos de algodon p^{a} exportacion

3. Entrar en un tratado comercial con Inglaterra favorable al interes de los sembradores de algodon es decir por ejemplo estipular qe. se puede trasportar el algodon Mejicano a Inglaterra en Buques Mexicanos bajo el mismo pie como en buques Ingleses y qe. el algodon mejicano será recibido sin pagar derecho ninguno. Mexico de su parte en cambio de este privilegio podia estipular recibir la cotensia gruesa y cuerdos de Inglaterra franco y de este modo favorecer a los sembradores de algodon qe. hacen gran uso de estos articulos.

Parte de estos tres medidas pertenece a las atribuciones del Estado y parte alas de la nacion yo podia llenar muchos pliegos de argumentos en favor de cada una de ellas pero seria estenderme mas qe permite el tiempo ó los limites de una carta y solo me restringiré a decir qe. adoptar esta politica sera ligar Texas a Mexico internam^{te} y por lasos indesolubles lasos los mas fuertes de todos los otros qualesquier, los del interes y de la felicidad individual de cada persona.

La ultima tarifa del norte ha causado mucho disgusta a los Estados del Sur de aquella Republica qe. son los qe. siembran Algodon, y ha llegado la exaltacion a un grado qe. aun amenace una division de la Union, toda esta exaltacion ha procedido del temor qe. tienen qe. Inglaterra excluirán su algodon y solo el articulo 13 de nuestra constitucion inpiden a muchos ricos y pudientes en trasladarse a Texas

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bajo la idea qe. la Mucha preponderancia de los Estados del norte y del centro de aquella republica en el congreso tendra influxo p^{a} continuar el systema de Tarifa y restricciones establecidas por el ultimo cong^{o} y este systema es ruina para los Estados del Sur qe siembran algodon

Segun el tratado de comercio qe. ahora existe entre Inglaterra y el norte cada uno tiene el derecho de anularlo dando al otro un año de avisdo. Hace pocos dias qe. recibi Gazetas del norte qe. contienen muchas observaciones extractadas de las gazetas ministeriales de Inglaterra, por los cuales es evidente qe. hay una exaltacion considerable con motivo del ultimo arancel del norte y el pueblo Ingles reclamen del Gob^{no} medidas de retalacion y particularm^{te} qe. se anula el tratado de comercio existente con el fin de excluir el algodon Tabaco y arros delos Estados Unidos y ya echan los acia Mexico p^{a} ser surtido de estos productos ahora mismo pues es el momento para qe. Mexico se aprovecha de las circunstancias, y por un tratado favorable con Inglaterra siente la base del fomento futuro de su agricultura en los articulos de Algodon Tabaco arros añil etc.

El fomento del cultivo de algodon enfluira todos los ramos de industria—es regla bien sabida qe. el gasto de luxo solo esta graduado por la capacidad o la capital de un individuo y es claro qe. no se gasta dinero para ningun articulo de luxo con mas profusion qe. para el vino el aguardiente y frutas supuesto qe. los habitantes de C. y T. excedieron media millon y qe. en lo general eran medianamente ricos ¿qe cantidad de vino y de aguardiente y uvas pasadas no consumerian, y de los frutos y aceytunos y harina de los Dep^{tos} de Paras Saltillo y Monclova?

Igualm^{te} los mejores caminos y canales, y la navigacion de los rios avanzaran a proporcion de la riqueza y prosperidad del pueblo y la liberalidad del Gob^{no} los Estados Unidos ofrecen pruevas de esto, de modo qe. una vez bien establecidas Cuahuila y Texas Nueva Leon y Tamaulipas y enriquecidos pr. la siembra de algodon y Tabaco veriamos como resultado natural un camino de carruages de la primera clase desde Saltillo a Bexar y todos los obstaculos a la navigacion del Rio Grande quitados con botes de vapor en operacion p^{a} llevar el algodon y otros productos al puerto de matamoros p^{a} ser esportados y para trasportar el vino aguardiente harina uvas mansanas, Peros aceytunas y otras frutas de aquel pais a Texas qe. no les produce de modo qe. fomentar la siembra de Algodon es dar fomento a todos los ramos de industria, y es crear un articulo de exportacion por lo cual se consigue todo lo necesario de paises estrangeros sin pagar dinero y de consiguiente se va retener los metales en el pais p^{a} circular con abundancia entre todas clases—

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Me parece magnifico el sistema qe. he indicado, y soy seguro de qe. si se le adopta, Mexico subira en muy pocos años a un grado inmenso de riqueza y prosperidad

E. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

GEORGE ORR TO AUSTIN[1]

Trinaty Atoscosito Fabery 18—. 1829

To Cornal S F AUSTIN

DEAR SIR I Received your Leater by the hand of Mr R. M. Williamson yeasterday which Give Me Greate Setisfaction I Likewise Received your Leater Dated the 31st Desamber Last Togather with the Official Leater and its Translation from the Chief of the Department of Bexer which was Grate Satisfaction To hear the Good Tidings that thrue your feling and Kind Gratitud that you have persevered in obtaining a Grant for the Lands in this Sacsion of Contra from the honarable Governmant and i think the Setlers on this River Should never for Get you as their faithfull freind and My Salf amongst the reast and i am in hopes that we will Soon be Satisfied as Regerds our Lands or the Leand that whe Expect To Get

I Should Take it as a Grate favour if you wood Leat Me Know whan the Comisioner Padilla Should arive in St antone I and Some of the nabours will Go and Se him if poseble i wood do anay thing in My power to forward the Buisness or Expodit the Saim So that the inhabitants May be Satisfied i think it wood Make a grate difrens in this Saction of Contra

I wish To Com out To Se you in 2 or 3 weks if poseble

GEORGE ORR

Pleais To Give My Complimants To Mr Samual M Williams

JOSÉ ANTONIO NAVARRO TO AUSTIN

Bexar, February 18, 1829.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO JOSIAH H. BELL

Feb 24 1829

DR SIR.

The mail has this moment arrived—the subject of foriegn debts is finally settled as you will see by the enclosed law[2] which speaks

[1] On the subject of this letter see Austin to Anastacio Bustamante, Mar. 4, 1828.

[2] Decree No. 70, Jan. 13, 1829. See Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 120.

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for itself and needs no explanation—it is very full— The difficulties in Mexico are all settled. Guerrero is the President and Bustamante the vice President— Pedrasa's election was set aside by congress in the manner prescribed by the constitution on the ground of fraud and corruption, and congress then proceeded to elect from the other persons who stood highest in the list, and at the first vote Guerrero recd. 15 States and Bustam[te] 13—there are 19 states in all so that this great question is now finally settled in a legal and constitutional manner and tranquility is fully restored[1]

The prospect of a change in the national constitution so as to strike out the restriction on Religious toleration is so great and brightening so rapidly that I have no longer any doubts that it must and will take place,[2] and under this belief I am of opinion that no evils will arise from family or neighborhood worship, or from the delivery of moral lectures, provided it is not done in a way to make a noise about public preaching So as not to start excited methodist preachers, for I do say that in some instances they are too, fanatic, too violent and too noisy,— Moral instruction delivered in that pure, chaste and dignified language and manner with which such instruction ought to be imparted to rational beings, will certainly not be objected to by the Gov[t] on the contrary it will be highly approved of. I give this as my opinion

Mr Pilgrim proposes to teach school I am pleased with him so far as I have been able to judge— My opinion on this subject is that we should all unite with a view of establishing a permanent Academy at this place—

If we now commence on this basis, I have no doubt of succeeding, and if the subject is pushed and properly laid before the Govt. I have no doubt of obtaining a liberal endowment of funds— I fear that a division in the minds of the people as to where the Academy ought to be located would totally defeat the object, and for this reason I am in favor of engaging Mr Pilgrim to establish a School here permanently and that measures be adopted without delay to raise funds by subscription for a suitable house, large enough to accommodate about 100 scholars— I have drawn a plan which I send you

This subject is a very important one, it has always been a favorite one with me, and I think an effort should be now made to get the school under way, it can be added to afterwards—in fact it will naturally increase as its reputation becomes known and I fear that if the present opportunity passes of geting a permanent teacher another may not o[ffer so]on. I will however unite in support of any

[1] See H. H. Bancroft, History of Mexico, V, 35–40.

[2] The hope was probably based mainly on the fact that the clergy had almost unanimously opposed Guerrero, who was now in the saddle.

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general plan to establish Schools, which will do the most public good—

Please present my best respects to Mrs Bell. Mrs Powel Dr. Wells and family etc

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

The subject of preaching must be managed with prudence, for I do assure you that it will not do to have the Methodist excitement raised in this country— All this is for your eye, and your confidential friends, and not for the public indiscriminately

[Addressed:] J. H. Bell

Edward Dorr et al. to Austin

February 28, 1829.

See Calendar.

John A. Williams to Austin

Pine Bluff[1] 2nd March 1829

Col Austin

Dr Sir. Your favour of the 31st Janry came to hand and its contents has been duly considered, The course you propose for us to persue relative to the commissioner accords with my opinion intirely but my extreme bad health I fear will prevent my adopting the course you have suggested

Permit me to inform you that the success which has crowned your late efforts on the subject of our land petition has gained you much applause among the inhabitants of Trinity. But I fear it will work a great injury to yourself at least, for new favours in the opinion of the multitude beget new obligations, and as emty acknowledgments are the only tribute they expect will be exacted for the important servises you have rendered. you may expect future aplications in abundence and perhaps I shall be the first to draw on your benevolence yesterday one of the inhabitants of this vicinage, and soil [?] set out for the interior on some weighty mission, the object of which I do not exactly comprehend, not belonging to their cabinet. I have not been honoured with a sight of their embassage nor credentials but I expect they will stop at san Filipe and perhaps exhibit their documents to you. The request I now have to make is this that should this important personage honour you with a call, that you receive him with just such marks of distinction as his occupation his station in life and the importance, or non importance of his

[1] A settlement on the Trinity River.

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mission merits and no more, and further I would observe we wish the great favour which the Mexican government has though[t] fit to bestow upon us in granting us land to be caried into effect without being contaminated with foul hands, I should not have said any thing on this subject had it not been for the great industry, intreague and management with which some petitions of sale has I am informed, have been goten up and Subscribers obtained

JNO A. WILLIAMS [Rubric]

GREEN DEWITT TO AUSTIN

Gonzales March 3rd 1829

DR SIR The indians have been commiting some outrages on the people of this colony, by killing a few hogs and stealing one horse; and robed the camp of some men who were sawing some plank 3 miles above this place on the Guadalupe River—the hogs were stolen below—on the River, by the Tankawas—, horse was stolen by the cados and taken from them again on the waters of the St Marcus by a party of 19 men which I sent after them. the Camp above mentioned was robed by the Tawaccanies—of about $100 worth of Tools— I sent a party of men out to find their course—after a march of 4 days on foot—they returned and reported that there were four in number—when they commited the theft, but were joined by about 25 more at the Cappoto—and bent their course for LaBahia, and crossed the San Antonio road 24 miles west of this place—I raised a party of 17 men besides myself and followed them within about 15 miles of LaBahia finding on their trail parts of saws which they had broken which convinced us they were the same indians there they had fallen in with a bout 40 more who had been encamped there during the last Storm, on that evening we struck their trail on their way from LaBahia with a Caviard of a bout 50 horses.—I put three spies ahead with orders to report should they see any Indians in a bout one hour, one of the spies discovered an Indian—riding down from a prairie hill; when he broke in to full speed without reporting what he had seen—he was too far ahead to hear me when I ordered him to keep order—consequently he went on and those who had good horses went on—others whose horses were tired were a mile behind—when I arrived there were five men on the ground—and them scatered for the distance of two hundred yards—I ordered them to form in a small bunch of muskeet trees in about 100 yards of the Indian horses—4 men besides myself formed there—when Capt McCoy who was in the rear of me order a retreat to better ground, and reported that the Indians were a bout to cut off

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our men who were on tired horses and intirely behind us—this put the men in confusion, and the indians having made a bold charge upon us with a hot fire—in order to cover their own men who were then securing their horses—John and Andrew Tumlinson who had tied their horses in the edge of the same thicket where the Indians were, got almost surrounded one of their horses being slightly hit by a ball, broke a way and joined our horses the other horse being tied with two hard knots, was siezed by an Indian in a few Steps of John T, whose gun would not fire—the Indian untied the ho[r]se which got frightened at him; broke loose and Joined our company the Indians followed those men a few yards and stopt, two of whom were shot down by our men They then retreated in to their thicket, carrying off their dead—we were not able to charge in to their hold without great loss, as they were too superior in number—therefore we took our stand in the fork of a small creek in their view in order to draw them out—where we could be Sheltered by a few muskeet trees; where we remained for some time, but without any attack—we then with drew Slowly for a few hundred yards when we discovered them in full chase on horse back—we then took our stand and drove them with the loss of two more of their number; it then being after dark we Struck our course for home; as I did not wish to hazard the lives of any the Citizen on such unequal grounds; for we were compelled to fight them at a place of [their] own selection; and which was almost impenetreble.

I have given you this detail of the affair precisely as it was tra[n]sacted, in order to show you we were not the agressers, but were persuing our property and were fired upon first by themselves. Your Old friend Don G. Flores was robed of his horses between this and San Antonio and went home on foot as I am informed—. I have received information from Bexar—that the Indians have stolen a great many horses from that place and that there are 200 Soldiers now in persuit of them. The fact is I believe the Caddos Wacos Comanches and Tawaccanies are all concerned in the affair; and unless there is some precaution taken they will harrass the people on the frontiers of both of these Colonies; and the only means will be to keep troops of some discription on the alert from the Colorado to the Guadalupe, and thence to San Antonia which would be the means of giving information of their approach and put people on their guard so that they could protect them selves and property. I would wish you to take these things in to consideration; and should you approve of the measure—use your influence to affect it, either by a Company of Rangers, or the public troops which would be a great security to the people of San Antonia and LaBahia as well as to American Settlements.

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I have addressed a short note to the Alcalde at San Felipe on the subject of the expected election at this place which is very much wished for and needed as well for the Organization of the Militia as that of a civil officer in this place which I hope you will urge as soon as possible, as our Safety greatly depends on a well Organized Militia.

Our place is strenghening fast, Mr. Lockhart has arrived in the Bay of Aransas—with 55 souls men women and Children bound for this place; he himself has been up and returned to the Bay with Waggons Carts and horses for their transportation; and will arrive in a few days— I would be happy to hear from you; often and get the news of the day, and have your opinion on the best means and measures in case the Indians should prove hostile.

G. DeWitt [Rubric]

Col Stephen F Austin

Austin to W. C. Carr

San Felipe de Austin 4 March 1829

Copy to W. C. Carr

My dear Sir,

Since my last, which I beleive was in October, I have had a final settlement of accounts with A. Butler and have paid him upwards of two thousand dollars, and arranged the balance in three payments in 1831. 32. and 33.— The interest was all exacted to a cent and in some instances compounded, which has caused the debt to accumulate very much. I still owe considerably over four thousand dollars on it— this has been a cruel affair and has harrassed me very much, more than any event of my life ever did, I hope it is done with— Enclosed I send you an order to the clerk of Jefferson county to enter satisfaction on the judgement against Bryan and My Father which I wish done, provided it cannot in any manner be construed as implicating me, by construction, as having assumed the payment of debts generally due by Bryan and My Father unless where I am individually bound as was the case in this debt—

The prospects of this country are brightening very rapidly and emigrants of the most respectable character are flocking to it.

Perseverance and time have removed the obstacles that impeded the settlement of Texas when I commenced. It was then a total wilderness, destitute of resources, infested by hostile Indians and without an organised Government and the real value of the Country unknown, or very generally doubted. When I look back at the substantial impediments, that were calculated to retard or totally

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defeat my progress in planting a new settlement in this wilderness, I find abundant cause of surprise that it should have advanced at all. I was of the opinion that perseverance and time would surmount them. The event proves that I was right—A few more years and the prosperity of Texas will astonish many. I am bold to say, that as a Country, taken in the general average, it is unequaled by any portion of North America. You will recollect that I have had *some opportunity* of forming an opinion on this matter, for I have seen this continent from Connecticut to the City of Mexico, and have generally been a close observer of localities, soil, climate, etc. Apart from the peculiar value of the Mississippi river and the harbors, I deem Texas to be of more intrinsic value as a country, than all the States of Louisiana Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia and the territories of Florida and Arkansas—

Our Gov^{t} gets on very well, *All things considered* the federal system was an experiment and a very dangerous one for Mexico because their former habits and ideas as to political subjects, had not prepaired the people for such a System, there must be some collisions for a while, but good will grow out of them; for they tend to elicit discussion and to diffuse knowledge. I may perhaps at some leisure time write you a long and rather speculative letter on the formation, progress and probable future advancement of this new born republic, and notice some variations from their Model the U. S—

This day belongs, most emphatically, to the history of North America, I may indeed say to the history of the civilized world—the 4 of March, the inauguration of the President of a republic whose comercial ramifications have penitrated every inhabitable corner of the Globe, and whose moral influence has cheered every heart that loves freedom, and thrown a gloom around the thrones of despotism.

Jackson goes into office with the advantage of an overwhelming majority, and should his cabinet possess talents and "*Management*" to retain their popularity he cannot fail to get through hapily and prosperously— I am of opinion that his administration will in the general be very popular, and very advantageous to the nation, for I think that the experiments which have been made of the Tariff Systim has clearly demonstrated the course that ought to be adopted, and I think it will be adopted—Popular opinion will give this administration *all the credit*, altho they may be governed by lights elicited by others—I have taken no great interest in the election, tho I have no objection to see Jackson President—Your Gov^{t} is founded on the popular will—and agreeably to the principles on which it is based, whatever the people will, *is right*—

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I rec[d] your kind letter of 8 nov[r] yesterday and thank you for the sentiments it contains— the dificulty I mentioned in a former letter is all settled whether it will ever occur again I know not—

Please remember me very particularly to your daughters. Ann Maria I expect will hardly recollect me. I do "long" to see you all and to see Missouri once more, and I *will* see you as soon as I can arrange my affairs to leave this country so as to be absent one year— when you go to Potosi remember me to them all there.

Brother James has a son a few weeks since, he lives at a new town we have laid off on the Brasos river 15 miles from its mouth called *Brasoria*, a name which I gave it for the single reason that I know of none like it in the world. I shall remove below myself as soon as I can get a divorce from colonizing perplexities, and I do assure you *they are many*—I am weary of them, a Small farm a moderate independence and a wife would render my life much happier than it is or has been lately—but I am too poor as yet (as to active capital) to think of those matters— Brother has denounced me as an old bachelor confirmed and hopeless and has undertaken to fit up a fruit garden for me to growl away old age in. I shall disapoint him I hope tho am in favor of the fruit and therefore remind you of your promise to send seeds and roots to Mr. Cox of N. Orleans

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

[W. C. Carr, Hazelwood, Missouri.]

THOMAS M. DUKE TO AUSTIN

Bay Prairie, March 8, 1829.

See Calendar.

DAVID G. BURNET TO AUSTIN

Cincinnati 10 Mch 1829

MY DEAR SIR

It is not long since I availed myself of an opportunity presented by a friend going direct to Natchitoches to Send Several packets of letters and newspapers to Texas— Knowing as I do by experience the great zest with which new[s]papers are received in those secluded regions, I take an other favourble opportunity of transmitting a batch of them by the way of Orleans—

Since my last communication nothing of much interest has transpired in relation to the prospects of emigration— the panic occasioned by the late change in Mexico has I fear effectually deterred many from venturing upon the untried Scenes of a new Country— a want of confidence in the Stability of the government is an objection difficult to surmount, and with the testimony lately presented to the public mind it is next to impossible to remove the distrust.

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I calculated with much certainty upon a very respectable company forming in this state to go to my Colony, and although they have not definitely abandoned the project, I entertain serious apprehensions that they will do so I shall remain here longer than I have heretofore contemplated in the hope that something may still be done—that I may at least get one good stool pigeon for to return without, would be to have come for nothing—

The most momentous political event that has transpired of late is the appointment of the new Cabinet Ministers—the selection has proven an almost universal disappointment, and a very general and a high degree of disgust even among the partizans of the new President— Old Firginy is quite in the dumps. she hasn't even a little finger in the pie—her Jackson zeal is cooling as fast as if it had been immersed in ice water, and I doubt not she will soon repent of her folly—The Cabinet is unquestionably, by large odds—the weakest and most inefficient that this government has ever witnessed—Van Buren is artful, intriguing and by no means conscious bound—his political experience is limited—he had principally figured in the State politics of New York where he was the invariable and inveterate opponent of DeWitt Clinton and his policy which has contributed so much to the aggrandisment of that State—He and Calhoun, who it is understood will be brought in to the privy council, will be like two dogs at a bone, pulling different ways and ever and anon, growling at each other—they are decidedly hostile and mutually jealous—both look to the succession and both I trust will be disappointed—Calhoun has more talents than the whole Cabinet the old Chief included, and no one doubts but he will give tone to the whole administration—Jackson's deplorable incompetency will soon be developed so that he who runs may read—Ingham is a second rate man in all things but party zeal, and many beleive he has an "itching palm"—Branch the North Carolinian is perhaps worthy of his State, famed for pitch and sweet potatoes—Eaton is probably the most obnoxious of the whole tribe—his late matrimonial connection has rendered his appointment peculiarly odious to the petticoat politicians of the Capital—his Spouse late the widow Timberleck is notoriously considered of bad fame at Washington where she was reared These political notions are not merely my own, for you will readily imagine that I take little active interest in the strifes of this Country—being a Coahuilatexanian I do not feel authorised to meddle with public matters here, but I cannot help seeing and hearing and drawing inferences—If friend League should see this let him put on his very best humor before it is presented to him—

Remember me very Sincerely to all friends, Williams, Brown etc. etc. In great haste

Col Austin

DAVID G. BURNET

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AUSTIN TO NATHANIEL COX

San Felipe de Austin March 10, 1829

Mr NAT. COX
New Orleans

SIR,

I shall be fully prepaired by the middle or last of next month to make a final settlement and division of the interest which our friend Hawkins had in the land granted to me by the Mexican Govt. for settling this Colony, and I have to request of you to inform me by Mr John Austin, who will present this, whether you are fully Authorised as the agent of Hawkins Estate to close that business. for in the event of your being thus authorised I will visit New Orleans the next trip of the Schooner Eclipse, which will be some time in April next—

The title to the land cannot be vested in an alien and must remain in me or in some Mexican citizen, but I deem it necessary that a division and final settlement should be made, and all old contracts letters etc canceled and the business brought to a final close Should you wish that the title should still continue in me, and that I should take charge of the property and sell parts of it, or lease and settle other parts etc, I will do so cheerfully and faithfully, but this should be done under the authority of special instructions to that effect— from the legal agent of the Estate after the division is made and Hawkins part designated

Mrs Hawkins wrote to me to divide it myself and manage it as I deemed best but I prefer laying the plats all before you, as the agent and friend of the heirs and I also wish to consult with you as to the best mode of Making the Estate of some value to the heirs—

My stay in Orleans must necessarily be short for two reasons, one is that my duty requires me here, and another is that I actually have not money to defray the expence of a long stay in that city—

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.]

TERAN TO AUSTIN

Matamoros Marzo 12 1829.

S. D. ESTEBAN AUSTIN

AMIGO Y SR. DE TODO MI APRECIO: Las ocurrencias del camino me han impedido contestar hta. hoy la favorecida de V. como es muy probable qe. regrese á ese pais me reservo tratar de la enciclopedia: sobre lo qe. me dice V. del uso qe. iba á hacer de las observac[s] mias, aprobare cuanto V. haga y le paresca conveniente, admitiendo la oferta de la comunicacion de un borrador, qe. he menester, pues no habiendo tocado á las costas de ese departam[to] me referire á V. mejor

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qe. á la carta general del golfo, qe. tengo pr. enteram^{te} infundada en observac^{s} de ninguna clase. Por mi parte remitire á V. apuntas de todas las observac^{s} posteriores, entre las qe. esta comprendida la latitud del pueblo de la Bahia y otra observac^{n} muy proxima al rio de las Nueces p^{a} el cam^{o} de esta villa, y aunqe. convenia fuera en el mismo paso del rio, las nubes no permitieron observac^{n} la noche qe. estuve alli. No son adjuntos estos apuntes pr. qe. no he tenido tpo. de hacer el calculo.

El Sr. Cevallos me comunico qe se habia expedido ya la patente del buque y aqui me he impuesto qe. ya ha hecho un viaje á esta barra. Sea en horabuena y deseo qe. se utilise todo lo qe. promete el cabotaje de esta costa, cuyos consumos son un dato seguro p^{a} grandes especulac^{s} y pr. fortuna de articulos indispensables de esa colonia.

Saludo con mucho afecto al S. D. Samuel, y si viese V. á Mr. Gross me hace V. favor de hacerle un recuerdo á mi nombre

Man^{l} de Mier y Terán [Rubric.]

[Addressed:] A D. Estevan Austin. S. Felipe de Austin.

J. H. Bell to Austin

Dear Sir

it is with much regret that we hear that the p[e]ople of st Philepe is still keeping up a difficulty among themselves and is concequinteally Calculated to give uneasiness to the p[e]ople genarly—I fear there is some who do not think as they should do of the necessity of harmony and Good feelings among the people Gennorly but suffer their inflamatry feelings to leed them to far it may be they suffer their veiws of Interest to over-ride their duty to the publick Good and I fear the Gentlemen of the bar has no small shear in the affair I am of opinion that if the lawers do not Change their manner of doing business or there is not a stop put to their management in some way that it will be productive of more sereous Injury to the Collony than they are aware of or prehaps to themselves in short there is more Clamour among the p[e]ople against the proceeding at that place than I have heard on any subject and they all agree that the lawers is intitled to the principal blame—I have paid all attention to what is passing in my power and am Convinced that the people have little hope but in you for a reformation—they all have Confidence that you will as you have done do all in your power for the publick Good. I am Convinced that you have much in your power and that you have the intire confidence of the people and that any measure you [approved] would meet their seport and apprebation what have you not done for us and what may you not yet do— I received your letter on the subject of establishing a

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school and have spoken to the p[e]ople Genarly the[y] are all willing to Give it liberal support but object intirely to sending their children to San Philipe in fact they are so disgusted with the precedings at that place that there is nothing that Centers there that they will have any thing to do with—as to my own part I would do any way that a mejority might think best—

My opinion is that if the lawers ware placed in a situation to go to work and Could be converted into good farmers that all things would go on well and quietly and I think I risk nothing whin I say that this is the opinion of the p[e]ople Genarly—and also that any measure you may perpose would meet their aprobation, and also that they look to you alone as having it in your power to remady the Evils they now Complain of—and their whole hope is that you will be with them in using your Influince and means for the Good of the Collany and they beleave that while the lawers Continue as they are that they have nothing but Confusion to hope for.—

it is rumored that our Ayuntimiento is preparing a petition to the Legislature of the state to pass a law to levy a tax on the Collany I think it a subject that ought to be well reflected on the people is pore and a tax should be as little resorted to as possable

J. H. Bell

March the 13,th 1829

Austin to Josiah H. Bell

San Felipe de Austin March 17, 1829

Dr Sir

I have been so much occupied for some time past arranging the papers and business of the office preparitory to my departure for the United States that I have not had an opportunity of mixing much with the settlers or of knowing what was afloat amongst them Your letter contained some sentences which induced me to make enquiries, and I must express great astonishment and regret at what I have been told in regard to the rumors that are afloat; that is, if it be a fact that the rumors I allude to are in circulation, and produce the excitement which it is said they do—

A clamor is made, as it is said, because the Ayto are about to levy a tax for municipal purposes—and the pretext on which this clamor is founded is that the Ayuntamiento have no right to tax the people because the colonization law exempts them and also it is said that there is no use for funds etc— Those who have circulated such ideas are either ignorent of the law, or are wilfully malicious and wish to create confusion. The colonization law most postively and expressly says that the colonists shall be taxed by the

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Ay^to^ in the manner that the people are in all other parts of the state for munnicipal purposes—the law [exempts] the colonists from Taxes in all cases except three one is the taxes that are laid generally by Government to repel a foreign invasion, another is the tax on mines that may be worked by colonists, and the third is the municipal tax that is levied by the Ay^to^ for municipal purposes—so much then for the legality of the measure—are funds necessary?—the law has prescribed the duties of the Ay^to^ they are numerous and highly important and cannot be discharged without funds, and if they are neglected the members of the Ay^to^ are each of them individually liable to a heavy fine—The Ay^to^ of last year did not comply with the duties required by law in any one particular and each of the members were liable to a fine, and nothing but my own interference and representations and excuses for them, saved them from the fine—This state of things is now at an end, the chief of Department has officially notified the Ay^to^ of this year that he will execute the law upon them, if they neglect their duty any longer—It is made their duty by law to procure a competent Secretary, to provide the necessary public buildings, to provide funds to pay for their post office accounts, and to pay the necessary and legal expences of the Municipal authority and [the Chief] of Department has long ago called on them officially to present to him an estimate of the expences that are required and to propose a system of taxation to raise the means of paying those expences—Some persons have said that the Ay^to^ have petitioned the legislature to lay a tax such persons are either grossly ignorant of the law, or are wilfully malicious— For the last 13 months the Gov^t^ have been repeating order upon order to the Ay^to^ to do their duty, to raise municipal funds, and to execute the laws, the thing has been delayed under one pretext or another untill I have actually exhausted all the stock of reasonable excuses that I could devise and have drawn so largely upon shadows and frivolous apologies that I am ashamed to interfere any more, for I do not wish to say to the Gov^t^ that the Ay^to^ are afraid to do their duty and to execute the law lest the people should resist, for this would in fact be saying that the jurisdiction of Austin was in a state of rebellion. Instead therefore of petitioning the legislature to lay a tax, the Ay^to^ *have been driven* by the Gov^t^ to inform them how a tax could be levied so as to be as nearly equal upon all as possible— The Ay^to^ were brought to the necessity of doing one of three things, either to propose a tax or to pay a heavy fine, or fly the country to save themselves from it— These are the facts as to the law and [official?] orders relative to a municipal tax—[1]

[1] For the proceedings of the Ayuntamiento see its Minutes in Southwestern Historical Quarterly, xxi, 299–326, 395–423. Read also Austin to Bell, Apr. 4, 1829.

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The law most postively requires the Ay^to^ to keep a register of births and deaths in the jurisdiction, and to make a return every three months to the Chief of Department.[1] The old Ay^to^ of last year paid no regard to the law, in fact they did nothing on any subject that they ought to have attended to. The Chief has postively told this Ay^to^ that he will fine them if they neglect this duty any longer, and to save expence to the muncicipality the plan was suggested by me to advertise all over the country requesting every one to make a return of the births and deaths in his family, and this plan was adopted and the advertisements were posted up— Strange and incredible as it would appear to any man who possessed common sence, that this measure should create discontent and misrepresentation, it is nevertheless true, every father and every mother and every child in the jurisdiction is interested in this law, for it is of the highest importance to children that a legal register of their births should be kept for it secures to the children beyond the possibility of a doubt important privileges as native born Mexicans that some day or other may be of the greatest advantage to them. But independent of this it is the law and should be obeyed— My reasons for advising [the Ayto.] to take the plan of advertising for all persons to make the return was to save expence, for if this plan had not been adopted, the sheriff would have been compelled to have gone to each man's house and taken the list every three months and this would have cost the people of the jurisdiction about five or six hundred dollars each three months— It was the wish of the Ay^to^ to comply with the law, to save themselves from fine and punishment and to benefit Parents and children by forming the register of births and deaths as the law requires, and at the same time to do it in a way that would save expence to the jurisdiction, and for doing this I am told that the PEOPLE are discontented and say that it is to get fees into the office, there are no fees to be paid, but if the sheriff is sent round to each mans house every three months, *his fees* would have to be paid and you and all others may rest assured that if the returns are not sent in as required by the notices, that the sheriff will be sent round, and the people will be taxed to pay him— for as I before said the Ay^to^ *are compeled* to make these returns every three months—and it will be putting about 1000 Dollars a year into the pocket of the Sheriff if the people do not comply with the notices that have been posted upon the subject, and taking that much from the pockets of the people— this is the fact as to this subject of [active?] clamor.

[1] See Art. 121 of Decree No. 87, quoted in *Ibid.*, 300. The order of the ayuntamiento on the subject is in *Ibid.*, 400.

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All civilized countries that I know anything about have a vagrant law—this state has one, and it is a very good and just and necessary one— The old Ay^t^° paid no regard to it—*the members of that body believed that it would distroy their popularity to attempt to stop or correct disorder.* I was of a different opinion and censured them for permitting rioting drunkeness and fighting etc to the extent that prevailed here last year, and I advised the present Ay^t^° to publish the law on the subject and to execute it vigorously. They have published it in full, and *that* has raised a clamor against them. I regret very much that good citizens should suffer themselves to be operated upon by the clamors of disorderly and bad men, because it tends to encourage such men to be clamorous—they know that they have nothing to hope from the law nor from justice, for if the law was executed and justice done them they would suffer heavy penalties and it is therefore their interest to gull the people by crying out oppression, and trying to enlist their sympathies, and creating prejudices against the authorities. I regret this state of things exceedingly, it has caused me to doubt that there is either a want of judgment in the mass of the people to discriminate between a rigid and just execution of the laws, and an abuse of them or that there is a great mass of moral depravity which revolts from restrai[n]t or legal control. I believe however that the evil proceeds from the former, rather than from the latter cause. It is highly pernicious no matter from what cause it proceeds, for if the people can be operated upon by clamorous men, everything like stability or security in the administration of Gov^t^ is at an end—the civil authority must be sustained by public confidence or it can do nothing, and if the people are mere puppets in the hands of artfull demagogues and clamorous factionists whose interest it is to discredit the civil authorities and throw them into ridicule, where is the security of honest men? It is in the good sence and morality of a grog shop or common brothel, rather than in the law or in the officers of justice— A man who has mixed a great deal with the people of this colony and whose judgment of human nature is very good has told me repeatedly that a few clamorous bad men with smooth and plausible tongues could throw the people into a ferment and create a prejudice against the civil authorities whenever they pleased. I fear his opinion was well founded tho not because the people are generally in favor of bad men, but because they lack judgement to discriminate between what is the duty of a public officer, and an abuse of his authority— This want of judgement arises from a want of knowledge of the laws by which the persons in office are obliged to be governed, and also from a disposition to be suspicious and jealous of "men in power" it is to be sure a pigmy

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sort of power to be a member of the Ay^to^ for that body can do nothing except by authority of law and under the direct and immediate control and supervision of the Gov^t^—but it is an office, and the American people have a national propensity to suspect and to abuse all men who are in office—this want of knowledge of the laws then I believe to be the true source of all the evils, and it cannot be remedied at this time, for it is impossible to have all the laws translated and printed in the English language, and in this state of things the only safe guard the people have against the artfull clamors of designing and malicious men is to repose full confidence in the authorities of Gov^t^ and to be satisfied that they will not do any thing contrary to law, nor contrary to the true interest of the people—

You say that the people have full confidence in me. I must confess that they have a bad way of shewing their confidence, by indulging in groundless and immaginary complaints and vague suspicions against the civil authority when it is well known that I am here and have my eye on every act of the Ay^to^ that is of any importance—The three measures I have spoken of—the tax—the vagrants—and the notice to report births and deaths every three months, were all adopted with my advice and knowledge

The Ay^to^ so far have committed no error that I know of, of any kind unless it is neglecting to do some things that they ought to have attended to, such for instance as making a return as the law requires of the children born of slave parents and reporting monthly what their situation is etc. etc.

If the people have confidence in me, they are safe—I know the laws and the duties of the Ay^to^ and I also understand what the people of this colony ought to do for their own good. Much better than they do, for if they were left solely to themselves, the colony would be ruined and thrown into perfect anarchy in three months—Let the people therefore dismiss their unfounded fears and suspicions and repose in me, if they doubt the Ay^to^, and I pledge myself that they shall hear of it the moment that Ay^to^ adopt an illegal or a pernicious measure, and above all things let them close their ears against the clamors of those who have *more to say*, and *less to loose* either of property or character than any body else in the country.

There has been some errors no doubt in the administration of justice and the fees that have been charged by the Alcalde and by the Sheriff have been too high in some instances—but the present alcalde in this respect has only followed what others did last year—the fee bill will now be published and it will reduce the sheriffs fees considerably, and also the Alcaldes, and I hope *that* will *not* make a clamor—

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The law regulating fees was passed by the Legislature of this state last year.[1] that law fixes the sheriffs milage at half a dollar for each League he rides from the seat of justice to the place where the process is to be served. The way I understand this law is that the sheriff can charge that sum for the number of Leagues he rides and no more—for example if he has ten writs to serve at Brazoria, and it is 20 Leagues from here to that place he only rides 20 Leagues to serve them all and can only charge 20 Leagues of milage and no more, and not 20 Leagues on each writ, for then he would get pay for 200 Leagues when in fact he had only traveled 20. Heretofore the sheriff has charged the full amt of milage on each writ and agreeably to this rule if he had 100 writs and summons for Brazoria he would get pay for 2000 Leagues which would be $1000, when in fact he had only traveled 20 Leagues and therefore by law would be entitled to receive 10 Dollars and no more—This is the greatest abuse that exists in the colony and this abuse must and will be corrected. I urged the old Alcalde to publish the fee bill and to execute it—I do believe that the only reason why it was not published last year, was because the Alcalde feared the Sheriff would make a clamor and it was supposed that the people would join him, for it has always been a general rule with the people to join in any clamor raised by no matter whom against the Alcalde or the Authorities let it be just or unjust. The fees charged by the Alcalde have never been very high, tho they are a little higher than the law allows, but the present Alcalde has only followed the rule that was adopted by his predicessor, and Duke followed the rule that was adopted by the old Court of Alcaldes,[2] who made a new fee bill much higher than the one which I established when the administration of justice was in my hands— No one is bound by law to pay any costs unless the bill of costs is made out with each item stated and signed by the Alcalde and delivered to the person who has it to pay or to his agent if he has one, and that bill of costs is a voucher on which the Alcalde may be punished by the Governor and Legislature of the State if the fees are more than the law allows—

I cannot say that the decissions of the Alcalde as a Judge are just or unjust. I have made it a fixed rule to keep intirely clear of that office I mean the Judicial Office, and not even to give an opinion when asked, unless it is so far as to translate a law. I have however observed that the Alcalde is very particular to call in arbitrators in all cases chosen by the parties, and every case is decided by arbitra-

[1] It does not appear in the official publication of the laws.

[2] Thomas M. Duke was the first alcalde of the ayuntamiento of San Felipe. The Court of Alcaldes was an appellate court created by Austin in 1826 to assist him in the judicial business of his colony. See an article by the editor on the Government of Austin's colony, Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXI, 231.

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tion, if injustice is done, the arbitrators and not the Alcalde are to blame— The party who looses a suit will always make a clamor, it is a matter of course in all [countries], and more so in this than in any other and for the single reason that every body believes that the people here can be operated upon and gulled by clamorous men—

As regards the personalities that have existed in this place between a few individuals, there has been too much of it, and some of our best men have displayed a childish pettishness and suffered themselves to be enraged at trifles and at low bred and unprincipled men, when they ought in fact to have paid no attention to them. This is an infirmity of human nature. It is not every man who can command his temper at all times and especially when he is abused and slandered by others. As a general rule which never ought to be departed from, a person in office should never, at no time, act officially while under the influence of irritation or passion—he ought to execute the law calmly and firmly, but not pationately—and he should do his duty totally regardless of clamor or abuse— My own temper is hasty to a fault and violent when excited and I therefore laid down the above rule for my own Gov^{t} when I first began the colony. I have violated it in some instances and have sometimes suffered my temper [to rise] at the unjust abuse and misrepresentation that has been heaped upon me. I always regretted it afterwards, for a man in a passion most generally says or does things that he ought not to have said or done. My fits of irritation however have been but momentary. Reason and the Public good told me that I must bear abuse and clamor and do my duty regardless of what was said, and I have done so, tho the best personal friends I have in the country have blamed and censured me for not taking up the cudgels and adopting harsh measures. It is truly fortunate for this colony that I had sufficient reflection, not [to] be influenced by the inflamitory advise of my friends, nor by my own irritable temper, to an extent that would have caused me to adopt violent measures, for I had legal power from the Gov^{t} to do a great deal— my authority up to the time the constitution was published was very great, and I am now convinced that the rule which I laid down from the beginning to controul my own temper and to bear all things patiently as a dray horse [has] saved the colony from total ruin— There is however reason in all things, and the people of this colony must not expect to find many men who will bear abuse for the sake of public good as I have done, and they should be more prudent and cautious and judicious in their complaints and clamors than they have heretofore been, for otherwise they will distroy themselves— Nothing is more necessary and beneficial to the well being of a community than confidence in the public authorities, and noth-

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ing more distructive than unjust and illfounded abuse and jealousy of them—

As regards the lawyers who you say in your letter are causing all the disturbance in the country, I believe they are an evil and a great one but they are patronized and encouraged and paid, by the people. A distiller of ardent spirit throws into the world a drug that entails disgrace and ruin and misery on thousands of innocent and helpless women and children, and sinks many a worthy man from the highest to the most infamous grade of society— Is the distiller, or are those who support him most to blame?

The truth is that the evil lays in the people [themselves] It is a part of the national character of Americans to be contentious and litigious, and I do believe that a lawyer would fatten on 100 Americans, when he would starve on 10,000 of any other people on earth. If you wish to correct this evil therefore go to the foundation and cut it up by the roots. Let every man settle his differences by an arbitration of his neighbors, or if he goes to law let him attend to his own business and not employ a lawyer. I know of no other way of correcting the evil for if the Alcalde was to silence all the lawyers and suffer none to appear before him, the PEOPLE would immediately cry out despotism and oppression and say it was a hard case that a man could not employ an agent to attend to his business for him, and a talking lawyer would go about bawling oppression, that he was not allowed to exercise his profession and that the Alcalde had taken his bread from him and his poor family (if he had one) etc. etc. And the people would no doubt take sides with the lawyer and curse the Alcalde much more for silencing the lawyers than they now do for not silencing them— An honest and conscientious lawyer is a valuable member of society— there is none more so, but a hot headed fractious [abusi]ng and contentious lawyer is a curse on any community, and ought to be discountenanced but I really cannot see any other effectual remidy than the one I have pointed out to correct this evil— it must be corrected by settling disputes by means of arbitration in each neighborhood, and by never employing a lawyer in any case—

As regards the prejudice that appears to exist against this place, I must say that it is both unjust and impolitic— There has been much contention here it is true, but who caused it? Drunkards and vagabonds and unprincipled men, known and acknowledged to be such by every body—make a difficulty and the people abuse the Alcalde and the place for suffering so much disorder The Alcalde attempts to correct the evil by calling these outrageous men to an account, and executing the law on them and the PEOPLE take sides with the vagabonds and abuse the Alcalde and the good part of the citizens here because they had attempted to controul the bad ones—

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One day the people curse the Alcalde for not doing a thing, and the next they curse him for doing it— I say that this prejudice is impolitic as well as unjust because it is the interest of each man who lives in this colony or in this section of the country to encourage the improvement and advancement of this town—The day will come when a selection must be made for the seat of Gov^{t} of Texas—the people of his jurisdiction should keep that object in view and by pushing forward this place pave the way to its location here— If we can get decent public buildings and an academy etc under way and have the place otherwise improved so as to afford comfortable accomodations, this place stands a better chance to be the seat of Gov^{t} than any other point in Texas. I am of opinion that it must ultimately be on the Brazos river, but if it is taken to any thing like the center of territory it will be somewhere about the St. Antonio road or above it— It cannot be long before there must be a supreme Court established for Texas and it ought to sit at this town, these are important considerations, and every one who does or says anything to retard the advance of this place is actually doing an injury to himself that is with the exception of those who live near the St. Antonio road, for it is their interest to sink this place and raise up a town there for the future seat of Gov^{t} but the people of the Coast would surely rather it should be here, than any higher up the river— I calculated the chances for this place to be the future seat of Gov^{t} of Texas many years ago and I was then of the opinion that the people of this Colony could make it the seat of Gov^{t} if they took the right course and I am of the same opinion still—

The Academy is a very important matter and I hope you will aid us some from that quarter of the country— If we can get it under way I have no doubt the Gov^{t} will aid us— I will devote a great deal to this object if it goes on, for independent of the good that will result to the children of the Colony, it will give a favourable character to it abroad.

My whole thoughts and ambition and desires have been devoted to the advancement of this colony and the happiness of its citizens I have no other wish—no other interest, and I therefore cannot but observe with deep regret any thing like a want of union or of confidence in the people—I have a great desire to visit the United States and to spend a year or 18 months there, but I really have some fears that things will go into confusion My Dr Sir the people must rely with more confidence on the men chosen by themselves to take charge of their public matters and they must close their ears against the idle rumors and clamors of those who are bawling out oppression in order to screen themselves by throwing obliquy on the authorities who attempt to control them

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As soon as the Commissioner arrives the drunkards will raise the hue and cry against me, for I shall in future reject every man who is not of the class required by law, and there are several now in the country who will be rejected, and the more clamor is made about it the more rigid I shall be—In the beginning of the settlement I was not so particular as I shall be in future.

The principal part of the tax that is to be raised will be paid by land and slave holders—my tax will be higher in proportion to my disposable means than any five men's in the colony.

You are at full liberty to show all I have said to who you please—the complaints against the Ay^{to} are groundless and unjust and ought to be stoped for no good and much evil will grow out of them

Your friend

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[To Josiah H. Bell]

PETER ELLIS BEAN TO AUSTIN

Nacagdoches March the 18th. 1829

Sor Cor^{l} D^{n} ESTEBAN F, AUSTIN

My D^{r} Sir I have Recivd a letter from you with out Dait Stating that Cor^{l} Pedras had Sent you and ofiseal Stating that thare was an Expodision fiting out in the Habana for this Cuntrey thare was a rumor en Neworlans that en the Habana they was aPresing Vesels to Carry men to Some Port. But in a few Days after all Was Contradicted and aserted that it was fals and By what I Can larn if the spanish troops leaves Havana thare will with out [doubt] be a Revilusion in that Plase and I expect that in Spain they are now in the same as the french troop had orders to march from Spain and at that moment it was Begun in Some Parts of Spain, But the Reason that Col. Pedras Rote this ofisial Was that a Mexican Rote By me and Before he ast me aney thing about it he Startid and Extreordenero Express as he Done onse Before When he Said that the Royalists was in tranity Bay But you will See that all is Nothing I am hapy to hear that your Peopel is all united in Defens of the Cuntrey Whare thir Intrust lies I gave you thanks for the Copey of the Law that Delebrate [delivers?] the Settlers of this Cuntrey from Paying Debts Before Contracted untill 12 years after the Date it will give Roome for men to make Property and not be Broke up as it has bin the wish of Some to Buy in the united Staits at and under value those Debts for spacilasion But I am hapy that thare is astop to all,

as for News Papers I have at the moment None But I will Send you Some as you Direct me as Soon as Posibel— I Should of answerd

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your letter last Mail But it Never Came to hand untill the Mail was Goan

I hop you will Pass the time well and Command Your friend

P. Ellis Bean [Rubric]

J. E. B. Austin to Austin [1]

Brasoria March 18th. 1829—

Dr Brother.

The Eclipse sailed this morning from the mouth of the river and you may expect her by the 20th of next.

The Little Zoe arrived to-day from N. Orleans Dr Gibson came out with the intention of becoming a permanent Settler in the Colony John thinks Mr Williams is mistaken in regard to the Seal necessary for a *clearance*, the *Patente* or register—may perhaps require a $6. Seal but the *registro* or clearance is obliged to be on one—however as he tells me the *Consul* at Matamoros, informed him that Seldom two clearances were given alike—I anticipate no difficulty on that head—

I came by the Fort Settlement and used my influence to push the Academy forward but I am sorry to say I did not find one advocate for it—Not because they were opposed to [it] altogether but owing to the hands the funds for that purpose will be deposited in. I find the Members of the Ayuntamiento unpopular throughout the Colony. They all appear willing to subscribe for a *Jail* and Academy provided a committee of responsible men be appointed to receive the subscriptions, but as the Ayuntamiento is a changeable body they are opposed to their having anything to do with it. Again, I find something must be done as regards the admission of Lawyers in the Alcaldy Court the people to a man are opposed to them, they evince no disposition to be violent, or resort to violent measures but they are *determined* to have them dismissed from the practice, and the measure that they are about adopting is to *mildly* petition the Alcalde, to dismiss them altogether from the practice of law—

the people think that justice is often very *lamely* administered by the Alcalde owing to the *perplexity* he incurs by hearing lengthy and contending arguments, that frequently have no bearing to the case in discussion—Also another grievance they complain of is this—frequently a suit for a small amt is brought before the *Alcalde* where *one* or both of the parties reside in another *district*, the sheriff is sent with a process—and costs are accumulated to an amt that *thribble* the principal, the question is asked what are the Commissaryos

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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appointed for in the different districts, if these things could be remedied, I think the people would remain quiet for a while—at least untill they had another hobby to stride—Yourself it seems, at present, is the *polar Star*, and the people look to you, and confide in you to a man, to put *matters to rights*—I may say with propriety that you are at present the most *popular man* in the country, and Your opinion will have more weight with the people generally than all the *clamour* that now goes abroad.

John informs me that M^r^ Smith the consul at Matamoros, intimated to him that he wished to appoint a Vice Consul for this Colony and he stated to Mr Smith that perhaps I would accept the appointment—and took the liberty of proposing me to him—I should be willing to accept the appointment, and You will please write to him on the Subject by the first opportunity lest some one else may procure it—as I am informed one or two applications have been already made to him on the subject.

Elisa and the Boy are well and wish to be remember^d^

J B AUSTIN [Rubric]

ANASTACIO BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Soto la Marina Mzo. 23 de 1829.

Ten^te^ Coronel ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

MI AMIGO MUY ESTIMADO V. conoce muy á fondo el bien comun q. resulta á esa colonia y á los demas establecim^tos^ fronterizos de q. se destruya la perversa tribu de los Tahuayases q. á todos hace daño; pr. lo q. espero q. los Ciud^s^ de esa colonia atendiendo al particular bien q. les resulta y á sus demas hermanos, cuyos intereses estan identificados, se prestaran gustosos al proyecto q. manifiesto á V. de oficio, y sin tiempo p^a^ mas estenderme concluyo.

ANAST^o^ BUSTAM^te^ [Rubric]

ANASTACIO BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Hoy digo al Ciudad^o^ Coronel Antonio Elosua Comand^te^ Pral. de esí Estado loq. sigue:

"Siendo frecuentes los robos y asesinatos q. cometen los Tahuayases en las inmediaciones de Bejar y demas establecimientos fronterizos apesar de haberles invitado con la paz, se hace indispensable destruir esta perversa Tribu atacando su propio pueblo y aniquilando éste, valiendose delas Tribus amigas dela frontera q. solicitará del Ciudad^o^ Coronel Pedro Elias Bean, conquien se pondrá V. de acuerdo, haciendolo mismo con el Ciudadano Teniente Coronel Estevan F. Austin p^a^ q. la Milicia Civica de la Colonia desu cargo marche

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ásus espensas p^{a} el pueblo de los Tahuayases, en union ó convinacion dela fuerza q. V. mande el propio objeto; por manera q. todas las partidas obren simultaneamente, si posible fuese y se de un golpe decisivo, mas como los Tahuacanos y huecos, juntamente con los Comanches han guardado hasta ahora los tratados de páz, se hace indispensable q. al aproximarse las partidas de operaciones á los pueblos ó Rancherias de estas Tribus amigas se les avise con anticipacion á sus capitanes p^{a} q. no se alarmen ó p^{a} q. no entiendan q. se les quiere hostilizar con infraccion de dhos. tratados y aun seles podrá invitar p^{a} q. concurran á la destruccion de los Tahuayases, si se considerase conveniente, pero ésto será bueno hacerlo quando ya se aproximen las partidas de operaciones al referido pueblo delos Tahuayases.

El Tiempo, modo y terminos de verificar esta expedicion sera el resultado del acuerdo q. tenga V. con los ciudadanos Bean y Austin, oyendo al Teniente Coronel Ruis pr. los conocimientos q. poseen éstos Gefes."

Y lo inserto á V., esperando q. contribuya con su eficaz cooperacion á la destruccion delos Tahuayases, q. apesar de haberseles invitado con la paz mucho tiempo há, no han querido reducirse y hostilizan cada dia mas nuestros establecimientos fronterizos.

Dios y Libertad.

Soto La Marina. Marzo 23. de 1829.

Anas^{to} Bustam^{te}. [Rubric]

Ciudadano Teniente Coronel Estevan F. Austin.

William Morton to Austin

Dr Sir

Their was handed me by Mr Jamson several letters [and a] plan [of] subscription for an Academy which I handed to C^{pt} Martin and R^{d} Jones as directed for their deliberation C^{pt} Martin rather paused for some time before he gave aney opinion abought it he finally observed he should not feel safe to subscribe to the bond as he had no faith in the preasent Ayuntamento body and not knowing who would Succeed them theirfore he didnot feel safe in vestin his money in their handes nor should not tho he observed that he would contribute as much to that Institution as aney other person of his abilites provided it could be established on a fair and satisfactory basis and the same opinion prevails thrueout this nabourhood their has been so maney complaints abought the past conduct of the Ayuntamento that it appears to me to be all most out of the question to do aney thing of a publick nature thrue them of that kind for to make them men appear responsible and addequit to establish an

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Institutision of that kind and by donatisions from the itinerrant settelars of this colney it would be as esey to make the peopel beleave that black was whit the contrast would be equly as grate for Equity has been harrowed like the Irishmans hors by the tail Backwardes to much for them to be the sole managers of so benovelant an Institutision as that their is a rumor aflote that the Ayuntomento has introdused a projecte of a law to rais $5000 by a direct tax in this colney for publick porposes if so and I was allowed my opion I should say they would have rather to grate an overpluck of buisness to attend to for if you will vu their past projects collectively and impartially you might see that it would prove Abortive for the worst prejudiced designing moralist will ever be foremost to thrust themselves into power is a matter desided heir [here?] and the result will bring ruin uppon themselves and the unhappy few over whome they may preside concequently I do not feal an inclinenatision to have anaey thing to do with the Acadamy thrue them exclucifly I dont feal like I could stand the Execratisions that would be heeped upon me for what I might expect to get for it under the preasant circumstances not withstanding aney thing that coms in the vue of my weak fackculteys that I can render you in establishing that Institution upon a permeneant and Ecquitable basis is intirly at your Service and as I have no disposition to animadvert in the past grievances or throw aney obstructtision in the way I will name the ought lines [outlines] of a course by which I think in all probility it might be established to the genral satisfaction of the whole with the exception of a part of the Ayuntamento body that is if you will take it upon your self to nominate 7 or 8 or more persons in the different parts of the colney to enquire into the utility of such an instutision and the requsit buildings and let them act as a commitee of ways and means in the first instance they could decide by vote on the most important point which would be wheather we would have such an institution in the Colney or not I will venture to Say that their is not aney person in the Shape of a human that had ever wore aney garbe larger than a britchclout in this colney but what would approve of Such an institution again they could appoint or elect Trustes treasurer auditor colector etc and one of the ayuntamento bodey might act as such when they would have a fare Chance to sho what the Government would do in the first Instance and thrue them which would be the most esential thinges in order that the trustes might proceed leagely and upon a fair basis

with regard to the plan you Sent me I will be better abel to do something with it when I See you (when I get my crop planted I will try to come up and See you) you may think my answer to you rather ruff and evasive but I pledg you my word it is not with aney desine

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to procostinate your desine or throw the least obstical in the way that would have a tendancee to cast a shade over workes of so much utility I must theirfore enjoint on you to excuse my weak epistle as you know I am no Soloman or Scribe

Wm Morton [Rubric]

S. F. Austin March 25th 1829

Austin to Thomas White

San Felipe de Austin March 31. 1829

Dr Sir,

your letters of 31 Janry came to hand yesterday and I hasten to answer the enquires you make relative to this country—

You express great solicitude as to the discription of population that will inhabit Texas— On this subject a mistaken idea has prevailed in most parts of the United States, particularly as to this colony— In 1822–3 when I returned from Mexico to go on with the colony I found that some bad men had entered this section of country and I immediately adopted measures to drive them away which were effectual, but which drew down upon me the full force of the Malice and enmity of All that class, and they were not idle in fabricating and circulating every species of falsehoods and evil reports about this colony which ingenuity and baseness could invent—they denounced me as the tyranical agent of a despotic government and endeavourd to blacken the characters of the settlers here generally— The most of those who were expelled by me from here, stoped on the Sabine frontier or passed over into Louisiana, Many others of the same class who intended to have removed to this colony and were thus prevented, united with those who were expelled, to blow the clamor about this Govt and to blacken every thing appertaining to this colony, and in this way good men have been deceived and even detered from removing here. I lay it down as a rule that has never yet had an exception, that whoever is governed by common rumor or report about this colony, will form erronious opinions and be deceived—

I have not been understood in every instance by the people here as I ought to have been, they have growled and grumbled and muttered, without knowing why, or without being able to explain why— but it has not arisen from moral depravity or because the people are bad, on the contrary it arose from a principle which is common to all north Americans, a feeling which is the natural offspring of the unbounded republican liberty enjoyed by all classes in the United States; that is, jealoucy of those in office, jealoucy of undue

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encroachments of personal rights, and a general repugnance to every thing that wore even the semblance of a stretch of power. This feeling is correct when properly guided by an enlightened judgement, capable of discriminating between a necessary and rigorous discharge of official duty and an abuse of it— And here I confess the people are somewhat defective, tho not more so than the mass of the people—"the multitude" are in the United States.

Ninety nine times out of one hundred, an officer who discharges his duty *rigorously* and *firmly* in the U. S. is denounced by the multitude as a tyrant, and he generally sinks under the denunciation, unless shielded by the accidental or substantial brilliancy of his acts, or by the amiable suavity of his manners, or by a talent to concilliate popular favor at the expence of candor and truth—

The Settlers of this colony taken en masse are greatly superior to any new country or frontier I have ever seen, and would loose nothing by a comparison with some of the oldest counties of Many of the Southern and western States—this I state as a positive and incontrovertable fact—true it is that some of them have "growled" at me for expelling or rejecting bad men, and they have gone so far as to clamor because bad men have been rigorously handled— It arose from a defect of judgement, and not of the heart—there is a much greater want of men of sound and enlightened and experianced judgement—than of sound and pure materials to form a happy community in this colony—tho I will always contend that in this particular we are not behind the great mass of the people of the United States—in proportion to our numbers, we are as enlightened, as moral, as good, and as "*law biding*" men, as can be found in any part of the United States, and greatly more so than ever settled a frontier—

The policy which the Mexican Gov^{t} has uniformly pursued towards the settlers of this colony, has been that of a kind and liberal and indulgent parent—favors and privileges have been showered upon us, to an extent that has even caused some to doubt their reality; and hence have arisen many vague and unmeaning suspicions as to the validity of our land titles etc— All such suspicions *are* vague and unmeaning and *groundless.*

In the month of may and perhaps in next month the whole of the country bordering on the coast from Galveston bay to La Baca river on Matagorda bay will be open for settlement—no grants can be made nor even promises of grants, untill the person who applies has first removed his family and has actually become a settler—he cannot first pick out a place, and get a promise that it will be retained for him and then go back and bring out his family—and no one can be admitted without producing the certificates and proof

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of character required by law— The person you speak of called William Knight came to this colony some time ago, and the treatment he met with affords a pretty fair specimen of public sentiment here—he came here in very great apparent distress—stated that he had been shipwrecked and lost his all etc,—he was taken by the hand a subscription was made up for his relief—he was clothed and fed and attended to in sickness— Our cabbin doors were thrown open, and the hand of liberal and generous hospitality was extended to him, as it is to all strangers and travellers— Accident discovered the gross imposture he had practiced, and nothing but a precipitate flight saved him from severe punishment.

The fears you have of being robbed etc are all groundless— I will only make the remark that when you come here, you will be astonished to see all our houses with no other fastening than a wooden pin or door latch, even stores are left in this State—there is no such thing in the colony as a stable to lock up horses nor pens to guard them in, they roam in the prairies—the "Mustangs" or wild horses, are the only robbers that are feared—

I thank you for the caution you give me as to the men of bad character who have started to this country, My intentions are to admit none but good men, but I have been frequently deceived, and no doubt shall be so very often in future—tho shall try to guard against it—

This colony is very flourishin[g], and now is the best time for emigration— I have certain assurances of an increase of 3 or 400 families next fall, and the sooner you and your friends get on the better chance you will have of making a good selection of land— Stock is high and you would do well to bring out a large stock of Cows in particular—or heiffer calves and yearlins

The disturbances in Mexico do not affect us here—we have nothing to do with them—all that is necessary here is to keep harmony amongst ourselves—and to work hard—

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

To Mr Thomas White

[Addressed:] Mr Thomas White San Martinville Attakapas Louisiana

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J. B. AUSTIN IN ACCOUNT WITH M. B. NUCKOLS

James B. Austin,

1829.	To M B Nuckols	Dr.
March.	To one pot Rack	2. 50
	" one small pot	1. 12½
	" one pair pot Hoocks	75
	" one piggin	50
	" one Griddle	1. 50
		$6. 37½

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José Antonio Navarro to Austin

Bexar, April 2, 1829.

See Calendar.

Erasmo Seguin to Austin

Bexar, April 2, 1829.

See Calendar.

Austin to J. H. Bell

April 4 1829

Mr J. H. Bell

Dr Sir, I have heard with regret and surprise of the numorous reports and rumors that are in circulation, and fomenting the public mind— When I first heard of them I paid but little attention to them, for they were so absurd and unfounded that I thought they would correct themselves— I also felt confident that the good sence of the people would point out to them the necessity of harmony and union, and the justice of at least enquiring into the truth of rumors before they were received as facts—

It is reported, as I am told, that "the colony is to be loaded with Taxes to build a splendid court house for the lawyers to strut in"— All the answer that is necessary to this rumor is, that it is *false.*

The law requires certain duties of the Ayumtamiento and the members can be severely punished if they are not strictly attended to, and they cannot be discharged without some funds— The Ay^{to} of last year did not comply with their duty in any one particular— they did nothing that the people ever heard of, and they were therefore popular, but it cost me and Williams a great deal of labor and it required all I could do to keep them from being fined severely— they contracted a debt of upwards of four hundred dollars which was turned over to this Ay^{to} to be paid

It is necessary to have a secretary who understands both languages and a Salary of 1000 Dollars was offered to Williams— The other necessary expenses will be two hundred dollars more at least, for Blank Books, Stationary, fire wood, house rent, Indian expences; post office account etc these items make $1600— It is by law the duty of the Ay^{to} to provide a safe and secure place to keep the public records in and it is also a duty due to the people of the jurisdiction— The records are now kept in a log cabin, in danger of being distroyed by fire, and are dayly becoming defaced by wet and exposure and it was intended to try and build a fire proof room of brick merely large enough for the object, and to put up a frame house similar to

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the one built by Cooper which would have cost about three hundred dollars to serve as a court house or office for the Alcalde— The law requires that there should be a jail and it was intended to try and put up a small one— this is the extent of what was contemplated provided funds could be raised— The plan that was adopted as to raising funds, was to make an estimate of all the expences, including every thing, under the supposition that the buildings would all be put up, and 4700 dollˢ was the highest estimate. of this sum 100 would be raised by the ferry and it was calculated that about 1500 could be raised by the tax on stores, groceries, Lawyers and doctors, and out of the sale of town and out lots in this place making a sum of 1600 dollars, without calculating anything from fines on drunkards, a law by the bye which I will insist shall be inforced with the utmost rigor not because I delight in punishing a drunkard but because it is time to stop the confusion and disorder they have heretofore produced, agreeably to this calculation there would have been about $3000 to raise by taxes on property, but it was not intended to raise this sum all at once— The System that was intended to pursue was [to] raise enough first to pay off the old debt and to meet the common current expences; and then to make an exhibit of the same to the people— to procure the best data that could be obtained as to the expence of a small building for the records and another for a court house, or for only one of them, and also for a small jail, and if it was found after making an experiment that the funds could be raised to build them, it was intended to raise them and not otherwise, and never to raise them all at once, but gradually as they were needed— and if from the unproductiveness of some of the sources of revenue that were calculated on, it was found that the tax on property would be oppressive, it was intended to lower it and only to raise as much as was necessary and no more— I did believe that enough could be raised to defray the common expences and to build the office for the records this year and the jail could be built next year but I am now induced to think nothing can be raised and that the Municipal Govᵗ must totally stop and be suspended— arrangements were made to procure a secretary— but they are broken up— there will be no secretary and the only way I see of getting along is for me to do all the writing that has to be done in Spanish— it is a much heavier burden than is supposed, but it seems that when I undertook the colony I inlisted myself for life— I am getting weary and less patient that I once was, tho I will not "give up the ship" while I live and the people shall have the use of my time and labor so long as I can be of use to them in any way *except one* I never will be Alcalde if I can avoid it for if I ever take the oath required by that office I will rigidly execute it, and if I do I can hope for noth-

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ing but abuse and misrepresentation— the people are too much disposed to lissen to those who have *more* to say, and *less* to loose than any body in the country honest men will become disgusted and will fly the country rather than accept of an office— [1]

Another report is that no petition will be rec[d] unless drawn up by a lawyer— that report is totally false and I cannot but be surprised that any one should have believed it for one moment— They have no idea of their rights or of the constitution or they never would have believed such a rumor— The Alcalde made a set of Court rules and posted them up in his office I never read them untill this day, and I send you a copy of the articles which I presume gave rise to the reports— they regulate the number of times that a person may speak, which is no more than is done in all courts

There is a report that the Alcalde will allow no suits to be brought before the Commisarios [2] *this is also false*, Some have insisted that he should issue process all over the colony for all sums and he has done so I believe in a few instances— for the future he will do so no more but compel all suits within the jurisdiction of a Commissario to be brought before that officer—the jurisdiction of a commisario is 100 Dollars and no more

Excessive and illegal fees have been allowed to the sheriff, but this Alcalde followed the example of the last one— I believe that the fee bill was not published last year because it was feared the sheriff would make a clamour, and it appeard that whoever abused the Alcalde was lissened to wheither he was right or wrong— Williams has translated the fee bill and it was published a few days ago—

There appears to be a great prejudice against Major League [3] and the most scurrulous and unjust abuse is heaped upon him—I believe that all this is unjust and unfounded so far as I can understand or know of his acts— and I am of opinion that it all originated from personal animosity and nothing else—

The ears of the people have been tickeled and irritated by the cry of *party party* and *corruption* untill they begin to doubt wheither there is an honest man in this place or in the world— I believe that this cry of party and corruption etc is all false, and that it is gotten up by personal enemies of League for the express purpose of trying to distroy him— I belong to no party and will engage in no personal animosities but I do say, justice compels me to say that League is an injured and persecuted man or I am more deceived than I ever was before in my life— he has been challenged and threat-

[1] Compare with this letter Austin to Bell, Mar 17, 1829. The ayuntamiento's budget which Austin discusses is in Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXI, 403–404.

[2] For the duties of a *comisario* see further an article by the editor in *Ibid.*, 247.

[3] Hosea H. League, second *regidor* in the ayuntamiento of San Felipe.

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ened with clubs and death— I know not for what— It is said the people will rise and mob him— I cannot understand for what— he has one fault which has injured him greatly— he is too irritable— his personal enemies are if possible more so— all is combustable matter ready to blaise out at every trifle and thus the best interests of the colony are actually sported with by a set of hot headed madmen, let the people frown upon *all* these inflamitory beings, alike, and they will all learn to keep their tempers, and not be wantonly playing with the public tranquility, the character, and best interests of the colony, and let them investigate both sides of every question, before they condemn or approve—

As regards the Lawyers, they abuse each other— and charge each other with unfair practices etc, all this is in the natural order of things— they do the same in all countries, but I have never before seen a people who paid any other attention to such quarrels than to treat them with contempt—in this country the Lawyer who is most active in getting the ears of the people, has generally succeeded in inlisting their feelings in his favor and in rousing their inflamitory passions or creating violent prejudices against his opponent— I totally disapprove of this course in all— It is both criminal and contemptable in the lawyer who does it— and displays a want of common sence in the people to be operated on by such means— The people descend from the lofty dignity of sovereigns, when they suffer their passions to be inlisted in the disputes and animosities of a gabling lawyer— you wish the lawyers to be put down the way to do it is for the people to curb their contentious dispositions, and instead of calling on lawyers sheriffs and Alcalde, call in their neighbors and settle their disputes by means of arbitrations— in this way they will be put down— they fatten on the dissentions of the people, I do believe that a Lawyer would get rich by picking to pieces the property of one hundred americans, when he would starve on 20,000 of any other people on earth—

The truth is the people of this colony are better off and might be happier than any other people on earth—and it is also true that they are now on the broad road to total ruin—they are destroying themselves—most of the evils that now exist, or are supposed to exist have their origin with the people themselves—they are too much disposed to run into extreems, at one time withholding all confidence, and suspecting or doubting every thing, and opening their ears to idle rumors, and at another shewing the most perfect indifference as to who are elected to manage their affairs, or wheither the laws are executed or not—at the last election for Alcalde but few votes were taken in any part of the Colony, and part of those that were given in, were worse than thrown away— At the late Militia election about 150 votes were taken out of upwards of five hun-

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dred— in the 3d company out of about 140 men 44 votes were taken, in the 4th company out of 106 men 14 votes were taken,—it was considered a matter of no consequence altho, those who are now elected are to be commissioned by the Governor and unless they resign or are broke are officers for life and rise by regular promotion as vacancies occur to the highest rank in the Regiment— It is considered a matter of no importance to elect an Alcalde to administer justice, an Ayuntamiento to manage our civil matters, and officers to lead us into battle—notices for elections are treated with indifference and contempt, and in this way the best and dearest interests of the Community are wantonly sported with, and are as likely to fall into the hands of a fugitive vagabond or an ignorant fool as into those of an honest or intelligent man— A community that tramples on so sacred a privilege as the elective franchise deserves to suffer, and sooner or later it will suffer— But if a talking, inflamitory and artfull demagogue opens his mouth, all is attention, these same officers whose election was of no consequence are suspected, watched, and often [abused?] and cursed and condemned by the awful . . .[1] ion without investi[gation] . . . This inconsistency . . . [This is a very seri?]ous situation, there is a general [spirit of cav-?] iling that will lead to ruin if it is not checked— The people must repose confidence in some one, and believe that there is some honesty in the world, or they are lost—their own wild passions will destroy them

If they will have confidence in me and apply to me to explain what they do not understand, I will attend to their requests—their enquiries shall all be answered so far as I can answer them

The laws cannot be published in print so that every man will have a copy of them, and there is no other way but for the people to come and read the manuscript translations that are in the office, or to have confidence in some one— I am bold to say that I have done nothing to forfeit the confidence of the people of this Colony— and yet I have no doubt but that I should be abused if I was Alcalde as much as any body else

I hope you will all be satisfied as to the reports which I have noticed and that there will be no more excitement on that ground— and I also hope that in future the people will enquire before they judge or condemn—

[Stephen F. Austin.]

I have written in haste and expressed my feelings frankly—I am uneasy and concerned to see so much unnessery exictement. Would it not have been better to have ascertained the truth of all these

[1] The missing words were clipped out with Austin's signature which was on the back of the same sheet.

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matters before passion was indulged—? What I have said to you I say to all, and if you think proper to shew my letter you can do so to who you please

S F A

It is very important to send in the reports of births and deaths agreeably to the advertisement on that subject, and I hope it will not be neglected—for the Ay^to^ are obliged to make this return every three months or be fined— I have explained this matter fully to Cap Baily for it is not understood

[Addressed:] Mr J. H. Bell Lower Settlement

AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

San Felipe de Austin, April 7, 1829.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO THOMAS COX

San Felipe, April 7, 1829.

See Calendar.

DAVID PORTER TO AUSTIN

Vera Cruz, April 10, 1829.

See Calendar.

ERASMO SEGUIN TO AUSTIN

Bexar, April 16, 1829.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO JOSIAH H. BELL

April 16—[1829]

Dr Sir,

I have not yet heard of the arrival of the com^r^ [1] at St Antonio, tho I expect he has arrived there, and I think it probable that he will be here some time next month—he will not be able to attend to business for some time after his arrival here—I shall advertise the time when he will be ready to receive applications, and it will be necessary for Mrs Powel to come up at that time

I find that it will be necessary for me to insist that the commissioner shall attend to the duties which the law requires him to attend

[1] This was Juan Antonio Padilla.

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to, and if he does so, I shall be totally relieved from the vexation of distributing land to the settlers, for the law imposes all that duty on the commissioner, but heretofore the com^{r} imposed it all on me—he will be compelled to form some general rules on the subject and to follow them with very great rigor, or there will be much confusion.

I wish to get a complete list of all those who have not yet rec^{d} land, in order to convince the commissioner of the necessity of his staying here untill the business is all finished, for if I do not do this, he will only remain a short time and leave me as the other commissioners have [be]fore the business is half finished—I have [asked] the favor of Mr Ingram to get a list of all in that section, and I must ask the favor of you to aid him in doing so—

Things are getting on better here, and there is some more harmony than there was— The people must be more particular in electing a man for Alcalde—If it will not injure you too much I think you ought to be the next Alcalde—many persons speak of you—in fact I do not think there would be any opposition at all— I have been spoken to by many, and I wish to get that idea out of their heads, for I am compelled to visit the United States next fall, and I shall spend the season there— It will not do for me to be Alcalde— I have not the same patience that I once had— I have also other things to attend to of much more importance to the colony than settling little neighborhood disputes about cows and calves—

There are some erronious impressions about the Ayuntamiento, amongst the settlers—those kind of impressions are very injurious and ought to be corrected—Mr Ingram can give you much information on [this?] and I will promptly afford all the information in my power to any one who will [write] me or take the trouble to inquire—

Our Academy subscription goes on very well there is over 1300 dollars subscribed and I think we shall be able to get a brick building. I am anxious to see the matter succeed for I think it will be attended with much public good

I will be down and try and spend some time in that quarter after the commissioner arrives—

My respects to Mrs Bell S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Austin to E. R. Wightman

For the sake of accomadating the families brought out by Elias R. Weightmann [1] and in order that they may have a home in the settlements, I agree that they may have the quarter of a League out of the upper half of the League that was granted to James W Jones which half League I bought of said Jones, and the quarter of a

[1] Wightman's party was from New York. He himself became one of Austin's official surveyors.

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League out of the upper half of the League that was grantd to R. Kuykendall on the West side of the Colorado river which half League I bought of said R. Kuykendall—the said quarters must be laid off to extend from the river out to the back lines of said Leagues—the side lines to be parallel with the side lines of the said League. I will charge seventy five dollars in property for each of said quarter Leagues, payable in one year— Also the condition on which I make this offer is that each of said quarters must be actually sele[c]ted and inhabited and cultivated by one family at least within two months from this day and the settlement kept up on each of them without any intermission for at least three years in succession beginning two months from this date, otherwise this offer is to be void and of no effect— Should the settlement be made on one of said quarters and not on the other, I am willing to comply with what I have stated above as to the quarter that is so settled— I allow Mr Elias R Weigh[t]man One Month from this date to give me an answer wheither the Above offer is accepted or not, and I shall require that notice should be given to me at the end of two months wheither the settlement is made as above Stated or not—for if it is not made in that time then this offer is to be null and void it is also to be null and void if the settlement is not kept up for three years in succession as herein before stated— I am willing to take Elias R. Weigh[t]mans note for the Amount which I have before stated is to be paid on the said land, and to make the transfer any time after the settlement has been made but always with the express condition that the said transfer shall be null and void if the settlement is not kept up for three years in succession as before Stated—

San Felipe de Austin April 17, 1829

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

If the foregoing offer is accepted I wish it to be done in writing at the end of this paper or at the end of a true copy thereof signed by the persons who accept of the same

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN TO AUSTIN

Matagorda, April 22, 1829.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO W. H. WHARTON

April 24, 1829

W. H. WHARTON

DR. SIR, Relying on what you told me at the mill that you would call and see me before you left I expected you. You ought to have

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called. You and myself are almost strangers, our personal intercourse has scarcely been sufficient to enable us mutually to estimate each other properly. I have a very decided friendship for all Col G. [Groce's friends?] I have full confidence in League and he assures me that W. H. W. is all that a man of honor and a firm and stedfast friend ought to be. My own disposition is frank open and confiding. But the experience of the last six years in settling this wilderness and the unfavorable light in which human nature has been so often presented to me, has greatly weakened my gen[l] confidence in mankind, it has however had the effect to make me cling the closer to the few who are really and substantially men. I now write under the conviction that you are of this class and shall therefore throw aside ceremony or reserve. I wish to see you permanently locate here. All that is now wanting in Texas is a few more *men* in this colony, not open mouthed politicians, nor selfish visionary speculators, nor jealous ambitious declamatory demegogues who will irritate the public mind by inflamitory criticisms about temporary evils and by indulging in vague surmises. We need men of enlightened judgment, disinterested prudence, and reflection, with a great stock of patience, unshaken perseverence and integrity of purpose. Men who will calmly put their shoulders to the wheel and toil for the good of others as well as for their own, and who will be contented to rise with the country without aimin[g] to force it forward prematurely to overtop the gen[l] level of prosperity by undue individual advancement. A band of *such* men firmly linked together by the bonds of mutual confidence and unity of purpose and action could and would make Texas the garden of North America. You know enough of the population here to be convinced that we lack men of this class I have in this respect stood almost alone. The fate of this colony has so far rested pretty much upon my own resources, my own exertions and management. Councellors I have never had. When I began the whole country was a wilderness wholly destitute of resources, the Gov[t] unsettled, the Mexicans gen[lY] very much prejudiced against North Am[n] emigration and public opinion in the United States most decidedly unfavorable both as to the real value of the country, the character of the Mexican Gov[t] and even as to the practicability of succeeding in forming any other kind of settlement here, than a nest of fugitives. Such were the prospects under which I commenced. They were so discouraging that all my friends united in trying to persuade me by argument and ridicule and by every other means to abandon the project.

I myself believed that the probabilities of failure or success were almost equal, but I deemed the object worthy of the risk and I had confidence in myself. I foresaw that I must enlist myself as a kind

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of slave for years, that I must chain down all the impulses of a temperament naturally hasty and impetuous and sensitive to a fault; that I must patiently submit to toil injury and abuse and slander and misconstruction, sometimes bending and yielding to a degree that laid me liable to the imputation of weakness and at others resorting to measures that appeared arbitrary, or partial or whimsical; but to say all in a few words I had an ignorant, whimsical selfish and suspicious set of rulers over me to keep good natured, a perplexed and confused colonization law to execute, and an unruly set of North American frontier republicans to controul who felt that they were sovereigns, for they knew that they were beyond the reach of the arm of Gov^{t} or of law, unless it pleased them to be contrould. To have been universally popular amongst the settlers for the first two or three years would have endangered all, for it would have excited vague jealousies in the point (?) alone that I was concillating popular favor in order to wield it in a particular way. To have been universally unpopular endangered all in another way, for it would have totally destroyed that degree of popular confidence and character abroad which was necessary to draw emigration and it would also have deprived me of the power of controuling the settlers sufficiently to have prevented them from destroying themselves. I could not stoop to associate with the low drunkards and rabble and would not do it under any circumstances but very extreme ones. The reflecting and worthy part of the settlers have always adhered to me firmly throughout. The former class abused me over their grog and at times have had weight enough to require humoring and management to keep within bounds, but they effectually removed all suspicion that I was courting the favor of a rabble for the purpose of wielding it and in this they did me and the colony a service though without knowing or intending it and I used their abuse of me to advance the public good and establish myself more firmly in the confidence of my rulers. Added to all this I was poor, destitute of capital, and never was there an enterprise in which money was more necessary than in this one. I involved myself in pecuniary embarrassments to raise funds at the outset, but they were in no degree sufficient, and the good of the settlers—in fact the salvation of the whole enterprise—compelled me to raise something out of the settlers themselves. This drew down upon me the imputation of being a speculator and curses and abuse followed. I did not suffer it to turn me aside from my duty to the settlers. I used what I rec^{d} for the general good and am still as poor as ever except in land.

There were but few men of capital in the country and they were of a cast of intellect better qualified for cent p^{r} cent calculations of present profit than for liberal and enlarged views for the future.

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All were greedy to sow largely under the expectation of reaping 1000 fold in a few years, but none were willing to contribute anything for the seed. It was considered that I must furnish all and do all and risk all. Thus it is that I had Scylla or Charybdis constantly in view for the first three or four years of my labor, and I have actually labored hard and dreadfully to build up the fortunes of men, many of whom were heaping abuse upon me. I have no ambition of a political military or avaricious character. My ambition has been to succeed in redeeming Texas from its wilderness state by means of the plough alone, in spreading over it North American population enterprise and intelligence, in doing this I hoped to make the fortune of thousands and my own amongst the rest. My success so far has fully equalled my expectation, and I think that I derived more satisfaction from the view of flourishing farms springing up in this wilderness than military or political chieftains do from the retrospect of their victorious campains. My ambition is to build up, for the present as well as for future generations, to do it silently without ostentation or display. I deemed the object laudable and honorable and worthy the attention of honorable men. The country is now sufficiently advanced to offer inducements for emigrants of capital to flock to it. The allusions I have made as to the difficulties which have been surmounted added to your own observations while here, will enable you to form a pretty accurate estimate for the future and I think you will agree with me that we are leaving both Scylla and Charybdis far astern and that there is nothing but plain sailing ahead.

As I before said all we need is men of intelligence and capital who can harmonize with each other, and a plenty of them, the more the better. Should such men in reply to your arguments in favor of their removal here say that they cannot bring their slaves, you may safely tell them that they can bring them without any fears of being troubled(?). The men now in power in this state wish to tolerate slavery, and whether they wish it or not if Texas firmly and decidedly and prudently wills it so it will be for the voice of Texas will not be disregarded. Should they say that our laws and constitution are defective, tell them that both can be amended and that the people of Texas if united can and will amend them. Should they say that Mexico is in a state of revolution and its Gov^{t} crumbling to pieces, tell them that we are 1000 miles from the seat of revolution and separated from any adjoining state by an uninhabited and almost uninhabitable wilderness of 200 miles and that all the adjoining states are thinly populated poor and nearly destitute of resources. Should they object to living under the Mexican Gov^{t} tell them that they will find it to be to their interests to be inhabitants of Texas as Mexican citizens. The policy of this Gov^{t} to emigrants is liberal

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beyond parallel. An immence coasting trade is open round the Gulf of Mexico and to the West Indians, and Europe will turn with joy and avidity from the "tarriffed cotton" of the U. S. to the fine long staple of Texas. The subject of the cotton trade has been laid before the national executive through various channels and the secretary of state has informed me in reply to a communication I made on the subject last fall that the President would at a proper time call the attention of Congress particularly to it. He has already recommended a reduction of the tariff.

You can also tell him that the Gen^{l} land Com^{r} will shortly be here to distribute land and issue titles, and that this fall is the great seed time. If they come in then they will most surely reap a bountiful harvest hereafter, but they must come "bag and baggage" wives children and "plunder" for an actual removal is necessary to get a title. A great part of the coast of Texas will be open for settlement this summer and fall, including the shores of the fine bays of Galveston and Matagorda and also the whole country up to the San Antonio road in this and De Witt's colony. Now then is the time. Let there be a strong population of North Americans here, with a sufficient number of talented and virtuous and prudent men to direct them and who would oppress us? Mexico? She lacks both the power and the inclination for it would be her interest to bind us to her. Spain? She cannot. England dare not for war with the U. S. would of course be the result of the occupancy of Texas by that power and the same applies to France. What then have emigrants to Texas to fear? If they harmonize with themselves and are prudent they have nothing to fear and they have everything that man desires to hope for and expect. Look back at the prospects when I commenced. What were they in comparison with the prospects now? My standing with this Gov^{t} and with the people of Texas generally is now established I think on a firm basis and I could do much to benefit Texas if there was a sufficient population here of the right kind, and if such a population would treat me with candor and confidence they could use me very much to their own advantage for I am not selfish. I will remain firm to this Gov^{t} so long as it stands and will lose my life sooner than betray in the slightest degree my oath as a citizen. All the alterations that are needed in our laws I think can be constitutionally obtained without difficulty.

If the Gov^{t} stands and prospers Texas must prosper under it. If the Gov^{t} falls the bonds which bind Texas and Mexico will of course be severed by that fall, and in this event Texas can either unite herself to the North under the necessary guarantees from that Gov^{t} or become an independent speck in the galaxy of nations. Europe will gladly receive our cotton and sugar etc. on advantageous terms

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in exchange for "untariffed" manufactured articles. We should be too contemptable to excite the jealousy of the Northern Mammoth, and policy and interest would induce Europe to let us alone. I deem it to be more than probable that the great powers would all unite in garanteeing the Independence of little Texas. There are many powerful reasons why it would be to their interest to do it.

Suppose that some 4 or 500 southern men of *talents* and *capital* and *high character* were to emigrate to Texas in a body next fall, what can prevent their future prosperity? I have the legal right to garantee to them a reception as emigrants in my colony and as such the law grants them land. The door is legally opened to them and they are invited to enter and partake of the fortune and prosperity and happiness which nature has provided with a liberal hand for all who will now advance and receive them. Such an opportunity never offered upon earth, never can offer again, and it will be trifling with fortune to neglect it. But do not misunderstand me as to the kind of emigrants—ardent inexperienced hot headed youths piping from college or ignorant self willed "mobish" mountaniers and frontiersmen who "hold to Lynch law" and damning those who are in office merely because they are in office, would totally ruin us forever. We need that class of emigrants who deserve the appelation of southern Gentlemen, whose fortunes are independent but not overgrown, whose judgment has been enlightened by education and matured by experience, and who have families to keep the intemperate wild ambitious passions of the human heart within the circle of prudence. I would fearlessly pledge my head that an emigration of 400 *such men* next fall to Texas would permanently ensure the prosperity of this country and the happiness of its inhabitants.

I have expressed myself to you with more freedom and frankness than is usual with me on subjects of this kind. It is not every man whose mind is capable of embracing the past the present and the future and I have never sought celebrity by trying to confound the ignorant by matters which they could not comprehend. It is my request that this letter should be confidential and that it should not by any means be published. I cannot but think that if proper exertions were made a large company of Southern Gentlemen from C. G. A. and T. [Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee?] might be made up to emigrate here next fall. I am too poor in money to make the trip or I would have gone on with you. I wished to see you on this subject and regret that you did not call.

[Stephen F. Austin.]

Charles Douglas to Austin

Vera Cruz, April 25, 1829.

See Calendar.

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Austin to Elias R. Wightman

San Felipe de Austin April 27. 1829

Mr Elias R Wightman

Sir, My object in making the offer of the land when you was here, out of the Jones and Kuykendall Leagues was to enable the families that came with you to have a place to go on to immediately, and not as a matter of speculation— I am now willing that you should take the quarter out of the Jones League in exchange for the part my brother has in the Matagorda tract—this will close that business and relieve you from the necessity of making an immediate settlement on it—

The families who are at Huffs have all determined to settle on the Bernard, as I am informed—none of them will therefore go to the Colorado— I will give one Labor gratis to any family who will settle on the Kuykendall League west of the river, by the first of october next, he paying for the title—

I return you the two instruments of writing you sent me unsigned— It does not suit me to agree to the alteration you wish for the necessity, or rather the reason on which the offer was made has ceased, for the families at Huffs as I before observed have determined to settle on the Bernard—and the present arrangement will suit you better than the other, for the Jones quarter is worth two of the Crownover League, and you can remain where you are during the whole season—

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar, April 30, 1829.

See Calendar.

J. M. Beramendi to Austin

Bexar, April 30, 1829.

See Calendar.

David G. Burnet to Austin

Cincinnati 4 May 1829

My dear Sir

I have for several days anticipated the present opportunity with a full intention of writing copiously to my Texas friends— but the person by whom I send to Natchitoches sets out in the morning Some days earlier than he expected when I last saw him— My time

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is so short (for it is now 10 oclock p. m.) that I should let the conveyance pass by altogether were it not for my desire to transmit to you the inclosed very *queer* document—The author[1] with whose character I presume you are familiar, is now here—he has called on me twice and seems to be deeply interested in Texas and perfectly confident of the practicability of his utopian *Social System* and its peculiar adaptation to the condition or rather the "circumstances" of our beautiful country— He appears to be influenced by a sincere benevolence—but while I am willing to beleive he is an honest philanthropist, I am constrained to think him a misguided and infatuated visionary— He leaves here in a few days for England, goes from thence to Colombia, to enlighten the *Liberator* and from thence he returns to Mexico to compleat his arrangements with that Government, and when *that shall be accomplished*, he proposes to pass over land to Texas.

Gen[l] Wavill[2] with his family has been here about two weeks—his wife, a very amiable English Lady presented him with a fine little daughter this day a week ago. He will leave in about 10 days and after visiting some of the eastern cities will proceed to England where he expects to remain some time— I have found him an intelligent gentlemanly man— I expect Milam here in a few days and as I am informed, it is probable *Peck* will be with him—we shall have quite a coterie of Coahuilatexanos—

I have no news of any peculiar interest. If I can have time in the morning I'll put [up] a packet of papers for you. I regret very much being so taken by surprise on this occassion but when I recollect that no one in Texas has thought it worth while to write to me, it seems as if I might be compromitting myself by multiplying my unreciprocated communications— I have sent many letters and many newspapers since the waters rose and have not received an acknowledgment of either—but I will not do so much discredit to the frankness of others as to believe that any other motive will be attributed to me than the true one, a desire to confer gratification on those whom I esteem— Remember me very affectionately to all friends Williams, Brown, League, Nuckols etc etc and to Mrs Long and the Ladies generally—

May God bless and preserve and prosper you—

DAVID G BURNET [Rubric]

Col Austin

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[1] Apparently Robert Owen. For some account of his plan—or one phase of it—see William R. Manning, Early Diplomatic Relations between the United States and Mexico, 323–324.

[2] General Arthur G. Wavel. For his relations with Austin in 1823, see index of Volume I of this collection. He was granted a contract on March 9, 1826, to settle 400 families in Texas, and Benjamin R. Milam became his agent.

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Agreement Concerning a Mining Claim

May 5, 1829.

See Calendar.

Green De Witt to Ramon Muzquiz

[From Bexar Archives]

Dear Sir I feel it my duty to inform you that there is and has lately been a very considerable quantity of contraband passed on in the Direction of Bejar and I beleave both Mexicans and Americans are ingaged in that traffic— There are two roads formed within a few months which cross the Guadaluop below this place one about a league, and the other about three leagues below this Town— I have no troops at my command—and therefore it is out of my power to detect it without it should come through this town which they always avoid— This contraband is not owned by people under my Jurisdiction; neither do they wish it to pass through this neighborhood, least they should be blamed for incouraging it; And you well remember the censure which has been thrown on me at the Labaca on account of contraband of which I never took any part— And now again passing so near me compells me to give you this information; and hope there may be mean[s] taken to prevent its coming through our vicinity

The threats of the Indians I fear will greatly retard the settling of the country; but should a Campaign be sent against them in a properly manner I think there can be an end put to them at once.

Could a few troops be furnished us at this time, it would greatly add to the settling of the colony, and there by strengthen the country.

I would be truly happy to recieve a line from you respecting the Indians and the probability of our geting some troops at this place etc.

Five days ago another family arrived here from Missouri; consist of a man and his wife and seven children. We have now in the Colony thirty families.

Green DeWitt [Rubric]

Gonzalez 8th of may 1829.

His Excellency Ramon Muzquiz Chief of the Department of Texas

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Green DeWitt to Ramon Muzquiz

[From Bexar Archives]

Dear Sir, On last evening a man by the name of Jesa McCoy who is a resident of this colony who has been with the Comanches

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for several weeks passed arrived here, and gave me the following information. He says that a few days ago, the principal chief of the Tawaccanes, and the principal chief of the Wacoes, called upon the head Chief of the Comanches and solicited him to join them the Wacoes and Tawaccanes in a general war against the Mexican and American settlements—Saying at the same time that the Mexicans had taken from them a Caveard and the Americans had killed some of there men, and therefore they had declared war against both; He further states that the Comanches intirely refused to Join in the warfare; saying that they were now at a perfect peace with the people of this country and wished to remain so—.

I beleave my informant to be a man of truth and that what he has stated may be relied upon.

God and Liberty Gonzales 8th May 1829

GREEN DEWITT [Rubric]

His Excellency Ramon Muzquiz Chief of the Department of Texas—

GREEN DEWITT TO RAMON MUZQUIZ

Gonzales May 8th 1829.

[From Bexar Archives]

I have Just received information by two men immediately from Bejar; that a large party of Indians, supposed to be 100, all mounted have crossed the road leading from this place to Bejar, at the 52 mile tree—about 24 miles from here—and have bent their course for la Bahia— My number here is too weak to follow them, as it is beleaved that there is also another party in the direction of the Colorado—and I am only able to keep out spies and to watch them, least they should make an attack on this place—. I have ordered an express this morning to La Bahia, and hope he will be there in time to alarm the inhabitants that they may have the troops on the alert; and that they may therefore defeat them in their designs, which I have reason to beleave is to both kill and rob, this I send you, for your information: God and Liberty

GREEN DEWITT [Rubric]

His Excellency Ramon Muzquiz Chief of the Department of Texas.

AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

May 13, 1829

See Calendar.

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AUSTIN TO MRS. E. M. PERRY

Brasoria, May 26, 1829

DR SISTER.

your last came to hand in 16 days after its date. I am happy to hear of your health and that of your fine family of children— I wish I was in a situation to take Austin, but I think that he will do better for the present where he is, we have no good schools here, I will accept of the offer you make of him as soon as I think it will be for his advantage to come out here—

I am now at brothers who has settled at this place probably for life or at least for many years—he is quite in the woods as yet, tho comfortable, and has a fine Boy as ever I saw— this place is 20 miles by water from the Mouth of the river and about 10 miles from the coast in a direct line I think it will become a place of business

It is very uncertain when I shall visit Missouri not this year— I cannot advise Mr. Perry to [move] here, neither do I advise him not to move. he cannot form any correct opinion on the subject without visiting the country and spending at least two months to examine it—

My health is none of the best, tho the country has been very healthy this season, and we have the most promising appearances of crops

I have nothing worth filling a letter with and therefore shall wind up with the most sincere wishes for your health and prosperity remember me to Mr Perry and all the children and to Mrs John Perry, she ought to take a trip to the coast of Texas—this is a wonderfull prolific and fertile country and much pleasanter than that frozen region—remember me to my old friend John P—and to Saml. etc

STEPHEN [Rubric]

there is no news of any Kind, this country improves—the settlers are satisfied with the Gov^{t} and we have universal peace and tranquility in all Texas—

[Addressed:] Mrs Emily M. Perry Potosi Missouri

JAMES B. AUSTIN TO MRS. E. M. PERRY

Brasoria, Texas. May 26th 1829

Dr SISTER

I improve the opportunity which offers p^{r} Schooner Eclipse, Cap. J. Austin which Sails to Morrow for N. Orleans of Acknowledging the recpt of Your letter dated the the 16 of April last, the dispach

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with which it came, (only 15 days from Potosi) has Made the immense distance between us Seem Shorter than ever before, So much so indeed that I have not wholly abandoned the anticipacion of Yet embracing you under the roof of my own Cabbin in this country, and from hints in your last letter, I really flatter myself that I shall have that pleasure this fall—our country is beginning to call the attention of capitalists not only in the U. S. but in Europe, and I am fully sensible that the period cannot be far distant when our fullest anticipacions will be realized. I have nothing very interesting to communicate to you, the country is improving and Emigrants are dropping in almost daily. Crops look fine and we have every prospect of an abundant harvest, about 500 hundred Bales of Cotton was made last year for exportation and about sixty or 80 hogsheads of Sugar. this year the Sugar crop will treble and a much larger Cotton crop than ever before

Brother is now on a visit with us, he begins to look quite old and the wrinkles are becomeing plainer daily, I think this fall he will visit Missouri he intended doing so this Spring but, being anxious to close all his Colony business he declined going in until it was accomplished entirely.

Eliza wrote you Sometime Since acknowledging the recpt of your letter accompanied by a box of garden Seeds which was very acceptable—she has promised to write you by the Vessel, and *out brag* you if possible, on Young Stephen—tho I say to her that odds are against her for she has but one to brag on and You have half a dozen—Remember me to Mr. Perry and tell Joel and Austin to improve their time, I shall want Austin in about a year from this, and in the *mean* time keep him at School, and let him attend closely to Arithmatic, as I expect to Make a business Man of him.

Write us often my dear Sister, I shall expect that you and Eliza will keep up a steady correspondence—females can always find Matter to fill one sheet and sometimes—two, to one another and therefore I intend in future to resign my letter writing (to you) principally to Eliza.

Kiss Mary for me and her Aunt who has promised me to send her some pieces of Embroydery and drawings of her own execution as soon [as] materials can be procured from N. Orleans.

Brother

J. B. Austin [Rubric]

P S. Eliza begs you to excuse her for not writing by this conveyance, as she has been so engaged that she has not had time, but she has promised me to write by the next opportunity

[Addressed] Mrs. Emily M Perry Potosi Missouri [by] Schooner Eclipse

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RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar 28 de Mayo de 1829.

Sor Dn. ESTEBAN AUSTIN.

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO Y SOR. por mi ultima ofreci a V. contestar espacio a sus apreciadas de 15 y 21 de Abril y 5 del actual no lo egecute oportunam^te^ por Ocupaciones y enfermedades, y aunque concurre haora la primera causa, he robado un poco de tiempo p^a^ decir aV. respecto de la primera, qe. sus juiciosas observacion con relacion alos atrasos qe. ha originado á Texas el art^o^ 13 de la Constitucion del Estado, y la Ley N^o^ 18, he creido combeniente trasmitirlas con mucha recomendacion de mi parte á nuestros Diputados en Leona Vicario y la opinion que sobre ellas formen comunicaré a V. sin perdida de tiempo, pues no dudo que será conforme con las ideas de V. mas, qúando por el mismo correo las identifica el coron^l^ Piedras, esto és con relacion a la emigracion de Yndios Estrangeros anunciando los males qe. deven causar.

Ha su segunda devo decirle que ignoraba el proyecto de Campaña que le proponen a V. pr. la Comand^a^ Gral. contra los tahuallases, cuyo asunto creo que se quiso tratar sin conocimiento del Gob^no^ del Estado y de esta Gefatura, y pr. un acontecimiento qe. sucedio qual lo fué qe. los tahuacanos descontentos pr. qe. una espedicion que estubo en su pueblo les quito diez u onze bestias que tenian de las robadas ultimam^te^ dieron muerte a D^n^ Jose Salinas y Mig^l^ Castro inmediato ha Sn. Marcos, se ha cambiado de proyecto y ahora se trata de escarmentar alos Huecos y tahuacanos qe. descaradam^te^ han roto las ostilidades desde el mes de En^o^, y como estas tribus estan inmediatas ha esa Colonia podrá ser qe. alla necesidad de hechar mano de alguna parte de esa Milicia p^a^ engrosar la fuerza de la permanente, sobre lo qual yá me pondre de cuerdo con V. seguro de que por su parte espero su importante cooperacion

Como V. me tienen encargado en su segunda digo de su ultima he propuesto alos amigos si se interesan en tomar las partes qe. ofrecen en las minas denunciadas, y aunque no les falta buen deseo de hacer fortuna se escusan por razon de no tener fardos con que contribuir pr. lo pronto alos gastos, en cuyo caso me hayo yó; pero estimando en mucho su generosa oferta me encagan de dar a VV. las devidas gracias

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

P. D. De oficio y bajo reserba, encargo al Alcalde de esa Villa practique una aberiguacion sumaria sobre la conducta que obserba John Williams en la abitacion de cortes que ha comprado, con respecto al trato de armas, Municiones y otras cosas con los Yndios Tahuacanos, Huecos y tahuallases ha cambio de las caballadas que

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roban pr. estos pueblos y como D[n] Samuel ya no deve estar hay, es nesesario qe. V. se tome la molestia de dirigir ha aquel funcionario, y espero me dará francam[te] su opinion en este asunto. Vale

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AUSTIN TO COMMODORE DAVID PORTER

St Felepe

Your esteemed fav[r] of the 10 April came by the last mail and I rece'd it yesterday at this place together with the copy of your memorial to the President on the subject of a grant for seteling a colony in Texas, and meeting with Cap Pettet here in the Schooner Santana I improve the oppertunity to reply.

I will enclose the memorial to the Gov[r] of the State by the next mail accompanied with a letter strongly recommending your application, and and I think there will be no difficulty provided the memorial to the President is granted so far as he has the power to grant it, I also recommend that you procure a letter from L. Z. [Lorenzo de Zavala] to the Gov[r] and Lieut Gov[r] of this State, I have understood, indirectly, that Z. once had an idea of applying himself for the same section of country, wheither the information was correct or not I am unable to say, I believe that his standing with the authorities of this State is very good— a private or unofficial letter from Guerrero if such a thing could be procured would effectually secure the matter— The Senater Agustin viesca is a brother of the Gov[r] Also the Deputy from this State vicente Campos stands very well with the Gov[r]. it perhaps might be well to cultivate their acquaintance etc.

It will be necessary for you to examine the colonization law of this State passed 25. March 1825 in order to comprehend the nature of the system which this Gov[t] have adopted in regard to the colonization of the vacant lands in the State, and as you can easily procure that in Mexico by applying to Z. I do not now explain it at length— the law was published in the Aguila about two years ago— Agreeably to the law and the system which the Gov[t] have pursued your memorial ought to have stated the number of families you offered to introduce and settle within the limits applied for the law allows to the Empresario five Leagues and three labors for each 100 families not exceeding 800.

Should it be practicable for you [to] visit this country and examine it particularly yourself before commencing the settlement of the colony I think it would be advantageous Capital can be profitably employed here, and perhaps a company might be formed which could command capital, and tend greatly to the advance[mt] of the country as well as being profitable to those concerned—

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The colonizing business has been in the highest degree laborious perplexing and harrassing to me and not profitable but I commenced in an entire wilderness and have had difficulties to work through which do not now exist— My object was to settle the country and I have kept that object in view much more steadily than the advancement of my own fortune, I think that a sufficient foundation is now laid for the profitable investment of capital in various ways

The Gov[t] may easily make Texas a very flourishing and advantageous member of the confederation it is now a dead weight— Texas once settled and the whole of the frontier of the Rio Grande from New Mexico to Matamoros would be effectually protected from the indians which would be an incalcutable advantage, The revenue which the commerce of this country could yield in ten years would be a very great object to the nation—

There are some leading points of policy necessary for Texas.— Such as the admission of slavery and such a system of revenue and commercial regulations as will leave our trade free of duty for five years after 1830 when the present law of exemption expires, Should the restrictive system be continued in the U. S. England will no doubt receive Mexican cotton on advantagious terms

Much might be said on this subject— I think it is the true policy of this nation to have the most of their work shops in Europe for some years to come, and in the mean time give existence to the agricultural and planting interest for as yet it can scarely be said to exist except so far as is necessary for domestic use—

[Stephen F. Austin.]

8 june 1829

[Austin to Governor Viesca:] Tengo el honor de elevar a V. E. la solicitud del comodoro Daniel [David] Porter en qe solicita se le concede una colonia en Texas, El Sor Porter es bien conocido y no cabe duda que adquirirle por ciudadano Cuahuiltejano sera de mucha ventaja al Estado y contribuirá muchissimo al fomento de la poblacion de los desiertos de Texas, en este concepto tomo la libertad de recomendar su solicitud con mucho interes y empeño—

Samuel M. Williams to Austin

At Mr Scotts June 9th 1829

My Dear Sir

After much fatigue and some bruising the Eclipse has arrived safely at Rightors point bar. We got into Galveston Bay on Wednesday—Came into the Bay by the S. W. Channel—beat in and found

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it a good passage 11 feet shoalest Cast—I think it first rate for all vessels not over 9 feet draft of water.—We touched slightly on two bars but got off without difficulty—beat up to Redfish bar on Thursday morning—good Channel about 10 feet—from Thursday to Sunday evening We were watching the bar John and myself sounded it all over—We found it staked out but as the water was low hoped to find a deeper place however We were disappointed—and on Sunday night and monday morning pressed and worried her over in 4 1/2 feet water she drawing 5 1/2. *twon't do* except at full, and change tides, except for vessels of an easy draft. About the same water at Righters point bar,—Harris has gone up to Harrisburg and I expect the Eclipse will be discharged at the point—The freight for her was sent on in the Alert and the Eclipse will have to go in without freight—While we were lying at the bar Doctors Woodbury and Cameron [1] Came on board us I had some conversation with the former, he expressed much anxiety to receive a letter from you—he told me he had received the sanction of the Superioridad for the 10 litorales adjoining you Eastwardly and extending six leagues in the limitrofe—Our friend hatchet faced Davy [2] is too late—further he said this. a branch in Mexico he expected to interest a very wealthy House in Phil[a]. and flatters himself with doing much for Texas—said much about the Hacienda Nacional, no money—no prospect except from Gran Bretaña, for which he thinks the southern territory will go—he says we shall soon be left to take care of ourselves—he expressed very much anxiety to have your letter Contain, a sentence respecting the *Nagurs* about the security for introduction etc. had understood at S. f. de A and at other places on the road this side of Bexar, that they could be introduced, and would be secure—this opinion Came from you—he asked me many questions on the subject and said on account of y[r] known standing etc much weight would be given to any thing *U*—said on the subject and wished you to be full on that point, alth[o] he did not wish you to enter into Compromisos—I enclose you his note,—Cameron also wished to hear from you—

I expect Mr. Scott will go over about the first of next month to bring Sarah and the Children over here, and as it is probable that Gorge may be anxious to come likewise, and that you may not wish to use all the time about Town I wish you to get Mr. Ingram to stay there, and give Aunt mary instructions how to track.

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[1] John Lucius Woodbury was granted a contract to settle 200 families, Nov. 14, 1826, and John Cameron, on May 21, 1827, received a contract to settle 100 families in Texas. Decree No. 46 of the legislature of Coahuila and Texas, on Feb. 25, 1828, granted Woodbury and Cameron for 23 years the exclusive privilege to exploit iron and coal mines in the State.

[2] Commodore David Porter. See his letter to Austin, April 10, 1829.

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Woodbury informed me that Poinsett was interested in the Contract which had been made by the Govt to Zavala,[1] also in one on the Guazacoalco and Complained much of having been interfered with by Poinsett in his Contracts with the Govt particularly in the Contract for the litorales in front of his Colony— I presume that Poinsett has been speculating in his official capacity to his individual benifit.

I hope we will be off in a day or two, and am as ever yours

S M Williams [Rubric]

S F Austin Esqr.

[On margin:] Please write to Brown and request him to send up my saddle by some safe oppy.

S. M. W.

Austin to Secretary of War and Marine

[San Felipe] June 10, 1829.

See Calendar.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bejar 11. de Junio de 1829.

Sor. Dn. Estevan Austin

Mi estimado amigo: con poca esperanza de que V. reciva esta en consideracion á la auciencia que me anuncio iva á tener de esa Villa segun su carta de 13. del po. po. Mayo que recivi con retardo, le dirijo la presente que tiene por objeto avisar á V. que al fin há sido necesario consultando los intereses de estas y esa municipalidad el poner en practica la meditada campaña contra los indios Tahuacanos y Guecos de que hable á V. en mi anterior en justa retribucion de los daños que nos hán causado.

Por el correo de hoy dirijo al Alcalde de esa Villa una comunicacion en que la recomiendo muy particularmente excite el patriotico selo de esos venemeritos ciuds para que se presten á salir á la campaña hasta el no de 150. hombres montados y armados y que esten reunidos para unirse á la tropa tan luego como se dé de aqui aviso, cuyo asunto por las importantes ventajas que deven resultar á la seguridad y tranquilidad de los havitantes de este Departamento, tambien recomiendo á V. para que con su eficas cooperacion logremos castigar y si posible es esterminar á nuestros enemigos, deviendo manifestar á V. que este vecindario y el de la Villa de Goliad se hán esforzado de un modo muy satisfatorio pa auciliar la espedicion.

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[1] Zavala's contract to settle 500 families in East Texas was granted Mar. 12, 1829. Zavala, Joseph Vehlein, and David G. Burnet later pooled their grants and formed with certain financiers in New York and Boston the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Co.

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Por las ocupaciones, cuidados y pesadumbres qe. hé tenido en estos dias y por que me hayo solo no se há despachado la solicitud del Sor. League amigo de V. que me recomienda, mas espero se egecutará por el proximo correo.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO GOVERNOR[1]

EXMO. SOR. Por el correo ordinario de hoy me há dirigido el Sor. Cor[l] José delas Piedras, com[te] Militar de Nacog[s] la adjunta carta q[e] original acompaño a V. E. respectuosam[te]: su contenido no puede ser mas desagradable en las circunstancias en q[e] se encuentra la Nacion cuando asegura con mucha provavilidad q[e] el cordon de tropas, deposito de armas y municiones, y la actividad con q[e] en los Est[s] del oeste se organiza y diciplina la milicia, tiene por obgecto inbadir este estado para apoderarse de los terrenos q[e] aquella republica á pretenido le corresponden desde q[e] hubo por compra la prov[a] de la Luisana.

Por la presura del tiempo no me hé puesto de acuerdo con el Sor. com[te] Pral. de este Dep[to] p[a] que por su parte tome las providencias q[e] le corresponden apesar de que no devemos contar con la poca Tropa q[e] tiene á sus ornes., por q[e] esta reducida á ciento y tantos hombres de infanteria q[e] estan en Nacog. y á poco mas o menos de docientos de caballeria de estas companias precidiales; unos y otros carresen aun delo muy presiso p[a] subsistir p[r] la falta de socorros q[e] no reciven desde mucho tiempo y los segundos se hayan ademas desequipados y sin ninguna diciplina q[e] es lo que los constitulle soldados.

Los movimientos militares del Gob[no] de los Est[s] Unidos del Norte sobre sus fronteras demandan q[e] el nuestro este á la mira de sus operaciones y se prepare en tiempo, si este no se aprovecha, ban haser cumplidas las profecias sobre q[e] Tejas al fin será dela Republica de Washington, mas, quando la poblacion de este Dep[to] se compone de una mayoria muy considerable de originarios de aquellos estados q[e] emigraron a este pais; y por tanto V. E. que esta al alcanze delos peligros en q[e] se encuentra esta preciosa parte de nuestra republica, yá p[r] los indios barvaros del Norte, los indios extrangeros y extrangeros sibilisados q[e] sin sistema ni orn. se estan introduciendo y apoderandose delos terrenos dela frontera, y yá por los enemigos esteriores, se sirvirá como selo ruego muy encarecidam[te] pedir al supremo Gob[no] Gral. ponga termino á los males q[e] sufrimos, y nos presave de los q[e] se nos esperán. Dios &[a]. Bejar 22. de Junio de 1829.

[RAMON MUSQUIZ]

E. S. G. del Est[o] &[a].

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[1] From Political Chief's Blotter, Bexar Archives.

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MARTIN ALLEN TO AUSTIN

Harisburg 5th July 1829

Col AUSTIN

SIR Agreeable to your order dated 23rd June for the purpose of raising Volunteers; I Calld a muster of My Company on the Second of this instant and red your order to the Company and told them I was willing to go—but the Shortness of the notice and the want of Horses being in order and the extream hotness of the weather renders it all most imposable to fit out a Compaign at this time altho the men in My Company Seam to Show the greatest marks of Patriotism in defending ther Country but wish to be Commanded by american officers—I advised the men in my Companey to hold them selves in readiness to go as soon as horses Could be put in order. I gave it as my opinion that a Campaign would be fitted out altogather from this Coloney. and Capt Hiram informed me on his return from Sanfelip that it is your opinion Allso—at the time Your order arived here there was a large number of indians at this place and of different tribes there was Caddoes Anadarkoes Ieshes Inies Beedies Coshaties and Delawares and Kickapooes they ware all friendley and Showed every mark of to remain so except the Kickpooes they purchased All the powder that was here and put off amediately—I was not at home my self when the Kickapooes was here or they Should not have goten any powder from this place I wish you to send me the Law relitive to Selling amunition to Indians that a Stop may be put to it in time, the Indians ware very inquisitive to know if the whites were going against the WayCoes, there Chiefs all apply to me for information as they had appointed me there white Chief as they term it—in place of there Greate Chief Capt Toolin of Red river I kept them as much in the dark as posable in order to Learn from them how the Different tribes Stood affected to wardes our inimyes—they seemed to All be against the waycoes except a part of the Caddoes who told me that the waycoes and them ware Friends which I believe to be the Case—I have Learnt a few days Since from a very Smart intilagent Coshatty who Stayed at my hose All night Directly from the Villiege—he informed me that a jenril Expedition was to be fitted out against the waycoes, of All the different Tribes between the Brazors and Red river nameley the Coshatties Alabammoes Baluckshes Chocktoas Cherokees Kickapooes Caddoes and all the other Small tribes in ther vicinty he says they are to devide them Selves in different bands and all march at one time by different routs So that the enimy Can have no Chance of ascaping—he says they intend to kill all men wimmin and Children—he says also they are to March in two moons—this Indian gave this information without being able to have heard any thing from the Whites, relitive to

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the expedition at preasant I think it would be good policy when there is an expedition on foot against the Waycoes or aney of them tribes to keepe it as much from the Knowledge of other indians as posable—there being so much Communication from one tribe to another the waycoes and Caddoes ware friendly some years go to my own Knowledge—I was at a Council of the Chiefs of both tribes held with old Capt Toolin there greate Chief at Camp ty on Red river Capt Samul C Hiram informed me you are comeing over soon to go down on the bay I am going Down soon my self and would be very glad of your Company— I have an exelent Skiff for the purpose if she is sent home in time to repair her for the trip I lont her to Captain Scott when he Came on to Convey Misstriss Williams Down from this place as she was two weak to ride throug the hot sun I Should be very glad to be furnished with the Militia law as soon as is Convenient and also to know the cause of the Commission[er]s not comeing on—Your order never reached my hand untill the 29th of June—you will do me the favour to write to me as soon as is Convenient— I am Allways ready and ever have been to Serve My Country and My Friends and remains

MARTIN ALLEN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO J. L. WOODBUY[1]

San Felipe de Austin July 6. 1829

Doctor LUCIUS WOODBERRY.

DR SIR, On my return to this place a few since I rec[d] your much esteemed favor of 27 May. I regret that I was absent when you passed as I should have been happy to have seen you

It gives me great pleasure to hear that you are bound to Philadelphia for the purpose of consulting with the House in that City who are concerned with you in Colonization, and I flatter myself that an efficient impulse will be given to the settlements on Trinity by your exertions and those of your friends—there cannot be a doubt that individual profits, as well as much general good to the country will result from the settlement of the section which has been assigned to you to the eastward of my Colony— That section embraces a very interesting portion of Texas—the Trinity and Neches rivers run through it, both navigable, and the former discharges into Galveston Bay— you will however obtain a more correct knowledge of its geographical position by examining my map of Texas which you can see by calling on Mr. Thos. F. Leaming of that City to whom I have sent it.

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[1] Compare with this letter Williams to Austin, June 9, 1829.

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Texas as a Country, wheither viewed with reference to its geographical position, its soil, its climate, the number of its rivers and creeks of pure running water, its Bays and the variety, abundance, and value of its productions, may be advantageously compared with any portion of north America. This country has laid dormant for ages— It was the policy of the Spanish Gov[t] to keep it out of view and to conceal, as much as possible, its natural advantages— The grant to my Father Moses Austin to settle a colony in Texas made by the Spanish Authorities in January 1821, a few months before the independence of Mexico, was the first deviation from this policy that had ever occured. After the death of my father I explored the country in the summer and fall of 1821, and in the succeeding winter and spring commenced my settlement in the midst of its wilderness on the Brasos and Colorado rivers Since when the progress of the new settlements under the fostering hand of the Republic of Mexico has gradually developed the value of Texas and brought it into notice. The touch Stone of experience has been applied, and the result has shewn that our climate is healthy and pleasant, our soil productive beyond expectation, our seasons regular and rain sufficiently abundant. Our rivers are navigable, and our harbors safe and of sufficient depth for all the purposes of commerce.

When I entered Texas in the winter of 1821–22 with the first emigrants, the idea of forming a settlement in this remote wilderness amidst tribes of uncivilized indians was ridiculed by my best friends as visionary and impracticable— The value of the country was unknown or greatly doubted, and it was entirely uninhabited except by savages from the Sabine to the Towns of Bexar and La Bahia (now called Goliad) and those places were reduced to a weak state by the indian war Also at that time the Mexican Gov[t] was in an unsettled and revolutionary state and it was beyond the calculation of the most judicious to say what shape or form it would ultimately assume. In answer to any doubts that may now exist as to the value of Texas as a Country, I would merely refer to what it was when I commenced, to the difficulties and impediments which retarded my progress and then ask, wheither I or any other person however great his perseverance may have been could have formed a settlement of intelligent worthy and industrious north Americans in this wilderness, and that too without the aid of powerfull patronage or wealth, *if the country itself had not afforded the strongest inducements to emigration by its real and intrinsic value.*

There is an immense opening in Texas for the establishment of Cotton Manufactories— The raw material is raised here in abundance and of superior quality.— Provisions are cheap and will daily become cheaper, there are numerous good situations for Machenery and abundance of good oak, Pine, Cypress, Cedar, Ash

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and other timber—the Tariff of Mexico causes "Domestics" to sell high and as the restrictive System appears to have become a part of the national policy, fair prospects may be calculated on for the manufacturer for Many years to come. [Deleted:] I would very freely engage in an establishment of this kind and nothing but my being tied down here with colonizing matters prevents my visiting the north[ern] States of that union with the view of trying to form a large manufacturing company in Texas.

[Added in a copy—apparently made by J. E. B. Austin:] It will afford me much pleasure to become acquainted with the house in Philadelphia with which you are concerned in colonization and to render them any aid in my power in forwarding the settlement of Texas.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

GASPAR FLORES TO AUSTIN

Bexar, July 9, 1829.

See Calendar.

DAVID G. BURNET TO AUSTIN

Cincinnati 18 July 1829

MY DEAR SIR

I received your very welcome favor of 29 May but yesterday—it came by mail from Orleans and I have not heard a Syllable of the Doctor and his lovely Bride— Major Lewis has this moment left me and is on the wing for the Brasos I regret exceedingly that I have not more time to devote to my Texas friends by this very favorable opportunity— You mention having received one letter and some newspapers why I have written a dozen or thereabouts and sent as many packages of papers To League I have written oftener and Sent more papers and I have not yet received one line from him— I hope the *Sovereigns* will *be divil* him worse than ever— he is a Shabby fellow—

Have you heard of the terrible Havanna Armada— are you prepared for it— I believe it is all Smoke or will end so— or perhaps is designed as a Scare-crow to obtain a favorable commercial treaty privileges etc on condition of recognition—

I am fully sensible of the necessity of being in my Colony and design to repair there as soon as practicable The late disturbance at Mexico gave me a very serious back set from which it has been difficult to recover— I had a very respectable company in full progress of formation when the news of wars and revolutions and insurrections dispersed them like a hawk pouncing upon a flock of

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pigeons . . . probably . . . [Torn] Short interval of repose has been granted to the *powers* of Mexico I pray that repose may be continued to an age of ages—

You paid Buckner 5$ more than you had *any right to do*—and I request League will refund you that much for I cannot allow my friends to pay *for* me, more than they owe *to* me and you have paid 5$ more than you owed—ergo, it must be returned.

I beg you will present to my estimable friend Brown, my warmest congratulations on his *duplication* and I sincerely hope the little fellow may inherit all the beauty of his mother the goodness of his father, the intelligence of his Uncle, and the immortality of the blessed—

I hope Williams' little daughter will not put my little friend *Vic's* nose out-of-joint, as the saying is— Remember me to Williams and his wife—

Your letter has releived my mind of one very serious bother, for I have suffered more inquietude concerning my little debt to friend Buckner than it was worth— I am truly pleased to hear that the Empresario has got into vogue with the sovereigns and the more so because I Know how unpleasant it is to be subject even to the malicious and gratuitous censures of the stupid the vile and the unjust— and I hope, as he has acquired, so he will preserve his popularity with the mutation . . . [Torn off]

I expect most confi[dently] to be in Nacogdoches early in the fall— Milam and myself are endeavoring to form a company for colonization and *mining* purposes—and have a very fair prospect of Success—in getting the company—

I have not time to write to League without hazarding the loss of the present very favorable oppʸ— Be good enough to tell him—if he has any Surplus funds of mine, to transmit them by the first good oppʸ to my friend James Loccard Com. Mercht at New Orleans and to request Loccard to remit them to me at this place provided they reach him by the first of October— Remember me to all friends— May God bless you and give you prosperity here, and eternal felicity hereafter—

DAVID G. BURNET [Rubric.]

I have not heard from Fullerton, directly, in a long time—he is still at Chillicothe—

JAMES F. PERRY TO AUSTIN

Potosi Mo July 19 1829

DEAR FRIENDS

We have been waiting with anxiety to receive a line from You we have not had a letter from either you or Brown since last November

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since we have directed our letters by the way of New Orleans we dont know wheather you receive them as we have wrote several to which we have not rec[d] answers from Information from Judge Carr and from other reports we been flatering ourselves with a visit from you the ensueing fall we would be all verry much rejoiced to see you in Missouri once more. I wrote to you sometime since respecting a claim of your Fathers in Wyth Co. Va I Rec[d] two letters lately on the subject one from a James Graham who wishes to purchase it the other from a Mr James M[c]Garock an old acquantance of E Bates to whom I wrote on the subject he states there is a claim of 2000 acres which he says is worth 500$ and would have been worth 1000$ if the Timber had not been cut off by the Neighbours Graham offers 500$ for the land just for our quit claim Deed togather with a Power to sue for Damages don on the premicies if you visit this Country this fall perhaps by going to see it it may be worth more or if you dont visit this country soon perhaps it might be best to sell it for what it will bring as there is Iron works near it and they are destroying the timber I intend writing to Mr M[c]Garock to take care of it I dont wish to sell our interest in it unless you and Brown sell for if we sell our Interest it will give the person who purchases it a licence to strip the land of Timber and render [it] worth nothing let me know soon what is best to be don.

On the 23[d] July 1827 I enclosed to you a note on Bartlet Sims in favr of Alfred Lougraben (?) for $798.61. dated 16[th] augt 1803 which you have never acknoledged the rec[t] of please say whether you have rec[d] it or not and if you have what prospect there is to collect it as he has enquired of me about it. I also promised to enquire of you for Capt John Hutching what the prospect would be for him to collect a debt which Capt Bell owed him. if you think he can collect it he will go on to your Country for that purpose I beleave you know all about the transaction between Bell and Hutching it was money Hutchings paid for him as his security and if he is worth it he should pay the debt. it amounts to about $1000. business at the Mines has become verry dull the Fever River Mines has stocked the market Lead is now only worth $2.50 at the river our firm has lost very considerably in the fall of lead the last year we have made and have Materials on hands to make in all about 1.200.000 [lbs] on which we will loose from 50c to 2$ per 100 at the present prices which will make us considerable looses after all the profits of smelting and the Sale of Me[d]z [merchandise] in payment for the min[e] Lands are not considered so valuable in M[o] as they ware a few years ago. I have nothing more to add Emily will fill up the

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balance My best respects to Brown and his Lady and except my best wishes for your self

JAMES F. PERRY [Rubric]

DEAR BROTHER'S AND SISTER—

I take Mr Perrys place at the desk to add a few lines, and to thank My Dear Sister for her welcom Epistle which I received a few weeks ago, and O! how happy would I be could I but clasp my Dear little Nephew to my bosom may he continue to grow and thrive, and become every thing his fond Parents could wish *is the* sincear prayer of his Aunt— I should like very much to know what you and Sir James are thinking about, not a line have I received from eather of you since last November, Your letters I expect have been lost, we do not hear from you as frequently now, as when we directed by the way of Nathetoch [Natchitoches]; I have been flattering myself all summer with the pleasure of seeing you this Fall; but shall not look for you untill I see you; our Friends and relations are all well I had a visit from Adeline, last week, tell Brown that if he was still *Single* he might now entrap the Young widdow she looks remarkably well, and is quit lively— the Children are all well, your namesake says that he wants to see Uncle Stephen he must come and bring him a Spanish Horse; if Brown should want a *clerk*, Austin will Shortly be cabable to Fill that office;

E M. PERRY

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F Austin San Filipi D Austin Rio Brasas Texes—To the care of Mr Masil White Merchant New Orleans

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RAMON MUSQUIZ TO GOVERNOR [1]

EXMO. SOR. Dirijo á las superiores manos de V. E. dos comunicaciones originales del Sor. com^te^ Pral. de este Dep^to^ en las q^e^ me trascrive una del Sor. Com^te^ Gral. de estos Estados q^e^ contiene la noticia de una espedicion española q^e^ salio dela Habana con direcsion á las costas de nuestra republica y la otra comprende las q^e^ comunica el com^te^ militar dela frontera de Nacog. relativas á los temores q^e^ le asisten por q^e^ el Gob^no^ de los Est^s^ Unidos del Norte de America ha aumentado la guarnicion del Fuerte de Savinas hasta con el n^o^ de 700 hombres, por q^e^ los estrangeros q^e^ hay establecidos en el territorio de este Departam^to^ desde Atoyac hasta el propio Savinas se ocupan la organizacion y nombram^to^ de oficiales de milicias por el infeliz estado en que se halla la tropa dela guarnicion de su mando con motivo de faltarle los socorros necesarios en una dilatada seria de tiempo, y finalm^te^ por las demas ocurencias que me comunicó en carta particular q^e^ tuve el honor de dirigir a V. E. con oficio n^o^.

[1] From Political Chief's Blotter, Bexar archives.

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129 de 22. de Junio pp^co^ en el cual hago una demonstracion circunstanciada dela insinificante fuerza de esta guarnicion; y como las causas que la hán reducido á semejante estado continuan en el mismo rigor, es ebidente el peligro á q^e^ queda espuesto este Dep^to^ si oportunam^te^ nose guarnese con competente n^o^ de tropa disiplinada, socorida vien y provista de todos los hutiles indispensables de voca y guerra, sin cuyos aucilios no podrá por este punto conservase la integridad del teritorio dela republica y los encargados de su seguridad siempre se les presentaran compromisos de mucha responsavilidad. Dios &^a^. Bejar 19. de Julio de 1829.

[Ramon Musquiz]

E. S. G. del Estado de Coah^a^. y Tejas.

Francisco Ruiz to Austin

Bejar 23. de Julio de 1829.

Ciud^o^ Estevan Austin

Mi apreciable amigo. Con el mayor placer recivi su grata de V. 13. del corr^te^ la qe. me deja impuesto de esperar pr. el pro. correo el mapa de Tejas p^a^ nuestro amigo Ahumada, pr. lo qe. doi á V. las gracias.

En su ya citada me pide le diga como bán los asuntos de Mexico etc no me atrevo a entrar dandole razon en materia tan delicada y qe. poco entiendo, p^a^ V. me conoce qe. soi mui escaso en materias politicas, con todo diré á V. qe. en mi concepto no falta el aspirantismo, etc quiera desaparecer este mal qe. nos perjudica mucho; respecto al articulo sobre esclavos nada se dice y no dudo se halla olvidado, p^a^ parece qe. en la Legislatura de nuestro Estado no faltan disgustos, y no ban muy acordes las opiniones de los Legisladores ni menos la del gobierno, en fin yo no entiendo nada pero me parece qe., no se qe. decir, el tiempo nos dirá, ami nada me agrada delas actuales circunstancias sino mejoran de aspecto.

Por lo qe. es relativo ala campaña contra los Yndios en el otoño, meparece seria mui buena á no pulsarse algunos obstaculos qe. en mi concepto no permiten se verifique, yo los he manifestado conforme mi opinion, y creo se suspende la campaña, pues cansaria á V. si quisiese referirle los incombenientes qe. pulso p^a^ ello, siendo entre otros muchos el de la voz metalica *dinero dinero dinero* qe. del todo ha desaparecido, enterminos qe. el credito se ha perdido, en resumen no acabaria si quisiera con la pluma decir todo lo qe. me ocurre, los tahuacan^a^ creo seguiran de paz.

En cuanto ala emigracion delos Barvaros del Norte, mucho he dicho, y al gobierno mismo ó pr. mejor decir al Com^te^ Gral. de estos

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Estados en repetidas vezes le he manifestado mi opinion, la qe. és de qe. si nó mui pronto, alg^{n} dia nos ban á ser perjudiciales tantas tribus, y mucho mas si se relacionan como es de esperarse con las qe. hai en este Departam^{to} pero amigo mio el mal, ami entender está en el higado, y solo morir (como dicen alg^{s}) es remedio, creo qe. mui tarde conoserá nuestro Gob^{no} este mal y quisa cuando no tenga remedio, pudiendo haberse cortado oportunam^{te}; concluyo pr. qe. no se donde boi á para con mis disparates, quisa en otra mi cabeza estará mejor, p^{a} escrivir

Dignese V. dar mis salud^{s} mui afectosas al Sor. su hermo. y D. Samuel,

Fran^{co} Ruiz[1] [Rubric]

Austin to José Antonio Navarro

Villa de Austin 23. de Julio 1829

Sor. D. Jose Ant^{o} Navarro

Mi spre Estimado Amigo. Por este correo remito al Ay^{to} de esa, copia de mi mapa original de Texas. En echar los ojos sobre sus rios, arroyos, tierras fertiles, pastos abundantes, Bahias y puertos, me duele el espiritu que un pais tan rico en recursos seria tan despoblado, y aun tan espuesto como esta en el dia de retroceder, y de caer en las garras de los barbaros, en lugar de reposarse con felicidad en los brazos de la civilizacion.

Tal vez se dira que mis temores (ecsplicados en las notas que acompañan al mapa) son ecsagerados: los qe. dicen asi debe acordarse que yo naci en el norte y fui criado en la vecindad de parte de los indios de que hago mencion, y que conosco el caracter genio y numero de todos ellos, y que mi conocim^{to} del idioma Yngles y del caracter del Gob^{no} del norte, mi proporcione data para formar una opinion sobre este asunto. Es positiva que aquel Gob^{no} va a forzar todos los indios del oriente al poniente del misisipi, no con sentim^{tos} hostiles contra Mexico, ni con miras injustas con respecto a su frontera ó territorio. Sino por la razon que la ecsperiencia ha demostrado que no se puede sugetar ni contener dhos indios en la vecindad de gente civilizada ni hacer ciudadanos utiles de ellos.

La administracion del Presidente Jackson esta caracterizada por la energia. Las medidas tomadas con respecto a la mudanza de los indios son terminantes. han de mudar este otoño y como paso preparatorio se ha reforzado todos los questos militares del Rio Rojo, Arkansas y Misuri.

He remitido una copia de mi mapa al Presidente por conducto del Gefe del Departam^{to} Gob^{or} del Estado y Ministro de Hacienda. He

[1] Ruis was a colonel commanding at Bexar.

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remitido el mapa por este conducto para dar lugar al Gefe y Gob^or hacer las observaciones que les ocurra. Opino que resultaria mucho beneficio a Texas si se publique el mapa en Mexico. Se puede vender las copias con estimacion y de este modo costear el importe de grabarle Si acaso V y los otros principales de Bexar opinan que el mapa merece ser publicado y que algun beneficio resultaria a Texas de su publicacion. Sus recomendaciones al efecto a Zavala tendrán todo influjo, porqe. V. V. son habitantes de Texas y son jueces competentes si el mapa es ecsacta ó si es todo error

Me ha costado muchissimo trabajo el formar este mapa—es todo original con el ecsepcion de las observaciones del Sor Teran—no hubo mapa ni plan de Texas que me sirvio de guia—es toda obra mia, y bien puede V imaginar las dificultades que empiden el adquirir data ecsacta de un pais tan estensivo y tan despoblado como esta Texas. El Gob^no me ha dispensado su confianza y he recibido la hospitalidad de los Mexicanos, y es un deber de mi parte, qe. considero sagrado, contribuir en cuanto puedo al adelanto y servicio de esta mi patria adoptiva, y si sirva algo mi mapa para dar conocimiento de la geografia de Texas y de la frontera, yo estaré bien pagado, porque mi objeto es servir a Texas y al Gob^no. He dedicado mi vida a Texas, a su adelanto y prosperidad. Ya han corrido siete años desde emprendi la obra dificil y penosa de poblar sus despoblados y si no he hecho mas progreso se debe atribuirlo a los grandes embarazos que impidieron el traher familias a estos despoblados lejanos, en las circunstancias criticas en que yo comence mi colonia en 1821

No puede progresar Texas con la restriccion del articulo 13 de la constitucion y opino que se debe presentar una proposicion en Septiembre para suspender aquel articulo por diez años

Si la mayoria opinan que se puede suspender este articulo sin correr los tramites que previene la constitucion [1]—bien—que lo haga—como hicieron en el asunto del consejo etc.[2] Yo por mi parte digo con franqueza que apruebo el voto de V y madero y sus compañeros contra aquella medida. La constitucion debe ser sagrada spre. Sin embargo " salvar la patria es ley suprema " y si se pierde Texas con la demorra necesario para enmendar la constitucion, tal vez, la Le-

[1] The method of amending the constitution was prescribed in articles 221–224 of that document—Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 452. Briefly, amendments proposed and signed by one-third of the members of the legislature could be read and printed (or, presumably, rejected) for circulation by the legislature, together with the reasons of the proponents. The next legislature might discuss and pass the amendment. It must then be read at the electoral assemblies which elected deputies to the next legislature. These deputies, elected under such circumstances, could finally adopt the amendment. Thus three different legislative bodies participated in the passage, and the term of each was two years.

[2] For this incident see Padilla to Austin, May 5, 1828, and Navarro to Austin, May 17, 1828. The legislature had on Apr. 17, 1828, passed Decree No. 50, in effect amending the constitution without going through the prescribed process.

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gislatura seria justificada en salir de la senda constitucional, pero es spre muy peligroso estraviarse de aquella senda sagrada. Lo que puede hacer es anular la ley 18 y su companero del año 1827.

Haga me el favor de presentar mis memorias al Sor Campos cuando V. le escribi, y presentarme a su Sra Madre y a toda la familia.

Los indios Aynais estan todos aqui molestando me con quejas contra los Kicapu que dicen han tomado su pais, y aunqe. no ha habido hostilidades abiertas parece que estos indios son en cierto modo fugitivos y son mendicantes y muy escaso de viveres

Su amigo

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO RAMON MUSQUIZ AND LORENZO DE ZAVALA

Al Gefe presentando mi mapa al Ay^to^ de Bexar

Tengo el honor de presentar por conducto de V. S al Ilustre Ay^to^ de la ciudad de Bexar Copia de mi mapa original de Texas acompanado de algunas notas. He dedicado mucho trabajo en formarle no hubo mapa ni plan de Texas que me sirvio de guia y si no ésta ecsacta en lo menudo se ha de atribuirlo alas muchas dificultades que impiden el adquirir data de un pais tan estencivo y despoblado como Texas

Mi objeto ha sido añadir al fondo de conocim^to^ geografico del territorio Mexicano, y de presentar nuestro amado Texas á los Mexicanos y al mundo tal cual como esta, porque ha sido sumergido en la obscuridad por siglos, y aun esta todavia muy desconocido me aprovecho de la ocasion p^a^ espresar mi alta consideracion para V. S. y para el Ilustre Ay^o^ de esa capital

Dios y Lib.

23 de Julio 1829.

Al ministro de Hacienda Lorenzo Zavala remitiendo mi mapa al Presidente

Con esta fecha he remitido mi mapa original de Texas al Sor Gefe del Dep^to^ de Bexar acompañado de un oficio qe es a la letra como sigue.

" Remito al Exmo Sor Gob^or^ del Estado por conducto de V. S. mi mapa original de Texas acompañado de algunas notas para ser elevado por el Gob^or^ al Exmo. Sor Presidente por conducto del Exmo Sor Ministro de Hacienda D Lorenzo Zavala aquien he participado haber remitido el mapa pr. los conductos indicados.

" He dedicado mucho trabajo en formar este mapa, es todo original con la ecsepcion de las observaciones del Exmo Sor Teran notadas al pie del Mapa, no hubo mapa, ni plan de Texas que me servio de de guia y si no esta ecsacta en lo menudo se ha de atribuirlo á las infini-

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tas dificultades que impiden el adquirir data de un pais tan estendido y despoblado como esta Texas. Puedo recomendar el mapa por ecsactitud gral, y creo que la parte meridional y la colindante con Luisiana y Arkansas esta muy ecsacta en lo menudo. Puede haber unos equivocos pequeños en las cabezeras de los Brazos y Trinidad por ser muy dificil conseguir data de aquellos paises lejanos y desconocidos.

"Hago este servicio a mi patria adoptada en obsequio del deber de un ciudadano, y si acaso el Exmo Sor Presidente estimase a bien mandar grabar y publicar el mapa, cedo al Gob^no^ Nacional, al efecto, todo derecho al mapa que me corresponde por las leyes como su Autor"

Lo que participo a V. E. suplicando se sirva ponerlo en conocim^to^ del Exmo Sor Presidente.

Debo decir que se saco una copia de este mapa en Yngles el mes pasado con intencion de publicarlo en Felidelfia pero desde entonces he hecho muchas adiciones al mapa y la copia que ahora remito es mas completa qe. el qe. se saco en Yngles Mi objeto ha sido añadir al fondo de conocim^to^ geografico del territorio Mexicano y de presentar Texas a los Mexicanos y al mundo tal cual como esta porqe. ha sido sumergido en la obscuridad por siglos y aun esta muy desconocido— Suplico que me permite V. E. aprovecharme de la ocasion p^a^ elevar al Exmo Sor Pres^te^ y á V. E. mi mas profundo respecto y consideracion.

D y L. villa de Austin 23 de Julio 1829

E F. A

AUSTIN'S NOTES ON HIS MAP OF TEXAS

Notas para acompañar el Mapa de Texas,

Todas las entradas en las Bahias y Rios de Texas varian la profundidad del agua sobre sus barras con la ecsepcion de Galveston y Matagorda que son permanentes No hay cerros en Tejas son todos lomorillos, los del San Saba son los mas altos. El pais desde Trinidad al Oriente abunda en buenas maderas de pinos sabinas y Encinos, entre trinidad y el Rio de St. Antonio no son tan abundantes las maderas, y al poniente de este rio se escasean mucho.

Se necesitan dos aduanas principales en Texas, una en Galveston, y otra en Matagorda y una receptoria Maritima ó aduana en el rio de los Brazos, porque lo mas del comercio de la jurisdiccion de Austin ha de tener su entrada y salida por este rio, y en el dia no se usa de otro puerto para la entrada de familias emigradas, y para el comercio indispensable de viveres y recursos, que las circumstancias del pais y su estado infantil de los establecim^tos^ requiere que se trahen de Orleans, Y prohibir ó embarazar este Comercio ahora seria atrasar el pais muchissimo

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En el ano 1821 cuando el Empresario Austin comensó su establecimt^o^ la poblacion de Texas fue limitada ecsclusivamt^e^ a Bexar y La Bahia, ahora Goliad, y no ecsedio 2500 almas. Nacogdoches y todos los ranchos de su vecindad fueron enteramt^e^ abandonados y todo el pais desde el Rio Sabinas hasta Bexar infestado de indios bravos. En el dia los nuevos establecimientos florecen, particularmt^e^ de Austin que fue el primero y el padre de todos los demas, y Bexar y Goliad han aumentado considerablemente. Pero sin embargo de esto, Texas y la frontera de los Estados Colindantes esta mas espuesta en el dia a los indios que nunca. Ha habido gran emigracion por dos años de los Kicapu (Sabano) Shawnee Delues, Quapas y otros del norte, y es de temer con fundamt^o^ que los mas de los millones de salvages que la politica del Gob^no^ del norte esta forzando á los despoblados de Arkansas, se trasladarán a Texas, convidados por sus tierras aguas y temperamento que tanto ecseden á los llanos secos y esteriles de Arkansas.

Sabemos por las tradiciones de los comanches que no son naturales de Texas sino emigrados del norte. Los indios qe. emigraren por lo futuro seran mas temibles que los comanches por ser mas acostumbrados al uso de armas, y por haber aprendido por la ecsperiencia que su seguridad y aun ecsistencia futura depende en la union entre si.

La trasladacion de indios del oriente al occidente del misisipi no es supuesta, ni idea teoretica, es posetiva, como qualquier puede satisfacerse en echar los ojos sobre las actas del Gob^no^ del norte publicadas en las Gazetas, y el otoño venidero vera la frontera de Texas cubierta de ellos

Sabemos que los Comanches bajan muchas veces de las cabezeras de los Brazos huyendo de las incursciones de los Osages tribu debil en comparacion de los que ahora vienen, y para salvarse de estos ultimos buscarán un asilo en Bexar, en la Bahia en los nuevos establecimt^os^ sobre los margenes del Rio Grande, al rededor de nuestras casas y huertas, y alli se mantendran en viveres, de los productos de nuestras labores, y de los, del Ganado y bienes de campo. Los comanches han de huir delante de estos nuevos guerreros del norte, y en su fuga cairán sobre los habitantes de Texas y del rio Grande cual las langostas que devoraron a Egipto. ó cual los primeros partidos de Godos que desolaron á las provincias Romanas, y tras de ellos seguiran los nuevos venidos, cual los vice Godos para burlarse de los escombros y sentarse en el pais; ó de otra parte, si se forma una union y liga entre los indios naturales de Texas, y los nuevos venidos, será peor.

La politica declarada del Gobno. del norte es mudar todos los indios del oriente al occidente del misisipi desde Michigan hasta el Seno Mexicano. Los Kicapu son de los margines de la laguna

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Michigan en la parte boreal del Estado de Illinois. Los Sabano (shawnee) son de la parte boreal de Indiana, Los Cherokee son de Tennessee, Alabama, y Georgia. los Chactas y chicosas son del Estado de Misisipi, Los moscogués, inclusivos las tribus de los creeks y seminoles, son de Georgia Alabama y Florida. Es ilusoria la idea que se puede contener los, ó hacer ciudadanos utiles de ellos en el caso de su irrupcion dentro del territorio Mexicano, ni tampoco es de esperar que quedarán quietos en sus nuevos domicilios y si entran en Texas en su estado actual, sera perdido el pais a la civilizacion por siglos, y sus habitantes entregados al cuchillo.

¿Que modo hay para salvar a la frontera del rio Grande, y á Texas, a esta joya preciosa que ha sido sumergido por siglos en la obscuridad y que la mano emprendedora de las instituciones libres esta ahora en el acto de presentar á la luz? Hay un modo que es cierto y efectivo, que es fomentar la emigracion de gente civilizada y de proporciones, y formar Texas en Estado de la federacion Mexicana lo mas pronto que sea posible. Los civicos de Texas contendran á los indios, y protegerán a toda la frontera del rio Grande sin costo ninguno al Gob^no^.

Basta una ojiada sobre el mapa de Texas para satisfacer a qualquiera que la seguridad de los Estados de Chihuahua. Quahuila y Tamaulipas, y aun de nuevo Leon y Nuevo Mexico depende enteram^te^ en tener una poblacion densa y fuerte en Texas, á fin de limpiar el pais de los indios, ó de contenerlos, y tambien se sirvirá a la causa de la humanidad con respecto a los mismos indios, porque estos mirando que no les queda otro recurso sino en la agricultura, abandonaran sus vidas ambulantes y se estableceran como agricultores en pueblos permanentes, y asi se salvaran de la ecsterminacion; lo que nunca harán mientras que les quedan paises ecstensivos y despoblados en que seguir la caza, y refugiarse despues de sus incurciones ladronicias.

¿Que es Texas ahora, con respecto á la nacion Mexicana, o al Estado a que pertenece? Es un peso muerte, un gasto inmenso, sin utilidad ninguna. ¿Que seria Texas bien poblado?—seria uno de los Estados mas utiles de la nacion Mexicana, sea con respecto á la proteccion que proporcionará a una frontera interna inmensa ahora abandonada a los barbaros, ó sea con respecto a los derechos que contribuyria a la hacienda nacional, y la fuerza fisica que añaderia a la masa de la nacion. La politica, la razon, la humanidad, pues, todas, demandan que se fomenta la poblacion civilizada de Texas, y que se le erije en Estado de la federacion Mexicana lo mas pronto que sea posible.

Texas pertenece a Mexico por derecho, y por la misma naturaleza de su localidad geografica, de sus intereses comerciales, y de sus productos. Los principales de estos han de ser viveres, en carnes, mantecas, granos y legumbres, Algodon, Azucar, y Tabaco, y ma-

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deras y tablas etc. y los productos de las manufacturas que se establecieren de algodon lana, agua ardiente y en caballos y mulas etc. De todos estos no hay, ni nunca puede haber mercado en los Estados del norte para ningunos, con la sola ecsepcion de azucar caballos y mulas—por el primero habra mercado en el norte de Europa y en las islas por los caballos y mulos. El comercio de Texas pues, no será, ni debe ser, con los Estados Unidos del Norte sino con los Estados colindantes y maritimos Mexicanos, y con las Islas, y Europa; y de conseguiente es, y spre será el interes de Texas unirse con Mexico sea cual fuese el origin de su poblacion, con tal que son gentes civilizadas, y ilustradas y emprendedoras, porque separandose perderia la parte mas productivo y seguro de su comercio, la, con los Estados Mexicanos, y de otra parte no ganaria privilegios equivalentes en los otros ramos de su comercio que no serian igualmente protegidos bajo la federacion Mexicana como bajo cualquier otro Gob^{no} suponiendo spre que el Gob^{no} Mexicano se establece permanente y quieto, y que adquiere el respecto é influjo con las demas naciones que merece por su ecstencion y recursos

Siento pues por postulados politicos incontravertibles que es la politica nacional, y la particular del Estado de Quahuila y Texas, fomentar la poblacion de Texas, y formarle en Estado lo mas pronto que sea posible. Para hacer esto es presiso conceder á los Emigrados el previlegio de traher sus negros Esclavos y de usar y tener los aqui como esclavos. Si repugnese la humanidad a esta idea contesto que es servir á la causa de la humanidad, de una parte en salvar a este pais y sus habitantes de los barbaros, y en accelerar la epoca de la civilizacion de estos infelices hijos del suelo Americano, estrechando, les por grados a dedicarse á la agricultura como antes ecsplicado. y de otra parte es servir a la causa de la humanidad con respecto á los mismos negros esclavos, porque no son esclavos de Africa que se debe admitir, sino los que nacieron en este estado en los paises de donde vinieron los emigrados á Texas, y la suerte de estos seria mejorada en mudar á este pais nuevo, donde habra abundancia de viveres y se mejorará la suerte de sus descendientes por leyes sabias y apropositas.

Igualm^{te} se debe dejar libre el comercio infantil de Texas por algunos años, para no embarasar su progreso y aumento rapido, y este aumento repagaria triple a la Hacienda el estipendio miserable que pudo cobrarse del comercio corto de Texas ahora. En pocos años el comercio de Nuevo mexico chihuahua y Sonora que ahora sale por el misuri debe concentrarse todo en Matagorda, ó en Bexar. Basta una ojiada sobre el mapa de Texas para demostrar que el puerto designado por la situacion geografica de aquellos paises, para su comercio es Matagorda. La distancia de este puerto a Santa Fé

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en nuevo Mexico, es menos que del mismo Santa Fé á San Luis del Misuri. el camino de Matagorda sera mucho mejor qe. el otro. Saliendo de Bexar se pasa por las cabezeras del colorado y por las del rio Puerco a Nuevo Mexico sin tener que pasar cerros ó pais escaso de agua ó pastos. Desde las cabezeras del colorado la distancia no seria mucha el Paso del norte y de alli se coja el camino á Chihuahua. Y amas de ser mas cerca, se compraria las mercancias en Matagorda (suponiendo poblado el pais y en corriente su comercio) a menos precio que en San Luis del Misuri porque el uno seria puerto de mar, y el otro es quinientas leguas al interior del puerto de orleans que es el mas cercano. Otro beneficio importantissimo que resultaria de poblar Texas y de la direccion por este modo, del comercio de Chihuahua y Nuevo Mexico a Matagorda, será, que los costos y gastos del flete y de la trasportacion de las mercancias serian todos espendidos dentro del territorio Mexicano y a los ciudadanos Mexicanos, dando empleo de este modo á los arrieros y careteros de Texas, chihuahua y Nuevo Mexico. En el dia los habitantes de Misuri reciben todo este beneficio, cuando por la naturaleza del comercio y de las localidades pertenece a los mexicanos.

Hay millares de razones fundadas en favor del fomento de la poblacion de Texas y formarle en Estado lo mas pronto qe. sea posible—En fin Poblar Texas y erijirle en Estado, son Postulados Politicos incontravertibles. No se puebla Texas en 30 años sino es con barbaros, si no se admite la esclavitud de negros. La misma humanidad imperiosam^te^ demanda esta medida

villa de Austin 23 de Julio 1829

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric.]

J. M. VIESCA TO JAMES BAILEY

Saltillo, July 24, 1829.

See Calendar.

PATRICK AND LINDSAY CLOPPER TO AUSTIN

Harrisburgh 26 July 1829

DEAR SIR

When we left Sanfelepe a few days Since with [a] view of going to the U. S. for the purpo[se of] bringing out Men and means to prosecute [our] business in the fall,—we thought we took with us the good wishes of the good people of the Country,—and having (previously to leaving town appointed our friend [Walter] C. White our gen^l^ agent with means [to] liquidate and Settle any just claim that might remain against us, and having given the alcalde notice

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of this in writing and also Verbally assuring him that Mr W. C. White would settle for us any just claim without a Suit, we beged him not to issue in any case without first knowing from our agent to the contrary,— Now Sir mark the conduct of the officer, we had but Just got here, when S Miller appears with a process from the Alcalde for 15.00 in favr Scoby,—Miller was asked—did Walter C White Know of this? he answered No; and demanded Ten Dollars Milage when we Knew (through himself) that he was on other Business at Doctr Nuckolls, and Dobson and Lewis's place Hence we consider such charges grievous, oppressive and unjust, Knowing that the Law says when an officer is on duty to different persons the Milage shall be apportioned among them—and Knowing it to be the duty of the alcalde not to issue [process for] a person before he has proof that an [effort] or essay has been made to settle by compromise etc but our agent we are persuaided would have Satisfied Mr Scoby without a Suit,—it is painful to us dear Sir, to trouble you in this way knowing the multiplicity of your business Concerns, but [as] the Complaints agt the administration of Justice throughout the Colony are loud and numerous, and we have on all occasions used our best influence to quiet and pacefy the minds of the people advising always to make allowances and Judge with as much liberality as posible and try to Settle their differences at home, but a galled Horse Winces,—it is distressing and perplexing, and our minds are now devided about proceeding further in our Views and opperations, which are of too extensive a nature to be subjected to such regulations as we are now under; it is principally with this View, that we now address you, and ask your friendly advice and Candid opinion,— Shall we go on and trust and hope that those grievances will be removed, or shall we wind up and close and make the most we can of what we have,—there are numbers of our friends and acquaintances waiting our opinion on which depends their removal to the country or not [we ver]y seriously lame[nt] the present state [of] things,— pray [write] emedeately on rect of this, and Mr W. [C.] White will forward it on to Care [of] Dunlap—here, So that it will reach [us] without delay

CLOPPER'S PATRICK AND LINDSAY

[Addressed:] Col S F Austin Town of Austin

W. TAYLOR TO AUSTIN

Veracrus 28 July 1829

DEAR SIR

Various have been our fortunes since we met and parted in Mexico— You remember that this was then as it still is, my post,

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at which, I have ever since resided—Save occasionally a tour into the interior, or a trip to the States— I have heard of the progress of your Settlement which I consider to be too firmly rooted, to be easily or readily eradicated— I have not forgotten your invitation to me to settle in Texas— After which I have always had a kind of *hankering* my present *object* is to obtain a small grant of from Fifty to one hundred to embrace both sides of some water course, with due attention to soil, wood, and water, as I have a number of friends whom I could induce to move out, and who would form no inconsiderable acquisitions to your *infant* State—but I can do nothing— viz will attempt nothing without your *aid* and *advice*. What I would have you to do for me in this business is, to select Me tracts of country— draw the plot with the boundaries etc. and to furnish me with your advice as to the Measures to be taken by me in order to secure the Grant. All which, from your local Knowledge of the County, may be done in your office.

please write to me thru' Messrs Jas. W. Zackerie and Co N. orl^{s} as well as under Care to the Honorable J. R. Poinsett Env^{do} Extra^{ry} Min. Plen. de Los E. E. U. U. de America—Mexico provided thro' this latter channel I could expect to hear from you in any reasonable time— perhaps it were better to send both original and Dupl^{e} Via N. orl^{s}— my intention is to leave this part of Mexico next winter, and therefore am the more anxious to hear from you soon

W. Taylor [Rubric]

Gen^{l} Sant Ana who was gouvanor of the State of VeraCrus and Military Comand^{t} of the District is now here with about 2000 Troops in the expectation of being attacked by an expedition s^{d} to have recently left the Hav^{a} but that exped^{n} must be detined else where.

T

[Addressed:] Col^{o} Stephen Austin Austin Settlement Texas

Austin to Antonio Elosua

[From Bexar Archives]

Quedo impuesto por el oficio de V. S fecha 9 del presente mes que se ha suspendido por ahora la compañia contra los Indios Tahuasis de conformidad con la orden del Exmo Sor Com^{te} Gral que V. S. incierta.

Debo dar parte a V. S con respecto de estos indios que un vecino de esta llamado José Lial volvio hoy de los pueblos de los Tahuacanos y huecos y me dice que hace quince dias salio una partida de Tahuasis, Tahuacanos y huecos juntos a campañia contra los Tancahuas sobre

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el rio Guadalupe pero Lial opina de lo que supo en el pueblo que el verdadero objeto era robar de Bexar

Dios y Libertad

Villa de Austin 29 de Julio 1829

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric.]

Sor Com^{te} Pral de Armas de Coahuila y Texas Coronel Dn. Ant^{o} Elosua.

AUSTIN TO ISRAEL WATERS

Austin July 30. 1829

Mr ISRAEL WATERS.

SIR I have rec^{d} your letter of 23 int. together with a bottle of rum made by you at Mr. Martin Varners this is the first ardent spirits of any kind that was ever made in this colony, and I beleive it to be the first that was ever made in Texas. The distillery of rum from molasses is destined at no distant period to become a source of great wealth to this country, for besides supplying the home consumption, there will be a great and increasing surplus for exportation— As the first who has attempted to establish a branch of industry which must ultimately be the means of giving profitable imploy to thousands of hands and of drawing thousands of dollars into the country, Mr. Varner is certainly entitled to great credit for his entrprise—

Philanthropy cannot but weep at the incalculable mass of human misery and degradation which the use of ardent spirits heaps upon mankind, and were it possible to exclude it from our country for ever, the first who attempted to introduce it would be ranked by me on a level with the fiend who first introduced sin into the garden of Eden, but like sin, the use of spirits pervades the whole civilised world, (savages and barbarians are not sufficiently civilized to brutalise in this refined way) and Philanthopy has no consolation, other than that derivable from the hope that the sound judgement and moral rectitude of man will restrain the use of spirits to proper and safe limits.

I am therefore not displeased to see this branch of business commenced. Spirits will be imported and if not manufactured in the country, money will be sent out to import it, and it is better that the money which is thrown away by the drunken and worthless part of our citizens should go into the pockets of our own distillers, than into the pockets of foreigners

For these reasons I accept of the present of the bottle of Rum which you have sent me, and in return wish Mr Varner and yourself success and prosperity in your distillery

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

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HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Matamoros August 3d. 1829

Col. S F AUSTIN

MY DEAR SIR I have written to you repeatedly during the last three years by New Orleans, and from Vera Cruz by mail as I have not recd replys I suppose my letters have miscarried

I now avail my self of a direct opportunity to apprise you that I am here with a Steamboat and some goods for the purpose of ascending the River del norte to open a commercial intercourse with the interior if practicable and taking up land for future benefit— It is extreemly doubtfull whether the enterprise will result in success I shall however give some months attention to it and not leave this country in any event before fall. It will be some weeks before I can get ready to start from this and Should opportunity offer I should be pleased to hear from you

Your council after so much painfull experience would be valuable before leaving the US I laid before Govt a Memoir on the western boundary pointing out the advantages of an exchange of the territory west of the Rocky Mountains for the lands between the Del norte and the US giving the Mexican Govt one or two Millions to enduce the exchange—

Should a sure conveyance offer I will Send you a Copy— I think something will ultimately be done on the subject

do me the favor to let me hear from you and beleive me always truly your friend and cousin

HENRY AUSTIN

J. M. VIESCA TO AUSTIN

Saltillo August 6, 1829.

See Calendar.

J. E. B. AUSTIN TO EMILY M. PERRY[1]

New Orleans Augt 6th 1829

MY Dr SISTER.

I arrived at this place on the 4th inst in the Schooner Eclipse from the Colony which I left 6 days before. As the Steam Boat Missouri will leave this in the morning I could not let her depart without dropping a line to say that I am myself in good health, and Eliza was also well when I left home. She wrote to you not long since and as you have not yet answered it we presume you could not have

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry. The writer died of yellow fever on Aug. 17. (See Thompson to Austin, Aug. 19, 1829.)

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received it. I have one of the most interesting little boys in the world, and could you see him you would say so. the Colony is still progressing slowly, but sure. I should really like to see you and Mr Perry in Texas this fall and anticipate that we shall have that pleasure. Could you come and see us? I am not in a Situation to visit Missouri yet but intend doing so Ere long and shall take Eliza with me. Send us some Rose Roots this winter or fall and also, another collection of garden seeds. Brother is well and, getting *old fast*, he is however in good health and closing his business and perhaps may visit Missouri this fall— Remember me to Mr Perry and all old acquaintences—also dont let my Nephews and Neices forget Uncle Brown

J B Austin

[Addressed:] Mrs Emily M Perry Potosi Missouri

Aylett C. Buckner to Austin

Bernard 7th Agst 1829

Colo Austin

D Sir; Those to whom I have talked with relative to the claims You have against them for what may be owed on their lands consider it high time they were paid; But you know Where long indulgence is given and a long laps of time taken place without any demand a great many all most conclude the debt is paid. According to My opinion the most expeditious way of getting or collecting your claims would be to make a demand of each ones debt; if so those who are oweing Will begin to make preparations to discharge what they owe; You Know the nature of a great many for so long as they can get indulgence so long will they refrain from paying I am well apprised that there is very little money but if such property as they have will suit you at Cash valuation—I have but little doubt but most of them would pay— Any assistance I can give you in that way I will Cherfully do it I am thankful to you for having the error in the deed from Selkirk to Me rectified and whatever expences accruing from the same You will please let me Know— In consequence of the flys continueing so long I could not start as soon as I would but before long I will take the Mules due you to San Felipe de Austin Yours with Esteem

Ay. C. Buckner

In conversation with some I have taken the liberty of saying it would be better [to] pay as soon as possible otherwise they would perhaps be compelled to do it,—and with cost to the debtor (some require it)

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William F. Roberts to Austin

Potosi, Mo., August 7, 1829.

See Calendar.

Toler and Reynolds to Austin

Matamoros, August 9, 1829.

See Calendar.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

En atencion á qe. por no poseer nuestro idioma el ciudadano Alc^e^ y Ay^to^ de esa Villa no tienen la espedicion necesaria los diferentes asuntos qe. á esta Gefatura se le ofresen en esa Municipalidad, y en consideracion á qe. en las actuales circunstancias se requiere la mas biolenta y vigilante eficacia en todo cuanto ocurra, hé creydo dever en obsequio del mejor servicio y satisfecho del patriotismo qe. dignam^te^ tiene V. acreditado, recomendarle muy particularmente se sirva como lo espero auciliar con sus luces y conocim^tos^ á esas Autoridades en todos cuantos casos se les ofrescan, y principalm^te^ de encargarse llevar la correspondencia qe. en esta vez mas qe. nunca deve tener con esta Gefatura cuando se interesa nada menos qe. la seguridad y defensa de nuestras libertades patrias amenazadas delos españoles nuestros implacables enemigos; pues con esta fha. dirijo al Ciud^no^ Alc^e^ la comunicacion respectiva.

Dios y Libertad Bejar 12. de Ag^to^ de 1825. á las onse de la noche.

Ramon Musquiz [Rubric]

Ciud^no^ Cor^l^ de Milicia civica Estevan Austin

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar, August 12, 1829.

See Calendar.

Agreement Concerning a Mine

August 17, 1829.

See Calendar.

Austin to Zeno Phillips[1]

You will perceive by the enclosed printed proclamation of his Excellency the Governor and official letter of the Chief of Depart-

[1] From Texas State Library, Domestic Correspondence.

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ment, that the inveterate enemy of our republic has landed on the coast of Tamaulipas and that the Gov^{r} has ordered that the militia of the State should be placed in the best possible State for active operations. In cumplyance with this order I have directed the Captains to muster their respective companies with the least possible delay and inspect them and return to the first adjutant a full statement of their force arms etc.

Mr. Bakus of the Schooner Augusta who came into Galveston a few days since from Orleans, reports that he was boarded off the Mississippi by the boats of a Spanish frigate that had been dismas[ted;] in a storm off Tampico—this fact warns us that the enemy are near us, and some storm, or other circumstance may throw them onto our coast. Supposing that such a case is possible, I have directed Cap^{s} Baily and Sims to be watchful, and I must request that you should also be in readiness to repair to the coast at the first alarm and should an enemy appear, take such measures as circumstances may permit to prevent them from taking the stock of cattle horses, hogs, etc., which would be an important supply for them—and you will inform me by express of whatever may occur, and of the force and appearance of any enemy who may be discovered, and give me such or other information as you may deem important to the public service and to the security of the people of this jurisdiction.

God and Liberty

Town of Austin 18 Aug^{t} 1829

To Lieut

Zeno Phillips.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

H. D. THOMPSON TO AUSTIN

New Orleans August 19th 1829

RESPECTED SIR

It is a painefull task for me to Communicate the unwelcome tydings to you of the loss of so near and so dear a friend to you as well to his wife and famaley; though gods will—to take him from this troublesome wourld—we aught not to Repine—but hope for his greater happyness in the next the attachment I had for your brother J. B. ostin was not a little I Can ashure you—though we had not seen each other—since the year 1825—at the town of Matamores, when we became acquainted and was pritty much to geather—Boarded in one house, and spent our times simeler—another oppertunity afforded us a renewel of our acquaintence, though of but vary short duration several times I Called on board of the vessel

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to see him but each time found him absent and anxiously imployed in his buiseness—on tuesday, morning the 14 we by axident met each other in Charter. St—he being some what altered in the face than at the time we had last seen each other. I did not amediately Recognize him but he knew me at once in the Course of our Conversation he observed you had received a letter from me and would have written but for some thing that intervened; we was both glad to see each other it then being a bout a quarter past 6 a m. oClock and the weather being excessively hot—Mr ostin Capt[n] Harris and myself went in to Swansons Coffee house to take a meeting and friendly glass—we Done So.—parted and was soon to meet a gain—that evening was the time he lotted to Call at my house—to Consult on various subjects—one of which was that of the Brig Gen[l] Moralles—which I have Command of—but poor man that was our last interview—at a bout one oclock that Same day he was takeing with a pain at the pit of the stummac and a slight paine in the head, he had, complained in the morning while in Company with Capt[n] Hs and my self—of being a little unwell. I observed to him he ought to make use of a umberrela he replyed that he was acustome to being in the sun—and apprehended no danger. my not being acquainted of his being takeing down so ill—was the Cause of my not being with him in his last moments—which I would done Chearfully, Could but been of service I have no doubt but he Received every attention from Mr Williams. Mr Collens—and others belonging to the house of Mr Collens. Mcfarling was his phisition he hearetofore was varry fortunate with his patience I Cannot say wheather the time was not prolonged in Calling for medicle ade—

he expired on friday morning at three oClock and I am told without much agany or pain he was entered in a tumbe arected for him at five oClock P. M—and had a deasent funerel. his loss is much Regretted by all—that knew him I am well a waire my self I lost a friend—may heaven Rest his soul in peace—Comforte and provide for his esteemed wife and famoley whom is left behind to lement his death—

H. D. Thompson [Rubric]

Colonol. S. F. Austin—

P. S; I Received a letter Dated veracruze 31[st] of July. Stateing that Commodore David Porter was still in mexeco and that he was some what indisposed. Congres is to Convene—amediately. none of the spannish fleete has yet been seen of veracruze— several gunboates and some pecises of Cannon has been sent down to Campeachy— a Report sais that three thousand troopes had landed 15 leagues to the south of tampeco— now is the time to harvest if the mexecans would only grant Commicions for the sea is Covered with

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old spanyards and their property never Could there be a greater harvest Could there be Commissions for Privateers obtained. the Brig Gen[l] Marallas ought to been Cruizeing this 4 or 6 months past She Could not helped makeing a fortune for all hands how easy Could she picked up some of the transports. one that has arived hear with 500 troopes there would been no dificulty in Captoring the whole of them— they are now incamped at the english turn. it is saide weighting the arivle of Some armed vessel to take them off— the fever Rages hear vilently from the first to the eighth of this month there was 180 interments greater part of whome was Catholis and old Spanyards. 60 hours after they are takeing is about the time they last— the fever is Considdered to be of different tipe, to what has been heare to *fore* their is more shiping now in port than ever has been known at this season of the year before— two vessels arived from the Riogrand with Passengers and money one Reports that the St ana, Capt[n] potter was seen on the 6, inst—off the Brasses Sttiango standing to the S E. she sailed the day previous to them.— their is hourly expected some arivles from veracruwze, by which we Contemplate hearing some favourable tydings Relative to the Navy being fited out—

Colonal Ostin

Sir if I can in any way be of service to you hear you have ownly got to Command me,

H. D. Thompson [Rubric]

S. F. Osten Esqr
St Philipy. Osten Settlement
Provence. Texes Mexico

James Kennerly to Austin

Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis Mo—Augt 24, 1829

To Mr Steven Austin,

I am verry desireous of geting some information about the part of the world called Austin Settlement in Texas, The first inquerey is, the climate, the health of the Country and by what means accessable,

The Kind of population and number, the general persuits wheather Traders or agriculturealists, what produce is raised and is best adapted to the climate for exportation. The principal Towns and water courses, and the language most in use, I have for several years had a desire to visit the country with a view of settling with my family, I have some small means principally in negroes, with some merchandize, and would be glad to hear from you candidly on the subject and will feel greatfull for your immedeate reply, should it be favourable. I will visit your country this fall

Jas Kennerly

88370—28——17

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Austin to Ramon Musquiz

[From Bexar Archives]

Ympuesto del contenido del oficio de V. S. fecha 5 del presente mes relativo al trato q[e] hace el habitante John Williams con los Indios— he hecho entender al dho individuo que por ningun motivo debe comprar cavallarda ni tener trato de municiones ni armas, advertiendole que en el caso de resultar comprometido en qualquier trato ilicito ú otros procedim[tos] de mala tendencia con los indios debia esperar todo el rigor del castigo q[e] la ley le impone en semejantes casos

Lo q[e] comunico a V. S. en contestacion a su citado oficio

Dios y Libertad

villa de Austin 24 de Agosto 1829

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric.]

Sor Gefe del Depart[o] C. Ramon Muzquiz

Austin to Henry Austin [1]

Austin Augst. 27th 1829

My dear Sir—A traveler has just handed [me] yours dated at Matamoras 3d of this month, which I recd with great pleasure It has been a long time since I heard from you by letter. I recd. two Gins from Mr Coit of N. Orleans on your act. and lea[r]ned that you were about to engage in the navigation project on the Rio Del Norte

I should have written you to N york on that subject, but my information as to the time when you were to have started induced me to believe that you had already departed— I fear that the opinion you express that "it is extremely doubtful whether the enterprize will result in success" is but too well founded— I think you will find that river and country entirely unfit for steam navigation as it regards the river, I deem it to be far inferior as a navigable stream to our Brazos river of Texas, which is much smaller, but confined to a narrow bed, free from bars or shoals, and our freshets are of longer duration than in the Rio Grande—none of the rivers of this country are navigable above tide water except in time of floods and then the current is rapid. The Brazos on an average during the last seven years, could have been navigated with a boat of 80 tons to this place six months in the year—it is too narrow and the turns too sudden for large boats, There will be use for steam boats in Galveston Bay after a few years—tho I will

[1] From a copy made by Moses Austin Bryan, Aug. 20, 1844. The original is not available.

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defer saying any thing more on this subject until I meet with an opportunity to send you a rough map which I have made of Texas which will enable you to understand this matter better—

I have sent my map to T. F. Leaming of philadelphia (a distant relative by Mothers side) to have it engraved— It is accurate in the general, but cannot be minutely so because it has not all been compiled from actual survey As regards the country on the Rio Grande, so far as my information extends it is calculated entirely for pastoral purposes and can never be valuable as an agricultural section

The soil is rich and fertile, but the seasons are dry and so very irregular as to destroy every thing like certainty in crops, unless where there are facilities for irrigation, and those can only be obtained by means of machinery for raising the water out of the river— an expedient which would be expensive and I think inadequate— tho many have had it in contemplation, as I have been told, to use steam for this purpose—

Should the temperature of that climate, and the peculiar[ities] of the soil be well adapted to coffee, a plantation would doubtless justify the expense of an engine to supply water for irrigation— Your observation in all quarters of the world, will enable you to form a much more correct opinion as to this, than any one who has ever visited there.

You say nothing in your letter of the fur business. tho I have understood that the privilege of trapping is also granted— My information on this point is limited and contradictory. Some have assured me that the Rio Puerco (an eastern branch of rio Grande) afforded as fine a trapping region as any of the missouri waters— this river has also been represented as affording large bodies of rich and heavily timbered land well watered and seasons regular— Such is the account which some have given— Others say quite the reverse— That section is but little known and I presume the contradictory statements may have originated in partial views of it— One would cross the river where the country was good and beaver sign plenty, and another would pass it at a place where the appearance was unfavorable and each would form a general opinion of the whole from what he saw— Beaver is very scarce on all the waters of the Colorado, Brazos, Trinity and other rivers of Texas— There is, no doubt a fine trapping country north of Santa Fe— I am not of opinion that Mexicans or Indians can be advantageously used as trappers—the latter are prefectly barborous, and faithless and have no idea of hunting for the skins or peltry— A party of Mexicans once trained to the business would be valuable and usefull, but it would require much care and some time to train them, In general their enterprise is not of that daring and inflexible character neces-

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sary to penetrate deserts and brave the dangers and hardships incident to the beaver trappers life—

As regards lands for future benefit, I am decidedly of opinion that one league of land well situated in Texas will be worth more than ten on the rio Grande— The Sun and moon are not more dissimilar than the two countries in point of soil, productiveness, timber, water etc— Our climate it is true will not admit of tropical productions to any valuable extent— The *population* of the two sections will cause a difference in the value of land even were there no other reason for it— I have not examined the country on rio Grande below Laredo and am therefore perhaps not a competent judge above that place I know of no land that is worth having except for pasture, and that is common to the whole country from there to Sabine— The Gen[l] land commissioner will be on here next month, and the most valuable part of the lands remaining vacant round Galveston and Matagorda bays will probably be disposed of during the winter and spring— If you could pay me a visit and take a look at this country I think you might see some openings—tho by the laws of this state no land can be granted except to actual settlers on an actual removal to the country— I have had it in contemplation to try and form a company for the purpose of manufacturing cotton. I think a charter could be obtained with the privilege of holding real estate—in that way foreigners by becoming stockholders might get a landed interest, the business if properly managed would be profitable— Should your affairs lead you into the state of Coahuila and Texas and you should have any occasion to apply to Govt. I may perhaps be of assistance to you— This Govt. has placed considerable confidence in me and I believe my standing with them is good— Let me know without reserve how I can serve you and I will do it if in my power— If you come here you will find me living in a log cabbin—a bachellors life—poor as to active means—no comforts around me—rather soured with the world—laboriou[s]ly engaged to serve my settlers who do not thank me for the care and labor they cost me— when I began this enterprize my ambition was to succeed in forming a flourishing settlement of North Americans, and I sacrificed pecuniary considerations to that object— I shall succeed fully as to the main object and benefit a great many, but no great pecuniary benefit will result to me: I shall not live long enough to enjoy it—

My brother lives on this river at Brazoria 60 miles by land below this place and 30 miles by water from the mouth of the river—on tide water—the bar is variable from 5 to 9 feet—his partner John Austin will probably be in Matamoras soon with a load of produce. Brother is married and has a son about 8 months old—he is now in N. Orleans with his schooner the Eclipse—

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There are fine situations on the waters of Galveston Bay for saw Mills—plenty of Pine, Oak, etc. some cyp[r]ess and cedar— I think lumber will be a good article to the mexican ports, and at this time land can be got well timbered— A steam saw mill is building on a tide water stream of Galveston Bay in my colony—all the machinery is out and the frame etc is ready to put up— It is building by the Harrises of Orleans—they go on slowly and are very short of funds—it is quite uncertain when it will be completed— My brother and John Austin own the best situation on any of the tide streams of that bay for the lumber business, but they have not capital to make use of it as yet— I have not been able to sell the Gins—they are not the right kind—perhaps they might be sold in that quarter—none but Carvers gins of the best kind will suit the cotton farmers here—they are at my Brothers in Brazoria—

If John Austin goes to Matamoras I will write again and I am very anxious to see a copy of the memorial you speak of and any information on that subject will be interesting to me I am truly your friend and relative and hope you will give my cabbin a passing call before you return to the U. S.

S F Austin

P. S.

I have it in contemplation to open a road direct from here to *Passo del Norte*, and Santa Fe, with a view to turn the trade which is now carried on to those places from Missouri, to the port of Galveston— Some examinations have already been made as to the practicability of a waggon road, and they are very satisfactory, as to the Santa Fe route, but there is doubt whether a suitable Gap in the mountains on Rio Puerco east of *El Paso*, can be found that will admit of a road to that place— Should you fit out any exploring or other parties to that region, I wish you would insert in their instructions to examine whether there is a practicable route through the mountains, East of *El Passo*, to the open prairies in the head of Colorado or Brazos of Texas— The whole trade of the chihuahua and sonora and New Mexico regions must ultimately enter in one of the ports of Texas, either Galveston or Matagorda—I prefer the former as a harbor and am of opinion that I could get authority to establish a town there, If so and your views incline this way I would join with you on equal terms—

John Austin is from Norwich Connecticut— What relation is that family of Austins to us—or is there any relationship? he is a very correct and persevering man—

Victor Blanco the Lieutenant Governor of Coahuila y Texas wished to purchase a gin last year, and he wrote me that several could be sold at Monclova and Santa Rosa also Ignacio Arispe of Saltillo I think might possibly buy one

Stephen F Austin

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Bill and Price List

Cotton Gin September 4th. 182[9]

Mr. Thomas Slaughter

To J. and J Austin _____ Dr.

To 1. Pen Knife		$. 75
" 1. Pair Ladies Shoes		1. 50
" pr. Ladies Stockings		1. 50
" 1. Doz. Whip Saw files	@	2. 50
" 1½ Yds Callico	@ 6/ [six bits]	1. 13
" 1 Coffee Mill		2. 50
" 1 Sett Nitting Needles		50
" ½ Doz Cups and Saucers		1. 00
" 16 lbs. Flour	@ 10	1. 60
" 8 lbs Sugar	@ 2/ [2 bits]	2. 00
" 10 " Coffee	@ 3/	3. 75
" Madrass Hankf		50
" 3 Bowls,	@ 2/ [2 bits]	75
6 Yds Domestic	4/	3. 00
1 Bottle Castor Oil	"	1. 50
1½ Quarts Whiskey		50
		$24. 98

Cash pd. Mckinstry	1. 00	
3½ bushels salt @ 3—	10. 00	
Cash	18. 00	
order to Cooper	5. 00	
order Richardson and Davis	7. 00	
Leather	3. 00	
	32. 50	
		32. 50
		$57. 48
Paid the Com[r]		40. 00
		97. 48

J. A. Padilla to Austin

Bexar, September 7, 1829.

See Calendar.

Thomas F. McKinney to Austin

Nacogdoches 9th Sept. 1829.

Col. S. F. Austin

Dr Sir having been absent when the last mail arrived I did not receive yours of the 26th of last month until two days since which accounts for my not replying immediately.

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I am some what asstonished at the idia of being in circulation a report that there was brewing in this section of Country any project against this Gov^t^ for I do assure you that so far as has come under my observation or inteligence there is not such a thing thought of.

As to Col. Piedras there is the strongest oposition among the people both Americans and Mexicans are imbittered against him and he is suspected strongly amongst us for being friendly to the Spanish invasion we are astonished to see his house crowded with men whose conduct has been censured and who have been banished from the Gov^t^ yet not with standing they find here a residence and protection we know him too well to think it proceeds from a phylanthropic or liberal disposition. he is aware of his standing and ready to say as frequently he has done that it is an unfriendly feeling towards the Gov^t^ when in reality it is nothing more than a just contempt for the baseness of his conduct it has been frequently threatened to mob or cane him if caught from under the immediate protection of the guard and there are many who I think would be gratified for him to declare his sentiments unfriendly to this Gov^t^ that they might fall upon him and punish him as he has long since deserved he endeavours to intimidate persons from oposing him by making examples of some who have had independence to do so.

The Ayish Byou settlers are perfectly disposed to sustain the present institutions it is true that they have been much decieved as respects their land titles by pompus stories which Bean has told them relative to his controling powers as empresario and Comisioner of the reserve Lands having been thus disappointed repeatedly they have perhaps been unmindful some of them that these were impositions of an individual and not of the Gov^t^ and expressed themselves in that way. It is a breach of confidence in me as I recieved my information of a confident of Bean and expressedly requested to Keep it a secret but in order to give you an idia of his excessive stupidity and vanity I must inform you that he has obtained permission to visit Mexico and the object of his visit is to have texas stricken of into a teritorial Gov^t^ and get to himself the appointment of Governor he also says that his plan is supported by G^l^ Terran this I can not believe however I know the Gen^l^ esteemed him as a good but ignorant man such a appointment I think would subject the Gov^t^ Justly to censure and Keep the people in disorder and confusion I here with inclose you the copy of one of his letters to the Alcalde of Ayish Byou that you may have a distant idia of his presumption and the imposition which he practices upon those people which in my opinion has a great tendency to keep up confusion among them for he never says when any enquires are made of him that he does not

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know he in some way or other always gives positive relations of all things. The only official information which the Ayish people have received was a few days since from the Chief of Dept of Bexar in which the peaceful and useful citizens were permited to keep possession of the lands which they were cultivating and reside on this appeared to give rise to new life and vigor among them. I am clearly of opinion that confusion will prevail more or less though without oposition to the Govt until we have established at this place a Mexican as (Xefe de partido) who is an inteligent and virtuous man who will guard over the civil and military authorities of this quarter and keep them in their proper channel and to whom the Alcaldes could apply for instructions without danger of receiving unholsome counsel but as we are now situated we all Know every thing and in reality none know any thing no presedents no general rules established amongst us. such a man being established here nothing would be wanting to complete the happiness of the settlers on this earth except the arrival of the commissioner to give them titles to lands an oficer of the Govt to whom they could apply with confidence for necessary instructions who knew his duty and fulfilled his obligacions would readily settle down the local confusion which prevails among us which proceeds from no other cause except a want of a source upon which they can rely through which they could derive their legal instructions acording to the constitutional sistem of the State.—

The indians too have been much disapointed by Bean who to gratify his own vanity tells them many things which they find him uncapable of fulfilling and the Gen[l] song among them is that Bean lie heap and Bean lately(?) lower. the Shawnees have talked of going for some time to see a big man at St Antonio whc they say is a good man no lie and a good friend to the indians Ruis[1] I think If I was not decieved in him when he was here would be admirably calculated to suit this country and Ahumado[2] more especially however I suppose their connection with the Military would render it out of their power to have any thing to do with the civil jurisdiction. I have thus given you in my profuse manner my idias of things as they stand at present. If we had means and men to establish and support a respectable Govt independant of that of Mexico I am of opinion it would be satisfactory to many of the inhabitants to be Govourned by Americans but an idia of an attempt of that kind would be perfect madness while we stand in any thing like our presant situation and I am sure no man would move such a measure except one who had a thirst for being a great man in little things.

[1] Col. Francisco Ruiz, commanding the garrison at Bexar.

[2] Mateo Ahumada, commander of the troops which put down the Fredonian rebellion in 1827.

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I wish not to have made known Beans pretencions to the *Gubernatorial* Seat of the anticipated Territory of Texas as it is rather a breach of confidence in me devulging it however I should like to know if you think there could be any possibility of the Gov^{t} being duped by him in such a manner and if Gen^{l} Terran would possibly promote such schemes. Bean has also written an address to the people of Ayish Byou and informed them of his visit to Mexico tendering his services thanking former attentions and and has also made verbal requests of them to draw up a petition to him to represent them in Mexico though his scheme does not seem to take he is anxious in my opinion to get in his possession some document which will induce the Gov^{t} [to believe] that he has Standing among us which no Doubt fail. I did not receive the prospectus which you mention. I am happy to see the establishing of printing offices mongst us[1] and seriously hope how soon they may inform both the people of this and adjoining countries so that many existing evils may be eradicated and virtues planted and the good intentions of this Gov^{t} become universally realised by her citizens which under the present circumstances of imbecility and corruption must necessisarily be imposed upon. recieve the best wishes of Mrs. Mc Kinney and my self and believe me to be sincerly Your friend

THOMAS. F. MCKINNEY [Rubric]

Col S. F. Austin

JOHN AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Brazoria, September 10, 1829.

See Calendar.

THOMAS DAVIS TO RAMON MUSQUIZ

[From Bexar Archives]

MUNICIPALIDAD DE AUSTIN

En consequencia del Estado sumamente critico del Sor Coronel Austin al tiempo de la salida del correo passado, y como el dho Sor entonces era el unico apoyo con que pudiera contar este jusgado en la correspondencia fue motivo para que V. S. no recibio ning^{a} contestacion ó comunicacion de esta jurisdicion por el dho Correo Hasta la fecha queda el referido Señor de Austin prostrado en cama imobile é incapaz de hacer cualquiera cosa. mas por haber el Ciud^{o} Samuel M Williams vuelto de Orleans á esta Villa, y ha ofrecido

[1] For the history of early printing in Texas see an article by the editor Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXI, 127–144.

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franquear sus servicios en todo para el manejo de la Correspodencia &a espero con los Conocim^tos de este Señor dar el debido cumplimiento, á las ordenes y instruciones de V. S.

Lo que comunico á V. S. para su inteligencia y á que dispensa la falta que hubo por el correo pasado.

Dios y libertad

Villa de Austin á 14 de 7bre de 1829.

THOMAS DAVIS [Rubric.]

Señor Gefe del Dep° C Ramon Musquis

AUSTIN TO HENRY AUSTIN[1]

San Felipe de Austin, September 22, 1829.

This letter was to have gone by the mail the 1st of this month but on the 29th of last I was taken with the fever and was insensible and at the point of death for some time. I am now proped up to write this—the object of which is to guard you against such wild schemes as the one which I have seen for the first time this day in the national Intelligencer, of which Dennis A Smith is the agent and Exiter [Exter] the principal— it is all a deception—[2] Exiter is what the law calls an *Empresario* and an Empresario is nothing more than an agent hired by the Govt. to bring in a certain number of families of a particular discription—, if he introduces them he will be entitled to receive a premium at the rate of five leagues for each 100 families— this is all he can get and he is not entitled to that until after the families have been received by the Govt. commissioner— he has no right nor authority to survey nor to do any kind of act of any description whatever except barely to bring in the families and his agency may be annulled by the Govt. for good cause, in the same manner than any other principal can revoke authority given to any agent— This is all the authority that Exiter has to do what he is doing

S F AUSTIN

[To Henry Austin, Matamoras.]

DAVID G. BURNET TO AUSTIN

Cincinnati, Ohio, September 22, 1829.

See Calendar.

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[1] From a copy made by Moses Austin Bryan. In file of Aug. 27, 1829.

[2] For a description of this land speculation see Eugene C. Barker, *Life of Stephen F. Austin*, 298–301. Also Austin to Breedlove, Oct. 12, 1829.

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HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN [1]

Comargo Septr 24th 1829

Col. S F AUSTIN

MY DEAR SIR I wrote you from Matamoros, advising you of my arrival there with a steamboat to commence the navigation of this river. Bravo del Norte I have been up nearly to Revilla, where I found the river so dangerous in low water that I did not think it prudent to proceed up at this late season.— At the commencement of the wet season the river May be Navigated quite to presidio del Norte, but as that season is now nearly passed, I shall confine My trips for the winter to this place

Between Matamoros and this, the river is navigable and Safe but I have great reason to apprehend there will not be business enough to support the boat We have by law the privilege of taking up lands but the unoccupied lands on this River are not worth having.

I was induced to embark in this operation by the hope of retrieving my ruined fortune and of laying a foundation for an estate for my family by Securing a large tract of land, Before leaving the US I laid before Govt a Memoir on the western boundary pointing out the advantages of exchanging the land beyond the Rocky Mountains for those between this River and the U S and suggesting the Mode in which it might be effected had I a Sure conveyance I would Send you a copy of it— I have reason to believe there is now a negociation pending on the Subject—

Now I have reason to apprehend that my present effort will not realize the expected advantages and some reason to fear it may result in a failure—in which case, I should only be able to save my self from ruin by taking the boat to some place where She could be Sold or employed to advantage—

Can you inform Me whether the laguna which is laid down on the Map as extending from Brassas St Iago to the Colorado River is Navigable with four feet water, if not by what rout could a Steamboat be transported from the Mouth of this river to Galveston bay or to New Iberia Is there sufficient wealth produce and travel in your quarter to employ a steamboat Could I obtain in your neighbourhood a tract of good land in perpetuity either through you or by application to the State

I wish extremely to have an interview with you but it is impossible for me to leave the business I am engaged in even for three days— I shall leave this in a week for Matamoros and return from there with a cargo immediately—during the winter I will be alternately

[1] From a copy made by Moses Austin Bryan. In file of Aug. 27, 1829.

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here and at Matamoros as frequently as business May offer for the boat and probably Make 2 or 3 trips pr month—

HENRY AUSTIN [Rubric]

S. HATCH TO AUSTIN

DEAR SIR

I was in St Philapey a few dais Sins But your Situashun was Sutch I did not think prudent to visett you I am In hops *Sir* that I may hear Shortley of your Recuvry— I have ariv with My Familey and am Destitute of any plase to put them in—Mrs. Hatch is in a Bad State of helth and was fore dais past delivered of a Child makes me Certrianley anxious to put up Some Buildings and to prepare for a Crop as Soon as I Can doo that I wish to Return to Louisiana its My wish to Settle Some whare on the Nevedad or Corenkeway Bayo Should I not hear from you I shall go on down and put up Some Ruff Cabins allso have anther man thats here with me— Should I Make a Sitution that mite Intarfeare with Lans that you or the Commishioner—wishes to take it will be arraind to your Satisfaction

SILVANUS HATCH

25 of Sept 1829

[Addressed:] Colonel Stephen Austoon St. Philapey

MANUAL DE MIER Y TERAN TO AUSTIN

Tampico (p° viejo) Sep^te 28/829.

S. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

AMIGO Y SR. DE TODO MI APRECIO: No deja de ser muy extraordinario qe. el plan de Tejas formado pr V. qe. me ha hecho el favor de remitirme lo recibiera precisam^te el dia 11 qe. capitularon los españoles: las ocupaciones qe. tuve en dho. dia eran bien diferentes de las de un viajero pacifico qe. V. me vio desempeñar en Tejas.

Como conosco el patriotismo de V. y lo qe. ama á Mexico me atrevo á decir qe. correspondo al precioso obsequio qe. V. me ha hecho remitiendole la capitulac^n ó rendicion de los españoles, suceso qe. debe ser tan plausible en esa colonia. Me he dilatado algunos dias en contextar y hacer este envio, pr. qe. han sido incesantes mis urgentes tareas, á causa de qe. el Sr. Santa Ana se retiró y quedé con el mando de todas las tropas reunidas. A tiempo qe. se rindieron los españoles a fuerza nuestra no excedia de cuatro mil hombres; po. despues de ocho dias debia ser de catorce mil, pr. qe. de S. Luis venian seis mil, y de la Huasteca otros cuatro mil. El sito rigoroso

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no duro mas qe. 5 dias; po. 15 antes estaban bloqueados, privados de todo auxilio de mar y tierra. todos estos pr menores los vera V. en los partes qe. tendre cuidado de remitirle.

Supuesto el restablecimiento de mi salud es probable mi regreso á Tejas; po. es algo dificil la condicion pr. qe. me han atacado las calenturas proprias del clima, de qe. me libraré, si tengo la fortuna de qe. me releven pronto de este encargo, qe. me puede costar la vida.

V. me dispensara la pequeñes de esta carta, y dando mis exp^{s} al Sr. Williams reciba mis congratulac^{s} pr. la felicidad de nra. patria, y disponga como guste de su muy afecto Am^{o} y S qe. con la mayor atencion b. s. m.

MANUEL DE MIER TERÁN [Rubric]

JOHN M. MCCALLA TO AUSTIN

Lexington October 6th 1829

MY DEAR FRIEND.

Just one year ago you wrote me a letter from Texas, by Mr Gregg, and now by the same gentleman I send a reply. I shall be glad to renew and to perpetuate our old friendship, which on my part, I assure you is undiminished. I never recall the happy days of boyhood, but you appear in the list of remembered friends, and many scenes which we enjoyed together are among the "greenest spots" in my recollections. Our female friends Eliza and Paulina, for whom we both had pretty strong *penchants*, I see occasionally, but that little "paradise" in which we were both sometimes admitted, is grown up with weeds, and its fair inhabitants transplanted to other scenes, and surrounded by other objects. The first you know married Tho^{s} A Marshall. She lives in Bourbon county, has 6 or 7 children, breeds like a rabbit, and looks almost as well as ever. Paulina was married to Brooks who died and she remained some years a widow, and 18 months since married a second time, to Capt. Maurice Langhorne who now keeps a large house of entertainment at Louisville. I saw her last week, she does not look so well as formerly, in consequence of a spell of fever. She is however pretty much the same, especially the tone of voice, and her lively agreable manner. M^{rs} January is still living, also her sister Sally (Mrs Todd). Jas. B January is barely living being much reduced by excessive intemperance. M^{rs} Todd has a large family. Will O Butler, who married Levi Todds sister, has no children. Nannette Price who married Tom Smith is also laughed at as childless, altho her husband is pretty generally blamed for it. I have heard several jokes against Smith coming from M^{r} Clay and the ladies of the family.

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Mr Clay is now here with his family. He is in my opinion, the evil genius of Kentucky. He set in motion all the springs of discord, and keeps society in a continual excitement. He appeared as counsel at the trial [of] Wickliffe's son for the murder of the editor of the Gazette, and volunteered on the occasion, and has not appeared in any other case before or since. He has been lately on trip to the lower part of this state making speeches at dinner parties and keeping all his engines in motion against Genl Jackson. As for the President, he goes on as he has always heretofore done, attentive to *his* duty, and making all under him do their duty. His health has been somewhat injured by confinement but a visit to the seashore restored his health, and he is now progressing rapidly in the reform of the abuses which existed in the administration. It is melancholy fact, that great abuses had grown up, and many who wore the front of honesty were guilty of great dishonesty and peculation. Party spirit still runs high, and the growlings of the storm are still heard although its main fury was exausted in the late election. Genl Jackson, if he lives, will be re-elected as President.

I am sorry to percieve that Mexico is again exposed to foreign war as well as intestine divisions. We are all anxious to purchase Texas from Mexico, and the subject is beginning to excite a great deal of warm discussion in our public prints. If Mexico will dispose of it on reasonable terms, I believe our government will no doubt be glad to obtain it, and I am sure it will meet the almost universal desire of our citizens. The consequences to the holders of property in Texas would be very important, and it would promote the happiness and prosperity of all the citizens of the province. A great many citizens of Kentucky would move to your settlement instantly, if it were under our government.

In relation to your last and most important particular, towit *the widow*, I can safely say that if you will come on here, and plead your own cause I can point out to you both maids and widows, who would make your heart go pit apat, and who would doubtless be willing *to emigrate* to any part of the known world with clever fellows. Only let me know that you will pay us a visit and I will arrange matters and things so far as, that if you can be satisfied with beauty, good temper, and affectionate dispositions, you shall have a fair opportunity to lay siege forthwith. I should indeed be truly glad to see you here once more, and to shew you my four children, my eldest a boy going on thirteen years of age, and my youngest a girl (I have two of each) about 13 months old. Two of them are talking to me and playing round me, and far as their prattle can go, disturbing me.

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Wishing you that success and prosperity, which your interprize and industry so well deserve, I am as "in auld lang syne" Your affectionate friend

Jn° M. McCalla

S. F. Austin Esq^r Texas.

R. C. Nicholas to Austin

Nashville Oct 11^th 1829

Col. Stephen F. Austin

Sir. I was much concerned in leaving your country without seeing you, and having farther conversation; I left it with a fixed determination of returning as soon as possible and my health was not restored until the July or august thereafter,— I descended the river last winter for the purpose, but hearing of the extreme indisposition of my brother Maj. Carey Nicholas, I was obliged to go to Tallahassee, where I arrived in time to see him die, and was compelled to administer upon his estate.

In the mean time I have constituted myself a sort of recruiting sergeant for your Colony, I have said and done every thing in my power to aid in its prosperity—it has now become a leading topic in conversation, and one of the most interesting subjects of discussion in the political papers.—

A strong and simultaneous effort is at this moment making from the one end of the country to the other, to induce this Gov^t to purchase it— I incline to the belief, that if the Mexican Govt will *sell* this Gov^t will *buy*. I think that the prospects are so strong, as should forbid a disposition to sell— The Sugar lands on the Mississippi are selling for *seventy* dollars the superficial acre—let the change take place what will they be worth on the Brassos?—

Under all and every circumstance it is my fixed purpose to make it my future residence, and I doubt not that one or two years experience will enable me to induce the greater portion of my Kentucky relatives to do the same.— Their doubts as to the health, the difficulty that presents itself to them as to *labor*, the abandonment of their native Country and government, are the stumbling blocks of the present hour, Could these be removed the Country would be filled immediately,—the unproductiveness of the Capital heretofore engaged in the culture of Cotton, would fly there in Crowds beyond your most sanguine hopes and calculations, I expect to be with you the latter end of November or first of December— I will come in the double character of Uncle and guardian to the Hawkinses[1]— and will be ready to take Such steps as you may suggest for the division of the property, I shall come prepared to sit down upon one

[1] The heirs of Joseph H. Hawkins, Austin's partner in establishing his first colony.

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of the Leagues on the Oyster Bayou,— My wish is to get the one nearest the Sea beach— Should it be more valuable than any of the others, I will be willing to pay the difference—that difference being estimated by the intelligent and disinterested. As I shall come prepared with men, tools provisions, seeds, and every description of thing that the new settler would require—

The prime object of this letter is to induce you to point out and designate the league that you may be willing or wish me to settle on. For instance, I wish you to procure some surveyors, to go on the ground, and remark and designate the league—leaving the instructions at Mitchells, or should there be no inhabitants at Mitchell's former residence, at Clarks or some intermediate place, where I may be sure to fall in with them, and thus save the time and trouble of calling at your residence to obtain the information— If there is no insurmountable objection to getting the league next the ocean, I rely most confidently on your acquiesance,

I shall come prepared to become a loyal useful citizen—it is my expectation and intention to be able to put up immediately a small steam Saw mill, and to build immedeately a schooner for the Coasting trade—tho' so long neglected, I feel confident this is the most valuable part of your Colony— with moderate luck, I think I shall be able to exemplify this beyond a doubt, and in consequence, enhance the value of the lands— I shall bring with me some choice seed wheat, I wish you to select some planter to whom I will give it, and thus have at once a satisfactory experiment made upon this valuable grain.

Ro. C. Nicholas.

Austin to James W. Breedlove[1]

Austin's, Texas, Oct. 12, 1829

James W. Breedlove,—Sir: I beg leave to return my thanks for the information which you communicated through Mr. S. M. Williams relative to the rumor of an invasion of Texas by 500 Spaniards. They can expect nothing here but "hard times, hungry times" and rifle bullets. It is to be hoped that the Tampico scrape[2] will learn them to stay where they are, for neither safety or success will they ever find on the Mexican soil.

I shall always feel grateful to you for any information which you may deem interesting to this settlement, or to the Government.

I thank you for your kind disposition manifested in your letter to Mr. W[illiams?] towards this settlement; and in reply to your suggestion relative to the acquisition of land here, I deem it my duty

[1] From an unidentified newspaper clipping. Breedlove was later Mexican Consul at New Orleans.

[2] See Teran to Austin, Sept. 28, 1829.

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to explain to you, somewhat in detail the nature of the colonization law, the authority given to the "Empresarios," and also the nature of the authority under which I have acted, This subject is not understood in the United States, and the consequence has been, that some persons have been greatly deceived, and even this Government has been most unjustly slandered and abused for exercising the powers and doing what it is by law compelled to do. You are no doubt informed that the person who contracts with the Government to introduce families, or as it is commonly termed, settle a colony, is called in the law *Empresario.* By explaining to you what an Empresario is, you will understand this matter, and see that such projects, as published by Dennis A. Smith of Baltimore are totally incompatible with the authority given to Ecitor [Exter] and Wilson & Co.,[1] for they are nothing more than Empresarios [The empresario] is an agent who is hired by the Government to introduce a specific number of families of a certain description within a certain time, who are to be settled within certain designated limits.—Should the Empresario introduce the families, and they should be received by the Government Commissioners as being of the description required, *then*, and not before, he is entitled to receive his pay, which is five leagues of land for each hundred families so introduced by him.—The titles for land are all issued by the Government Commissioner, who is especially appointed for that purpose, and he *alone* has the power to survey or appoint surveyors to survey the land, and to put settlers in possession and no one, under any circumstances, can hold land unless he first removes to the country and becomes an actual and permanent settler: neither can a foreigner hold real estate at all; and should a person who has lived hard all his life, and who has a good title, sell his land to a foreigner, the whole of the property thus sold becomes public by escheating to the Government the moment such sale is made.

The Empresario has no power nor shadow of power of any kind or description whatsoever, except to bring in the families. He is nothing but an agent for that express purpose; and like all other agents, he is liable to be dismissed by his employer for malpractices or neglect of duty. He is not entitled to one foot of land until he has complied with the conditions on which he was to get it; he has no claim to nor no right to dispose of one foot of land in any manner whatsoever, (except his premium land [and] that only after he has received his title as above stated,) and all the land that remains vacant within the limits assigned to the new Colony or settlement, after the specified number of families are settled, is public land and

[1] Exter and Wilson had been granted a contract Feb. 23, 1828, to settle 100 families. Smith's advertisement, a palpable fraud, appeared in the Daily National Intelligencer (and no doubt in other papers) July 8–17, 1829.

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belongs to the Government, and not to the Empresario as some of them have pretended to claim. It is truly astonishing to see to what extent this subject has been misunderstood. We see an Empresario advertising in the public papers the sale of 48,000,000 of acres of land as though it was his own individual property, when, in fact, he has no more right to dispose of one foot of it than you have. This error has perhaps arisen from the want of correct knowledge of the Spanish language, which has caused the law to be misunderstood—but the misfortune is that innocent persons are mislead, and the Government unjustly slandered. I have no doubt that the contract of Eciter, Wilson & Co. will be annulled by the Government; for Edwards contract was annulled for a similar reason, added to others, and the agency or Empresariorship taken from him; and if that is done, those men to justify themselves, will in all probability lay the blame on the Government and complain that they have been robbed of 48,000,000 acres of land. All this is very unjust, and it is important that public opinion should be disabused in regard to it. I am, however, entirely unwilling that my name should appear in the public papers in any manner connected with this matter. I have heretofore given frank and honest advice to persons on this same subject, and have never yet failed to make an enemy by doing so, for the reason that they knew better than I did. I have interfered with none. But notwithstanding my caution in this respect, I have not escaped jealousy and censure. You know the character of North-Americans, they are taught from their infancy to look upon all who are in office with jealousy and suspicion; and, in general, they always attribute corruption to what they do not clearly understand. The information contained in this letter is given to you in reply to a friendly suggestion made by you from kind and friendly motives. I saw that you did not comprehend the matter, and I deemed it a duty to lay it before you as it really is.

In order that you may more fully understand this subject, it is necessary that I should give you a sketch of the authority under which I have acted in the settlement of my first Colony. You will perceive that it was of an entirely different character from that which is or *can* be given under the present law. The application to settle 300 families from the United States in Texas, was originally made by my father Moses Austin to the Spanish authorities in 1820 and granted in July [January] 1821, about one month before the *grito de Iguala* or the revolution of Iturbide.

My father died in Missouri in the spring of 1821, a few days after he heard that his petition had been granted, and left as a last request that I should prosecute the enterprise. I came on to this country in the summer of 1821, and spent four months in exploring it and

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completing such arrangements as were deemed by the Government of Texas to be sufficient for me to progress with the settlement. These arrangements were all made through an interpreter, for at that time I did not understand one word of Spanish. In the winter of '21–'22, I arrived on the Brazos with the first families—about 40, and after getting them arranged to their satisfaction, I went to Bexar to report to the Government, etc., and on my arrival there in March he informed me that I must go to the City of Mexico and procure confirmation of my authority from the National Congress which convened in February, 1822. This was unexpected and rather discouraging, for the families were in an entire wilderness and my presence was highly necessary. I started, however to Mexico and arrived there in April. The various revolutions and political changes of the eventful 1822 and 1823 detained me in that city one year before my affairs were finally despatched. Previous to the fall of Iturbide my business was completed, and I received all the necessary documents, but not until I became convinced by the State of parties and public sentiment that the Emperor must soon fall; and I feared that in such an event a doubt might hang over the legality of his acts and those of the *Junta Instituyente* under whose enactments my business was dispatched. I therefore waited until he did fall and was dethroned and the National Congress reinstated. I then presented the documents which I received from the Imperial Government, and petitioned Congress to confirm them or do with them as that body might esteem proper. On the 11th of April, 1823, Congress passed a decree authorizing the Supreme Executive power to confirm them; and on the 14th of that month the Executive did confirm them in due form and return them to me. I then left that city for Texas. I give this narrative to show how and whence my authority eminated. You will understand that at *that time* the Government of this nation was consolidated. The Federal system was not adopted and the State Governments established until about one year afterwards.

The authority given to me was to introduce and settle 300 families from the United States or elsewhere, in certain limits of Texas. The Baron de Bastrop and myself were jointly appointed the Government Commissioners to survey the lands of the settlers and issue titles to them in due form in the name of the Government. We were specially authorized to increase the quantity of land over one league to any settler, who, in our opinion, was entitled to such and increase, either by the capital which he introduced into the country or by the size of his family, and there was no limits fixed as to the extent to which we might go in making such increase of quantity. We were entitled as commissioners to receive fees or pay for our services, and

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the necessary office fees and charges for writing, translating and recording, and also the surveying fees, all of which were fixed by a regulation of the Government of Texas, and were, or ought to have been paid by the settlers; for the Government allowed us nothing for our services. I was therefore both Empresario and Commissioner to my first Colony.—Besides this, I was specially appointed by the Supreme Government of Mexico the Civil Chief, the sole judicial officer, and the commandant of the militia of the new Colony, subject always to the orders of the Government of Texas, and the Commandant-General of the military department, but for these services I received nothing from the Government. These several appointments (for they were all separate and distinct the one from the other,) threw a vast burden of labor and responsibility and expense upon me individually,—An expense and labor which I was not bound by my contract as Empresario to bear. What rendered my situation still more troublesome and perplexing, was that the Government at that time was unsettled and shaken by frequent political revolutions and changes of systems, policy and officers, and I had to make new friends and acquaintances amongst the superior powers at every change. Added to all this, out of my office there was not one person in the settlement who could correctly translate any law or order of the Government. I was from necessity the sole organ of communication with the Government; and as respects the local government of the settlement, the granting of lands, etc. etc., it appeared to the settlers that my authority was absolute.—It is sufficient for me to say that my settlers were North-Americans, and many of them frontier men who had never known restraint, to inform you that I was looked upon with jealousy and suspicion. It was the natural result of the national character of those people, and of the situation in which circumstance and necessity, and even the salvation of the settlement had placed me—and that situation also imposed upon me the duty and difficult task of bearing in silence and good humor, all the abuse and jealousy that ignorance and suspicion could heap upon me, leaving it to time to test my acts and prove whether they were correct or not. It has done so, and all are satisfied with [me] except a few. I do assure you that it was a difficult task, and I may frankly confess that I would have abandoned the settlement, the settlers and the country, if no other motive than pecuniary individual interest had influenced me. My ambition was to be the means of laying a foundation for spreading an intelligent and an enterprising population over this fertile and hitherto unknown and wilderness country; perhaps, also, I had a little pride in wishing to succeed, for I undertook this enterprise in opposition to the advice of my friends in the

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United States, who nearly all pronounced it visionary and impracticable.

You must pardon my egotism in speaking so much of myself, but the history of this settlement is so closely connected with *me* individually, that one cannot be clearly explained without allusion to the other, and beside it seems to account in part for some of the erroneous opinions that has spread as to powers of the Empresario, for those who were ignorant of the language, or who would not or could not take the trouble of inquiring, supposed or pretended to suppose that I derived all my authority solely from being Empresario, when, in fact, I held various distinct appointments, and those powers have been supposed to attach to the Empresario, which in no respects whatever belong to him— Also, they have confounded the old National Colonization law of January 4th, 1823, which is no longer in force, with the present State law passed 25th of March, 1825.

As I have before observed, my business was despatched by the National Government, 14th of April 1823. About one year afterwards the State governments were established under the Federal system, and on the 18th of August, 1824, the National Constitutional Congress (the same that formed the Federal Constitution, and was, in fact, the Convention,) passed a law relinquishing to the States respective limits, and authorizing each State to make its own Colonization law, with the restriction that not more than eleven leagues of land should be granted to any one individual, and also that the lands within ten leagues of the coast and twenty leagues of a line of an adjoining nation, should not be colonized or granted without the consent of the President of the nation. Under this authority the State of Coahuila and Texas passed the colonization law of March 24, 1825, which is now in force, and under which *all* the Empresarios have been made, for my first Colony is the only one that was ever granted under the law of the 4th of January, 1823. In addition to my first Colony, I made three contracts with the State Government to settle 900 families in all, on the *vacant land* remaining within the limits designated for my first Colony; one of those contracts includes the land bordering on the coast, which was granted with the special approbation of the President as the law requires. Also, in one of said contracts (the one on the coast,) I was appointed Commissioner as well as Empresario, and in virtue of these two distinct appointments, all the powers of both were centred in me. I am the only person in whom these two appointments ever have been united, although others have only looked at what I *did* without examining my authority or attending to my advice; and have supposed that all Empresarios could do the same.

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A General Commissioner has lately been appointed for the whole of Texas who will shortly be on here. I presume that his appointment will supercede all other appointments of Commissioners, also a Surveyor-General has been appointed, who will be on with the General-Commissioner. If you have not already procured the Colonization law of this State I will send it to you as soon as it can be published in English in the Texas Gazette; and by comparing this statement with the law you will see that it is correct. It may be late in the winter before it is published for there are some other laws which it is highly important to get out in English before the elections in December, for owing to the want of a printing press it has heretofore been impossible to publish them.

The colonization business is the last on earth that any man ought to undertake for the sole purpose of making money; and no Empresario will ever advance one step if no other motive than money influence him—for he will not undergo the labor and receive the abuse for all he can make—that [is] he will not advance *legally*. No Empresario ever had such an opportunity of making a fortune by imposing on the ignorance and credulity of capitalists in other countries as I have had, for no one of them ever had the power that I had; but instead of leaving my settlers to shift for themselves, and instead of distorting the law to mislead others and benefit myself, I have remained here and shared the toils of settling a wilderness, and have rigidly adhered to the law and my duty to this Government. And I have also succeeded in laying a permanent foundation for the settlement of Texas by an enterprising population, and the day is not far distant when it will become the *richest* and most *powerful* State of the Mexican Confederation. But I am *poor* I have not even the means of living with comfort and that decency which my situation would seem to require, unless I raise those means by a sacrifice of a part of my premium land so hardly earned, and that I will not do for it is my only stake for my old age. Will it not appear strange to you that although *such* is my real situation an opinion has gone abroad that I have made myself rich by what I received from the settlers or rather by selling land to them as the uninformed and ignorant have styled the fees which I was by law entitled to as Commissioner, and for surveying, etc, etc. Strange as it may seem it is nevertheless a fact, the majority of the settlers were unable to pay anything, and must have left the country if the fees had been exacted from them promptly, and in order to keep all afloat I did exact prompt payment from those who were able to make it, and out of the money thus raised I paid the way of the poor who were unable to pay any thing, and I also defrayed the expenses of the administration of the local Government, and was enabled to keep the Indians friendly by presents and feeding them

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until we get strong enough to whip them into subjection, and by this course of policy I have saved this settlement and brought it to what it now is, and have secured large landed estates to hundreds of poor men who otherwise would [not] or could not ever have got one foot of land. Some of these men have never yet paid one cent, and accuse me of speculating and cheating them because I ask it of them. It is human nature and I do not complain, besides it is my duty to bear these matters with patience, for it is a sacrifice that is due to the future prosperity and greatness of this favored country, to bear with patience and perseverance *all* the labor and *all* the mortifications attendant upon the difficult task of laying the foundation of that prosperity. I have again become an egotist. Perhaps I am influenced by the idea that a man who labors faithfully to the best of his abilities and [with] pure intentions is entitled to *some* compensation, and that unless I derive one by getting a little credit for what I have done or tried to do, I shall come off badly, for I doubt very much whether I shall live to reap much advantage from my premium land, which as I before observed, is my only stake, and it is not free from embarrasments created *solely* for the benefit of this settlement.

I have just recovered from a dangerous spell of sickness, and also I have to mourn the recent death of an only and beloved brother, and I am not in a situation to write connectedly on any subject; you must therefore overlook my style. I will be responsible for the *facts* which I have stated.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

BYRD LOCKHART TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches, October 14, 1829.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO JOSÉ ANTONIO NAVARRO[1]

Villa de Austin Octubre 19, 1829.

JOSÉ ANTº NAVARRO

MI MUI ESTIMADO AMIGO, entre los quehaceres y desgracias qᵉ de atropel me ha colmado de pesadumbre, el ul[tra]je en una de las cartas de V. qᵉ he faltado en contestar y escribir tan amenudo como debia haber hecho, ha tenido su influjo.

digo con entera ingenuidad que la buena opinion de V. me es apreciable, por la razon que creo qᵉ el juicio y el desir cono—[torn] a fondo, tienen mas influjo sobre sus opiniones, que el capricho o las

[1] From Lamar Papers, Texas State Library.

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circunstancias accidentales y lijeras— Acabo de volver (por decir asi) del margen del sepulcro y he recibido un golpe terrible en la muerte de mi unico hermano, compañero en tantos trabajos y privaciones q^{e} hemos pasado juntos en estas tierras despobladas

Sola la esperanza de ver florecer este pais me ha estimulado a sostener la vida q^{e} he pasado, pero mi hermano no quedo p^{a} gozar este placer, el fue como yo, un entusiastico en favor de Texas y empezaba a estar con alguna comodidad p^{a} poder vivir— Ya esta en paz lejos de los laberintos y malogram^{tos} de la vida humana—tal vez su suerte es la mejor— Dispenseme V. el molestarle con mis pesadumbres particulares—pasare a otras cosas— He examinado todas las cartas de V. y encuentro una que no conteste con [regularidad?] y es la ultima q^{e} vino en tpo de mi enfermedad y Don Samuel contesto—puede ser que habra estraviado la carta, y si V me escribio sobre alguna cosa de importancia repitame lo que era—

Antes de mi enfermedad tenia formado, en idea algunos planes de medidas que consideraba interesante al adelanto de Texas, y pensaba en [pregun]tar V. por su opinion y consejo como amigo y Tejano— Mis planes tenian por objeto el adelanto gral. y no mi provecho particular; y si me [dan] lugar mis otras ocupaciones voy a poner [mis] ideas en alguna forma y las mandaré a V.

Me he dedicado ahora en union con D^{n} Samuel a la obra pesada de formar traducciones legitimas de las constituciones, nacional y del estado y de todos los decretos de la Legislatura con el fin de imprimirlos todos en un cuaderno, y parte de ellos en la gazeta esta puede parecer obra de poca consideracion, pero no lo es— el trabajo es mucho [y] no hay cosa mas necesaria e importante al bien de Texas, por la razon q^{e} los mas de estos habitantes no entienden palabra del Castellano y es enteram^{te} imposible gobernar un pueblo con leyes cuya ecsistencia la masa de ellos ignoran en lo absoluto— Todas las dificultades de Nacogdoches han procedido enteram^{te} de la falta de [traduciones] de las leyes, y de gefes alli para administrar el [Gob^{no}] local con la prudencia y acierto necesario [en un] pueblo fronteriso y mesclado de tantos idiomas y costumbres— No he encontrado un solo individuo de juicio q^{e} esta bien informado de las constituciones nacional y del Estado [y] de las leyes, que no se esprese enteram^{te} satisfecho con ellas, y esto basta p^{a} probar lo importante de las traducciones.

La cosa mas interesante p^{a} los habitantes de Texas por ahora, es arreglar los asuntos de tierras. debe V. y toda su familia aprovecharse de la ocasion p^{a} conseguir terrenos, y si V. ó su familia quiere querer los en esta parte del pais, yo me ofresco para escojerlos, y pagar los costos de medirlos sacar los titulos, por una parte de las tierras. Yo tambien puedo ser util en conseguir familias

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para cultivarlas segun requiere la ley — el mejor modo p^{a} conseguir tierras es por via de compra del Gob^{no} porq^{e} las tierras asi adqueridas se pueden vender antes de cultivarlas en "totalidad" requisito q^{e} la ley impone a los colonos con respecto a las suyas— Yo escojeré las tierras en los mejores parajes, y pagare todos los costos a minos del valor q^{e} se ha de pagar al Gob^{no} es décir pagaré el agrimensor, el comisionado y las escrituras, y velaré del terreno q^{e} no sea separado por otros sin licencia ni la madera destruida y que sea cultivado segun previene la ley, por la mitad del terreno. Es decir si consigue V. once sitios de este modo la mitad sera para V. y la otra mitad para mi—

Presente mis memorias a la Sra madre y a toda su familia y dispone de criado

E. F. Austin [Rubric]

John Austin to Austin

Brazoria, October 23, 1829.

See Calendar.

J. M. Viesca to Musquiz

Saltillo, October 24, 1829.

See Calendar.

Ramon Musquiz to Governor[1]

Exmo. Sor.

Hé recibido el decreto del Exmo. Sor. Presid^{te} de los Est. Unidos de Fha 15. de Sep^{e} p^{o} p^{o} avoliendo la esclavitud en la republica, que V. E. se sirvio trasladarme en comunicacion de 29, del propio mes.

Al tiempo de ir á publicar y circular el mencinodo decerto me ocurrieron grandes refleciones a cerca de los males que podria causar en el Dep^{to} el exacto cumplim^{to} de esta superior disposicion; y como entiendo q^{e} una de mis pricipales obligaciones es la de manifestar toda especie de males al sup^{mo} gov^{no} de V. E. p^{a} su devido conosim^{to} y ulteriores resoluciones, hé creido de mi dever diferir su publicacion hasta hacerlo presente con el objecto indicado; y por si merecieren su consideracion se sirvá elevarlos a la del Exmo. Sor. Presid^{te} p^{a} que pesados en la valanza de la equidad, y atendiendo á las particulares y esquisitas circunstancies en q^{e} se halla esta importante parte del Estado se digne hacer p^{r} otro decreto una excepcion del de 15. de Sep^{e} a favor de este Dep^{to} p^{r} los meritos q^{e} paso a exponer.

[1] From Political Chief's Blotter, Bexar Archives. On the circumstances attending the composition of this letter, see Padilla to Austin, Nov. 26, 1829.

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La 1ª colonia que se estableció en este Dep^to lo fue á virtud del decreto del gov^no imperial de 18 de Feb^o de 1823 confirmados por los del soberano cong^o gral. constituyente y supremo poder executivo fhas. 11 y 14 de Abril del mismo año, todos espedidos bajo la ley gral. de colonizacion de 4 de En^o del referido año dada por la junta instituyente, y mandada observar p^a. solo la empresa de D^n. Estevan F. Austin compuesta de 300. familias extrangeras.

Posteriorm^te se promulgaron las leyes de colonisasion gral. de 18. de Agosto de 1824, por el soberano cong^o gral. constituyente, y particular del Est^o de 24. de Mz– de 1825. bajo las cuales se han celebrado por el supremo Gob^no de V. E. diferentes contratas de colonizacion con empresarios nacionales y extrangeros hasta en n^o de mas de sinco mil familias, segun es de publico y notorio, siendo algunas de dhas. contratas aprovadas p^r el supremo gov^no federal conforme á lo prebenido en la Ley dela materia.

De estas contratas yá existen dentro del pais muchas familias, para ser establecidas formalm^te. y conforme á las capitulaciones selebradas con los empresarios, y al tenor de la ley que rige sobre este asunto.

El art^o 8^o de la ley gral. de colonizacion de 18. de Agosto de 1824 dise asi: "La nacion mejicana ofrese a los extrangeros q^e vengan a estableserse en su territorio, *seguridad en sus personas y en sus propiedades*, con tal q^e se sugeten á las Leyes del pais."

El art^o 1^o de la Ley particular del Estado de 24. de marzo de 1825. dice á la letra: "Todos los extrangeros q^e en virtud de la Ley gral. de 18. de Agosto de 1824. por que se les consede *seguridad para sus personas y propiedades* en el territorio de la nacion mejicana quisieren pasarse a cualesquiera de las poblaciones del Est^o de coahuila y Tejas, *pueden haserlo* y el mismo Est^o *los convida y llama.*

Bajo de tan solemnes garantias hán entrado al Dep^to y establecidose en él los extrangeros q hoy lo havitan: y si tan solemnem^te se les há ofrecido por la nacion mejicana, *seguridad para sus personas y propiedades;* y si, ademas, hán sido con la propia formalidad invitados y llamados por el Est^o parese muy duro se les pribe ahora, por el Supremo gov^no de una desus *propiedades*, y quisa de la que mas les intereza para la agricultura crias de ganado, y otras lavores á que estan dedicados y que no pueden verificarse sin el aucilio de los brazos robustos y casi infatigables de esa raza de la especie humana se llama negros, y q^e por su desgracia sufren la esclavitud.

Pero seame licito hacer una obserbacion: esos infelises cuando binieron al pais lla eran esclavos, y sus amos los estimaban como cosas, venales en el comercio: ni el gov^no ni los havitantes del pais los han hecho sus esclavos; es condicion q^e ya traheron consigo, y fueron introdusidos con el fin hacerlos trabajar en las faenas de la

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agricultura: dar libres estos brazos es lomismo q^{e} arruinar este importante ramo de la riqueza pública: parese suficiente la situacion en q^{e} se encuentra Tejas por la prohivicion q sancionó el art^{o} 13. de la const^{n} del Est^{o} de 11. de Mzo. de 1827. y las modificaciones q^{e} estableció la Ley n^{o}. 18 de 15. Sep^{e} del mismo año, declarando libre la prole q^{e} naciera de padres esclavos con otras varias correcciones en favor dela liberted de esa desgraciada parte dela humanidad afligida.

Dos derechos de mucha cuantia se verran en esta intersante cuestion a saver: el de la *libertad*, y el de la *propiedad:* a favor delos esclavos esta el primero, y al de los amos el 2^{o}. ¿Cual es mas sagrado, y mas recomendable de estos dos derechos p^{a} nro. caso, en la republica mexicana? He aqui un problema q^{e} no esta resuelto todavia La filantropia, y los sentim^{tos} naturales de la humanidad, quitar luego en favor de la *libertad* mas las leyes positibas, q^{e} arreglan la sociedad se ponen de parte de la propiedad y le declaran un dho. [derecho] sagrado é inbiolable del que no se puede disponer sin usar antes las formulas prescriptas en el art^{o} 112. parafo 3^{o} de la constitucion federal; pero aun cuando estas se cumplieran indemnisando previam^{te} a los propietarios el valor de los esclavos q^{e} se liberan, es indudable q^{e} todabia asi resistirian muchos perjuicios por la pribacion de los brazos en q^{e} tienen binculado su bien estar y podrá ser reclamen la quieta y pacifica posecion de su propiedad como prenda mas estimable y preferente a toda reconpensa.

En vista pues de cuanto llevo espuesto creo no se ocultarán a los conocim^{tos} de V. E. las consecuencias fatales q^{e} debe producir en los establecim^{tos} coloniales de este Dep^{to} la publicacion y ejecucion del referido decreto, yá sea por parte de los esclavos q^{e} la reclaman, o yá por la de los amos q^{e} pidan lo contrario sin que baste á contenerlos el respeto de ninguna autoridad: y por tales razones suplico á V. E. se sirva interponer sus respetos y alta dignidad p^{a} con el supremo gov^{no} de la Union á fin de q^{e} conseda á este Dep^{to} la exepcion del decreto q^{e} abolio la esclavitud, ó comunicarme con la brevedad q^{e} sea posible la resolucion que tenga conbeniente protestando á V. E. que inmediatam^{te} por mi parte será complida pues en esta vez no há sido mi animo oponerme sino manifestar como lo hayo los males q^{e} podrá causar á los intereses de los colonos y alterar la tranquiladad publica en las nuevas poblaciones donde por un calculo aproximado puede haver mas de mil esclavos de ambos seccos y á quienes aprecian sus amos desde trecientos hasta mil pesos. Dios & ^{a} Bejar 25. de oct^{e} de 1829.

Exmo Sor. Gob^{or} del Est^{o} de Coahuila y Texas.

[Ramon Musquiz]

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J. K. Looney to Austin

De Witt's Old Station,
Lavaca River, October 27, 1829.

See Calendar.

John Austin to Austin

Dr Sir

Mr McConnell will start in a few days for N. Orleans with a drove of horses and mules I wish to send by him three mules which I have here and the two you have at Buckners if you will give an order to Mess McConnell and Blair they will receive the mules at Coopers place on the peach Creek a few miles above Mr Hopes I intend to deliver the three there, if they will give 35$ each I intend to take it for mine if you will take the same write to me by Mr. Blair and I will take their draft on J. W. Collins, for the amount. I will Come to town in a few days perhaps about the middle of next week, I have got some cloth for two pair of pantaloons for you Eliza is making them I will bring them up when I come

John Austin [Rubric]

Brasoria Oct^{r} 28th 1829
Col. S. F. Austin

José Antonio Navarro to Austin

Bexar 29 de Octubre de 1829

Sor D. Estevan Austin.

Mi Estimadisimo Amigo: la carta qe. se dignó escrivirme el Sor. D. Samuel, me tenia con cuidado porque se hayaba V. proximo á la muerte y en tanto sentia esto, en cuanto hiva yo a perder un amigo qe. amo de veras y el Departam^{to} un entuciasta infatigable p^{a} trabajar en su prosperidad, pero la qe. acabo de recivir de V. con fha 19 del presente, me dio el gusto de saber su restablecim^{to} vien qe. pr. otro lado me acivaró este contento al saber el temprano fallecim^{to} de su Joven hermano D. Santiago qe. la parca injusta quiso cortar el hilo de su bida á un honrrado conciudadano nuestro que partia las veneficas tareas con V. y hubiera sido un dia amigo util y cinsero de su Patria adoptiba. Paciencia amigo, pues devemos someternos á los inconcursos decretos de la Naturaleza, sin mas remedio qe. el procurar los qe. quedamos vivos, no calzar espuelas á la muerte con dar pábulo á las pesadumbres,

En este concepto, creo qe. V. sin haser agrabio al amor de su aprec^{e} finado herm^{o} deve V. dicipar qualquier melancolico recuerdo p^{a} dedicarse á tomar sobre si todo el travajo, pues no se puede ya haser mas esto no obstante, acompaño á V. en su devido y Justo sentim^{to}.

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No me acuerdo haver á V. escrito alguna cosa digna de repetirsela hahora y estoy del todo satisfecho cuando he visto los motivos poderosos qe. le impidieron escrivirme.

Hahora si tomo interes en qe. V. me diga algo de las ideas que havia intentado formar pr. escrito y mandarme, no porque yo sea tan vano qe. piense ni remotam^te^ darle consejo, pues V. sabe qe. he respetado su ilustracion y Juicio siempre, sino p^a^ secundarlas ó hacerle mis observaciones amistosas y mas qe. todo p^a^ dirijirlas a mis amigos de Mexico ó Saltillo donde pedriamos abentajar algo. Beo despues qe. V. se ha determinado ponerlas en la prensa y como estoy cierto de qe. hande estar buenas, espero qe. me las remita sin perdida de tiempo.

En cuanto á lo qe. V. me dice sobre terrenos hablaré á V. con franqueza de amigo verdadero:

Yo estaria dispuesto desde luego á solicitar pr. compra los once sitios qe. conforme ala Ley puedo comprar, pero me detengo, porque en verdad no estoy al presente en situacion tan favorable de poderme echar encima una deuda considerable y pr. este motivo, preferiria usar del derecho qe. tengo como Mejicano, esto es, solicitarlos y comprarlos bajo mi nombre, y sin tomar p^a^ mi mas de solam^te^ cuatro sitios dejando los siete restantes á V. ó algun amigo qe. quiera responder de todos los pagos enteram^te^ es decir, pagar al Govierno, al Agrimensor y las escrituras qe. esto es poca cosa. Pienselo V. y si pudieramos acerlo asi, yo soy seguro de que representando se me venderan inmediatam^te^

Mas sin embargo de lo qe. acabo de decirle, opino porque aguardemos un poquito á ber en qe. queda la estupenda Ley qe. ha dado el Presid^te^ de la Republica sobre libertad de esclavos.[1] ya sobre esto hemos escrito cosas muy fuertes p^a^ el Govierno y con los amigos qe. pueden influir mucho en la derogacion de semejante Ley. Tenemos tambien la satisfaccion de haver recivido pr. el correo de hoy cartas de algunos amigos de los mejores Diputados del Saltillo en qe. se preparan á observar pr. la imprenta el mencionado Decreto, aun antes de saber lo qe. ya les deciamos de aqui respecto de él, de manera qe. V. puede creer qe. los mejores hombres del Estado se oponen á tal Ley qe. falta á la Justicia y á la buena fee y no dudamos qe. no tendrá efecto, pues ntro. Gefe de este Departam^to^ ha echo la Justa valentia de no quererlo publicar, antes de hacer sus observaciones.

Parece qe. facultades extraordinarias en el buen Guerrero van á causar algunas grandes extorciones en los Estados porque se deja sorprehender mucho. Dios quiera qe. en los primera[s] opociciones

[1] Proclamation of President Guerrero liberating slaves in the Republic of Mexico Sept. 15, 1829. For a full account see Lester G. Bugbee, "Slavery in Early Texas," in Political Science Quarterly, XIII, 648–668. Also Musquez to the Governor, Oct. 25, 1829.

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qe. ya le han echo los Estados de Mejico, Puebla y hahora Coahuila y Tejas, se contenga pª no ocasionar un rompimtº interior, despues de haver subllugado gloriosamtº al orgullo Español en Tampico.

Desde qe. me remitio su finado hermº D. Santiago las cositas qe. encargué á Orleans, me quedaron en su poder pr. no haberlas podido traerel cargador de mulas qe. mandamos, 75 libras café y aunque devia haverlas traido un tal Estrangero Mr. Patricio Soé como no encontro en la villa á su hermº no las trajo. hahora espero qe. V. me las remita con el mismo Soé entregará á V. un papel mio y creo qe. tambien una carta qe. llevaba desde aquel tiempo pª mi amigo difunto D. Santiago.

El negocio sobre la Ley de esclavos es nesesario qe. V. le recerve muchicimo, mien[tras] sabemos lo qe. resultará, pues aunque ntro. amigo D. Ramon le remite lo qe. ha dho. ya sobre esto, es menester no darlo á conoser hasta qe. salga una resolucion mas favorable.

No tengo tiempo pª contestar al Sor Dn. Samuel su aprece: sirvase V. ofrecerle mis respetos y qe. en otra ves lo haré con regularidad.

Digame V. á punto fixo si el Barco qe. hase el biaje á Nueva Orleans irá en este inbierno pª con su abiso, poder mandar algun dinero, pues deceo qe. me bengan algunas cositas y qe. sea pronto cuando V. me de este abiso qe. sea con tiempo y de toda sertesa qe. partirá el Barco.

Si V. me abisa puede qe. iré yo mismo hasta esa villa con mis mulas á esperar la venida del Barco y digame tambien si podran benderse bien algunos cavallos y mulas qe. tengo con este fin y algunas lleguas, aunque sea pr. vacas gordas.

Ya se me pasaba decir a V. qe. por un oficio qe. recivi en el correo antepasado del Sor Viesca se me anuncia qe. soy nombrado Admr del Puerto de Galbeston y al mismo tiempo se me manda qe. pase á haser un reconocimtº pª Fixar la aduana. yo no recivi con gusto este destino pr. tenerlo pr. un puerto inutil casi pr. hahora y me he negado ál tal destino, si no es que se me de un sueldo suficiente y asi se lo he manifestado al mismo govierno. Espero sobre esto sus consejos de V.

Retorna a V. sus memorias mi Sra Madre y mis hermanos y V. mande a este su amigo

J. Antº Navarro [Rubric]

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar 29 de Octubre de 1829.

Sor. Dn. Estevan Austin

Mi estimado amigo: para V. y solo pa. V. son las adjuntas dos copias qe. le acompaño cuyo contenido de ambas es necesario reservar

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muy mucho pr. qe. temo pueda alterarse la tranquilidad de esa poblacion al saver qe. el Decreto de 15 de Sep^e qe. ha espedido el Exmo. Sor. P^te de la Republica ha abolido la esclavitud en toda la Nacion.

Dexó a la consideracion de V. los graves males que amenazan a Tejas si no se atiende ami solicitud, mas por lo que me dice el amigo Balmaceda[1] en carta de 17 del actual qe. he recivido hoy como verá V. pr. el papelito qe. le incluyo, tengo esperanzas qe. me lisongean al par de lo qe. me intereza el bienestar y engrandecimiento de este Dep^to de qe. el Gov^no y la Diputacion permanente secundaran mi saludable propocicion con respecto ha este parte del Estado, y queda a mi quidado dar a V. abiso de todo quanto Ocurra sobre este asunto de suma importancia.

Redusco mi contestacion a su apreciable de 5 del corriente á manifestar a V. aber recivido con anterioradad noticia de la temprana muerte de su Hermano y mi buen amigo D^n Santiago, cuyo acontecimiento lo he sentido muchisimo, y nada podre decir a V. quando adbierto su Christiana conformidad con los Decretos del autor de la naturaleza.

Yá por otros conductos tenia recivido noticias de qe. los anuncios de rebolucion en la frontera carecian de fundam^to y se confirma con lo qe. V. ha tenido la bondad de comunicarme sobre este asunto, pr. cuya eficacia estoy a V. reconocido, hasi como del trabajo improba qe. se ha tomado de traducir las Leyes, Decretos, y ordenes qe. se han dirigido ha esa municipalidad deceoso de que se impongan de todo sus abitantes y se sisteme el regimen constitucional en todos los ramos de la administracion publica, ojalá qe. otro tanto se pudiera hacer en Nacogdoches hasta el distrito de savinas, mas temo qe. el periodico *Abogado Mexicano* disfrace mucho el sentido en los Documentos qe. está traduciendo en su papel de qe. deven resultar grandes inconbenientes de su inecsacta interpretacion

Su recomendado Mr. Tomas Powel se me presentó con una instancia, el asunto qe. promueve esta muy desfavorable para él, y su determinacion final depende del Govno. Gral en donde deven excistir ho [los?] espedientes; pero sin embargo el Amigo Padilla y yó beremos de hacer quanto se pueda en su beneficio

Estoy muy ocupado pr. esto no contesto á nuestro amigo D^n Samuel su carta de 6 de este mes qe. recivi con atraso, hagame V. favor de saludarle y de escusarme pr. esta falta qe. repararé pr. el correo proximo.

Selebro mucho su mejora de salud, es necesario se conserve V. p^a si mismo y pr. el bien de Texas, no trabaje su espiritu con las refleciones a qe. dará lugar el Decreto de 15 de Sep^e pr. qe. como dejo

[1] One of the Texas deputies in the State congress.

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dicho no tendrá efecto en el Dep^to^ segun lo decea su amigo afmo Q. B. S. M.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

[Evidently the quotation from Balmaceda's letter:]

Y aun nosotros nos hemos opuesto abiertam^te^ á publicar el Decreto de 16 de Septie^me^ sobre creacion de un fondo Militar y restrincion dela libertad de imprenta, y aun nos hemos estendido á obserbar el de la libertad de esclavos qe. tantos daños origina al Estado.

SANTIAGO DEL VALLE TO AUSTIN

Saltillo, October 31, 1829.

See Calendar.

FAILURE OF THE SPANISH INVASION

[This document, probably intended by Austin for an editorial in The Texas Gazette, is omitted. It is undated, but was probably written about November 1, 1829.] See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

Mr. E R WEIGHTMAN

DR SIR,

In regard to the salt lots. I think that if you could lease to Burnham, and give him the previlege for a certain number of years—say three or four or five, on condition that he kept the works agoing, and at the end of the lease the lots to be given up with such improvements and kettles etc as may then be on the place, without binding him to any specific kind or value of improvements—The main object is to start the thing now for the benifit of the place, the lots hereafter will be valuable, and it is better to give the use of the lots for nothing for a certain number of years than to sell—also it is better to give the previlege to Burnham to keep all his kettles when his time is out— This is my opinion—tho you must do as you think best or proper and either sell or lease as may be thought by you best—

I am ready at any time to give you a full power of attorney as agent of the proprietors, I proposed to League on my return last summer to go immediately down and he promised to do so, but has been in bad health— As soon as it is possible for me to do so I will go down there and make a final arrangement and in the meantime I will agree to any dispositions of lots to actual settlers who im-

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prove them, that you may make— The time has not quite arrived to push that place—there must be some more settlements and some more wealth round Bay Prairie and on the river and it will not advance the place much to sell lots at this time, for they will get into the hands of persons who will keep them merely for speculation and they had better remain in the hands of the proprietors than in any others. I am in favor of letting lots go to actual settlers who will improve them but think that the lots will be better in the hands of the proprietors than in those of such persons as would be likely to buy at a public sale at this time. tho I am willing to do on my part whatever may be thought best—

I have been greatly disappointed by the long delay of the Commissioner— I do not expect him now for three weeks—and I can do nothing untill he arrives.

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Novr 4. 1829

[Addressed:] Mr. Elias R. Weightman Matagorda Cap. Burnham

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin

Bexar 9. de Novr de 1829.

Sr. D. Esteban F. Austin.

Mi estimado Amigo: Conforme a la recomendacion que V. me dirijio por conducto del Sr. D. Tomas Jefferson Chambers en favor del Sr. D. Tomas Powel, hé procurado servire en cuanto há dependido de mi poca capacidad é influencia dirijiendo por el correo de hoy á Mexico á un Amigo mio una carta documentada muy fuerte y eficáz para que obtenga buen despacho en el Ministerio de Hacienda que corre á cargo del Sr. Zavala. Yo creo pr. este medio que el Sr. Powel obtendrá lo que desea que es la debolucion desus efectos malamente embargados, menos el tabaco, por ser artº enteramente prohibido enla Republica. Tenga V. la bondad de instruir de esto al Sr. Powel, no por que no lo está, sino pr. que Vea que la recomendacion de V. no há sido inutil.

En estos dias saldrá de aqui una partida de tropa conduciendo para Nacogdoches 7 D [7000] pas y 6 D [6000] cartuchos de fusil con bala, en seis cargas que portan igual numero de mulas de mi propiedad á flete: quiero que estas á su regreso me traigan de esa villa 12. quintales de tabaco rama en oja ó en anduyo, por que segun la ley gral para el 1º de Enero proximo ya estará libre el trafico de este articulo; y con tal motibo suplico á V. se sirva mandarme solicitar dho efecto entre esos habitantes, y que esté listo y empacado precisamente para el regreso de mis mulas, al respecto de un quintal por

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tercio por q deben volver algo flacas y maltratadas pr. el clima y la estacion en un viage tan largo como es á Nacogdoches.

Tengo informes ciertos de qe. en esa colonia vale el tabaco á razon de 8 pesos el quintal á cambio de caballos y otros efectos: yo presumo que por el dinero se podrá conseguir mas barato El oficial conductor de los rr. y municiones, y por su defecto, mi mayordomo Cipriano del Toro pondrá en poder de V. á su ida, ó a su regreso precisam^{te} cien pesos p^{a} pagar el tabaco, y su empaque bajo cuyo concepto puede V. proceder á su compra encargandola al Sr. Williams ó á otro persona de su confianza, si su salud no le permite hacerla pr. si.

Dentro de breve nos veremos en esa.

J Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Robert Lewis to Austin

Cerralvo 9th Nov. 1829

Col Austin

Dear Sir; we arrivd at this place a few days since and found Cameron here, and both Mr. Sharkey and Myself being unwell nothing was said on business until we got better; day before yesterday Mr Sharkey sent for him, and informed him he was ready to attend to business, and it was necessary first for us Cameron and myself to come to a proper understanding, as to our affaires,—

I then nam^{d} to him that I had form^{d} a company in Battinson, to work Certain Mines by authority invested in me by an Instrument of writing, with his signature to it, I ask him if he claim^{d} an interest in the company, he said he did; I then ask him if that was his hand writing and if it containd his signature, he quivocated as much as he could at last he acknowledged his signature, but would not admit its vilidity; but stated it was void long since and said it never was intended to of been us^{d}—but to give more confidence, in aiding me in forming the Company. He said he would allow me an interest in those Mines the Company had contracted to work alluding to the two mines in the Contract but as to allowing me an interest in other Mines he would not except some at Yguana he naimd these I might have an interest some naming them and more over he would not admit of any cantract he ever had mad with me, that he was not to be drove or compel^{d} to do any thing by me— of all the lying quivocating schondrals he beats all I ever saw—he said when he gave the Instrument he cold not Deny ownin Mines in his own name notwithstanding he bound himself to do so, this was fraud within its self,

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day after tomorrow Mr Sharkey and myself intends seting out for Mounterey to precure all the legal information necessary both for myself and to satisfy himself as to the interest of the Company.—The tools reach this place four days before we did, and if it was not for Camerons rascalaty we could commence our Mining operations in a week,—I should like for Mr. Williams to hold himself in readiness, to come to my assistance in case much difficulty, I will advise you as soon as its practable—Cameron observed the reason he came on from Bexar, and not meeting us, he heard some news that huried him off—he has secured the Mines, I understand from him, as also from others,—If aney thing remains undone that would promote my interest in this business, dont fail to attend to it, he bids defiance as to my suing him,—If sufficient information could be procured to git the Govt. to call on him as respects his remarks respecting a seperat Republic, it might be of service to me, as he depends so much on his influence both with the individuals here and the Govt.—any services rendered me will be thankfully recd

Robt Lewis. [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr Samuel M. Williams Villa de Austin. Texas

Hugh B. Johnston to Austin

Trinity

Col Austin

Dear Sir We have had Some apprehensions of an Indian war hear, we heard a great talk respecting it from Some particular Indians of the Coushatties in consequence of Which I payed them a visit in company with Capt. Orr we held a taulk with all the principle chiefs they denyed ever hearing any thing like a casperacy against the american Collany, also appeared to be very friendly. and above all things, to be at piece and friendly with the Americans this I believe to be the truth with the great majority of the coushatties and Allibamas but I am fully of the oppinion that there has been a considerable talk of War among the differant tribes north of this and that the Shawenees which was hostile to the Americans in the last war was the principle adgitators, the indians States that all of the auld creek Indians is on this side of the Mississippi and is comeing to settle among them I have had it from good authority and I expect that you are not unapprised of the fact, that they or apart of them are now on the confines of this country, and are makeing application for land in the Texas, now Sir if these Indians which are said to be from five to eight thousand Strong with all the balance of those detached warlike tribes are allowed to settle in this country, I

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think it not hard to predict the consequence. I think from the conversation which we had on the subject a year or two ago, your views correspond with that of my own, Now Sir I think that our hope is in you to stop this great evil, by a true reppresentation to the goverment of the inevable ill consequence which must result some day or other from suffering those hell hounds to settle among us, if they do not proclaim immedeate war or commence hostillities they will be for ever stealling and robing whear ever they have the chance if once they feel them selves strong please to right to me by the first oppertunity and communicate you Ideas to me on the Subject and what you think can be done, I hear that the commishernor has gone on to Nacogdoches perhaps he could put a stop to those fatile invitations by some of our great men to those Devils visiting Texas but you know best, I remain yours with Esteem

HUGH B JOHNSTON

Nov the 9th 1829

Los 8000 indios de qe. hable el capitan Johnston son del tribu Moscogue ó creek y ya han emigrado al territorio de Arkansas Johnston es capitan de la milicia sobre el rio Trinidad

AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO RAMON MUSQUIZ

Villa de Austin 10 de Nov^{e} de 1829

Señor Don RAMON MUSQUIZ

MI APPRECIABLE SOR Y GEFE DE TODA MI CONSIDERACION: El objeto de esta es de presentar á V. S. el Sor Anthony Butler Coronel retirado del Gob^{no} del Norte. Este Señor esta destinado á la Capital de la Republica y á mas de su pasaporte del Gob^{no} del Norte lleva una carta del Sor Presidente el Gral Jackson dirijida al Ministro de aquel Gob^{no} el Sor Poinsett la cual tiene este parafo "El portador de esta, el Coronel Butler, va á Mexico encargado de comunicaciones de la mas interesante é importante caracter p^{a} el Gob^{no} Mejicano."

El Coronel Butler solicite de V. S. el correspondiente pasaporte, y no dudo que las comunicaciones que lleva del Gob^{no} del Norte al de esta Republica son interesantes y que importa mucha que llega sin dilacion. En cuya inteligencia le recomiendo á la atencion del Gob^{no} de este dep^{to} al cargo de V. S. solicitando de mi parte para este Señor las facilidades correspondientes para el pronto complecion de sus negocios y seguro viage á la Capital de este Republica.

Quedandome con su mayor consideracion y respeto el que tiene el honor de B. S. M.

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JOHN DURST TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoch[s] Nov[r] the 10[th] 1829

S. F AUSTIN

DEAR SIR We have receiv[d] by last Mail a Decree Given by the excutive of our Governm[t] Liberating all the Slaves in its territory I have so farr succeeded with the cival and Military othoraties to Suspend its Publication and expose to the Governor the evil arrising from such Law should it have efect you no Doubt have it before this and I doubt nott you have taken Measures to Surpress it, in the Name of God what Shall we do for Gods Sake advise me on the subject by the return of Mail we are ruind for ever Should this Measure be adopted Yours

JOHN DURST [Rubric]

MIGUEL ARCINIEGA TO AUSTIN

Bexar, November 12, 1829.

See Calendar.

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar 12 de Noviem. de 1829.

Sor. D[n] ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI AMIGO QE. ESTIMO: entre los impresos qe. diriji ha ese Ayuntamiento ban dos qe. contienen las obserbaciones qe. la Diputacion permanente y el Gov[no] del Estado hicieron al Decreto de 16 de Sep[e] qe. trata de crear un fondo Militar y qe. pr. consiguiente no se publicó en la Capital ni se ha sirculado, nada se me dice del 15 del mismo mes sobre libertad de Esclavos qe. he suspendido como anuncié a V. mas por esto no debemos desconfiar de la buena acogida qe. tendrá mi esposicion, y no dudo de qe. pr. el otro correo comunicaré a V. noticias lisongeras acerca de este negocio de tanto interes p[a] el desafortunado Texas.

En el mes qe. entra deve hacerse la eleccion de Ay[to] recomiendo a V. dirija la opinion pr. qe. resulte en buenos ciudadanos qe. correspondan bien a la Confianza del pueblo qe. deposita en ellos sus derechos.

Lo qe. V. me dice en su apreciable de 2 del corriente con respecto al estado de quietud en la frontera, es indudable, haci mismo las miras interesados en querer suponer una rebolucion qe. no hay elementos p[a] hacerla.

Las observaciones de V. referentes a la inconstitucionalidad del Decreto de libertad de esclavos, qe. está fuera de las facultades

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estraordinarias qe. le demarco la Ley de 25 de agosto, Al Gov^no y atrabiesa del modo mas repugnante la soberania de los Estados, son inegables; pues los hombres sensatos de este pueblo del mismo modo calificaron el tal Decreto, qe. V.

El correo esta saliendo.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

P. D. La adjunta Carta se me recomienda pr. el Srio. Valle p^a qe. la remita a V. con seguridad

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GOVERNOR JOSÉ MARIA VIESCA TO MINISTER OF RELACIONES

Numero 126—Exmo. Sor.—Acompaño a V. E. en copia una representacion que me Dirige el Gefe del Departam^to de Tejas, manifestando los fatales resultados que debe producir en el territorio de su cargo el Decreto qe. con fecha 15, del popo. Septiembre se sirvio Dictar el Exmo. Sr. Presidente de la Republica aboliendo la Esclavitud en toda ellá é imputando por lo tanto una esepcion de la ley en favor de Dicho Departam^to Cuya solicitud me pide la Esfuerse y bigorise interponiendo los respetos de este gobierno como quiera q. esta al alcance de los males qe. debe producir en el Estado la consecucion de la gracia indicada.—

El Gob^no Señor Exmo. sin necesidad de la exitatiba supradicha hubiera procedido desde luego que recibio el mencionado Decreto, á implorar del Exmo. Sr. Presidente su amparo y proteccion asia el estado por medio de la misma ú otra medida de Ygual naturalesa que la encenciada, pues tiene conocido del modo mas conveniente por las circunstancias Particulares en qe. se halla este estado con respecto á Esclavos á Diferencia de las de los demas que componen la federacion Mejicana, que la practica en el del mencionado decreto dará por tierra no solo con las esperanzas lisongeras q. en la actualidad presenta su colonizacion para los progresos sucecibos del mismo Estado, sino que tambien recibirá un golpe destructor la presente situacion de Esté, que es bien precaria y miserable, y puede importar nada menos y aun quisa su Desaparecimiento bajo el caracter de tal. Sus recursos en el dia todos son en potencia, mediando principalm^te pa. su desarroyo los Establecim^tos Coloniales ausiliados por los Esclavos que en ellas existen, y q. el decreto en cuestion reduciria á una Ymportancia despreciable. El objeto del referido decreto, por otros mil titulos tan recomendable, me contubo de representar como hé indicado hasta ver con mas estension como ya lo hé visto mediante la referida exitatiba, si en la parte del estado que principalm^te devia ocasionar perjuicios gravicimos podian conciliarse los crecidos intereses q. chocan de frente con el fin, muy digno tambien de consideracion, á q. mira el decreto, cual es el

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filantropico de libertar a los hombres de una condicion á que los redujerá las mas bergonsosa de las instituciones humanas adoptada en un tiempo obscuro y barvaro, pero q. por desgracia aun las Naciones mas cibilizadas no han podido destruir de un golpe sus ominosos efectos. En los mismos estados unidos del Norte, en ese pais clacico, cuña de la Livertad y de una filosofia practica, tan faborable á la Yndependencia y dignidad de la especie racional, vemos que no há sido dado alos sabios Legisladores el contentar los sentimientos mas dulces de su Corazon sobre el punto de q. boi hablando, y alli lo mismo q. en todas partes precisa á que aún existan Esclavos, la fuerza irresistible de las Circunstancias que crearon las leyes respectibas de q. por desgracia se hiso un uso espontaneo en tiempos atrás y aun hora se hase aúnque sin duda por necesidad y en obio de mayores males.

El Departam^{to} de Tejas, Sr. Exmo., que hantes erá conosido bajo el mismo nombre por Provincia, es un pais inmenso y muy importante p^{a} consolidacion y prosperidad del Estado de mi cargo: de tai crisis de aquel saldrá este ála buelta de pocos años indudablem^{te} de la nulidad casi absoluta en que ahorá se encuentra, y la colonizacion alli establecida es el unico medio que de hecho se nos há presentado y en el dia tenemos p^{a} desenbolver los grandicimos recursos que debe ministrar una tierra dilatada, Feracisima en estremo, litoral asia el atlantico, y vecina de la potencia mas culta de nuestro continente, Es pues seguro que si el Decreto en cuestion liberta á mas de unmil Esclavos que fomentan con sus brazos en las referidas nacientes colonias la agricultura, la industria y todos los otros principios de Utilidad que comiensan á apareser en dicho pais, asi como sostienen el contento y aquisencia de los propietarios sus Dueños q. al presente forman la parte mas nerbiosa de la riquesa y poblacion de él; es seguro, repito, qe. este Estado debe apartar de si por muchos años las ideas de sus adelantos, y antes bien se le preparâ el conflicto de buscar un remedio q. sera muy Dificil encontrar p^{a} mantener siquiera su actual precaria Existencia, pues Debe darse Por sentado la perdida de las sumas q. ingresarian dentro de poco á sus fondos respectivos á Virtud de las contratas de colonizacion q. se han celebrado, y q. en consequencia del Decreto de q. se habla ban á quedar sin efecto—

Los un mil y tantos Esclavos que el Decreto manumitiria en tejas bejo la remota indemnizacion q. nesesariam^{te} ocasionarán las circunstancias apuradas del erario federal, pertenecen á los Estrangeros q. se hand Establecido como colonos entre nosotros, y es de temer q. al sentir estos los tristes efectos del despojo q. se les haga de sus propiedades aunque indemnisandoles, pero con retardo y los consiguientes perjuicios, infieran al estado algunas agitaciones p^{a} cuyo

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remedio nos vieramos en el Duro Compromiso de Usar de medidas violentas y costosas. No por esto quiero iniciar a dhos. colonos de un caracter turbulento é insubordinado, pues hasta hora solo hé recibido pruebas de lo contrario; Pero adbiertase la condicion del hombre y las afecciones de q. este es capaz cuando de un dia á otro há aser arruinado como les sucederia á muchos de ellos que toda su fortuna consiste en la prosecion de sus Esclavos—

Lo expuesto Sor. Exmo. merita suficientem^te^ la suplica q. por conducto de V. E. interpongo p^a^ con el Exmo. Sr. Presidente de la Republica á fin de q. sirva en obsequio de uno de los mayores beneficios q. el Estado de mi cargo puede recibir, declarar eseptuado el Departam^to^ de tejas de las disposiciones q. comprende el Decreto Espedido en 15. de Septiembre ultimo aboliendo la esclavitud en la Republica—

Me reprodusco de V. E. en los terminos de las mas alta Consideracion y distinguido aprecio.—

Dios y Livertad Leona Vicario 14. de Nov^e^ de 1829.—Jose Maria Viesca—Santiago del valle, Secretario.

Es copia Santiago

JOHN GATES TO AUSTIN

Harrisburg, Texas, November 17, 1829.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO JOHN DURST

San Felipe de Austin Nov^r^ 17. 1829

Mr John Durst

Nacogdoches

DR SIR I have rec^d^ your letter by this days mail dated the 10^th^ instant, on the subject of the decree of the President freeing all the Slaves.

You say to me in your letter "in the name of God what shall we do.— do for God's sake advise me on the subject by return of mail, we are ruined for ever should this measure be adopted"

What the people of Texas have to do, is to represent to the Government, through the Ayuntamientos or some other channel, in a very respectful manner; that agreeably to the constitution, and the colonization laws *all* their property is guaranteed to them without exceptions in the most solemn and sacred manner— That they brought their slave property into the country and have retained it here, under the faith of that guarantee, and in consequence of a special invitation publically given to emigrants by the Government in the Colonizacion law to do so—that they have taken an oath to defend

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the constitution and are bound to do so. That the constitution of the state expressly recognises the right of property in slaves, by allowing six months after its publication for their introduction into the State—That they *will* defend it, and with *it*, their property.

There ought to be no vocifirous and visionary excitement or noise about this matter— Our course is a very plain one—calmn, deliberate dispationate, inflexible, *firmness;* and not windy and ridiculous blowing and wild threats, and much less any thing like opposition to the Mexican constitution, nothing of this kind will do any good, it will in fact be unjustifiable, and will never be approved of by me but on the contrary opposed most decidedly. I will *not* violate my duty as a mexican citizen.

The constitution must be both our shield, and our arms, under *it*, and with *it* we must constitutionally defend ourselves and our property.

The chief of department D^{n} Ramon Musquiz, has taken a firm and noble stand, he has suspended the publication of said decree, and has represented in a very able manner against it. If he should finally be compelled to publish and circulate it, the Ayuntamientos must *then*, take an unanimous, firm, and *constitutional* stand. The people will unanimously support them.

I know nothing of the men who compose the Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches, if they are true patriots, and true friends to themselves and to Texas, they will not suffer that decree to be published or circulated in that municipality and they will take the stand I have indicated or some other that will preserve the constitution and our constitutional rights from open and direct violation

These are my ideas on the matter. I have said the same to my friends in Bexar, and when the decree arrives officially (which it has not yet) I shall say the same to the Gov^{t}—What I do in this matter will be done openly—Mexico has not within its whole dominions a man who would defend its independence, the union of its territory, and all its constitutional rights sooner than I would, or be more ready and willing to discharge his duties as a Mexican citizen; one of the first and most sacred of those duties is to protect my constitutional rights and I will do it, so far as I am able. I am the owner of one slave only, an old decreped woman not worth much, but in this matter I should feel that my constitutional rights as a Mexican were just as much infringed as they would be if I had a thousand, it is the principle and not the amount, the latter makes the violation more agravated, but not more illegal or unconstitutional

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

P. S. Let me know what your Ay^{to}. will do—

S. F. A [Rubric]

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TERAN TO AUSTIN

Pueblo viejo de Tampico 20. de Novᵉ / 829.

Ciudᵒ FELIPE ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

MUY ESTIMADO AMIGO: Estoy autorizado pr. el Exmo Sr. Presidente de la Republica pª comunicar á V. a fin de q. lo haga saber álos Yndividuos de las Colonias mas cercanas á ese punto, q. el Decreto de 15. de Setiembre ultº de q. incluyo á V. un exemplar no comprehende al Departamento de Texas con tal de q. no haya mas introduccion de esclavos.

Me apresuro á dar á V. esta noticia con el fin indicado y pª q. no causa disgusto á los propietarios de aquellos, la publicacion del enunciado decreto.

Paselo V. bien y mande lo q. guste á su afecto amigo y obsecuente servidor—

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

JOHN AUSTIN TO HINTON CURTIS

Received from Mr. Hinton Curtis Six hundred and Thirteen pounds Beef at three Dollars pr hundred pounds—on a/c of Stephen F. Austin Novr 23rd 1829

Brasoria— JOHN AUSTIN [Rubric]

JOHN DURST TO AUSTIN

Nacogdochª. Novr 24 de 1829

S. F. AUSTIN Esqr

DEAR SIR I receivd yours of the 17th Instant and am very thankful to you for the troble you have taken in the complyence of my request, it has aforded Great Satisfaction to our friends, and I am confident that the corse indicated will unanimosley be adopted to a man; you wish to Know what the Ayuntamtº. of this place will do it is hard telling so farr they have agreed to cooparate with My vews on that subject, but there [is] no Knowing what turn they may take they are a Boddy without souls and subjects easy worked on by intrigue the Militery comtᵉ,. of this place has a considerable influence over them and is much of a scoundrel, I have this day been credibly informd that he has long since conceivd the Plan of efecting a revolution amonst the Slaves against their Masters he has even told me previos to this that he was astonished it did nott take place, but Little did I suspect him Capable of inducing them What are we to do with such a rascal, I hope el Sor. Padilla will soon be on and put things to wright

JOHN DURST [Rubric]

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J. Antonio Padilla to Austin

Bexar 26 de Novre de 1829.

Sr. D. Esteban F. Austin.

Mi apreciable Amigo: Con mucho gusto hé recibido su atenta de V. de 18. del corrte y en su contestacion debo decirle: que cuando recibi la de V. en que me remitio algunos puntos de instruccion sobre calificacion de los terrenos que no estaban cultivados conforme á la ley en esa colonia pertenecientes á la primera empresa, los diriji desde Monclova al Gobo con particular recomendacion en 29 del ultimo Julio; y como luego entró este en ocupaciones de grande interes por los anuncios que hubo de la invasion española, no pudo despacharse por sria el asunto indicado. Pero hace pocos dias que recibi una carta del Srio á nombre del Sr. Viesca en que apoya el proyecto, y ofrece despacharlo cuanto antes: por el correo de hoy lo aguardo. Sobre todo á nra vista le manifestaré á V. cuanto hé escrito á cerca de este y otros particulares relativos á mi comision y á la prosperidad de Tejas, al que yo jusgo el pais de *promision*

Yo tengo mucha confianza pa asegurar á V. que puedo contar con la aprobacion del Gobo sobre esta materia, y otras que quiero someter antes al examen y juicio de V. lo que lograré á nra vista.

Desde el momento en q. el Gefe politico de aqui me enseño el Decreto aboliendo la esclavitud, le di mi opinion con la franqueza y buena fé que acostumbro, y se conformó con mis opiniones que fueron las de que no se diera pase á tal disposicion; que no era de obedecerse ni cumplirse, por ser anticonstitucional; y por que aun cuando lo fuera, atacaba directamte el dro. de propiedad, destruia de un solo golpe el Departamto, lo metia en combustion, y que acabaria necesariamte pr. una guerra atroz y sanguinaria.

Fué tal la vehemencia con que hablé, que me dispensó su confianza para que le redactara una exposicion al Gobo sobre este particular. Lo hize asi, en los terminos que V. se servirá ver en el adjunto papel, pero otros amigos suyos le dijeron que estaba muy fuerte, y acaso descomedido, qe. seria mejor variarla, quitandole aquellos parrafos en que se hablaba con descaro del Gobo; y con la prudencia y buen tino que acostumbra lo mandó refundir todo en la conclusion con q acaba la espocision del Gefe, de que creo tendrá V. un ejemplar pa insertarla en la Gazeta de esa villa.[1]

Mis opiniones publicas, y privadas á cerca de esta materia están estampadas en el contenido de la representacion que redacté: estoy pronto á firmarlas con mi mano, y sellarlas con mi sangre en el campo de batalla á sostenerlas con la pluma; y pr. ultimo á oponerme con todos mis esfuerzos á la publicacion y cumplimto de una orn. tirana, cruel, ilegal, y monstruosa.

[1] See Musquiz to the governor, Oct. 25, 1829.

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Retorno á V. mil expresiones de gratitud por la adquisicion del caballo p^{a} mi viage, lo aceptaré con mucho gusto por que no tengo un animal de esta especie que me pueda ser util p^{a} mi expedicion, lo que tengo son mulas y malas.

Lo mismo digo a V. con relacion al caballo para R^{r} y demas servicios que V. há tenido la bondad de prestarle de los que será satisfecho pr. mi puntualm^{te}.

A nra vista hablaremos y arreglaremos cuantos puntos sean convenientes á Tejas y á nros intereses:

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar 26 de Noviem^{e} de 1829.

Sor. D^{n} Estevan Austin

Mi digno amigo y Sor: la de V. de 10 del corriente qe. me entregó el coronel Butler, original la dirigi al Gov^{no} del estado con el mismo Sor aquien otorgue pasaporte hasta leona vicario y le di recomendacion p^{a} el Sor. Viesca.

Son en mi poder la de 11 con la nota de recomendo, y la de 18 del espresado mes, a la primera manifestaré a V. mi opinion: si por fortuna no hubiese concluido la Guerra contra los imbasores Españoles, no hay duda qe. el presid^{te} con las facultades estraordinarias, bende a Texas a los Estados del Norte, en el dia creo qe. no lo hará pr. qe. teme a la confederacion que no obstante su poder inlimitado, no se ha conformado con la mayor parte de los Decretos qe. ha espedido, me esplicaré mas claro, han reprochado todas sus operaciones y Declarado no permitir se abrogue ningun acto de los de su soberania.

A su segunda esperaba la llegada del correo p^{a} decirle algo acerca de la opinion del Gov^{no} del Estado sobre el decreto de libertad de esclavos, mas este no llega y la hora de la salida del de esa se acerca, y con tal motivo propongo a V. qe si le parece combiniente p^{a} tranquilizar a sus colonos hacer notoria mi esposicion contra el Decreto, puede V. hacerlo del modo qe. guste, creo qe. seria muy del caso traducirla al Yngles y imprimirla en la Gazeta ó como a V. le paresca mejor, pues yó solo me intereso en el mejor horden de esa colonia y en el bien estar de sus abitantes

Si V. save algo de la comicion del Sor Butler, hagame favor de decirmelo con el caracter de reservado, pues la importancia en qe. V. la estima p^{a} la nacion, me hace ser mas curioso.

Tranquilicese V. y tranquilise a esos abitantes, pues yó no dudo que el Gov^{no} del Estado patriocinara sus intereses.

Ramon Musquiz [Rubric]

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Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Sor Dn. Estevan Austin.

Bexar 27. de Nob^{e} de 1829.

Mi predilecto amigo: tres oras despues de la salida del correo para esa, llego el de la capital del Estado, y tube el plaser inesplicable de que el gov^{no} me comunicara oficialmen^{te} haver secundado y apoyado con su acostumbrada energia mi solicitud para qe. atejas [á Tejas] se le eceptue del decreto de 15. de Sep^{e} ult^{o} que avolió la esclavitud en la republica, y no dudo se conseguirá por qe. contamos con la buena disposicion del actual ministro de relaciones, hijo del Estado y ermano del Gobernador, el Sor. Dn. Agustin Viesca.

Nuestro amigo Dn Juan Ant^{o} Padilla há querido tener el gusto de anticipar áV. la esperada comunicacion, y copia de la esposicion del Gobierno qe. al efecto le hé franqueado, sin perjuicio de dirigir ambos docum^{tos} esta Gefatura por el proximo correo.

Si V. tubiere oportunidad le comunicar al Sor. Piedras y el Alcalde de Nacogdoches esta importante noticia, será muy conbeniente p^{a} aquietar aquellos havitantes que hán manifestado mucho discontento por que temieron q. el decreto de que hablo les ocasionaria su ruina.

Al recibo de esta carta no dudo se berá V. libre delos cuidados con qe. lo hé considerado, asi como lo está delos qe. con tal motivo tenian ocupado ássu afetisimo amigo que le desea la mejor tranquilidad y S. M. B.

Ramon Musquiz [Rubric]

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin

Bejar 27 de Nov^{e} de 1829

Al C. Esteban F. Austin. Salud.

Amigo mio muy estimado. Tengo el placer de acompañar á V. copia dela exposicion que el Sup^{o} Gob^{o} del Estado dirijió al E. Sr. Presid^{te} de al Republica por conducto del Ministro de Relaciones,[1] á consecuencia dela excitacion del Sr. Gefe de este Departamento sobre el decreto que abolia la esclavitud. Este Documento me fué facilitado por este Sr. Gefe con el fin de dirijirlo á V. para su satisfaccion, y la de esos dignos habitantes que estaban en ansiedades por el aparecimiento de un decreto que cortaba de un golpe todo el pie de sus esperanzas. Hay muchas razones para esperar que el decreto será abolido, á lo menos con respecto á Tejas, por que fortuna actualm^{te} está ancargado del Ministerio de Relaciones el Sr. D. Agustin Viesca, hijo de Estado, y hermano de nro digno Gob^{or}

[1] Nov. 14, above.

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S. E. el Sr. Mnro Viesca tiene las mejores ideas á cerca de este Departam^{to} en todas sus relaciones, es hombre de mucha probidad, honradéz, y buen caracter: y como ese decreto fué dado ó firmado por su antecesor, penetrandose del imperio de la razon con que se reclama, hay andada ya la mitad del camimo, por sola esta circunstancia, para conseguir que el actual Ministro enmiende lo que su antecesor malhizo. Esta es la mania del genero humano, generalm^{te} hablando. En otra ocasion contaré á V. lo que hacen los artesanos en un convento de frayles á la entrada de un nuevo guardian, y pasemos á nro asunto.

Yo deseo, si V. conviene en ello, que el adjunto documento se inserte enla Gazeta de esa villa, en ingles para publica satisfaccion; y espero que por mi mano recibira asi mismo el decreto que ó revoque *de contrario imperio* el de 15. de Sep^{e} ó por lo menos exceptue al Departamento de Tejas. Este será el dia en que mi alma se llene de regocijo.

Es adjunta una carta del Sr. Musquiz, que parece trata de este mismo asunto, segun me há dicho. Es tambien adjunta copia del of^{o} con que el Gob^{o} dirije á este gefe la comunicacion de 14 del presente al Sup^{o} de la Federacion; p^{a} que V. vea que el Gob^{o} por todas partes respira actos de justicia y benevolencia.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

José Candido Arcos to Austin

Bexar, November 28, 1829.

See Calendar.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin

San Antonio, November 30, 1829.

See Calendar.

James W. Breedlove to Austin

New Orleans Nov.^{r} 30. 1829

Col Stephen F Austin

Dear Sir Your esteemed favor of the 12 Oct came to hand by Captain Pettet and for the valuable information therein contained be pleased to accept my warmest thanks, I have shown your letter to several of my friends who are interested in Texas and they have advised me verry Strongly to have it published, this I have declined doing, as you had [not] expressed such a wish. Your letter has shed light on the subject of the Colonization Laws and regulations,

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which many persons stood in need of and to such persons I have taken pleasure in reading it. I shall feel under much obligation to you when I receive the promised translation of all the Laws on that subject as it will afford me the means of giving such information as is almost daily asked of me, as the representative of the Mexican Government in this City. The impression is rapidly spreading that the United States are now negotiating for the purchase of Texas it may be without foundation, but it has already had the effect to cause many to look in that direction for a future residence—

for your friendly feelings in recommending the Planters of your Country to me as an agent to Transact their business accept my best wishes, and you may rely on my best exertions for the protection of their Interest whenever intrusted to my care;

Should it ever fall in my way to render Service to the Settlement of Austin, rest assured it Shall be done

J W Breedlove

P. S. A friend of mine Gen[l] Smith of Missouri is now here, and has a great wish to make a contract with your State for the Settlement of two or three hundred families, and wishes me to Join him, he is a Gentleman of great Integrity and inteligence, and is in possession of Considerable means, he would visit Texas, but his business Calls him to Mo. he requests me to ask if the land originally granted to Edwards is vacant and also what Kind of a Grant Could be obtained in other Sections of your State, and when your Legislature meets, and what are the requisites to be Done to make a Contract. your answer to those enquiries will oblige

J W Breedlove

[Addressed.] Col. Stephen F Austin Austin Texas Schr. Santa Ana

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Austin to Colonists

NOTICE

All the emigrants who have removed here as a part of the families which I am authorized by the Gov[t] to settle in Texas and who have not received their deeds are notified that they must furnish me in person as soon as possible with a list of their names, where from, the number and sex of their white family—the number of servants—and the day they arrived in this Colony—I hope none will neglect this for those who neglect this notice will have cause to repent it. A certificate will be issued to each one who thus applies and is rec[d] by me as a part of said families, which will be an incipient step to

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their getting a title. Fifty cents must be paid to the secreta[ry] by each one, when the said certificate is issu[ed] and ten dollars must be paid to said secretary on receipt [of] title, and fifty dollars to me in one and two years after receipt of title, this sum being for the expense and labor of translating and attending to the business for which we are entitled to pay. I reserve the right of changing these terms for those who do not apply until after the first of Jan^{y} next.

ROBERT KUYKENDALL TO AUSTIN

Bay Prairie 2^{d} December 1829

COL^{N} STEPHEN F AUSTIN

D SIR I have drawn an order on you for Twenty five Dollars in favor of Mr. Barker which Sum I took the liberty of drawing for from your letter to me Mr. Wightman has undertaken to teach school for twelve months and the above amt is a ballance due for the payment of a house and lot in Matagorda to enable me to move there for the purpose of schooling my children I shall further more wish to pay through you at the Expiration of the school fifty Dollars to Mr. Wightman which amounts I will refund to you as soon as it is in my power. My health still continues indifferent I have very little hope of getting much better and shall always continue grateful for your Kindness to me since I last saw you I have had two sons born (twins) one named Benjamin and the other Thomas. I remain with every sentiment of Esteem

ROBT. KUYKENDALL [Rubric]

FELIX ROBERTSON TO AUSTIN

Nashville, December 3, 1829.

See Calendar.

DAVID G. BURNET TO AUSTIN

Cincinnati 4 Decr 1829

MY DEAR SIR

The return of our worthy friend Gen^{l} Fullerton affords me another opportunity of troubling you with a letter— Well now I do verily believe that some of my late letters have been a trouble to you—but I dont see the use of having a friend unless we can trouble him now and then—

The principal burden of my last letters (and I have written you five or six within two months) has been the probable purchase of

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Texas by this government— This subject has somewhat died away here and the excitement produced by its first agitation in the public papers has measurably subsided— The newspaper discussion of it was I believe first Started by T. H. Benton whom you know— Some writer in Nashville rung the second peal, and anon the matter was taken up by a variety of scribblers, both friends and foes to the contemplated acquisition— My original opinion, as expressed to you in my first letter on the subject, has been somewhat modified but not essentially changed— I still believe the purchase will be made, but not so speedily as I then apprehended— It seems to me that Mr Poinsett has rendered himself too much an object of jealousy, and become too unpopular in Mexico to negociate a treaty on so delicate and important a subject as the relinquishment and the acquisition of so valuable a territory— Rumor says that Mr Hughes, who was recently superseded as charge d'affairs at the Netherlands will be appointed to Mexico, and I think the report very likely to be correct—

Mr Hughes is now in Europe and probably will not arrive in this country before spring— Should he be sent to Mexico, he could not reach there until late in the fall, for he would not venture himself at Vera Cruz during the summer or autumnal months— If then it shall fall to his lot to negotiate the treaty, it will not be practicable for him to perfect it until late in the ensuing winter, and hardly in time to submit it to the senate of 1830–31— It will doubtless be a part of the policy of the administration to bring it in before the sages of the land, near the close of their session when the ranks of the opposition may be a little thinned and those who remain are pretty well fagged and out of tune for a fierce onset— It is therefore not probable in my opinion that you will belong to Uncle Sam *before* March or April of 1831—and I do really hope that I shall be able before that time, to have my Colony fully Settled and so firmly fixed as not to be disturbed by the arch cupidity that has too often characterised our good *Uncle's* dealing with large land claimants— I have but little time to write, but I send you a packet of news papers from which you will [be] able to glean more of the late doings in the world than I could give you in a week— I observed in one of the national Journals which I send you, a letter from San Felipe touching the advertisment by Dennis A Smith of 48,000,000 of acres of Texas lands— I was truly rejoiced to see that publication— They have an agency *here* and when it was first established I was detirmined to expose the imposition as I then considered it by a publication under my own proper name— The agent here called on me on the subject and I stated to him very frankly my views concerning it and told him that I should feel com-

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pelled if they put out an advertisement, to enlighten the public mind on the matter— He assured me that no money should be paid over to the alleged proprietors until they gave entire satisfaction as to title— I then concluded not to interfere and make myself many enemies for I have learned from experience that enemies made in this way have much more zeal, than any friends whom the doing of Such a service might procure a body— so I e'en resolved not to meddle with the matter, but I have freely spoken of it to many gentlemen in this City and have communicated my views to two respectable citizens of Baltimore—

Peck, who left here a few days ago for orleans, tells me that Willson is selling Texas lands in New York at 2 cents an acre— Willson told me last summer, that he had a grant *in fee* for 8,000,000 acres— Is it so. qu[i]en sabe, as we Mexicans say— Certain I am that these things are doing an injury to all of us— the detection of one fraud in relation to Texas lands, will entail suspicion upon us all, and it is outrageous that honest men should suffer for the misdeeds of a few sharpers—

I have some expectation of forming a company in Baltimore for the settlement of my Colony— Should it be done we shall proceed rapidly in the work—a few weeks will determine— I am exceedingly desirous to get back— Should our friend Padilla be with you I beg you will mention me to him— I wrote to him and also to the Governor some time ago and enclosed my letters to Williams and I hope they have not miscarried— I have since then written to the Governor, inclosed to you, and sent a duplicate I would write to both by this opportunity but have not much time and am not yet able to speak positively as to my success or my return to Texas—

I received a nacogdoches paper yesterday containing an obituary notice of your amiable and lamented brother and I have taken [it] to the Gazette office to have it published here— It occurred to me that there might be some friends and relatives who had not heard of his decease, and besides it would be a gratification to my own feelings to give currency to that modest tribute of respect for the memory of a friend whom I much esteemed—

I send a half barrel of buck wheat meal directed to League, to be divided between Williams and himself— Should you be at housekeeping you must make a tripartite division of it, for I have sent it under a presumption that you *were not*— My Texas friends are so frugal of their time or their paper that I am left entirely to presumptions on all matters relating to them— The *one* letter from you and one from Williams at orleans are all the evidence I have that I am remembered on the Brasos— I have never received *one*

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line from *League*— I beg you will write to me by the first opportunity as it is probable I shall be here long enough to receive it if not here, will have it Sent after me— do write any how and give me all the news, for I am exceedingly in the dark in respect to Texas affairs— Farewell— May God bless you in all things— Remember me to all friends—and should you have opportunity remember me particularly to Mrs. Long— I heard long ago that she had left San Felipe and was living on the river below and therefore have not mentioned her in my former letters—in haste.

DAVID G. BURNET [Rubric.]

Col. AUSTIN

DAVID G. BURNET TO AUSTIN

Louisville 5 Decr 1829

MY DEAR SIR

I have accompanied our friend Genl Fullerton this far and shall return probably this afternoon to Cincinnati— I have suggested to the General a speculation which I think promises great benefits and I have no doubt of its practicability— It is the procuring the exclusive right of navigating the Texas waters Say the Colorado the Brasos and the Trinity by Steam—The Genl and myself would be happy to unite with you in this [s]cheme if the monopoly could be obtained 20 or 25 years or even for 15 years it would be an immense affair Should the *U. S.* get the territory— Should you think well of the proposition you are hereby authorized to sign my name to a petition to that effect— I beg you will think seriously of the matter—and if you do will summon up all your ingenuity in drafting a petition so as [not] to leave a single flaw for the jealousy of this government to pick at— It should [be] So drawn as to embrace not only the *rivers* but all passes and passages from one river to the other—the Netchez might also be included— I have only time to hint at this matter—Genl Fullerton will explain my views more fully to you— in haste

DAVID G. BURNET [Rubric]

Col. S. F. AUSTIN
San Felipe

BURNET AND FULLERTON—AGREEMENT

December 5, 1829.

See Calendar.

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THOMAS J. PILGRIM TO AUSTIN

Stephen F. Austin

1829 To T. J. Pilgrim Dr.

To one Scholar 9 Months ending Dec 13th at $2.50 per Month ---------- $22.50

To one Scholar 3 Months ending Decr 13th at $3.00 per Month ---------- $ 9.00

To one Dollar lent ---------- $ 1.00

32.50

Thomas J. Pilgrim appears and makes Oath that the within Account is just and True Decr 11, 1829—

THOMAS J. PILGRIM

J. WHITE [Rubric]

CONTRACT FOR LAND

December 12, 1829.

See Calendar.

HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Matamoros Decr 14th 1829

Col. S F AUSTIN

MY DEAR SIR I avail myself of an opportunity for your place to send you a copy of a Memoir[1] on the Western boundary of the US which I sent to Washington and which I understand has originated a negociation on the Subject— When I first proposed the purchase I expected to have had through Col Bradburn, extensive concessions in Texas, but Bradburn has failed to perform his engagements and as yet I have no land secured, at the Same time I was influenced by the knowledge that If I obtained no land myself the success of the plan would secure to you a splendid fortune promptly My friends now write that a Special Mission has been sent to Mexico to treat on this Matter and the papers of the US contain Many articles Strongly in favor of the purchase I have no doubt it will take effect in Some Shape or other—

Now if there be any mode by which I could secure a grant of good land in my own name I would thank you to point it out

By the terms of the grant of the privelege of Navigating this river we are authorised to Colonise any of the vacant lands on this river but there are none vacant that are worth having or that can be got at Conveniently— The River is not Navigable excepting in high Water above Mier and the banks of the River below that are occupied

[1] This document, which is here omitted, was published by Col. Guy M. Bryan in the Galveston News Aug. 7, 1845. On Aug. 21, 1845, it appeared in the Texas National Register, where it was properly credited to Henry Austin.

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My own affairs go on badly My Men have all been sick nearly three months and at the time when the boat might have been most profitably employed—

I am now in treaty with the Merch[ts] of this place to sell them half this boat to be run permanently between this and the Mouth of the river— if I effect this arrangement it will relieve me from my present confinement and perhaps enable me to visit your part of the Country if I do not effect it I shall take the boat to New Orleans as soon as I can and sell her to close the concern— I regret extremely the misfortune you have experienced in the death of your brother, it is indeed a severe blow to you under your present circumstances— My last letters bring me the Melancholly intelligence of the death of My Mother it has been truly a severe year to the family God grant the next may prove More propitious

HENRY AUSTIN [Rubric]

H. H. LEAGUE TO AUSTIN

Town of Austin Dec[r] 19. 1829.

Col STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR My Extreem bad health precludes the possibilitys of my Visiting your office as often as my business would require it after weighing the Subject maturely I find it all important for the interest of the Community to quiet the outrageous Clammer that actually threatens at this moment the Over throw of every thing and as a Step of Self preservation that I should by all means be Released from serveing any longer as a Rigedore, it is impossible that my health can ever be restored under my present State of Depressed and mortified feelings, my hopes and prospects are all blasted; and my oppression is beyond the Controll of all the philosiph[y] and fortitude I can Call to my aid my health has actually Sunk, and unless I can produce a Change, the Conseiquences will be fatal to me and that Very Shortly, thare is no laber or fatigue I would not willingly under go for the advancement of the Country if my Exertions Could avail, but Such is the Violence of feeling Existing against me at this moment, that any interfearance with the publick business by me or Even an Idea that I will interfear infuriates them to madness—it is resolved that the next Ayuntamiento shall not be contaminated with my (Rascally intrigues) as they Say—, be the conseiquences what they may—, my own Idea is this, the Ayuntamiento will dispence with my meeting them on account of my bad health and if it is possible for me to obtain Two month leave of Absence from the Chief of Department.

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I wish to take a Trip to N. Orleans to See if it will not facilitate my recovery, and if the Commissioner can be prevailed upon to represent my Case to the Government at the Same time it is possible I may obtain a total Exemption, and should I recover my health which I have much reason to doubt I may be useful to the publick in some-other way—, will you have the goodness to lay the case before the comissioner and do all in your power for me, which I Shall always acknowledge as the gratest of favours.

H. H. League [Rubric]

Austin and Anthony Winston—Agreement

December 19, 1829.

See Calendar.

Shubael Marsh to Austin

Brazoria, December 20, 1829.

See Calendar.

Luke Lesassier to Austin

Colorado, December 22, 1829.

See Calendar.

Austin to José Antonio Navarro[1]

24th of December [1829]

My esteemed friend:—

I received your letter of the 29th of last month and I give you my sincere thanks for the just reflections that you make relative to the loss by early death of my brother. The mail arrived very late and is now leaving and I have not time to write much.

In regard to the employment that the Government has given to you as administrator [of the port] of Galveston I believe like you that for some time it will not produce sufficient to live upon. If it shall or shall not be productive in the future depends entirely on the progress of Texas, and it appears that this is doubtful on account of the last decrees sent out by the legislature extraordinary and unknown in the Constitution which has been established in Mexico. I think if the country was well established the office would be of sufficient consideration.

[1] From the Lamar Papers, Texas State Library. The translation has been revised in comparison with the original, which is also in the collection.

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The father-in-law of Don Samuel lives on San Jacinto, and has a boat suitable for going from the landing on that river to the island of Galveston. If you think of making a visit you can do so in this way without difficulty. The Island is depopulated and I am of the opinion that now the custom House should be at Brazoria on the Brazos.

The 75 lbs. of Coffee are in Brazoria and as soon as Soé comes I will see that he takes it if he can do so.

I cannot say positively when the vessel will leave for Orleans. The interest which my brother had in her has been sold—I will write to Brazoria upon this particular and will advise you.

I shall be much pleased to see you here. I live with Don Samuel and you must come direct to our *jacal* it is one mile from the villeta.

I shall not speak of the last letters, because I have no time to answer them by this mail. I shall rest in the confidence and wisdom of the authorities there. The memorial of our worthy chief of department is most helpful, and can not fail to carry much influence.

By the next mail I shall write to you about your estimate concerning lands and shall only say now that if I can get the money I shall return the estimate.

In regard to the decrees I shall only say that in not more than one or two months at most notices of them will be spread through the Gazetas of Orleans for from there they will receive notices every day from Vera Cruz, Tampico and Matamoras. I doubt not that there are some in Nacogdoches whom, I shall see and speak to of this matter with pleasure.

Give my respects to your brothers and to Mr. Ruiz and to your father.

Your friend E. F. Austin.

(P. S.) I forgot to say that you can come with mules and horses, I think the first you can sell for money although this is an article which is very scarce, and there is no certain market for anything in money.

E. F. A.

Addressed to Jose Antonio Navarro Bejar. -

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar 24 de Diciem^{e} de 1829.

Ciudadano Estevan Austin

Mi amigo muy Estimado: de esa no bino correo cuya falta la atribullo a la estacion presente: pr. el ordinario de afuera qe. llegó hoy recivi la resolucion del Supremo Govierno de la Union declarando

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eceptuado el Dep^to^ de texas de las disposiciones qe. contiene el Decreto de 15 de Septiem^e^ q. abolió la esclavitud, dha. resolucion se la comunica oficialm^te^ al Alcalde de esa villa donde la verá V.

Por este suceso de tanta importancia p^a^ el Dep^to^ y particularmte. p^a^ su Colonia que estava en eminente peligro de ser arruinada, felicito á V. cordialm^te^ con todos sus abitantes, quedandome la satisfacion de haver en este asunto cumplido con el Dever de mi destino.

Nuestro amigo Balmaceda, al congratularse pr. el feliz resultado del grave negocio de libertad de esclavos me dice hasi " Alos amigos Navarro, Padilla, Austin, Beramendi y demas interesados en la prosperidad del Dep^to^ qe. se unan *a mi pa cumplir con su dever* y es el de saludar al Presid^te^ de la Republica con todos los signos y baterias qe. nos son conocidos pr. tan heroyca deferencia " Los masones qe. estamos aqui deceosos de Obsequiar tan loable invitacion, suplicamos á V. y a Dn. Juan Antonio Padilla se tomen la molestia de estender la plancha respectiva, subscribirla, hacer lo mismo nosotros acontinuacion y dirigirla a nuestro h.: Balmaceda

En lo interior dela republica hay anuncios de una proxima rebolucion intentada pr. la Clase Militar, no estan contentos con el sistema federal y lo quieren combertir en absolutismo: tal es el plan puesto en egecucion en el Estado de Yucatan, inserto en la Gazeta del Estado donde lo berá V. y sin otra cosa pr. hoy mande a su afmo amigo Q. B. S. M.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

ANTHONY WINSTON TO AUSTIN

December 25, 1829.

See Calendar.

JOHN AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Brasoria December 27^th^ 1829.

DR SIR

I received yours of the 18^th^ inst by Mr. Smith son in law to Ellis. I am very sorry to hear that you do not recover your health I am sure that your confinement at San Filipe tends greatly to retard the recovery of your health and I would advise you by all means to go into the woods this winter and to arrange your business so as to take a trip to the U. States, next summer a trip of that kind would be of great service to you I have no doubt and I see no reason why you should not take some time to yourself after serving seven years apprenticeship to the Colonizing trade, but to say the least it is nessisary for you to leave the office if it is only for a change of

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business I know that you have become tired of being cursed by persons who have received the most favours by your exertions and at your hand but you know it is the way of the world those who are most Virtuous or most patient are not known until they are tried therefore I suppose it is nessisary to give them a trial I think that you have been tried sufficeintly to retire a short time from trial make these men who want land now pay up and those who are oweing you on the old colony pay they may grumble some but let them do so they will do it at any rate;—

you observed that you thought you had written a cross letter Just before you started to me if so I never have received it I have never received a letter from you saying that you were going to San Antonio if I had received such a letter from you I would have concluded that you were Scolding for my own benefit or giveing me good advise I never have received the cross letter—

You asked my opinion concerning the Situation of Eliza had I not expected you here long before this I would have given it to you at San Felipe When I was last there she has been positive about keeping house by herself untill lately within a few days she has been living with us at my house where she will always be welcome if she can make herself so I think that she has discovered the many difficulties that would attend the house keeping or living by herself. She says that she never will go home to her Fathers House on any account and will not hear a word about the matter— I have advised it to her as the most prudent step and I thought the Most pleasant to herself but when she read the letter which you wrote to her and sent by me she said in the most positive manner that she never would live with her parents again now if she can content herself at my House I think it will be best to move the log house unfinished on my lot and finish it for her to live in if you think so I will do it but when the Commissioner leaves there I wish you would take a few days time and come down here then we can settle upon some plan for future operation, if there is any porter in the Vessel I will have some for you I wish you to come soon that some arrangement Can be made with Harris at the Gin the business will not detain you more than three or four days at this and the Gin, Mr Westall has an account for Boarding I do not know the amount I presented his Bill and have not yet settled with him on account of the Bill he has against yourself and Brother he will present it when Called upon I intend to allow it should he present it before I see you as I suppose he would not bring a wrong bill I wish that you would make some of those persons who are oweing you pay up in produce or Cotton if they would do so I want the use

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of some money untill I can collect I wish to pay all demands in Orleans as soon as possible—

Nothing new the vessel has not yet arrived

JOHN AUSTIN [Rubric]

Col. S. F. AUSTIN—

JAMES W. BREEDLOVE TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, December 28, 1829.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO TERAN

San Felipe de Austin Dicbre. 29. 1829

EXMO SOR GRAL M. DE MIER Y TERAN

EXMO SOR GEFE DE TODA MI CONSIDERACION Por el correo de hoy tuve el placer de recibir la muy apreciable de V. E. Fecha en Tampico 20 de Novbre. participandome la plausible noticia qe. el Exmo Sor Presidente de la republica ha tenido a bien esceptuar á Texas del decreto de 15 de Sepbre. po. po. sobre emancipacion de esclavos

Me faltan palabras para espresar mi reconocim^to y gratitud a S. E. por este acto tan interesante a Texas y a V. E. por su bondad en haberlo comunicado tan oportunam^te.

no se pudo ver otra cosa en el citado decreto sino el contrariar y destruir todos los esfuerzos y trabajos penibles de mas de siete años en favor de la conquista de Texas del estado despoblado y abandonado en qe. se hallaba en el año 1821—la ruina demuchos individuos— La perdida de confianza en el Gob^no y la entrega de este precioso parte de la republica a los barbaros Los esclavos qe. existen aqui fueron introducidos bajo la garantia solemne de ley—son una especie de propiedad de mas interes a estos habitantes y al adelanto del pais qe. qualquiera otra por estos motivos digo con sinceridad qe. me faltan palabras espresar mi reconocim^to por el beneficio qe. nos ha hecho el presidente en mandar por su ultimo decreto qe. se respeten las propiedades de conformidad con el mandato de las leyes, la constitucion, y la fé publica, todos comprometidos desde el principio en permitir la introduccion de esclavos, y en reconocer y garantizar el derecho de propriedad en ellos—

Tengo la satisfaccion de informar a V. E. qe, nunca ha habido la mas leve alteracion del buen orden en esta colonia acausa del decreto de 15 de Sp^re porqe. estos habitantes spre han descansado con la mas ciega confianza en la justicia y buena fé del Gob^no qe. han adoptado, y nunca entro en su imaginacion la idea qe. fue intencion del Gob^no privar los de parte alguna de la propriedad qe. han trahido de su pais natal para ayudarles en adelantar una porcion del territorio

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Mexicano de modo qe. sea util y provechoso a la Nacion y Han recibido esta ultima providencia del S. E. el Presidente como prueba inconcuso de la benefica disposicion del Gob^no^—

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Austin to James F. Perry

San Felipe de Austin. 31 Dec^r^ 1829

Dear Brother and Sister,

I have reflected very much on your removal to this country, and after weighing the matter carefully I have become convinced that it is my duty to advise your removal, and I now do so, and urge you not to delay any longer than is absolutely necessary to close all your affairs, or to put them in train to be closed

I have peti[ti]oned the Gov^t^ of the State for eleven Leagues of land for you on Galveston Bay, within Six or seven Miles of Galveston harbor, if the half of that quantity is granted it will be a fortune, My standing with this Gov^t^ justifies the expectation that the whole will be granted but there will be a condition that the grant shall be void unless you actually remove to this colony within two years from tomorrow (1 of Jan^ry^ 1830) and the limit may possibly be 18 months, tho. I have asked two years—

There is a fine opening here for a good Merchant, and a regular trading shooner to ship produce such as corn, lard etc. to Tampico and vera Cruz would make money rapidly— there is considerable cotton made and some sugar— Beef, Tallow, pork, Lard, Mules etc All goods can now be introduced free of duty but this previlege expires the 1 of Nov^r^ next so that next Spring is the best time to move or if you come in the fall let it be before November, for after that time you will have to pay enormous duties. I really do not think that a greater prospect ever before presented itself and I shall think that you are trifling with fortune if you do not embrace it.

This matter ought to be considered in another point of view— I am quite alone here— My beloved brother is no more— he has left but one child and I had taken care to secure a large tract of land in my brothers name, which will be a handsome provision [for] my little nephew— my constitution is much broken— at my death I shall leave some land to some one and I wish to see all my sisters children provided for, The eleven Leagues I have petitioned for, will be in the names of both of you and for the equal benefit of both— that is half for Sisters children by Bryan, and half for you, to be disposed of as you think proper, this will be a handsome provision even if they get nothing more, It is now uncertain wheither I shall ever Marry, and if I do not, I shall perhaps have some land

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to divide amongst them this however is uncertain, and I do not urge your removal on account of any expectations of that kind, I wish to secure you a certainty in the 11 Leagues and that is an object worthy of removing to, seting aside every thing else— If you want more land, more can be had— I can now buy 50 Leagues at about 3 to 400 dolls. pr. League and less— The 11 Leagues I have petitioned for will cost you about $1000 including every thing, and you will be allowed 4, 5, and 6, years to pay a part of that in and the balance can be settled by me easily—

I have not heretofore urged your removal because I have never been so thoroughily convinced as I now am of the future rapid rise of this country— you have no idea of it, or you would be *here before* April, family and all— There is a good situation on the land I have asked for you, for a Steam Saw Mill— lumber sells at Tampico Vera Cruz etc at from 50 to 80 dolls. per 1000— none can be imported from the U. S. for it is a prohibited article— your servants must be indented or hired by contract executed before a Jud[g]e or Clerk of the County with his certificate under seal— indenture them for life at a small hire; and let each one acknowledge in the indenture that he or she is indebted to you 5. 6. or 800 dolls. according to the value of the slave— No Slaves can be admitted, but there is a special law guaranteeing all contracts made in a foreign country with servants or hirelings—

Bring all manner, and great quantities of fruit seeds with you and some Gooseberry and rasberry roots, in particular

Furniture is scarce here and high, but as we are all poor backwoodsmen, costly furniture is unknown and unnessary, but you ought to bring enough to be comfortable

I have set my heart on your removal and I shall be dreadfully disappointed if you do not— Consign any thing you wish to send here to James W. Breedlove New Orleans with orders to ship it to John Austin Brazoria Texas— Send your letters to Breedlove, *post paid*, and enquire of him as to vessels, freight, etc he is the Mexican consul for New Orleans and my friend, do all your business with him— Send some letters directed to me, care of Hugh McGuffin, Post Master at the Sabine Parish of Nachitoches post paid— as soon as I get an answer from the Gov[t] I will write, in the meantime prepare to move for I must have you here— You must come indeed you *Must* I have fine situations for building in this place and all round it, you can take choice I will live with you until I marry—that is to say until I die—Brothers widow and little Stephen will join us, I wish the remnant of our family united once more, and it can be done with all ease

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This is the most liberal and munificent Govt on earth to emigra[n]ts— after being here one year you will oppose a change even to Uncle Sam—

I can now help you—but if you delay it will be out of my power— *now then* is the time—

All the difficulties as to Slaves about which I wrote you are removed, by a new law excepting Texas from the Genl emancipation law of 15 Sepr this applies to Slaves brought in before the time expired for introducing them—this shews that the principle of Slavery is admitted as to Texas, and I have no doubt that in a few years this will be a Slave State— I have no doubt that it is the Settled policy of the present administration of this Govt to fill up Texas with emigrants from the U. S. as soon as possible and from it into a State of this confederation, it will be the best State in the Mexican Union—

Now is the golden Opportunity—if you loose it, such another will never offer—

I send this by way of Opelusas tomorrow I will write by way of Orleans and in a few days by way of Nachitoches for fear some of the letters may miscarry. I shall tax you for postage, but the object is worth it for if you come to this country I see nothing to prevent your being rich *very* rich in a few years— 11 Leagues of land is near 50.000 acres—

try and bring some of the breed of English cattle, nature never made a better place for stock than the land I have asked for you— oysters and fish and fowls at your door etc the latitude is about 29° .10′— it is about 80 miles from this place— so soon as the grant comes in I will go in person and have it surveyed

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

J. F. Perry and Emily M. Perry

Bring *all* your capital it can be well employed here— I have said to the Govt that your capital is considerable—

A.

Austin to Juan Antonio Padilla

Sor Comisionado General

Los primeros colonos que emigraron à esta colonia me han solicitado elevar al conocimto del Exmo Sor Gobor del Estado por conducto de V. sus solicitudes para aumento de tierras; y para ahorrar el trabajo y los gastos de porte en transmitir cada una separada à S. E. me presento à V. en clase de agente de los dhos colonos, y con todo debido respeto hago presente que los Yndividuos que emigraron

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antes del dia primero de Agosto de 1823 y que permanecieron aqui han adquirido un merito mui particular y especial para presentarse al Gob^no^ en solicitud de aumento de tierras.

El dia indicado Yo llegue en la colonia de Mexico y los emigrados que traje en los años de 1821 y 22 antes de mi viaje à la capital perseveraron en mi ausencia casi sin amparo ninguno, quedaron en un estado de incertidumbre tenian que sostenerse por la caza hta alzar la cosecha del año de 823 por que falto la del año de 822. Se defendieran si mismos de los Yndios barbaros; y es digno de acordarse que estos hombres emprendedores sentaron la fundicion de esta colonia en el centro de un despoblado de la cual ha resultado el adelanto que se ha experimentado en Texas del progreso feliz de las nuevas poblaciones.

Si se ha de graduar las porciones de tierras por los beneficios y servicios prestados á la patria seguramente estos probladores pueden elevar sus solicitudes à un Gobierno justo y liberal con mucho mas merito y justicia que los emigrados que ahora entran, por que si no habría sido por los trabajos de los primeros nunca hubiera venido los demas; En el principio arriesgaron todo, ahora no hay riesgo, ni peligro, ni dificultad ninguna.

Pido pues que se concede un aumento de tierras à los primeros emigrados à esta colonia arreglado à la base siguiente.

1ª A los dhos emigrados casados y que trajeron sus familias á esta Colonia antes del dia 1° de Agosto de 1823 y que no han recibido dos sitios, concederles un aumento para completar la cantidad de dos sitios inclusiva la que hayan ya recibido.

2ª A los solteros que emigraron antes del dia referido y que no han recibido un sitio completarles un sitio.

3ª En los casos en que la suma total del terreno adquerido por todos los miembros de una misma familia incluso el del padre ò madre y los hijos, hijos politicos y hijos casados ò solteros exceden ocho sitios no se concedera aumento à ninguno de los miembros de la familia.

4ª Se puede escojer los dhos aumentos de tierras en qualesquiera de las valdias de Texas fuera de las diez leguas litorales ò veinte limitrofes.

5ª Se da el plazo de tres meses para presentar las solicitudes y denunciar tierras para los dichos aumentos, pena de perder todo derecho de hacerlo despues contando el dho plazo desde la fha de la publicacion de esta gracia en la Villa de San Felipe de Austin.

Ygualmente manifiesto que hay algunos que recibieron tierras en la primera Colonia que no han podido cultivarlos, ni completar las mejoras y fabricas prescritas en las concesiones dentro de dos años que prescribe el Art° 23 de la ley de 4 de Enero de 1823; pido que se reconcede el mismo terreno à los mismos interesados que lo piden, y

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que han siempre permanecido aqui [en] esta Colonia, porque en muchos casos fue absolutamente imposible poblar y mejorar el terreno por motivo de los hostilidades de los Yndios, y sera muy justo reconcederles el mismo terreno dandoles el plazo de dos años para poblarlo y completar las fabricas y mejoras prescritas en sus primeras concesiones, pero los que salieron de esta colonia, antes de cultivar su terreno deben en mi concepto perder todo derecho é igualmente los que han tenido su domicilio en pais extrangero ò fuera de esta Colonia ò solo han permanecido aqui pocos meses en el año para darles pretexto á conservar sus tierras deben perder todo derecho aunque han cultivado sus tierras por medio de agentes. Uno de los casos comprendidos en el ultimo parrafo es el de William Rabb à quien se concedio un terreno de tres sitios sobre el margen oriental del Colorado para la fabrica de un molino; es muy necesario y sera muy justo al reconcederle estos tres sitios variar la forma ò figura en que se ha de medirse y darle solamente una legua de frente en linea recta sobre el dho Rio en lugar de la frente excesiva que se le concedio en la primera concesion y extenderle por atrás sobre la dha frente de una legua para completar la cantidad de los tres sitios.

Hay dos Yndividuos que en mi concepto tienen un merito particular sobre los demas que son Josiah H Bell y Robert Kuykendall, el primero fue encargado de la administracion como Alcalde provisional en mi ausencia y el ultimo fue el Comandante de la Milicia. Ambos prestaron servicios muy importantes y por su manejo acertado y justo contribuyeron mucho al adelanto de la empresa en su infancia durante mi ausencia en Mexico y por los mismos pido que se concede à estos un aumento para completar la cantidad de tres sitios inclusiva la que hayan ya recibido.

Villa de Austin à 1° de Enero de 1830.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[On margin:] Quando su Com^do^ Gral Juan An° Padilla llegó en esta, yo adverti que no puso obstaculo en recomendar la solicitud de todo y de qualquiera para aumentos de tierras. yo me opusé p° por fin tenia que ceder ó causar sentimientos y embarazos con el, y entonces formé esta solicitud con el fin de poner todos sobre el mismo pie la presenté al dho com^do^ gral y el no queria elevarla al Gob^no^

E. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Austin, Jany. 1, 1830.

MY DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER,

I have taken a few moments of Leisure to present to you my sincere wishes that the new year which has just entered may be

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a happy and prosperous one to you and that before its close we may all be united once more in this country.

I wrote you last month advising and urging you to remove here as soon as possible. I again repeat the same. I wrote you that I had petitioned for land for you. I have asked of the Govr eleven Leagues of land for you on the condition that you remove here. My friends are of the opinion the whole Eleven Leagues will be granted which will be near 50,000 acres. The land I have selected for you lies on Galveston Bay and within six miles of Galveston harbor. if land is ever worth anything, *one single* league at that place will be worth a fortune. I cannot say positively that the whole Eleven Leagues will be granted, but I have no doubt that at least five will be. I shall know the final result in two months and inform you.

There is an opening here now for merchandising. Goods can be brought in free of duty until November next, and if you have an idea of removing here you ought to come immediately so as to bring in a large assortment of goods before the time expires for free importations.

I am very desirous for you to remove and there now cannot be a doubt remaining [as] to the rapid rise of this country. [I can] do something for you *now*, and you must come in time. If the Govr grants the land I have asked, the title will be void unless you remove at least within 18 months from this time but if you delay untill after Novr you will have to pay heavy duties on every thing you bring.

You may be sure that I would not urge your removal in so positive a manner if I was not convinced that you will be greatly benifited. *There is no time for hesitation or delay.* You will find us a plain set of people, and you need not be at much expense to bring furniture.

Farewell and let me hear from you as quick as possible.

S. F. Austin. [Rubric]

Direct your letter post paid to the care of James W. Breedlove New Orleans, and if you wish for any information relative to vessels coming to this colony write to Breedlove, also if you wish to send anything here, consign it to him with instructions to ship it to the care of John Austin Brazoria. Breedlove does most of the business of this colony and I wish you to give him yours if you come here, *and you must come* and that immediately.

S. F. Austin.

Bring all kinds of fruit seed and a quantity of it.

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JOHN P. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Duplicate

New York, January 1, 1830

MY DEAR SIR,

I took this liberty some few weeks since, which letter I hope came safe to hand. I now confirm its contents, and remark that nothing has been done *Publicly*, at Washington, relative to the Texas Country; as the President was silent on the subject in his message, so also have Congress been *thus far*, and it is perhaps probable that any thing in contemplation, either on the part of the administration, or the Congress, will be delayed until late in the session, to gain time, for Mr. Poinsett's return to Washington, or for further advice from Mexico. Persons however high in office, it is said, and others at head quarters whose opinions are entitled to some credit have, *I know*, expressed opinions favorable to the obtainment of that Province, and it is admitted to be understood that this Government have determined on the measure provided it can be *reasonably obtained.* But when the thing will be formally moved is uncertain and may depend on many circumstances which are not within my reach to divine. The project is now making some noise in the English papers, and perhaps will call forth a protest from Spain. Yet it appears probable that sooner or later *and I believe ere long*, the change will be brought about some how or other by amiable negotiation. There seems (as far as I have been able to learn) a considerable disposition to speculate in the Texas lands, which can only be accounted for on the supposition that they will soon belong to the U. States.

January 9th. Since the above I have reason to believe, (by information received from persons who have good means of judging at Washington) that the Texas negotiations, *although in embryo yet*; are still going on, and something has no doubt been fixed on by this Government, *that is*, the acquisition for reasonable considerations, and I further learn, that this Govt. will probably not be satisfied with the sovereignty of that territory alone, but must have something more, that is all the lands they can get, to reimburse the payment and satisfy the people, and make the measure popular. I *am also informed*, it is (or more properly speaking) *will be* determined among other things that, *all* grants whatever, having relation to that country (*and particularly land grants*) will be strictly scrutinized and if found informal, or not duly given, or the conditions of the said grants not fully complied with, *will not be recognized as valid by this Govt.* Those of a fair legal character

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and whose conditions are fully complied with, will doubtless, on principles of justice be confirmed. I loose no time in giving you this information (IN CONFIDENCE) which I am satisfied comes from a correct source. Having the best of opportunity of obtaining the earliest information, and such as can be relied on, as to the views of both Governments will give me pleasure to communicate it to you, feeling confident, [it] can but prove of interest, and tend to guard you against speculators. A special minister arrived here a few weeks since from Mexico, (one high in favor with its President) and now on his way to Washington, if not full power to act, is authorized to listen to such proposals as our Govt. may have to offer touching the purchase of Texas, and there appears on the part of the Mexican Govt. a strong disposition to cultivate a friendly feeling with this Govt., and at the same time no little jealousy towards the powers of Europe, and not without good cause from what recently came to light respecting their views towards both Columbia and Mexico. All of which will attribute much to aid the purchase of Texas on more favorable terms, and which I have no doubt now occupies the attention of this Govt. and under existing circumstances should not be surprised if an early transfer took place. Letters from Vera Cruz state that Mr. Poinsett and secretary had taken passage in the packet ship Virginia to sail about the 15 Dec. for this port. We are without news from brother Henry since last I wrote, which left him at Matamoras, to proceed on his second trip up the river in a few days. With the hopes of soon being favored with a letter, I close in haste, as the packet sails in a few moments

JNO. P. AUSTIN.

P. S. The enclosed queries, (from the daily advertiser of last thursday) proposed to his Highness Prince Paul William of Würtemberg, *are from a source whence his movements are well known*, and fully explain the motives of his Highness scientific researches.

January 22, 1830.

DEAR SIR—

Referring to above duplicate of my last report leaves me now but little to add further than a confirmation. Mr. Poinsett did not arrive in the Virginia as was anticipated, but promised would embark in the Falmouth sloop of war, which remained at Sacrificios on the 22nd of December. Among the Virginia passengers were Col. José Maria Tornell, Minister plenipotentiary from Mexico to this Govt. and Col. Mejia secretary of legation with their families. They leave tomorrow for Washington, where they will meet col. ——, referred to in the above, who arrived there some weeks since, as a special agent from Mexico and whom Col. Tornell says enjoys

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the unlimited confidence of Guerrero. Should I get anything of importance, [I shall] loose no time in communicating it. Brother Henry writes from Matamoras Dec. 2d that, that country heretofore so healthy, the last of September a flood came in, which would have enabled him to go quite to Sante Fe, but he was unable to avail himself of it, for it brought with it a pestilence which prostrated every body and that he was the only one of the boat's crew who escaped it. He had made a second trip to Camargo and on his return trip had but two well men and when he wrote was thus unable to move the boat as his engineer and men were too feeble to do anything. I hope you have communicated with him as it might prove mutually advantageous.

JOHN P. AUSTIN. [Rubric]

Col. Stephen F. Austin, San Felippe de Austin, Texas.

EDWARD L. PETTIT TO AUSTIN

January 2, 1830.

See Calendar.

H. H. LEAGUE TO AUSTIN [1]

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN—

DEAR SIR but a short time since M[r] Nester Clay came to this place. I accidentally fell in his company, and he told me he had been wishing to speak to me on the subject of the Tax law and proceeded to make many violent remarks amongst which was the following: I will never pay one cent of the taxes while I am able to raise arms against it the best men in the country will oppose it with force and arms. You would be astonished to know who they are. You had better pay it yourself if it costs all you are worth, than to attempt collecting the Taxes, by God we will have a Boston Tea Scrap of it, we will come armed and show you whether you will collect it. I know my neighbors will join me, and if you report us in a state of rebellion, we will take no other notice of you than to Tar and feather you, and many other remarks of a similar kind. Mr. T. M. Duke and H. Cheves was present and paid attention to the conversation, he is the sort of charactors that has always kept this community in an uproar, and has always broke down order and established confusion it is my duty as an officer of this municipality to inform you of all such outrage, for now is the time to put a check to Such Charactors, this is therefore to inform your self

[1] Compare Austin to Bell, Mar. 17 and Apr. 4, 1829.

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and the honorable the Commissioner General of the State that the facts as above stated is just and true all of which I am prepared to prove

H. H. League
First Regedor of the municipality of Austin.

January 2nd 1830

Austin and Hutchison—Agreement

San Felipe, January 2, 1830.

See Calendar.

Robert Kuykendall to Austin

January 3, 1830.

See Calendar.

Matthew G. White to Austin

Atascaceto District January 3d, 1830

Dear Sir, being at this time by the wish of my district appointed to the discharge of the duties of Alcalde and being totaly destitute of the laws of the Republic I have presumed knowing your zeal and devotion to the interest and welfare of your adopted country to intrude so far upon your patience as in this way to ask in behalf of my fellow citizens what some of the prime duties and powers of the Alcalde are but the principal object of this letter is to obtain of you a sleight account of what course should be taken with such individuals as are a constant annoyance to our settlement on account of their habitual habit of stealing and other wrongs at this time there are two men a certain Yocum, and Grosvenor who for the basest of crimes to wit—The kidnapping of a whole family of colored persons and attempting to sell them after they had murdered the father as is supposed, were driven across the Sabine and their houses were burned by Col. Manning of the U S A Garrison, now these same men are attempting to locate themselves in this district and I have thus far presumed to trouble you with the hope that you will have the goodness to give me in your answer such necessary information as will afford us some clue to the method by which we may rid ourselves of such persons as are so great a pest and annoyance to our settlement.

Matthew G. White Alc[ade]

Poscript these men have a number of Negroes in the settlement and I am not advised what I should do with them.

[Addressed:] Stephen F. Austin St. Phillippi

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AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

San Felipe de Austin, Jan^{y} 3, 1830

DR BROTHER AND SISTER

Altho, I have written three letters to you within the last two weeks on the subject of your removal to this country, I again repeat the same advise contained in my other letters, least they may have miscarried. Dr. Hutchison of the Boons Lick country takes on this. He will remove, and perhaps Gen^{l} T. A. Smith (a brother of Jack's, tho quite a different man) will also remove in the fall. When such men as Gen^{l} Smith begin to turn their attention this way, you may be sure the country must rise. I have lately made an arrangement for a large emigration of men of the first respectability from North Alabama round Tuscumbia, Huntsville etc they are all men of wealth. Within the last two months one hundred and fifty three families have arrived and they are generally of the better class and men of property. In a year more this colony will be filled up, *now then is the time*, if you remove soon you must make a fortune. The land I have asked for, for you and Emily I have no doubt will be granted—that is Eleven Leagues but the title will be void unless you remove. I have asked two years for you to remove in, but am of opinion that only one year will be granted. I can do something for you now but after my colonizing business is done, the door will be closed in comparison to what it is now.

The whole expenses of a League to a settler is about $150, and there is 4, 5, and 6 years to pay a part of that. Many of the settlers are poor and will give one half to any one who clears out and pays the expenses on the whole League.

In November next the custom house will be established and duties collected, for the law which exempted Texas from all duties for seven years will expire in November, so that you ought to be here with an assortment of goods before November.

Slaves cannot be introduced as slaves, but as indented or hired servants. I shall start in about ten days to survey the land I have petitioned for, for you, and select a building place, and then write more particularly. If you will send on a trusty man with two or three hands to build some cabins it would not be amiss to do so. Stock cattle can be got for goods and if you can bring on a *good* family to put on your land and tend stock you might soon have a 1000 head. Beeves may be shipped from the spot to orleans not more than four days run—in fact to include all in a few words *you must remove and that immediately.*

My constitution is failing rapidly, and I want you here, to see my sisters children all provided for before I die.

Bring all kinds and barrels of fruit seed of the best kind.

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In dry weather there is a very good wagon or carriage road from Alexandria to this place. You can take choice of roads either to send everything by water, and bring the family out in a carriage from Alexandria, or embark the family in Orleans and come by water. The road is a very good one and much used and it is settled and safe, the settlements tho are thin. You must bring bedding and furniture. I have nothing of that kind and want some for myself.

Send your articles or goods to James W. Breedlove New Orleans with instructions to ship them to John Austin Brazoria Texas. Also send your letters *postpaid* by the same channel. Close your affairs in that country and push on as fast as possible. I have applied for a grant for Henry Austin who is now running a steam boat on Rio Grande. If you come by land bring a decent carriage, you will need it here, and if not, it can be sold. We are beginning to get *up* in this country and decent and fine clothes have taken the place of buckskin.

Present my respects to my old friend Sam[l] Perry and tell him my advise is to quit that cold region and emigrate to Texas. With his capital he might make a princely fortune here.

Do the same to my old friend John Perry and to his lively and agreeable Lady. Why not all come? They can command my friendship, and I can do something for them if they come quickly.

What are Elias Bates and Honey doing? Also James Austin's children. I would get them land if they would come but I shall not write to them anymore for I wished them all to move years ago, and they [have] not even answered my letters. Bring Adeline. She can get a league of land and a husband afterwards.

S. F. Austin. [Rubric]

Eliza W. Austin to Mrs. Emily Perry

Brazoria Jan. 6[th], 1830.

My dear Sister:

In answer to your very kind letter, I scarcely know what to say. You must long before this heard of the death of your dear Brother. You my dear Sister can well imagine what my feelings are; looseing all that was Dear to me in this world, my Husband, my friend, my protector, my all. But my Sister there is no remedy for the decrees of providence, but submission. Brother Stephen was at the same time very sick and not expected to live. We all thought that every moment was his last but God was merciful to us, and spared him to take care of his dear little Stephen. Our Brother is very anxious for Mr. Perry to move to this country, but I dare not flatter my-self

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with an idea of seeing you so soon, if Stephen was sure that you would move in the spring, he would fatten up and be a different man, he is now nothing but a mere shadow, and if he does not quit his desk, ride about and take more exercise, his life will be but short. Next week he is a going out with the Surveyors and will spend a month or more in the woods. he thinks in that time he will gain his health. As I think it is not prudent for me to keep house alone in this new country, I intend to have me a room put up joining Capt. Austins. he has always been to me a brother and his wife a sister. We have lived together so long that I cannot think of leaving them untill you move to Brazoria. I then will devide my time. This country is improving very fast. there is 8 or 10 rich gentlemen from Tennessee and Alabama come here to purchase land and will bring their families this spring and I sincerely hope that land will then take a rise and pay Brother Stephen for all his trouble, My Sister my constant prayer will be for you to move to this country and cheer up Stephen. I am my-self well enough but if you was here to tease and plague him, we could make him throw off that gloomy melancholy look and once more show a smiling countenance.

Little Stephen has been very sick with a singular breaking out. I at first thought it was the hives. he is now getting much better and thank you very much for his cap and beeds. he could walk a few steps before he was taken sick. He is now beginning to talk. he sends his love to all his little cousins. Mr. John Austin joins me in love to you.

ELIZA W. AUSTIN.

Mrs. Emily M. Perry.

EDWARD L. PETTIT TO AUSTIN

Schooner General Santa Anna
Brazoria, January 6, 1830.

See Calendar.

JOHN M. MCCALLA TO AUSTIN

Frankfort, Ky., January 7, 1830.

See Calendar.

JAMES W. BREEDLOVE TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, January 9, 1830.

See Calendar.

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S. M. Williams to J. H. Bell

Recd of James Bell for Stephen F. Austin four hogs whose weight is estimated at 85 pounds and should they weigh more Mr. Bell will be allowed the excess.

Saml M Williams [Rubric]

Jany 9 1830

Gunn and Bucklin to Austin

Demascus Henry County Ohio 10th Jany. 1830

Very Dear Sir

Having seen an account of your settlement in Texas coppyd in one of our Journals and it being the wish of a number of Inhabitants in this vicinity to learn the perticulars of your progress in the colony. Its natural productions, the distance from New Orleans to your settlement as likewise the Diseases incident to your climate. We understand by the public papers That a man of a family that comes with a good recommendation will draw one league square of land Mexican measure, and that the population is rapidly increasing. If the prospect should prove to be as flattering as it is represented in the public prints, There is six Familys in this place that will Move from this country to your coliny. We now live in the western part of the State of Ohio on the Maumee river which Discharges its waters into Lake Erie, we have lived here some years and the place proves to be quite unhealthy. We are subject every summer to fevers. Ague & fever etc Our object in writing to you is to learn from your self whether the statements respecting your colony are true etc and please have the goodness to write us on the receibt of this [and] Much oblige a number who are anxious to come to Texas. With all due respect we subscribe ourselves

Dexter C. Gunn
David Bucklin P. M.

Col Steven Austin

P S. please direct your letter to David Bucklin Postmaster Demascus Williams County State of Ohio.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman

Jany. 15, 1830.

Dr. Sir

I have been expecting you [with] great anxiety and should have written to you long ago, but suppose from your letter that you would be here.

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As regards entries for the families who came on with you, they must be made in the manner stated in my notice of 20 Novr Those who do not apply in conformity with that notice will get nothing. and no attention will be paid to their applications.

As regards the fees that have to be paid promptly, I have spoken to Williams to do all their writing and wait for the fees except the stamp paper.

I have left a commisison for you as surveyor, and wish you to survey all the vacant land on the river below Betts League and Jinnings camp and all the land on Trespalacios Creek, Prairie Creek, Cany Creek but you will have to wait until I get there for owing to your not coming up I cannot now make out all the instructions. I will try and go from La baca to Matagorda.

S. F. Austin. [Rubric]

[Addressed to:] Mr. E. R. Weightman Matagorda. Mr. Borden

José Justo Liendo to Austin

San Felipe, January 15, 1830.

See Calendar.

James Whiteside to Austin

San Felipe de Austin 1st Decr 1829

Padillas Secretary Rumayor to J. Whiteside Dr

	To board Patterson 53 days While sick	$53.00
	To board of 2 Mexicans Servants 12 days	15.00
	To use of Room 1 Month	10.00
28	To board from 1st. instant to this day	14.00
	21st Decr 1829	92.00
	Received of Col Austen $50.00 — James Whiteside	
	15th Jany 1830	61
	Received of Rumayor Eleven dollars — J. Whiteside	
		$31.00 due

Austin to James F. Perry

Jan. 16, 1830.

Dr brother and Sister

I again drop you a line by way of Nachitoches on the subject of your removal here. I have not time to write a long letter neither is it necessary. I have written four in the last month. All I have to say or can say may be comprised in a few words—*Come remove*

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to this colony without delay. In Nov^r next the law expires exempting Texas from duties. Come on and bring a handsome assortment of goods. And come quickly, the fall is the best time to remove on % of health. When I get an answer to the application I have made of a grant for you I will write, tho I am not doubtful as to a favourable one. Land can now be had on reasonable terms by purchace. I am the agent of Mexicans to sell 22 Leagues for $500 a League part on a credit, if you come now and bring some money and goods you may get as much as you please. in a year more land will rise. 200 emigrants have arrived in a month. do not be the last. Come on, and let the remnant of our family be united once more.

My health is better and I start tomorrow with the surveyors for the woods to be out a month or more.

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed to:] Mr. James F. Perry Potosi Missouri

GIDEON BLACKBURN TO AUSTIN

Danville Jany 19 1830

Col. AUSTIN

SIR Though I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance, yet perhaps my standing and character may not be entirely unknown to you. I am now in the fifty eighth year of my age, have been a minister of the Presbyterian denomination now more than 37 years and for the last three years have held the Presidency of Centre College at Danville. I give you the information to prepare the way for some inquiries I wish to make of you respecting the portions of country held by you, and by some other Americans in the region of Texas. My family are nearly grown and, including myself, we have in the connection five ministers and I am disposed to make a settlement some where that might bring together 40 or 50 or even 100 families and thus spend the evening of life amongst my friends in promoting the cause of literature and religion; and leave them with prospects of doing good in the world. I have thought of your country but am not in possession of sufficient information to enable me to make a fair conclusion and have therefore taken the liberty of troubling you with the following enquiries. 1st Is your title free from dispute. Also the other 2 or 3 American claims in your region;

2d Is there liberty of conscience and the free exercise of religion? 3d. Is the climate safe for constitutions formed in Kentucky and Tennessee?

4th What is the quality of the soil generally, is it timbered or naked. Will it admit a dense population or must the settlements be sparse?

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5th What is the quality of the water, are springs numerous and wholesome— Are streams frequent and permanent, suited to manufacturing and commerce?

6th Is yours a region of mosquitoes and full of fevers?

7th Are you exposed to Indian ravages?

8th What proportion of your settlement is French or Spanish?

9 What is the state of improvement in your society, in agriculture, commerce, education, and religion?

10 Will the Mexican government seriously oppose the U. S. extending to the Del Norte?

11 Are the present settlers satisfied with the government which they are under. Can they enjoy to a good degree the right of self government?

12 What bounties would be granted to settlers especially to such a settlement as stated above? It would contain many literary characters and perhaps from 20 to 30 young men who have nearly finished a classical course. What is the usual price for land by purchase?

13 What are the ordinary expenses of living? Can the necessary and absolute conveniences of life be easily obtained?

14 What is the best mode of approaching your settlement, whether by water by the mouth of the Brazos or by Red River if by the latter the point of debarcation and the distance by land from that point and also the practicability of the route?

15 What is the size of your grant? What of Milams, of Leftwich and do they lie contiguous?

Should you be kind enough to favor me with information on this subject please direct your communications to Gideon Blackburn President of Centre College Danville Kenty and I will be happy to receive it as soon as you might find it convenient.

GIDN BLACKBURN

Col. Austin Commandant of Texas.

J. CHILD TO AUSTIN

Natchez Janry 24, 1830

DEAR COL,

Since I visited Texas in the year 1822, at your request for the purpose of aiding in the establishment and support of your colony, it is well known to you that my exertions have been unremitting in the promotion of the original plan of the settlement, and perhaps my subsequent absence has been more beneficial to the undertaking, than I could have been by remaining among you. And at the same time I flatter myself that something has been gained on the scores of individual fortune and reputation both.

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At the present crisis however a thought has struck me, that a movement might be made highly beneficial to the colony, in strict pursuance of the views and policy of the Mexican government and in accordance with your own. A movement, which England must approve and to which the U. States can raise no substantial objections, as it will have a direct tendency to perpetuate a friendly understanding between the three powers, my efforts in the service of Mexican Independence, and to suppress subsequent revolt, in Texas, are also well known to you and the government.

With this project in view, which I will hereafter more fully detail, I was on the eve of visiting the city of Mexico to confer with the general government on the subject. But thinking perhaps that your powers were already amply sufficient to authorise a beginning and having made up my mind to abandon the plan, unless it should meet with your approbation, it was thought most adviseable to consult you in the first place. Since my first visit to Texas in 1812 it has been my uniform opinion that, this section of the country is destined to become the strongest arm of the Mexican Republic. At that early period I fixed on the site you now occupy, as the future seat of government unless the opposite point on this side the river bottom should be deemed more eligible on account of wood and water. A military lookout post at fort Bolivar, a trading establishment at the head of the navigation on the Buffalo Bayou connecting these settlements with your Town on this side and securing the trade and attachment of the Indians and whites on the waters of the Trinity, and extending the same line on the other side to the navigable waters of the St. Bernard. With this view let the Mexican government open a land office at St. Felipe de Austin with full powers to make indefeasible complete grants of land to actual settlers at a price certain for any quantity not exceeding 640, or 1,000 acres, let them invite the Mexicans in the interior to move down and settle in Texas, and permit foreign emigrants of good character and small capital with industrious habits to settle permanently among them, whose attachment will *ex necessitate rei* be stronger in favor of their adopted country than any other, and my word for it, in three or four years we will give a spur to commerce and agriculture greatly enhancing the price of lands, and converting the present drone like apathy that broods over those delightful regions into the busy hum of the beehive in May.

This done, I will undertake to establish the trading house on the Buffaloe and make a settlement of some 100 or more persons, and it will not be material with me whether slavery is tolerated or not.

Be so good as to inform me whether you approve of the experiment, and if so whether you deem it within the scope of your

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powers to authorize me to commence it, upon my own plan or one of your own suggestion,

J[OSHUA] CHILD

Col Ph Austin

AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

DR SIR,

I have sent Mr Selkerk for the purpose of making up another set of hands so as to start another compass. The work that is wanted will not be a very profitable job and rather bad runing. I wish the coast meandered, beginning at Jinnins' camp on Colorado and meandering down to its mouth, thence along the coast to the Karankaway Bay.

I have understood that you had taken up a school and could not leave there to survey. if this be the case I wish you to let Selkerk have your compass. If it is in any manner injured I will pay you its full value or should you wish to sell it I will give you Eighty Dollars cash for it.

I wish you to speak to Burnham for the use of his best perogue to take fresh water and provisions along the coast. We cannot do without it and will pay for the hire if Burnham will not lend it.

Considering the badness of the running and the quantity of work that must be done before Leagues can be run off I think that this job will not be an object of sufficient importance for you to quit your school. After the coast is all meandered the creeks must also be all meandered and a general plot of the whole made and then laid off in Leagues so that it will not be a profitable job for it is probable that not more than one third of the Leagues will be taken for some years—you can do as you please— If you want this job you have had the promise of it, and can get it.

I shall wait here untill the meanders of the coast are all completed.

I think the best plan will be to let Selkerk have the compass. Shall come by Matagorda on my return.

S. F. AUSTIN

Jany 24, 1830

[Addressed] Mr. E. R. Weightman

R. STOWERS TO AUSTIN

Mon Clover Jany 26 1830

MY DEAR SIR

I have just rec[d] pr the hands of Antonio Manches letters from the U. S. bearing the disagreeable and unpleasant information of

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my worthy friend and relative Samuel Summer's being murdered last summer on the Sante Fe road by the Indians, also suspicions that we are likely to sustain a considerable loss from certain imprudences of the man I left in charge of our business in New Mexico. these circumstances render it highly necessary that I should repair hence soon as possible and these circumstances will further prevent my returning to Texas for some time, but so soon as I can settle our business in New Mexico I shall return by the way of Texas. this I think will be some time next fall. the goods here I shall leave with Mr. Woodson to sell and make returns. Our sales have been very good in this section, but light profits.

The Mexicans are much agitated at this time relative to a change of their Government. Bustamante seems to be the prime mover of a central Gove[t] and it seems from the best information I can gather here, that he is very likely to carry his point, has many followers.[1] they urge as a principal reason for a change the expense of supporting the different states under the present form, which argument has a priestly sway among the common people. I have but little doubt myself, but what a central form would suit them much better than the present, provided they had less Territory to govern, but it seems that Uncle Sam is pestering them for Texas, at which some of them in Mexico kick against might and main, but I think will ultimately bring them under, the U. S. has, as they say has offered to loan them six millions of dollars, if they would relinquish to her Texas. I have not much idea that a very speedy change will take place, but am now inclined to think it will ultimately, provided it could get through the senate of the U. S. Here lies the rub. I presume it is hardly necessary to name to you that we are all somewhat creatures of interest. I am so much so that I have thought proper to solicit from you a grant for a small piece of Land say a League, should you think proper to receive the application, you would render me a lasting favour by selecting me a piece of your own choice, and should you need any assistance call on my particular fnd[s] Mr. Williams and McKinstry to assist you, and any trouble and expense that may be attending it, I will readily reimburse on my arrival with you. Tender my best respects to Mr. and Mrs. Williams and all my old frds in yr. city.

R. Stowers

P. S. Please write me on recpt. of this to Chihuahua

[Addressed] Al Sor D Esteban F. Austin San Felipe de Austin Texas

[1] For Bustamante's accession to the presidential office see Bancroft, H. H., History of Mexico, V, 88–95.

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Austin in Account With John Austin

Col. Stephen F. Austin

1829 To John Austin Dr

Octr.	25th.	To 5 Yds Sattinett	@10	6. 25
		" 1½ Cotton for lining		75
Nov	9	" paid Cooper and Cheeres for Cloathing for Washing		8. 50
	13	Cash paid Mrs Angier on Whites Note		52. 98
	23	½ Ream paper pr John Cummins		5
Decr	15	paid on your note to Mrs. Angier		109. 97
Jany	2	6 Bales of Tobacco	9$	54
	"	8 do do	10$	80
	26	paid J. H. Polly his a/c for hauling at San Felipe		12. 50
		Cr		$329. 95
By Anthony Winstons a/c			100. 00	
" Dr Ant Hutchinson			300. 00	
			400	
Brasoria Jany 28., 1830				
		George Tennel a/c and order	39. 28	
		Your order in favor of Bowman	35. 00	
				74. 28
				404. 23
		paid Ira Ingram over the amt of net proceeds of Jack		51. 00
		paid Capt Russell his a/c agst you		16. 00
				$471. 23
				400. 00
				71. 23

Henry Austin to Austin

Matamoros Janʸ 29, 1830

Col S. F. Austin

My dear Sir I avail myself of an opportunity to your place to send you a pamphlet on the transfer of Texas.

Both governments were intent upon the measure, but I am fearfull the late revolution may retard if it do not defeat the project altogether.

I send by the same conveyance a letter for T J Chambers surveyer General. Should he be in your neighbourhood do me the favor to receive the letter from Mr Renolds and send it to Mr Chambers. The object of the letter is to request payment for a set of surveyors instruments which I brought out at his request and have had here more than six months.

The last season has been extremely sickly here. My operations have been suspended more than three months by the sickness of all

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my men. I am now endeavouring to close my business with a view to leave this as soon as I can, but it will take me some months at best to get away.

The cotton gins sent you by Mr Coit were sent by my request under the supposition they would be useful to you. You will please have them sold for whatever they will fetch.

My Mexican operations have all proved very unfortunate and if I should be so fortunate as to extricate myself from the present one without loss to my friends I shall hardly engage in any others. There is such an inveterate jealousy of strangers and so much perfidy in the Mexican people that nothing conducted by a stranger can succeed if they can prevent it. When I leave this I shall shape my course for New Orleans and if circumstances permit will visit you.

Our family has been truly unfortunate for many years past. You are I believe the only member of it who has been successfull and your success has been dearly purchased. Should a transfer of the province take place you cannot fail to realize a splendid fortune from your exertions.

We have had many rumors here of a revolutionary disposition in the people of Texas on account of the decree freeing all slaves in the Republic, the Mexicans appear to be very jealous of your encreasing strength and I think the conviction that Texas cannot long remain theirs may determine them to sell to the U S now they have an opportunity. Major Butler who is now in Mexico as charge des affairs has undoubtedly instructions to make the purchase if it can be done on reasonable terms. Do me the favor to inform me at what price a square league lands with a perfected title can be had in the Colony. The acquisition by settlement is too tedious a process for me to undertake besides I detest every thing that brings me in contact with Mexican authority.

your friend and cousin HENRY AUSTIN

PS. I have a printing press, and types. is it wanted in Texas It will not sell here as the people cannot read. the value is 1500$

JAMES W. BREEDLOVE TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, January 30, 1830.

See Calendar.

RICHARD ELLIS TO AUSTIN

Alabama 30th Janr 1830

DEAR SIR

I ask leave to introduce to your acquaintance my son Mr. N. D. Ellis, and to acknowledge the receipt of your favor by my friend

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Col A Winston. I wish to say to you that we have been led into an error by a proclamation of the Mexican president as to the liberation of slaves. Perhaps he only meant bound servants such as has been by the civil Law for 200 years, but you know such is the sensitive feelings of the Slave holders on that subject, that the least agitation will deter them from emigration, and I really begin to believe with you that it is shortly to be a great evil among us. for it has prevented me from sending on negros to my son in Law James N. Smith until it is too late to make a crop. The first objection is the expense of sending them on, at this late season, and a person to superintend them, the second is, every practical planter knows it is too late to make a crop even to *rent land*; (the worst of all evils) but the 3rd is one which I know will plead my excuse to you; when I state my own situation, for it seems one misfortune never comes alone but (as Shakespear says) treads on the heels of another; 2 or 3 months after the date of the last receipt of the pay^{t} of W. Pettus's debts, (as this will show) I had the 12th instant, a large portion of my cotton crop burnt to ashes in the warehouse of the Messrs. Harts in the city of New Orleans and Mr. J. N. Smith's with it. I refer you to my son for the amt. and the details; (*not insured*) Please accept my best wishes for your happiness and prosperity.

RICHARD ELLIS.

Col^{o}. S. F. Austin

THOMAS BARNETT TO RAMON MUSQUIZ

[From Bexar archives]

Jusgado de Austin.— Me es muy sensible hallarme en un estado incapas de dar cumplim^{to} á mis deveres y a mis deseos; llamado por los votos de mis considudanos al cargo de Alcalde me hallo sin uno de los requisitos p^{a} poder dar cumplim^{to} á mis deveres, que es no entender el idioma castellano. El Sor. William en quien contaba p^{a} desempeñar los deveres de Srio. del Ay^{to} no quiere tomar el empleo, yá por q^{e} no hay fondos p^{a} pargarle p^{r} su trabajo, yá por q^{e} el Sor. Pettus sindico procurador y el no son amigos.

Ademas el Sor. D^{n} Estevan Austin esta ausente y el Sor William há estado tan ocupado en otros asuntos que no há podido hacer nada p^{a} ausiliarme, mas me há prometido arreglar la correspond^{a} p^{a} el correo proximo venidero, quando tendre la satisfacion de mandarle á V. S.—Dios y Libertad Villa de Austin á 1 de Febrero de 1830.— Hon Barnete [Thomas Barnett].— Sor. Gefe del Dep^{to} Ciud^{no} Ramon Musquiz.

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GEORGE FISHER[1] TO DE ZAVALA

Nueva Orleans y 10 de Febrero de 1830.

Sor. Dn LORENZO DE ZAVALA

Mejico

MUY SOR MIO Y DE APRECIO. He llegado sin alguna novedad en esta el dia 2 del corrt^e^ mes, con el Sor Poinsett y Compañia, el que partió para la Ciudad de Washington el dia 7 del mismo. Al salir de esa Capital, yo me propuse dos cosas como asunto á q me iba dedicarme, a saber, el ir á Nueva York y hacer algunas diligencias en encontrar algun individuo p^a^ q me asistiese la planta de las colonias en Texas, y el segundo objeto era ir á Galveston y entrar en el desempeño de mis deberes como administrador de la aduana de aquel Puerto, mas al llegar a este puerto he cambiado de opinion y las razones son las sig^tes^. La emigracion de los Estados Unidos, á Texas es muy numerosa, y dentro de algunos años aquel estado será el mas poblado de todo el territorio entre los Rios Mississippi y el Bravo del Norte por esta razon me es indispensable y sin perdida de tiempo salir p^a^ Texas, y demarcar los limites de los 20 sitios cedidos en mi favor é impedir la colonizacion intrusa por los emigrados de estos Estados Unidos, los que van á Texas en numeros grandes, cuasi langostas. (de Baltimore ultimam^te^ han llegado dos Brigantinas con colonos, p^a^ el Puerto de Matagorda) de aqui resulta que si no se toman las providencias oportunas al respecto de las tierras, y a su apartimiento, con el tiempo habra dificultades en los dros de possession y titulos. Por las razones indicadas yo recomendaria a V^d^ como siempre lo he hecho, de no emprender la colonizacion de las 500 sobre las tierras, q V^d^ posee en Texas, por Compañia, ni tampoco de vender los terrenos, sino colonizarlos por sus propios recursos, y por medio de un agente inteligente y de su confianza, porque la poblacion emigrada y radicada ya sobre los propios terrenos es numerosa, y esta ciertamente ha de tener preferencia en asegurarles sus ranchos, y estarian prontos á someterse como colonos de V^d^ con tal que se les garantizen sus tierras, y sus mejoras.

Yo he visto varios vecinos de la Bahia de Galveston, en este puerto, los que me han preguntado por menor sobre la cesion de aquellas tierras por el Gob^o^ del Estado en favor de V^d^ y que eran muy anciosos á saber las disposiciones q V^d^ tomara con los actuales colonos, me aseguraron que los Colonos desean q V^d^ les confirmase sus dros de posesion, etc., etc. De este suceso es evidente q el colo-

[1] This interesting character weaves his way back and forth through the remainder of this collection, playing a subordinate but rather important rôle in the events of the period. A small volume in the library of the University of Texas entitled "Memorials of George Fisher," and with many marginal notes by Fisher himself, gives much information about him. He was secretary of the California Land Commission, 1852–1856, and in 1862 was justice of the peace in the fifth district of San Francisco.

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nizar las indicadas tierras es obra facil y sin gastos que erogar, porque los colonos vienen á sus propias espensas, y yo soy de opinion, que antes de cumplidos los Seis años que la ley le concede á V^d^ tendra V^d^ las 500 familias introducidas y si la emigracion sigue en el modo actual no digo 500 familias, sino 2000. Por esta razon yo le aconsejaré a V^d^ de revocar el Poder otorgado en favor de Luckett, y desistir de la venta de ello, y que V^d^ sin perdida de tiempo pasase á las propias tierras en Texas, ya sea por via de los Estados Unidos, ya por tierra en derechura, renunciando todo empleo publico, con preferencia á este importante é interesante objeto el q ciertamente le asegurara a V^d^ con un buen manejo una fortuna regular en su propia patria,[1] yo a lo menos hare el debido uso de mi parte, y me empeñare de cumplir con las condiciones de mi contrata con cuyo motivo sin perdida de tiempo pasaré a Nacogdoches, con preferencia de ir a Nuevo York y de alli á Galveston, de donde daré cuenta al Sor Comisario de San Luis Potosi, y al Supr^o^ Gob^o^ cuanto a ocurre sobre la administracion de aquella Aduana. El Comercio de Texas con los E. E. se aumenta diariam^te^, y ya hay varios puertos, a saber, Matagorda, Trinidad, Brazos, y Colorado, donde se hace el comercio extrangero, a pesar de no ser puertos habilitados por la ley p^a^ el Comercio estrangero pero las circunstancias de los colonos los han establecidos puertos "*de facto*" y la Hacienda publica esta perdiendo lo que le toca "de derecho' por el abandonado estado en q mira el Gob^o^ á esta parte de su territorio. Suplico a V^d^ tenga la bondad de interponer sus buenos oficios p^a^ con el Gob^o^ Gral, p^a^ q me faculte establecer la aduana en Galveston, y autorizarme p^a^ procurar los recursos necesarios pa este efecto, sobre el credito de la nacion, lo que pudiera efectuar con mis amigos en esta Ciudad. Espero recibir la contestacion de V^d^ dirigida a Nacogdoches, donde espera sus ordenes de V^d^ su affmo.

JORJE FISHER [Rubric]

THOMAS F MCKINNEY TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches 13 Feby 1830

DR. SIR

permit me to introduce to you Mr. James Bowie a gentleman who stands highly esteemed by his acquaintances and merits the attention particularly of the citizens of Texas as he is disposed to become a citizen of the country and will evidently be able to promote its general interest. I hope you and Mr. Bowie may concur in sentiments and that you may facilitate his views. We are happy to

[1] As we shall see, Zavala disregarded this advice and, combining his contract with those of David G. Burnet and Joseph Vehlein, formed with certain financiers in New York and Boston the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co.

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boast of a most happy change of things since the arrival of Dn J. A. Padilla. I think your hopes will be realized by the course adopted by the Commissioner and we will be able to glide calmly along without any remains of former curses. The military appear to have their duty much better than formerly. If they are doing anything in the old dishonesty it is in a private way and their impertinences have abated. in much haste

THOMAS F. MCKINNEY [Rubric]

Col. Stephen F. Austin

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO GOVERNOR

Bexar, February 14, 1830.

See Calendar.

A. P. MEAD TO AUSTIN

Essex town Essex County State of
New York. Feb. 15th 1830

To Colo S. F. AUSTIN

SIR

A writer in the Ohio Monitor, under date of Oct 14 1829, after giving a short history and discription of your settlement at San Felippe de Austin in Texas, proceeds to say that "Lands can be obtained by emigrants with great facility from the Empressario and the Commissioner of government under the Colonization Law which authorizes the grant to families of actual settlers of one league Mexican Measure, equal in English to 4446 acres superficial surface and unmarried men can obtain the 4th part of that quantity. The expenses of which will not amount to four cents per acre."

The object of this communication is to inquire whether the statements in that article can be relied on. There are from eight to twelve families in this place respectable for intelligence sobriety and industry, who if they could be assured of realizing the prospects held out to them by the writer of the article alluded to, would like to set out for that place as soon as they could make proper arrangements; but we feel it to be too serious an undertaking to engage in without a better guarantee than an anonymous writer in a newspaper.

We should be particularly gratified to receive from you a speedy answer to the enquiry whether such a company could be located together in a favorable spot, and on what conditions with as many particulars relative to the soil, climate, civil and religious regulations etc as you can afford time to devote to such an object. If

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settlers from the north is an object worthy of your attention, we flatter ourselves that we should be able to draw after us if everything should prove favorable, a great number of families in a few years, in as much as we can avail ourselves of internal navigation from this place (the shores of Lake Champlain) to N. Orleans a distance of three thousand miles. Our first company would consist of one or two physicians, some mechanics and some agriculturalists.

ABIEL P. MEAD M. D.

JOSÉ ANTONIO NAVARRO TO AUSTIN

Bexar 18 de Febrero de 1830

Sor D ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

MI CARO AMIGO: hace tiempo q^{e} no escribo á V. p^{r} dos motivos, el primero porque V. me deve una, y el segundo y principal porque no he tenido cosa particular q^{e} comunicar de mis plagios pues q^{e} solo asi tengo que decir y nada de mi pobre caveza q^{e} es torpecima p^{a} imbentar algo util.

Ahora escrivo esta porque ya se me ase "cargo de conciencia" tanto silencio y p^{a} obligarle á sus recuerdos. no he visto nada aun del *correo de la federacion* y con esto nada puedo decirle pero parece que aun no se entona bien el Govierno.

Por la facultad q^{e} V. nos dio de remitir al amigo Balmaceda el parrafo de la carta q^{e} V. escrivio á nuestro amigo Musquiz, lo hise asi, remitiendo dho párrafo y diciendo lo q^{e} me parecio en justo elogio de V. bamos á otra cosa.

Necesito mucho, mucho una votella yena de semilla de tabaco q^{e} me encargo Madero y es preciso q^{e} V. se tome la incomodidad de remitirmela [lo] mas brebe posible, y si es dable, con el correo inmediato, diciendome su importe. boy á comunicar á V. otra cosa que aunque no sea de rigorosa reserva, porque no tiene nada de emboso o maldad, sin embargo la merese, por cuanto tiende á intereses q^{e} eluden digamoslo asi, las leyes de quien somos subditos. ba el asunto.

Yo contraté con su recomendado de V. Ricard Royal el benderle onse sitios, de tierra si es q^{e} el govierno me los concedia á mi en lejitima venta. Richar se obligó a mas de darme en los plazos estipulados p^{r} la ley el dinero p^{a} el Govierno y costos totales de medidas, escritura, etc. seis sientos pesos en buen dinero p^{a} mi p^{r} via de demasia. bien está.

La concesion acaba de benirme hoy, pero con la diferencia de no haberme bendido el govierno los onse q^{e} pedi, sino solam^{te} siete sitios, p^{r} motibo de q^{e} ya se me habian concedido 4 como poblador y no podian darme mas del montante á onse p^{r} cualquiera respecto.

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En tal virtud, aunque contestó el govierno en el tiempo q^{e} deseabamos, no contestó en los terminos q^{e} deseabamos es decir dandome los onse sitios y de consiguiente, no podremos yevar adelante dho contrato, como hemos espresado en los articulos 3^{o} y 7^{o} pues q^{e} no fue como ellos dicen resolucion *favorable*. De tal manera si Royal quisiera tomar los dhos siete sitios q^{e} son los q^{e} he podido haber, con las mismas condiciones de los onse, estoy pronto á darselos y no de otra manera q^{e} no me tendria ninguna cuenta, quiero decir, sin que deje de darme los mismos seis sientos pesos y haser los demas pagos q^{e} hemos estipulado. el terreno me biene concedido en donde yo quiera con tal de que sea en los valdios del Estado.

Creo p^{r} esto q^{e} Royal, si tiene interes en ellos, no deve pretender inobacion ninguna en el contrato y si la pretendiese, me hará V. favor de decirle q^{e} por el echo solo lo rescindo y no vendo nada; pues á mas de q^{e} la manca no ha estado en él ni en mi, no podré sederle los terrenos p^{r} menos precio de lo q^{e} hemos dho.

Nixon, q^{e} devia darme los 600 p^{s} p^{r} Royal, en el momento q^{e} me biniera mi solicitud, se ha ido al Saltillo, y ese es otro mal é incombeniente, porque yo queria haser uso de ellos prontam^{te} asi, pues le suplico á V. mi buen amigo q^{e} si cae por hay dho. Royal le entere de todo, diciendole q^{e} si es q^{e} ha de tomar los referidos siete sitios p^{r} el mismo precio q^{e} iba á tomar los onse, disponga q^{e} se me de el dinero q^{e} dejó depositado y si no me abise p^{a} mi govierno.

Saludes á nuestro amigo D. Samuel y V. haciendo p^{r} este su amigo, cuente con la reciprocidad de su afmo. S. S. Q. B. S. M.

J. A. Navarro [Rubric]

[Enclosure]

Leona Vicario 6 de Febrero de 1830—

Conforme al articulo 24 de la ley de colonizacion de 24 de Marzo de 1825 otorgo en venta al suplicante en la parte que señala ó en la que mas le acomode, siete sitios de tierra de los onse que solicita en los valdios del Estado. El comisionado general que tiene nombrado Este govierno lo meterá en posesion de dhos sitios y espedirá el correspondiente titulo calificando previamente la clase y calidad delos espresados terrenos para el señalamiento de lo que deve satisfacer pr. ellos al estado, para cuyo pago le concedo los plazos que designa el articulo 22 de la referida Ley. Dese por la secretaria al interesado copia de su peticion y este decreto, para qe. ocurriendo con ella al comicionado surta los efectos que son consiguientes—Viesca—Santiago del Valle Secretario—Es copia—Santiago del Valle—Secretario—

Es copia legal y aútentica del decreto qe. me bino al calse de mi instancia

Bexar 18 de Febrero de 830 Navarro [Rubric]

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Austin and George Sutherland

[Agreement, February 19, 1830: Sutherland to introduce 10 families and Austin to receive them as colonists and grant land to them for the usual fees.]

John W. Faulkner to Austin

Wigginsville Clarke Co.
Alabama 23rd Feby 1830.

Sir

You will excuse the liberty I have taken in addressing you a few lines on the subject of inquiry about your country (Texas) first I wish you to inform me where bouts is the largest sea port Town on theither [either] of the Bays and the prospects of its being the largest and the best back and up country to support it, with the helth of either place etc also what business is doing and likely to continu, and at what advance are Dry Goods sold at on the New York or New Orleans cost the advantages and disadvantages of getting them to the town etc. also should be glad to recie the laws of your count[r]y for my own and my frinds [and] neighbors use and if liked will no doubt leave this for yurs this spring or fall, also let me know if negroes can be brought in to that country, Capt. Wyley White Brother of Joseph White of your country informs me that the River Brassoss is the largest and most navagable Stream in that country with good lands on it and speaks of a Town at the mouth of the River on the Bay by the name of Boliver and that a very respectable business is doing in it and is likely to be a very large Town and he thinks the largest in that Country.

Your ideas on this subject knowing that they must be weighty(?) the best that could be produced would be very thankfully recd by abut 40 very respectable citicens who feal great interest in the siteation of that entry the advantages and disadvantages.

If you have a map of the country or can draw one showing the Rivers Towns bays and country designating the Rich Land etc. they also would be very thankfully recvd at this office. Let me know if there is not frequently vessels from New Orleans and Mobile to Boliver or any other towns on the bays that persons going to and from might be accomodated with this facility together with any other information that may present itself to your views will be most thankfully recvd (also let me know if goods are sold on a credit like they generally is in Alabama and greatly oblige yours

John W. Faulkner

is your country at warre with Spain now or not as I see Mexico is which is thought here will affect Texas as it is under the same

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Governm[t] but again it is said those persons living in Texas is not to engage in war or to take sides or to be called on for 12 years to come is this a fact or not.

which is the best Town in Texas for Merchandising and what kind of Goods is most suitable for the country, my ides are such as Domesticks and Hard war *such* as farming articals etc. Shoes Hats and the reda made clothing etc and but few very fine goods.

JOHN W. FAULKNER free p. m.

[Address:] Col Austin Town of Austin Province of Texas The Post Master at New Orleans will please forward this by the first vessel or privit cvyance to greatly oblige the writer.

J. W. FAULKNER

AUSTIN TO ARCHIBALD AUSTIN [1]

TEXAS.—It is a singular phenomenon that a colony of *Americans*, almost in the infancy of our country, should be planted on a foreign soil,—there to establish our institutions, speak our language, practice our virtues, and cherish our religion. Although under a foreign government, it is impossible not to regard them as "bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh," and to feel an honest pride when we see them extending the influence of civilization and industry over a territory the most inviting perhaps on the face of the earth, but hitherto, only the abode of wild beasts and roaming savages. We have been favored with a letter from a gentleman long resident in Texas, from which we make the following extracts:—

San Felipe de Austin, Feb. 24, 1830.

You ask me as to Swiss emigrants. They of all others would be most benifitted by a removal to Texas. The Government is highly in favour of Swiss and German emigrants, and they would be well received. They carry industry and peace wherever they go; and the Swiss in particular, would introduce the culture of the vine, and the making of wine. It is the decided opinion of some very intelligent Europeans who have visited this country, that its soil and climate are equal to the best wine regions of France. We have in fact every variety of soil, from the richest alluvion on the margins of the rivers, to the high and rich uplands;—clay and sandy soils, and all possible varieties and intermixtures of them, and also rocky soils,—level, rolling, undulating and hilly lands. There is a large portion of very black, sandy soil, having a clay foundation of eighteen inches to three feet in depth, which is surprisingly productive; and I perceived that land of this kind is covered with an excessive growth of wild Grape of very superior flavour to any other wild Grape I have ever met with. Sugar, Cotton, Indigo, etc. will yield most

[1] See Archibald Austin to Austin, May 31, 1830. This extract is from an unidentified newspaper clipping which gives credit to the New York Journal of Commerce, in which Archibald Austin published the letter.

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abundantly; and the crops are certain and less liable to casualties, than in Louisiana. Corn, Tobacco and Flax, have been tried with great success. The upper part of the country on the Colorado and Brasos is rolling and in places hilly. It is believed that wheat will succeed well in that section. None but substantial and useful emigrants are wanted or desired in this country;—Not as respects wealth, but as regards industry, moral character and habits, education, enterprise and perseverance.

* * * * * * *

The prospects here are *very good* for enterprise and industry. The natural resources and wealth of Texas, in fertile lands, timber, pasturage, etc. are incomparably greater than any country I have ever seen. Its climate is mild and healthy, and it possesses abundant facilities for navigation, both rivers and harbors. We need nothing which nature could supply, but we do need population. We need agriculturists to develope the great advantages of our soil and climate. It is the settled policy of this Government to fill Texas with an industrial population, and to effect this object it has extended a degree of liberality to foreign emigrants which is altogether without a parallel. This liberality extends to all the sacred rights of security of *persons and property*, which are primary considerations with all men; and also to every privilege and indulgence which any reasonable people could ask.

Austin and James N. Smith

[Agreement, February 26, 1830: Smith agrees to introduce three families besides his own and Austin agrees to receive them as colonists and grant land for the usual fees.]

Lewis Moore, Jr., to Austin

Attacapas, February 28, 1830.

See Calendar.

Thomas H. Borden to Austin

Sabine, March 1, 1830.

See Calendar.

R. C. Trimble to Austin

St. Mary's Parish, La., March 1, 1830.

See Calendar.

José de los Piedras to Austin

Nacogdoches, March 7, 1830.

See Calendar.

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J. M. J. CARBAJAL TO AUSTIN

Bethany, Va., March 8, 1830.

See Calendar.

RETSON MORRIS TO AUSTIN

Trinity Bay, March 11, 1830.

See Calendar.

AMOS EDWARDS TO AUSTIN

Davis Point March 11th 1830

DEAR SIR

When I came on found my hands here trying to make some improvements and I concluded to settle here altho there is not a tree of timber suitable for building or fencing nearer than 5 miles of this point nor any running fresh water within 4 miles, the place is well calculated for keeping stock which is one of my principle objects in settling here and I intend planting and raising as much corn potatoes and other necessary articles as I can with my force but it will be attended with a great deal of labour and expense extra of a situation that is convenient to Timber and water. I hope therefore that you will let me have a piece of Timbered land that lies most convenient to this place which is on, what is called here Dixon's Bayou, about six miles off which would enable me to improve this place so as to make it beneficial to the public and myself and particularly as this league will not embrace timber enough to make one fourth of the buildings and fencing necessary to answer my purpose, and that little is 5 miles to six from this point. It was customary formerly for setlers to get a certain quantity of arrable land and a larger quantity for stock and other purposes and if it is in your power to grant the like quantity to any individual I hope you will extend your goodness to me, as I have brought a large family to this country some of whom have caused other useful emigrants to come marry and settle in the country and I have yet several young children to provide for and shall myself try to be as usefull to the Government as my circumstances and abilities will permit. I regret that you did not come to this part of the country as you intended when I saw you that you might see the land here and country generally, and I also regret that it is not in my power at this time to leave here to go and see you myself for I am yet living in a tent and must stay to try to have a shelter made for my family and put in a crop to make us some bread etc. But I send my son to transact my busi-

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ness for me with full power to do all that is necessary for me relative to lands in this colony which I hope will be sufficient without my personal attendance at St. Fillippe. he can explain to you the situation of this place better than I can by letter at present, as he has travelled all over the land.

AMOS EDWARDS

P. S. I am requested by my son in Law Mr. Ritson Morris to name to you that he wishes to get a league of land adjoining the one I am on, lying on Clear Creek as he intended moving his family on it as soon as he can go home and settle up his business there which will be next fall early. it is the tract on which Anson Taylor lived and I bought his improvements and have a respectable family now living on it and there will be twenty five acres in cultivation this season. it is very desirable to have my children near me and if they can get the land they will all settle within your colony. I wish also to get a league near me for Doctor Heard who will come here before long and in the mean time I will have a respectable family on it improving the land. My son will designate the land for the Doctor provided you consent to let him have it.

A. E.

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F. Austin, Austin. Monroe Edwards.

AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

Matagorda Friday March 12 1830

DR SIR

I have been here and at the old landing opposite this, since last Monday week, and am compelled to leave for Brazoria without seeing you, which is a very serious disappointment.

It was my original intention that you should have the surveying of all the vacant lands on this river below H. H. League and Betts, and all Trespalacios, Prairie, and Cany Creek below Curtis, and I fully expected you at San Felipe when the Commissioner was there. But you did not come, and I heard you had engaged in a school which I of course supposed would occupy all your time and as I heard nothing from you, was left to conclude that you did not wish for any surveying. Notwithstanding this, however, when Selkerk came over I wrote you, and stated that this job had been intended for you, and if you wished it, to go on with it, or if not to let Selkerk have your compass so that he might do it, or for you and him to do it jointly, or make any arrangement with him on the subject you thought proper and could make. My object was to get the work done without delay. About 18 days after Selkerk left

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me to come over here, I went to the mouth of Karankaway on the east side and along the bay in sight of the timber of Trespalacios, and thence up that Creek on the west side in search of you or Selkerk, but seeing no smokes in that direction, I could not but conclude from the time that had elapsed, that something had prevented either of you from starting, and that you had abandoned the job. I was alone and on a borrowed mule, and thought it very doubtfull wheither I could get over at this place, and therefore struck a north course for Alleys. On my arrival there I met Burnham, who informed me you was to start from here in a few days. I only remained three days at home, and then proceeded to the head of Trespalacios and followed it down untill I found Selkerk and Cook and directed them to stop at the west point of Trespalacios Bay, for I had left orders for Ingram to finish the east side of Karankaway. I expected to find you here, and that the whole meandering could be ploted in two or three days and the tracts all laid off on the map, after which they could have been run, but your absence has totally deranged all my calculations, and compelled me to make new arrangements, for I must be at Brazoria on Sunday or Monday next.

I wish you to make a connected plot of all the meanderings on a scale of 2000 varas to the inch, which is the scale used in all the work, and I will try and return here sometime in May or June, or if you can send the plot up to the office I can there lay off the tracts as they are taken, for there is to be some quarters and some Leagues intermixed. I shall be at Brazoria about 10 days, from there to Galveston bay, by way of San Felipe, and thence up the Colorado above the San Antonio road, so that you see I have work chalked for myself until June at least, and it is in fact quite doubtful whether I can be here again before next fall or winter.

Another matter The families who came with you to the country have never been to the office. I know not where they all want their land, ever since the 20 of Nov^{r} last they were informed by my advertisement what they ought to do. they have neglected their own affairs and if they suffer for so doing, they can blame no one but themselves. I wrote you that all their business should be done without advancing one cent except the stamp paper which is fifty cents for each, so that they have no excuse.

I will once more inform what they *must* do. They must each of them, (that is the heads of families) go in person to the office and there enter their names and a list of their families and each one must take the oath prescribed by law and procure a certificate of reception as settlers in my colony, and they must each of them state where they want their land and have an entry made of it. When this is done it can be surveyed and not before. This is too important

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a matter to be neglected any longer. If they take money to pay the stamp paper they can have their petitions made out in Spanish by Williams and sign it, and then they need not return to San Felipe any more untill they go after their titles. Will you do those families the favor to attend to this matter and inform them what they must do. Williams will be at the office if I am not and can do all that is necessary.

The object of the certificate of reception is to place a legal document in the hands of each one, that he was recd. as a settler by me under my contract with gvt. and as such is entitled in virtue of my contracts and the law to a certain portion of land. I have adopted this plan for the safety of the emigrants in case of my death before they get their titles in full, for should I die at this time what legal proof have any of the families who came with you that they form a part of my settlers? they have none for there can be no legal register of their names untill they have taken the oath. I wish this matter attended to, for it is becoming rather dangerous to calculate too much on my life. My health is greatly impaired and is getting worse, and I have reason to fear that in case of my death, the emigrants would have to wait a long time before they get their titles. I therefore again repeat: *neglect this matter no longer.*

It was my wish to come to some final plan as to this place—but your absence has defeated that, and it must be defered to some other period. There is in human affairs a *certain time*, a point when the iron is hot, which ought never to be neglected—that point in your affairs was when the commissioner was at my house. You could then have had all your affairs arranged, and now I fear there will be some difficulty to get a tract for you as the heirs of your decd. father, but all that can be done by me *shall be done.* A petition in Spanish must be drawn up on stamp paper and signed by you and the other heirs, and I will then manage it to the best advantage for you, but untill I get that petition with the signatures to it I can do nothing for you.

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Austin to Elias R. Wightman

Memorandum for Mr. Weigh[t]man Surveyor

You will lay off four quarters of a League next below H. H. League on the west side of colorado and the balance on both sides of the river below Betts on the east side, and below the above mentioned quarters on the west will be laid of in League tracts—each League will not have more than two thirds of a League in width in a straight line front on the river, and the quarters in propor-

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tion to their area I also wish the exact quantity ascertained in each of the large islands including the prairie island between the east and west fork—

The Leagues on Trespalacios must join those on the colorado where it can be done so as not to reduce the fronts on each river to less than three thousand varas— should there be a vacancy in the middle it can be laid off in quarters, or in Leagues as may best suit.

I think it will be the best plan to lay off on one connected plot all the meandering and then lay down all the tracts on colorado and on the east side of Trespalacios, the west side of Trespalacios may remain for the present, as there are no tracts taken there at this time

The land on prairie creek and Cany below Peyton and Curtis and also on the bay east of this you can lay off in conformity with the printed regulations and in quarters or Leagues as it may be wanted.

Please send up the notes of all the colorado tracts as soon as possible for they are generally all taken up and I wish to finish the deeds.

Matagorda March 13. 1830

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

You will of course be particular that there is no interference with the colorado and prairie Creek tracts and regulate the fronts accordingly should it be necessary to vary from the rule above laid down to avoid an interference.

A district can be laid off for surveying on San Jacinto to commence at the Mouth of Buffalo Bayou, thence up the same, north side to its head, thence northwardly so as to include all the waters of San Jacinto on the west side of its main branch up to its head

Mr Weightman can have this district if he wishes it by applying to me or to Williams at my office should I be absent within six weeks from this time

Matagorda March 13. 1830

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

The above is subject to the approval of the Commissioner general

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Editorial by Austin

[Texas Gazette, March 13, 1830: Necessity of Translating the laws of Coahuila and Texas. Omitted.]

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Ramon Musquiz to Governor

Bexar, March 14, 1830.

See Calendar.

Robert Wescott to Austin

Potosi 15 March 1830.

Col: Stephen F. Austin,

Dear Sir: When I reflect on the intimacy and friendly intercourse which in days long past happily subsisted between your late worthy father and my (then) family in Philadelphia, as well as myself, (all now with a single exception resting in their graves) and the uniform regard and esteem felt by Mrs. Wescott and self for your late excellent mother, my reluctance in troubling you with this communication is *measurably* diminished. For in appreciating your own disposition to oblige, and to promote the interests of those who are not unworthy, *by that*, which I know your deceased parents eminently possessed, I do believe, I but render to you a just *tribute* of estimation. Under this impression, I no longer hesitate to come to a general Development of my objects in addressing you. In the first place, excuse me for remarking that perhaps few men have suffered more severely than it has been my hard destiny to do, from the heavy blasts of adverse fortune. From Ease and affluence, I have been cruelly reduced for a series of past years to a state of *comparative* privation, which, *personally*, wd. have been the more easly endured had it not borne heavily upon the comforts, prospects, and *fair* expectations of an excellent wife and eight children, by which I have been compelled to suffer a state of intense feeling and anxiety, almost beyond the exertion of my strongest moral energies! This sad state of things, has resulted from a liberal but misplaced confidence in men of plausible exterior and reputed integrity, who have despoiled me of property to an amount, which wd. now render me and my family perfectly comfortable and independent. Such is the true but brief outline of our situation. In consequences of the kind, and well intended Invitation of my Brothers in law, Doct^{r} Joseph and Sam^{l} P. Browne, to come on with my family to this place we were induced to undertake the long and arduous and expensive removal from Phild^{a} and arrived here in November last. But altho' received and treated by Mrs. W's Brothers with perfect kindness yet I soon discovered that we had made a *fallacious* estimate of the expected advantages, which such removal appeared to promise. In fact, this section of Missouri seems to me to be in a deplorable situation. The Staple commodity (Lead) is a mere Drug—its price so low as to discourage the most *sanguine* miner, and the chance of

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getting any profitable employment, almost hopeless. Long before I left Philad[a] (my native city) I had turned my attention in the course of my reflections on the prospect of forwarding the interests of my family to your section of the globe and, more than twelve months ago, had felt a strong inclination to open a communication with you on this interesting subject. But, owing in a great measure to my unacquaintance with the proper mode of transmitting my letters, to your address, failed to do so. In truth, there is a strange ignorance on the sea board of the U. S. in relation to your topographical situation! Your excellent sister, Mrs. Perry has been kind enough to read to me certain parts of your letters in reference to your Region—and I feel a strong conviction that she, her husband and their family cannot fail in being *essentially* benefitted by locating themselves with you. I also believe, that an auspicious change might result from my being able to transplant my family there, and under this belief, I pray your excuse for making some additional remarks and propounding a few Enquiries.

My son George, (our oldest child) was born at St. Louis in 1806 and is at present located in Wayne Co. Pennsylv[a] where he has been practising Law about 18 mo[s] My family therefore under my immediate charge consists of my wife and seven Daughters the latter, from 19 down to 2 years of age. The eldest Theodosia possesses sufficient capacity to undertake the tuition of young children in at least, the rudimental Principles of our Language and every disposition to exercise it as beneficially as possible. She also has an excellent command of her needle in which respect several of her sisters could, also, render themselves useful. Do you think encouragement of my Daughter wd. be probable in your Town in the particulars alluded to and to what extent? As to myself perhaps I may venture to say that altho' pretty far advanced in the vale of Life (being now 60) shd. my health be continued I wd. feel competent to the faithful and zealous discharge of any employment connected with commercial superintendence or responsibility, and particularly that of conveyancing in its various branches. Do you think I wd. be likely to procure beneficial employment in *these* or *other* respects to wch. I might be competent? In desiring to locate myself and family in Texas however my paramount inducements are not embraced in the preceding queries. Those inducements are predicated on a *prospective* view, in my mind, of the *probable*—progressive, rapid advancement and prosperity of your country, arising from the well directed industry, enterprize and correct moral and political deportment of a respectable population of well qualified agriculturists and others (in addition to your present physical force) from different parts of the U. S., especially from

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the N. Western States. That the U. S. continues to look with "a longing Eye" toward Texas there can be no doubt, and perhaps, a very slender (if it were at all plausible) pretext, may sooner or later, induce the Government to aim at its possession, "peaceably if they can, forcibly if they must." Be this as it may, I can hardly suppose that much danger need be apprehended in regard to an interruption or suspension of the progressive settlement and improvement of your particular region, in consequence of the fluctuations of Power and Parties or occasional changes of the Dynasty in the Mexican Government. Your own individual grant, has, I understand, been duly confirmed and consummated by that government, and therefore, in any event will be *untouched* by *it* as well as beyond the reach of danger even shd. the U. S. ever become possessed of Texas! With this general view of the subject I cannot but believe that the prosperity and interests of my wife and Daughters (as well as my own) might in all probability be best promoted by effecting a settlement there as soon as convenient. But, in such event a Grant of Land, promisingly situated, seems to me indispensable!

Thus then, My dear Sir, I come to the great prominent inducement by which, I am actuated, in imposing on you, the trouble of reading and reflecting upon, the subject matter of this communication. My *great object* is to be able to obtain a Grant of *eligibly* situated Land of good quality! and toward the fulfillment of that object I take the liberty of *soliciting* your aid, cooperation, and Influence. Will you therefore suffer me most earnestly to request an application for me to this effect as speedily as possible, consistently with the necessary previous reflection on your own part. The quantity and quality to be governed by your own Discretion and sense of Propriety? I again pray you to excuse the trouble I am imposing on you and to guard me, if possible, by timely application for a grant for me and my family, so that I may not be precluded by lapse of time. Mr. Perry, who kindly takes charge of this letter will be able to state more particularly my views and objects, and be assured that, whatever you may be pleased to do to carry them into operation. my gratitude for yr. services, will not be diminished by any possible failure, which the *contingencies* of the best concerted plans may sometimes occasion. I pray you to write me as soon *as convenient* with perfect freedom and frankness, as to my views and wishes, and to believe me, with the highest

ROBT. WESCOTT

P. S. My Brother in Law Dr. Browne writes by this opportunity and I trust and hope that you will do all you can to forward and promote his objects.

R. W.

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18 March—in continuation

My dear Sir,

In looking over the foregoing lettr. and as Mr. Perry will not set out today, I wish to append a few farther cursory remarks. Professing an unfortunate unacquaintance with the institutions under which the civil and municipal affairs of yr. promising Province are regulated, and, not having it in my power to remedy that defect, by any satisfactory sources of information here, I particularly request that you will be good enough to give me a brief, general statistical outline of the nature and powers of yr. constitution or form of Government, and modes of legislation. Also, the Products, of which yr. soil is particularly susceptible (the staples of which I suppose to be Cotton, perhaps sugar) the fruits and vegetables wch. wld. best flourish there, the most eligible market for yr. surplus commodities hereafter, and the facility or difficulty of procuring the necessary articles for human subsistence, their probable prices etc. I think yr. country, must be well adapted for grazing cattle and promoting their maturest growth. I find a newspaper Establishment is in operation in Austin, a good *omen*, for the diffusion of information etc! Be pleased also to inform me whether a young man of respectable professional acquirements and talents (for such I may say I consider my son to be) wd. be likely to succeed in the Practice of Law in Texas, as it wd. be exceedingly desirable in *that case* that George shd. be with or near us. In fine to avoid swelling the communication (already perhaps to prolix) to a most unreasonable size, I throw myself upon yr. kind indulgence when I conclude by desiring your best advice, information, and cooperation in forwarding my views and wishes as above indicated. Yr. reply to Dr. Browne will apprize me of the size population etc. of Austin as he particularly writes to you respecting them. Shd. I be enabled to remove there I have no doubt I could induce several very useful citizens of Philad[a] to follow.

Robt. Wescott.

William Caruthers to Austin

Lincoln City, Tenn., March 15, 1830.

See Calendar

D. W. Smith to Austin

Matamoros, March 18, 1830.

See Calendar

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J. B. Bailey to Austin

Brazoria, March 18, 1830.

See Calendar.

J. M. Viesca to Austin

Saltillo, March 18, 1830.

See Calendar.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin

Megco Marzo 20, de 1830.

S. Tene Corl D. Estévan F. Austin.

Mi estimado amigo. Sin embargo de que no hé tenido contestacion de mis ultimas cartas que hé dirigido á V., y á pesar de mis ocupaciones, pongo esta que le remito por conducto del Sor. Terán á quien se servirá V. embiar su contestacion para que no se estrabie; mi objeto en esta vez es asegurarle que durante mi administracion, V. y esos honrados colónos continuaran reciviendo las mismas pruevas de afecto y concideracion con que desde el año de 22 se manifestaron mis deseos por su felicidad y progresos, empeñando en su favor el influjo que me daban los destinos publicos, que hé servido desde aquella fha.

Dignese V. pues por tanto, hacer entender á esos habitantes mis protestas: aceptando V. á la véz las seguridades de la berdadera amistad y consideracion, con que me repito su amo imbariable y conciudo afmo. que lo estima con sinceridad.

Anasto Bustamte [Rubric]

José Valentin Garcia to Austin

Guadalupe Victoria, March 20, 1830.

See Calendar.

Editorial by Austin

[Texas Gazette, March 20, 1830: Urging translation of the laws of Coahuila and Texas. The document is omitted.]

James F. Perry's Diary

Potosi Missouri Sunday [Mch 21st 1830]

½ after 9 o'clock J. F. Perry started on a visit or rather for the purpose of viewing Austins Colony in Texas, arrived at Hercu-

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lanium on the same evening there I had to remain the 22d and 23d waiting for the steam Boat North America for a passage to New Orleans. Met James A. Austin who starts in company with me with a view to settle himself in Texas. the S. B. N america ari'd the eving of the 23d during my stay here the S. B Diana passed down for Louisvill Three Steam Boats passed up 24th wednesday arrived at the cliff of Selma here we remain'd taking in Lead untill 25th thirsday 12 o'clock started about 12 o'clock passed the S. B. ——— for St Louis

March 31st Wednesday Land at New Orleans about ½ past 2 o'clock P M. remained in New Orleans untill friday the 10th day of April at 12 oclock saild in the Schooner Pocahontas for the port of Brazoria in Texas. Capt Carpenter master with 12 Cabin pasengers viz Mr Mills and Brother Mr Grason Mr Dawson Mr Jameson. M Brown Mr. Jones and Mr Lefwick of virga and Syghts from New Yourk

James A Austin and myself and about 25 or 30 deck pasengers among home [whom] are a nomber of weomen and children among them was Majr Brygs

friday night from 3 oclock in the morning lay at anker until morning 7 or 8 miles above the S. W Pass of the Mississippi

Saturday morning 11th histed sail about 8 oclk am took in the Pilot a few miles above the bar. got to sea and discharged the Pilot lay to anker for [four] or five miles S. W of the bar for want of wind until

Sunday Morning 12th histed sail under a light wind

Tuesday morning about 9 or 10 oclk in sight of Galveston Island said to be 45 miles long on which stands only 3 solitary Live oak at some distance apart I suppose Judging from the distance we was from them that they must stand one or two miles apart came too off the month of the Brazoses in the evening there not being water to carry us over the bar lay at ancker untill Wednesday Morning 15th I with a nomber passengers went on shore in the Boat to Mr. Micheles who lives emediately at the mouth of the Brazoes L 28° 57′ Longetuted Mr Mitchel has a small salt works in opperation from which he makes from 8 to 10 bushel pr day worth at the works $1.00

60 Gal. water make 1 bushel all along the sea coast is prairia and salt marches for two or thr[ee] miles back when the appearance of fine timber. the soil on the Prarie is sand except in the salt Marches. which is clay. the land appears to be level as far as can be seen back (Michel makes use of drift wood entirely for to make salt of which there is a great abundance but up along the coast and more particularly near the mouth of the Brazos nothing can be raised near the sea cost that groes high in concequence of the heavy winds off sea

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good Brick can be made anywhere on the sea board. Mr. Michals chemney is built with very good Brick made close to his hous—the cattle appears to be in fine order and the place healthy

Wednesday 15th the vessel got over the bar after much dificulty she struck verry hard on it and the wind beat her back into a bason formed by the bar and a bar which puts out from West side of the brases emideately at the mouth but with two or three hours hard work she was got into the Brasos where we lay until thirsday morning saild and warped up the Brasos. This day about 15 or 16 miles Friday morning 16th. myself and 4 others left the vessel in the boat and arrived at Brasoria at 2 oclock P. M. I went in compy with Sayer. to Josiah H Bells 12 miles north on the San Felepe road that evening next morning Saturday 17th returned to Brazoria and found the vessel had arrivd returnd to Mr. Bells, 18 Sunday returned to Brazoria for James Austin to[ok] him to squir Bells then left. borrowed a mule from squire Bell, and continued on at 4 oclock P M. in company with a Mr Anderson to se Col Austin who we heard was in the neighbourhood of Harrisburg. cross the brasos that evening 12 miles from Bells in a N E. direction at what is call'd Boliver where a Town had been Laid out and abandoned. Mr Warren Hall was at this place where we remaind for the night was very politely treated by Mr Hall continued our course in the morning 6 miles through the Brasos Bottom which very heavy timbered and great quantities of cain growing on it to Mr Hodges where we took Breakfast it rained considerable this morning here we met with Wm Harris Esqr who informed us col Austin was on Galveston Bay or Dickersons Bayou as he had left him the day before on Clear Creek about 25 Miles distant, and agreed to get a hand or pilot us himself if we would wait untill Tuesday morning which we did remain at Mr Harris and about ½ mile from where we breafasted where we was verry friendly treated Tuesday Morning Started in compy with a Mr Boatright crossed the head water of Chocolate Bayou Halls creek dickersons Bayou and Cleare Creek recrossed Clear Creek and camped on Dickesons Bayou wednessday morning 21st continued a East course and struck—Galveston Bay at davises Point at bout 9 oclock A M where we found Col. Austin just ready to start with the Surveyors who we[re] meandering the bay coast and Dickesons Bayou Mr Anderson Started from this place for St. Felepe by the way of Harrisbourg. I remained with Col Austin and the Surveyors untill Sunday morning 1st May when Col. A. and myself left the surveyors for Harrison on the brasos got to Mr. Hall that night who lives just at the Timber of the Brasos Bottom at the edge of the Prararie Monday May 2d left Col A at Squire Harris he remained here to get some provisions for the surveyors and was to met them

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at the mouth of Pleasent creek on Chocolate Bayou and agreed to meet me in San Felipe on Monday 9th May. I returned to Mr. Bells to see James Austin and found him geting some better but still in a verry delecate and doutfull state of health Mr. Bell taking particular and motherly care of him and if he can be restored attention and good nursing he must recover under his care. remained here two days and a half—and then left in com^{y}. with Squire Bell on fridy the 7 for San Philipe de Austin. arrived at san Felepe Satarday the 8th after dark. San Philepe is verry pleasently situated on the W. side of the Brasoses 85 miles from the mouth on a high praria—the prararia comes to the river at this place and the Bank on the side the Town is situated is much higher than any I have saw on the river it [is] said it is 61 or 60 feet high there is perhaps——famalies residing in it among which there is 3 Taverns 7 or 8 Trading establishments grog shops and Stores one Blacksmith shop one printing office.

The country from the mouth of the Brasos for five or six Miles is all a prararia near the sea shore sandy then low and marchey. gradually rises a little untill the timber commences is generaly a clay land. and looks poor much appearences of Craw fish. although the land looks unproductive. there is emence coats of fine Grass growing on it and affords emence pasturage for Stock of all kind. from where the Timber commences on the Brasos the Bottom of the Brassos are heavely timbered as far up as I have yet been say from one to six and eight miles on each side of the river and in some places wider the timber consists of live oak Large quantities of it Black- oak Red oak post oak white oak pecan Ash mulberry Ellam cottonwood and sundry other not recollected the undergroth is wild peach sasafras

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THOMAS F. MCCALEB TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, March 22, 1830.

See Calendar.

JOSÉ ANTONIO NAVARRO TO AUSTIN

Bexar, March 24, 1830.

See Calendar.

GEORGE SUTHERLAND TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, March 26, 1830.

See Calendar.

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J. Thomas to Austin

New Orleans, March 26, 1830.

See Calendar.

Editorial by Austin in Texas Gazette[1]

The latest information from Mexico gives a very favorable account of the state of public affairs, when compared with the events of the last six months.

The 'Plan' of the 'Army of reserve,' at Jalapa, in favor of the Federal Constitution, and system of government, has been sanctioned by a decree of both Houses of Congress; and the States, in general, have taken a very firm stand to the same effect. This unanimity of public sentiment, once manifested throughout the nation, appears to have quieted party excitements; and the Constitutional authorities are busily engaged in restoring order and organization to the different branches of the public administration.

It is understood that His Excellency Gen. Teran, is shortly expected in this department, with a respectable body of troops, intended for the protection of our frontiers.—The Tahaucana Indians have recently committed numerous depredations in the Vicinity of San Antonio de Bexar, and are Daily becoming more insolent. The arrival of Gen. Teran, we make no doubt, will effectually check the predatory excursions of those faithless savages, and afford complete protection to the settlements. There is also much reason [on] the frontier to expect that important benefits will result to Texas from the location of an officer in It, of the high military, scientific and moral character of General Teran.

This effort of the government to protect and foster the infant settlements of this remote member of the Union, affords an additional proof of the paternal care of the General Government towards the inhabitants of Texas.—If ever there was a people who have reason to be satisfied with their government, it is WE, the people of Texas.

Austin to James F. Perry

San Filipe de Austin March 28 1830

My Dear Brother and Sister,

I wrote you many letters during the months of Decr. and Jany. they were in substance all of the same tenor. I informed you that it was my advise and my wish that you should remove here as

[1] Issue of Mar. 27, 1830. Concerning this and the editorial note of Mar. 13. See Austin to Musquiz, Mar. 29, 1830.

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soon as possible with all your family and property and that I had petitioned the Governor of the state to grant you Eleven Leagues of land. I now have the pleasure to inform you that I yesterday received the grant from the Governor. he has had the goodness to grant to James F. Perry and to his wife Emily Margarita Austin Eleven Leagues of land to be selected on any vacant lands in Austin's colony and he has issued all the necessary orders to the General land Commissioner to give a patent in due form as the colonization law requires. The grant is however subject to the condition that you remove and settle here with your family within two years from the first day of last January. In eleven Mexican leagues there is within a fraction of forty eight thousand eight hundred and thirty acres english measure. Under the present law as it now stands you cannot sell any of this land, untill after several years, but I did not ask for it with an expectation that you wished to sell any of it now. My object was to secure a fortune for your children and this was the reason why I asked for it in both of your names, by the laws of this country the husband and wife can hold property separately. This grant as it now stands belongs to both of you, one half to each, so that my sisters children by Bryan, as her heirs will be entitled to their full share.

I have now done all that I can do. You have got the highest grant that can be given by the laws of this country to any one which is eleven Leagues as you will see by examining the 12th article of the national colonization law of August 18 1824 in the translations which I sent you. It is *what very few people can get*, and it will be trifling with fortune not to accept it.

You are allowed two years to remove, but I most earnestly advise you to remove *immediately*. I shall expect to eat my next Christmas dinner with you all. do not disappoint me. The object is of too much importance to be neglected. You have no idea at all of this country, nor of the great emigration that is daily coming to it, nor of the *character* of the emigrants We are getting the best men, the best kind of settlers. pay no attention to rumors and silly reports but push on as fast as possible. We have nothing to fear from this Govt. nor from any other quarter except from the United States of the North. If that govt. should get hold of us and introduce its *land system* etc etc thousands who are now on the move and who have not yet secured their titles, would be totally ruined. The greatest misfortune that could befall Texas at this moment would be a sudden change by which many of the emigrants would be thrown upon the liberality of the Congress of the United States of the north—*theirs would be a most forlorn hope.* I have no idea of any change unless it be effected by arbitrary force, and I have too much confidence in the magninimity of my native country

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to suppose that its govt. would resort to that mode of extending its already unweildy frame over the territory of its friend and neighbor and sister republic. All the families you bring with you shall be received by me so far as my authority and my duty will permit. You will of course bring non nor suffer none to come in company with you who are not good honest citizens, and above all, you will exclude drunkards. I have been heretofore so much troubled with that beastly portion of the human race, that my dislike to them has grown into a very strong prejudice.

I need not say to you that I am ready to do all that a friend and relation can do consistent with his means and situation, to benefit all my poor relations, or all my rich ones, if any such there be—Where are Horace Austin's children, James Austin's etc, etc. I can advance them nothing in money. I am myself poor as to disposable means and am embarrassed with debts, but I can benifit them in getting land, and the day is not far distant when Texas land will be worth money.

I have raised the name of my family to a respectable standing in this country, and my relations need not be ashamed to own that they are my relations. I hope that my heart is what it always was—too much alive perhaps to sensibility, but never deaf to the calls of justice or of friendship, or of my kindred.

Love to my little nephews I hope soon to see them and I hope to live untill I see them above the reach of poverty. I saw my little boy Stephen a few days ago. he is with his mother at Brazoria. he was near death a month since, but has recovered and is getting hearty. Eliza sends her love to you, and will make your house her home when you get here. I have told her that you would make her welcome. As for me, the whole colony is my home. My business necessarily requires my presence in many parts of it. I have just returned from the woods and in a few days go out again to Galveston Bay to locate and survey your land. When you all get on we will settle down somewhere all together.

Remember me to Judge Carr and tell him I rec^{d} the box of fruit seed he had the goodness to send me for which I sincerely thank him. do not fail to bring all kind of fruit seeds and some roots.

Remember me to all the Perry family to my good friend Bruffee and to all others who have any remembrance of their old neighbor.

Young Hinkson has settled here and has selected a good tract of land on tide water of Matagorda Bay. Let me know as soon as possible when you will be here that I may make my calculations.

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr. James F. Perry Potosi Missouri

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AUSTIN TO RAMON MUSQUIZ

San Felipe de Austin, 29 de Marzo 1830

C. RAMON MUSQUIZ,

MUY ESTIMADO AMIGO, regresé á esta hace pocas dias de La Baca y Navidad donde fuí en el desempeño de los deberes de mi empleo. He elegido un sitio alli un poco abajo de las quintas de la Baca y Navided p[a] un pueblo de conformidad con la ley de colonizacion y las instrucciones del Gob[no] esta en frente del terreno escogido p[a] V. por Dimmit. no he dado nombre todavia al nuevo pueblo.

hace algun tpo q[e] se ha esparcido varios rumores relativos á la venida de las tropas, como p[r] ejemplo q[e] venian mil hombres para destruir los nuevos establecim[tos] etc., etc. estos rumores fueron esparcidos por hombres ignorantes y de poca ilustracion ó conocim[to] q[e] han entrado del rio Grande con caballada etc. no causaron inquietud ninguna entre los habitantes sensatos, y p[a] contrariar el efecto q[e] podian haber producido entre los ignorantes se puso un parrafo en la Gazeta del 13, y otro en la del 27 del presente. estos dos parrafos han quietado todos enteram[te].

Tal vez es mi deber decir á V. con franqueza cual es la opinion gral de estos havitantes con respecto al cambio de Gob[no] de q[e] se ha hablado por el traspaso de Texas al norte.

Creemos en primer lugar q[e] el Gob[no] nacional no tiene facultad constitucional ninguna para vender ó desmembrar parte alguna de un estado de la federacion sin previa consentim[to] del estado q[e] se trata de desmembrar. y tambien sin el consentim[to] especial del pueblo q[e] se trata de vender. no creemos q[e] el pueblo de Texas somos ganado para ser vendidos a la voluntad del Gob[no] nacional.

Creemos q[e] el derecho de disponer de las tierras valdias del estado de Cuahuila y Texas pertenece solam[te] y exclusivam[te] al Estado y no á la nacion.

Creemos q[e] Texas tendra el derecho de formar estado de esta federacion luego q[e] tiene los elementos necesarios, y q[e] entonces el derecho de disponer de las tierras valdias de Texas pertenecerá al estado de Texas

Creemos q[e] no conviene en ninguna manera pasar al Gob[no] del Norte sin una previa garantia reconociendo plenam[te] el derecho q[e] tiene los habitantes de Texas de formar su constitucion particular sin restriccion ninguna, y reconociendo particularm[te] el derecho q[e] el pueblo de Texas tiene de disponer de las tierras valdias y negando en lo absoluto cualquier derecho de parte del Gob[no] nacional de entremeterse en manera alguna con las tierras valdias de Texas, ó con las concesiones de tierras hechas ya á los particulares sea bajo del Gob[no] Español ó bajo este Gob[no]. Creemos q[e] si Mexico nos vende sin nuestro consentim[to], vale mas declararnos independiente de todo el mundo, antes de pasar á otra potencia sin previas

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garantias reconociendo todos los derechos constitucionales del pueblo de Texas.

Estos son ideas y principios fundamentales con todo hombre sensato aqui. La ley de colonizacion [de] 18 de Agosto 1824 cedio a los Estados todo derecho a las tierras valdias. aquella es ley fundamental y organica y es claro q^{e} las tierras valdias pertenecen al estado como atributo de su soberania. la constitucion federal reconoce el mismo principio. El Gob^{no} nacional no puede dar un titulo a un particular p^{a} una vara de tierra valdia dentro de un estado ¿ y como puede vender todas las tierras valdias a una potencia estrangera? Se sospecha q. uno de los objetos del Gob^{no} del norte en querer adquirir Texas es crear fondos por la venta publica de las tierras valdios y si pasemos a aquel Gob^{no} sin las previas garantias necesarias, muchos individuos q^{e} han recibido concesiones bajo el antiguo Gob^{no} y bajo este perderan sus tierras bajo el pretesto q^{e} no cumplieron con cada menudencia de las condiciones ó formalidades etc., etc.

Doy á V. estas ideas p^{a} su Gob^{no} en la creencia q^{e} es mi deber informar a V. como mi gefe de la opinion publica aqui sobre un particular de tanta importancia a todos los habitantes de Texas, y de tanto interes al Gob^{no} porq^{e} es posible q^{e} en Mexico creerán q^{e} los nuevos pobladores desean pasar al Gob^{no} del norte, y obrando bajo esta idea equivocada pueden tal vez tomar alguna medida muy perjuiciosa á Texas y al verdadero interes del estado de Coahuila y Texas y de toda la nacion.

Los nuevos pobladores no desean tal cosa, ni conviene en ninguna manera q^{e} pasemos al norte sin muchisimas garantias previas. Lo q^{e} deseamos es formar estado de esta federacion, y esto es lo q^{e} conviene á Coahuila y a toda la nacion—a Coahuila porq^{e} de este modo se destruiran todos los comanches y se poblará toda la frontera del rio grande—á la nacion, porq^{e} se añadira un estado fuerte a la gran familia mexicana, y se formara un baluarte sobre su frontera oriental y septentrional. El hombre en todas partes del mundo sigue su interes, y es muy facil demostrar hasta la evidencia q^{e} es el interes de Texas ser estado de mexico, mas bien q^{e} del norte suponiendo spre q^{e} queda firme el sistema federal q^{e} ahora existe, y aun q^{e} conviene ser independiente, mas bien q^{e} agregarse al norte sin todas las garantias necesarias.

Quedo su amigo Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Austin to Ramon Musquiz

En cumplimto con la orden de V. S. pedi del Alcalde de esta las listas de las eleciones Municipales y las tremestres y semestres qe. falto en remitir en su tpo— El dho alcalde remite por este correo las

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listas de las elecciones acompañandolas con un oficio en qe. manifiesta á V. S. las razones porqe. no se las remitieron antes é igualm^te^ manifiesta las razones qe. le ha impedido formar las listas tremestres y semestres.

Considero qe. la escusa qe. hace el Alcalde en su citado oficio esta fundada. yo sé qe. no entiende este idioma y ha sido imposible conseguir un srio qe. lo entiende. yo por mi parte estoy pronto a darle toda la ayuda qe. puedo p^o^ mis ocupaciones me llaman muchas veces á diferentes partes de la colonia y Dn Samuel Williams se ha retirado de ser srio ó de mesclarse con los asuntos del Ay^to^ por tener tantos otros negocios qe. no puede atender á todos, por estos motivos no he aplicado la multa qe. V. S. me autorizo imponer, sinembargo V. S. me ordena lo qe. debo hacer en la materia, con lo qe. contesto al citado oficio orden de V. S.

Dios y Libertad villa de Austin 3 de Avril 1830

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departam^to^ de Bexar C. Ramon Musquiz

EDITORIAL BY AUSTIN

[Texas Gazette, April 3, 1830. Preparing public mind for the establishment of garrisons in Texas. Omitted.]

AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

Mr. E. R. WEIGHTMAN

DR SIR, Col Wallace and company wish to take a look at that country he wishes to get a place on Prairie Creek, and I have told him that you could point out the places that are selected there by the emigrants who came with you—

If the leagues are not yet layed off on the west side of Colorado I wish an alteration made which is this—run one League next below H. H. Leagues tract, then one quarter for Harrison next below that, then run League tracts below Harrison's— This differs from the memorandum I left you in this—that memorandum directed you to lay off three quarters below H. H. Leagues tract— Should it appe[a]r that the quarter for Harrison will not include the place he wants you may run one more quarter so as to make it hit, for I wish Harrison to get the place he has selected—that is, you will run one or two quarters next below the adjoining League to H. H. Leagues tract, as it may be necessary so as to make Harrisons hit right— There are a number of tracts promised on that river and I want as many as the land will admit

S. F. AUSTIN

April 4, 1830

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Austin to Samuel M. Williams

Memorandum

In consideration of the friendship, I have for S. M Williams, and also as a compensation for the general services he has rendered the inhabitants of this Colony for many years while secretary and for which he has not received a full compensation in proportion to his merits. I have agreed to give to said S. M. Williams the half of the premium land which may be coming to me as Empresario in the Colony of one hundred families which I Contracted with Govt. in eighteen hundred and twenty seven on the East side of Colorado above the San Antonio road, but the said Williams is to attend to all the business and do all the writing and I reserve the right of locating land in that Colony under titles which I may purchase from Mexicans or others who have any right to acquire lands there—I give this as a memorandum of the understanding on this subject for said Williams security in case of my death— San Felipe de Austin 4 day of April 1830.

Stephen F Austin [Rubric]

A true Copy. "*verbatim* et *literatim* et *punctuatim*."

James C. Wilson

Edwin L. Pettit to Austin

New Orleans April 5th 1830

Dear Sir;

By the Schr. Pocahontas which leaves this tomorrow for Texas I take liberty of writing you, and sending the N. A. Review containing an interesting peice on Texas.— I have succeed in recovering the amt of the insurance on my Vessel and am anxiously waiting the next Vessel from Vera Cruz (which is hourly expected) to determine whether to proceed to Mexico, you are doubtless in possession of what is transacting in that city, and I presume that Genl. Teran, as well as the troops and the national Sch. of War, Mosque will have arrived— by the last accounts from Vera Cruz, It appears that a committee of Congress have reported a project of a Law (which If passed will violate the Public Faith in the instance of your contracts with the Government) to stop the Emigration of Americans to Texas, The Brig of war Bravo was also preparing for sea to arrive between Tampico and Galveston Bay, Between us in confidence from all I have been able to learn the country is very unsettled, the States

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of Yucatan and Tabasco, have determined to split off unless a central Government is Established, and it is my opinion that Genl. Santa Ana is only waiting until the present administration becomes a little unpopular to raise a Grito, and place himself at the Head of the Republic as Dictator,— The present administration are taking some high handed Measures, at Vera Cruz, the Commandant of the Marine has been taken from his station and dismissed the service without even the form of a tryal, Commissions which were issued by Guerrero to privateers have also been taken from them when just ready to sail (after incuring all the Expense of fitting out)— Poor Thompson who went from this place to Vera Cruz recently has been arrested there and confined to the Congresso 74. and I am free to confess that I entertain some fears myself if I return that I my take up my summer quarters in the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa for overstaying my leave, however the next accounts will determine me, if I believe there is a probability of being arrested I shall be sent down by the consul as bearer of Dispatches for the Government which will protect me until my arrival in the City of Mexico where I can resign—

Meanwhile old foolish Ferdinand is preparing another expidition to reconquer Mexico—3000. men have saild from Cadiz, to be followed by 7000 more and also a new Governor for the Island of Cuba, but it is doubtfull if they gett farther than Cuba for the present (unless they turn their attention to Hayti the President of which has Declared wars against Spain,) as I am told by some gentlemen recently from Havana that the Troops there manifest such a reluctance to embark for Mexico from the severe loss the last expedition sustained, that nothing short of a revolution will be the consequence if they are driven to the last extreemity— amongst other projects before Congress is one to repeal the law of last year prohibiting the admission of foreign Cotton goods, so you may perceive that no dependence can be placed on the acts of the Goverment, the fact is Such a man as Santa Ana is much wanted at the Head of affairs, one who has energy enough to adhere to measures when once adopted, and who will by the bayonet if it be necessary, quiet the country and end this grito work,—

I fear the law alluded to to stop emigration will pass— I do not presume to advise you what course to persue it would be presumption in me to do so, but If I might be allowed to express an opinion it is that whatever may be done by the Present Party, no difficulty will exist when they go out to get things put on their proper and former footing by their successors who I think inevitably must be

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Santa Ana or Guerrero, therefore it occurs that it would be most prudent to keep quiet for the present at least and watch how affairs are going to turn— If I go to Mexico you may rest assured if I have any influence there it shall be exerted for you, and I shall certainly see Genl. Santa Ana before I leave that part of the country.— and whatever course you may eventually adopt you can depend on one person at least to act or suffer with you—

April 7th the Schr. Nimble so anxiously expected arrived yesterday and the accounts by her are very discouraging It is said that Guerrero has taken the field, and that Genl. Montes de Oca and others have formed here not that this part is discouraging I alluded to such parts as interested myself. We have Mexican papers to the 19th Ult. I see by the proceeding of Congress that the Eastern department has been divided and a Commandancia General for the State of Coahuila and Texas will be Established at San Antonio de Bejar. That Troops are ordered from different sections of the country— to Texas quite from Oajaca, I am inclined to think if Guerrero assumed a prominent stand the troops or at least those the present party can rely on will be detained and I am not sure that the Texas story is [not] used as pretext for removing such part from the Capital and neighbourhood as have not the confidence of the present gang—

The Bravo Brig of War was still at Vera Cruz— Thompson sends me word not to come there at present—as I am entered as A deserter for overstaying my leave he is still arrested and is very like to continue so for some time— I think I shall go down and take the worst of it If I am quartered in the Castle this ensuing summer I shall have one consolation at least, that I am out of the reach of the Yellow fever meanwhile by the next vessel that leave this for Texas You will be informed if I go and as I do not on any account mean to abandon my intentions relative to the land I applyed for I beg you if the grant has been received from the Governor to retain for me such as you may believe to be the best that can be located, and select for me as you may believe to be most desirable and I assure you I shall be satisfyed— If you deem my correspondence of any value I assure you I shall be extreemly happy to hear from you, and all letters addressed to Mr. Breedlove will be forwarded to me whether I am to the north or South—and I will endeavour to be punctual—you will see that I have written this without much care or conections so I beg your indulgence of its numerous imperfections,—

Edward L. Pettit [Rubric]

To Col Stephen F Austin Texas—

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THOMAS JEFFERSON CHAMBERS TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches, April 5, 1830.

See Calendar.

THOMAS F. MCCALEB TO AUSTIN

Bardstown, Ky, April 6, 1830.

See Calendar.

PERRY'S MEMORANDUM OF EXPENSES AND SUPPLIES ON A TRIP FROM MISSOURI TO TEXAS

James F Perry

1830

March 20.	Cash from Store including Jno Perrys draft on alderson	245 00
	Cash from Home	17 00
		$262 00
April 5th	Cash recd for 8 Kegs Lead	72. 50
		334 50
		334 50

1830

April 5th	cash on hand	333 80
6	cash recd for deers Horns and Beeswax	20. 40

Cash acct

1830

April 31	cash pd pasage for self	20. 00
New orleans	do for James Austin	15. 00
	do for Washing for do	. 31
	do do do for self	. 56
April 3.	do for medicine for James Austin	2. 00
"	do for cash pd him	1. 00
"	do for hat and shoes for self	5. 75
"	do for Theater	2. 38
"	do pd at Herculanium for sundries	1. 00
		$48. 00
"	Cash pd S. B. America freight on bar lead and 2 B. B. Bucks horns and Beeswax	41. 20
"	do pd Board for self	3. 00
"	do do Jas Austin	3. 00
		95. 20
"	Sundry expences	6.
5	Cash on hand	233. 30
		$334. 50

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Cash pd. W. Gasquit for Goods		$35.79
do. W. Williams for shoes		19 25
do I. Thayer for Rap g paper		2.62
do Hill and Henderson		18.00
		75.66
do Leghorn Hat	3.50	
2 childs caps	5.00	
1 Fancy Hdkf	1.50	
14 yd Silk	12.25	
1 Doll	1.25	
Washing	1.00	
	24.50	24.50
Cash pd. Watts att. fee for S. P and Co	10.00	10.00
		110.16

J. F. Perry

Dr	Cash %	
April 6 amt of cash		253 70
Cr		
1830 New orleans		
April 6 By amt of credits		110.10
" By cash pd. Jas Austin		1.00
" By cash pd. for novel		2.00
7 By Cash C D Jorden for —[?] and Hdkfs		47.53
" drayage		.25
" oranges		31
" medicine for Jas Austin		2.12½
" vests for do		3.00
" Gloves for self		1.00
" Hat (S. F A.)		7.00
Saddle Bags lock and Bridle		5.75
Borax for Jas Austin		1.12½
Tobaco for self		.50
Cygars		1.00
pd for files for Jas Austin		1.25
pd for Teespoon and Tongs Do		2.37½
pd for wr paper and waifer		.50
pd for Matress and Pillow		3.00
		189.81½
cash on hand		64.00
		283.81

Honey and Bates

1830		
April 3d cash pd S B N America for freigh on 50 Kegs shot		60.00
" Cash sent them by McConnell		233 25
6 Cash sent them by Hunt clerk of S. B N. America		230 85
		$524 10

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Cr
New orleans
1830
April 3 By Cash for 23 Keg shot $293.25
Sold
6 By cash Recd Calib Jordon 230.85

$524.10

James Austin

1830
April 7 To 2 Round abouts and 2 Pantaloons from New Kirk New Orleans Olden and Co 6.00
To 2 pr socks ..... do ..... .37
6th To Cash pd him 1.00
March 31 Cash pd pasage in N Americk from Herculaneum to N. Orleans 15.00
do for washing on Board ..... .31
April 3 do for medicine 2.00
" cash pd him 1.00
" do pd S. B. North America for Board 3.00
7 do for Medicine 2.12½
do for 2 vests 3.00
for matress and Pillows 3.00

33.41
pasage on board the S. Pocahontas to Brazoria 20.00
Cash pd him at Potosi 15.00
1 Hat 2.00

Articles wanted for my own use

Grind Stone
Whip saw
+ Saw [Cross-cut Saw]
Hand Saws
hand Mill Stone
Tools Generally viz
drawing knives
planes assorted
Broad Ax
foot adz
Mattock
falling axes
augers
files
Chissels
1 Bench Screw
Log chain
Geers for horses
Ox Rings and Steeples
Brands
Hammers
Brush scyths

Bills Texas May 7th 1830

Articles wanted for Texas Market

Jack Screws
whip saws
castings assorted
steel corn Mills
Bridles filled
Bridle Bits
Sterip Irons
Tools generally
axes do Broad axes
Plougs
Mattocks
Nails assorted
Tin ware
Queens ware assorted
Garden Seeds Generally
Peach Stones
apple seeds
Plumb Stones
Necterines
Grape Slips

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JAMES F. PERRY IN ACCOUNT WITH RODGERS, SLOCUM & CO.

New Orleans April 6 1830

Mr James F. Perry

Bought of Rodgers Slocum and Co

1 Screw Plate			$4.25
1 Smiths Hammer 13½ lbs		11¢	1.48
1 Armitage's [?]Hole Anvil 103 lbs		14¢	14.42
1 Black Vise 47 lbs		12¢	5.64
1 Bar Eng. Blistd. Steel 37 lbs		14¢	5.18
1 Bar Cast Steel 20 lbs		20	4
E E			$35.22
1 smiths Bellows 32 in			3.16
			$51.22
12 Bars Iron 680 lbs		4½	30.60
7 Plough Moulds 85 lbs		6½¢	5.53
Cartage			.75
Bot of sundries			$87.10
3 Files	1.25		
1 pr Smith Tongs	2.37½		
1 Tue Iron			3.62½
			$91.42½

Austins Colleny Texas May 5th. 1830 J. F Perry has left in Store with me the within named articles to be delivered to him or his order

J. H. BELL. [Rubric]

deliver the above named articles to Col Austin or order

JAMES F PERRY [Rubric]

WILLIAM C. CARPENTER TO JAMES F. PERRY

Shipped, in good order and well-conditioned, by John G. Stevenson on board the Schooner the Pocahontas whereof Carpenter, is master, now lying in the port of New-Orleans, and bound for Brazoria Texas

To say:

Four Keys Bar Lead.
Two Boxes hats, One mattress
One Bale shirting, One Fireiron
One Pair Smiths tongs, One Bellows
One Anvil, Ten Bars Steel,
Two Bundles, One Vice, Twelve
Bars iron, Seven Plough Moulds

being marked and numbered as in the margin, and are to be delivered in the like order and condition, at the port of Texas _____

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(the dangers of the seas only excepted) unto Mr. J. F. Perry or to his assigns, he or they paying freight for the said at the rate of forty cents per each cubic foot----------with 5 Sents primage and average accustomed. In witness whereof, the master or purser of the said vessel hath affirmed to 3 Bills of Lading, all of this tenor and date; one of which being accomplished, the others to stand void.

Dated in New-Orleans, the 7th day of April 1830

WILLIAM C CARPENTER

THOMAS CARTER TO AUSTIN

Eatenton putnam County Georgia 7th April 1830

Colonel STEPHEN. F. AUSTIN. DEAR SIR I am informed by Capt James Lusk of the State of Ohio Butler County that he visited Texes about four or five years past and that he became personally acquainted with you and yur province my friend Lusk gave me leave to make use of his name in addressing you, my motive for this address is that I wish to emigrate to your province from the history of Texes I am well pleasd and from the information of Lusk and others that have viewed the province I believe I Shall like your province Dear Sir I now wish you to inform me by letter as Soon as practicable on what terms I may obtain land in your province that I may move my family thirty in number twenty of my family is black servants the balance ar a wife and children my oldes Son is 18 years old a daughter that [is] nearly 17 years of age If I Should emigrate in all probability a considerable number of respectable citizens of the State of Georgia will probable imigrate with me Some macannick of difrent Trades Some members of the Baptist and Methodist Episcopal Church Some off hoom are welthy and ranks amongs those in the first Circle in this State please give mee a Sketch of the Constitution of your province with a Sketch of a code of your laws and whether a Slave holding province or not and with regard to religion whether a man will bee allowed to worship agreeable to the dictates of his own conciens or not I feel disposed to visit your province So Soon as I can have a answer from you from Capt Lusks Statement to mee it is your wish for your province to bee Settled with good Society as soon as practicable If I should not bee answered by you I Shall visit your province in the cours of twelve months for the purpose of viewing the cuntry and if I Should like make arangement to emigrate there— I was born in the State of Virginia my father move[d] to the then frontiers of Georgia when I was a Smal boy in the year 1782 if I Should move I can bring

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with mee recommendations from his Excellency the Governor from the Judges of Court and the highes Military officers in the State your answer in Some way will bee thankfully received directed to Eatenton putnam County State of Georgia, Capt Lusk told me that I might do well to write to you on the Subject and was of opinion that you would bee pleased to See citizens from Georgia emigrating to your province I have therefore troubled you with this address with due respect your humble Servt

THOMAS CARTER

To the Honourable Stephen F Austin

[Addressed:] Colonel Stephen F. Austin Province of Texes in the Town of Saint philip D. Austin's on the River Rio brasses by the way of Alexandria Louisinia

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LUCAS ALAMAN TO GOVERNOR VIESCA[1]

First Secretairys office of the State, of Exteriour department

MOST EXCELLENT SIR

on this date I have written to the General of division Don Manuel de Mier y Teran as Follows—

" Most Excellent Sir "

The discussion concerning the project of law mentioned in note bearing date The 17th of February last has been concluded yesterday and ordered to be published Comformably— I Send you Copies of them and at present I limit myself in Sending you them— reserving to send you by the first mail, your respective instructions, for you to act Comformably and according to what his excellency The Vice president has thought proper to appoint Your Excellency—Commissioner of those States, to which Nomination the same law gives you the faculty of—and in consequence of what has been told your Excellency in the Supreme order above Stated— So untill you receive Some instructions The Vice president wishes, that you together with his Excellency the Governor of that State Should take the Correspondant measures, to put an end to those Contracts, which have not been Complied with and those which may be contrary to the adjunct law— His Excellency hopes by taking this Step, that your Excellency, will act with the prudence and Judgement which characterises you in Such a high degree— and that Such measures Shall not now or hereafter, be a motive, of which they may take advantage, to Suscitate any inquietud, by putting an end to the introduction of North american Colonists, a

[1] The authorship of this translation is not disclosed.

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proper, Consideration of this effect, Shall be given to the agents of the republic, which are in those States, and they must let it be known, to avoid any Claimes whatever—

I transfer it to your Excellency, for his notice, and Corresponding effects— Mexico 7th April 1830. Alaman God and Liberty

Most Excellent Sir Governor of the State of Coahuila y Texas

AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

Mr E. R. WEIGHTMAN,

SIR, Should you wish to commense work before my return you will call on Mr Williams for the plots of the Surveying done by Borden on the waters of San Jacinto, so as to connect your work with his—

I wish you to commense at the mouth of the west fork a short distance above the Tuscasito road and work up the west side of the Main San Jacinto and on all the creeks that discharge into it on the west side—

I do not know where each of the families are who have entered land in that quarter and you will call on Williams for a list of them taken from the register and survey land for them all, they paying you the Surveying fees or arrangeing them to your satisfaction, and also you can survey for all who have certificates of reception but for no others—

You will be guided by the printed regulations issued by the Commissioner Juan Antonio Padilla— Be carefull to regulate your chain and Compass agreeably to the Standard heretofore used in this Colony as directed in Said printed regulations.

You will make your returns and a general connected plot of your work as soon as possible, and write the name, in pencil, of the applicant for each tract, on the tract on the Genl. plot.

Take especial care not to leave any vacancies or irregular Slips between tracts, Should it be absolutely necessary to leave any vacant land let it be in the middle of some prairie, where there is neither water nor timber, that is, land which is of no use at all for pasture or anything else—

San Felipe de Austin 7 April 1830

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

A tract was granted to David Harris on the west side of San Jacinto, and you will connect your work with the upper line of that tract, I believe that line has never been run and you will therefore run it. The lines of this tract as discribed in the deed of concessions are as follows— "Begining at the mouth of the

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West fork of San Jacinto at a post from which a hickory bears N. 40 W 10 bars marked D. H. and a sicomore bears S. 50 W 8 bars Marked D. H. thence west 5850 varas. thence south 5000 v^{s}. thence east 3265 v^{s} to the river—"

The upper corner of this tract is at the fork which enters San Jacinto a short distance above the Tuscasite road before mentioned— Say about a Mile or there abouts.

Frederick Rankin can shew you the corner as it is only a short distance above where he first settled at the Tuscasite road, and your best way is to go from here direct to his home where he now lives in what they call "New Kentucky"— This corner will be your begining place, and from there work up as before Stated— I wish you to finish all that country including all the branches and creeks west of the main San Jacinto up to its head, as soon as possible for I wish all the returns by the Middle of May at Most—

S F Austin [Rubric]

Editorial by Austin

[Texas Gazette, April 10, 1830. Lauding the generous immigration policy of Mexico. Omitted.]

Francisco Ruiz to Austin

Bejar 11. de Abl. de 1830.

Sor. D. Estevan Austin

Mi apreciable am^{o} de toda mi concideracion. El dador de esta lo es un hijo mio qe. con el objeto de cambiar pr. vacas algunas bestias se dirige p^{a} ese punto, y como es mui joben é inesperto puede recurrir á V. afin de qe. su prudencia le dé algun consejo ó direccion p^{a} el mejor desempeño de su mision, en tal concepto hede merecer á V. le facilite los auxsilios qe. le pida, seguro de qe. los qe. tenga abien facilitarle le seré yo á V. responsable, y vivire spre. agradecido, repito qe. es hijo mio el portador Franc^{o} Anton^{o} Ruiz, y qe. tal motivo me hace molestar á V. esta vez, esperando me dispense tanta confianza.

Ntro. Ahumada se marchó de retirado p^{a} Durango, en la qe. me dirigio ultimam^{te} me encarga salude atodos sus amigos, y con particularidad á V. y otros qe. me recomienda.

Jose Anton^{o} Navarro, salio el 7. del corriente, á embarcarse en Matagorda p^{a} Nueva orleans.

Nada digo á V. de cosas ó asuntos politicos, pr. no hacer á V. una pintura tan desagradable como ami seme figura seg^{n} las ocurrencias

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del dia, ó p[a] mejor decir los periodicos qe. tengo vistos, Ds. quiera mejorar sus horas, cuando yo vea cosas agradables tendre el placer de comunicarlas ámis amigos, en cuyo numero me lisongeo tener el honor de contar á V. entre los primeros.

Sirvase V. dar mis saludes al Sor. D. Samuel, y familia, y V. disponga dela buena voluntad qe. le profesa su Conciudad[o] y amo. q. le ama mui deveras y atento B. S. M.

FRANC[o] RUIZ [Rubric]

FRAY MIGUEL MURO TO AUSTIN

Bahia y 13. de Abril 1830.

Señor empresario C[no]. ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.

MUY SOR. MIO, Y MI AMIGO: aunqe. no tengo á qe. contestar no obstante q. puse á Vd. una en el mes pasado, ó en su asencia al Alcalde de esa Villa, cuyo contenido era pedirle aucsilio de una carreta, y correspond[te] escolta p[a] trasportar los necesarios pa. la administracion espiritual de su comarca; y como no hube tenido resquesta, seria por haber padecido algun estravio mi carta, me veo precisado á ocurrir de nuevo p[a] con Vd. ál fin propuesto, si Vd. y ese Ayuntamiento lo tubieren á bien.

Por otra parte, aviso á Vd. qe. aun no se pone en comunicacion con migo el Ylustre Ayuntamiento de esa Villa. Yo lo deseo eficazm[te]. Esta insinuacion segunda de mi benevolencia, y el afecto á mi destino, me basta para obtener de Vd. la mas oportuna contestacion.

Repito mi buena disposicion, y qe. mande vd. á su mas atento qe. como su amigo y Capellan le b. s. m.

FRAY MIGUEL MURO [Rubric]--

JOHN AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Brasoria April 13th 1830

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

DR SIR Tomorrow I leave for Tampico if I receive the papers M[r] Williams did not send them and we have been obliged to send an express to San Felipe for them. I expect to return here as soon as I can dispose of the Cargo if should not sell the Vessel in case I sell her I will go to New Orleans. I am in hopes the trip will turn out well. Abner Harris was here a few days since I gave him McNeils note he will get the Cattle in a few days from them I also instructed him to sell all the horses and mares at the Gin for Cattle if he could I think Cattle much more profitable than horses in this flat country— Harris has made the following propositions about

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staying at the Gin and wishes you to write the contract and send him a copy. to wit if there is less than 100 head cows one third of the increase for his part over 100 and less than 200 one fourth 200 and upwards one fifth, for the horses one half the increase—the Hogs one half the increase—the improvement to be left in good repair he wishes nothing said about the Gin house as there is no prospect for much business at it, he is willing to take care of it etc if you think that proposition will do send him a copy of it as soon as convenient if the horses could be disposed of for Cattle I think it will do, Harris is a steady man and I think it better to keep him there you can get the Cattle Say upwards of 200 head it will be an object to him and a handsome income to you.

I wish you would send Williams or some person to appraise the property there as soon as possible as delay will make it more difficult Harris will shew the Stock any time

JOHN AUSTIN [Rubric]

JOHN AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Brasoria April 15 1830

Col S. F. AUSTIN

DR SIR Mr. Saml Williams has never yet sent the papers for the Sloop althoug[h] I have written him at two different times since he left this place to send them down and if no safe opportunity offered to hire some person to come down that there might be no disapointment the Sloop left this five days ago and has been laying at the mouth of the River two or three days with a fair wind but could not proceed for want of papers four days since we dispatched a messenger to San Felipe who ought to have returned yesterday by 12 oClock he has not yet come I think Williams has detained him, it is a verry serious injury to us the season is far advanced and our Corn is somewhat injured and it is all important that we should get it to market imediately; I do not know Mr Williams reasons for treating us so unfriendly when he has received favours from our concern and never has yet been denied, if our buisness could have been done at another place I then would not have thought so hard of Williams but he knowing that we were dependent on him for the papers he ought to have given more attention to it,

JOHN AUSTIN [Rubric]

J. F. PERRY TO SHIP POCAHONTAS

Brazoria, April 17, 1830.

See Calendar.

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JOHN C. WALKER TO AUSTIN

Clinton, La., April 17, 1830.

See Calendar.

IRA INGRAM TO AUSTIN

Brazoria, April 21, 1830.

See Calendar.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERAN TO AUSTIN

Matamoros abril 24 1830.

S. D. ESTEBAN AUSTIN.

MI ESTIMADO AM° Y SOR. Tengo el gusto de remitir á V. la carta adjunta pr. encargo de mi compañero y Am° el Sr. Vice-Presidente D. Anastacio Bustamante.

Supongo á V. enterado del proyecto de ley qe. se discute actualm^te^ en las camaras de la Union p^a^ fomento de se pais, sre. [sobre] el qe. han querido saber mi opinion algunos amigos de Mejico, y como tengo tiempo p^a^ comunicarla despues de oir la de V. le suplico me la manifieste con la franqueza qe. hemos acostumbrado: particularm^te^ se me ha preguntado sobre la medida de declararlo territorio, y en este punto guardo mucha circumspeccion, pr. qe. en verdad, no tengo ideas fijas sre. [sobre] el, habiendo oido diversidad de pareceres en Tejas. Sino tiene V. embaraso en imponerme de sus reflexiones las estimare en mucho.

Creo tendremos el gusto de vernos ante de dos meses. Entretanto V. sabe qe. me es grata su correspondencia, y puede concedermela cuando no le falte tiempo.

Exp^e^ al Sr. D. Samuel y mande V. lo qe. guste á su muy afecto Am° y at° serv^r^ qe. con toda concideracion b. s. m.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

HUGH MCGUFFIN TO AUSTIN

Sabine, April 25, 1830.

See Calendar.

JARED CABLE TO AUSTIN

Natchitoches, La., April 25, 1830.

See Calendar.

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J. Antonio Padilla to Austin

Guardia de prevencion del Batallon N° 12. en Nacogdoches á 27. de Abril de 1830

Al C. Esteban F. Austin.

Libertad.

Mi querido Amigo: Ayer á la llegada del correo he sido preso en esta guardia por el Alcalde de este pueblo á consecuencia de orn del Gefe del Departam^to^ (no sé si por otra del Gob^o^) y seme tiene incomunicado; se me han catiado mis papeles, y allanado mi casa, y confiscado mi propiedad. A un traidor de la patria no se le trata peor, pero paciencia.

Los delitos de que se me acusa parece son los siguientes: un homicidio executado en la persona de un hombre con cuya muger llevé amistad. Este hecho es falso, falsisimo, y no estriba mas que en una induccion: me atrevo á saber quien es mi acusador, y no desconosco las tramas que se han urdido p^a^ perderme, pero tiempo vendrá enque yo tenga libertad para hablar: ahora caresco de ella y de todo recurso.

El 2° delito es deber al Estado 500 p^s^ que en el Salt^o^ se me facilitaron para expensas de mi viage, p^a^ bolverlos en Bejar, y no tube medios de verificarlo.

y el 3° es el papel sellado que hé traido conmigo, y que habré gastado el producto del que hé expendido. ¡que tal!

Hacen muy bien mis enemigos de cebar su rabia y encono ahora qe. estoy en desgracia. Al Sr. Musquiz, yá otros amigos que tengo en Bejar y aqui debo toda esta amargura: pero paciencia; yo espero ser escuchado ante la ley y la justicia.

Si la suerte de V. le permite extender su protectora mano acia un desgraciado que carece de libertad, y de medios de subsistir, le agradecerá infinito cualq^a^ recurso que me proporcione de cualq^a^ especie para atender á mis gastos mientras hay un Tribunal en que pueda ser escuchado.

Sirvase V. decir al Am^o^ Williams que habiendoseme perdido el recibo que me dio del papel sellado qe. le entregué como empleado de la renta, me remita otro para mi resguardo.

Envio á V. las concesiones decretadas que hé recibido del Gob^o^ para que si gusta extender los titulos, y mandarmelos, p^a^ su despacho, lo haga, y si no, lo que guste pues no deseo perjudicar á los interesados.

Y acuerdese de su amigo que B. S. M.

J. Antonio Padilla [Rubric]

Am^o^ mio: manda las otras instancias que me dirijio p^a^ decretar yá informadas p^a^ que se sirva remitirlas al Gob^o^ con informe del

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Ayuntam^to^ de esa Villa: y digale al Sr. Williams qe. no le escribo separado pr. falta de libertad, p^o^ qe. reciba esta por suia, y qe. le debuelbo informada su solicitud. etc

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AUSTIN AND R. R. ROYALL

[Agreement, April 27, 1830: Royall is to introduce three families besides his own and Austin is to receive them as colonists and grant them land for the usual fees.]

MARIA A. BONSERO TO AUSTIN

Bexar, April 29, 1830.

See Calendar.

JOSEPH D. GRAFTON TO AUSTIN

St. Genevieve, Mri May 5, 1830

DR SIR,

At the request of my wife (late Mrs. Henry Elliott) I take the liberty of addressing you.—

As the bearer leaves this in a few minutes, I have only time to ask a few questions, and will be thankful for your reply at an early day.—

1. My family consists of myself, wife and 7 children, four of whom are of the late Henry Elliott.— What encouragement for such a family to join your settlement?

2. What encouragement for persons *half way professional*, I being successor to the late Thos. Oliver, as Clerk of the Courts, here?—

3. Is it necessary, in your Colony, to profess the Catholic faith?

4. My wife requests me to ask whether you would make to Henry Elliotts' only son (Charles) any donation of lands, on account of H. Elliott's trip to Texas in 1822—?

5. Whether a business man, but without much capital, could probably acquire a good living in connexion with Capt. Henry Austins' Steam boat line?

As business in the Courts is getting very small in this County, I have an idea of removing to some other place, but with so large a family, I would not like to do it without a reasonable certainty of better things elsewhere.—your early reply will greatly oblige me.—

Mrs. Grafton unites with me in the expression of sentiments of true respect.—

Jos. D. Grafton [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Stephen F Austin Esq. San Fellipe De Austin
Texas Mr. Beard

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ISAAC GILBREATH TO ———

Monterey, May 6, 1830.

See Calendar.

GRAYSON AND PRENTISS TO J. W. E. WALLACE

Natchez, May 8, 1830.

See Calendar.

J. A. PADILLA TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches, May 11, 1830.

See Calendar.

J. A. PADILLA TO GOVERNOR VIESCA

Nacogdoches, May 11, 1830.

See Calendar.

NATHANIEL COX TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, May 11, 1830.

See Calendar.

THOMAS J. CHAMBERS TO AUSTIN

Col. Stephen F. Austin,

DEAR SIR, I have been sometime hunting for you, and not having been able to fall in with you, I have determined to await you a few days in this place. Business of importance to the public brings me to see you. The Commissioner is imprisoned *and suspended by the Political Chief* on a charge of murder. The most violent and fatal meaures are takeing both by the States and general governments in relation to the colonies of this department, so far as relates to the Americans. Some of these measures are open and public, but others consist in *Secret orders* directed to various persons in the department. The information I possess on this subject, I will communicate to you when I see you.

The ebullition of public feeling in our quarter is fearfull. I think the public wellfare requires your immediate atention. I hope to see you in a few days.

T. J. CHAMBERS [Rubric]

Sn. Felipe de Austin May 12th 1830

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F. Austin Donde se halle Majr. Lewis

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RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar, May 13, 1830.

See Calendar.

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar 13 de Mayo de 1830.

Sor Dn. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI AMIGO MUY ESTIMADO: Como ofreci a V. en mi anterior le dirijo copia del oficio con qe. dirigi su Mapa al Govno y de la contestacion qe. me dió. Como V. berá lo remiti dentro de un cañon de oja de Lata bien acondicionado y con su tapa correspondiente, mas tuve el desquido de no mandarla soldar sin embargo de que estaba bien ajustada, y de esto proviene la desgracia de qe. ya por los correos ó pr. los respectivos Admres movidos de la curiosidad lo abriesan tantas veces y con tan poco quidado qe. al fin lo rasgaron segun me abisa el Govno cuyo acidente en qe. tengo la mayor culpa lo he sentido mucho.

Yá esta aqui la Ley del Congreso Gral de cuya proyecto me abló V. pr. su ultima, y segun verá pr. la Gazeta del Estado se impondrá de qe. el Sor. Teran esta nombrado Comisionado para inspecionar las colonias establecidas, y pa los de Mexicanos qe. deven establecerse.

Para fines de este mes se pondrá en marcha la compañía del Alamo con toda su fuerza al mando del Teniente Coronel Dn Francº Ruiz, qe se dirije ha establecer un destacamto permanente hasi el Rio de los brasos pr. el camino de arriba qe bá de esta ha Nacogdoches. creo qe. esta medida son preliminares de nueva linia de Presidios qe. entiendo se trata de formar, pa lo qual como V. berá pr. la Gazeta estará pronto autorizado el Govno combiene excite V ha sus becinos pr. qe. socorran de comestibles al destacamto, el General asegura qe. no les faltaran sus socorros cuyo Dinero bá acircular en esa Colonia.

Nuestro amigo Padilla nos ha causado la mayor pesadumbre con la desgracia en qe ha caydo, y ha comprometido altamte la reputacion y buen nombre del Govno No cave en el juicio la torpeza con qe este hombre se condujo en el asecinato de Preciliano en qe. resulta complicado en terminos qe. dudo pueda desaser los Cargos qe. aparecen contra el. Texas siempre es desafortunado.

Conserveso V. tan bien como lo decea su afmo amigo y servidor Q. S. M. B.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

J. ANTONIO PADILLA TO GOVERNOR VIESCA

[Discussing his arrest on a charge of murder, May 13, 1830.]

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Austin to Mrs. James F. Perry

San Felipe May 16, 1830

Dr. Sister,

I was most agreeably surprised indeed by meeting Mr Perry who hunted me up in the Prairies where I was engaged in surveying the land which has been granted to him by this Govt. It appears to be a singular coinsidence, that he found me on the very spot where I presume we shall spend a large portion of the balance of our lives— he is delighted with the situation and I think you also will be it is on the bay, and is a very handsome and I think healthy one— The boys can have their fill of fishing, and in the winter wild fowl are numerous tho. he will tell you all about it

I have conversed with him relative to the removal of the bodies of our dear parents and I highly approve of their removal to a church yard— I think that the best place will be the church yard at St Genivieve— They were recognized under the Spanish Govt. as Catholics and there cannot be any objection to receiving them there, or should the yard there be thrown open and uninclosed, I should be in favor of taking them to St Louis, of this you and Mr P. must be the judges but I am not in favor of taking them to Potosi for the reason that the burying grounds there are all on private property and may some day become common Fields— I wish you would consult Mr Carr and Elias Bates on the subject and speak to F. Valle relative to their admission into the Catholic burying ground at St. Genivieve If they are taken to St Louis I should prefer the Catholic to any other, but will leave that solely to you and Mr. Carr, to do as you think proper I do not know in what burying ground Uncle and Aunt Elliott and Mrs Carr were buried, and if they were taken to St Louis I should wish if possible that they be placed by the side or near uncle and aunt Elliott and Mrs Carr I wish that a plain decent tomb stone be procured, If I should be in a situation to do it I will some day have a handsome monument erected over their graves—

I am really happy at the idea of your leaving that cold region, I look forward to many days of peace and enjoyment in this country— I hope in a few years to free myself from all my debts and to close my affairs here so that I may live a quiet and retired life in the society of my sister and her family— we must provide a teacher to live in the family and educate them well— by the time they will be coming on to the Stage, Texas will present a fine field for men of education and talents— Mr P will get spanish bookes they all ought to learn that language

I think that John Perry might pass his life more agreeably in this country or in Louisiana than in that cold region. I should be happy

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to see him here, tho I cannot take on myself the responsibility of advising him to move for I presume he would wish to bring his Slaves, and they could not be held as slaves by the laws now in force here—

If Genl Hammond wishes to come I will befriend him all in my power and assist him in getting land he would do very well here, by proper industry and econemy and provide a foundation in land for the future settlement of his children

Bring all the papers and books of my Father and Bryan's—

Remember me to the children, tell them to be attentive to their books and obedient to you and Mr Perry and I will give the boys ponies and a little boat, and something pritty to the Girls—

I have seen your letter by Mr T. Browne and am glad that you have learned not to attend to reports and rumors if you suffer yourself to be made uneasy by them you will all the time be unhappy after you start to this country, for you will hear a great variety of them on the road and before you start

remember me to Mrs John Perry particularly and also to all my old friends there— I will visit that place some day

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Inscription for Tomb of Moses Austin and Wife

This Sacred to the memory of Moses Austin and Maria his wife; who departed this life at Hazel Run St Francis County: the first, on the 10 of June 1821. and the latter on the 8 of January 1824—

Moses Austin was born at Durham, New Haven County State of Connecticut on the 4 of October 1765. and was the youngest child of the Family of Elias Austin

Maria his wife was born in Sussex County State or New Jersey 1 of Jan^{y}, 1768 and was the eldest daughter of Abia Brown— They emigrated to upper Louisiana from Virginia in 1798 and settled the Mine A$'$ Burton now called Potosi— in 1821 he opened a door for the settlement of Texas by North American Emigrants He was distinguished for enterprise, liberality, and an honorable character, She, by all the virtues of an affectionate wife and Mother

I wish my dear sister to shew the rough draft on the other page to Mr. Carr, and get his opinion, and such alterations as he may deem proper in fact I have only put the dates etc. without giving it a proper form. Mr. Perry can tell you that I have not even time to eat in quiet and I am now intruding upon the hours of sleep to commune a little with you—

May 16, 1830

Stephen. [Rubric]

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AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

DR SIR. I rec[d] your letter by the indian and am much, pleased with your account of the country and progress in surveying— It will be impossible for me to visit there for I shall leave here for St Antonio in a few days—

you will therefore exercise your own judgement in laying off that country so that there be no vacancies left and you will regulate the shape of the tracts as situations and circumstances may require and also intermix quarters where necessary to fill vacancies and above-all make all the tracts you can, and economise the *water fronts* as much as possible so as to make as many tracts as possible I must rely on your judgement and give you discretionary powers in this matter which I do without hesitation and with the most entire confidence

I wish you to select two leagues there for *me* as a part of my premium land

I have given your letter to Mr. Williams to make the entries you mention—

Keep harmony with the Beedies and enjoin it on the Settlers to do the same and to treat them well and try and persuade them to settle on the *East* side of the San Jacinto

May 17. 1830

E. R. Weightman

S. F. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO PRESIDENT BUSTAMANTE

S. F. de A. 17. Mayo 1830—

Exmo Sor ANASTACIO BUSTAM[te]

ESTIMADO AMIGO DE MI MAYOR CONSIDERACION con el mayor placer y agradecim[to] he recibido la carta de V. E. fechada 20 de Mzo po. po. en qe. se ha servido V. E. decirme "qe estos honrados colonos continuaran recibiendo durante la administracion de V. E. las mismas pruebas de afecto y consideracion con qe. desde el año 22 manifesto los deseos de V. E. p[a] nuestra felicidad y progresos, empenando en nuestro favor el influjo qe. daban los destinos publicos qe. ha servido V. E. desde aquella fecha" y por fin me encargue V. E. hacer entender a estos habitantes las protestas de V. E. en su favor—

tengo la honra de presentar a V. E. mis gracias para esta manifestacion de amistad y proteccion hacia estos habitantes, lo qe. me fue sumamente agradable en las circunstancias actuales y criticas en qe. nos hallamos a causa del decreto del congreso nacional de 6 avril, cuyo objeto parece ser el de destruir de un golpe la felicidad y prosperidad de esta colonia qe. V. E. ha spre protejado y ahora ofrece

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continuar su proteccion y parece qe. este decreto requiere verificar este objeto funesto aun por el sacrificio de la fe publica directamente comprometida por la ley de colonizacion y por el progreso de los contratos [c]elebrados por mi con este Gob^no^ en virtud de aquella ley como empresario [1]

Bajo la fe de la citada ley y contratos todas las familias qe. contratado introducir son ya en camino ó han hecho las preparaciones preliminarios para mudarse á este—han vendido sus posesiones en los lugares donde vivian se han puesto en camino con sus familias y bienes, y muchas de ellas han espendido sumas considerables en abrir labores, fabricar casas y en otras preparaciones nesesarias en un pais despoblado antes de trasladar sus familias—

Ahora si se pregunta ¿bajo qe. autoridad se ha hecho todo esto? la contestacion es clara, directa y incontestable, es decir bajo las leyes de colonizacion de la Republica Mexicana, y del Estado de Coahuila y Texas, las cuales en terminos directos y positivos *llaman* y *convidan* la imigracion—y bajo la autoridad de mis contratos sobre colonizacion celebrados con el mismo Gob^no^ Nacional y del Estado en virtud de la dicha ley—pues si asi es, y si estos habitantes se habian desprendido de sus bienes, de sus casas poniendose en camino, y si despues de esto se les prohibe entrar en el pais por una providencia del mismo Gob^no^ qe. les habia *llamado* y *convidado* y esto sin causa o motivo o aun pretesto p^a^ semejante injusticia ¿qe. concepto formarán ellos o el publico sensato y justo de la fe publica de este Gob^no^ o de la inviolabilidad de sus compromisos solemnes—la contest^on^ es evidente—la fe publica de la nacion Mexica ya herida gravamente por los ultrajes de las revoluciones, recibira otro golpe fatal, y de una naturaleza qe. excitara la indignacion de hombres justos contra semejante procedim^to^ y la sympatia del mundo civilizado en favor de los desgraciados qe. padecerán de ello? pongo el caso y no es supuesto de qe. hay quinientas ó mas familais arui[na]das por esta providencia—qe. las mas de ellas han llegado hasta Orleans, y qe. son detenidas alli durante el tpo de la peste anual de los meses de Julio Agosto y 7bre. y qe. mueren parte de ellas, y padecen mas qe. muerte lo restante piensa V. E. posible qe. un publico justo no manifestará su indignacion contra un Gob^no^ qe por la falta y directa y absoluta de su buena fe les habia puesto en una situacion tan desgraciada y tan digna de la simpatia publica?

[1] Alleine Howren, "Causes and Origin of the Decree of April 6, 1830," in Southwestern Historical Quarterly, xvi, 378–422, is the best account of this law. The law itself is translated, pp. 415–417. For a Spanish copy see Dublan y Lozano, Legislacion Mexicana, II, 238–240. Since this note was written the editor's *Life of Stephen F. Austin* has been published. Chapter X of that work is a comprehensive discussion of the Law of April 6, 1830.

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Digo en lo positivo qe es falta de buena fe, porque la dicha prohibicion no debe comprender los qe. son en camino ó que han hecho las preparativas para su mudanza antes de saber la dicha ley cuya ejecucion no debia tener efecto retroactivo

Mi amadissimo amigo suplico qe. me permita rogarle por todos los lazos de amistad qe. spre nos han unido de no tachar las glorias qe. tan justamente decoran el digno nombre del heroe de Juche del protector de las instituciones libres y federales, y de la constitucion qe. tan felismente nos rigen por una acta cuyas consequencias no puedan dejar de ser las mas funestas, y cuya memoria quedara estampada en la historia pa spre.

La ley de qe hablo declara qe. no se hara variacion en las colonias establecidas, ahora la mia esta establecida, y de derecho, colonos comprometidos a emigrar son igualmente comprendidos en ella, como los qe son aqui radicados, y en cuya inteligencia espero de la justicia de V. E. qe. sirva mandar espedir por el ministro de relaciones las instrucciones nesesarias declarando qe. no se ponga embarazo en la emigracion de colonos comprendidos en mis contratos. porqe. asi exige el articulo 10 de la dicha ley, qe. declara qe. no se hara variacion en las colonias ya establecidas—

E. S. suplico qe. me permite acordarle de mi conducta, y de la de estos colonos desde qe. entrémos en Texas en el año 1821,—¿no hemos sido fieles y constantes en nuestra adhesion al Gob^no.? no hemos padecido años de trabajos penibles en conquistar este pais del desierto? y si es qe. Texas en el dia empieza á llamar la atencion del mundo civilizado como parte importante del territorio Mexicano en lugar de ser un desierto y un asilo para los barbaros y malvados, quienes son qe. la nacion debe agradecer por semejante progreso en su poblacion y recursos sino es a los benemeritos habitantes de la colonia de Austin—si es qe. sobre la frontera de Nacogdoches hayan entrado algunos malos y hombres perversos, es justo confundir nosotros con ellos?

En cumplim^to del encargo de V. E. de hacer conocer sus deseos amistosos hacia estos habitantes voy a publicar en la Gazeta de esta la carta de V. E. y me lisongeo tener la grande satisfaccion de poder publicar a la vuelta del correo una prueva efectiva de la proteccion q V. E. ha ofreicido y qe. me remita la declaracion qe. pido, qe. no se considera esta colonia comprendida en la citada ley por ser cumplida y qe. no se ponga embarazo en la imigracion de colonos a ella—me aprovecho de la ocasion p^a protestar a V. E. la alta consideracion con qe. tengo el honor de permenecer el muy atento amigo de V. E.

E. F. Austin

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Ira Ingram to Austin

San Felipe, May 18, 1830.

See Calendar.

Austin to Teran

San Felipe de Austin 18 de Mayo 1830.

Exmo Sor Gral D. Manuel de Mier y Teran

muy estimado Gral y Amigo, A mi vuelta á esta antes de ayhier recibi la muy apreciable de V. fecha 24 del po. po. con la del Sor Vice Presidente qe. V. me remitio y con esta remitó a V. mi contestacion comforme con lo qe. me encargó S. E. el vice Presidente—

He visto la ley del 6 de avril sobre el *fomento*, de cuantos malos caban la imaginacion, en Texas—Me pregunta V. por mi opinion—no sé que decir—sino es que tengo fijadas mis esperanzas en V. para salvar Texas—y para hacer lo que es de mucha mas importancia, que es salvar la fe publica de mexico de las heridas fatales que va recibir del cumpto imprudente ó estremoso del citado decreto.

los colonos de mis contratos son ya en camino para esta colonia—han vendido sus posesiones donde vivian, en fin son colonos de esta de derecho, y por la ley, y por los compromisos solemnes del Gobno Mexicano—como es posible prohibir su entrada—pero no hay necesidad de argumentos para convencer el juicio de V. sobre la injusticia de esta ley y sobre el escandalo publico qe. va a echar sobre el honor mexicano— el articulo 10. de esta ley dice que no se hara variacion en les colonias establecidas Este articulo abre a V. una puerta para obrar justamente, y del modo que exigen tanto el bien estar y tranquilidad, como el honor de la macion— Mi colonia esta establecida, y los colonos que son en camino, tiene igual derecho a entrar en ella, como tienen los que estan aqui a quedar en ella. V. como comisionado pueda asi salvar este pais de no se quantos malos. V. me ha spre tratado de amigo, he spre tenido la mas ciega y entera confianza en V. ahora ofrece el caso en que pueda V. dar una prueva no tan solamente de amistad, sino de justicia, y de patriotismo, porque esta en manos en [de] V. cubrir la fe publica y el honor de Mexico, altamte comprometido por el cumplimto imprudente [de] esta ley— No me estiendo mas dejando mucha que decir a nuestra vista, que V. me dice sera en dos meses—

Con respecto a la idea de formar territorio de Texas, opino que el pueblo se opondra con unanimidad El objeto del Sor vice Prete y de V. es saber mi opinion pa poder formar idea que partido ó que curso tomaré en estas circunstancias criticas—soy franco—Mis objetos en venir a Texas fueron sanos, y puras, purissimas—he

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obrado de buena fe—ha sido idolo de mi ambicion el conquistar este pais del desierto, y el añadir por este modo á la prosperidad, riqueza, y fuerza fisica y Moral de la republica que he adoptado por patria mi regla ha sido fidelidad y gratitud a Mexico—y esta ha sido la de toda esta colonia—ahora parece que nuestra fidelidad y nuestros servicios va a recibir una recompensa de parte del Gob^no^ nacional la cual es ser destruido!!! el mundo sensato sin duda formara su opinion sobre semejante procedim^to^— Nesesito el consejo de V. y que me trata con franqueza.

El articulo 10 cubre esta colonia, y tambien cubre los colonos que son en camino y en esta inteligencia, y para salvar Mexico del escandalo horror de faltar en su buena fe, suplico que tome V. las medidas nesesarias para qe. se espiden instrucciones de no embarazar la imigracion a esta colonia de colonos comprendidos en mis contratos

Esperando recibir sus instrucciones y consejo soy de V. el amigo y servidor

E. F. Austin [Rubric]

Austin to ———, Intrepreting the Law of April 6, 1830

[About May 18, 1830.]

En obsequio de mi deber como empresario de las colonias qe. he contratado establecer en Texas, me hallo en la necesidad de presentar a V. S. esta consulta relativa a la interpretacion ó el entendim^to^. qe se debe dar a la ley gral del 6 de Avril p^o^ p^o^ en la parte qe trata de suspension de la emigracion de colonos procedentes de los estados unidos delnorte— El articulo 10 de la citada ley dice "No se hara variacion respecto de las colonias y a establecidas ni respecto de los esclavos qe. haya en ellas" y prohibe toda introduccion de nuevos esclavos. Este articulo esta ciertam^te^ fundado en la justicia, y en el bien estar del pais, tanto en la parte qe. garantiza las colonias ya establecidas, como en la qe. prohibe la introduccion de nuevos esclavos, por ser la una y la otra conforme conlas leyes vigentes qe. protejen las propriedades y con la constitucion del estado qe. en su 13° articulo prohibe la introduccion de esclavos.

En El articulo 11° "se prohibe colonizar a los estranjeros limitrofes en aquellos estados y territorios de la federacion qe. colinden con sus naciones, en consequencia se suspenden las contratas qe no hayan tenido su complim^to^ y sean opuestas a esta ley"

El dia —— [27] del mes de —— [Abril] del año 1825 yo celebre un contrato con el Gob^no^ del estado de Coahuila y Texas para colonizar 500 familias fuera de las diez leguas litorales entre La Baca y el San Jacinto abajo del camino llamado de arriba— El dia —— [20] del mes de —— [Noviembre] del año 1827 Yo celebre

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otro contrato con el mismo Gob^no^ para colonizar 100 familias sobre la anda oriental del rio Colorado arriba del dho camino de arriba— El dia —— [12] del mes de —— [Julio] del año de 1828 yo celebre otro contrato con el dho Gob^no^ con el previo permiso y autorizacion competente del Gob^no^ supm^o^ nacional para colonizar con 300 familias las tierras vacantes dentro de las diez leguas litorales entre La baca y San Jacinto. Todas estas contratas son p^a^ familias de los E u del norte America u de otros paises extranjeros, como constan los dhos contratos en el archivo del Gob^no^ del Estado.

En fe y en virtud de estos contratos he introducido la mayor parte de todas las mencionadas familias, y he celebrado contratos con las demas p^a^ cumplir con el numero qe. ofreci introducir—y todas son ya en camino, ó han hecho las preparaciones preliminares p^a^ verificar su establecim^to^ en estas colonias, han vendido sus poseciones en los lugares donde vivian antes, y muchos de ellos han errogado gastos considerables en visitar el pais, escojer su terreno, abrir labores, fabricar casas, y en otros pasos necesarios como preparatorios a su mudanza a un pais despoblado y careciendo de recursos— La mayor parte de estas familias vienen del Misuri, del Alabama, del Ohio y algunos de Nueva york de 400 á 800 Leguas distantes y en lo gral. son familias que poseian bienes raices y otros en porciones considerables donde vivian—

Es muy claro y evidente qe. no es ni puede ser posible efectuar la trasladacion de familias de esta clase y de tanta distancia en pocos dias, ni aun en pocos meses, se necesita un año a lo menos—en esta inteligencia y en cumplim^to^ con mis contratos, y en virtud de la autoridada qe. me dieron yo he contratado con las familias necesarias para completar mi numero dandoles hasta el dia primero de Junio, unos y hasta principios de Avril otros del año entrante pa verificar su emigracion, tambien hay muchos ahora en camino, unas por tierra y otras por agua bajando el rio Misisipi hasta Orleans, con intencion de embarcarse alli para esta Colonia

Austin to [Lucas Alaman?] [1]

[May 18, 1830.]

I beg permission to call the attention of your E for a moment to a subject of deep interest to the prosperity of Texas hoping that the purity of my intentions (which have no other object than to discharge my duty faithfully as a M[exican] C[itizen]) will serve as my apology.

It is doubtless well known to Y. E. that I was the first emp^o^ who undertook to form a settlement in the wilderness of Texas, that I have devoted all my time and personal attention to this object since

[1] Indorsed by Austin, "Copy of letter not sent."

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the year 1821. That I have succeeded fully in redeeming a considerable portion of this country from the State of nature overrun with savages in which I found it, and that I have laid a foundation for the permanent advancement and prosperity of Texas by rendering it easy to form new settlements in consequence of the resources which may be drawn from my colony—Perhaps it may be necessary for me to declare that my objects in coming to Texas were pure, that I have never had any others, and that my maxim always has been and now is fidelity and gratitude to Mexico. There appears to be something humiliating in the idea that there should ever seem to be any necessity for such a declaration as this on my part, for I hoped that my conduct and deportment ever since I entered Texas, as well as the conduct of the settlers in my colony would have been sufficient to screen us from suspicion or jealousies, I know not however whether it has been sufficient or not, for I have seen the Mexican prints filled with reflections, which indicate but little confidence in the new settlers. Such reflections are unjust and unmerited—they are also impolitic, for they are well calculated to create discontent and disgust where it never has existed. The true policy of this Gvt. evidently is to make Texas a *usefull* and *productive* part of the nation to which it belongs— under this idea and with this object in view I have been laboring for eight years past. It has been a prominent point of policy with me in managing the new settlers and in forming their ideas and opinions as to the future, to impress upon them the belief that it is more to their *interest* to remain for ever United to Mexico, than to any other nation on earth—it would be occupying too much of your time to state the arguments which I have used to inforce this opinion and will therefore only say that they were fully successful, and I do most positively assert the fact that all the reflecting part of the settlers would oppose a change could they have hope of seeing the gov^{t} settled on a basis which offerd permanency and tranquility; Mankind are generally influenced by their interests, and it requires but a superficial examination to prove that the commercial and agricultural interests of Texas, will be more effectually promoted by remaining under this Gv^{t} than under any other— besides this all powerfull ligament there is another, which I can with equal certainty declare is in the highest degree binding in these settlers, which is *gratitude*, a sence of the moral obligations which their oaths impose upon them as men of honor and as christians— They became Mexicans from choice they have been faithfull to this Gov^{t} since they entered its territory, they wish to remain Mexicans, and it is their interests as well as their duty to remain—under this view of the subject is it good policy to sour their minds and alienate their affections?

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The law of the 6 of April will have a fatal tendency if imprudently executed as you can easily perceive by taking a slight view of my colony— I have made arrangements by means of contracts entered into by myself personally and by means of my agents to settle all the families which I have engaged to settle, and I believe that they have all arranged their affairs to remove the coming fall and winter and spring and are now on the road They are from N. Y. and the States from there to Louisiana— Many of them are persons of capital and all of them have property or lands or other effects to sell before they could remove, It is very evident that they require time to make their preparations, to sell their property and convert it into money and arrange their affairs for a final and permanent removal to a foreign and distant land— it is also evident that they had to make some preparations here for the reception of their families—and such is the fact with respect to the settlers who have contracted to emigrate to my Colony the ensuing fall and winter and spring— They have sold their property where they lived and made the necessary arrangements for a removal. They in [fact] properly belong to the colony and have the [same] right to come to it, which those who are [now] here have to stay, and to prevent them would be a direct violation of the law and of public faith, and could not be view[d] otherwise by the intelligent world— under this view of the subject and considering that the 10 article of the law of 6 April gives all such emigrants a right even under that prohibitory law to enter this territory I have informed them, that the emigrants to my colony are not included in the prohibition contained in the 11 article for my colony is "*established*" and consequently no variation is to be made in it— This is consistent with the law and it was due to justice, and was more especially necessary to shield the character and public faith of this Gov[t] from the odium which must of necessity have been cast upon it, if these families were not allowed to enter, for it would have ruined the most or all of them,—immagine for a moment the situation in which some hundreds of families had to be placed, by being stopped on the road to this colony after having sold all their property where they formerly lived and incurred heavy expences, they would be totally ruined, and the odium would of necessity fall on the Gov[t] that caused their ruin—public sympathy would be excited to a very high degree and public indignation would immediately follow,—The settlers whom I allow to [enter] are of the best class, whether considered with respect to their property, their morals or their intelligence—and the acquisition of that population would do more towards uniting Texas to Mexico and securing good order and tranquility than any measure that could be adopted. I have been informed that the commandant at Nacodoches will enterpose difficulties on

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[emig]rants to my colony. in order [to avo]id this I must beg that Y. E. will take this matter into consideration and procure from his E. the vice president the necessary instruction to the Com^{t} Gen^{l} of this section not to stop the emigrants to my colony—

The most of the contracts on colonization will expire in April next, my colony and Dewitts are the only ones that have progressed and mine is the only one that can be said to be "established" None of the [other] colonies are in the situation that mine is for none of them have progressed Dewitts has been commenced and he has over one hundred settlers—

with regard to the admission of slavery in Texas, I have to say that I have always been opposed from principle to slavery and that I am well satisfied with the prohibitory laws on that subject. I have advocated the toleration of slavery here in the infancy of settlement because I at one time totally dispaired of getting emigrants without allowing them to bring slaves The country is now sufficiently advanced and as far as my influence extends I shall forever oppose slavery in Texas— I have made this declaratory to the settlers in public manner and my opinions relative to this matter are well known.

I beg leave to refer Y. E. to D^{n} Ramon Musquiz, chief of the Dept of Bexar to Gov^{r} Jose M^{a} Viesca, to Gen^{l} Teran and to his E^{y} The vice President of the nation for information as to my character and conduct—with the highest respect etc

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Memorandum on Law of April 6, 1830

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

San Felipe de Austin May 1830

Recd. the law of 6 April the 11 Article of which suspends contracts for colonization in which North Americans were to be introduced and prohibited the emigration of North Americans to this country.

Considering this unjust interference with the rights vested in me by my contracts on colonization. I wrote to the President Bustamante and to Gen^{l} Teran on the 18 May (See copies of said two letters)[1]—in June I rec^{d} Gen^{l} Terans explanation of the law of 6 April by which I was informed that it did not in any manner interfere with my colony[2]—in consequence of this explanation I wrote to Gen^{l} Teran and to the Vice President explaining away the harsh parts of my letter of 18 May[3].

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[1] Austin to Bustamante, May 17, 1830, and to Teran, May 18.
[2] Teran to Austin, June 14, 1830.
[3] Austin to Teran, June 28, 1830; Bustamante to Austin, July 14, 1830.

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During the months of May, June and July considerable and alarming excitement prevailed amongst the people of Texas and on the Nacogdoches frontier it was so violent as [to] be on the eve of breaking out.

Padillas confinement put a stop to the land business and this was thought to be a part of the plan to break up the new settlers in Texas. resolutions of an inflamatory nature were entered into on the Ayish Bayou etc. J. J. C. (?)[1] came to see me— I advised peace and quietness he coinsided with me— I was of opinion that a popular commotion amongst the people would totally ruin the whole country and destroy those who had anything to loose, and as it was my duty to try [to] avert so great an evil from my colony, I resorted to such measures as I could to offset the object and accordingly caused Bustamantes letter to me of 20 March to be published in the Texas Gazette also Teran's official letter, and on the 10 July some general remarks which were intended to allay public excitement by giving an explanation of the causes which had produced the law of 6 April and to shew that those causes were fast disappearing— I never believed that this Govt. intended to oppress us or treat us unjustly in any manner for we had never [given] them any cause to do so and if such was the intention it would be placing us on higher ground to do our duty faithfully as Mexican citizens.

[Indorsed:] May 1830 [but evidently written later than July] Memorandum S. F. Austin

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Argument Against the Law of April 6, 1830[2]

At the period of Mexican independence in 1821, Texas was uninhabited by a civilized population, except the towns of Bexar and Goliad— It was infested by numerous bands of hostile indians who sallied forth at pleasure to rob and desolate the settlements on the rio Bravo, extending their depradations into the mountains to the neighborhood of Monclova and Monterey, and along the coast of Tamaulipas—

The system of frontier defence used by the Spanish Gov[t] of establishing military posts or *presidios*, was never an effectual barrier, for when those posts were in their best state of armament, the most that was done was to protect the immediate vicinity without being

[1] Unidentified.

[2] The date of this document can not be determined positively. Austin most probably wrote it during the summer of 1833 while in Mexico petitioning for the repeal of the immigration articles of the law of Apr. 6, 1830. It is placed here because of its relation to the arguments which have preceded.

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able to cover the whole country, or prevent the indians from harassing the frontier settlements, and committing robberies on the public roads

The natural consequence was, that the civilized settlements were limited to the garrisoned towns. A few scanty villages were thus sustained like isolated specks in the midst of a wilderness at an enormous expense to the gov[t] and a great waste of men and money— A country thus situated could evidently yield no revenue in return for the millions expended in its defence; it could not advance much in population or improvement, nor add anything to the physical force of the nation, but on the contrary, weakened it.

It may therefore be said with truth, that under the old system of *presidial* defence, the whole of that part of the Mexican territory situated north and east of a line from near *Soto la Marina* on the gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of California was an expence and a dead weight to the government.

The experience of years had already convinced the Spanish authorities of the internal provinces, of the absolute inefficacy of the old system of frontier defence, and that the only effectual and permanent barrier was population, the settlement of the frontier by a hardy and interprising race of people before whom the savages would retire, or become submissive

The result of this new opinion was a total change of the ruinous restrictive system which had for centuries locked up the whole of the spanish possessions from the rest of the world— The first step that was taken towards the new system of frontier defence was the grant to Moses Austin on the 17 January 1821, to settle a colony of North Americans in the wilderness of Texas.

During that year, 1821, the independence was achieved, and the lights of liberal and republican principles shed their benign influence over the whole country. One of the first acts of the new government was to open the door to the emigration of foreigners, the colonization laws were enacted, and emigrants were expressly and earnestly invited to enter. Under the faith and operation of those laws the settlement of Texas was commenced, and its wilderness was rapidly changing its uninhabited state and wild aspect, and yielding to the progress of civilized population, led on by enterprise and perseverance.

The emigrants to Texas, it is well known, have never received any succors from the government—no garrisons were sent to protect them during their infancy from the hostile indians who then filled every part of the country, They have never cost the government one cent—all they have ever rec[d] was permission to settle in the country, and a title for the lands they redeem'd from the wilderness,

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lands that were then valueless to Mexico or to civilized man— Left to their own resources and daring enterprise, they have conquered a wilderness, and made known to Mexico and to the world the true value, and developed the resources, of a large portion of the Mexican territory which was before hid in obscurity,— They have also greatly contributed to the new system of frontier defence by means of population and fully tested its efficacy, for the savages have retired before them, as they will continue to do, if the same system is pursued, until they are reduced to full subjection or settled in villages as agriculturists.

It is certainly a natural and very rational inquiry. What inducements, what incentives, what hopes, could have operated so powerfully upon the minds of the emigrants to Texas, as to have given them fortitude to brave the dangers of savage foes, to dispise the hardships and privations of the wilderness, to support them through tryals and privations at which the stoutest hearts shrink— The cries of their little children even for bread, the well founded fears and despondency of their wives, surrounded as they were the first years of the settlement, by Indians, famine, and sickness and by the dark gloom of moments when even hope almost recoiled from the future?— What impulse of freedom and deeply imbeded hope bore them up and carried them through *such* difficulties?— Was it the bare expectation of getting a piece of land in a wild wilderness and there living on the mere products of their manuel labor, and degenerating into the habits of wild Indians? No—common sense, and the characters and former habits of those settlers, unite in saying— NO— But on the contrary the great and nerving hope that bore them onward, was to redeem this country from the wilderness, and convert it into the abode of civilization, of abundance and happiness, and by *that* means to repay themselves, their wives and children for the hardships and sufferings of their early settlement, and also to repay the government more than thousand fold for the privilige of settling in Texas, and of making wild lands valuable, that before were valuless—

On what grounds was such a hope as this founded? It was founded on the colonization laws, on the general, liberal and broad invitation given in those laws to the whole world to come and settle in Texas—on the faith of the Gov[t] that such an invitation would not be *thus* given merely to draw a few unsuspicious emigrants to this wilderness and *then* to close the door and shut them out forever from their friends and relations, and in fact from the balance of the civilized world, when years of struggling through difficulties had just begun to realize their hopes— Could the first emigrants have supposed that they would have been deprived of the privilege of settling by their sides a son or daughter, an aged father or wid-

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owed mother, a brother or sister, an old and affectionate friend or neighbor of other days and of other countries, because they did not emigrate on *this* or on *that* particular day? Could they have supposed that the general invitation of the colonization laws were mere time serving and temporary expedients which were to be changed without any apparent reason and without any violation of duty on the part of the first emigrants, is it reasonable to suppose that they would have labored as they have done, suffered what they have suffered, to bring forward this country, and give value character, and credit to it? No—they built their hopes on the permanency of the colonizing system, on the faith of the government pledged in their colonization laws, on the broad basis of philanthropy and republican freedom which they supposed had been adopted as the foundation on which the social institutions of Mexico were erected— Those hopes were certainly not entertained without a sufficient cause, and neither are they now destroyed notwithstanding the restrictions which are imposed by the law of 6 April 1830 which totally interdicts the emigration of North Americans for it is confidently believed that those restrictions grew out of peculiar circumstances, party excitements and hasty jealoucies which no longer exist—

It seems to have been received as a correct opinion that the inhabitants of Texas wished to separate from Mexico and unite with the U. S. of the North— It seems that the virulence of party feelings even went so far as to suspect that a friendly and republican gov^{t} whose territory is already too great for its population, wished to sieze upon Texas— such opinions and suspicions are evidently at variance with the conduct and avowed wishes of those emigrants, and with the true and substantial interests of Texas, on the one hand; and with the good faith and established policy and principles of the Gov^{t} of the U. S., on the other— Texas could gain nothing by a separation from Mexico, except a removal of the ruinous restrictions that now impede its progress in population and wealth, and if those restrictions were taken off, there is not a rational man in the country who would not oppose a separation— The true interests of Texas are to become a State of the Mexican confederation, and this is the desire of its inhabitants— By the law of 7 of May 1824, forming the State of Coahuila and Texas, the latter was only provisionally annexed to the former, untill it possessed the necessary elements to form a state of itself and this very law was another inducement to the emigrants to preserve, for it held out the inducement amounting even to certainty, that Texas would be a State so soon as its population and resources were sufficient. Moral obligation, and interests are the two great cords that bind communities, states and nations together— In no instance can the principle of interest be stronger

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than in the present one, supposing the restriction against emigration to be taken off

Texas must be an agricultural country, and the most of its agricultural productions will find a much better market in the Mexican ports than in those of any part of the world. The interior trade by land will also be very important. At this time, this trade is principally carried on through Missouri to New Mexico and Chihuahua but the geographical situation of the country and the practicability of roads from the harbors of Texas, evidently indicate that the natural channel of that trade, is from those ports, in preference to the circuitous route by Missouri through a foreign country, subjecting merchandise to a double duty which they would be exempt from if taken from the ports of this nation— The manufactures of Texas, abounding as this country does in facilities for their establishment, would evidently lose by a separation from Mexico. In fact there is not one interest in Texas that would not be injured by a separation not one that would not be materially benefited by the erection of this country into a state of Mexico.

This being the case, why drive the people of Texas to desperation by a system of restriction, that is at varience with the inducements and well founded hopes first held out to the emigrants, and with the true interests of the country? The 11th article of the law of 6 April 1830 totally prohibits the immigration of North Americans, and suspends contracts previously entered into by the government thereby depriving the present settlers of the consolation of settling there relatives and friends along side of them. It also cuts off all hope of future advancements for years to come and condemns this country to a wilderness. The hope of bringing out emigra[n]ts from Europe, is a faint and distant one, and will require many years, and a vast amount of capital to accomplish it. And besides, what security or guarantee have *they*, in coming here, that they will not also be deprived of the privilege of bringing out their relations and friends after they have suffered years of hardships in preparing a home for them, as the settlers from the U. S. have been by the law of April 6, 1830?—

Under this view of the subjects, it certainly appears evident that that part of the law of 6 April 1830 prohibiting the immigration of north Americans, is unjust and at varience with the faith and pledges of the Gov^{t} and with the true and substantial interests of Texas— That law will not, and cannot prevent the introduction of hundreds and thousand into Texas, who, if they do not receive the sanction of the Gov^{t} to remain and acquire real estate, will, as a matter of course, become restive and perhaps, jeopardize the public tranquility But, on the other hand, by opening the door for admission of honest

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and honorable men of high character and property, the moral influence of such men will correct and direct public opinion, and make the moral tie, as well as that of interest, which does and ought to bind Texas to Mexico indisoluble—

GEORGE FISHER TO AUSTIN

Aduana Maritima de Galvezton.

No. 1

Con esta fecha he entrado, en el ejercisio de mis funciones como Admᵒʳ de la Aduana Maritima q ha de establecerse en el puerto de Galvezton, y siendo el objeto principal del Suprᵒ Gobᵒ en el establecimiento de la citada Aduana, el Arreglo del comercio maritimo q esta colonia ya tiene establecido con los paises estrangeros, y con los puertos de la Republica, en este modo asegurando las ventajas, q por diversos derechos y leyes del Gobᵒ Gral y del Congreso de la union, se han concedido a esta colonia de q V. es Empresario, y evitando los perjuicios q a la hacienda publica, puede causar el contrabando, q por la costa de esta Colonia, podia practicarse, sin la vigilancia del Gobᵒ Suprᵒ sobre las importaciones hechas por los buques estrangeros en este modo desconceptuando, los pacificos y honrados habitantes de esta Colonia, y hallandome todavia sin la instrucciones del Supᵒ Gobᵒ sobre la materia, me apresuro a comunicarlo a V. suplicandole se sirva remitirme copias de cuantas providencias el Gobᵒ Suprᵒ de la nacion y el Superᵒʳ del Estado han tomado sobre las esepciones de los dros de efectos introducidos en ella y esportados de la misma colonia y sobre los efectos cuya introduccion en la Republica es prohibida, lo q me sirvira de Gobierno interim el Suprᵒ Gobᵒ me trasmite sus ordenes é instrucciones detalladamte q han de arreglar la Aduana de esta costa.

Todo lo q tengo el honor de comunicar a V. suplicandole me remita lo pedido con toda la brevedad, dando parte a las autoridades quienes corresponde su conocimiento.

Dios y Libertad. Austin y Mayo 18 de 1830.

JORGE FISHER [Rubric]

Sr Dn—Estevan F Austin Empresario de la Colonia de Austin en el Departᵒ de Bejar.

GEORGE FISHER TO AUSTIN

Aduana Maritima de Galvezton.

No. 1.

He llegado a esta villa con el nombramᵗᵒ del Gobᵒ Gral de la Union, de Admᵒ de la Aduana maritima, q ha de establecerse en el

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Puerto de Galvezton, y habiendo prestado el juram^to^ y cumplido con las demas prevenciones de la ley sobre la materia, antes de entrar en el desempeño de mis funciones del citado empleo, y convenicado al mejor servicio de la nacion q desde luego salgo a la costa de este departam^to^ suplico a V. S. se sirva circular a las autoridad^s^ militares del distrito de su mando, me reconosca como el administrador de la Aduana de Galvezton, cuya oficina por lo pronto me parece bien establecer a la embocadura del Rio Brazos, hasta las instrucciones del Supr^o^ Gob^no^ las q tengo pedido, sobre este asunto, previniendoles q en caso necesario, p^a^ hacer respetar las leyes de la nacion, me presten todos los ausilios, q sean necesarios p^a^ executar las providencias del Sup^ro^ Gob^no^ Todo lo q tengo el honor de comunicar a V. S. p. su conocim^to^ y fines correspondientes, tributandole las consideraciones de mi respeto y adhesion.

Dios y Libertad Austin y Mayo 18 de 1830.

JORGE FISHER [Rubric]

Sor Comand^te^ Militar de la Milicia Civica de la Jurisdiccion de Austin.

THOMAS BARNETT TO AUSTIN

Jurisdiccion de Austin

Circular.

Con esta fha ha entrado el Ciud^o^ Jorge Fisher en el ejercisio de sus funciones de Administrador de la Aduana Maritima de Galvezton, previos los requisitos de la ley en la materia, y habiendo dispuesto su pronta salida pa la embocadura del Rio Brazos, por asi requiriendo el mejor servicio de la Nacion, suplica a V. le franquea los auxilios que sean necesarios en el desempeño de sus funciones como funcionario publico— Lo q tengo el honor comunicar a V. acompañandole su firma en la [mar]gen pa su conocimiento y fines consiguientes, tributandole las consideraciones mi particular aprecio.—

Dios y Libertad— Austin 18 de Mayo de 1830

THO^s^ BARNETT [Rubric]

Sor Empresario de la Colonia de Austin, en el Departam^to^ de Bexar—

(Copies of this circular were sent to: Sor Comandante Militar de la Milicia Civica, de la Jurisdiccion de Austin.)

AUSTIN TO THOMAS BARNETT

Colonia de Austin

Recibi la nota de V. de fecha de hayer, en q se sirve comunicarme de haver entrado el C^o^ Jorge Fisher en el ejercisio de las funciones

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de Admor de la Aduana maritima de Galvezton, acompañandome su firma p[a] mi reconocim[to]

Yo me congratulo como Empresario de esta colonia sobre este suceso y me lisongeo, que por las medidas que el Supr[o] Gob[o] ha adoptado, pronto se arreglara el comercio de esta colonia, cuya prosperidad en gran parte esta ligada con el comercio maritimo de nuestra costa.

Aprovecho esta ocasion de repetir a V mis respetos y consideracion.

Dios y Libertad Austin y Mayo 19 de 1830.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Alcalde constituc[al] de Austin.

AUSTIN TO MILITIA OFFICERS

Comandancia Militar de la Milicia Civica de Austin

Circular

Con fha de hayer el Alcalde constitucional de esta Jurisdiccion, entre otras cosas, me dice lo que sigue—

[Copy of the circular to the Comandante de la Milicia notifying him that George Fisher is the Adm[or] de la Aduana Maritima de Galvezton]

Y haviendo la nacion puesto las armas en las manos de sus hijos p[a] la defensa de sus derechos y la ejeccucion de las leyes q le gobiernan, prevengo a V. q auxilie en caso necesario al mencionado funcionario en hacer respetar y cumplir las leyes de la nacion y del Estado.—

Lo q comunico a V. p[a] su cumplim[to] y fines corresp[to]—

Dios y Libertad— Austin y Mayo 19 de 1830.—

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Comandante de la compañia del Batallon de la Milicia Civica de Austin

circulo a los Comandantes de Milicia civica del Batallon de Austin— y á los S. S. oficiales de la plano mayor . . AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO GEORGE FISHER

Colonia de Austin

No. 1.

La nota de V. q con fha de hayer me remite, en que me comunica haverse encargado de la Administracion de la Aduana Maritima de Galvezton, y que el objeto principal del Supr[o] Gob[o] de la Union en el establecimiento de la dha Aduana es el arreglo del comercio de esta costa, he recibido con sumo placer. Como empresario de esta

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colonia debo decir q las gracias y la proteccion q la Nacion Mexicana con tanta bondad ha dispensado á estas colonias, cuya introduccion en este Departam^to y cuyo progreso me han costado sacrificios de tantos años y cuya felicidad depende de las disposiciones del Sup^o Gob^o han sido siempre miradas por mi y estos colonos como gracia particular concedida a las colonias cuyos habitantes han plantado las bases de la poblacion, de la riqueza y de la fuerza en los desiertos y entre las tribus salvajes y barbaros, p^a abrir el camino de la civilizacion, y pa aumentar los recursos de una Nacion grande y generosa— En virtud de las leyes protectoras en favor del comercio de estas colonias se han cometido algunos abusos, mas no eran estos por los Colonos ni en su beneficio, sino el de aventureros estrangeros de todas Naciones, abusos cuya comision no era en las arbitrios de los colonos ni del Empresario de poder suprimir en razon de las circunstancias, por haber sido esta costa tan espuesta a las depredaciones de las tribus barbaros en el interior como a las de los aventureros por lo esterior,—y por no haber el Supr^o Gob^o de la Nacion antes tomado las providencias oportunas q eran de su resorte pa. arreglar el comercio de ella, q reclamaba tanto su atencion. Yo me congratulo sobre este acontecimiento, q el Sup^o Gob^o ha ultimamente tomado en consideracion este importante asunto, y ha nombrado V. como gefe de esta Aduana, descansando en la integridad y las demas buenas prendas q le hacen á V. acreedor a este empleo, mucho mas quando concurran en V. los conocimientos de la naturaleza del comercio de esta costa, del idioma, de los usos y costumbres de sus habitantes, que tanto necesita la prosperidad publica en las colonias de este Departam^to.

Todo lo que tengo el honor de comunicarle en contestacion de su oficio citado, acompañandole los documentos relativos a los varios decretos y leyes de excepcion sobre derechos de importacion causados por los efectos introducidos en esta Colonia, segun q me pide.—

Aprovecho esta ocasion de manifestarle a V. mi cordial co-operacion en todo lo tocante al arreglo del comercio de esta Colonia, tributandole las consideraciones de mi particular aprecio.—

Dios y Libertad. Austin el 19 de Mayo 1830.—

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Sor Administrador de la Aduana Maritima de Galvezton.—

Manuel de Mier y Teran to George Fisher

De orden del Supremo gobierno dirijo á V. la Ley q. confirma y amplia el Comercio de Tejas lo que se opone al establecimiento de la Aduana para que V fue nombrado y debia establecerse en Galvezton, y teniendo las facultades necesarias para conoser en este asunto, digo á V que por aquel mismo motivo de introducion que

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la Ley no embaraza, se sirva suspender la instalacion de aquella oficina—

El negocio mas importante q. V. sita á S. Exª el Ministro de Hacienda es el de colonias por lo que suplico á V. que consierte sus contratos en los terminos que indica y me de aviso de ellas, pues me sera muy agradable cooperar con aquellos servicios que me sean dables, á objeto tan recomendado por el Gobierno y complaser á V. como desea pues con la consideracion mas devida me protesto su mas atento servidor— Dios y Libertad Matamoros Mayo 24 de 830— Manuel de Mier y Teran— Ciudadano Jorge Fisher—

Es Copia Matamoros Junio 23 de 1830.

GUERRA. [Rubric]

JAMES W. BREEDLOVE TO AUSTIN

Mexican Consulate
New orleans May 24, 1830

Col STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR You have herewith a letter from Mr Sutherland of Alabama on the subject of land selected for him by his brother in your Colony, I have long Known these Gentlemen as merchants, and from their General Character as men and merchants, together with the Capital they would introduce into Texas I should think it would be good policy to Extend the time as asked for in his letter unless it be entirely contrary to your Colonization Laws and beyond your powers to grant—

Such men as the Mess Sutherlands Settling in a new Country is well calculated to give character to the Country, and draw after them other Settlers of equal wealth and respectability, I am well aware of the difficulty of a merchants winding up his business in a Country like Alabama and have no doubt that Mr. Sutherland has given himself as short a time to effect the object as he can do it in.

In order to more effectually prove to you his determination to locate in Texas Mr. S. will this fall build a House on the land designated, and next Spring put into Cultivation a part of the Land

JAS W BREEDLOVE [Rubric]

HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Matamoros May 27th 1830

Colˡ S F AUSTIN

MY DEAR SIR I have had the pleasure to see here Capt J Austin and avail myself of his return to aprise you of my present situation and future views—

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I am still obliged to continue here to close the operation I have in hand, not being willing to abandon the enterprise I have embarked in whilst there is a hope of bringing it to a benificial result—

I shall however close it as soon as practicable and have some prospect of effecting a Sale of the Steamboat to a Company here which would put me at liberty at once.

The Boat has more than paid her expences the last three months and the Merchants are now convinced that a Steamboat to facilitate the transportation of goods is all important to the prosperity of the place this will I hope enable me to make some arrangement with them which will permit me to quit with credit. nothing but my pride and the censure to which I should expose myself by abandoning a project of my own proposing has induced me to continue here so long— At all events I shall extricate myself within a few months—and my intention is then to visit your colony. Where should there be an opening for any pursuit to which I am competent I will make another effort to retrieve the losses of the past years—

Capt^{n} A can tell you how I am situated here and how anxious I am to get away his acct of the state of the colony leads me to the conclusion that there are many objects there to which my attention might benificially be directed. and my knowledge of the language of the country and of the character and disposition of the Mexicans might enable me to be of service to you in various ways I have not as yet rec^{d} an answer from the Gov^{t} respecting the grant of land, but my agent to whom I wrote to pay the fees of office informs me that one of the papers had been sent to Texas for your signature and when returned the Solicitation would be granted—

Gen^{l} Teran sends you a message by Capt^{n} Austin expressing his desire to have an interview with you either by meeting you at St Antonio or by your coming here. Should circumstances permit you to leave I should be extremely rejoiced to have the interview take place here as it would give me the pleasure of seeing you sooner than can otherwise take place, and the voyage might be of benefit to your health which I regret to learn is not good— do me the favor to write to me when your leisure permits

HENRY AUSTIN [Rubric]

IGNACIO DE ARISPE TO AUSTIN

Saltillo 29 de Mayo de 1830.

Sor D. ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN.

MUY SOR. MIO Y AMINGO DE MI PARTICULAR APR^{O}: con especial gusto recivi y me impuse de la que V. me escrivió en fin de Febrero popo. cuyas expreciones tanto estimo y con que V. me favorece como mi buen Amigo por que le doy las mas exprecivas gracias.

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En Marzo mande á nuestro Amigo el Sor. Muzquiz algunos papeles publicos que le suplique que impuesto de ellos los dirigiese á V. á ese punto en qe. creo los habrá V. recivido; Las cosas politicas en el dia se hayan ya notablem^te^ arregladas y todo camina al orden y nuestra comun felicidad devida álos hombres de bien verdaderam^te^ Patriotas qe. se empeñan y sacrifican por remediar nuestros g[ravi]simos males y desordenes anteriores que tanto nos hán desacreditado; quiera la Divina Providencia qe. todos unanimes y conformes caminemos y trabajemos por el bien despreciando partidos, resentimientos, y fines particulares, con qe. viviremos en paz y Union qe. tanto nos interesa ápesár delos esfuerzos qe. en sentido contrario han hecho algunos de mis Paysanos ála sombra de un falso patriotismo con qe. yá se hán dado á conosér, y són bien marcados en nuestro pais. Son imponderables Am^o^ mio los daños qe. nos hán causado las sociedades secretas en que se entromisó el mas escandaloso aspirantismo entodos sus confrades diseminados en logias particulares en todos los Estados en qe. tanto travajaron y aún travajan principalm^te^ en tres ó cuatro (encuyo núm^o^ puede contarse el nuestro) por fines y engrandecim^te^ personál delos mismos que aún ecsisten y componen tan criminales reuniones, de que los hombres de bien y verdaderos patriotas se hán separado absolutam^te^ lo que no hán hecho los demás que nó quieren travajar en mantenerse mas que por medio de intrigas y de maldades, que se intentan continuar aún en estos Payses, en que V. verá V. pruevas delo que digo dentro de poco tpo. por qe. para todo se travaja y se toman medidas con anticipacion; quiera Dios librarnos de tales peligros, qe. nuestras operaciones sean dirigidas por un espiritu de verdadera rectitud, que tanto interesa á nuestra felicidad.

Los proyectos delos Estados Unidos del Norte sobre Texas se asegura qe. se quieren llevar ádelante á resultas dela llegada de Poinset á aquella Capital. El Govierno nuestro con noticias individuales toma empeño y providencias activas para conjurar la nuve qe. se prepara y ála verdad que seria muy notable y escandalosa esta question entre dos Republicas hermanas, que unidas devian de esforzarse para hacerse respetables al mundo entero; los hombres sensatos todos, asi lo desean, y ven con dolór la rivalidad qe. se quiere propagar enlos de uno y otro Paiz.

Save V. qe. soy siempre su más verdado. affmo. Amigo y Segro. Servor. que ato. B. S. M.

Ygnacio de Arispe [Rubric]

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AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR VIESCA

Bexar 31 de Mayo. 1830.

Exmo Sor JOSE MA. VIESCA—

MUY ESTIMADO SOR DE TODA MI CONSIDERACION, me atrevo á presentar á V. E. mis ideas relativas á los asuntos de colo^{n} dentro del distrito comprendido al oriente de mi colonia hasta el rio sabinas— Se han iniciado pr. el com^{do} gral casi todos los titulos de posesion en todo aquel distrito, y las medidas de tierras son en lo gral todas completadas, y en dos meses se puede fenecer todo el asunto.

Segun entiendo el decreto sobre nombram^{to} de com^{dos} se ha de nombrar una para cada colonia, po. no entiendo qe. se prohibe nombrar el mismo com^{do} p^{a} varias colonias, dandole un despacho separado pr. cada una En esta inteligencia recomiendo qe. se nombre un solo com^{do} p^{a} todo el pais situado al oriente de mi colonia y al sur de la del Gral Arturo wavel, y que se confiere este destino al Sor Gefe de este Departam^{to} C. Ramon Musquiz, ó en caso de haber inconvenientes en qe. saliera de este punto, qe. se confiere la dha com^{n} en el Alcalde de esta ciudad C. M^{l} Arciniega—Las razones en qe. fundo esta opinion son—

1° Se necesita sobre la frontera un com^{do} cuyo prestigo con el pueblo le daria influjo. El Sor Musquiz lo tiene tanto por ser Gefe del Dep^{to} como por sus muchas virtudes y costumbres morales y honrades El Sor Arciniega tambien lo tiene por la honradez de su caracter y por ser conocido generalm^{te} pr. todos aquellos habitantes, y tiene la ventaja de hablar el ingles—

2° Es de muchissima importancia qe. un mismo com^{do} entendiera a todos los asuntos de colo^{n} del distrito mencionado, porque ya son todos iniciados y muy avanzados, y se debe tomar los desde el estado qe. ahora se hallan y completar lo pendiente y comensado sin deshacer lo hecho

El sor chambers ya tiene completados las mensuras, ó las mas de ellas y los colonos le han empleado voluntariam^{te} p^{a} servir de traductor, hacer su solicitudes etc. etc. Este Sor es muy hombre de bien, de una educacion y bien instruido en la ciencia de las mensuras de tierras. Estuvo algo alucinado pr. los talentos influjo y honradez qe. atribuyo al desgraciado Padilla, y si el ha cometido error alguno ha sido pr. esta causa— Los habitantes tienen confianza en el y puede ser muy util en concluir los asuntos de aquella parte, y si se nombre un solo com^{do} como he recomendado estoy seguro de que en dos meses todo sera fenecido sin la mas minima dificultad.— En el caso de nombrar el Sor Musquiz ó Arciniega, recomiendo que se da al nombrado licencia p^{a} separarse de esta capital tres meses, y que se ordena su marcha inmediatam^{te} a la frontera sin demora ninguna.

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Suplico que. V. E. me perdone mi atrevim^to^ en dar consejo en un asunto de una importancia tan trasendental como considero este, y como lo es, tanto á los intereses de muchos individuos como á la tranquilidad publico de aquella parte, porqe. parece que han formado alli una idea que la prision de Padilla es parte del mismo sistema de hostilidad contra Texas, que causó el decreto de 6 de avril po. po. y de consiguiente piensan que todo es obra militar emanando de Mexico.

Con toda consideracion p^a^ V. E. me aprovecho de la ocasion de presentar de nuevo las seguirades del aprecio y aftecto conque soy su sincero Amigo Q. S. M. B

Estevan F Austin [Rubric]

Es copia

Austin to Governor Viesca

Extract from letter to Govr. viesca

Bexar Mayo 31 1830

Enterado del Sor Musquiz que Dn Gaspar Flores esta recomendado p^a^ com^do^ de mi 2^a^ empresa de colonizacion de 500 familias y suplico que su despacho sea remitido á el lo mas pronto que sea posible porque hay cosa de 300 familias esperando sus posesiones— Para mi 3^a^ empresa de 100 familias sobre la banda oriental del rio Colorado arriba del camino de Bexar á Nacogdoches necesito tambien un com^do^ y estimaria mucho que se nombrase el Sor Samuel M. Williams p^a^ aquella empresa, ó si hay inconveniente en esto, que se haga estensiva la comision de Dn Gaspar Flores a la dha 3^a^ empresa.—

He elegido el punto sobre la margin oriental del dho rio al paso del camino que va de Bexar a Nacogdoches p^a^ el establecim^to^ de un pueblo, y creo que sera necesario establecer otro pueblo sobre el mismo camino al paso del rio de los Brazos. Entiendo que el Comd^te^ gral ha dispuesto el estabblecim^to^ de un puesto militar al ultimo mencionado punto, y va a poner otro al primero sobre el colorado—

Tambien he elegido en clase de com^do^ de la colonia litoral un sitio muy aproposito p^a^ un pueblo sobre el rio de la Baca en la margin oriental a la embocadura del arroyo Navidad estan ya medidos los cuatro sitios de ejidos p^a^ este pueblo como previene la ley. El nombre qe. he elegido es el del primer Gov^or^ constitucional de este Estado (*Viesca*) pero todavia nadie sabe cual nombra llevará porqe. quisé consultar a V. primeramente y recibir sus instrucciones ó aprobacion— Las instrucciones á los com^dos^ dicen que han de elegir los puntos p^a^ los pueblos, medir las tierras solares etc po. no dice nada del nombram^to^ Considero que el poder de nombrar el pueblo esta comprendido en la facultad dada a los com^dos^ para establecerles porque sin nombre no se puede considerar los establecidos— Si no

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hay inconveniente estimaria mucho recibir la opinion de V. sobre este punto pª no caer en error ó responsabilidades—

Entiendo que el articulo 10 de la ley de 6 de avril del congreso nacional cubre enteramᵗᵉ mi colonia porque esta ya "establecida" y que "no se hara variacion" con respecto á ella. En esta inteligencia he avisado á los colonos comprometidos á emigrar el otoño, Invierno, y primavera pº vº que la prohibicion del articulo 11º no esta estensiva á ellos, y que no hay embarazo legal pª impedir su entrada como colonos de mi colonia. Aquellos colonos han hecho todas las preparaciones pª emigrar han vendido sus tierras y posesiones donde vivian, muchos de ellos son ya en camino algunos han fabricado sus casas, escogido sus tierras pagado los gastos de las mensuras etc. todas como medidas necesarias preparatorias a la mudanza permaᵗᵉ de sus familias. El impedir su entrada ahora por una ley del Gobⁿº Gral sera dar efecto retroactivo á la ley, sera sumamente injusto porque seria arruinar enteramᵗᵉ aquellas familias, y sera tratar con desprecio la autoridad del Estado bajo la cual se hicieron los contratos, ademas de todo esto la ley no debe comprender los contratos ya celebrados y cuyo cumpᵗº ha tenido principio—pongo el caso que habra 200 ó mas familias de un contrato embarcadas en Nueva York en buques pª Texas, que salieron sin noticia de esta ley, á su llegada se encuentran con una fuerza militar pª impedir su desembarco y echarlas en la mar ¿que diria el mundo de semejante procedimᵗº? hasta los mas necios dirian que fue una barbaridad y una burla contra la justicia, la buena fé, y aun contra el centido comun— El caso que he sitado no esta enteramᵗᵉ supuesto, hay muchas familias ya en camino, bajando el rio Misisipi unos, y otros por tierra, el impedir su entrada sera perderlos, arruinarlos, semejante cosa causaria una simpatia gral y universal en su favor, y una indignacion correspondiente contra el Gobⁿº que dicto semejante ley, y la fé publica de mexico quedaria altamᵗᵉ comprometida—para evitar semejante escandalo contra el caracter de los mexicanos, pª hacer *justicia* he dado el aviso como dho. que no hay embarazo legal ninguno en la entrada de las familias comprendidas en mis contratos Es probable que los comandantes de la frontera se considerarán obligados á cumplir estrechamᵗᵉ con el articulo 11º de la dicha ley El sor Piedras segun estoy informado ha ya empesado a cumplir con la voluntad de sus Gefes militares y ha mandado pasar y regresar algunas familias—creo que sera muy conducente a la justicia y a la tranquilidad publica de Texas, conseguir una orden del vice Presidente al Comdᵗᵉ Gral de no impedir la entrada de colonos comprendidos en mi colonia, y sera justo tambien incluir la colonia de Green de Witt sobre Guadalupe que esta ya comensado y ya tiene como 150 familias establecidas, y hay muchas comprometidas á emigrar á ellas este otoño.

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Tambien considero que es debido a la dignidad, al decoro, y a la soberania de este Estado el espedir una orden al Gefe de este Dep^to^. que se circule á los alcaldes y comandantes de la M^a^ Civ^a^ declarando que no se pongan embarazos a la entrada de colonos á las colonias de Austin y de De Witt por colonias ya establecidas y principiadas y de consiguiente no comprendidas en el art^o^ 11. dela ley de 6 de avril. pr. cubiertas las dhas colonias pr. el articulo 10 de la m^a^ ley. por mi parte no necesito otra autoridad sino la del Gob^o^ del Estado, cumplida y sin alterar en manera alguna la tranquilidad publica—

Regreso en tres dias p^a^ San F. de A.— Tengo la satisfaccion de decir que la mayor harmonia y tranquilidad reinan en toda mi colonia. Es bastante estraño que mientras todo mexico esta alborotado por rumores de invasiones y revoluciones en Tejas gosamos aqui de la mas perfecta tranquilidad y paz— No se habia entrado en la imaginacion aun de los mas necios en Texas, que hubo desorden aqui ó peligro de invasiones— Todo este ruido sale de Gefes Militares p^a^ servirles de prestesto para reunir tropas y llamar la atencion del pueblo mexicano afin de esconder las intrigas de la capital de Mexico y preparar el golpe que va á dar al sistema federal No se puede haber adoptado medidas mas ciertas y mejor acertadas para perder Texas a la nacion mexicana que las que el Gob^no^ Gral ha adoptado, p^o^ esta en las manos del Gob^no^ del Estado el salvar este pais y ligarle p^a^ spre a mexico

Suplicando que V. me dispensa la molestia de una carta larga, y esperando las instrucciones y consejo de V. quedo su muy adicto y muy sincero amigo Q. S. M B

E. F A

ARCHIBALD AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New York 31 May 1830,

MY DEAR SIR,

Your very interesting letter of 24 feby, elucidating with so friendly a spirit, so much relative to your Colony, that I was desirous to hear about, came safe to hand, and I assure you, I value it much, as harassed as you must be with a multiplicity of avocations, causes me to feel sensibly your kindness in gratifying my intrusive questions, I however hope to reciprocate the same, in some measure by promoting your views in regard to Swiss emigrants, that I shall prevail on any to join you is yet doubtful, but I have had conversations with Several Swiss Gentlemen on the subject, and I shall be on the look out to find some of them that will take more interest, or rather a more active interest, than those I have yet met with, Mr. Richard a Swiss Gentleman who has resided many years in this

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Country approved very much of the project, told me he had often thought of Texas, as being a country well calculated for his Countrymen, and thought it would be fortunate for them if they would Emigrate to Texas, instead of coming here, that many of them, were disappointed on their arrival here and were at times so much at a loss to know which way to go on there arrival here, that he had purchased a Tract of Land in this State, from no other cause, than to find them a Speedy location, that his land was not however, or rather the climate calculated for them, for it is in the northern part of this State and too cold for them but they were in the habit of going to Ohio, and other Western States, which was attended with too much expence for many of them I told him, as I think would be the best plan (if such a person could be found that would feel Sufficient interest, to take the trouble to communicate the information to his Country men) to send your pamphlet, and such other information as I could give to some Swiss Genl[gentlemen] going to Switserland, and for him to recommend them taking passage to New Orleans so as to arive there in a healthy season, and proceed from thence to your Colony, he was of my opinion but did not know of any one going at present, and he was not acquainted with any one that would be of use to send it to, out of the Canton he came from (Geneva) where they were all, or principally mechanics,— at present there do not appear to be many or any Swiss Emigrants in the City about a month since another Swiss Gen[l] [gentleman] told me there would probaly be a good many here—

I called on Mr. Theoder Meyer a German many years a merchant here, and consol for Hanover, who I have been long acquainted with, he thought it would be difficult to prevail on his country men to go there, under the impression that the climate would be to warm for them, that they were generally pretty well of, and if three or four of the most respectable familys that were disposed to Emigrate could be prevailed on to go direct from their Country to Texas, and should be pleased, you would have no difficulty in prevailing on as many to follow, as you could wish, he thought it would be best for you to send over some person to Germany, and prevail on three or four Familys to come over, and pay the expences, but this I presume would not be convenient for you at present—as I said before I shall be on the alert—in hopes that the information you gave interesting to Swiss Emigrants, Might reach the Eyes of some of them, that were on the look out for a favorable place to locate, I thought best, and ventured to put an extract from your letter in the Journal of Commerce, I found Mr. Meyer has seen it, and was pleased with it, it paid his Countrymen a Compliment, which had a good effect— you will on the receipt of this have

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observed it, in that paper, as Mr. Halock the Editor, told me, he forwarded them to you, he Mr. H expressed the high opinion he entertained in regard to the Texas, and thinks it will become of very great importance, ere long,— It is astonishing how you have surmounted so many difficulties, as you have had to contend with in such a variety of ways, and placed your Colony in a flourishing, and prosperous Condition, there are but few men, if any that would have had nerve, patience and perserverance to have acomplished what you have done, I am glad to hear that it is now plain sailing with you, and hope that you will now be able to resuscitate— Since the last Revolution in Mexico took place we have heard no more of the purchase of Texas— The Fabius that left Cadiz with Troops in company with the squadron for Havana, arrived at the latter place in 49 days passage, and I presume the other Ships with her, it appears the Troops were only intended to replenish the Garison of that place—They talked, and I presume were desirous in Spain of sending another Expedition against Mexico, but the difficulty appears to be the want of means, a letter from a Genl [gentleman] dated in Cadiz who I think must have a good oppʸ of obtaining information writes that he does not beleive that they will, or can send Troops for want of means— .

Henry writes under date of 4 April that he has had sickness, and various difficulties to incounter but that his prospects were then pretty favorable, I have not seen his wife since you wrote, she resides with her Family in New Haven, I shall probably see her ere long, when I will communicate what you wrote about her coming to your land of promise it would be very difficult I presume for her to make up her mind to go— I am very glad to hear that your Sister was well, and that it was probable she and her Husband would join you next fall, it will be a great acquisition and gratification to you to have them so near— You intimate that you may some day make us a visit, we should all be delighted to see you, but I suppose we might almost as soon expect the Emperor of Russia here, If you can so organise your colony as to be able to leave it with safety, you will do wonders, but after what you have done, we aught not to be surprised at your acomplishing any thing you undertake— I only saw Mr. Treat a few minutes as he passed through this City, but I hope on his return here, to have an oppʸ of learning many particulars about your settlement—

I shall send some English and French newspapers by this conveyance— I remain very affectionately

ARCH AUSTIN

Colo. Stephen F. Austin San Felepe de Austin Texas,

I observe the arrival of some Swiss passengers within a few days past from Havre

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AUSTIN TO JOSÉ ANTONIO NAVARRO [1]

Bexar 31 de Mayo 1830

J. A. NAVARRO

AMIGO MIO. Saludo á V. en esta su ciudad nativa y siento que no he podido hacerlo de palabra, en lugar del medio mudo de papel y tinta.

Sabra V por la letra en q^{e} va escrita la carta del Sor. Milam q^{e} estoy impuesto de su contenido yo no dudo que la com^{on} va ser muy provechosa a V. la cosa principal que ofrece por lo pronto es el nombram^{to} del agrimensor—Si el joven Jose M^{a} Carbajal entendio un poco mas esta ciencia le convendria mucho, y yo creo q^{e} no habra inconveniente en nombrarle, por si puede hacer el trabajo por medio de practicos subalternos y aun el en breve tpo aprenderia la teoria y la practica de las mensuras—es joven de adelantos en las ciencias muy notables, y tiene una educacion inglesa muy buena—tambien yo creo q^{e} pueda ser á V. util alli en varios modos— Yo le he ofrecido llevar le a mi casa é instruir le en las mensuras de tierras

Emporta mucho q^{e} no se pierda tpo en esta materia [Necessite nombrar un agrimensor en el mes] de Enero lo mas tarde—[torn] a V. q^{e} Soy su amigo—[torn] mandarme en [que] puedo ser util—

q^{e} pasa vien

E. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

creo que sera mejor q^{e} remita V. un despacho a Milam para un agrimensor, y pueda V. nombrar Jose M^{a} Carbajal cuando el esté suficientem^{te} adelantado en aquella ciencia—importa mucho q^{e} no habra demorra en completar las medidas—no es de olvidar q^{e} Viesca q^{e} spre he [ha] sido amigo de Texas sale en Enero, y Dios sabe quien sera su succesor ó que suerte tendra Texas el año entrante—

VALE [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO HENRY AUSTIN [2]

To Capt. HENRY AUSTIN—

MY DEAR SIR—I have never heard what was the result of your application for a grant of land which you informed me you had presented to the Gov^{t} of this State—have you received any answer? I presume you have of course seen the law of the 6th of April— that law will be a *dead letter* in Texas so far as regards my colony for the 10th Article covers me entirely:

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[1] From Lamar Papers, Texas State Library.

[2] Copy (by Moses Bryan) of a letter from S F Austin to Capt. Henry Austin dated Bexar June 1st— and directed to Matamoros.

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A more impolitic measure could not have been adopted by this Govt— All the new settlers were opposed to a change of Govt or a sale of Texas to the U. S.—they were becoming sincerely attached to this Govt and they always have been faithful and always would be— This Govt has a stronger hold on Texas in the respect which the new settlers have for their oaths to support the constitution of their adopted country, than any hold which a military force could give them— I wish you to write when the long expected army of Texas is to be on, and its number etc— I now believe that the Federal constitution will fall and that the Govt will assume an arristocratical or monarchical form— I know not what will be the ultimate fate of Texas— I am myself opposed to a union with the U. S. unless we first receive some *guarantees*, amongst them I should insist on the perpetual exclusion of slavery from this country write me how you are getting on, whether you can visit Texas— Are you friendly with Teran— he and myself are on the very best of terms— he has committed a capital error in advising the present measures against Texas, for the fact is he is the author of them although he has no idea that I am apprised of that fact—[1] *I have always known it*— The most perfect peace and harmony reigns all over Texas and will no doubt so continue— The timorous will hesitate about immigrating here, but all who are fully informed on the subject will not,—for the fact is there is nothing to fear, neither will any embarrissments be interposed to stop emigration to my colony— I have letters of late date from Arch and John P Austin *all well*

S. F. Austin.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz

[About June 2, 1830.]

Exmo. Sor. He recibido el oficio de V. E. fecha 17 del po/po. en qe. encargue decir si el oficio qe. el ciudano Henrique Austin acompaño con su solicitud para tierras fue dado por mi, faltando dícho oficio mi rubrica— no vino mi oficio como V. E. me diga y por este motivo no puedo decir si es el mismo qe. yo remiti al dcho. Sor. ó no.

Este Sor. qe es primo mio me escribio desde Matamoros diciendome qe. quizo estableserse en esta colonia y me pidio una carta de recomendacion á V. E. y le remiti un oficio al efecto y parece qe. olvidé poner mi rubrica con lo qe. contesto el citado oficio de V. E.

[Estevan F. Austin.]

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[1] This is confirmed by Miss Howren's study, "The Origin and Causes of the Decree of April 6, 1830," in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, xvi, 378–422.

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S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin

Duplicate Orig: per Hetta

New Orleans June 2nd 1830

Colonel Stephen F. Austin,

My Dear Sir, The object of the present communication being one of considerable Interest to me, I have to beg you will address me by the first opportunity, freely and candidly in relation to the political aspect of the affairs of your Colony— My Stand is taken, and the moment you say my services are required I obey the summons, but unless you can as a friend advise me to bring my family the ensuing fall, I shall decide upon leaving them in this Country— of course I shall be undecided how to act until I hear from you— From the observations in the public prints, I must suppose that the Government are no longer willing to pursue the same course of liberal conduct towards the Colonies they have heretofore, and therefore as a colonist I wish to know the attitude we will assume with sentiments of the highest respect and sincere regard I remain your friend and obedient servant

S. Rhoads Fisher-

June 13th: 1830

My Dear Sir,

The foregoing you will perceive is duplicate, and as I shall leave here in a day or two, on my way to my family in Northumberland, Penna: I cannot refrain from again saying I am an "Austinian," and urging you to write me whatever may Interest us to know—

By a notice in one of the late papers I perceive Colonel Fisher the collector for the port of Galveston requires vessels to furnish him with their manifests at the mouth of the Brasos, as this will subject me to delay on my voyage from Philadelphia to Matagorda, I should feel indebted to you to ask Colonel Fisher if I cannot go direct to Matagorda, and forward him the Manifest to such point as he may direct—

Remember Colonel on you I depend for the successful result of my *petition*, and hope soon to hear from you on the subject, as also upon any commercial changes the Government may see proper to make—

Lest you may not receive the paper, I copy the following paragraph from the Argus of 11th: Inst:—

Texas—The National Gazette publishes extracts from an official paper submitted to the Mexican Congress in secret session, by the secretary of state, the tenor of which is extremely hostile to the American settlers in Texas.

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Henry Austin to Austin

Matamoros June 3d 1830

Col. S F Austin

My dear Sir In a letter which I wrote you by Captn John Austin I expressed a wish that you might be induced to accept Genl Terans invitation to meet him here rather than at La bahia or St Antonio— Since writing circumstances have transpired which cause me to suspect the Genls Views to be somewhat treacherous

When he came here one of his aids told Col Bradburn who was then with me that one of the Genls objects in visiting Texas was to remove you from the Colony, your influence with the colonists being dangerous to the security of the province—

I paid but little attention to the observation at the time supposing it to be impossible for the Genl to meditate so rash a measure—

Today there is great excitement amongst the Americans, on acct of a declaration last night by the Genl to a Mexican in presence of an American whom he supposed not to understand Spanish, that he viewed the foreigners in this part of the country as the Most dangerous enemies of it particularly the North Americans whose sole object was to wrest from the Mexicans their property and so much of their territory as they could get— The American could not refrain from asking him if it were possible that such were his real sentiments to which he replied they were— You know the duplicity of the Mexican character—their general want of faith in all transactions and the necessity of being guarded against their villany— It is possible the observation of the Genls Aid to Col B was with good information of the subject. It may therefore be wise to keep yourself under cover of your own rifles, which Genl Teran has not nerve nor power to encounter you must take good care not to let it transpire that I communicate with you on this subject as it would probably consign me to the Calabose

I shall be off as soon as I possibly can but have too much property outstanding to do it immediately

H Austin [Rubric]

James Austin in Account with Dr. Wells

James Austin To Francis F Wells Dr

June 1st	Visit to Mr Bells prescription etc	$2.00
2nd	Visit to Mr Bells prescription Emetic and staying all day	5.00
3rd	Attention through day and night at my house	5.00
4th	Attention through day and night	5.00
		$17.00

1830 Recd. payment

Francis F Wells

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ANISETO ARTEAGA TO AUSTIN

Guadalupe, June 6, 1830.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO GEORGE FISHER

Colonia de Austin

Por cuanto he visto la proclama del Exmo Sor Gob^{or} del Estado dela Luisiana uno de los Estados Unidos del Norte america, publicada en los periodicos dela ciudad de Nueva Orleans bajo la fha de 24 del mes de Abril po. po. previniendo á todos los negros libres y mulatos que han entrado en el territorio desu estado ilegalmente desde el 1° dia del mes de Enero del año de 1825 que salgan fuera de el, dentro del termino de sesenta dias, contados desde la fha dela publicacion dela Ley de espulsion, bajo las penas establecidas en ella, y considerando los grandes perjuicios y daños que resultaran á esta Colonia de mi cargo y responsabilidad, dela admision de semejantes colonos ó emigrados bajo cualquier pretesto en ella, comprometiendo la tranquilidad publica en caso que la emigracion espontanea de dhos negros y mulatos se verificara a este Estado loque es de temer, de la aproximidad de posicion geografica en caso de no tomar las providencias oportunas de impedirla. Ariesgando las causas de disturbios y sublevaciones entre la parte dela poblacion que se halla en esta colonia que bajo diversos contratos con sus amos y con diferentes permisos del Gob^{no} Gral y del Estado ha entrado ó ha sido introducida á esta Colonia, y por ultimo para precaver que formen ligas conlos tribus de Yndios barbaros dela frontera para hostilizar los pasificos habitantes de esta y de las adyucentes colonias, he tenido á bien de no permitir la entrada en ella á ningun individuo, comprendido en la ley de espulsion delos negros libres y mulatos del Estado de la Luisiana—

Por tanto suplico á V. se sirva mandar detener precisamente en ese puerto, todos los comprendidos enla citada ley que con cualquier motivo llegaren á ese puerto con destino á esta Colonia, en la inteligencia que si [la] tranquilidad publica se turbase por este motivo, V. sera responsable ante el Gob^{no} Supremo—, Todo loque tengo el honor de comunicar á V. para su inteligencia y efectos correspondientes añadiendo que esta disposicion se estienda aun cuando estos traigan pasaportes del Sor Vice Consul dela republica en nueva Orleans—

Aprovecho esta ocasion de repetirle las protestas de mi consideracion y personal aprecio Dios y Libertad— Villa de Austin 5 de Junio de 1830— E. F. A. Sor Admor de la aduana maritima de Galveston.

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THOMAS J. CHAMBERS TO AUSTIN

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

DR SIR, I received yours of the 27th Ult. yesterday. Nothing worthy of note has transpired here since my last. On my return from St. Felipe I found some excitement, and some imprudent measures were taking, which, in all probability would have lead to serious difficulties; but everything is now quiet and tranquil, and nothing is to be feared from the imprudence of the people in this quarter, without some new exciting cause.

I do not answer your letter in full, as, fifteen days hence, I will see you in St. Felipe. I wish to advise further with you respecting the business in this part of the country.

T. J. CHAMBERS

Nacogdoches 8th. June 1830

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen Austin St. Felipe

GEORGE FISHER TO JAMES W. BREEDLOVE

Con fecha 5 del qe. rige el Señr- coronel Dn Estevan F Austin, Empresario de la colonia del mismo nombre en el Departo. de Bejar en oficio, me dice lo qe. copio. [Fisher then quotes Austin's letter of June 5, above.]

En cuyo contestacion le dijo lo siguiente

"La nota de V. S de 5° del qe. rige, en qe. me avisa la determinacion qe. ha tomado, como Empresario de esa Colonia, sobre la emigracion de los negros libres y mulatos de Luisiana, he recibido con esta fcha, en cuya contestacion le dijo: qe. esta administracion ha adoptado la mas rigurosa medida para poner en practica la ley de pasaportes, y el reconocimeniento de los estrangeros emigrados, qe. entren por este Puerto, y para qe. los comandantes de los buques destinados a él, no aleguen ignorancia, en todo lo relativo a las leyes vigentes, ha tenido conveniente publicar en la Gazeta de Texas, y por medio de esta en las, de los Estados Unidos del norte America, todas las providencias qe. ha tomado en el arreglo del comercio y la navegacion de esta costa, en la estricta conformidad con las leyes vigentes.

En cuanto a lo qe. V. S. me dice sobre "aun cuando estos traigan pasaportes del Señr Vice Consul mexicano en Nueva Orleans" es asunto qe. merece la consideracion del Supremo Gobierno y al qual consultara esta administ[n] en oportunidad, avisando al mismo tiempo al Señr Vice Consul mexicano en Nueva Orleans qe. interim ese le prevenga al contrario, no espida pasaportes ninguno a personas indicadas y qe. advierta a los comandantes de Buques, el compromiso

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qe. contraigan con el Supr° Gob° en llevar pasageros a bordo de sus buques, sin los pasaportes correspondientes.

Es cuanto tengo el honor de esponer a V. S. en contestacion a su citado oficio, acompañandole copia del oficio remitido al Señor Vice Consul mexicano en Nueva Orleans para su gobierno y qe. haga esta disposicion publicar en los periodicos de Nueva Orleans"

Y lo transcribo a V para su conocim^to^. y efectos correspondientes en la inteligencia qe. V. cumplira con lo tocante por su parte añadiendo qe. todo individuo emigrado, de los comprendidos en la ley de espulsion de Luisiana sera detenido en este Puerto y los comandantes de los buques compelidos a esportarlos de el y para evitar semejantes compromisos, cuidara V de no espedir pasaportes ninguno a las personas comprendidas en la citada ley, y prevenga V. a los comandantes delos buques de las consequencias y perjuicios qe. les resultara en admitir pasageros y conducirlos a bordo de sus buques sin los pasaportes correspondientes.

Lo qe, comunico a V para su inteligenci y efectos consiguientes.

Dios y Libertad Barra de los Brazos y Junio 10 de 1830.

JORGE FISHER [Rubric]

Señr Vice Consul de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos En Nueva Orleans.

WILLIAM P. HARRIS TO AUSTIN

Harrisburg 11th June 1830

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN,

Please pay to Messrs. Perry and Hunter forty Dollars and charge the same to Account of the Steam Saw Mill and oblige yours

Respectfully,

WM. P HARRIS

$40.

Accepted. S. F. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO COLONEL JOSÉ DE LAS PIEDRAS

[Copy]

San Felipe de Austin, 12 de Junio de 1830.

Sor Dn. JOSE DE LAS PIEDRAS

MUY SOR MIO DE MI APRECIO Y CONSIDERACION. Entiendo que mi colonia no esta comprendida en la prohibicion del articulo 11° de la ley de 6 de Abril p° p° por ser cubierta por el articulo 10 de la misma ley, que declara que no se hara variacion en las colonias ya establecidas—la mia, esta establecida— El suponer que fue la mente del gov^no^ impedir la entrada de imigrados ya en camino, ó al tiempo de

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darse aquella ley, ó que habian ya vendido sus posesiones y bienes en el lugar de su antigua residencia, y hecho todas las preparaciones para su mudanza aqui, es suponer, que el objeto del govno era dar efecto retroactivo, y anti constitucional ala ley, y hacer injusticia, y aun violar la fe publica. No puedo suponer semejante cosa, ni puedo suponer que las autoridades de ese punto empidiran la entrada de colonos á mi colonia. Tengo deseos de ponerme de acuerdo con V. sobre esta particular, porqe. es de mucha importancia a la prosperidad y aun á la tranquilidad de Texas, y demas importancia a la fé publica, y al caracter de nuestro govno Nacional—y al de las autoridades de Texas. Estimaria mucho que V me diga su opinion sobre este punto, con franquesa.

He entendido por rumores que ha habido algunos disgustos y personalidades en esa parte de Texas— Creo que sera muy facil curarlas todas, y restablecer la harmonia y confianza que deben reinar entre el pueblo y las autoridades. No me estiendo mas sobre este punto por no saber las ideas de V. y solamte me restringiré a decir que mi deseo es preservar la tranquilidad en todo Texas, y creo que poniendonos V. y yo de acuerdo, no sera dificil el hacerlo, y al mismo tiempo prestar un servicio importante a nuestro Govno y Patria.

Soy ciudadano Mexicano, quiero cumplir con mi deber— Los asuntos de Mexico estan sumamte enredados, se ha encendido la guerra civil. Dios sabe en que parara! Considero que es del deber de las autoridades locales de Texas salvar este pais de igual desgracia, y mantener la paz y la tranquilidad.

Los medidos del Govno Nacional no son de las mejores pa asegurar este objeto, pero esta en las manos de las autoridades locales el hacerlo.

Aqui no hay novedad ninguna, todo esta en paz, la fuerza fisica de esta Colonia escede seis cientos hombres de civicos, y los indios nos han dejado en paz por el ano pasado—

Soy de V. el amigo y conciudadano que desea su felicidad y la de nuestra patria,

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

San Felipe de Austin 12 de Junio 1830.

Sor Dn. JOSE DE LAS PIEDRAS.

MUY SOR MIO, No recibi la carta de V. fecha 31 de Marzo po. po hasta despues de mi vuelta de Bexar el 9 del presente. He estado aucente de esta lo mas del tiempo desde el mes de Feb° solamente regresando a mi casa dos veces, y por pocos dias cada ves. Hago mencion de esto, pa imponerse de la razon porque no contesté antes de ahora a la citada apreciable de V.

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Hasta ahora no he tenido noticias ningunas dela Goleta Nacional Constante, de que V. me habla en su carta. El administrador de Galvezton ha entrado en el desempeño de su destino, y no perdire tiempo en avisarle delos deseos de V. pa. que tengan su debido efecto.

Con todo respeto quedo el muy atento amigo y servidor de V.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERAN TO AUSTIN

Hoy digo al Sor. Coronel D. José de las Piedras lo que copio.

"Contesto al oficio de V. S. de 24 de Mayo del corriente año— La ley espedida en 6 de Abril no perjudica á ningun interes existente en el departamento de Tejas, pues en cuantas ordenes se ha servido dirigirme el Supremo Govierno asi como Command^te^ Gral. de esta demarcacion militar, como por comicionado suyo cuyo nombramiento he dado á conoser segun la facultad que le conseda el articulo 3° se dirijen á garantizar las colonias ya establecidas en los terminos en que fueron concedidas sus contratas; de modo que tienen derecho á concluir todas las dependencias en la parte que aun no hayan tenido efecto; y por lo que respecta á los colonos sueltos que no hayan sido comprendidos en contrata de empresario, la misma ley ha amparado los derechos qe. quedan alegar, concediendo al Supremo Govierno la autorisacion necesaria p^a^ que sus comicionados, segun el mismo articulo 3° obren con las facultades comvenientes en la contrata de los terrenos p^a^ establesimientos de nuevas colonias asi de Mexicanos como de Extrangeros, p^a^ lo que sera de toda necesidad atender los reclamos de particulares, á quienes en todo evento les queda á salvo el medio de tránsigir ó ser incluidos en las colonias nuevas, sin el menor gravamen respecto á que su establesimiento se ha hecho sin costo de ningun empresario. Para la ejecucion de estos pormenores qe. exigen algun tiempo, esperan los comicionados las instrucciones de S. E. el Ministro de Relaciones interiores, para trasladarse al Departamento de Tejas, deviendo V. S. entre tanto obrar en virtud de esta declaracion con el fin de que los Colonos establecidos prosigan sus ocupaciones en el cultivo, con el reposo que conviene para su prosperidad. Tengo el honor de decirlo a V. S. manifestandole mi atencion."

Y lo inserto á V. p^a^ su inteligencia y que obre con estos mismos principios en caso ofrecido en asuntos de su colonia

Dios y Livertad. Matamoros Junio 14 de 1830.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

Ciudadano Empresario D. Estevan Austin Teniente Coronel.

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AUSTIN TO MUSQUIZ

[From Bexar Archives]

Tengo la satisfaccion de dar parte á V. S. que la mayor harmonia y tranquilidad reina en toda esta Colonia y que los habitantes se dediquen con industria y empeño á los trabajos Agricolos. Las siembras en lo gral dan las mejores esperanzas de una cosecha abundante, aunque en algº puntos se ha escasiado las aguas por la sequedad.

Ygualmente tengo que informar á V. S. que el Molino de Vapor para sacar tablas, fabricado por los Sors. Roberto Wilson y William Harris sobre el rio Bufalo en esta Colonia está completado y en operacion lo que porporcionará grandes facilidades para el adelanto de las mejoras y la fabrica de Casas, como igualmente para surtir los puertos del sur con maderas.

Se ha circulado una subscripcion para la fabrica de una casa para el Sor Cura y una iglesia provisional, y espero tener la satisfaccion de poder informar á V. S. del cumplimiento pronto de aquella obra.

Todo lo cual pongo en conocimtº de V. S. para que se sirva elevarlo al conocimtº del Supremo Gob.

Dios y Libertad Villa de Austin á 14 de Junio de 1830.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Departº C. Ramon Muzquiz

AUSTIN TO THOMAS F. LEAMING

San Felipe de Austin 14 June 1830

T. F. LEAMING Esqr.

MY DEAR SIR, It has been a long time since I had the pleasure of hearing from you by letter. My brother in law James F. Perry paid me a visit in april last and will remove his family to this colony in the fall he expects to visit Phiª this summer and will call on you— I have as yet heard nothing of the Map of Texas, since I forwarded it the surveys have been considerably extended and I could now form a much more accurate map, tho the one I sent gives a very correct general idea of the country and is fully as correct as the first maps of new countries usually are and I think more so, it cost me great labor and trouble and considerable expence— My object was not individual profit, it was to bring this country forward into public view, for it has been literaly buried in obscurity up to the last year—

Respect for the opinions and last will of my father caused me to explore Texas in 1821. I was both delighted and astonished to find it to be the most favord region I had ever seen. Its fertility and

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natural resources, so far exceeding any thing I had imagined, determined me to devote my life to the great object of redeeming it from the wilderness.

It was a heavy undertaking for a young, inexperianced *and very poor man*—My first step was to study the character of the Mexicans and ascertain their ideas and views as to Texas— I found they knew nothing about it, and were profoundly ignorant of its real value, and also that they considered it next to impracticable to form a settlement in its wilderness without the aid of a very strong Military force for garrisons to keep the indians in check. I also discover[d] that strong prejudices existed against the North Americans owing to the conduct of some who were engaged in the revolutionary expeditions that had entered Texas at various times since 1811. I saw that all the efforts to get foothold here by means of such expeditions had failed and ended in defeat and ruin, and I believed they always would fail. These observations convinced me that the only means of redeeming this country from the wilderness was by peaceful *silent*, noisless, perseverence and industry, and that the axe, the plough and the hoe would do more than the rifle or the sword. under these impressions I began and have pursued the main object with a degree of patience and perseverence which nothing but its vast importance to the civilized world could ever have given me fortitude to continue through so many years of hardships and amidst so many discouraging obstacles— The worst is now over and the few clouds which seem to hang over us are mere shadows when compared with those which have passed. I have laid a sufficient foundation for others to build on, and a prudent course will make this country one of the finest in the world.

The measures lately adopted by the Mexican Govt. prohibiting the emigration of North Americans, affords a striking proof of the nesesity of the *silent* course which I have pursued in bringing forward this settlement. I have never sent any notices or publications respecting it to be printed in the news papers untill lately, when I first began in 1821 I merely put in a notice in the Orleans papers that I was authorised to settle 300 families and barely said enough to draw a little attention. last year I found that the Govt. were beginning to become suspicious that this country was of more value than they had supposed it was, Gen[l] Teran passed through here, and saw it. I found that something must be done to draw emigration and I determined to have the Map published as the Most effectual means of operating on an intelligent people, and the least dangerous with the Mexicans, for not many of them know any thing about maps —unfortunately about this time "*Americanus*"[1] and other publica-

[1] Two articles written by Thomas H. Benton, published originally in the St. Louis Beacon, Aug. 1, 8, 1829.

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tions appeared and *Texas* became A general topic of discussion in the U. S. papers[1] This roused the attention of the Mexican Govt. and excited their jealoucy that the U. S. were determined to take this country by force right or wrong, and this mistaken notion has produced the law of 6 of April last prohibiting emigration from the U. S. and suspending all the contracts of colonization, except in the colonies that are "*established*"— this clause was crowded in by my friends to cover this colony[2] (for mine is the only one that is established) and under it I shall be able with good management to keep open the door for some time longer, and perhaps untill a new order of things takes place,

I have had two difficult tasks to perform here, one to manage the Govt. and the other to manage the settlers, of these, the latter was by far the most difficult— I do say that the North Americans are the most obstinate and difficult people to manage that live on earth, tho I have had many "backwoods men" and "rough fellows" to do with. Emigrants from europe are not prohibited, and I sometimes think that Swiss and Germans will promote the prosperity of this country much more than North Americans— They will introduce the culture of the vine, olive etc. they are industrious and moral, they have not in general, that horrible *Mania* for speculation which is so prominent a trait in the english and North American character, *and above all they will oppose slavery*— The idea of seeing such a country as this overrun by a slave population almost makes me weep— It is in vain to tell a North American that the white population will be destroyed some fifty or eighty years hence by the negros, and that his daughters will be violated and Butch[er]ed by them— "it is too far off to think of—" "they can do as I have, take care of themselves"—"something will turn up to keep off the evil" etc, etc, such are the silly answers of the slave holder—to say any thing to them as to the justice of slavery, or its demoralizing effects on society, is only to draw down ridicule upon the person who attempts it— In the begining of this settlement I was compelled to hold out the idea that slavery would be tolerated, and I succeeded in getting it *tolerated* for a time by the Govt. I did this to get a start for otherwise it would have been next to impossible to have started at all, for I had to draw on Louisiana and Mississippi, Slave States, for the first emigrants— Slavery is now most positively prohibited by our Constitution and by a number of laws, and I do hope it may always be so.

I have passed a truly slavish life here for nine years, my constitution is much broken, my health bad, and my days are probably drawing towards a close, but I can claim some credit for what has

[1] The Daily National Intelligencer, Sept. 26, Oct. 5, 10, 20, 1829, publishes a symposium of newspaper comment, quoting many papers for and against the acquisition of Texas.

[2] I have been unable to verify this statement by reference to the proceedings of Congress.

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been done towards laying a foundation for the formation of a rich and I hope a happy community— Texas no longer belongs to the wilderness—whether it will ultimately remain attached to Mexico, or unite with the north, or form an independent nation, is all mere matter of conjecture, If slavery is excluded, I think the latter the most probable—but if it is admitted, Texas will become what all slave countries are and of necessity must be destitute of physical force and dependent on some other power even for the preservation of its internal tranquility—in short it must have a *prop* to lean upon, for no slave country can stand alone—

I think that much good might be done by a series of publications in the National Gazette on the emigration of Swiss and Germans to Texas—also against the admission of Slavery here—against annexing it to the U. S.—in favor of its adhering to Mexico as long as the federal constitution stands *and no longer*, but then to set up for itself, under the protection of the U. S.— you will of course perceive that this letter is not *for the public eye*,— I have wished to give *you* as a relative, some idea of my labors and views here, they are pure— I will die sooner than violate my duty to this government, and if it would let me work I would make Texas the best state that belongs to this nation, but my dear sir the truth is that the Mexicans cannot sustain a republic— The present form must fall and what is then to become of Texas? we are too weak to set up for ourselves, unless under the protection of our powerfull neighbor— and the protection which the strong affords to the *weak* is much to be feared— If we had population, our course would be a very plain one, but we have it not— Territory we have to form a snug republic,— I am in hopes the federal system may stand a few years longer and that by that time we shall get in some thousands of swiss, Germans, etc, and North Americans—the emigration is still uninterupted to my colony and there will be a great accession of strength this fall—

S. Rhoads Fisher of your city has paid us a visit and can give you much information as to this country—

I sent you a pamphlet sometime since containing translations of the laws of colonization etc—if you have not rec^{d} it you can get one from John P Austin, (Austin and Tayleur) New York, or from Arch. Austin same place—you will see by the law that what I stated to you relative to the impositions attempted by D. A. Smith, Stephen Wilson etc was correct—the publications of those men had its effect in producing the law of 6 of April last. Had all other impresarios gone to work in good faith as I did, Texas would now have had a very heavy population, but I am the only one out of near 30 who engaged to settle colonies who has done any thing, *except harm*

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they have not brought one family to the country, nor advanced one step.

I have but little knowledge of my mothers family I idolised my beloved Mother and altho I know none of her Philadelphia family connections personally I have towards them all the affection of a relative— Will you do me the kindness to send me by Mr. Perry a short historical sketch of my mothers parentage and family and of my maternal relations who are alive, where they live, their names etc I have a great desire to visit the U. S. and I have no doubt it would restore my health, but I am tied down here now, by many heavy and perplexing duties, and to tell the truth I am too poor as to *money*, to bear the expence— I have land but it will not sell yet—notwithstanding, I do not dispair of seeing Philadelphia before I die—.

I think I was called after Benjamin Fuller who married a sister of my mothers,— who inherited his fortune? he promised my mother to leave it to me— If I had it now I would make Texas much the better by it—

I hope Tanner may make a fortune out of the map, if so, he must send me one [of] his best bound general Atlasses—

you may have some curiosity to know my age, I was born in Wythe county Virginia November 3. 1793—

very cordially your frend and relation

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

I regret to say that James Austin a son of Aunt Margarette died of consumption here a short time after his arrival from Missouri, he was nearly gone when he reached here—

A

[Addressed:] Thomas F. Leaming Esqr. Philadelphia Pen^{a}.

Austin to Thomas F. Leaming [1]

San Felipe de Austin 14 June 1830.

Dr Sir,

You have no doubt seen published in the news papers the law of 6 of april passed by the Mexican Congress relative to emigration from the United States—

The 10 article of that law declares that no variation shall be made in the colonies already established— Mine is established, and no embarassments can be legally enterposed to the imigration of honest and good men of families, who are comprehended in my contracts

[1] Apparently this letter was intended by Austin for publication.

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It will be necessary for emigrants to procure pasports from some Mexican consul—the law requires it, and one pasport for the head of the family answers for the whole, but the number of the family should be stated. They should report themselves to the local authorities of the frontier, or port where they enter, and the recommendations of good character which the colonization law requires must be produced. Those recommendations should be given by a Judge or some civil authority of the place where the emigrant removes from, of a higher grade than a justice of the peace

The Government have ordered that the 13 article of the State constitution should be rigidly enforced, that article is as follows "No one can be born a Slave in this state after the publication of this Constitution in the capital of each civil jurisdiction; and six months after such publication the introduction of Slaves is prohibited, under any pretext whatever" The constitution was approved the 11 of March 1827 and published in due form at this place in May of that year— A law has been subsequently passed by the Legislature of the State garanteeing all contracts made in foreign contries, with hirelings or indented servants

No duties will be collected untill after November as I informed you when here.[1] The law of 6 april last permits the free introduction of all Kinds of provisions and lumber into Galveston and Matagorda for two years free of duty, also all kind of furniture tools etc for the use of the colonists is free of duty—Tobacco is contraband as it always has been and will be seized. The exportation of the produce of the colonies in foreign vessels is permitted by the Same law to the ports of Matamoros, Tampico and vera Cruz, or in other words foreign vessels are allowed to engage in the coasting trade from the colonies to the above Mentioned ports.

The main object of the law of 6th of april is to keep out turbulent and bad men vagabonds and Slaves, and the true prosperity and happiness of this country requires that all of those classes should be for ever kept out— The honest and industrious farmer who brings his family has nothing to fear and will be well received and obtain more benifits and privileges than have ever been granted by any Govt. on earth.

The imprudence and thoughtlessness of some on the Sabine frontiers and the excessive noise that has been made in the U. S. papers about the purchase of Texas, seems to have had a much greater weight in Mexico than a matter so essentially unimportant ought to have had. It appears to have caused an impression that the North Americans are all turbulent and that the Gov^{t} of the north wish to

[1] Leaming had not been in Texas. It is possible that Austin had in mind James F. Perry while he was writing.

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take Texas by force right or wrong. All these impressions are erronious and have been created by the reports of some evil minded persons for the purpose of trying to extort from this Govt. unjust and arbitrary measures against the colonist, so as to foment discontent in Texas. Those persons have also been trying to sow the seeds of suspicion and jealousy against the Govt. of the U. S. with the hope no doubt that a war might be brought about between the two nations, in which event Texas would be lost to Mexico in one campain. A train seems to have been laid by some one, to drive this Govt. to such acts as would be most likely to kindle discontent in Texas and at the same time to sow the seeds of disgust between the two nations, and the *means* which appear to have been adopted to effect those objects seem to be to operate on the credulity of this Govt. by false reports about the colonists, and the views of the U. S. They appear to have made this Govt. believe that an offer to buy Texas, by the U. S. was a declaration that it would be taken by force right or wrong. These things will all correct themselves. The Govt. will find on a proper examination that the colonists have done their duty faithfully as mexican citizens, that they have performed important and essential services to their adopted country, and that they deserve the highest confidence.

I returned from Bexar the capital of Texas a few days since, all is peace and quietness— Gen[l] Teran is expected soon but without many troops— I am on the best of terms with that General and with all the officers of Govt. and think that I shall be able [to] work this colony through all troubles which *seem* to threaten it. I *know* the Mexicans well— The latest accounts from Mexico give a bad a/c of the State of things in that quarter— those matters do not reach or affect us here—

A [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Thomas F. Leaming Esq[r] Philadelphia Pen[a]

AUSTIN TO JAMES F PERRY

DR BROTHER

I returned from Bexar in much better health than when you left here— There appears to be some clouds hanging over this country, tho I apprehend nothing from them, and my opinion as to your removal here is the same as when you left. If you come by land write to Breedlove for a passport and state the number of your family. The law requires all persons to bring passports and it should be done because it is the law.

The custom house officer of Galveston has fixed his office for the present at the mouth of the Brasos river—vessels must be cleared

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out for Galveston, and if you send a vessel from Philadelphia clear out for Galveston and not for the Brasos but come to the B. if you wish from Phi[a] you can get debenture allowed, but in new orleans you cannot

They have some very erroneous ideas in Mexico relative to Texas, but I think that a few months will convince them of their error— The last dates from Mexico says that the united States of the north are about to send a large army to take this country by force etc, etc. how they should entertain an idea that the U. S. is unfriendly I can not conceive—

All kinds of provisions and lumber are free and no duties will be collected untill after November as I informed you when here—

Poor James died before I returned from Bexar and I did not see him—

I am making final arrangements to close all my business this fall and winter, and prepare myself to spend my time in a retired and quiet manner with you—

I was very well received at Bexar and all things stand well with the State authorities— They wish me in Bexar to go to the Legislature but I have refused— The fact is that unless I can take some rest I shall not live much longer for I am nearly worn down— for nine years since I came to Texas, my mind has had no rest, nothing to releave it from continued cares and anxieties— I have felt towards all the settlers as tho. they were all my relations, Some of them have not merited the anxiety I have suffered for them I have been a faithful servant of this Govt. and have performed much important service for it— wheither I shall receive thanks, or abuse, is doubtful, Poinsett has left an impression in Mexico which has reduced the North American character to a low grade there.— I do not pretend to say that he has done right, or wrong, for I know nothing about his conduct— he has certainly been the most unfortunate minister that was ever sent to any Govt.

Gen Teran has not yet left Matamoros and the news of the Spanish invasion will probably prevent his coming on.

Every thing is peace and quietness in Texas and so likely to remain.

Col Milam says that the roads are good for a carriage all the way to Nachitochs and he advises you to remove by that route— it will be a very long and tedious journey, but you and Emily must decide, inform me which route you will take so that I may provide the nessery matters for you— I have an idea of puting up a House in this place which will do for you to winter in— The Steam Saw mill is in operation and works well

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A new Commissioner will be on shortly and I shall soon complete all the titles— Did you call on the Com^{te} at Nacogdoches and how did he treat you. Inform me wheither you intend sending out goods from P^{a}. it will be best to land them in the Brasos, I think, tho if the vessel is large she must come into Galveston I expect your best plan will be to ship them to Orleans and thence to this country. I will write by every opportunity, both to Potosi and to Philadelphia to the care of Price and Morgan

Tell all the emigrants to call on Breedlove for a passport, because the law makes it necessary—

remember me to the children, I have received several letters from you of old date since you left and one from Emily. I saw Sam Browne yesterday, he is in very good health, but I had not time to Say more than how do you do, to him for it was mail day—

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

June 16 1830

J. D. Harrison to Austin

Navidad, June 16, 1830.

See Calendar.

Austin to Richard Ellis, Et Al

San Felipe de Austin June 16 1830

Gentlemen,

You have no doubt seen published in the news papers of the United States, the law of the 6th of April last passed by the Mexican Congress relative to foreign emigration and other matters. The 10th article of that law declares that no variation shall be made in those colonies already established. My colony is established, and no legal impediment will of course be interposed to the removal to it of those who have contracted to become settlers; for they properly belong to the colony as much as those who are here.

The law requires that passports should be brought by the emigrants from a Mexican consul, and this must be done— The government has ordered most positively that the 13th article of the State constitution shall be rigidly inforced, and I am of the opinion that Texas will never become a Slave state or country. I will be candid with you on this point, and say that I hope it never may.

You will recollect that the 13th Article above alluded to is in these words— No person shall be born a slave in this state, after the publication of this constitution in the capital of each district,

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and six months after the publication of this constitution, the introduction of Slaves shall not be permitted under any pretext. The constitution was published in may 1827. Since then the legislature has passed a law guaranteeing contracts, (not contrary to the laws of this state) made in foreign countries, so as to permit families to bring the necessary and indispensable house servants and labourers. This provision will be highly useful to the country without the least danger of doing any harm for no one will be willing to risk a large capital in negroes under contracts with them, for they are free on their arrival here, and can only be held to labour by contracts, as servants are all over this nation, and in other free countries.

In the commencement of this settlement, I was in favour of the limited admission of slaves— My reasons were, the difficulty of procuring hands in the beginning for the necessary purposes of farming, and the necessity of holding out inducements that slaves might be brought, in order to give the settlement a start, and to draw emigration, a truly difficult thing to do at that time. It was an up-hill business to get a settlement under way by any means, in the midst of an entire wilderness infested with hostile indians. The reasons for a partial toleration of this evil, have now ceased, and the true prosperity and happiness of Texas require; that an everlasting bar should be interposed to the farther introduction of slaves. Those already in the country, are to be slaves for life, unless purchased by government, and freed in that way. This is just—for the law permitted their introduction. Their descendants are, of course, free— Measures have been taken to exclude free negroes and Mullatoes, not indented servants; so that there is no danger of being crowded with that class, which is probably a worse nuisance than slaves. I cannot believe that any reflecting man, either in Texas or out of it, can seriously wish that slavery should be entailed upon this country.—

To those who do not reflect, I would say, "take your pen—put down the number of slaves now in the slave states—calculate their increase for eighty years at the known ratio of augmentation— Calculate the extent of country to which they are, and must be confined, and its capacity to support human beings— Then calculate the number of white population and their increase—deduct from said increase, the emigration of whites to other countries; (no such deduction can be made from the increase of blacks, for they cannot emigrate,) compare the two sums, and then suppose that you will be alive at the period above mentioned, that you have a long-cherished and beloved wife, a number of daughters, grand daughters, and great grand daughters;—would no fears for their fate, a horrible fate; intrude themselves upon your pillow, and overcloud the evening of your life? "—

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If Texas is wisely and prudently managed, it will be saved from the overwhelming ruin which mathematical demonstration declares must overtake the slave states; and the white population will find within the Mexican limits a refuge; without being driven to the frozen regions of the north. To talk to some of the slave holders about justice, humanity, etc, would be talking to a deaf man, but I will not believe that any one can look on the future which the above calculation presents, without shuddering—

The law of the 6th of April gives permission to foreign vessels to engage in the coasting trade from the colonies to the ports of Matamoras and Tampico and Vera Cruz. It also admits all kind of provisions and lumber, free of duty, into the ports of Matagorda and Galveston, for two years. No duties of any kind will be collected, except tonage, until after the expiration of the law of 1823, exempting Texas from duties for seven years from its publication in the Capital of Texas— It will expire in November next.—

You will be pleased to communicate the contents of this letter to the emigrants who have contracted to remove to this colony from your neighbourhood.

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

To Mess. Rich[d] Ellis Geo. Sutherland Anthony Winston R. R. Royal, etc etc—

The colonists in Texas have been well and munificently treated by this Gv[t] and are satisfied and contented with their situation— the most undisturbed harmony and tranquility prevails through out all Texas— Gen[l] Teran is shortly expected on here with some troops and some evil minded persons have circulated reports that his object is to oppress the colonists— Those reports are without any real foundation in truth, and have no effect here, but as rumor flies on the wings of the wind it may waft them to you—but pay no attention to them— those who bring their families here, and can produce evidence that they belong to a contract on colonization which is in legal opperation, and who can also bring unequivocal evidences of good character, have nothing to fear—

Austin to S. Rhoads Fisher

San Felipe de Austin June 17 1830

Confidential

S Rhoads Fisher Esqr.

My dear Sir, I have just rec[d] yours of 2[d] inst requesting information as to the political aspect of affairs in this country; the course which the Gov[t] are pursuing towards the settlers; and ask-

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ing my advice as to the removal of your family here the ensuing fall.

In relation to the first,—it is rather difficult to say what is the real state of things at present at the seat of Govt in Mexico. So far as can be infered from the public prints, things are more settled than they have been for some time, and Bustamante appears to sit more quietly in the Presidential chair than he did. Genl Bravo has defeated the force that was in the field near Accapulco in support of Guerrero and the latter seems to be a fugitive. Perhaps it would be safe to say that no certain calculations can be made as to the political affairs of the capital, or as to what changes may take place in the form of Govt. or whether any. I am inclined to think that none will be made, altho, there seems to be a party in favor of a central Govt.— In this colony all is peace, harmony, and union—more than ever has been: The prospects of crops are very good and promise abundance.

On the 2d point— The policy of this Govt seems to have changed as to colonization in Texas, as you may see by the 11th article of the law of 6th of April last, which prohibits emigration from the U. S.— The 10th Article of that law however declares that no variation shall be made in the colonies already established This completely covers my colony, for it is established, and no legal impediment can be interposed to the emigration of the colonists who properly belong to my contracts, neither do I believe that any will be.

If an opinion can be formed from the public prints, this law has been produced by a chain of circumstances, some of which are the following. Mr. Poinsett became very unpopular, as it seems, and the prints of Mexico are teeming with the most bitter invectives against him. This odium seems to have extended to the American people and Govt. to a considerable degree. The charges (so far as they can be infered from Newspapers for I see no proofs) are that Mr. P. intermed[dled] with the internal affairs of Mexico—that he formed and organised political parties—that he fomented disunion—that his object in doing so was to defraud this Govt. out of Texas. In proof of this they say that as soon as all Mexico was thrown into convulsions by the virulence of the Yorkino (founded as is said by P—) and the Escoses parties, the Jackson papers of the U. S. Simultaneously vociforated " we must have Texas "— That P— was concerned in the grants of Exiter [Exter] and Zavala, for colonizing in Texas, this caused a suspicion by inference, that as he was the agent and representative of the U. S. that Govt was also secretly a colonizer, and had improper views as to this country. To all this the little imprudences and silly expressions of some of the settlers on the frontiers of Texas and elsewhere, have been added,

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greatly magnified, and construed by some into disobedience, or a wish to be disobedient etc, etc,—To these matters, have also been superadded reports, that the present representative of the U. S. Govt to Mexico, was sent especially to purchase, Texas from Guerrero, while he had Dictatorial powers, and was under the control of Zavala, who it is known was under that of Poinsett—The *time* when this offer is said to have been made is also noticed, that is when the nation was pressed for money, and in distress owing to the spanish invasion, internal divisions etc. etc. Perhaps I hazard nothing in saying that causes may be discovered in this train of circumstances, in connection with others, which would have roused the suspicions of any people, and more particularly when it is remembered that the north is a giant, and Mexico a new and not firmly organised Govt. and also that the U. S. have silently, as it were, extended their dominion over the vast regions of Louisiana, Missouri, Oregon etc.

I give you this detail in order that you may form some idea of the apparent causes, of the change as regards Colonization in Texas— Some on the other hand say that it proceeds from British influence or from a desire to exclude foreigners and liberal principles, as a stepping stone to the establishment of a central republic, and aristocracy, or a monarchy. The free admission however of all other foreigners, into Texas except North American, and of the latter every where else in the nation seems to contradict this idea.

1— Queries: will not the true prosperity and happiness of Texas be more effectually promoted by a Swiss, French, German, and English, population, than by an American one? nature seems to have intended Texas for a vineyard to supply America with wine.—

2— Is not Slavery a curse which must lead to the total ruin and butchery of all southern slave countries, and is it not the duty of the Mexican Govt. and the true interest of every citizen of Texas to keep this country clear of it— A few years more and Mexico will be the only resting place left for the whites South of Illinois, unless the blacks are exterminated by a general massacre by the Whites; and afterwards excluded from being brought into the country— In a century more either the whites, or the blacks must cease to exist in the southern States, or they must intermarry and all be placed on an equality.—

3— Is it not rather unkind in the U. S. to try to extend its vast and unwieldy frame over a part of the territory of its neighbor? and is it not impolitic and dangerous even to the integrity of that nation to enlarge its limits any farther—?

4— Will not Texas be equally prosperous as a State of the Mexican confederation?

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5— If this Govt. totally falls into ruin and this nation should be split up into separate republics, will not Texas be better independent, than as a part of the U. S.

6— Can Texas ever be attached to the U. S. without becoming a slave state, and does not phylanthropy and the happiness of so large a portion of the human race, as can be supported here, imperiously demand, that slavery should be forever excluded from it?

7— Is it not a duty which the U. S., as being the most powerful owes to its weaker neighbor to step forward and make a full fair and candid examination of the causes which have produced the present excitements in Mexico against her citizens, and if any of them or her public agents have been in fault to make it apparent—

8— Is it not the duty of the U. S. even to overlook any little jealoucies which the Mexicans may have manifested, and to pursue a conciliatory, rather than a harsh course?—

I think that an able and prudent pen that understood the character of the Mexicans, might do much general good by discussing the above queries in a prudent and masterly manner in the Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore etc papers— the national Gazette would be a good paper for such a discussion—

News paper publications of the character of "Americanus," "Patriot" etc added to the train of circumstances which I have stated— have done great harm to the interests of Americans in Mexico— publications of an opposite character would do much good, by removing the impressions now prevalent in Mexico that all those publications proceed from the Govt. and that the object is to excite the American people to rush into Texas and take it right, or wrong.—

It has always been my policy to keep Texas out of the news papers, but it has been dragged in by others and it must now be kept in, but the other side of the question must now by discussed—that is to say, that *it ought not to be attached to the U. S.* but remain attached to Mexico— it might be stated in favor of this (with reference to the interests of Texas) that the coasting and internal trade and manufacturing advantages will afford more benefits, than anything which could be gained by an union with the North, in fact that nothing will be gained by the union but the admission of Slavery and that it would be a curse etc, etc,— And with reference to the interests of the U. S. it may be truly urged that, an extention of territory to the S. W. would cause a seperation of the union etc, etc, etc—

I recommend this matter to your attention you will of course see its vast importance, and its great delicacy— An excitement has been *written up* against the U. S. and Americans in Mexico— the object is to *write it down*—by removing the causes of jealouscy, and

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soothing the feelings of the Mexicans and even tickling their vanity in a judicious manner—

As regards my own individual views and objects I will give them to you with the most perfect frankness and candor. It has been, and is, my ambition to redeem Texas from the wilderness, and to lay a solid foundation for its future prosperity. I do not believe that, that object can be effected by any kind of union with the U. S. for such an union would of course intail slavery on this fair region, which may be made the Eden of America— satan entered the sacred garden in the shape of a serpent— if he is allowed to enter Texas in the shape of negros it will share the fate of Eden,— We have been well treated by the Mexican Govt. and we are bound by our oaths to be faithful to it— I will loose my life before I will forfeit that obligation or do aught which my duty as a Mexican citizen forbids— I wish to see a foundation laid here for the happiness of posterity, as well as for that of the present generation— I have no kind of views or ambition for office, neither am I avericious— my constitution is much broken and I wish for peace and quiet retirement on a stock farm—

Perhaps you might embark some able and *prudent* person on the *right side* of the Texas question in Philadelphia—or in other words on the side of justice and general phylanthropy and peace. I am totally incompetent to such a task, and besides it would do more good in the papers of the U. S. than here, for the excitement was gotten up *there* and *there* it ought to be put down—

Timothy Flint (the western review) at Cincinnatti would be a master hand. I had an acquaintance with him in St Louis many years ago If you go there you may if you chuse shew him this letter, *but as confidential.*

Governments like individuals are often moved by trifles— It may seem to us a silly idea that this nation can be operated on by news paper publications in the U. S.—but such is the fact (as regards Texas) for it has been deeply operated upon to our prejudice by Americanus and Patriot etc, etc—

My dear Sir let me beg of you to be prudent in the management of this matter (if you move in it at all)— Lord Chesterfield (I believe it was) said that a man had more to fear from imprudent friends than from the bitterest enemies— I am not anxious on my own account— my health warns me that my days are drawing to a close, but I have been the means of drawing many families to Texas, and their present and permanent welfare and happiness is very dear to me, and costs me many anxious hours and days— The object, of bringing forward such a country as this, is an immence and an hon-

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orable one, it requires infinitely more talents and more strength of constitution than I possess, and I wish to enlist some efficient aid.

I send you a publication made in Mexico by which you can see the general *tone* in that quarter.

As regards the removal of your family I have to say that my brother in law James F. Perry left here three weeks since to bring his, and I have this day written to him to come on in the fall and not mind what he sees in the public papers.

This is the best answer I can give to your 3d enquiry

Should you see my relative Thos. F. Leaming please remember me to him

I returned from Bexar a few days since, all is well with the State authorities— no news from Bowie or your petition— The Govt are encouraging Manufactories as you can see by the law of 6 april— write me often, our coasting trade is open for foreign vessels

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

By a pacific and just course I have brought forward this colony to what it is— the same course cannot fail to continue the advancement of its prosperity— some visionary men think that a civil war would lead to the independence of Texas— perhaps it might—but admitting it would, I have one objection to it which with me is conclusive and paramount—*it would be unjust*—this is not my only objection, there are hundreds, but this one is enough—

The settlers here are really well off, and are satisfied—the only worm that now works in their heads is that no more emigration is to come they are not to have Slaves etc—a prudent course will remove all these difficulties— We must prove to this Govt. by our conduct that we deserve its confidence—we must get in Swiss, and Germans and I think that if you could excite some educated, common sence, *practical* men of those nations to come and view this country; it would be the means of paving the way for a great emigration— our country men in general want slaves— this is a troublesome question to get on with, they must be reasoned with and brought round by degrees and prudence— The minds of the people here at this time are very quiet and settled, but one imprudent measure on the part of Govt. would have a dreadfull effect— This must be closely watched and guarded against if possible and harmony and peace preserved

I send you a copy of my letter to the Alabama Gentlemen who were out here last fall and contracted to emigrate— I have, requested them to publish it in Tuscumbia papers—they may not do it owing to what I have said about Slavery—if they do not you can if you chuse, exercise your judgement and publish it or not, as you think best, in some Philadelphia paper— write me your candid

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opinion as to the course of policy which I have indicated in this letter— if you disapprove of it—state your reasons—and suggest alterations— Try and pry into old Hickorys cabinet so far as to know what they wish to do as regards Texas, how they feel towards this nation—tho. I cannot believe that they can have any hostile feelings for I know of no just motive—

I have scribbled a long letter—too long to *Sacar en limpia*, and must send it all blotted and scratched etc. I have a rough copy of it—a correct translation of the Voz de la patria, might serve as a text, to preach from, for it will shew that hostile feelings *do* exist in Mexico, it will then be natural enough to ask, why they exist?—

S. F Austin [Rubric]

Do you know Mr. McQueen of New orleans— he writes well I am told and intends removing here exercise great judgement in enlisting prudent and safe men as writers on this subject, S. Williams has a *son*

Austin to Bartlett Sims

San Felipe, June 19, 1830.

See Calendar.

Piedras to Austin

Nacogs. Junio 21 de 830.

Sor. D. Estevan Austin.

Muy Sor mio demi respeto y Consideracion Beo pr. la deV. de 12 del corr^te^. desea ponerse de acuerdo con migo sobre algunas circunst^s^ p^a^ favorecer el pais y en tranquilidad; y como en mi hay iguales deseos, aprecio la ocasion dando principio en manifestar como me pide francam^te^. mi opinion con relacion ala Ley de 6 de Abril ultimo.

La Colonia de V. esta establecida desde q. dio cump^te^ asu primera contrata, y pr. tanto es comprend^a^ en el art^o^ 10 bastante claro p^a^ no acer bariacion en ella, y el 11 q. podria perjudicarla, no puede ser contradictorio á aquel. Tuvo V— segunda contrata y avirtud dela cual ha introducido un n^o^ de fam^s^, otras se allan en camino, y las mas enajenando sus posesiones p^a^ trasladarse, aquienes cubre el mencionado art^o^ 10, p^s^ como contratadas pr. V. forman una parte desu colonia, y solo seran comprend^s^ en el 11 aquellas q. no hallan tenido ningun compromiso con V. ni V. p^a^ con ellos, de cuya suerte no tendra un efecto retroactivo la Ley. Asi opino sujetandome al sentido literal de ella.

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Crey desde luego q. vi el decreto se pidiera aV como alos demas empresarios q. puedan allarse en su caso una noticia del n° de colonos q. tuvieran ya contratados y estuviesen en marcha, y con ella dar conocim^to^ alas autorid^s^ locales p^a^ no embarasarselas; mas hasta ahora no se ha dho á este Alcalde nada.

Ace pocos dias se presento uno consultando si podria obtener el pase, y en vista de un combenio q. mostro de V. no sele puso embaraso, respecto asu familia, y si unicam^to^ sele prohivio la entrada de esclavos q. dijo trahia. Esto dara aV. idea q. ni el Alcalde ni yo pensamos impedir la entrada de aquellos colonos q. ya tiene contratados los q. deven presentar una credencial deV.

Efectibam^to^ há avido algunos disgustos personalidades en este punto, pero son de poco momento y no creo sean á nada trasedentales. Por desgracia los q. funcionan de Alcaldes son unos pobres hombres cuyo ignorancia orijina aquellos.

Puede V. con la franqueza q. yo lo ago esplicarse con migo, deseo como V. nos pongamos de acuerdo y entiendo de este modo aremos un serv^o^ ala Patria.

Parece las cosas del interior toman mejor aspecto, y la grra civil q. se havia encendido calmara con la uniformidad conq. marchan los Estados

Las Medisinas q. havia encargdo. a V. han llegado ala Bahia segun aql. com^to^ me avisa.

Me ofresco a V. con toda consideracion y sinceridad un amo. y Servr. q. b. s. m.

JOSE DELAS PIEDRAS [Rubric]

THOMAS F. MCKINNEY TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches June 24^th^ 1830

DR SIR

I wrote you by yesterdays mail though in the greatest haste and having the present oportunity of immediate conveyance I again request that you give me whatever information you may be in possession of as to the business of this section what will be the result as to buisness already commenced. I am fearful we have lost in Padilla more than we will easily regain or perhaps more that we will at all who is the comisioner destined for this place and what do you think of his appointment viz do you think he will suit us.

From what I have heard of your health I think you would perhaps not do amiss to come and spend the sickly season with us on the Ayish byou we will move in two or three days to that section and would be sincerly glad If you could come and remain with us

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until the season Changes I shall then take a tour through the country and go to the Brazos I am desirous of seeing Mr. Fisher and getting some information necessary for commencing the coasting trade in the spring or sooner If practicable your letters directed to this place will be received without delay should I not be here.

THOMAS F. MCKINNEY [Rubric]

NB You mentioned somthing when I saw you last of the Chief of Department having said to you somthing of the subject of receiving the appointment of Xefe de Partido of this part of the Country I hope the plan has not been abandoned I am sure you could render invaluable services to this country You have some enimies from envious principles but the large majority would be gratified with an arrangement of that kind As soon as I arrived from the Brazos I wrote a single letter to each of the districts recommending to them to petition to you to come on with the Commissioner and to subscribe to you for doing so subscriptions could not be circulated before news arrived of the Comisioner leaving St Philepe though considerably above a thousand Dollars were subscribed and three times the amt would have been subscribed but on hearing he had left St Philipe the matter was droped respt

MCKINNEY [Rubric]

JOSEPH MILLER TO AUSTIN

San Felipe, June 24, 1830.

See Calendar.

J. M. IBARRA TO AUSTIN

June 26, 1830.

See Calendar.

EDITORIAL BY AUSTIN

[Texas Gazette, June 26, 1830: Attempting to allay uneasiness caused by the law of April 6, 1830, and at the same time emphasizing, for its effect on the government, the services of the colonists to the nation. Omitted.]

AUSTIN TO PIEDRAS

San Felipe de Austin 28. de June 1830

Sor Dn JOSE DE LAS PIEDRAS

Tengo a la vista la muy apreciable de V. fecha 21 del presente y doy á V. las mas espresivas gracias por la franqueza y amistad con

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que se ha servido V. contestar a la mia del 12. relativo a la ley de 6 de Avril—

Ahier recibi una carta del Exmo Sor. Gral Teran en que me dice que no hay inconvenientes en que yo introdujese todas las familias de mis contratos, y que se dara instrucciones a los comandantes de la frontera de respetar los certificados espedidos por mi a los emigrados comprendidos en mis contratos, por este correo voy a escribir a S E. sobre la materia y remitire la copia de la forma de los certificados que he usado y que usaré por lo futuro, para estar de acuerdo aun hasta todos los pormenores y ahora remito a V. una copia de los dhos certificados—para su conocim^{to}

El articulo 13 de la constitucion ha determinado la cuestion sobre esclavos y no cabe duda que no se puede ni debe traherlos en clase de esclavos— La Legislatura del Estado dio una ley No. 56 fecha 5 de mayo 1828 por la cual "se garantizan por validos en el estado todos los contratos, que no oponiendose a las leyes del mismo se hayan celebrado en paises estrangeros entre los emigrados que vengan a avecindarse al mismo Estado ó habitantes de el, y los servientes y jornaleros que se introduzcan"— Bajo esta ley los emigrados quieren traher sus servientes de casa y algunos jornaleros de campo y creo que no habra inconveniente en permitirlo puesto que la ley lo permite, y los que se introduscan spre quedaran en la clase de libres de conformidad con el ar^{o} 13 de la constitucion—

Se ha tenido una idea iquivocada con respecto a la ley de 6 de avril, y confieso que yo en comun con otros cayé en el error, motivo porque dije en mi ultima que no me parecio muy buena esta medida del Gob^{no} Gral—pero ahora que lo entiendo mejor no me parece mala la ley,

El aspecto de los asuntos politicos ofrece buenas esperanzas de ver paz y union en toda la nacion, y en Texas no dudo de que en lo futuro iremos adelantando de modo que van desapareciendo todos los motivos de inquietudes por todos rumbos.

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Horatio Alsberry to Austin

Comargo 29th June 1830

Dr Sir,

The bearer of this letter goes to New Orleans with letters from a Lady of this place to her husband one of the Expulsed Spaniards in which is enclosed a passport or certificate from Mexico that he is excepted from the law of twenty Eight with the intention of bringing him to the Brazos if not to Comargo He is a gentleman highly Esteemed, here by Every person by request of his wife I address

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you this letter requesting you as a friend to the distressed and oppressed that should your influence be necessary for the forwarding on of the Express or the protection of Don Gaspar Sais (Dicha Spaniard) should he come to Brazos, to use your influence in his behalf also if you see proper to write him a note promising your protection by the Express and by so doing procure a wealthy and respectable citizen in your Colony as she wishes to move on and join him in Septembre—

yesterday arrived here above a hundred convicts destined for Texas condemned to three years labor on the public buildings that General Teran is going to Establish there (for vagrants) Report says here that you have notified the general that if he does not take immediate steps to establish a military force in Tejas that there will be revolution in Nacogdoches Also that eighteen thousand spaniards have disembarked in Tejas and destroyed the Military force of that Department the latter however is not believed Several Companies of troops have and are starting on to that point and an officer yesterday told me that they were going to "Empinar" the Americans in Tejas "muy pronto" There is a great deal said of the Spanish Expedition this fall Also that Bustamente is determined to stop the emigration of Americans to Tejas and even expulse those that are there however Teran speaks highly of you and your colony but does not yet know when he will start for Tejas you will oblige me by contesting [answering] this

HORATIO A. ALSBERRY

[Addressed] Al C. Esteban F. Austin En San Felipe Rio Brazos

AUSTIN TO TERAN

San Felipe de Austin 28 de Junio de 1830

Sor Dn. MANUEL DE MIER Y TERAN

MUY APRECIABLE AMIGO DE MI MAS ALTA CONSIDERACION A las doce del dia de hayer recibi la muy apreciable de V. del 15 del presente mes. Antes de referirme a su contendio pido que V. me permita esplicar las circunstancias bajo las cuales escribi la mia del 18 del po. po.

Acabé de llegar a mi casa despues de una aucencia de un mes en el campo con los agrimensores, encontré con el pueblo alborotado é inquieto á causa de mil rumores falsos. Mi salud era malissima, volvi a casa con la esperanza de poder dascansar un poco, pero en lugar de descanso todo fue al contrario. Me pareció que la ley de 6 de avril en su 10° ar° cubrio mi colonia, pero adverti que el oficio del Exmo Sor ministro de relaciones era muy terminante, de poner punto, a la emigracion de norte Americanos sin ecsepcion, muchos de los

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colonos esperaban en el otoño ó invierno, sus parientes, hermanos, padres etc, y se espantaron, y todos me molieron—Tal vez se puede sacar de tales circunstancias una paliacion p^{a} espresiones peculiares en una carta escrita con todo el peso de ellas cargado de repente sobre el escritor—

Despues de algunas horas, de refleccion me convenci que habia cometido un error y quisiera borrar muchas espresiones de mi carta por espresar temores sin fundacion, pero ya era tarde, el correo habia salido y me consolio con la esperanza que V. en su contestacion me hablaria con la franqueza de un amigo, y no con la severidad de un Gefe,—asi con efecto ha sucedido, y ha añadido V. por este, otro motivo p^{a} mi agradecim^{to}.—

Aunqe. pueda manifestar un poco de ecsaltacion, unas espresiones de mi carta, no he tenido la imprudencia de demostrar la delante de otros. al contrario apasigue los temores del pueblo causados por los rumores, y les infundi confianza en el Gob^{no}.—En principios de este mes llegaron otros rumores y para contrariarlos se puso unas reflecciones en la Gazeta del—— acompañado con traduccion de la carta del Exmo Sor Vice Presidente— En la Gazeta del 26 se puso otras, para contrariar los rumores relativos a la imigracion de los indios del norte— Estos parafos han tenido el mas feliz resultado, y si hay un pueblo en el mundo que son contentos y quietos, es aqui en esta colonia— Todavia no se ha publicado en Yngles la ley de 6 de avril—en la Gazeta del sabado venidero voy a ponerla con el oficio de V. al Sor Piedras cuya copia me incluyo— La razon por que no fue publicada esta ley antes, es que quise accompañarla con alguna aclaracion de los articulos 10 y 11. po. hasta ahora no he podido dar tal aclaracion en un modo suficientemente formal para quitar de una vez toda duda hago esta relacion para convencer a V. que si hablé con exsaltacion en mi carta a V. me he empeñado para sofocarla en otros.

Refiriendome a la carta de V. me parece muy justas y bien fundadas sus reflecciones y confieso que he tenido dudas con respecto al objeto de la ley de 6 de avril que fueron fundadas sin datos suficientes y que ahora tengo ideas muy distintas, y enteram^{te} satisfatorias— En efecto hay una necesidad grandissima de dar arreglo metodico a los emigrados dispersos sobre la frontera, la tranquilidad de Tejas y el de cada hombre de vien en el pais lo demanda imperiosam^{te}. Ha habido desorden sobre aquella frontera y spre habra bajo cualquiera Gob^{no} del mundo con solam^{te} un alcalde ignorante, elegido cada año por un pueblo compuesto de muchos hombres malos é ignorantes y asi he dicho al Gob^{no} del Estado desde 1825. Tambien los Indios del pais y los Indios emigrados del norte merecen atencion— aquellos van á perecer sino se les dan un terreno fijo y determinado con un titulo legal de posecion, para fundarse permanente en clase

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de labradores, y estos son intrusos que sera nesesario manejar con bastante prudencia, y buscar medios de establecerlos en puntos retirados sin que vengan otros del norte

Parece que hay una necesidad del establecim^to^ formal de una villa Maritima sobre la Isla de Galveston, Tengo completado las mensuras de toda la Margen occidental de esta Bahia, y datos suficientes de la oriental para formar una mapa topografica ecsacta de ella, la que remetere á V. si acaso no viene V. aqui pronto p^a^ qe. pueda V tener todos los datos posibles sobre la materia, pues entiendo qe. los establecim^tos^ de esta naturaleza son peculiares a la comision de V.

Por mi parte coadyuveré en cuanto puedo, para cumplir los deseos de V en el adelanto de Texas— Parece que hay ideas [This draft ends here.]

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Henry Austin to Austin

Matamoros July 2d. 1830

Col S F Austin

My dear Sir I have rec^d^ your favor dated Bexar June 1^st^ and regret to observe you have heard nothing of my application for a grant of land— My agent at Saltillo said under date 8 May that he had made enquiry and found my business in a fair train, that some document wanted your signature, this the Gov^t^ had sent to Texas for signature and so soon as returned signed the solicitation would be atended to—but as orders have been rec^d^ from the Genl Govt not to grant any more land to citizens of the US I fear I shall be defeated—

The law of the 6 April no doubt originated in a Jealousy of the Views of the US and fears of the growing strength of the Colonists in Texas— The Govts and people of Mexico appear to become more hostile daily to the citizens of the US. and I am of opinion will ultimately drive them from Mexico or reduce the U S to the necessity of compelling them to respect the rights of her Citizens— The authoritys here are now enforcing a law of this state which requires all foreign Merchants except *English*, *German* and *Dutch* to pay one pr c^t^ on their capital in trade and on all importation during the last year, whether on acct or consignment—

This *retroactive* law in direct contravention of the Cons[titu]tion is levelled so directly against the citizens of the US (they being the only merchts affected by it) as to give good grounds for serious alarms, they are compelled to pay instanter or go to prison—

Gen^l^ Teran is still here with two or three hundred men he is supposed to have orders to march to Texas but I am of opinion he will

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not leave this— The receipts at this custom house are the only resource for the payment of the troops in this department, the Gen[l] probably suspects that heretofore not one half the legal duties have gone to acc[t] of Gov[t] and seems determined that in future every dollar shall be secured his troops perform the duty of French *Gens d'Arms* every point is guarded and the soldiers appear to be converted into custom house officers— The Gen[l] dictates in all things he will kill the goose in search of the golden eggs as this troublesome and hazardous trade is profitless paying the whole dutys and will be abandoned—

It is now said 1600 men are to be here shortly *to be drilled* I do not believe they will be marched to the frontier as the Gen[l] is convinced that the apprehensions of hostilitys by the US are without grounds and that the colonists are content to remain as they are He professes a disposition to favor the colonists in everything, says he will make this part of the country flourish etc, but until more stability can be infused into their Govt this is impossible

I think he has more apprehension of a Grito for Centralism in the South and a separation of those northern states which are federal, than of the US or Texas where in fact there is nothing to fear until outrage shall produce difficulty—

I also suspect he counts upon much support from Texas in such an event— I have abandoned the Navigation of this river, as I have no benefit from the past and no security for the future—and am preparing the steamboat for Sea I should be off in a Week could I close my business but I do not like to leave 6 or 8000 dollars behind me and shall continue two weeks to save what I can and leave the rest to an agent— My intention is to run first to the Brassos de dios where if the boat can be employed she shall remain, if not, when the season will permit I will take her to the Teché River— She is a boat of great speed and power carrys 100.000 lbs freight and according to Capt J Austins acc[t] can run up to St philipe excepting in the lowest water— If she could get one full freight a Month at the present rate of costage she would do better than here—and the influx of population and goods should I think warrant the expectation of so much employment— Col Bradburn has again joined the army under Gen[l] Teran and is now under orders for Galveston in one of two Gov[t] Schrs expected from Tampico ostensibly to survey the coast of Texas— he is also I believe to act as commisary for supplying the troops with provisions from N orleans, He has recently returned from orleans where he was sent by the Gen[l] for the purpose as I have reason to believe of ascertaining the object of the US in establishing a port on the sabine and to collect information as to the views of the Colonists— His report

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as far as I can discover was that the troops were Stationed near the frontier to prevent smuggling and that the colonists were quiet and well disposed excepting some newcomers and idle disorderly young men that no measures were necessary but to support Col Austin with sufficient authority to controul this class of people you ask if I am on good terms with the Gen[l] I was on the best of terms and had a high opinion of him, but since his return from Tampico he has been too great a man to hold familiar intercourse with— he obviously wishes to make himself popular in Texas and here— but here he has rendered himself very unpopular, and is now thought to be a very weak and arbitrary man— I am told he says "the north americans who now think him their enemy will in a few months be perfectly satisfied with him—" what does this mean can he contemplate bringing about some important change?

I wrote you two letters by Capt[n] J Austin which I hope went safe altho he had the misfortune to loose his sloop near Matagorda— I adhere to the opinion expressed in the last. the report by capt Harkens that you were coming here on your return from Bexar gratified the Genl very much and he expresses a strong desire to see you *here*

If it please God to permit me to escape from this detestable place alive and to reach the Brassos in safety I may have the pleasure to see you within a month but so many difficultys spring up here unexpectedly that no man can calculate upon any thing a week a head— at present there is nothing in the way to prevent my prompt departure but my reluctance to leave a large amount of property to the mercy of agents in such a country—

H Austin [Rubric]

The country is parched with drought Thermometor at 98 or 100 in the shade I fear the river may dry up and prevent my departure The Sand drifts like the desart of arabia and makes us very uncomfortable

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Editorial by Austin in Texas Gazette[1]

We this day publish a translation of the law passed by the National Congress, on the 6th of April last, and also, the official letter of his Excellency General Manuel de Mier y Teran, to the Empresario of this colony.

By an attentive perusal of the law it will be seen, that the privileges granted in it relative to the coasting trade, and to the introduc-

[1] Issue of July 8, 1830. It is followed by a translation of Teran's letter to Austin June 14, 1830, quoting letter to Piedras of same date giving interpretation of the law of April 6, 1830. This is followed by translation of the law of April 6.

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tion of provisions and lumber free of duty into the ports of Galveston and Matagorda are of the highest importance to the prosperity of Texas, and must tend most efficiently to promote its rapid advancement.

The encouragement offered for the establishment of manufactories is also important, and there cannot be a doubt that many enterprising capitalists will turn their attention to that branch of industry. Perhaps no country combines more real advantages than are presented in Texas for the establishment of cotton and woolen factories. The raw material of the best quality can be raised in the greatest abundance, and cheaper than in any other part of North America. Our soil yields the most luxuriant growth of cotton of the best quality. Our natural pasturage for sheep, in the undulating and hilly sections in the northern parts of Texas, are surpassed by none in any country; and countless thousands of them may be raised, with no other expense than a few shepherds. Provisions may be easily produced. Good situations for machinery, with water, steam, or ox power are numerous. Our harbors are sufficient for all the purposes of commerce. Our communications with the Mexican ports are open and unembarrassed. The markets, in those ports, are the best in the world, for the sale of cotton or other woolen goods, such as might be manufactured in Texas. In short, all that nature and a liberal and munificent government can do has been done, and nothing is now wanting but capital, enterprise and industry.

The 10th. article of the law clearly secures the rights of the colonists who are already settled. It also guarantees the rights of all the emigrants who are comprehended in the contracts of empresarios whose colonies are established, and permits the full completion of such contracts, to the full number contracted for. So that emigration to the colony is not stopped as was erroneously rumored. The settlers who are not comprehended in any colony, may also be provided for, as will be seen by reference to the powers granted to the General Government [Commandant] in the 3rd article.

The official letter of his Excellency General Teran, the commissioner of the General Government, under the 3rd article, is very clear and explicit, as to the interpretation of the law, and as to the just and liberal views of the General Government, under whose instructions he is acting.

The name of this distinguished patriot and scientific general is closely connected with some of the most interesting events in Mexican history. A soldier under the banner of freedom from the first epoch of the revolution, he has uniformly been a firm defender of the rights of his countrymen. As a legislator in the first constituent congress,

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his voice was raised in opposition to despotism and in favor of a free, liberal and constitutional government. As secretary of war he established system and organization in the army after the convulsions of the Emperor's short reign. At Tampico the invaders of his country sank before his military genius, and received from his humanity that protection and succor which their prowess could not secure to them. As commandant general of the eastern military department and commissioner of the General Government for regulating the colonies of Texas and establishing new ones, he will provide for the defense and permanent security of Texas from the Indians, and lay a foundation for such additional colonial establishments and maritime towns and fortifications as may be necessary to advance its prosperity.

The section of country east of this colony and particularly the Nacogdoches and Ais districts, demand the prompt attention of government. The land affairs of those sections require adjustment, and a totally different organization of the local government is much needed. Instead of having the whole civil and judicial power of the local government vested in alcaldes elected annually, it would be better to have a separate partido laid off with a chief of partido, and in addition to the alcaldes there ought to be a *juez de letras*, or judge learned in the law, appointed in the manner prescribed in the constitution, with a salary to insure a man of talents and qualifications. It is sufficient to merely know how the local government of that section of country is and always has been organized to understand the causes of all the little local difficulties which have arisen there. It cannot be supposed that an alcalde annually changed and elected by popular vote from the mass of a people speaking a variety of languages and who are themselves in general ignorant of the laws should be capable of discharging so important and responsible a position as that of a judge, whose jurisdiction embraces the investigation of all matters of controversy and all criminal cases without limit. Under three hundred dollars his jurisdiction is final, over that sum there is the right of appeal to the supreme court at Saltillo, *six hundred miles distant*. The alcaldes, however, cannot give final judgement in any important civil case and in no capital criminal case, without first consulting the *assesor general*, or attorney general who lives at Saltillo. It is very evident that such a system cannot secure to the people, nor to the government the benefits which organization and regular administration of the laws are designed to produce. The objections to the present alcalde system will apply more or less to every part of the state, and are very evident. They are severely felt here as well as elsewhere, for although the public tranquility has never been interrupted in this colony from its first

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establishment up to the present time, yet great individual inconvenience is daily experienced from this mode of administration of the laws.

Austin to James F. Perry

Austin July 4. 1830

Dr Brother

I embrace an opportunity to say to you that all the difficulties which appeared to be brewing when you were here have passed away, and everything is going on well, and emigration to my colony will not be stoped— I have given you this information least what you see in the U. S. papers should cause you to forget what I told you, which was to have faith in me, and to pay no attention to any thing you saw or heard that did not come from me— I know more about these matters than the news papers and every thing has happen^{d} exactly as I told you it would, when you left here.

The custom house at Galveston is suspended by order of Govt. and the reason given is that the exemptions from duties in favor of the colonist of Texas has rendered it unnecessary to establish any custom houses here for the present— All goes on well, very well,— Take care tho and bring no Tobacco, except a little of choise quality to chew for the use of the colonists, and try and get in by the 1 of December

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

I have sent a copy of the above to price and Morgan Phi^{a} I have engaged the building of a house in this place for you to winter in and a store room etc— bring all manner of peach seeds and a barrel of them—Sam Browne is well and more and more pleased with the country the more he sees— remember me to the children

A [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mrs. Emily M. Perry Potosi Missouri

Musquiz to Governor

[From Bexar Archives]

Gefatura &^{a}—Exmo Sor. No. 133—Traslado á la superioridad de V. E. respetuosammente la comunicacion oficial que me had dirijido el Empresario Ciudadano Estevan Austin con fha. 14 del p^{o} p^{o}. Junio q^{o} á la letra es como sigue—

"Sobre dar noticia del estado que guarda la tranquilidad publica de su Colonia, el de la siembra, y citar en corr^{te} la maquina de Vapor p^{a} aserrar maderas &^{a}—

Cuya comunicacion si V. E. lo tiene á bien será muy conveniente darla al publico por medio de la Gazeta establecida en esa Capital, á

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objeto de que los habitantes del Estado y de los puntos á donde se dirije este periódico, formen la idea favorable que se merecen los colonos de las Empresas del C. Estevan Austin, y tambien p^{a} deshacer los herrores en q^{e} incidió un Señor Senador en la secion del dia 31 de Marzo de este año al discutirse en su camara el proyecto de Ley sobre conservar el territorio de la Republica, maxime cuando la Justicia reclama en favor de estos industriosos y smpre. ocupados pobladores, declarar: que en ningun tiempo han despreciado las leyes ni desobedecido á las autoridades del pais que han adoptado por patria, y mucho menos embarazar el ejercicio del culto Divino al Cura Párroco, pues el Ministro que está destinado p^{r} el Sor Gobernador de este Obispado con aprobacion de V. E, hasta ahora no sé por que motivo permanece en la Villa de Goliad—Dios &^{a}—Bejar 4. de Julio de 1830—E S—R M—Exmo. Sor. Gob^{or} del Est^{o}. de Coahuila y Texas—

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin

Nacogdoches 5 de Julio de 1830.

Sr. D. Esteban F. Austin.

Mi estimado Amigo: Mañana sale de esta nro buen amigo el Sr. D. Tomas Jefferson Chambers, á qn. hé constituido mi apoderado para que disponga como mejor le paresca de mis tierras compradas al Gob^{o} enla cantidad q baste á conseguirme un poco de dinero que necesito para pagar al Gob^{no} una deuda de 600 p^{s} que le resto, parte de los rendimientos del papel sellado, y parte de un auxilio que me franqueó en el Salt^{o} para expensas de mi viage.

En esta virtud hede deber á V. el favor de que ponga en manos de mi apoderado los titulos delas tierras que sean mejores para el fin propuesto, y que con su influxo y autoridad contribuya eficazmente ál pronto y buen exito de un asunto, q tanto interesa á mi honor, vilipendiado por las pasiones de una manera la mas atroz que pudo inventar la calumnia.

Amigo mio: con relacion á mi asunto principal, estoy en el estado de al principio; todavia hasta la fecha no se me há tomado mi confecion con cargos despues de que cuento setenta y un dias de rigorosa prision. Me dicen que están en camino mis acusadores y testigos. Es regular se verifique el careo con ellos, y todos los demas tramites legales, se abrirá la puerta á mis defenzas, y es regular se me oiga.

Si hay alguna persona segura que venga para esta, hagame V. el favor de reconocer mis papeles particulares que dejé en su casa dentro de un cajon, y sacar de ellos, y remitirme un Libro grande titulado *Curia Philipica*, y tambien un cuaderno manuscrito de á

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folio, que está en pliegos sueltos y se titula el *abogado Mejicano* ofreciendo al conductor alguna gratificacion, que yo pagaré aqui inmediatamente.

Sirvase V. decirme alguna cosa con relacion á la concesion de tierras q hizo el Gob° al Sr. Campos, y q le tengo á V. remitida; para decir al interesado lo q hay, en el concepto de que yo me intereso mucho en servirlo, y deseo hacerlo.

Mantengase V. con toda salud, y disponga dela buena voluntad de su amigo Q. B. S. M.

J. ANTONIO PADILLA [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO THOMAS BARNETT

Department of Bexar
Jurisdiction of Austin

To the Citizen Thomas Barnett constitutional Alcalde of the jurisdiction of Austin.

The petition of Stephen F Austin a Citizen of the Jurisdiction aforesaid, With respect represents that James E. B. Austin late of the Jurisdiction aforesaid died some time since leaving his surviving widow and an infant male Child now aged about nineteen months. That at the time of the death of the said James, he held in his name an undivided fourth part in a league of land granted by the Mexican Government to Elias R. Wightman, lying at the mouth of the Colorado River and being the same part of which has been laid off by Elias R. Wightman, and persons interested into squares and lots with a view of fixing upon this same as a town site, Your petitioner further represents that the fourth part of the said League which is in the name of the said James E. B. Austin is really the property of your petitioner which he will make appear as soon as circumstances will permit and that the other three fourths are owned in unequal portions by H. H. League, Ira Ingram and the said Elias R. Wightman. The said League of land lying immediately at the mouth of the Colorado River and partly on the Bay of Matagorda, is thought to be an eligible situation upon which to fix a town site.

That the persons now interested in the said league of land wish to associate themselves together for the purpose of laying off a town on said league by which it will be rendered more valuable and more immediately productive.

That in order to effect this and enable him to act, he should be vested with power and authority to act and bind himself in his representative capacity (so long as he acts in that capacity) as administrator of the said James E. B. Austin deceased to do and perform

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all and every act, Jointly with the other persons interested in the said league or with such others as may hereafter become legally interested therein with power and authority to sell lease or otherwise bind the said land or make donations thereof. Jointly with the said other persons interested, and your petitioner prays such other and further relief in the premises, as from Equity, justice and law he may be entitled to and as in duty etc.

(Signed) S. F. AUSTIN.

Austin 6th July 1830

Department of Bexar
Jurisdiction of Austin

Having read and maturely considered the facts stated in the foregoing petition and the evidence advanced in support thereof it is by reason thereof and of the law, and it having been made clearly to appear to my satisfaction that the land mentioned in the foregoing petition when laid off in part or in whole, into town lots will greatly increase the value thereof and will besides render it more immediately productive. It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed that Stephen F Austin administrator of the estate of James E B Austin deceased be authorized and empowered and he is hereby authorized and empowered to form and connect himself into an association with the present owners of the league of land refered to in Plff. petition or with any other persons who may hereafter acquire an interest therein necessary to carry views of the said association into full and compleat effect having for object the establishment of a town on the said league of land—and in order to vest the said Stephen F Austin with full and compleat powers to do whatever may be necessary to the completion of the object set forth in the foregoing petition. It is further ordered adjudged and decreed that the said Stephen F Austin is hereby clothed with authority to sell transfer, lease, give or grant Jointly with the persons interested or who may hereafter become interested in the said league of land, any part or portion thereof, and it is further ordered and decreed that in order to effect the said object, and with a view to give regularity and permanancy to said association of present and future owners, the said Stephen F Austin is hereby authorized and empowered to sign a constitution or charter for the government of the said association to make, agree to and consent to any rules or by-laws entered into by the said association of the present or future owners of the said league of land which may be deemed necessary for their government. Signed with assisting witnesses as the law requires at my offce in the town of San Felipe de Austin this seventh day of July in the year of Our Lord, 1830.

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(Signed) Thos. Barnett assisting witness L. Lesassier Assisting witness Samuel M. Williams.

the words on first page "them" erased on second page the words "more valuable and" inserted. the third page the word "said" erased.—

I hereby Certify that I have carefully compared the foregoing copy with the original petition and decree in my possession and declare it to be an exact Copy of the original document.

Houston May 31, 1837

I. R. Lewis [Rubric]

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Bexar, July 8, 1830.

See Calendar.

Jesse Woodbury to Austin

Sn Felipe de Austin 8th July 1830

Recd of Stephen F Austin fourteen Dollars handed me by him for the purpose of my purchasing for him in New York some Books as per Memorandum given Me by sd Austin

Jesse Woodbury

J. WoodBury Jr.

Bot of Collins and Hanney No. 230 Pearl Street

1 Websters Dictionary	$2.00
2 Spanish and English do	$4.00
January 27th 1831. Recd Payt	$6.00

The orthography of The Spanish academy of Madrid Could not be found Through The City

J W Jr

Mariano Cosio to Austin

Goliad, July 10, 1830.

See Calendar.

Rafael Chovel to Austin

Guadalupe, July 10, 1930.

See Calendar.

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An Article by Austin

[*Texas Gazette*, July 10, 1830. Political conditions in Mexico becoming more tranquil. Cordial attitude toward the United States. Omitted.]

Austin to James F. Perry

San Felipe de Austin July 11 1830

Dr Brother

I wrote you a few days ago to Potosi and to Philadelphia and now improve the opportunity presented by Cap Brown who goes direct to new york in the Sloop Nelson he is a settler here and has a good house at Brazoria, and intends returning immediately with a new vessel suitable for this trade— I[t] would be a good opportunity for you to send out your goods. Col Jesse Woodberry who was here with you goes out in the Nelson and will return in her should you wish for information write to Austin and Tayleur New York. The first of that house John P. Austin is a cousin of mine, a brother of Henry, Horace, etc. Woodberry will do his business with them.

Fisher the collector of Galveston has rec^{d} orders from Gov^{t} to suspend the custom house at Galveston for the present the reason assigned is that no custom house is wanting, owing to the exemptions from duties and other laws in favor of Texas.

I made an engagement with Mr Morton to put me up a small brick house in this place that would do for you to winter in, but he has been taken sick, and I fear a total disappointment. The steam mill is going and does very well, and I will have a house ready, either here, or at the point on the bay—

I think it will not be material which place you land at, Brazoria or Harrisburgh, the water over red fish bar is about the same as over the Brazos bar 5 feet— it will be more convenient to send goods to Trinity from Harrisburgh— I think that you might bring out a considerable assortment and some indian goods among them one hundred troops are stationed on the Brasos at the upper or San Antonio road and a small store would do well there to supply them and the indians— there has been a great emigration and this fall it will be much greater than ever. I need some articles. I hold the commission of full colonel of the militia, the law requires that I should provide myself with an uniform The uniform is that of a colonel of infantry of the Mexican Army, with gold epaulets and gold or yellow mounted sword etc.—The uniform coat and the

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epaulets ought to be made in a particular manner. and unless you could meet with some one in Ph[a] who could give instructions about them, it would be difficult to get them of the right kind— Tho I must have a Sword, Sash, and belt, yellow Mounted. I also want a military surtout with a standing collar, handsomely tho plainly trimmed with black silk cord and pantaloons trimmed in the same manner— All of navy blue clothe. also a scarlet wescott with gold round cord on the edges, a pair of boots and yellow spurs— As I am the highest militia officer of Texas it is expected that I should provide myself with these things and a handsome set of holsters. Also a yellow bitted bridle—I cannot use an american saddle, but should like a spanish saddle well rigged— that I can get here—

I want Vattel's law of nations in spanish, a portable writing desk, and a large plain secretary and book case to keep my private papers in— such a thing cannot be got here except at great cost.

If Tanner makes a good profit out of the Map I sent him he ought to give me one of his best bound and last American Atlass, it is the best now extant and would be very useful to teach the children geography—

I have sent the Texas gazette containing the law of 6 april to the Editor of the Nat. Gazette where you can see it I wish you to subscribe for that paper and for the *quarterly review* for me, and have them sent in packages to an agent in new orleans to be sent out by private conveyance by water, otherwise I shall not get the half of them, and if such an arrangement cannot be made it will be useless to take them.

Our colony matters are getting on very well, there is the utmost harmony among the settlers and between them and the Government. All the difficulties which appeared to be brewing when you were here about stopping emigration from the U. S. have passed away and I have been officially informed that I can go on and introduce the whole number of families I have contracted for and finish all my contracts— My standing with the Govt. has always been good and it is better now than ever, for they know more of me owing to the investigations which the stir in april created, by which it has appeared that I am the only empresario that has done any thing who has performed his duty and followed the law in good faith. The advertisements in the U. S. papers by D A. Smith and others to sell millions of acres in Texas has done great harm for all that kind of speculation is fraudulent and it threw a shade of suspicion and censure at first, over *all* the empresarios. My letter to Leaming that was published in the Nat. Gazette has made some of those speculating gentlemen my bitter and deadly enemies—and they are now secretly

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at work in Mexico to try and get revenge by injuring me— they will find themselves gnawing a file—

I wrote to Leaming to send me a genealogical account of my mothers family— call on him for it. Also bring or send me the number of the Nat. Gazette that has my letter about selling Texas lands—I wish for it to send to the Govt. in case those gentry should attempt to injure me, also get the newspapers that contain their advertisements on the subject.

Instead of roaming about in other countries to speculate I have devoted my life to the arduous task of trying to redeem this country from the wilderness and I have succeeded greatly beyond what was supposed possible, for I was ridiculed by some for attempting such a thing. I had no capital, and have supplied its defect by personal labor and attention, and by putting my shoulder to the wheel in earnest and in good faith. I have not made a fortune for my self (except in lands which now have no value) and probably shall not live to derive much personal benifit, but I have greatly benifited many others, hundreds of them, and made them and their families rich who were worth nothing before, and I have opened and enlarged a fine field for human enterprise and human happiness. This has always been the main object of my ambition and not a mere avaricious view to personal speculation. I have no fears that my motives or my acts will not receive the reward in public opinion which they merit, or that a few speculators can materially injure me, but they may harrass me. In a democratic republic enemies are sometimes more troublesome and dangerous than in any other form of Govt. for popular opinion is as often moved by whim or accident, as by reason or justice

Farewell I long to see you that we may all settle down on a quiet Stock farm, far from the reach of politics or popular whims—

S. F. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO PIEDRAS

San Felipe de Austin 12 de Julio 1830

Sor. D. JOSE DE LAS PIEDRAS

MUY SOR MIO DE TODA MI CONSIDERACION. Recibi por este correo la muy grata de V. fecha 6 del que rige, con la copia del oficio del Exmo Sor Com^{te} gral.

Doy á V. las mas expresivas gracias por su bondad y la disposicion amistosa que me ha manifestado en este asunto

Muy Sor mio, que de errores, y de males han resultado de las intrigas atribuidas a Poinset! que de confusiones han procedido de los estravios de la senda constitucional desde la horrorosa jornada

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de la Acordada! Parece que el error y las equivocaciones y la giloria se habian apoderado de la opinion publica con respecto a Texas y las nuevas colonias. Por mi parte protesto ante el gran Dios que no he tenido nunca jamas, las mas minimas miras contrarias al interes de Mexico, ni contrarias a mi deber como Ciudadano Mexicano— No creo que es el interes de Texas unirse al norte aun suponiendo tal cosa posible, y asi he dicho al Gob^no repetidas veces desde Junio del año pasado—lo que he dicho es que deben haber una organizacion mas arreglada del Gob^no local, y esta es evedente a todo el mundo que sabe algo de Texas—

En esta colonia no hay discontento ni nunca ha habido contra el Gob^no al contrario todos los colonos son satisfechos con su situacion, pero parece que en Mexico han tenido otras ideas—Son enteramente equivocadas. Sin embargo es presiso confesar que las intrigas de Poinset han dado una fundacion alo menos especion para sospechar qualquier cosa— Parece que las nubes de error van despareciendo ante la sabiduria y acierto del Sor Alaman que todo va sentandose sobre su verdadera base—

Se pub[l]ico en la gazeta de esta traduccion del officio del Sor Terán que S. E. me remitio al efecto. y en la proxima gazeta se incertira el original en Castellano.

Me repito a V. un *Mexicano* que perdera su vida antes de faltar a su deber ó a su honor—y que desea estrechar sus relaciones amistosas con V.—y B. S. M.

E. F. A.

Austin to José Antonio Navarro[1]

San Felipe de Austin 13 de Julio 1830.

Sor D^n Jose Antonio Navarro

Mi amigo amado. En una nota en mi carta al Sor Ruiz por el ultimo correo le encargué decir á V. que habia remitido copia de su carta al Sor Maylam, y que no escribi a V. a causa de la primura del tpo

Opino que no habra dificultad en la comision de V. Sin embargo fundo mi opinion en lo que me dijo Maylam—el me dijo que ya tenia las familias alli prontas a recibir sus titulos, y que en breve tpo se podia despachar todo el asunto— Sobre las mensuras creo que no habra dificultades, porque aunque sera imposible conseguir Agremensores en el precio que ha fijado la ultima ley del Estados en la materia, creo que los interesados pagarán a los agremensores por contratos voluntarios celebrados antes de hacer la medida—El

[1] From Lamar Papers, Texas State Library.

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Sor. Maylam me dijo que publicaria la ley sobre las mensuras, y entonces que darian a los interesados, que podian proporcionar le—[torn]—los hombres necesarios p[a] [hacer mensuras para ellos al mismo tiempo] . . . ha adelantado sobre manera en aprender la teoria y ahora ha salido al campo unos pocos dias para aprender la practica, entonces va a escribir al Sor Maylam por el ultimo correo que mi carta y la copia [llego al mano]—[torn]—de V en Nacogdoches y salio de alli para agitar el asunto y tener todo preparado para despachar el asunto a la llegada de V. y por este correo le escribo otra vez—y no dudo de que el tendra la materia toda arreglada sin dificultad

Creo que Jose Maria [Corbajal] estara en esa en dos semanas lo mas tarde—

Se arreglara todo aqui relativo a la eleccion de conformidad con lo que me dice el Amigo Dn. Ramon

Yo he de salir precisam[te] mañana para arriba a ver el Sor Ruis pero no tardaré en volver pronto a esta.

Su amigo

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Austin to Secretary of Relations[1]

San Felipe de Austin, July 13, 1830.

Dear Sir:

I have learned from the public prints that various rumors have upset public opinion concerning the colonies of Texas; rumors without the least foundation in fact, although not without a specious basis. Much injustice may sometimes proceed from a mistaken opinion concerning an individual or a community, and I believe it is the duty of every man to contribute in so far as he is able to the correction of errors. In this opinion, and in obedience to the truth, I have believed it to be my duty to explain to you (what I have constantly manifested to the authorities of the state) that there has never been the least disturbance of good order in this colony, and that the inhabitants have always been obedient to the authorities.

The idea that the colonists of Texas wish to separate from Mexico is entirely mistaken; there is not, and never has been, such an idea in the sensible part of the colonists, because it is very evident that it is not to the interest of Texas to be separated from Mexico, even if such a thing were possible. These colonists, Dear Sir, are not discontented nor dissatisfied; nor have they shown [any] discontent until after the circulation here of a thousand alarming rumors con-

[1] University of Texas, Transcripts from Department of Fomento, Colonisacion, Legajo 61, expediente 47. The translation is by the editor.

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cerning the excitement which was said to have been manifested against them in Mexico, and until it was said that a large expedition was coming here to destroy them. The injurious effect of such rumors has been entirely removed by the letters of his Excellency the Vice President and of General Teran and by the observations published in the Gazette of this day, some numbers of which I send you. The discussion in the Gazette of the 10th of this month has had a decisive effect because it gives a clear explanation of the origin of all of the evil. Señor Poinsett has no adherents here.

I for my part declare to you that I have had no other rule but that of *fidelity and gratitude to Mexico:* I have passed nine years in the most trying labors in the effort to reclaim this country from the wilderness; I have fulfilled my duty to the extent of my ability; I have worked in good faith; and I can refer with confidence to all the authorities of Texas and of the state to prove my conduct from the time I first entered this wilderness in 1821.

I can do no less than feel much interest in the fate of the colonists of Texas. I was the cause of the emigration of most of them and we have borne years of labor together. I could do no less than feel much interest in the advancement and prosperity of Texas, because it has been the object of my efforts and the sole aim of my ambition to contribute to the redemption of this country from the unpopulated condition in which I found it in 1821 and make it a useful and productive part of the great Mexican republic. I protest to your Excellency that I came to Texas with sound intentions and I have never had others. All my interest and all my family are here, and never have I spared labor in the service of this, my adopted country.

With great cost and labor I have made a map of all Texas, which I sent to the Political Chief in June of last year to be forwarded to the President, accompanying it with some notes in order to add to the geographical knowledge of the Mexican territory. In March of this year I sent to your Excellency a copy of the translations which I made of the colonization laws; accompanying them with an historical sketch of my colony. From this your Excellency can form an idea of the labors that have passed.

I have entire confidence in the justice and in the talent of the present administration; I consider it the Savior of Mexico from anarchy, and can assure your Excellency that the hope of seeing this country happy, after the convulsions of the last two years had almost suffocated it is again revived among these colonists. We have confidence in our old Commandant General, our present Vice President, and in his cabinet; and I beg your Excellency to permit me to commend to the high consideration of the government the worthy inhabitants of Texas, new as well as old. If suffering years of hardships in the

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desert and being exposed to danger from Indian *bravos* offer any ground for claiming the attention of the Government, surely the inhabitants of Texas deserve to be effectively protected and not to be sacrificed to rumor or to suspicions fed by party feeling or by the intrigues of a foreigner [Poinsett?]

With the highest consideration I am your Excellency's servant,

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO ARTEAGA

San Felipe de Austin 13 de Julio 1830

SOR. ANICT ARTEAGA

MUY SOR MIO, Tengo a la vista la muy apreciable de V. fecha 6 de Junio po. po. en que me avisa haber recibido V. instrucciones del Exmo Sor Com^te^ Gral de poner un establecim^to^ militar al punto de la Baca, é indicado que en tiempo oportuno me pedira V. los operarios necesarios para el efecto—

Tengo la honra de manifestar a V. que de mi parte contribuirare en quanto sea posible para coadyuvar los deseos de S. E. el Com^te^ gral y los de V en el particular. La poblacion esta muy esparcida en esta Colonia y hay gran escases de jornaleros en todos los ramos de la industria, sin embargo spre hay unos u otros que se puede emplear y he creido que el modo mas acertado de conseguirlos sera por medio de un aviso publico en la gazeta de esta, lo que incertaré en la del sabado po. vo. diciendo que se dara otra noticia fijando el dia en que debian ocurrir a la Baca y especificando la calidad de trabajo en que se quiere emplearlos, a fin de que V. pueda alli ajustar con ellos los precios que se les pagarian por dia ó mensales—

Hay un molino de vapor p^a^ sacar tablas en operacion sobre un rio que desemboca en la Bahia de Galveston, del cual se puede conseguir tablasones si hubo buque en que trasportarlas, lo que no se encuentra aqui en el dia—

Tengo que salir manana para encontrar el Sor Dn. Francisco Ruiz sobre el rio de los Brazos arriba pero en mi aucencia el Sor Dn. Samuel Williams atenderá a lo que ofreciere en este asunto

Aprovecho la ocasion p^a^ presentar a V. las mas cordiales espresiones de mi consideracion y de ofrecerme a su disposicion—

[ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.]

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

DR BROTHER,

In addition to the memorandum I sent you in my letter of the other day, I wish you to get me copies of the constitutions of

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Columbia, of Buenos Ayres of Chili, of Peru, and what is called the *Bolivian Code* or constitution given by Bolivar to upper Peru or Bolivia. they are all in spanish— I think you can get them at some of the bookstores, or perhaps from some individual who has been to those countries.

In place of the scarlet jacket which I wrote for get me a blue clothe vest to suit the surtout and not a scarlet one— bring me a good raisor or two.

you must be particular if you come by land to have contracts with the servants or the officer at Nacogdoches will interpose some difficulties. If you come by water contracts are also necessary.

I hope you may get here by 1 of Dec^{r} for it is possible I may have to leave here in the winter. the mail of today brings me letters stating that I shall be voted for at Bexar to represent Texas in the state Legislature, if so I shall be elected of course, for in this colony I shall not loose a vote, and but few if any at Goliad and Nacogdoches they have started me at Bexar the whole thing originated with the native Mexican population of that place and Goliad— I had no idea, and no wish for such a thing I cordially detest politics in any country, and our affairs in Mexico have been so entangled by some one (and it is suspected by an american) that I dread entering within their reach— True it is that the prejudices against north Americans are subsiding in Mexico, but still, there are some remnants of bitter feeling left among the uninformed who believed that Poinsett was the U. S. Government, and that all north Americans were connected with his intreagues— The situation will be an unpleasant, and perhaps a critical one, but an honest and prudent course has always carried me safely through many difficulties in this country and I have faith that it will continue to do so.

The election is next month— The Legislature meets 1 of January— there are two members only from all Texas: tho after this year we shall have several more owing to an increase of population, and the ratio is to be new moddled next session.

The result of the election will be published after it is over— contrary to the custom in the U. S. but little is said about elections and there is but little electionering in this country. a candidate who says any thing himself, to influence votes can be deprived of his seat— this has prevented open and public electionering—

Remember me to Mr Leaming and see about the Maps— I perceive they are out, I want a number on rolers— they are for presents to Mexicans and of course I wish for the best— Tanner will realise more by that map, than by any thing he ever published in his life and I rejoice that he will do so— tho I need some cash to pro-

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cure a few choice spanish, and English books of a literary and historical character to try and improve my mind which needs it much, for during the ten years I have spent in Texas, but few books have come within my reach—

farewell may heaven bless you and land you and sister and the young one[s] safe in the "wilds of Texas"

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

July 14. 1830

I am greatly in need of *Waits State papers*, published in Boston. I had them in Missouri but lost them in Arkansas— A number subscribed for them at the Mines and I think a set might be got there cheap.— In my other letter I wrote to you to get me a blue undress Military surtout with a standing collar trimmed with black silk cord—yellow bridle bits yellow spurs and yellow stirrups. these I need very much and a pair of boots

[Addressed:] Mr James F. Perry Care of Price and Morgan Philadelphia

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Archibald Austin to Austin

New York 14 July 1830

My Dear Sir

I send herewith a few news papers, in which you will find some interesting debates in the House of Commons, on the Mexican Trade, you will also see the great anxiety evinced in that country to put a stop to the contemplated Spanish Expedition, against Mexico, the manifest jealousy that exists there towards this Country, relative to Mexico, and S° America generally, they do not even spare Texas,— I presume they acquired their wild ideas about the Colonists of that province, from the recent Mexican publications—

Such Swiss and Germans as would be an acquisition to your Colony, are not so easily prevailed on to go to Texas as I imagined, I find that those who have means, and are most deserving, leave their Country, in consequence of inducements held out to them by their friends, who have already located in Ohio, to come there, and that they come with their minds made up, and prepared, and proceed immediately on their arrival to that State—those that are not worthy of consideration, linger about, until chance provides imployment for them— I should like to know how the Thermometer ranges in your climate, they are afraid the heat is too intense for them,— I should like to send a small vessel, with a good selection of them, perhaps I may yet succeed, wish I knew what to ship at the same time, that would pay a freight— I will write a German friend of mine Mr Gildermister a very clever worthy fellow, who having ac-

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quired a handsome property in Havana has gone to Germany with the intention of visiting Switserland, Russia, etc., and give him such information as I have, and request him, to communicate the same to some Germans and swiss subjects, and see what effect it may have, I regret I did not receive your letter before he left this, he is an old, and very particular friend of mine, and I think will take pleasure in attending to my request, the greatest difficulty will be for my letter to reach him, he will be so much on the move, he thought he should return again to this country, prefering it as I believe to all others— The more I think about your place, the more I want to make you a visit, but I do not know how to manage it, particularly at present—

I hope your health has improved [since] you last wrote— let me here from you when you can spare time to write—

ARCH AUSTIN [Rubric]

If G—can only prevail on two or three Families to make the experiment, and they should be please[d] there will be no difficulty in having as many to follow as you may wish—

Colo Stephen F. Austin Texas

ANASTACIO BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Mexico Julio 14. de 1830

Sr. Dn. ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO DE MI PARTICULAR APRECIO. Por la grata de V. de 17. de Mayo último me he impuesto con satisfaccion de que hizo publicar en la Gazeta de esa Villa mi carta de 20. de Marzo para q. todos los habitantes de ella se impusiesen delos buenos sentim^{tos} de que estoy animado para con ellos y en los q. aseguro á V. seré invariable.

Tambien quedo instruido de las refleciones que V. se cirve hacerme acerca de los perjuicios q. en su opinion deben resentir muchos de los individuos pertenecientes á ese establecim^{to} que aun no han llegado á él, por la observancia de la ley de 6 de Abril, de lo q. deduce V. quedará arruinado el credito nac^{l} violandose la buena fé de las contratas que tiene celebradas. A esto ha contestado á V. satisfactoriam^{te} mi compañero y amigo el Sor. General Terán en carta de 15. de Julio [Junio] ant^{or} de q. há remitido copia, y en consecuencia solo me resta añadirle q. para que los individuos de que V. habla no resulten perjudicados, bastará q. formando V. una lista nominal delos q. se hubieren desprendido de sus casas y terrenos para venir á la colonia de V., la presente al espresado Sor. General Terán para libre sus ordenes á efecto de q. no se les prohiva su introduccion, deviendo advertirle á V. q. habiendose reservado el Cong^{o} general por el arto. 7^{o}. dela

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ley de 18. de Agosto de 824. la facultad de prohivir viniesen á colonizar los individuos de alguna Nacion, y habiendose celebrado sobre la base de esta ley gen[l] todas las contratas, jamas se podria decir q. pr. el uso de esta facultad quedaba violada la buena fé nacional.

Asegure V. de nuevo á todos esos Colonos la especial consideracion q. me merecen y V. persuadase de que soy su muy atento amigo y servidor Q. B. S. M.

ANAST° BUSTAM^te [Rubric]

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERAN TO AUSTIN

El E. S. Srio. de Relaciones interiores y esteriores en of° de 23. de Junio ppdo. me dice lo qe. copio—

" E. S.—Teniendose noticia de qe. la semilla ó pepita del algodon qe. se Cultiva en Tejas queda abandonado despues qe. la han separado por medio de las maquinas qe. allí hay al efecto, y habiendose visto la buena calidad de él, por una muestra qe. se ha recibido, me manda el E. Sr. vice Presidente decir á V. E., como tengo el honor de ejecutarlo, qe. se sirva hacer qe. dicha Semilla se recoja y emviar de ella una Cantidad suficiente á fin de hacer qe. se propague en otros puntos el Cultivo de igual algodon."

Lo traslado á V. p^a qe. tenga la bondad de mandar á recojer seis ú ocho Cajones de la Semilla qe. pide la Sup^dad y luego qe. estén en estado de poder viajar los esp^os Cajones los mande entregar al C° Comisario subalt° de la Vaca Rafael Chowell con nota del importe de todo p^a disponer su pago.

Dios y Libertad Matamoros Julio 17. de 1830.—

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

Co. Felipe E. Austin

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR VIESCA

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

EXMO SOR. Habiendome significado el Ciud° Dn Jorge Fisher su intencion y deseo de establecerce como colono en una de las Empresas de colonozacion que tengo contratado con el Supremo Gob^no de este Estado, ó en alguna otra parte de Tejas como igualmente de solicitar V. E. para un aumento de tierras y habiendo me solicitado poner en conocimto de V. E. sus circunstancias, debo decir, que es casado, padre de familia con———hijos, de muy buenas costumbres, y calidades y virtudes personales de acreditada industria, y mucha aptitud en negocios posea varios idiomas entre ellos el Castellano y Yngles y considero que puede ser muy util en estas colonias en

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donde hay escasez de personas inteligentes que entienden con perfeccion ambos idiomas. Por cuyos motivos le recomiendo á V. E. como acreedor á un aumento, mas V. E. resolbera lo que sera de su superior agrado en la materia. Villa de Austin á 17 de Julio de 1830—Exmo Sor—E F A—

Austin to Ramon Musquiz

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

Al Sor Gefe del Dep^to^ sobre Comisionados

El ayuntam^to^ de esta municipalidad me ha pasado copia del oficio de V. S. del 7 del presente mes en que V. S. transcribe la orn del Exmo Sor Gob^or^ del Estado del 23 de Junio po po. sobre noticiar con toda diligencia á los respectivos Empresarios Compradores y pobladores, a quienes le pueda hacer comunicacion por las autoridades locales de este depar^to^ que ocurren inmediatam^te^ al Gob^no^ solicitando se les designe en substitucion del Comis^o^ General que fue C Juan Ant^o^ Padilla, el comis^o^ que debe practicar el establecim^to^ de sus Colonias y concesiones en el todo ó parte que puedan y corresponde a tales empleados—

Espongo á V. S. que tengo introducidas mas de cuatro cientas familias de mi contrato celebrado con el Supremo Gob^no^ del Estado en Junio del año 1825, y que tengo introducido las cien familias del contrato de 20 9bre de 1827 todos los asuntos de estas empresas fueron iniciados y son muy avanzados, y todas las mensuras son ya completas bajo las instrucciones del dho Padilla, pero ning^s^ fueron completados y de consig^to^ todos quedan pendientes.—

En esta inteligencia, y en cumplim^to^ dela citada superior resolucion del Exmo Sor Gobor suplico que se sirva V. S. elevar al conocim^to^ de S. E. la urgente necesidad que existe que se nombra con la brevedad posible á un comisionado para mi dha empresa de colonizacion contratada el dia 4 de Junio de 1825 ampliada á 500 familias por el oficio del Exmo Sor Gobor Don Rafael Gonzales á 20 de mayo del mismo año, y que propongo y recomiendo al Sor Don Gaspar Flores Como Comisionado dela dha empresa por haber sido el referido Flores el Comisionado dela dha Empresa antes del nombram^to^ del Sor Padilla—

Ygualmente propongo recomiendo y que se nombre el C Don Samuel M Williams comisionado para la referida Empresa de cien familias contratadas el 20 de 9 bre de 1827 ó si hay inconveniente en dar este Empleo al Sor Williams que se le confiere al dho Gaspar Flores—

Suplico que se sirva V. S. manifestar al Exmo Sor Gob^or^ la urgente necesidad del pronto despacho de este asunto de tanta importancia á

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muchos individuos y al interes publico—D y L Villa de A 17 de Julio de 1830—E F A

JAMES F. PERRY TO AUSTIN [1]

Potosi Mo July the 18th 1830

D^r S^r

I got home on the 12th June found all well with the addition of a fine Son. I would have wrote to you sooner but from the unsettled state of my business I heardly knew what to say. I find it will be a tedious task to settle it all up and take more time than I expected, from the most moderate calculation S. Perry and myself made we calculated we had on hands lead to pay all the debts of the firm and have some left. S. Perry has returned he only sold part and from the present prices I am afraid there will not be enough to pay off the debts of the firm, which will derange my calculations verry much I will of necessity have to remain here untill they are all paid. We have a considerable sum in the Country but times are so dull and money so scarce it is verry dificult to make collections I am anxious to move this fall but I find it will be imposible Emily is not willing to move in the spring for fear of sickness for my part I think there would be no danger if we could get there in March or April, but I expect we will be governed by your advice. I sold our house and lots we live on to Hutchings for Bells notes and expect to sell another place in a few days to John Perry for goods to be rec^d in Phila If I do so I will be in Phil^a the last of Sept. if I can get off if not I will send M^r Hunter with that we will have about 2000$ to lay out in goods in addition to our present stock which is not less than 3000$ we will try and get them in in the month of November.

While on the bay you promissed to give me a copy of an endenture to take on our negroes, Which was forgot in the hurry at S^t Felipe please send me one. from all the laws I see on the subject I am apprehensive an endenture on those under age would not be good we have Eight and only 3 or 4 of them is of age give me your advise on that matter to loose them after I get them there would be a serious loss to me. There has been a considerable stir here about Texas but the unsettled state of the Govrn^t is a great obsticle. A good many talks of going but I doubt whether many will move or not S. T Dunklin says he will go to see it this fall I told him you had reserv^d a tract for him near the bay John Jones talks of starting in September by land When I read your letter which was rec^d in my absence stating the particulars of the grants you

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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obtaine'd for us I was mortifyed not because the grants ware different from what I understood but at your silance on that subject to me. What the object of your silance was I am at a loss to conceive. When with you on the bay I thought you was verry reserved towards me but did not expect you would have been reserved in anything that related to the sole object of my journey to that country. Why not tell me the nature of the grants and how you intended to locate them. This I certainly think you ought to have don. from my understanding of your letter the intention of the Grant to Emily is for her eldest children which was perfectly right in you to do so when you had it in your power. And it would have been much more satisfactory to me if you had desclosed your views to me there. With regard to these children I have no reflections to make on myself I have always don for them and by them as well as I would have or could have don if they had been my own. Through the hole course of my life I have ever acted candidly towards both relatives and friends and hope ever so to do and would wish them to act so towards me. this I believe is the best course to gain and retain the confidance of each other.

The suit in N Jersey is expected to be determined in October next S. Perry is in a verry delicate health I think it doubtful whether he is long for this world. A great many of our friends here think we are going a wild goos chase when we start for Texas. Is James Austin alive yet I am afraid not. I have not seen Hammond I dont know whether he is going to Texas or not. Woodson was here last week to talk of moving Henry Bates I hear has give out the notice I have nothing more to ad. alls well. adue—

JAMES F. PERRY

Potosi Mo July 19 1830

[Addressed]: Co^{l} Stephen F Austin San Filipe de Austin Texas To the Care of Hugh M^{c}Guffen Esq post Master Sabine Post office Louissianna

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WILLIAM W. MORRIS TO AUSTIN

New York July 21st—1830

SIR

In the year 1829 towards the latter end I wrote a Pamphlet on the subject of *Texas*, shewing the propriety and the necessity of annexing that Province to the United States, a copy of which I forwarded to you by Captain Thompson late of the Mexican Navy, which I hope came safely to hand— Never having had the opportunity of travelling in that country, I wrote from data collected

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from a variety of persons strangers, and acquaintances, who had visited the Province of Texas, and more particularly your Colony. It is not improbable that [in] a hasty publication embracing points of general policy some of the Ideas thrown on paper and statements with regard to it were incorrect: In speaking of the characters and descriptions of persons who have located and settled themselves within the Province of Texas, if my information had been as minute as subsequent opportunities had afforded means of Judging, I should have made a marked discrimination in favor of those people who have located and settled themselves in St Philipe De Austin— Upon further investigation and enquiring into the plan of your settlement on the Rio Brassos, I was much gratified to learn, that you had wisely taken a stand in favor of moral rectitude, deeming those the best settlers who had the highest pretensions to character on that score—and that in all instances where persons of suspicious character presented themselves for the facilities and liberal patronage which you extend to settlers, you instituted the most rigid inquiries and scrutiny into their private character. In every instance where it was discovered the applicant had taken refuge in Texas, to escape the Just punishment of crime committed within the United States whose laws he had violated. That such persons have never met your countenance, and have been prohibited a domicile in the boundaries your Territories circumscribe. Being very lately impressed with this Idea connected with the favorable light with which I look upon the Country, its capacities to give to enterprize new and reiterated energies, by offering to the early settler, a reasonable prospect of gain where disease is rare, and the soil exuberant (a location at once commercial and agricultural.) With these strongly impressed considerations I have come to the determination of locating my eldest Son Lewis some where in the province, and altogether more than probable within your grant— To facilitate this enquiry you will please address a letter to me as soon as circumstances will permit, stating your terms to actual Settlers— The price of your first rate Sugar Lands, in relation to all governing circumstances, the proximity of Navigation direct, or as the case may be more remote from Navigation. And as a preliminary of great consequence to me, what term of credit if any is allowed?

The object of my Son is to take up at least the quantity of Ten thousand Acres, and unless facilities are given to [make] payments he may not be able to bring round his engagements with punctuality. My Son contemplates writing you on the subject whose letter will reach you not long after this. I am informed that a Newspaper is published weekly at St Philipe De Austin if it would be com-

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patible with your convenience and not impose upon your politeness too much trouble I should be much pleased to receive one or two numbers of so interesting a Journal—

Wm. W. Morris [Rubric]

Colo. Stephen Austin

[Addressed] Col. Stephen Austin St Filepe De Austin Texas Care of the Mexican Consul New Orleans

[Indorsed by Austin:] From the author of the "revolutionary officer"

R. W. Wells to Austin

City of Jefferson, July 21, 1830.

See Calendar.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Teran

[About August 1, 1830.]

El Comisario de esta Don S. M. W. desea saber la [forma?] en que debe espedir guias para los buques [us]ados en el comercio de cabotaje para evitar toda dificultad en los puertos de Matamoros Tampico y Vera cruz cuyos puertos son abiertos a este comercio en buques extranjeros por la ley del 6 de Avril.

Hemos padecido mucho en esta Colonia á causa de una sequedad muy fuerte-las enfermadades y Calenturas han empesado mas temprano que en otros años y ya ha habido muchos muertos. El calor ha subido al grado de 98 y 100 por todo el mes pasado y hasta ahora, y los pastos y toda la vegetacion esta secandose-se ha secado dos noreas en esta.

Todavia no he visto mi primo Juan Austin paso de La Bahia por tierra en derechura á Brazoria sin dar vuelta por esta ha causa de haber recibido noticias de la enfermedad de su familia y de consiguiente el no me ha comunicado la conversacion que tuvo U. con el relativo a una conferencia— Deseo muy mucho ver U. creo que hay muchas cosas que necesitan ser arregladas en Texas—la ley de Colonizacion del Estado nunca me agrado—opino que la cantidad de tierra que se da es mucha. expresé esta opinion á U. desde mucho tpo. y pueda U. ver en la parte historica de mi Colonia, lo que pensé sobre la materia desde el año 1821—pero yo no fui al congreso.

He enviado copia de mi mapa á Filadelpia pa. ser grabado remiti al Sor. Tanner las armas de [me]xico para ser grabadas sobre ella y [re]mitire copia á U. luego que la recibo.

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AUSTIN TO TERAN

[About August 1, 1830.]

Gral. Dn. MANUEL DE MIER Y TERAN.

MUY SR MIO DE TODA MI CONFIANZA Y CONSIDERACION He recibido las dos apreciables de U. por este correo fechas 1° y 23 de Junio po. po.

En la primera me dice U. que mi amigo y primo (y no mi hermano) Juan Austin habia dicho á U. que no habia yo recibido la carta de U incluyendo copia de la capitulacion de Tampico y acusando recibo de la copia borrador de mi mapa, esta es equivocacion—la carta de U vino á mis manos despues de gran dilatacion en el camino y antes de su llegada se recibió copia de la capitulacion por conducto del Gefe del departamto, y fue traducido y publicado en La Gazeta de esta. Yo escribi á U. y diriji mi carta á Mejico ha causa de haber visto anunciado su Nombram^to^ por la Secretaria de Guerra y remiti á U. un ejemplar de la publicacion que hize en Ingles de las leyes de Colonizacion acompañada de una introducion historica de mi colonia. Supongo que no llegaron á sus manos y ahora remitó a U. otro ejemplar.

El Sor Don Francisco Ruiz y el Sor. Elosua me manifestaron en Bexar los deseos de U. sobre el establecim^to^ de un destacam^to^ en el paso del Rio de los Brazos arriba, y ofreci desde luego coadyuvar en quanto pude. El Sor. Ruiz me ha avisado estar ya en camino y proximo á llegar y salgo mañana par à verle y ayudar en cuanto sea posible, como medida preparatoria y a fin de correjir la opinion publica estraviada aqui como en Mexico y en los Estados del Notre, puse un parafo en la Gazeta de esta, del dia 19 del pasado y otro en las demas Gazetas, cuyos numeros remito á U.— En este correo contesto al Arteaga sobre el establecim^to^ en La Baca, ofreciendo mis servicios en quanto pude ser util. Se ha completado el molino de vapor para sacar tablazones situado sobre el Rio Bufalo ramo del San jacinto y si hubo buques de transporte no habra deficultad en conseguir las maderas necesarias del molino, mi primo tuvo la desgracia de perder su balandra sobre la costa. Creo que un buque de vapor seria muy aproposito para la navegacion de las Bahias de Texas y el transporte de maderas á Matamoros.

Con la ultima carta de U. recibi la copia del oficio de Exmo Sor Com^te^ Gral. al Sor Gorge. Fisher sobre suspender el establecimto. de la aduana de Galveston. ala llegada de este Sr aqui se presentó al Alcalde con su despacho del Ministerio de Hacienda espedido en tpo. del Sor Zavala, fue reconocido por el Alcalde, y este me pasó oficio para facilitar los auxillos necesarios de la milicia civica y yo

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espedi la correspondiente orden al efecto, queriendo de mi parte obedecer todas las ordenes y llevar á efecto las dispociciones de la Superioridad en cuanto fueron á mis alcances. Aunque pueda haber unas pocas introducciones de tabaco clandestino lo que se cortara en cuanto se ha posible, creo que sera muy conducente no poner la Aduana por ahora por las muy justas razones que ha indicado. El Sor Fisher ha suspendido sus operaciones de conformidad con la superior orden

La opinion publica ha variado notablemte, aqui desde la salida de la Gazeta del 19 del po po. y habra variacion gral. en el Norte en pocos meses con respecto á los asuntos de Mexico. Parece nada mas que el error se habia apoderado de la opinion en todas partes— yo deseo con seguir pruebas detalladas de la conducta de Poinsett les pondria en Inglés y delante el publico.

[Estevan F. Austin.]

James Kerr to Austin

Alto Morales, August 5, 1830.

See Calendar.

N. Hutchison to J. F. Perry

Booneville, August 7, 1830.

See Calendar.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin

Northumberland [Pennsylvania] August 14th 1830

Colonel S. F. Austin

My Dear Sir, I received yesterday your favour of 4th July last and regret I cannot also acknowledge receipt of one of 13 June refered to in it— I feel very anxious to be among you, believing my Interest seriously requires it, and am making every arrangement to start from Philada: by sea in the course of next month, say the latter part of it, so that with reasonable luck I shall put into Matagorda by the last October— Major Ingram has promised to have a place of Shelter for my family, and I trust he will not disappoint me but really from what you say, added to some circumstances which took place whilst I was among you I must acknowledge I feel uneasy at his conduct— What I now say is in confidence, unless *requisite you* should consider it not so—The whole Stock of goods which Ingram had in Texas were mine excepting to the cost of about $400.

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I borrowed the money in N. orleans for the purchase of some and the rest I bought on time by giving security— Ingram was to have one half of the clear profits, as compensation for his *supposed* knowledge of the kinds suitable, and for his trouble in selling them— but they were expressly, and positively to be sold for *cash* before my leaving the country that I might repay on my arrival in the U. S. the money borrowed for their purchase. I was in the country one month longer than I anticipated thereby giving full time for the realization of the goods—but no matter for details now— I wanted my money, and all I could get before I left there was *fourteen* Dollars!!! in money and an order on Brassoria for fifty! the A/ct furnished me by I Ingram and co (but without signature) which is himself and Major League, shows a balance due me of about Two Thousand Dollars— their books show a credit to my account of Sixteen hundred Dollars Cash received, to which the profits must be added— now my Dear Sir if in your apprehension this property is unsafe in its present situation, I shall call upon you as a friend to take such measures as may secure me; your own good judgement can best regulate you— Major I. has four negroes which will be more than sufficient. Hoit may claim them, but Hoit owes Ingram money— should it be necessary call on Col. Wallace for his knowlege of that business.

It gives me great pleasure to observe by your letter (papers I have not seen) that the disposition of the Mexican government has again assumed a friendly aspect towards us, and think it all important that this fact should be made public throughout the U. S as there is but little doubt but what the jealous feelings indicated by them towards the colonists in some of the Mexican papers, and translated into those of this country had a sensible effect in checking the enthusiasm which was about manifesting itself so widely— A few letters from you upon that subject would I have no question reestablish in the minds of the undecided the confidence in the permanency of your Colony which was beginning to be doubted, and emigration this spring be commensurate with our warmest wishes— Your observations with respect to Zavala's grant are noted and assented to— With respect to Don Estefan Wilson I have known him slightly for several years, and I considered his greatest weakness was a foolish display of unpossessed importance— I have frequently heard him speak of his immense grant of land and his exclusive privilege of hunting and trapping throughout St. Fé. I have known him to give a friend of mine a douceur of one hundred thousand acres of land, which my friend offered me for a few hundred Dollars, but for which as I told him I would not give as many cents, and have often conversed with him respecting the nature of the

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Spanish grants in general and especially those to Empresarios; his expressed sentiments were correct— As respects D. A. Smith's conduct in selling Exeter's grant, Wilson distinctly stated to me it was a very improper thing, and unsanctioned by him, and that so soon as he saw Smiths advertisement he hastened to prevent any sales being effected— All this however was subsequent to a public communication cautioning the public against purchasing Texas lands— I have understood he was at Saltillo, but supposed it was for the purpose of business, not vengeance, and I am not much inclined to give credit to common reports, but if you really think the man intended any improper course look behind, and not before: I presume you know he has a commercial house at Matamoras, he made me liberal offers to go there— I believe T. P. Newton of N. orleans is interested with him—

You speak of my trimming *my* pen; and of a *free* population not negroes combining these sentences I am induced to suppose a piece signed "Alabama" on the subject of Slavery has appeared in the Texas Gazette, I wrote it for that paper while at sea, and sent it to Mr. Cotton, but know not if it was published— like yourself I detest Slavery, but conceive the general views I have there taken are correct, and am firmly persuaded that the free admission of Slaves into the State of Texas, authorised by act of our legislature, would tend more to the rapid introduction of respectable emigrants than any other course which could be pursued— Our rice and sugar lands require that kind of labour; and let the preamble to the bill set forth the advantages which would accrue to the state from a temporary introduction of Slaves, and therefore limit the period of admission to 5 years, or to any other number that you may deem expedient. As regards a foreign emigration, I shall say something *Material* on that subject when I see you. as respects my being empresario, I do not conceive the advantages to be commensurate with the difficulties, anxiety and responsibility attached to it— few men Colonel Austin could have been as successful as yourself, whether your general forbearance and self possession, have been the result of a natural temperament, and therefore attended with little cost of feeling, or the consequence of a judicious course of policy it is not for me to say; I know I could not be as successful as you have been, or would be unwilling to make that sacrifice of feeling which I conceive you have made— Well may you say your efforts have cost you years of "toil and trouble," but you have succeeded, and under disadvantages which would have required the prudence, sagacity and perseverance of Penn to conquer— how far you may have been the means of laying the basis of a new republic time will show— I think it not chimerical that Texas may yet have a sensible influence on the

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views of the Southern Nullifiers, that she may prove a powerful lever in the political machinery of their *adherence to their rights*, and ultimately weigh so heavily in the balance as to be one mean of dismembering them from the northern States. I am in great hopes to see the importance of our country (Texas) taken up by some Carolina writer— I have written to a gentleman there on the subject and should he embark in the cause, and our legislature grant us full permission to introduce slaves for 5 years Texas will need no foreign aid: she will be the strongest arm of the Mexican confederacy— I hope our friend Bowie may be successful—and no man is better calculated. I consider it will be a valuable thing for all of us—*two* will sell out cheap—enpassant, Colonel, I will give you a gratuitous opinion, The most valuable emigrant you have ever had is James Bowie, I consider him of the first order of men. You tell me you have not heard of my petition. I shall be disappointed if unsuccessful, but hope you will continue to make the reservations for me till my fate is known. I congratulate you colonel, not in the language of form, but in the plainness of sincerity on the "peace, harmony emigration and improvement" which you write me has taken place and am also glad to perceive the proprietors of Matagorda have so organized themselves as to act definitively— I consider it the most valuable part of your colony, and am surprised you take so little interest in it— When I reach Philada: I shall see Mess: Walsh Leaming— and Tanner, and attend to what you request— And now having touched upon all the heads of yours of 4th Uto. I have nothing further to add than a renewal of the assurance that I am with great respect and regard, your friend

S. Rhoads Fisher—

Care of General William L. Robeson New Orleans General Robeson will please forward this by the first conveyance and oblige his respects S. R. F.

Sebastian Rodriguez to Austin

San Felip, August 16, 1830.

See Calendar.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin

Northumberland August 20th 1830

My Dear Sir,

Under date of 14th Inst: I had this pleasure at length: and conceiving it right you should know whatever relates to Texas, I with pleasure communicate to you such information as comes under my

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notice— Since last writing you, I have met a french gentleman of the name of Sorbe, who has a House at tampico— for two years past he has been principally in the Interior, and I think has a tollerably correct knowledge of the country—he tells me the Barings have made a very extensive purchase of land from the count of ——— his name I forget, who is now in Italy, they gave for it three millions of Dollars, and that it is (if I am not mistaken) equal in extent to 150 leagues square, it comes close to Saltillo, and embraces Parras. he says the purchase includes a number of villages, thó the precise boundaries he could not give me— they are settling it fast growing cotton, and are about erecting a cotton manufactory—a gentleman of the name of Sterrett (I think) is their agent—I thought none but Mexican Citizens could hold land in Texas!—

When I see you I shall want particular information relative to Exeters grant, as I wish to set aright a gentleman of very conspicuous standing in S. Carolina, who writes "I have received much information about Texas, I hold some shares in the Coahuila, and Texas company of which Dennis A. Smith of Baltimore is the agent, I dined a short time ago with Mr. Poinsett who says the grant is regular and valid—" either this gentleman is very much misled, or I am, but how is [it] possible Mr. Poinsett can be MISTAKEN?

The owners of this grant of course want to make a speculation of it—honestly if they can etc.—but under any circumstances is it not our policy to let them take their own road; for each grant they (that is Wilson and others) make, or each tract they sell, excites precisely so much Interest in the minds of the people of the U. States, in favour of Texas—

In my last letter I acknowledged receipt of yours of 4 July, and mentioned that I should be at Matagorda with my family the last of October and hoped Ingram would have as promised, a place of shelter—in readiness

S—RHOADS—FISHER

[Addressed:] Colonel Stephen F. Austin Austin Texas care of Gen: Wm. Robeson New Orleans

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AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

San Felipe de Austin Aug^{t} 20. 1830

Mr E. R. WEIGHTMAN

Mr Ira Ingram informs me that you understand from my instructions relative to laying off his tract, that it was to be east of the

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town tract, and that its northern boundary must be a due east line extended from the S. E. corner of Lesassier's league

You are aware that I can not say what degree of the compass the lines must run, or how many *varas* must be given on each line, so as not to injure other tracts, and give to each its proper shape etc, for this can only be ascertained by actual survey.

The general rule which has always been observed and which you must follow in this case, is to decide the local advantages of water, timber, etc as nearly equal betweeen all the tracts as the situation and circumstances will permit, and not to cross any leading or navigable creek or bayou, or inlet—also to leave no vacancies at all in any part of the Prairie, no matter where they may be—

In applying this rule to particular tracts you must of course exercise your own judgment and act under your own responsobility—

Ingram is to have a tract east, or eastwardly of the town tract— if the situation requires that only 2500 *varas* front on the bay be given to it and that it be run back behind the river leagues for quantity— so let it be run— if it requires that 4000 *varas* front be given—so let it be— if the back line must run N.E. or any other course—so let it be—

Mr Wilson is to have the next tract east, or eastwardly—or north eastwardly of Ingram fronting on the Bay—

Mr. Veeder(?) wishes his quarter run so as to include all the branches of the creek, above Buckners *labors* If it will not injure, or interfere with any other tract, nor leave any vacancies, or irregular shaped tract, to run it in the way he wished it—you can so run it— but of this you must be the judge, for it is very evident that I cannot and ought not to fix positively how the lines must run, for I have not sufficient data to judge properly on the subject— you must exercise your own judgment, and act on your own responsability in the matter—

I made a mistake in saying that S. R. Fishers tract was on the west side of the Creek— his tract is on the east side next below Peytons— and Jaques on the West side— the creek at this place cannot be crossed—

I presume that Hoit will not interfere with Fisher's or any other tract, if he does he must give way— he is to get his league it is true—but he merits nothing—

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

N. B. do not forget my tract on Live oak or on the lake below the others which I spoke to you about

A [Rubric]

[Addressed::] Mr. E. R. Weightman Matagorda

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Austin to Manuel de Mier y Teran

[From Austin's blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

Exmo Sor Teran

Exmo Sor He recibido el oficio de V. E. fecha 17 de Julio po. po. en que me incerta la superior orden del Exmo Sor ministro de relaciones sobre recoger la semilla de Algodon que se cultiva en esta colonia de la cual V. E. me ordeno recoger tres u ocho cajones y ponerlos a la disposicion del Sor Com° subalterno de la Baca Rafael chovel con nota de su importa para disponer de su pago—

De conformidad con la superior disposicion indicada, he encargado á los dueños de maquinas de despepitar el algodon de recoger la cantidad de semilla que V. E. me ha encargado, la que se pondra a disposicion del Sor chovil tan luego que se comiensa la operacion de dispepitar y limpiar la cosecha de Algodon y que sera en el mes de octubre po. vo.—con lo que atentam^te^ contesto al citado oficio de V. E.

D y L - 20 de Agosto de 1830 E. F. A.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin

Gefatura del Departam^to^ de Bejar

Ejecutada la regulacion gral. de votos recojidos pr. todas las Asambleas Municipales que se habrieron enlas poblaciones de este Departamento, resulta V. constitucionalmente nombrado Elector de este partido; y en tal virtud lo haviso áV. para q. se presente en esta capital precisamente enla Mañana del dia 5. del mes de Septiembre proccimo, designado por la Constitucion politica del Estado para la Eleccion de Diputados, Gobernador, Vice Gob^or^ consejeros, y Electores p^a^ la Eleccion de Diputados al Congreso gral. cuya importante mision deverá V. desempeñar en union de los demas ciudadanos Electores q legalmente han resultado nombrados.

Dios y Libertad Bejar Agosto 22. de 1830.

Ramon Musquiz [Rubric]

Ciud^no^ Esteban F. Austin

Austin to Governor Viesca

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

Gob^or^ del Estado

Exmo Sor. he recibido el oficio de V. E. fecha 4 de Julio po. po. en que se ha servido V. E. encertarme el del Exmo Sor ministro de relaciones del 2 de Junio participando no haber recibido el mapa

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original de Texas que yo remiti por conducto de las autoridades del Estado, a causa de haberse estraviado en su transitu entre la administràcion del mineral de catorce, y la de San Luis Potosi, segun parece por las averiguaciones hechas por ese Gob^no^

recibo con agradecim^to^ las gracias qe. se ha servido S. E. el ministro de relaciones comunicar en su citado oficio, y siento la desgracia que ha acaecido en perder el mapa, la que se reparará por medio de otra copia que remitiré en breve tpo. con nuevas correcciones que las noticias adicionales adqueridos despues de completar el mapa, me proporcionan datos para hacer—

Suplico que se sirva V. E recibir mis gracias y las espresiones de mi mas alta consideracion y respecto D y L San F. de A 23 de Agosto 1830.

E. F. A.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin

Northumberland [Pennsylvania] August 23. 1830

Colonel S. F. Austin

My Dear Sir I again address you in consequence of having received yours of 17th June, tho, my opinion on its leading subject has been anticipated in mine of 14 and 20th Insts: I mean Slavery, that you were in favour of a free population is no surprise to me, believing that every reflecting man of equal intelligence must be so; but I was not prepared to learn that your determination was so decided as you have expressed it at the *present juncture*— I conceive each member of our little democracy, however inconspicuous his standing, has an unquestionable right to a free expression of opinion, in whatever relates to the policy of the State, and much more of the colony: under this view then, I feel no hesitation in saying that I believe the Interests of the Colony will be essentially injured, should the course of policy,—the non admission of slaves— mentioned in yours of 17th: June be adopted— Most of your Colonists are from Slave-holding States—they have enrolled themselves in your register under the firm conviction that slavery would be tolerated, and that they would be secure in the ownership of those brought by them —Many others have made arrangements with you to remove, and with an express understanding that they could safely bring their negroes with them.

From your approximity to the Southern States, and from the favorable feeling already pervading her citizens, Texas may fairly anticipate a population from that quarter, more speedy and more numerous than from the northern and Eastern, and this I conceive is at present all important: added to which, do you believe that cane and cotton can be grown to advantage by a sparce white population?

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or are the whole cane and cotton growing districts of your delightful country to still remain a wilderness of flowers—a waste of richness? It is impossible! Men remove from their Homes to better their situations, they submit to deprivations and encounter difficulties for the accumulation of wealth; and they will pursue that course of conduct which they believe will the soonest and the most certainly put them in possession of it— they will raise cane and cotton in preference to wheat and oats, when they live in a country peculiarly calculated for it, and as they cannot raise these staples without slave labour, they will raise them with it— there is no country in the world where these articles are grown unless by the assistance of Slaves, or where the population is so dense or so abject as to always place at the option of the proprietor any force commensurate to his wants— on this half of the continent thank God! the latter cannot be the case for centuries; therefore we must either abandon the finest portion of Texas to its original uselessness or submit to the acknowledged, but lesser evil of Slavery— In mine of 14th Inst without being made acquainted with your views, I stated as my opinion the expediency of Texas allowing the free admission of Slaves for *five* years: this is a short period of time, but of sufficient length to enable a Southern emigration to introduce as many as would supply the *actual* wants of the colony— let the law of permission be then repealed and one substituted, making their introduction under any pretense *highly penal*— as soon as this is the case an emigration will rapidly commence from the South, and their time having expired, the Eastern people will in their turn view Texas as their Home— the very circumstance of it being measurably settled by *Southerners* which in their opinions is synonimous with *wealth* will act as a strong inducement to their coming in among us— these men will naturally seek the grain-growing districts, while those from the South will as certainly settle where they can raise sugar and cotten—or suppose a line should be drawn—say the Opelousas road to San Felipe, thence to Bejar— thence, following the Leona Vicario road till it strikes the river Nueces thence following its course to the Mouth— let the district of country lying between this Cordon and the gulf be appropriated to Slaves, and the other side be exempted from them— all parties would thus be suited, and each peculiar soil be brought into requisition— But it is not now necessary to discuss the subject at length; it is one of deep and serious interest, and should be viewed with great deliberation, and without prejudice— were we exclusively a grain-growing State, I should most strenuously cooperate with you in support of the non-slave holding principle; as it is—I must see you before I decide—

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Allow me to thank you for the passports; and here I will mention a thing which may be all important to me—I may probably come out in a vessel drawing full *twelve* feet, having understood there was always at least that water at Paso Cavallo, and sometimes more, and that with this dft. one may readily go up to " Dog Island " even without a pilot: should my information be incorrect you will greatly oblige me by employing Mr. Tone or some one equally qualified to keep a look out from the 20 October—and board any vessel which may be standing for the Pass:

S RHOADS FISHER—

A. HOLDRIDGE TO AUSTIN

Col. STEPHEN F AUSTIN

SIR permit me to introduce you to S H. Barlow of St. Albans Vermont the present Post Master of a County Town— he is a Gentleman of first rank in society—believing you will be happy to recieve and Treat him as such—as he intends visiting your Colony. Any information or assistance given him will not only *confer* a favor on a friend but on your humble Servant if he should conclude to locate himself in Texas it would be the means of hundreds emigrating from this Country to yours— I expect to be on this fall and am in hopes to bring with me 50 or more families. I have been able to start considerable of a fever. if you will send me your history of that Country with the constitution and all other information in your possession that will be important to a people that knows nothing about that country, you will very much obliege your humble servant

A. HOLDRIDGE M. D

St Albans Vermont Augt. 23^{r} 1830

ANASTACIO BUSTAMANTE TO AUSTIN

Mexico 24. de Agosto de 1830.

Sor. Dn. ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO. Por la apreciable de V. de 20. de Junio último quedo imp^{to} dela esplicacion que hace sobre las circumstancias que le obligaron á escribirme su anterior de 18. de Mayo: en consecuencia me es muy satisfactorio que se hayan desvanecido los temores que por de pronto pudo causarles la ley de 6. de Abril último y que V. se haya convencido de mis intenciones con respecto á ese pais. Estas serán siempre las mismas, por que mi objeto esclusivo es la felicidad y el consultar á ella por cuantos medios esten á mi alcance.

Lo que importa por ahora es trabajar para q. por ningun motivo se llegue á alterar la paz en esa colonia sino que continué con la

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union y sociego que V. me indica. Este es objeto que veo con el mayor interes, y por lo mismo creo q. no está por demas insistir en él.

Celebraré q. V. se conserve bueno y que disponga de su atento S. S. Q. B. S. M.

ANAST° BUSTAM^te [Rubric]

[On the margin;:] Recibido 21 de 7bre

LUCAS ALAMAN TO AUSTIN

Mejico Agosto 25, de 1830.

S. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

Villa de San Felipe de Austin.

¡MUY SR. MIO DE MI APRECIO. Con mucha satisfaccion me hé impuesto del contenido desu carta de 13. de Julio ultimo, y delos sentimientos que en ella me manifiesta; siempre hé creido áV. animado de ellos.

Es cierto que aqui corrieron los rumores que V. dice agitaron la opinion; mas estos rumores no tenian origen de esa Colonia, ni las alarmas eran en su contra: su principio lo tubieron delos impresos que han corrido en los Estados Unidos del Norte de donde hán venido á nuestras fronteras un enjambre de aventureros y de barbaros cuyas irrupciones sabe V. los perjuicios que causan en todo el pais: estos llamaron la atencion del Gobierno y de su deber es prevenir los males. Las colonias establecidas legalmente y principalmente la de V. las vé le actual administracion con el interes que demandan. Su objeto es procurar la prosperidad general, y consecuente á estos principios la colonia de V. debe ser vista con el aprecio que ella merece porla buena organizacion q. V. le há sabido dár. La proteccion á q. se há hecho acredora la irá V. percibiendo por las providencias que se hán tomado y tomarán, asi como porlas cartas del Sr. Vice Presidente y del General D. Manuel Terán, y en ella en las que están formadas segun las leyes son las que pueden inspirar recelos: los aventureros, que no tienen ni patria, ni hogar, que tan perjudiciales son en todo el mundo y que deben serlo en Tejas, son los que los motivan. ¿Qué garantia pueden dár unos hombres que entran al pais violando las leyes, que no tienen ocupacion conocida, y q. largan el suyo por que en él no tienen de q. vivir?

Yo celebro demasiado que V. trabaje ensu colonia en el sentido que me indica: esto se llama ser util en todos sentidos, y esto no puede ser indiferente en el actual orden de cosas. Repito pues que me son muy satisfactorias los sentim^tos de que V. está poseido, y no dudo que V. continuará trabajando como hasta el dia.

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El S. Vice Presidente recibió el mapa geografico que V. le remitió, pero llegó muy maltratado: las leyes de colonizacion que V. me dice me envio en Marzo no hán llegado ámi poder; y ya que tengo la satisfaccion de entrar en correspondencia con V. le estimaré me haga el favor de vér como se me puede formar una coleccion de yerbas, de conchas, y de otros objetos curiosos de esas costas para el Museo nacional.

Pasabaseme decir áV. un pensamiento que me há ocurrido y que convendria para estrechar mas esa colonia con el resto delos mejicanos; tal es el que en ella se estendiera nuestro idioma en terminos que les fuera como familiar: á esto contribuirá mucho el que en la Gazeta que ahi se publica se insertasen articulos en castellano capaces de llamar la atencion y que exitasen el deseo de perfeccionarse en él y de aprenderlo.

Aprovecho esta ocasion para ofrecerme ála disposicion de V. como su afmo. amigo y seguro servidor

Q. B. S. M.

LUCAS ALAMAN [Rubric]

HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Brasoria Augt 25– 1830

MY DEAR SIR

I have at last reach'd this place with the steamboat and purpose ascending the river on Saturday next so far as the water will permit

It is believed here that I shall not get higher than Bolivar in the present state of the water—in which case I shall take horses and visit you at St Filipi.

I am much pleased with the country so far as I have seen it The river to this place is of much easier and safer navigation than the one I have left—but I doubt whether a steamboat can be supported on it unless it can be made navigable in the ordinary state of the waters as far as your town and a communication opened with a ship anchorage in Galveston bay

It is obviously important to the prosperity of the colony that these two objects should be attained promptly whether practicable or not can only be judged of on actual survey and then the means of accomplishing works of such magnitude may not be readily obtained— Still I think that if you concur with me in the opinion of the importance and advantages of the work a plan may be devised to carry it into effect— at all events I must come to a prompt decision as to the future disposition of the boat as the expense of her is too great to be supported in idleness

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The last I heard of my application to the Govt. for a grant of land was that it had been sent to you for your signature and when returned the solicitation would be acceded to

I hope it reached you and may be in due course—

I shall be with you in a few days—

HENRY AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

San Felipe August 28, 1830

Mr. E. R. WIGH[T]MAN

DR SIR. Mr Seth Ingram is interested in a league which is to be laid off back of his brothers league, or in case of a vacancy below the tracts that are taken on the west side of Prairie Creek

You must use your own discretion and exercise your own judgement in laying off these, and all the tracts in that quarter, as I wrote you the other day— the main object is not to leave vacancies, and also to run the tracts so as to make them as nearly equal as possible in point of local advantages—

Mr Nelson writes me that his location was on the East side of Prairie Creek and not on the west side— I understood you that his selection was on the west— but if a mistake has been made you can rectify it, for it is quite immaterial which side Nelson takes his land— you will however be particular to try and make Fishers a good league, which is the first one below Peyton on the East side of Prairie Creek, as I wrote you in my last—

My Dear Sir I must rely entirely on you to do as near equal justice to all as possible, for it is impossible for me to say how the tracts ought to run, because this will depend on the shape of the Bay Shore and the direction of the creeks, which can only be asertained by actual measurement

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

A Mexican who lives at Buckners is to have a quarter on Cany after the quarters for Maria, and your sister, are taken out— See Buckner on the subject—so as to have it all fully understood.

S. F. AUSTIN.

DR SIR

Mr. Jaques goes down to attend to the surveying of his tract— he is to get the first tract west of Prarie creek below Peyton as I wrote you the other day— Mr. Nelson wrote me that his choice was on the east side below Fishers— I am particularly anxious that Jaques and Fishers tracts should be laid off to the best advantage

S F AUSTIN

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B. T. Jacques to Wightman

Augt. 30 1830

Mr E. R. Wighman

Mr Weigh[t]man It being out of my Power to go down to see you survey my Land at this time If you have not done it I wish you to write me imediately and perhaps I will be able to come down— If you should be surveying at this time I wish you to doe it to the best advantage for me Yours

Benjn T Jaques

Sept 7th 1830

J. M. J. Carbajal to Austin

San Antonia, Sep 1st 1830.

C. S. F. Austin.

Muy Sor. mio— teniendo miedo qe. V. ya ha determinado de no venir aqui para el 5 de este presente; y no sabiendo si V. todavia *vino*, ó *no*: tambien teniendo mucho y demaciado cuidado por vuestra Salud, no me puedo detener de escribirle en este momento.

Pues, amigo; apreciado y querido amigo—ya que su bondad me ha hecho algunos pasos de amistad, por tanto, que yo seria superlativamente siego, si no pudiera ver claramente, la amistad y el cariño qe. V. B. me ha manifestado en tantas y repetidas ocaciones— lo repito—ya qe. todo esto es verdaderamente como lo he dicho, voy a manifestar sin circumlocucion, la grandisima confiansa qe tengo en V. H. y en vuestro cariño por su humildisimo Sirviente, en lo siguiente—

Para el primer de Octobre, mi primo Jose A. Navarro sale de aki, con la intencion de cumplir con su promesa de ir al P. P. y parece qe—yo me voy a quedar *colgado*, si V. B. no me ayuda, en, ó, por mejor decir, si V. no me *saca* de el atraso, en qe al presente me hallo— Porque, V. B. siendo mi *ne plus ultra*, ó *my Dernier resort*, efectivamente tendre qe—guardar mi *violin* en un *Sous*, si V. no me presta lo qe—necesito para mi viaje, y para comprar los agujones qe—precisamente necesito!

Mi querido primo Antonio, y su verdadero y sincerisimo amigo, me huviera prestado todo lo qe—quiero, si posiblemente lo hubiera tenido en su poder—pero, no sabiendo qe—yo tenia necesidad, no dejó mas en su posesion, qe—el dinero qe. precisamente necesita en el viaje para si mismo!

Ahora—puede ser qe—V. quiera saver qe— es la suma total qe— necesito. Primeramente quiero *cuatro agujones*, para emplear agrimensores a mi cuenta, en orden qe—podamos acabar las medidas en

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buen tiempo—es decir, para la *Primavera*—Para conseguir estos, no tengo un medio!

En cargué l agujon de la primer calidad, con todo lo qe—pertenece a él, á Coronel *Woodberry*, quien deve volver por el 15 del presente—

Tambien necesito como $50 para el *viaje* solamente—

Por lo qe— pertenese al pagamiento, V. sabe muy bien qe— muy pronto tendre el dinero. # Por esto he tenido tanto cuidado de v. Salud.

Resiba V. las saludes de mi familia, y el cariño de su seguro

JOSE M. J. CARVAJAL.

P. D. Por esta carta, puede V. ver el provecho qe—el poco tiempo qe—he estado en esta Ciudad, me ha hecho.

JOSE M. J. CARVAJAL. [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F: Austin, San Felipe de Austin, Coahuila & Texas.

This sentence you will understand.

ARCHIBALD AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New York 5 Septr 1830

MY DEAR SIR

From some cause or other we were Eight weeks without any of the news papers from your Colony, or any inteligence from there; during that interval, some one arrived here from St Louis, who reported that he had seen some person there direct from Texas, who said you was dead, and that it was generally believed in St Louis, this gave me much anxiety, until a few days since, I was agreeably relieved from this state of suspence, by the receipt of six of the Texas Gazettes, by the Editor of the Journal of Commerce by the same mail, up to the 12 July, which he sent me, and a new Orleans paper containing an article from one of your papers as late as the 22 July, by which I observed you were recommended as one to represent your Colony, to the Legislature, you having written to me, that your health was impared by the fatigue you had encountered, caused me to feel very apprehensive that the report might be correct— I considered it a very hard case, that just as you were commencing to reap and enjoy the benefits of your great exertions, that you should be taken off, and your Colony left to revert to its original nugatory state— Thank God the report proved false, and that you were yet alive, and I hope may live many many years, and be fully compensated for the many deprivations, you have been subject to, in the

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enjoyment of seeing your Colony marching on with rappid strides, untill it reaches the sumit of your most ardent anticipations—

I wrote to my friend Gildemeister in July last a very particular letter, in which I discribed such good qualities of your Colony, as I was acquainted with, stated the low price of the land, the inducements held out by the Mexican Government to Swiss and German Emigrants, and urged him, to endeavor to prevail on some of the most capable, and inteligent to visit it, and judge for themselves of the qualities, and advantages of the Country,— I recommended them going direct to New Orleans, so as to arrive there in the healthy season, and that on enquiry of your agent Mr. Breedlove, or the Mexican Consul, the proper way would be pointed out to them to reach your Colony— I learnt that he had a Brother in Business in Bremen to whose care I directed my letter, therefore presume there is no doubt but he will get it, and I hope will be able to do the needful—

From that state of quietness, and almost torpor in which the world was slumbering for such a length of time, we are now electrified from day to day with the wonderful commotions, and rappid succession of important events, with which Europe in particular has been convulsed within a year past, such as the Crescent having succumbed to the Russian Eagle, by which the passage to the Black sea is thrown open, a commercial Treaty concluded by this Country with the Sultan, of the Port[e],—the Dey of Algears submitting to the arms of France, and his piratical City, the Blue Beard for so many years of all Europe, stormed and taken possession of in a few hours, and what is most wonderful, and much more important a revolution in France, of four days existence causing a tyrannical King (Chas the X) to abdicate his throne, and run off, it is supposed to join as worthy a King as himself Ferdinand in Spain, the streets of Paris deluged with blood, and the whole Empire in commotion, a regency formed, the Duke of Orleans placed at the head of it, La Fayette at the head of 80,000 National Troops, quietness again restored, joy, and congratulations through out the Metropolis, causing wonder, and even approbation in England, and universal delight in this Country—

Spain it is thought will follow next, and speedily, see the article from the Madrid papers, in the paper which I inclose, which paper contains the particulars of the recent revolution in France, which may reach you by the regular mail first, should this packet not have a short passage— The Independence of the late spanish Colonies in South American, it is thought will soon be acknowledged by Spain— We had accounts from Venezuella yesterday by an arrival

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from Porto Cavello in 18 days passage, all quiet there, and the Capt tells me that the congress had decided on tolorating all religions, a very important step, what a wonderful advantage it would be to Mexico, if they would do the same, they had also forbidden all foreign Merchants doing business in their own name, except from those countries which had acknowledged their Independence—

The Mexican Minister is at present in this City, he was in our office yesterday, I hope his visit to this Country, will impress him, with favorable ideas in regard to our Government, Institutions, Customs etc, and that he will be able to transmit the good effects of them home— Mr. Treat the Brother of the Gentleman who made you a visit some time ago, is appointed, vice consul in this City, for Mexico, he is a particular friend of Henrys— I had the pleasure of passing part of an evening with the one who was with you, (a few evenings since, and had some interesting conversation with him, relative to your Colony, and he promised to call, and pass an evening with me, but left Town, without doing so, he had not positively decided on returning to Texas, but thought it probable he should, and if he goes I think he said it would be in October next— Mr. Prentiss called on me the other day to request a loan of your pamphlet, he tells me he is appointed the Agent to sell the Tract of Land, adjoining yours that was granted to Dr. [Woodbury?] whose Brother I wrote you some time ago, was going to see you, to consult you about it, cannot recollect his name at this moment—

I saw by the Texas Gazette the sloop Nelson advertised for this place and saw her reported as having arrived in the Mississippi, I think, but she does not make her appearance yet, I hope she may come as I hope to hear from you by her, and I suppose Mr John Austin will come in her as I have heard he was also coming this way, if he comes I shall calculate to hear a great many particulars about Texas, I hope they have not suffered by the tremendious Gales, that have caused so many disasters lately— There was a letter received here a few days ago from Matamoras, stating that Henry was going to your Colony with his Steam Boat— we wait anxiously to know if it is correct, it is a long time since any letters have been received here from him,— it was reported that there was a vessel to leave Matamoras about the 12 July, for this place, by which he may have written, but she has not made her appearance yet— If he had of gone there, in his individual capacity, some time since, you could probably have pointed out to him, a way of doing something to advantage, ere this, while I fear the Del Norte Enterprise, is a going to result unfavorably, poor fellow he has

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traversed the world, beat the Bush, in every Hemisphere, contended with almost unexampled perseverance, with the freaks of fortune, had a fortune at various times as it were in his grasp, and have frustrated, Blocade, Wars and peace have so intervened as [to] distroy his well founded hopes of success, the all powerful ingine Steam does not appear to enable him to stem the current that has set against him, should he have gone or go to your Colony, I will yet hope, that there is some good fortune in store for him—

I have been pondering in my mind what I could do to benefit my situation, and it has occurred to me that I might establish myself in New Orleans to advantage, if I could through your aid obtain a reasonable proportion of the products of your Colony (such as are suit to that place for sale) would it be consistent with your arrangements, to give me the agency of your Business there, and could you prevail on those colonists, or any part of those who are turning their attention to Sugar and Cotton to consign those articles to me, I presume there is no great quantity produced at present, but it will increase every year and must ultimately become very important these Ideas have suggested themselves to my mind, and should like to hear your opinion on the subject, perhaps I may find some one here who has capital, to join me, or if you can suggest anything better will thank you to point it out I am tired of dredging for a mere salary, but am afraid to give that up until I can find some thing that promises better— Henry should be with you tell him his Family are all well at New Haven

yours very affectionately

A. Austin

8 Septr,

No further news from Europe, people are very impatient for further intelligence to know what kind of a Genl the French people decide on, and whether the country generally acquiese in the measures that may have been adopted in the Capital—and what the other powers on the continent say to it— We have had several roomers that the English Government had assented to the opening the West India ports to our Trade, but they proved premature— The Negotiations on that subject are said to have been broken off, until the ceremony was over in burying the King,—

[Addressed:] Colº Stephen F. Austin, Sn Filepe de Austin Texas

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J. W. E. Wallace to Martin Van Buren

San Felipe, September 13, 1830.

See Calendar.

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AMOS EDWARDS TO AUSTIN

Davis' Point Galveston Bay Sept. 15th 1830

DEAR SIR

I have just recd your letter dated 29th August by the hands of Majr Lewis, and am very much astonished at the contents; or that part relative our conversation when you was here in april last— you say that agreeably to my request you have held in reserve for me the tract on the north side of Clear Creek between that creek and the red Bluff tract— you must have misunderstood me greatly if you thought I requested you to hold that tract of land in reserve for me for I never had the most distant Idea of such a thing and it would have been base in me to have wished to have had that tract conveyed to me after having given it up to Mr Morris for whom I purchased Taylors improvement, which I had previously to your comeing here informed you be letter and Mr Morris at the same thime applyed to you by letter for that tract— and he is now on it and has improved it considerably— when you was here you advised me to go and live on that tract at the mouth of Clear Creek and gave as a reason that it would be more to my interest as this land here was poor and that is very rich— and finally said that you could not let me have both places and I might take my choice— my reply to you was that I prefered this place as health was my first object and the land was good enough for me to make a living on and just at that time Mr Perry arrivd which broke up our conversation— but several days afterwards— you returned from an excursion with Mr Perry and the Surveyors— when you again undertook to advise me to leave here and go to the mouth of Clear Creek and I made you the same reply—that I prefered this place and was unwilling to go from it as I was satisfied that it is a healthy place and did not believe the other to be healthy—and now I know the mouth of Clear Creek is very unhealthy as almost every person who has been there this season has been and is sick— Shortly after my arrival into this Government you invited me to visit and explore your Colony before I would settle myself which I intended doing shortly after the rect of your letter but sickness prevented me then but I had fixed my mind on this place before I left Kentucky and determined on coming to it if it was unappropriated and being informed that it was vacant I applied to you by letter last September for this place for myself and for twenty Leagues around it upon which twenty families would settle as soon as they could remove after I gave them notice— your answer to me was that I could have my situation and as many families as removed with me could have situation but that you could give no answer as to the balance or any more lands untill the Genl.

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Commissioner came on who you expected shortly and would then write me fully on that subject— upon the receipt of your letter I began to prepare to remove to this place—and about the first of November sent part of my hands and stock with Junker to come here and put me up some cabbins or camps to shelter my family when they came on—

I followed with the balance of my family in December except my wife and called to see you on my way here and informed you that some of my hands were here then improving this place—You said we would not fall out about it and that I should have a place to suit me here and when you was here you told me I might have my choice of this or the Clear Creek tract and I told you I prefered this place, which I deemed sufficient and expected you would have had this tract surveyed for me before M^{r} Ingram returned to St. Fillippe— there were several other families removed with me who all intended coming near here but on their way heard that you had forbid any person setling in this part of the country they stoped above Harrisburg except M^{r} Morris who came on here in Feby. and engaged Junker to live on the place I bought of Taylor for him untill he could bring his family down which he did in July and call^{d} to see you on his way—when he says you informed him that I had taken the tract at the mouth of clear creek which was the reason he declined taking a certificate of his admission into the colony and was very much displeased with me untill he came and found I had not taken his place away— he wishes to become a setler provided he can get the land he is on— and if I cannot keep the tract I am on after being invited by you into your colony and coming here by your approbation and permission I must seek an asylum in some other colony for I know of no other place within this that will suit me and I cannot see with what justice I am to be compelled to leave a place that I have come to setled and done a great deal of labour on before there was a compass set or a chain streched on it for any other individual in this country, or any other to occupy— and all my labour with ten hands and myself improving the place to be totally lost,— it may be law, of course it will [not] be justice, but I hope you do not think it is either to take a mans labour for nothing. I came to this country with the hope of getting a sufficiency of land for myself and all my children and to have them all settled around me, and I expected to have found in you a friend who would have aided me in accomplishing my wishes in that respect and was more encouraged to believe so after— receiving your letters and shall yet hope I am not disappointed totally untill I see you again, but see no prospect of get-

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ting all my children to settle near me I will [try] to be at your house about the... [mutilated] agreably to your request when I hope you [will] give me a title for this place on which I have spent a great deal of labour and money—

AMOS EDWARDS

Col. Stephen F. Austin San Felipe de Austin

S. REED TO AUSTIN

Matamoras, September 15, 1830.

See Calendar.

ROBERT WILSON TO AUSTIN

Mattamoras 16th Sept 1830

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

MY VALUED FRIEND I have been in this place for sometime waiting on the vessel, which is promised freight— I calculate to sail in a few days,

I was Kindly received In this place by General Terran, Col Bradburn and others,

We Expect to be full of Troops for the Trinity Station, Col. Bradburn, the Commander etc—with whom I am pleased General Terran will march by land, shortly,

Texas begins to Excite Much Interest It appears to me, and many think with me, that It must be aplace, of Peace and Safety—Considering the great difficulties in the Government— I have positively stated our faithfulness towards the Government, and that there is nothing to fear from the Americans, Provided they Are believed, And not Imposed upon—we are Viewed with a Jealous Eye, In Texas Owing to the Jealousy of England, I have seen a New York paper, Containing the debates in Parliarment, By Huskisson Bearing Peal, and others—who toutch hard on us—Calling us squatters, Turbulent, and an ungovernable sett—and show the United States, as Reaching for the Country— I hope you have or will see the papers— But Sir we are safe, in *Texas*, Only let the Cittizens be true to their Contracts, notwithstanding, the Jealouses of the Governments—

I now Sir, before I close ask a favour of you, *It is this*, a Mrs Reed, of New Orleans was pleased with the discription which others and myself gave her of *Texas* she, agreed and vissitted, In July last—and Intended to have seen you—but understanding you was not home she declined— her Intention was to get land, and as she has a family and will be a Valuable Cittizen, I ask for her,

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She stated to me, that she had written to you on the Subject—she is On her way to Orleans—for the purpose of arranging her Buisness for a permanent removal, She wishes, If possible to have land located Imediately in some good place— or so that she can be certain of It— She may probably marry in Orleans or here—and then she would loose, what was her great wish—land— any thing you can do for Mrs Reed will Indeed greatly oblige me as I am perhaps the cause of her removal, she has many friends and I have no doubt you will be pleased— I hope you are well and all my friends— And the Colony in a state of prosperity which is the truest wishes of my heart

Ro. Wilson [Rubric]

Austin to Teran

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830.]

unofficial no de oficio

San Felipe de Austin 17 de 7bre. 1830

Sor Gral D Manuel de Mier y Teran

Muy Sor mio de toda mi consideracion A mi vuelta de Bejar el dia 15 del presente recibi la muy apreciable de V. fecha 20 del p° p°—

siento infinito qe la salud de V. se halla en un estado quebrantado, y ruego á dios qe. se restablesca pronta—

En cumplim^to°, tanto de deber, como de la franqueza que creo me es caracteristica voy a manifestar á V. el estado del punto pral á que se contrayga la carta de V. que es concentrar en esta colonia los habitantes dispersos que no sean comprendidos en ninguna empresa legal de colonizacion[1]

Aunqe. yo no he promovido este asunto con particular empeño ni he dicho otra cosa a nadie, sino declarar á todos que reciberia gustosamente en esta colonia á todos los dhos habitantes dispersos, en quanto permitian mis contratos con el Gob^no sinembargo se ha parecido entre ellos una especie de sospecha que el objeto del Gob^no es privar les de las mejoras que han hecho, y forzarles internarse más en el pais. Los mas de ellos dicen que han ya recibido la licencia del presidente de la republica para establecerse y quedar donde estan y que las concesiones p^a sus tierras son ya todas hechos en la debida forma por la superioridad, y solo falta estender los poseciones por medio de los comisionados nombrados al efecto por el Gob^no.— Como los mas de ellos no entienden este idioma hay varias opiniones sobre cuales son legalmente comprendidos y cuales

[1] On this subject see Barker, The Life of Stephen F. Austin, 312–318.

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no lo son en las conseciones ya hechas. Cada uno se interesa en no perder el trabajo ya espendido en mejoras, fabrica de casas, limpiar labores etc. y de consiguiente cada una espera ser uno de los comprendidos—

En este punto de vista es claro que sera dificil y aun perjuicioso promover este asunto hta que se ha determinado finalm^te^ las cuestiones preliminarias ¿quienes han ya recibido la licencia del Gob^no^ p^a^ quedar donde se han establecido—quienes son comprendidos en las gracias ya concedidas—quienes son legalm^te^ establecidos, y quienes no lo son?—Si yo promuebo este asunto en manera alguna antes de determinarse estas cuestiones preliminarias, creo que puede perjudicar, en lugar de aprovechar el objeto que se desea por razon que causaria sospechas contra mi que mi objeto era fomentar mi colonia en lo particular por el atraso, ó el despoblar lo restante de Texas, y qe. yo obraba de acuerdo con el Gob^no^ p^a^ privar les de sus mejoras, y otras sospechas de igual naturaleza que suelen correr entre un pueblo poco ilustrado en asuntos publicos é ignorante de este idioma— Opino pues que el modo mas acertado sera determinar premosamte [previamente] y sin perdida de tiempo los habitantes que son ya comprendidos en las gracias ya concedidas y dar les sus poseciones sin demora Esta obra fenecida los restantes sabrian, que no podian recibir posesiones alli, y, ó se mudarian a otra parte del pais, ó abandonarian este territorio porque estoy bien seguro que ningunos se opondrian en manera alguna á la ley, ni a las ordenes del Gob^no^, una vez convencidos que no tienen derecho legal de quedar donde estan [1]

Con muchissimo gusto he sabido por la carta de V. que el Coronel Don Juan Davis Bradburn viene á Texas encargado del establecim^to^ de Galveston—

Opino que no conviene al interes publico ni al de Texas en el estado en que ahora se halla qe se nombre un administrador p^a^ Galveston que no sea mexicano por nacim^to^ y ademas debe ser un hombre de mucha calma y mucha prudencia. El que parecio aqui con el caracter de administrador en mi opinion no posee ningunas de estas calidades. He leido con sorpresa la carta que el Sor Jorge Fisher escribio a V. cuya copia fue trasmitido al comisario de esta, en la cual dice mucho del comercio en negros de africa, de la isla de cuba, del contrabando etc. Aquella carta es de una naturaleza p^a^ hacer mucho perjuicio con el Gob^no^ de Mexico, y de causar opiniones equivocadas, porque las indicaciones que contiene son falsas. A la llegada de este hombre aqui le recibi con franquesa y le traté con la consideracion que consideraba debido á un empleado publico

[1] On the history of these East Texas settlers and their difficulty in obtaining titles see ibid, 375–380.

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como crei que era, pero el de su parte ha correspondido mal, y le he dicho Ayer que todo trato amistoso entre el [y] yo era terminado

Aseguro a V. que estoy cansado y algo desanimado con tantos años de trabajos penibles sin poder ver disminucion á ellos—deseo una vida quieta y pacifica—me canso con la lucha de las pasiones de la envidia, la calumnia y la ingratitud. No es facil comprehender lo dificil que son los trabajos de un empresario— Ademas de cumplir con su deber al Gob^no^ tiene que complacer á los colonos compuestos de una mescla de disposiciones, estrangeros al Empresario, a ellos mismos, al pais, a las leyes, al Gob^no^ al idioma en fin de todo— Zelosos del emp^o^ de sus derechos de ellos mismos entre si, y de mil cosas imagenarias, un dia quejandose del Emp^o^ y denunciandole por especulador y hombre malo, y otro dia llenandole de alabansas. Ademas de todo esto la ley de colonizacion es un laberinto de confusiones, y obscuridades, y dificultades. Nuestra Gob^no^ local en lo que toca á la administracion de justicia por los Alcaldes es tan malo que el unico consuelo que tenemos es, que no puede peor, sea cual fuese el cambio.

creo que estariamos mejor en clase de Territorio pero la dificultad en esto consiste en que no se puede calcular de un mes al otro que systema de politica ni que partido llevará las riendas en Mexico a causa de tantas revoluciones—Despues de nueve años no debo desanimarme, pero confieso que tengo momentos sumamente pesados.

Escribi á V desde Bejar, en principio de este mes, repito lo que dije en aquella carta.

Antes de salir para el Saltillo quiero concluir todo lo pendiente— esperaba una emigracion de la mejor clase este otoño, pero temo que no vienen-la ley de 6 de avril impedira á los buenos, por razon que no quieren entrar en un pais donde se les miran con tanto sospecho que era necesario prohibir la emigracion de norte americanos. Temo que hombres de delicadeza no viendran, los malos si, porque poco sienten ellos de delicadeza. La idea de pasar toda mi vida como he pasado los ultimos nueve años es terrible—vale màs, ó adoptar un sistema franco con respecto á la emigracion á Texas, ó condenar el pais de una vez al desierto, á los barbaros, y a los presidiales. V. sabe lo dificil que es poblar este pais con mexicanos, y hacer lo de europa es obra de un siglo—los ingleses no viendran á causa de la restriccion de religion, y ellos son los mejores pobladores por ser los mas emprendedores—yo he tenido la idea que fue el interes y la politica de Mexico de formar Texas en un estado de esta federacion a fin de tener un baluarte sobre su frontera septentrional, y he tenido una ambicion para coadyuvar en el adelanto de este pais en cuanto pude por mis esfuerzos personales pero confieso que empieso á dudar que Texas no sera mas que un despoblado por muchissimos años. Mis opiniones relativas a la union de este pais con el norte son bien cono-

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cidas No quiero ver Texas separado de Mexico, y si llega el caso de ser nesesario, para salvarlo de ruina entera opino que sera mejor declararse independiente del mundo, antes de unirse al norte. Las razones en que fundo esta opinion son numerosas sugeridas por la situacion local del pais, y de sus intereses agricultores, comerciales, y manufacturos no sé cual es la intencion del Gob^no^ con respecto a Texas, Aunque gran parte del pais es enfermiso deseo pasar mi vida aqui, si puedo hacerlo en quietud, y si no hay esperanzas de esto ire á otra parte—no puedo vivir en una borrasca.

He de suplicar que V. me perdone por haverme estendido tanto, hay momentos que necesito desahogo y no puedo desahogarme á nadie aqui porque aunque mi corazon sea lleno de tristeza, he de elevar un semblante sonriso delante los habitantes.

creo que el editor de la Gazeta ha remitido su Gazeta a V. de su propia voluntad

Con el mayor respecto y amistad deseo el restablecim^to^ de su salud y quedo de V. el amigo y servidor que atentamte. b. s. m.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

P. D. Acabo de recibir por el correo de hoy una carta del Sor D^n^ Lucas Alaman, y otro del Sor Vice Presidente. Ambas de una naturaleza sumamente satisfactoria—parece que hubo muchas opiniones equivocadas en la primavera, tanto en mexico como aqui pero gracias a dios ya van desvaneciendose—confieso que al recibir la ley de 6 de avril me llené de dudas, porque entonces no entendi el asunto como ahora lo entiendo—y digo con sinceridad qe. mis temores han disparecido—sin embargo creo que es de mucha importancia arreglar un sistema permanente para Texas, cuyo objeto sera poblar lo con gente de capital y de honradez sean del que fuesen

E. F. A.

AUSTIN TO AYUNTAMIENTO OF NACOGDOCHES [1]

Se ha servido la asamblea electoral del Depar^to^ de Bejar honrarme con el destino de diputado en la Hon^ble^ Legislatura del Estado, cuyo empleo con mi persona pongo á la disposicion de V. S.

En el desempeño de las muy sagradas obligaciones de un representante de un pueblo libre, varios y muy importantes Son los deberes que se presentan: Entre estos el primero en el orden, es, el adquirir por todos los conductos mas seguros un conocim^to^ esacto de las necesidades que padecen los pueblos; las reformas en las leyes que la esperiencia ha demostrado ser necesarias; y la voluntad del pueblo con respecto á las enmiendas que se desean, al fin de pro-

[1] From Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. There is a copy of this letter in Austin's blotter, in file of June 5, 1830. He addressed it to the ayuntamientos of Bejar, Goliad, San Felipe, Nacogdoches, and to the political chief.

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porcionar el diputado los datos necesarios para poder cumplir con mas asierto con sus deberes en la asamblea Legislativa en tiempo de sus sesiones.

En esta inteligencia he considerado de mi primer y particular deber, el asegurar á los pueblos de esa Municipalidad p^a. conducto de V. S. que me considero el agente y sirviente del pueblo, y como tal en la obligacion de obedecer y cumplir con su voluntad en mi caracter de diputado, en cuanto sea compatible con la constitucion y las bases fundamentales del sistema que nos rige, y que todos hemos jurado á sostener.

Al mismo tiempo he de suplicar que se sirvirá V. S. como el cuerpo representante Municipal del pueblo de esa Municipalidad proporcionarme las noticias é indicaciones que estime necesarias en la materia.

Varias personas me han indicado que existe una necesidad de algunas reformas en el modo de administrar la justicia en los tribunales inferiores, y muchos opinan en favor del establecim^to de jueces de letras y del juicio por Jurados, de conformidad con los articulos 192 y 193 de la Constitucion del estado. Por cuyas razones y por ser estos puntos de la mayor importancia suplico que me permita V. S. llamar su atencion á ellos, y que se servirá V. S. decirme lo que estime por conveniente, para mi gob^no con respecto á estas como á demas materias que en el juicio de V. S. merecen la intervencion legislativa, para el fomento de la prosperidad y felicidad del depar^to y del Estado.

Me aprovecho de la ocasion para presentar á V. S. las seguridades de mi mas alta consideracion y respeto.

Dios y Libertad Villa de Austin á 18 de Sept. de 1830

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Yll^mo Ayuntam^to de Nacogdoches

SUMNER BACON TO AUSTIN

Gonzallas Sept the 18 1830

DEAR SIR

On conversing with Miss Hambleton since your departure from here she thinks that writing to new york before some inteligence can be received from Tennessee will give her some unnecessary trouble in setling the business in Tennessee. the injustice and littigation which takes place frequently in probates of the united states make plane cases doubtful It is evedent to me from private conversation with *doc.* Hambleton that what property he may have had in Tennessee is no inheritence of his Fathers, but of his own

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accumulating and no doubt but she (his widow) was considered by him as the most dear and if so of course she ought to enjoy some of his property—

However she having confidence in your judgment and the knowledg you have of the laws of that government will leave it with you to not write at present or to write—

one question on this subject has caused some doubts withe me (viz) By what authority Marriages are solamised in the colones. whether the state legislator has enacted it or whether it has become a law by costome; this is a question I ask in confidence and now doubt remains if the Legislator hav anacted it of it being valied in any covernment. But if grown in to a law by costom it must be invalied

I cannot close this without mentione one subject which I view of some importance to the genral good of the Government and to the colonest that is The establishing some ecclesiastic authority with out some religion man is But little above the animal creation. I need not say nor compair the colonest to animal (or brutes) they have a theory of religion without practice why Habit and costom has taught them to discard the Roman Catholic Doctrine nor could they be prevaild on to be reconciled to it Nor are they alowd to practice their one [own] theory publickly:

Now to remove a prejudice which is in the brest of the colonests and to prove that the government do not wish to oppress them or curtale or infringe upon their consciences whould be to appoint some eccleiastical man whome the colonest mite recommend. This would have the double effect it would have a tendency on the part of the colonest to adhere closely to the municapal laws or sivil and Military and would incourage industry and incourage avirtuous and industrous emigration. By a carfull policy on the part of him to whom this trust rests (?) would ultemately prove their was no inequity or injiery arising from the institution to the government.

I am aware that this is a subject which ought to be touched in confidence and judgement I am well aware of superstition ignorance and misrepresentations in the world: and if the name of a Presbyterian could opperate prejudicial to conduce to the general welfare of the inhabitants or a Roman why not assume it.

But farther it would matter but little of what profession a Preacher is of with the colonest so he be a protestant and if the doctrins of the Presbyterians are more favourable to the Roman Doctrins it would give me pleasure and joy to render my services and spend my substance in doing good to the world of mankind and to reconcile governments or communities and doing a gineral good I could bend greatly even to circumcise etc etc—

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your Election is the cause of much gratification in this colony people or expecting much to be done Ignorant of the Powers of a representative. I beg leave here to make one remark and hope you will consider it as comeing from the heart of one who wishes that good of all and particular your self the colonest will expect every thing the Mexicans will be jealous; the safist path is nutral ground. Intelagance reason and judgement there is no difficulty with

I am disposed to advise with those who is able to instruct me in policy and genral good to which I appeal to your judgement and await your answer, No more

SUMNER BACON

Col Stephen F Austin

the first Clauses of this leter is written by the request of Mis Hambleton any instructions or reasons(?) you may give will be thankfully received through me S Bacon

[Indorsed by Austin:] Rec^{d} Nov. 18, 1830

AUSTIN TO ALAMAN

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

(*no de oficio*)

San Felipe de Austin 20 September 1830

Exmo Sor D^{n} LUCAS ALAMAN

EXMO SOR—Recibi por el ultimo correo la muy apreciable carta de V. E. fecha 25 del po. po.—

Me es muy satisfactoria saber que mi conducta y sentimientos han merecido la aprobacion de V. E.—

Al esplorar este pais en el año 1821 me animé con el deseo de contribuir a su poblacion por medio de la empresa de colonizacion cuyos primeros pasos se habian ya tomados por mi sor padre D^{n} Moses Austin. Me determine de obrar con franqueza y buena fé con todos. Si he cumplido con esta regla, ó no, es cuestion para la decision de otros con vista de mis hechos y conducta. Mis intenciones han spre sido sanas y creo que nunca han merecido sospechas. Mi situacion ha sido muy delicada, y sumam^{te} cargada de quehaceres y dificultades desde el principio hasta el presente. He tenido que llevar toda la responsibilidad, y todo el peso del trabajo arduo resultando de la formacion de un establecim^{to} nuevo en un desierto. Muchas veces me he hallado casi sin apoyo ninguno del Gob^{no} á causa de los varios cambios, revoluciones y desavenencias intestinas que han agitado la nacion mexicana, y que demandaron toda la atencion del Gob^{no}— Permiteme V. E. aludir á aquellos tpos y hacer la pregunta ¿ si mis intenciones, ó las de mis colonos no eran sanas, quietas, y pacificas,

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que ocasiones mas favorables pudieramos haver deseado para llevar á efecto proyectos, que las presentadas por el estado de cosas que ha ecsistido varias veces desde el ano 1821?—

No han faltado personas que han intentado infundirnos con temores relativos á las intenciones del Gob^no^ para con las colonias nuevas, pero estos colonos nunca han titubiado un momento en su confianza, ni se han desviado de su deber—

Remito á V. E. otro ejemplar de las traducciones que hize de las leyes de colonizacion, la introduccion esta un poco prolixa. Algunos perversos para alterar la tranquilidad publica esparcieron especies que yo no tenia autoridad del Gob^no^ para introducir familias, que no hubó necesidad de mi demora un año en Mexico en—1822 y 1823 y todo era un engaño mio etc. Para desvanecer estos rumores crei necesario dar una historia detallada de todo, y de aludir á los acontecim^tos^ en mexico en aquellos años, para esplicar las razones que me obligaron de permanecer alli tan largo tiempo. El objeto era satisfacer á mis colonos y quietarlos con respecto á mi conducta y la legalidad y amplitud de mis facultades.

Es muy injusto y muy falso lo que han publicado en los Estados unidos del norte relativo á la masa de los pobladores de Texas. Es cierto que hay algunos hombres malos pero hay muchos buenos. La regla que yo adopté en esta colonia era usar de todos en cuanto pudieron ser utiles para allanar las primeras dificultades y obstaculos del desierto, pero al mismo tpo tener a la vista el numero y la conducta de los sospechosos ó desareglados y espulsar ó ponerles el freno cuando era nesesario. Puedo asegurar á V. E. que los habitantes de esta colonia merecen plenam^te^ la buena opinion que V. E. tiene de ellos—

Nuestro Gob^no^ local en lo que toca á la administracion de justicia esta mal organizado, tan mal, que el unico consuelo que tenemos sobre este particular, es que no puede ser peor, sea qual fuere el cambio. Nesesitamos jueces letrados colocados en Tejas—

La idea de un Gob^no^ territorial como territorio de esta nacion empieza á moverse en Tejas. No tengo formada opinion desisiva sobre esta cuestion. Deseo saber el systema que rige los territorios pero aqui no se puede conseguir informacion sobre el particular. Seria muy satisfactorio saber primeram^te^ en que modo Texas seria governado bajo un Territorio. Creo que sera facil formar un sistema p^a^ el gob^no^ territorial de Texas, tal cual por ejemplo como el adoptado por los E. U. del norte pa sus territorios, que seria acceptado con aclamacion, porque la verdad es, que texas esta mal, unido con Coahuila.—

La idea de V. E. de la utilidad de estender el idioma castellano entre estos habitantes es ciertam^te^ muy bien fundada. Yo he deseado por much tpo ver fundado un colegio para la enseñansa de los dos

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idiomas, pero se necesita fondos, dotacion de tierras y algunas medidas legislativas, y dudo si sera posible conseguirlas de la legislatura del saltillo, sinembargo pienso en hacer el esperimento durante el biéno [biennio] que me han eligido deputado para Texas—

La dificultad mas principal que impide el progreso de este pais, es la falta de brazos para las labores. Muchos de los colonos vienen de los Estados del Norte que toleran la esclavitud y de consiguiente son acostumbrados a tener esclavos. Con el aumento de poblacion agricola se podia estender el cultivo de algodon en Tejas á un grado qe. llamaria la atencion de los comerciantes Yngleses y Franceses. En tiempo del ministerio del Sor Cañedo yo remiti un papel sobre este asunto con fecha 8 de septiembre y 7 de octubre 1828.—

Este pais ofrece pocas cosas curiosas que mereceran ser colocados en el museo sin embargo me encargaré en buscar los objetos curiosos que V. E. me indica. He tenido noticias que muy arriba sobre este rio de los Brazos existen fragmentos de huesos semejantes á los discubiertos en varias partes del norte y conocidos por *Mammoth bones* La noticia esta muy vaga, tanto con respecto de la calidad y cantidad de los huesos, como del punto donde estan, pero no perdere tpo en adquirir noticias mas exactas sobre el particular—

De los indios Comanches se puede formar una coleccion de sus trages armas etc. que en siglos venideros cuando aquella tribu sola ecsisteria en la historia ó en la tradicion, serian objetos curiosos, y amas de esto, proporcionarian datos para dar idea de sus costumbres Creo que Nuevo Mexico y Bexar seran los dos puntos mas aproposito para hacer la coleccion—

El dia 1° de Enero estaré en el Saltillo y pienso en salir de esta el 15 de Diciembre. Creo que la ley de colonizacion del Estado necesita algunas reformas, Me parece mucha la cantidad de tierra (de uno á onze sitios) que se concede á cada individuo—

Si la idea de formar territorio de Texas tenia su origin en los deseos del Gob^no^ Gral. no tengo hesitacion de mi parte en asegurar á V. E. que opino no habra dificultad de parte de los habitantes de Texas, con tal que entienden primeram^te^ el modo en que se organizara el Gob^no^ Territorial, y que se respetará las poseciones de tierras dadas bajo la ley imperial de 4 de Enero 1823 y las leyes del Estado. Mi primera colonia esta fundada en la ley de 1823. Este es asunto de importancia y creo de toda necesidad manejarle de un modo para segurar la buena voluntad y consentim^to^ unanimo del pueblo de Tejas y al mismo tpo no dar motivos para disgustos a Coahuila. Puede haber una cuestion delicada con Coahuila que es en que modo se dispondran de las cantidades que se han de pagar por los pobladores al cumplirse los plazos de 4. 5. y 6 años para las tierras que han recibido. Esta cantidad pertenece y debe pertenecer a Texas en el

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caso de separarse de Coahuila y puede ser destinado al establecim^to^ y dotacion de un colegio literario—

Mi regla siempre ha sido no entremeterme en ninguna manera con cuestiones puram^te^ de partido. Los acontecim^tos^ en Saltillo el dia 1° de este mes y el atentado de deponer de sus puestos los diputados de Texas es cuestion constitucional y versa sobre el punto si el articulo 4 del plan de Jalapa es ó no parte de la constitucion de este estado.[1] Yo entendi que el objeto de aquel plan era restablecer el sistema constitucional. Si esto era el objeto no puedo comprehender como se quiere engirir dho plan en la constitucion del Estado. Los diputados ocupan sus puestos en virtud de la constitucion y solo pueden perderlos en el modo que ella prescribe— Dudo que mi situacion en el Saltillo como diputado va á ser muy delicada pero sin embargo si puedo contribuir algo en beneficio del publico puede V. E mandarme en quanto permite mis deberes á la constitucion porqe. miro esta como una cosa muy sagrada—

He de suplicar que V. E. me perdone por haverme estendido tanto. La carta que V. E. me hizó el honor de escribirme manifiesta mucha franqueza y he creido de mi deber el corresponderla, y ademas de esto mi disposicion es ser enteram^te^ franco, particularm^te^ en asuntos publicos—

Me aprovecho de la ocasion para asegurar a V. E. de la entera confianza y respecto conque tengo el honor de ofrecerme a su disposicion—

E. F. AUSTIN

P. D. La tranquilidad publica de esta colonia se halla en el mejor estado posible con la sola ecsepcion de los enbarasos en la administracion de justicia bajo el sistema de Alcaldes

AUSTIN

HENRY DOYLE TO AUSTIN

Galveston Bay, September 21, 1830.

See Calendar.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERAN TO AUSTIN

Matamoros Sep^te^ 22 de 1830.

Señor D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

ESTIMADO AMIGO Y SEÑOR: he recido la apreciable de V. fha. 7. del corriente y con ella la noticia de su nombramiento á Diputado de la Honorable Legislatura de ese Estado. Celebro la Eleccion como

[1] For explanation see below, Ayuntamiento of San Felipe to Ayuntamiento of Leona Vicario (Saltillo), September 27, 1830.

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interesado en el bien y prosperidad de la Republica, y particularmente de ese Departamento, y espero qe. los individuos de el no tendrán qe. arrepentirse de haber hecho esta eleccion ques [que?] V. teme estar en el Saltillo en una situacion ambarazosa, no lo juzgo yo así, pues á mas de qe. el buen concepto qe. V. justamente disfruta le dará el credito de imparcial á qe. se ha hecho acreedor, las buenas intenciones con qe. V. obre lo pondrán á cubierto delos tiros dela maledicencia. A esto se agrega, qe. el espiritu de partido se halla enla actualidad muy mitigado y no hay que temer las fatales consecuencias qe. recela sobrevengan: esto sin duda seria una fatalidad pues estorvaria se lograsen los buenos deseos de V. en favor de ese interesante país.

En lo sucesivo contaré con el influjo qe. V. me ofrece y del cual me prometo grandes beneficios y ventajas para Tejas; y entretanto me repito á la disposicion de V. como su afmo. amigo y servidor qe. atento b. s. m.

MANUAL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

San Felipe de Austin Sept 22 1830

DR BROTHER

I have just got your letter of July 18 and am truly glad that you had so quick a trip home and found all well with the addition of another son— I was surprised that you thought me silent and reserved—it was what I never dreamed of— I told you the grant was in your and Emilys name jointly— however I hope it is enough for me to say that if I appear reserved exteriourly I was not so in heart, and I will here apprise you and Emily of a change which time care and something like disgust towards the world and human affairs, has wrought upon my disposition I find from your letter that I ought to have done it the first day we met— I have for the last few years been gradually loosing my taste for society, or for conversation— I am getting tactiturn, or what may be called absent minded— Silence is more agreeable to me than talking or noise— this thing is becoming habitual and in spite of myself it is growing upon me very rapidly— I therefore apprise you both that if you move here, you must not expect to find me the cheerful companion I once was,— if you wish to know any thing from me, you must ask the question direct, if I answer, *yes*, or *no*, and say no more, which may often be the case, you must not think that it proceeds from coolness on my part

I expect Henry Austin here tomorrow, he has arrived in the Brasos with his boat, and on the first interview with him I shall

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tell him of this part of my habits so that he may not be misled as you were, and think I am cool because I am not a great talker; dismiss that impression from your mind for ever I pray you I told you the grant was in your and Emilys name jointly— that was in fact saying all that could have been said on the subject by a days talking, and so far from casting any reflection on you as to Bryans children I felt gratefull for the care you had taken of them and was truly gratified that it was in my power to aid you in providing for them by means of this grant, and besides this it was necessary to state in the petition for the land that there were two families to be provided for in order to give a sufficient reason for asking for such a quantity as Eleven Leagues, without this it would not have been granted— I hope this is sufficient on this point and that your mind will be at rest and never again think that I am silent or cool towards you for I again assure you there is nothing of that, in my heart, nothing—

I am as I was when you were here litterally overwhelmed with perplexities worse if possible than when you left I have no prospect of much quiet for the future, nor of being able to enjoy much of your society even if you move, at least for two years, for I was elected on the 5 of this month a member of the Legislature of this State for the two years from the 1 of Jany next and must leave here in Decr for Saltillo where I shall probably be detain[d] one year and perhaps longer— nine years ago I inlisted my self as the slave of this colony, and there is no remedy now, for I am bound in honor and duty to labor for it untill its affairs are finally done— Our affairs with Govt. are on a much better footing than when you left here and are getting better—tho on that point changes are frequent. Now as to your removal—I have no house up nor under way—I made an arrangement with Morton to build one he was taken sick and disappointed me— The Steam Mill did not get under way as soon as was expected and has broken several times and done but little— I am now contracting with a carpenter to put up a frame store in this place and will try and have it ready by the time Hunter arrives—

From what you say I do not expect the family untill next fall— It will be hazarding too much to come in the Spring and besides perhaps you can come on during the spring or summer yourself and have a place provided for them to suit yourself—

There is much difficulty with Edwards about the place at the point and I know not as yet how to settle it without much bad feeling of an unpleasant nature, and your delay in removing will make the thing much worse— that place is of no value except as a pleasant situation— land of more value can be had— I will do the best I can— The titles are not yet finished because Padilla still is in confinement and no new Commissioner has been appointed— I now say

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to you once for all that any place which I have you may have for a residence or farm or what you please—the place where I originally intended to settle all my family is at peach point below Brasoria, on the Sea Shore prairie at the edge of the timber 6 miles from the sea beach— Every body says it is the best land and the best situation in the colony— It is my first choice for a residence, and on Chocolate Bayou is my second choice— I need you here to take care of my pecuniary affairs— unless I have some one to manage them for me I shall be as poor as a church mouse as long as I live, but you must consult your own feelings and your own wishes and act for yourself. If you come here, all that I can do shall be done. I am expecting instructions as to the introduction of negros, and as I have now no hope of seeing you this fall there will be time enough to send them to you before I leave here for Saltillo.

My confidence in the ultimate rise and prosperity of this country is in no degree impared, it must prosper in the end— I have rec^{d} by the last mail the most friendly and satisfactory letters from Mr. Lucas Alamán the minister of state, and from the vice President Bustamante, and from Genl. Teran, they all say to me that this colony will be fully protected and encouraged by the Govt. and their confidence in me and in this colony is full and unimpaired and that they always have had confidence in me and the colony etc. these assurances are very flattering, and I think them sincere— My election to the legislature will also place me on still higher ground, tho I think it very probable that some change may take place as to our local government Texas does not suit to be united with Coahuila— But I am running into the all absorbing subject of public affairs, and general interests a thing which has always occupied so much of my time that I have neglected my own private affairs in toto, and I fear will always neglect them unless you are here to manage them. I had determin^{d} to put all my affairs of a private nature into your hands— I am laboring more for yours and Emilys children than for myself—what do I want with property or fortune? but little will do me, and every year less, for I am dayly getting more tired of the world and its entercourse and affairs— however let no wish of mine influence you, do as you please—only never again think that I am *silent* or *reserved* because I am not a great talker—

I know not what else to say— I am opposed to your removing in the spring, tho if you put the family at Peach point I believe they will be [as] healthy as at any other place in the wood so do as you please on that subject— I shall be absent from here but that will make no difference I shall leave a full power of attorney with Williams to deliver to you all notes due to me, as soon as you arrive

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so that you may collect them in stock and also take charge of all my affairs I shall also leave my *will* with him to be delivered to you—

If you come this fall you must be content to quarter in log cabbins, which you will have to put up after you get here but that is no great job and I could do it, but I prefer that you would look at Peach point and other places and chuse for yourself— If you want any thing let me know, and not think I am reserved because I do not offer it— I again tell you and Emily that I am far different in my habits of cheerfulness and loquacity from what I once was— remember this and run no more into an error that is calculated to mar the happiness of us all— I hope next mail to get an answer from the Govt. as to the appointment of a commissioner and will finish the letter but I do not know how I shall manage the thing with Edwards and you must not be disappointed if that place is not included. I mean the situation at the point on the Bay— write me as to this and whether not getting that place will make any material difference with you— The situation on the Bay between the point and clear creek is as good as that at the point in some respects— Let me know your wishes and as you justly observe be very frank with me—

I am sorry to say that some of the people here are in a tangle amongst themselves. Seth Ingram and H. H. League are in confinement for killing a man by the name of Holtham—it happened in an affray in the street—public opinion is very much excited against League It all happen[d], as most of such things do in my absence the beginning of this month at Bexar— The fate of League and Seth Ingram (the surveyor) is very doubtful, particularly the former— There is a furious excitement all over the colony against him— I think that you cannot complain that this letter is short so I will close it —

remember me to the children

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

26th I am perplexed about your removal,
I have not yet seen H. Austin. I really want you here to take care of my pecuniary affairs, and have some idea of throwing the whole of them into John Austins hands

There is no remidy for me, I must continue to devote all my time to the general interests of the colony or it will not advance, it may be necessary for me to go to Mexico next year— I cannot request you to advise any of my relations to come here— They would all think as you have that I am silent reserved cold or some thing else— better live apart than in that way so for the future I never will say one word about any person who is in any degree related to me, removing to this country. If you were here to attend to it there might

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be two hundred cows and calves collected for me this winter and spring and as many more in the fall— this would be a sufficient start for a stock farm— I wish to know definitely what you intend to do for I must make some final arrangement before long, I have an impression that I told you all this when you were here, but perhaps I only thought it— At all events let me know what you are going to do and when you will be here, but act for yourself and do not be influenced by me in any part of your movement, I only want to know what to depend upon and what arrangements I must make to try and get some one to take charge of my affairs while I am absent and occupied about other matters S. F. A

Sam Browne is well

27th. I send you a power of attorney which you must sign at both the places marked with pencil thus—

It is appointing S. M. Williams your and your wifes agent to attend to getting your titles completed—send this back by some *safe* conveyance as soon as you can. it ought to have been signed when you were here and is dated then. Be sure and sign it at both places Emily need not sign it—

[Rubric]

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

Alcalde de la Villa de Austin

Con el oficio de V. fha 14 del que nos rije recibi la copia autorisada delos decretos del Ayuntam^to^ de esta jurisdicion relativos á una noticia detallada de los negocios pendientes entre esa corporacion y yo como Empresario de esta Colonia—

Con este oficio remito á V. una nota delos solares vendidos por mi, y una cuenta de cargo y data relativa á dhos solares é intereses D y L. Villa de Austin á 24 de Sep^e^. de 1830. E F A C^o^ Alcalde de Austin

Alcalde de la Villa de Austin

La nota oficial de V. fha 14 del que nos rije enque V. me pide un Estado que manifieste la fuerza etc. del Batallon de Milicia Civica de mi mando, fue recibido por mi el dia 15. Y en atencion pa su contenido hare los esfuersos necesarios para formar el Estado referido y ponerlo á su disposicion. Mas como las dos compañias de Nacogdoches estan agregadas al Batallon de mi mando, Me es preciso pedir de los capitanes de dhas Compañias las correspondientes notas de su fuerza y armam^to^ conloque contesto á su citada nota oficial—D y L. Villa de A 24 de 7bro de 1830. E F A

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Editorial in the Texas Gazette[1]

Letters have been received by a gentleman in this place from persons high in office and in the confidence of the nation. Their letters express the most friendly and natural disposition towards this and all other colonies or settlements in Texas that have been legally established. Great solicitude is manifested in these letters for the prosperity of this country, and for its advancement. They say in positive terms, that none of the rumors which agitated public opinion as to Texas last spring had their origin from this colony; neither has there ever been any unfavorable impression against it. These rumors, they say, originated from a great mass of newspaper and other publications in the U. S. of the north—stating among other things, that swarms of adventurers and fugitives from justice, who could remain no longer in their country, were about to overrun and occupy Texas. Such an event would have been ruinous to the tranquility and prosperity of this country, and therefore demanded the prompt attention of the government.

It must be confessed that publications similar to that by "A revolutionary officer," and many others which contain nothing but *base and infamous slanders* were well calculated to ruin us, both in Mexico and in foreign countries. There is cause to suspect that one of the great objects of these slanderous scribblers was to stop the emigration from the U. S. of the north, or from other foreign countries to Texas. . . . They appear to have acted on the principle *to make Texas a part of the U. S. of the North*, or *to keep it down and consign it for years to the wilderness and the occupancy of the Indians by damning its reputation so that no Honest, wealthy or civilized man would remove to it.* . . .

We have in former numbers of the Gazette stated that the cause, *and the sole cause*, of any and all the little bickerings and confusion that may have existed in Texas, since 1821, have proceeded from the want of a proper organization of the local government, and especially of the judiciary. In this respect a change is necessary, and is daily becoming more so. It has become a matter of serious doubt whether Texas will ever rise or prosper, so long as it is united with Coahuila. The question of separating, with the view of forming a territorial government, as a territory of this nation, is beginning to occupy much of the public attention. This is a serious question, and merits the most calm and mature reflection.

[1] Sept. 25, 1830. Written by Austin.

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Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

Alcalde dela Villa de Austin

Ympuesto del contenido del oficio de V. en fha de hoy relativo á la falta notada de alg^{s} documentos en ese archivo y despues de haber tomado rason de ellas por la nota que V me remitio veo que solam^{te} tengo en mi poder dos de los referidos que son el No 37 y 43. los cuales paso á V con este. relative á los demas sé que por mi ni por ning^{o} empleado en esta oficina se les han sacado de su lugar, por ser relativos á asuntos sobre quales no he tenido qe meterme. D y L villa de A 27 7bre de 1830. E F A

Alcalde de la Villa de Austin

Remito á V. original la acta extendida por el Sor Comisionado B de Bastrop y Yo como Empresario en la concesion hecha á la villa nombrado San felipe de Austin, dela cual puede V. sacar copia autorizada para surtir los efectos requeridos por el Sor Gefe de este Dep^{o} acusandome el correspond^{te} Recibo D y L villa de A. 27 Sep^{e} de 1830 E F A

Ayto de Nacog^{s}

Para que puedo remitir el Estado de fuersa y armamento del Batallon del Depar^{to} de Bejar de mi mando que requiere las Leyes he de pedir que se servira V S. adquirir del Comandante dela Compania de Milicia Civica de ese pueblo el Estado de la fuersa y armamento dela dha Compañia y me la remite á la brevedad posible.—D y L villa de A 27 de Sep^{e} de 1830 E. F. A.

Ayuntamiento of San Felipe to Members of Legislature[1]

oficio Answer to the letter of the deputies (to be sent to the deputies)

Este Ay^{to} ha recibido el oficio que se ha servido V. V. S. S. dirigirle con fecha 4 del presente mes relativo á los procedimientos violentos de una faccion en esa capital, que han presentado un representacion al H. Congreso del estado suscrita por pocos habitantes de ese vecindario manifestando no ser V. V. S. S. acreedores á la confianza publica, y en consequencia pidiendo su remocion del puesto que ocupan, apoyando semejante pretencion en el articulo 4 del plan

[1] All of the documents concerning this matter are written by Austin.

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de Jalapa: y por fin V. V. S. S. suplican que se sirvira esta corporacion espresar su opinion si en algun sentido hasta la fecha han desmerecido V. V. S. S. la confianza publica para el empleo que disfrutan.

Por el mismo correo que trajo el citado oficio de V. V. S. S. esta corporacion recibio un oficio del Ilustre Ay^to^ de esa capital acompañado de copias de la acta de la junta del dia 1° de septiembre, y la representacion que en su consequencia se dirigio al H. Congreso.

Este Ay^to^ ha espresado su opinion sobre este asunto en la acta que acordó el dia de hoy, cuya copia va inclusa para los fines que convenga.

27 de Sepbre. 1830

This act is to be sent to the deputies, and to the chief of department.

Acta[1]

[Indorsed by Austin:] Original draft of the answer to the Ay^to^ of Leona vicario and acta relative to the removal of the deputies, etc., Sept 27, 1830

AYUNTAMIENTO OF SAN FELIPE TO AYUNTAMIENTO OF SALTILLO[2]

Answer to the Ay^to^ of Saltillo, to be sent to that body, and one copy with a copy of their official letter to be sent to the deputies and another to the chief of Department

Este Ay^to^ ha tenido la honra de recibir el oficio que se sirvio V. S. dirigirle con fecha 4 del presente, acompañado de la acta de la sesion estraordinaria del dia 1° del presente mes, y de la representacion que en su consequencia ha dirigido esa respetable corporacion al H. Congreso del Estado, relativo al resultado de la eleccion para senador. Se ha servido V. S. decir que uno y otro de estos documentos impondrán á esta corporacion de las ocurrencias de esa ciudad que tal vez seran ecsageradas por los enemigos del orden; serviendose esta corporacion acceptar los como un efecto de la confraternidad y harmonia que deben reynar entre los Ay^tos^ que componen el estado coahutiltejano, é igualm^te^ esperando que se servira este Ay^to^ emitir su respetable opinion sobre el particular a que contraen.

Este Ay^to^ ha ecsaminado los referidos documentos con toda la atencion que Merece el asunto, tanto por su importancia, como por la mucha respetabilidad de su origen.

La representacion mencionado que V. S. dirigio al H. Congreso del Estado pide

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[1] For the English of this *acta*, which is omitted, see Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XX, 273–274.

[2] Written by Austin. The English is in the Texas Gazette, Oct. 30, 1830. In the same issue there is an editorial on the subject written by Austin.

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'1° Que se lleve a efecto el arto. 4° del plan de jalapa en los Ciud^nos Lic. Manuel Carrillo y diputados Ignacio Sendejas, Jose M^a Balmaceda, Jose Aragón y Rafael Manchola, deponiendo los de sus destinos por no haber merecido ni merecer la confianza publica.

'2°. Que siendo esta declaracion un obstaculo para que el Lic. Manuel Carrillo represente al Estado en el senado de la union para que ha sido nombrado obre el H. Congreso del modo que esté en su facultades para evitar tenga efecto el indicado nombram^to,'

El derecho de peticion, ó de representar á las supremas autoridades esta garantizado a todos. Lo tiene un simple particular, el pueblo en parte ó en todo, los empleados y las corporaciones sean de la clase ó dignidad que fueren. Esto es claro é inconcuso. Pero sin embargo de esto ¿Puede decirse que el derecho de peticion, incluye el de demandar cosas que son evidentemente contrarias á la constitucion? ¿Puede suponer que el derecho de representar igualm^te confiere el de insultar á los supremos autoridades, a la soberania, y pueblo del estado?

El pueblo del Estado de coahuila y Texas han adoptado y sancionado una constitucion, que todos hemos jurado á sostener, y estamos todos en la obligacion mas sagrada de hacerlo. Ahora pueda cumplirse con esta obligacion y al mismo tpo llevar á efecto los dos articulos citados que concluye la representacion que se ha servido ese I[l]tre Ay^to dirigir al H. Congreso del Estado? Es decir deponer de sus destinos los diputados mencionados por no haber merecido ni merecer la confianza publica.

Aquellos sors diputados eran elegidos en la manera que prescribe la constitucion, ocupan sus destinos en virtud de ella, y solo pueden perderlos en el modo prescrita por la misma. Es muy claro pues que deponerlos en cualquiera otra manera seria infringir directam^te la constitucion, y cada individuo que tenga parte en semejante infringim^to seria culpable. No esta legado ni en la acta, ni en la representacion, que los dhos sors han en manera alguna infringido la constitucion, ni cometido otra acta alguna que les harian accreedores, antes las leyes reconocidas por el pueblo de este estado por vigentes, a ser castigados en la manera indicada. Mas al contrario, parece que su unica culpa es la de haber sufragado por un senador segun estimaron justo, y con la independencia debida, y en la manera y con todas las formalidades prescritas en la constitucion. El castigarles por esta acta seria inculparles por haber hecho, lo que era de su mas sagrado deber el hacer. No es, ni puede ser cuestion si el senador es bueno ó malo la cuestion es, si era elegido en la manera que prescribe la constitucion, y si pose las calidades constitucionales.

Se dice que estos Sros diputados no han merecido ni merecen la confianza publica. Esta es cuestion para los comitentes particulares de los dhos diputados, y si es que sus comitentes opinan que no merecen confianza no deben reelejirlos. Este es el remedio que pre-

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scribe la constitucion en semejantes casos, y para hacer lo efectivo se ha de ocurrir al publo cada dos años. Este es el unico tribunal competente para jusgar la cuestion, el tribunal del pueblo reunido á las elecciones en los tiempos, puntos, modo, y con las formalidades y el decoro prescritas por la constitucion.[1]

Es debida á la justicia, y a la franqueza decir que este Ay^to^ ha visto con desagrado las inculpaciones que se ha servido V. S. hacer contra los dhos sros diputados, y particularm^te^ contra los de Texas, Ciudanos Jose M^s^ Balmaceda y Rafael Manchola, y no puede este Ay^to^ considerar el intentar deponerlos de sus destinos en el modo indicado, en otro sentido que como un atentado contra la constitucion y un insulto directo a los comitentes de los dhos diputados.

Nros diputados Balmaceda y Manchola han merecido y merecen la confianza de los pueblos de esta Municipalidad y ni esta corporacion ni el pueblo de esta Municipalidad han visto datos ningunos relativos a la conducta y comportamiento de los señores Sendejas y Arragon que han en manera alguna desmerecido la confianza publica para el empleo que disfrutan—

De consiguiente, a la vez que este Ay^to^ recibe la comunicacion de V. S. y los documentos citados con el mismo espiritu de confraternidad y harmonia que animan a V. S. y que ciertam^te^ deben reynar entre todos los Ay^tos^ del Estado, tiene que sentir que el cumplim^to^ de los sagrados deberes que le impone la constitutcion y las leyes, le estrecha el duro caso de desentir y disaprobar en su totalidad á la dicha acta y la representacion, que á su consequencia se dirigio al H. Congreso del Estado.

Esta corporacion se aprovecha de la ocasion de presentar a V. S. su mas alta consideracion y respecto—

Dios y La Constitucion. Villa de A—27 Sepr. 1830

Francis Moore to Austin

September 27, 1830.

See Calendar.

John C. Walker to Austin

Clinton Loui Sept 30th 1830

Col Stephen F. Austin

Dr Sir This is the third letter I have had the honour of addressing you they were upon the subject of your cholony and [to]

[1]At this point Austin wrote and deleted the following paragraph: Este Ay^to^ no puede menos que estrañarse al ver junta de pocas personas en la capital del Estado constituirse en el organo de la opinion publica del pueblo del Estado. Sean lo-que fuesen la respectabilidad y representacion particular que gocen las personas que componen la junta ciertam^te^ la masa del pueblo no les habia delegado poderes para declarar su opinion, ni puede por ningun modo de racioncinacion a arguir que semejante junta podria representar la opinion publica de todo el pueblo de este Estado cuyo territorio esta vasto como este.

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enquire after your brother James, who I lament to learn died in New Orleans last summer poore fellow his loss is seriously felt by me My fathers house was his home for a year or two, he was my bosom friend a youth who Our whole family was as brothers to him and he to them, I wrote to James two or 3 times My object was to get an account of your cholony, I have yet serious notions of joining to your cholony, I presume you have filled the stipulations of the contract made by your father with the Mexican nation and that you are prepaired to advise as to the policy Of a poore mans emigrating to your Country, I have every confidence in your candor either interested Or not interested I hope therefore you will as soon as this reaches you answer my letters; to this address (Clinton Louisiana) as to the law now in force whether the american people have the right to emigrate and the inducements for so doing whether donations Are made to emigrants Or not and how much land, and whether there is unappropriated lands near you or not—the Character of the Soil and Particularly the health, of the country about you, the most advisable way of getting there with a family, the price of provisions corn, meat etc whether goods would be advised to be carried on or whar would be best to carry etc. The distance by land from the U. S. line crossing at Nachatochese— By answering this letter you will confer a particular favour— I have the honour to be

JNO C WALKER [Rubric]

Col Stephen F. Austin

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F. Austin St. Philippi de Austin Texas Care of Missrs. Harrison and Hopkins or Kincaid and Cockerill Natchitoches

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MOZEA ROUSSEAU TO AUSTIN

Colorado Crossing San Antonio Road, September, 1830.

See Calendar.

EMILY M. PERRY TO JAMES F. PERRY[1]

Potosi October 3rd 1830—

MY DEAR HUSBAND—

I direct this letter to Pittsburg and flatter myself that you have been their some time injoying the Company of your Relations, where you have been so long a Stranger. I hope that while you are enjoying their agreeable Society, you will not forget how limited your time is, and how anxious we all are for your Safe return home; it

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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appears to me that you have been gone two or three months; I was so a[n]xious for you to take the journey that you took in the Spring, that the time of your absence, I hardly regarded, but it is diferent now, every day that you have been gone appears a week; and God grant that you may be bless'd with a continuation of good health; to innable you to return to the bosom of your Family; the Children have all been very well, also all the rest of the Family; but there are a number Sick in town; Flemming Johnson, was buried las Thursday, he has left a large and distress'd Family; Samuel Perry is very much as he was when you left home; John Perry and Lady left home yesterday for S^{t} Louis, Eliza expects to be gone some time. I shall miss her very much; but I intend to apply myself to work; for an amusement I have quilted two quilts since you left home, and intend commencing on the third next-week, so you see, if my mind is uneasy, I still can work:— C^{ol} Smith[1] has *killed* another man he was a Shoemaker living in S^{t} Geneviere, a Stranger, he had not been long in the Country; they were drinking togeather and got to quarrelling on Politicks. Smith shot the man through the Heart, (I do not recollect his name,) he was put in *jail*, but has been Bail'd out, after Laying in jail three or four days—their was but one *person*, *present* a D^{r} Robertson, and he will be put out of the way on the day of *trial;* I expect, poor wretched Old Man what is to become of him;—

M^{r} Hunter says that he intends to commence packing up the goods by the 20th of this month, you will have to bring on some Country Linen for Family use, for their is none in the Store you wished me to make you up some check-Shirts, their is none of that article in the Store; and very little *Domestic*, I wish you to git me a *Pocket-Book* of *needles*, and a good p^{r} of Scissors; we have heard that the Lead is all Sold; times are as dul as ever; M^{r} Hunter has Sold the Lead-*Ashes* to *Casey* for five-hundred Dollars—he says that he intends to write you by this Mail; I think he is close-enoug God knows, and if he does not make money it will not be for the want [of] screwing; I hope you will be at home by the Last of this *Month* I wish you to *bring Guy* some little *trifle* for his feelings are very much *hurt* that you did not give him something when you come home before, and if you will recollect you made all the *Children* a present but *him*, I never obsev'd it untill he told me, a few days ago, and he shed tears while he was taulking about it, and observed that you liked all the Children *better* then him— I tryed to convinced him [that this was not true?] I wish you to git some little *trifle* that you think will please him—remember me to all your Relations,

[1] John Smith T.

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Lavenia is well and intends writing, to her Mother by this Mail— Adieu may God protect and conduct you safe to the arms of your Affectionate Wife EMILY. M. P

Rachel Dunklin wishes you to git her a Large Tucking Shell Comb—Suppose you git Guy a nice *Hat*, as he stands in need of one.

[Addressed:] Mr James F. Perry—Pittsburgh—*Pennsylvania*—

JOSÉ M. J. CARBAJAL TO AUSTIN

San Antonio, 8 de Octbre de 1830.

See Calendar

CHAMBERLAYNE JONES TO AUSTIN

Harrisburg, Texas, October 10, 1830.

See Calendar.

H. H. LEAGUE TO AUSTIN

Town of Austin Oct— 10th— 1830—

Col STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR, among the Evils that result to me from my Confinement, my pecuniary affairs are by no means the least, I have not the power to prosecute my rights or to repel their invasion; I am Compelled to submit to whatever terms are offered me; and to neglect intirely the prossecution of Every effort or Exertion by which I could bring in my means to my releaf; in this state of affares my ruin is inevitable unless I can dispose of so much of my property as will pay off all demands against me be them Just or unjust, and Trust to Collecting my debts when I have an opportunity of attending to them, and when it will opperate less against me than at the presant time; I wish to dispose of such property as I can pest [best] spare, or such as is not indispensible to the support of my family; I wish to Sell property to the amount of Three thousand Dollars one half to be paid in Eighteen months and the Other half to be paid to the discharge of my debts as they may be Called for, Some of which is now due and all will be due shortly, for this object I would be willing to sell my League of land at Jennings Camp, my Eighth of a League in the Matagorda tract one forth of a League in John McFarlands Tract my League of land on Clear Creek, and my Town property in San Felipe or so much as shall be sufficient to raise the amount above mentioned the object of this communication is to propose a sale of the property to you; if you can purchase the property

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it will accommodate me Very much. it is true that were it not for the presant difficulties that seround me and over which I can have no Controll, I should never have thought of Selling my landed property, but some of my property has to go, and I can better part with that than any thing Else; and when I again Get my liberty if Ever I do I can Acquire Other lands, I am willing to Sell the property for a price that will warrant a Speculation to the purchaser; this arrangement will releave me; but unless I can succeed with you or Some Other person, I must be ruined in my personal property, and See my family come to want. thare was a verbal agreement between Joseph white and myself that he should have half of the Clear Creek League of land, I have always been ready on my part to Comply with the conditions spoken of between him and myself when Ever he had performed his promises, for it intirely depended on his own performances whether it should become an Established contract or not he has never Complied as I shall be Very able to prove, and his death renders a Compliance impossible, yet neither him nor his Estate has lost nor Can they loose one Cent by his failing to Comply, should I make a Deed to that or any Other lands to him it would be intirely a Donation, for by our last Settlement it will be seen that after Crediting him with the horse he let you have and all other accounts that he had against me, he was left my debtor to the amount of 70 or 80 Dollars this settlement was made at his own request and in the manner pointed out by himself, though he did not say at the time that he abandoned the land arrangement but rather that he intended to Comply if possible, he has not the least particle of interest in the land in any way which I shall be able to Establish to the satisfaction of the world—you will pleas to let me here from you as soon as possible as it is necessary that I should arrange my affares without delay

H. H. League

Archibald Austin to Austin [1]

New York 10 Oct^{r} 1830.

My Dear friend and Cousin,

On the morning of the 8 ult^{o}, I put my last letter for you in the Ohio Bag for New Orleans, on that Evening, I observed the arrival of the Nelson at quarantine, two or three days after M^{r} Woodbury came up to the City, and told John that he had brought letters from you, but had left them on board the vessel, in a bout a week subsequent to that, he delivered to John your letter for him, and one for myself and three newspapers—I had been calculating on a

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry. The letter is unfinished.

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letter from you, by this vessel, and was much pleased, to find my anticipations realised—I congratulate you on the dispersion of the clouds, that were lowering about your political horizon, and that all was sun shine with you, that you were again fairly before the wind, with a smooth Sea, and having proved yourself an accomplished navigator, I trust you will steer clear of all rocks, and quicksands—

I was not so fortunate as to see M^r^ Woodbury, and John saw but very little of him, I called several times to see him, but could never find him in. I should like to have seen his papers, to have ascertained whether his Brother was mearly an agent, or whether he was actually interested with the others concerned, and to have heard from him the result of his visit to the Governour of Texas, in which he told John you was so kind as to accompany him—as M^r^ Prentiss told me that Zavala was one of the principal persons interested in that Grant, and that they are of opinion that Woodburys Brother was only an agent, that he had seen W—once, and that he had promised to show them his papers, but went into the Country without doing so, he sais if his papers will show that his Brother was interested he shall have his due, or if he was only to act as agent he shall have justice done him, this as it may be—I am not much acquainted with Prentess, he formerly lived in Lexington, and if there is any person with you from that place; I presume he or they, can inform you how he stood there,— Prentess tells me that he has acted as agent for the Sale of Lands in the Grant alluded to, and for the purchase of them also, that he, and several of his friends have made a purchase, and that his Son, who he sais is attached to the Army, has obtained a furlough and is a going to visit that Country this winter, and that some of his friends, and many more, making up quite a *party*, are a going out to settle on that land this winter—I told John if he saw Woodbury he better tell him to move cautiously, he told me [he] had just time to tell him so in the street, when he last saw him, that W— told him, he did not know but he had some more newspapers for him, that he would just step in and look, and call directly after, and see him but did not make his appearance again—why he should have kept so aloof from John and myself. I cannot imagine, we had no design on him, or his lands, and all we were desirous to do was to prevent his being imposed on, if we could help it—He expressed great delight with Texas, and said he was a going to return immediately with several of his Sons, I presume he is now in Connecticut, and may be back soon, with some of his connections, purhaps he was afraid to act without their council—

27 Oct^r^ I approve of your idea of a Coat of Arms, and I know no one better intitled to a Seal of the kind than yourself—I have

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had one made on the most approved and recent fashion, which is very plain, and I think all the handsomer for it, it has been the fashion here to fore to have them very showey, with a great deal of work on them, but that fashion is now exploded, the Seal without the Engraving cost $16. and for the engraving $10—whole cost *$26*—for the Cross and initials he asked $6 and for the addition of the Bucks Head and Horns $4—there are only two men in the City who ingrave seals well, and this man Lovett, I was recommended to as being the best, it appears a great price, but I could not prevail on him to cut it cheaper. I have taken a great deal of pains, and I hope it will please you, the seals of the fashion previous to the present, cost from $25 to $35 without the Engraving—I shall send this by M^r^ W^m^ T. Austin who Embarks in the Nelson, with his wife—

M^r^ Perry arrived here on Saturday Evening last, to see the balance of his Goods on board the Nelson, I had the pleasure of his company to dinner with me yesterday, in the Evening we called with an Introduction M^r^ Treat gave him on M^rs^ Mexia to look at a military coat of her Husbands, that he might give the Taylor who is to make a coat for you a description of it, as he had bot the cloth there, and could not find a Col^ns^ uniform of the Mexican Army in that City, we however found it would be necessary for the Taylor to call and see it, and Johns Taylor was to go up for that purpose this morning, we also called in the Evening to see M^r^ and M^rs^ Austin we found them a very pleasant young couple, she is a very pretty little woman, and I have no doubt they will be found a very agreable acquisition to the Society in Texas— It was a great treat to me to see M^r^ Perry, he had seen so many of my Connexions that I had not seen for many years, and some that I have never saw, that felt a desire to hear about, and he could tell me all about them. I had only to regret that his stay was so short he left this on his return home at 2 o'clock to day. M^r^ Treat, I hear has made up his mind to return in a few weeks to Texas,—M^r^ Woodbery is expected here to return in the Nelson—

I saw Prentiss yesterday, he told me that Zavala Mexia etc, was calculating to make rappid progress in Colonising the Grants they represent in Texas, they intend Colonising the three Grants,[1] and give every incouragement and facility to emigrants, that land and money can hold out to induce them to locate there, that lands will be offered them low and those that are not able will be supplied with means, talked of all kinds including Irish, I told him I thought

[1] The grants to Vehlein, Burnet, and Zavala, which were pooled under the management of the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company. See Barker, *The Life of Stephen F. Austin*, 321–324.

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they would do there Colony more harm than good, if he introduced a parcel of Irish into it—speaks of Zs having plenty of money at command, talks of his being very popular with a large majority of the people of Mexico, and calculates on a change in the present state of things, when he will be a great man, if not at the head very near it, they Calculate to go out next Spring, to make a commencement, and thinks that in less than three years they will have Ten Thousand Setlers in their land, that there will be 40,000 inhabitants in Texas in that time, what fine calculations, in that case your reserved lands will be very valuable at the end of three years— I shall send you some newspapers by which you will see the effect of the French revolution on the different powers of Europe, a revolution has commenced in Spain, and we are calculating to hear every day that it has become generral throughout the Kingdom, no danger of Ferdinands ever troubling Mexico again I presume,— Several rich Spanards, who were obliged to leave Mexico leave this for New Orleans on Monday, with the expectation I presume of soon being admitted into Mexico, and I think they are already coming back from Europe with the same hope—I was at Amboy the other day, and while there I told my youngest daughter, Louisa Mary that I had been getting a seal made to send to you in consequence of which she has made a safety chain and sent me to forward to you, being as she considered a very good accompaniment to the seal, which I have put in the Box with it, I tied up some seeds which we consider of choice Kinds, among them are some mellon, and I believe pumpkin or squash seeds, which a friend of mine collected in Mahone and gave to me, he told me they produced the best fruit of any he ever taisted—I ment to have sent you an ear of our Jursey Corn, to ascertain whether yours was of the same kind or not, it is prefered for the Madeira market, and M^{r} P has almost every year an order for some, that we sent this year cost here 61 cents p bushel—

I have written a letter for you, which I send to morrow under cover to M^{r} Breedlove, I shall send it by private conveyance to save postage, the postage on letters or packages from this to New Orleans by water is 6¢—I suppose I must be in M^{r} B^{s} debt 18¢ and perhaps 25¢ as three or four packages have passed through his hands—

We have heard that Henry has arrived with his Steam Boat in your river, if he can meet with sufficient incouragement to remain, the Boat must eventually do well, and be of great importance to your Colony—Tell him his family are all well, and are now living in the family of parson Curtis, in Oxford, Connecticut—

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In the Box I sent you some time ago, I presume you found a partial genealogy of our Family commencing above a century back, which was given to Mr^s Holly, in Boston, by M^r Austin of that City, if [you] did not find it, in the Box Henry has a copy of it, and can furnish you with one—then there is a large blank to be filled up, and as yet I know not how it is to be done—Our Grandfather on the Austin side lived in Durham, in Connecticut, how he got there, or when, I know not, He had four Sons, and two daughters, Elijah, Moses, Archibald, and Stephen, Mr^s Eliott and Mr^s Bates, your Fathers family you of course know all about, and I presume more of the Bates family than myself, My Fathers children, you are acquainted, or if there is any particulars about them, that you wish to be informed about Henry will inform you, our Uncle Archibald left no children, and never heard of his having any, Stephen had one Son Charles, who is married, has a family of children, and lives in Florida, there were three daughters, of which there is only one living Mr^s Meigs, she has a large family, and live in this City, her Mother is very old and very poor, and lives with them, the Elliott family

[Archibald Austin]

Perry's Bills

[In October, 1830, James F. Perry bought in Philadelphia a somewhat complete stock of goods for the store which he was opening in Texas. These bills, most of them dated October 11, 1830, are omitted. The same is true of other bills of the next year, October 4–11, 1831.]

Austin to Elias R. Wightman

Mr E. R. Weightman

Dr Sir I wrote you two letters relative to J. R. Fisher and Jaques's land informing you that Mr. Ira Ingram had led me into an error relative to Fishers tract, or else I misunderstood him—Fishers is on the East side and Jaques on the West of Prairie Creek next below Peyton— I also sent you a letter from Nelson relative to his quarter

I wish you to come up, or send me all the returns of the surveys you have made I have only untill the first of Decr,, to finish my affairs and start for Saltillo.

S F. Austin

Oct. 13. 1830

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AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

Mr E. R WEIGHTMAN

you can survey a quarter for G. W. Cock on a Post oak Bayou west of Trespalacios—not to cross any tide or large creek—be attentive to that rule

Octr. 14, 1830 S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

If any creek is crossed the tract must be narrower than long, and the narrowest front must be on the creek, that is that tract can neither be run square or oblong up and down the creek for if it crosses it will have two fronts one on each side, you must use your discretion as to crossing the creek, so as not to spoil another tract

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO HENRY AUSTIN

Extracts. Letter from S. F. Austin to Henry Austin. [Copy.]

San Felipe de Austin, Oct'r 14th,, 1830.

I find on examination of my letters which came in my absence that things are quite at sixes and sevens both at Saltillo and Bexar—party spirit runs high and the former place is rather a hot bed particularly for a member of the Legislature. The Gov^{r} Viesca has offered his resignation . . . I hear that Teran is expected on to Bexar or La Bahia soon—

Under the present prospect I think it quite doubtfull whether anything can be done with the canal business— I fear that nothing can be obtained from the Legislature that will tend to promote the prosperity of Texas— Should we become a Territory perhaps something may be done towards raising funds for the Canal—

One of the Texas members has been suspended, the other not but so far as I can judge there is a very great excitement, and nothing like union or harmony amongst the officers of Govt., and the people at Saltillo . . .

I shall never be content until I am clear of all kind of public business and can concentrate all my affairs to my farm house—

Farewell, I hope you may have a calm run to the U. S.—it is more than I expect to have for the next two years, and God knows whether I shall ever see much quiet— our Gov^{t} affairs are so continually in an uproar, and so very changeable that it will give *me* trouble placed as I am, tho' I think it will not materially retard the advancement of this country—

S. F. A.

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AUSTIN TO JOSIAH H. BELL

October 16, 1830.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO ALAMAN [1]

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

San Felipe de Austin 18 de Octubre 1830

Exmo Sor Dn. LUCAS ALAMAN (no de oficio)

EXMO SOR—Hemos tenido la desgracia de recibir una visita aqui de uno de aquellos aventureros miserables y desvergonzados que ni tienen patria ni principios de honradez—Jorge Fisher—Este hombre se presento aqui en la primavera po. po. con el caracter de administrador provisional de la aduana de Galveston y como tal fue reconocido por mi y las autoridades, tal vez cometimos un error en haber lo hecho antes de consultar á las Supremas Autoridades. si era error tenia su origen en nuestro deseo de cumplir con las providencias de la superioridad. Se considero que era debido al Gob^no reconocerle, dar cuenta, y esperar la superior resolucion

Asi se verifico y antes de poder recibir contestacion vino la orden del Exmo Sor Gral Teran suspendiendo al dho Fisher— Esta medida era muy satisfactoria á todos con la sola ecsepcion del interesado— El Ay^to de esta no tenia Srio y como ninguno de sus miembros entiende este idioma se empleo Fisher interinam^te aprovechandose de la ignorancia del Alcalde y de los individuos del Ay^to de este idioma y de mis frequentes aucencias de esta villa á otros puntos de la Colonia engaño al Alcalde ultrajando su confianza y tejiendo un red para destruir la tranquilidad publica enteram^te El Ay^to luego que advirtio esto le despidio de la sria y se dio orden de entregar el archivo y lo hizó.—algunos dias despues se advirtio que el borrador de la contestacion del Ay^to de esta al del Saltillo relativo a los acontecimtos del dia 1° de Septiembre no era en el archivo. El Alcalde pregunto de Fisher que habia hecho con el mencionado borrador, contestó que lo habia quemado El dia siguiente el Alcalde con un rejidor el sindico procurador el alguasil y various vecinos se presentaron en el cuarto de Fisher y el Alcalde le pregunto otra vez para el dho borrador diciendole que era parte del archivo publico— Contestó Fisher que lo habia quemado Luego el Alcalde ordeno al alguazil de registrar los papeles de Fisher en busca del referido borrador, y entonces Fisher lo saco de su baul y lo entrego— El Alcalde luego mando registrar todos sus papeles para ver si habia

[1] For further details concerning the subject of this letter see Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XX, 274–278, 353–354.

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robado algun otro documento y encontro con cuatro documentos importantes del archivo y 54 copias de la correspondencia publica con las supremas Autoridades todas sacadas sin conocim^to^ ó autoridad del alcalde ó del Ay^to^ con intencion de llevarlas y todas autorizadas por el como srio—

Ala llegada de este hombre aqui en la primavera pasada se empeño mucho con migo en favor de Guerrero y otros, y quiso infundirme de temores relativos a las intenciones de la administracion actual con respecto a Texas. Me esprese desisivam^te^ contra los procedim^tos^ anticonstitucionales de Guerrero, pero lo que el me dijo añadido con el articulo 11 de la ley de 6 de avril me causó mucha inquietud, porque represento á todos los miembros de la administracion actual (llamada por el escoses) como enemigos mortales de todos los colonos de Tejas. Le contesté que los colonos hemos ser jusgados por nuestra conducta, y que yo tenia confianza en la justicia del Gob^no^ pero que si llegare el caso me defenderia al ultimo estremo contra cualquier ultrage ó atropellem^to^ injusto y sin motive. Esto fue en mayo y se empeño mucho en ecsaltarme. En este tpo escribi mi carta al Exmo Sor vice Presidente del 18 de mayo. Por fin despues que se publicaron las observaciones en la Gazeta de esta del 10 de Julio, el de repente cambio al parecer su modo de pensar y empeso a predicar en favor del plan de Jalapa diciendo que habia sido engañado por Zavala y Poinsett. En este tpo me dijo con mucho abatim^to^ que era muy pobre, con una familia para mantener, que quiso establecerse en esta colonia como poblador y mi pidio una recomendacion al Gob^or^ del Estado. Desgraciadam^te^ mi genio no esta sospechoso le recomende al Gob^or^ y al Ay^to^ y este le nombro srio interino.

No puedo esplicar en una carta todos los malos que este hombre habia bosquejado. He de creer que vino aqui como espia, empeso con alabansas del partido de Guerrero y de repente cambio para grangear confianza aqui— Parece que el objeto porque quiso llevar el borrador de la contestacion de este Ay^to^ al del Saltillo era intentar convencer al Gob^no^ que yo era opuesto al plan de Jalapa, porque aquel borrador es en mi escritura, y todo el mundo aqui supó que yo fue su autor. Para evitar ideas equivocadas sobre el particular remito copia de el[1]. La opinion que yo espresé al Ay^to^ de esta sobre los acontecim^tos^ del Saltillo fue que se debe mirar lo como cuestion constitucional, y como tal contestarlo, ó decir nada, porque nunca debemos como colonos de nacim^to^ estrangero entremeternos en cuestiones puram^te^ de partido. Creo que el objeto de Fisher era intentar infundir dudas en el Gob^no^ contra mi, a fin de entorpecer los negocios y entonces hubiera aprovechado de tal entorpecimiento para ecsaltar á los colonos y asi turbar el orden y tranquilidad pu-

[1] See September 27, 1830, p. 490.

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blica, esperando sin duda por este modo favorecer á la causa de Guerrero, ó de aquel partido— Lo cierto es que este hombre ha aprendido el arte de texer redes politicos en alguna escuela estuta.

No creo que es el deseo de V. E. ni del Sor Vice Presidente que los colonos de Tejas se entremeten en cuestiones de partido Lloramos las divisiones y las violencias de la constitucion que hemos advertido por los partidos politicos, pero no hemos tomado ni debemos tomar parte con ellos Hemos jurado la constitucion, y nuestro deber es observarla sin alistarnos bajo la bandera de Guerrero, ó de Jalapa, o de este, ó aquel. Es bien sabido que estos colonos aprobamos con unanimidad la deposicion del Dictador y el restablecim^to^ del orden constitucional—no porque estuvimos adictos de este, ó de aquel Gefe militar, Mas al contrario fue porque era el deber de todo mejicano sostener la constitucion ultrajada por las facultades estraordinarias— Hemos desaprobado los procedim^tos^ del Saltillo del dia 1° de Septiembre porque eran anticonstitucionales— Es burla decir que un diputado puede ser depuesto de su destino, en otra manera alguna sino la que prescribe la constitucion. Entiendo que el objeto del articulo 4 del plan de Jalapa era hacer efectivo el cambio del sistema dictatorial al constitucional, y que su operacion era restringido á aquel solo objeto, porque suponer que el objeto era ingerir aquel articulo en todas las constituciones de todos los estados es decir que el ejercito de reserva tenia facultad para distruir ó reformar á las constituciones á su antojo sin consultar al pueblo, y amas de esto considerar el articulo 4 del plan de Jalapa spre vigente seria decir á los facciosos "gritanse contra *tal*, y *tal* empleado, que no merecen ni han merecido la confianza publica y aplicanse el articulo 4°." Se debe acordar que en borrascas politicas un partido rige hoy, y otro mañana, y de consiguiente ningun empleado seria seguro bajo tal estado de cosas. Si los funcionarias publicos no encuentran una ancla en la constitucion se hallarian luego en el medio de un mar tempestuoso sin bruxula ó timon— Tomo la libertad de espresar á V. E. con entera franqueza de una parte es debido, de otra desde el primer periodo de su ministerio en el ano 1824 he tenido confianza en sus talentos y principios y asi me he spre espresado en todos tpos y en todos lugares. Igualmente el Sor vice Presidente me ha honrado varias ocasiones con pruevas de amistad personales, y ultim^te^ V. E. me ha hecho el honor de escribirme con franqueza y de una manera que manifiesta confianza

Me han elegido diputado en la Legislatura del Estado, pero estoy en duda si debo ir ó no, las cosas alli son muy enredadas y parece que hay mucha ecsaltacion Estos habitantes miran a las personas y derechos de sus diputados como sagrados, y no se que sucedera si me tratan alli con insultos y articulos de este, ó de aquel plan, y ademas de esto dudo si debo separarme por tanto tpo de esta colonia,

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sinembargo estoy dispuesto á hacer lo que sera mejor para el servicio de mi patria adoptada—

Presento á V. E. las seguridades de mi consideracion protestando mi entera confianza y respecto

Exmo Sor

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO MANUEL DE MIER Y TERAN

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

oficio—

EXMO SOR—se ha servido el Exmo Sor Gobor. del Estado de coahuila y Tejas conceder aumentos de tierras a varias personas de esta colonia pero con la condicion siguiente " despues de escoger por el comdo. gral de la nacion las tierras necesarias para pagar la deuda del Estado a la nation—" Todos los referidos aumentos son para tierras dentro de los limites de mis empresas de colonizazion, y como es de urgente nesesidad fenecer todos los negocios pendientes de mis empresas á fin de poder separarme de esta para ir a la capital del Estado á ocupar mi destino de diputado en la Legislatura, he de suplicar que me permite V. E. llamar su atencion a este punto y que me diga si las tierras comprendidas dentro de mis empresas de colonizacion son libres de la mencionada condicion, para proceder sin mas demora a concluir el asunto— Presento a V. E. los aseguros de mi consideracion y respecto Dios y Libertad villa de Austin 18 de octubre 1830

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

Exmo Sor Gral Manuel de Mier y Teran Comdº del Gobno nacional etc.

AUSTIN TO MILITIA

BATTALION ORDER

In conformity with the Militia law of this State, drill musters will be held in each of the companies composing this Battalion on the first Saturday of November next.

Owing to the territorial extent of the militia districts, and for the greater convenience of the militia men, the commandant of each company may at his discretion order said muster in two places: at one, he will command in person, for the other, he will designate an officer of his company.

Within five days after the muster the commandant of each company will make complete returns to the office of the first adjutant in

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this place, of the officers, non commissioned officers and privates of his company, noting particularly all absentees and sick, also the arms and accouterments of each officer non commissioned officer and private, and what kind, and those who have none.

The commandant of each company will also make a general report as to the state of his company, and as to any inconveniences, or omissions which experience may have pointed out in the Present militia laws of the state, or on any other subject connected with the militia, which in his opinion requires the attention of government to insure a more complete, efficient and convenient organization.

This order will be circulated by the first adjutant to the commandant of companies

San Felipe de Austin 18 October 1830

S F Austin

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe

OFFICIAL LETTER TO THE AYTO

The militia men living on the Colorado river and on Navidad and the east side of La Baca North of 4th company have not as yet been organised by the appointment of officers.

Settlements are extending up the Colorado in situations which are exposed to the indians which affords a strong reason why that section of the militia should be organised without delay. The law requires that the elections for militia officers should be ordered and presided by the Ayto. I therefore take the liberty of calling your attention to this subject and recommend that immediate measure be adopted for the organization of those Militia men, into a half company or company according to their numbers in conformity with the law.

God and Liberty San Felipe de Austin 18 Oct. 1830

S. F. Austin, Col. Commandant

Austin to Ramon Musquiz

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

oficio al Gefe del Dep^to^ C. Ramon Musquiz

Hasta la fecha no he recibido contestacion á los repetidos pedim^tos^ que he hecho para el nombram^to^ y pronta venida a esta de un comd^o^ autorizado para dar posesiones en las empresas de colonizacion que me ha concedido el Supremo Gob^no^ fuera de las diez leguas litorales, por cuyo motivo repito en esta ocacion mi pedim^to^ que se nombre un comd^o^ para el objeto indicado sin demora, y si hay

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obstaculo en enviar uno de otra parte, pido que se dé la autoridad necesaria al Alcalde de esta— Debo manifestar a V. S. que no debo ni puedo salir de esta antes de concluir mis asuntos de Colonizacion pendientes y de consiguiente no sera posible que vaya al Saltillo á tomar posesion de mi destino de deputado hasta despues de practicar las diligencias necesarias con el Comd° para concluir mis asuntos de colonizacion que se hallan pendientes Dios y Libertad villa de Austin 19 de Octubre 1830

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Brassoria Octo- 20. 1830

MY DEAR SIR I have rec[d] yours by John with the enclosures and now return the Pedimento signed.

I regret much that affairs have taken so unfavorable a turn at Saltillo but I have witnessed so many political squables in Mexico the last six years that I set them down as of but little acct, They usually make a great deal of noise and do nothing— The result of Viesca's offer of resignation will probably be a reconciliation However I doubt much whether you can permanently hold your ground as a member of the Legislature— The independent stand which both your principles and interests would compell you to take would embroil you with both parties— Still there is no other course left you to pursue and the novelty of an upright independent public man pursuing solely the interests of the State in conformity with the constitution might make a salutary impression even upon Mexicans— If you can steer clear of these political broils I think they will in the main conduce to the interests of the Colony— They paralize the Mexican arm and put it out of the power of the Gov[t] to interfere with you by force— So long therefore as they abstain from any legislative acts affecting your rights or interests in Gods name let them wrangle amongst themselves as much as they please

I seriously believe that my prediction, now five years old, that the want of *material* for a stable Gov[t] would ultimately cause the Mexican republic to break up into little principalities, each Governed by a popular Chief to the extent of his personal influence and no further, like the malay region, will one day be realized Don Felipe appears to be aiming at that now and I strongly suspect Teran looks to Texas for his share, Flatter him in that point and make him believe the people of Texas look up to him as their political Savior and you may do anything with him As to my own affairs—I have visited the junction of the two creeks and find the land to be good grasing land, the timber small and much of the

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tract crawfish land, still the position is pleasant Flores creek fresh and I think the situation would be healthy— You appear to be in error as to the league Survey'd for Clark it does not reach Flores creek—the distance from oyster creek to Flores is 8 or 10 Miles the island of timber in the centre of Clarks league is full seven miles this side of Flores Creek The land on this side Flores Creek is good praire with a narrow skirt of timber one or two miles down Bastrop creek below the forks.

Should my solicitation be granted I should like to have one league between Clarks survey and Flores Creek half a league wide and running down Bastrop creek for quantity.

I am told Chocolate creek comes within one league of Austin creek or of Bastrops somewhere near the junction of Austin and Flores—and that there is plenty of timber on Chocolate at that point, I should like one league running through from creek to creek *just for a highway to get in timber for my buildings* For the fourth league I should like to embrace St Louis Island, the Island with trees on it and so much of the point of main land along the coast as would make up a league *on joint acct*

This will one day be valuable for making salt for a position to accommodate shipping, as a fishing station and for pasturage for cattle which must ultimately be driven there for shipment.

You will say I am reckoning my chickens before they are hatched—but I mention these things that in case the concession should come on you may know what lands I should like to have reserved if circumstances will permit it— I see no reason why Viesca should not comply with his declaration to Doct Grant, but Smith under date of August 29th—says nothing of having received any papers from Saltillo— the amount of his letter is that my buildings remain rented at 60$ pr month without a prospect of sale and Mr Grant writes *he hopes* to send forward the proceeds of my bar silver *shortly*

Mexico is truly a land of promise ! ! but it requires a deal of patience to wait the performance.

As for the future my first object is to free myself from the embarassments of the steamboat concern and should my concession be granted to come here with all the means I can command to make a permanent location and give my best efforts to the promotion of the interests of the Colony— It would however be folly for me to devote the remainder of my life to the occupation of a league of land

I must do something on an extensive scale with prospects of ultimate advantages of magnitude or do nothing, you and I may indulge our imaginations with the pleasing prospect of passing the remainder of life in the tranquility which a snug stock farm appears

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to offer but neither you nor I could exist in such a State. It would be very well to have a good stockfarm but not to be confined to it as a sole dependance—

Besides until a stable Gov^{t} be established and security for personal rights and property placed on a firm basis there can be no tranquility on a farm of any sort. until this be effected you will be compelled ex necessitate to direct the helm

on the subject of the canal project you will please inform me when you think circumstances favorable to it in the mean time I will collect what information I can on that subject and as to the Live oak timber, something may grow out of it hereafter— I am in trouble enough this morning— It was my intention to have gone to sea to day—but the beef Bailey pack^{d} for me has spoiled and four of my men deserted last night, which will detain me until I can procure provisions and men it is now uncertain when I shall get away. You will oblige me by leaving word with Mr Williams to send all letters which may come to Sn Felipe for me to John Austin who will pay the postage

I will write you from orleans so soon as I have so arranged my affairs as to be able to decide upon my future course in the mean time may god bless you and enable you to bring your troublesome enterprise to a favorable close

Wherever I may be you can always rely upon me in any matter in which I can be usefull to you

Most Cordially and sincerely yours

HENRY AUSTIN [Rubric]

ps. I enclose a letter for matamoros which please put in the mail if no safe private oppertunity offers—

MUSQUIZ TO GOVERNOR[1]

Noticia que el Gefe del Departam^{to} de Bejar dá al Supremo Gobierno del Estado en cumplim^{to} de su superior orden de 27. de Sep^{e} p^{o} p^{o} con incercion de la del Supremo de la Union de 11. del dho. mes sobre los obgetos siguientes

YNDUSTRIA

Este importante ramo esta reducido en la comprencion de este Departam^{to} a su naciente agricultura, cria de Ganados, productos de la caza de animales, y de varias maquinas que se han establecido: lo primero esta calculado en ochenta y 5 mil fanegas de Maiz trecientas sinquenta Yd. de frijol cuarenta y sinco mil arrobas de algodon y

[1] From Bexar Archives.

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seis mil quinientos pesos en Azucar y Pilonsillo: Lo segundo en veinte y ocho mil cuatrocientas dos Reces, sinco mil ciento treinta y sinco cavezas de ganado menor de Lana y pleo, un mil trescientas sinquenta y siete Caballos, dos mil ochocientas veinte lleguas, ochocientos setenta y dos Mulas, noventa y sinco Burros, y 550,000 serdos: lo tercero en 50.000 Pieles de Benado 500 de sibola 1000 de hoso y 300 de Nutria y Castor, y lo cuarto por falta de datos no se puede calcular lo que produciran, pero ellas son—4 molinos de despepitar Algodon, 4 de aserrar maderas movidos por agua y uno mas p^{r} el bapor, varias piedras p^{a} moler granos y dos molinos de caña. El comercio que es el que da impulso ha todo se haya decaydo por falta de circulacion de numerario, dificultades en la esportacion inseguridad de los caminos por temor de los Yndios Barbaros.

MINAS

Sin embargo de q. en la basta estencion de este Departam^{to} se encuentran diferentes puntos caracterisados de minerales, hta. haora no se ha hecho descubrim^{to} formal de ninguno de ellos, por tanto no se trabajan ningunas minas, pero se puede asegurar que las hay de toda clase de metales.

BIRUELAS

Por una fortuna ó quisa p^{r} q. con tiempo se administro la Bacuna en todas las poblaciones de este Dep^{to} con la mayor eficacia, no se a adbertido en ninguna persona el contagio de esta enfermedad ni á vido necesidad de socorros.

POBLACION

La de este Depart^{o} civilisada haciende a 13,602 Almas. De Mejicanos ó naturales de la republica hay 5,230. personas, y el resto de 8.372. son estrangeros Anglo ámericanos la mayor parte q. desde el año de 1822. han estado emigrado ha colonizar.

MILICIA CIVICA

En este Departam^{to} hay un escuadron y una comp^{a} suelta de Caballeria y un Batallon de Ynfanteria, la fuerza de la primera arma es la de 289. hombres con 107 fusiles, 19 Espadas, y 152 Caballos, y la del segundo 642 hombres con 308 fuciles todo es de su propiedad: solo el escuadron y compañia suelta han estado en instrucion, el Batallon no la ha recivido por falta de oficiales del egercito que pudieran darsela en el lugar de su residencia.

SALUBRIDAD

El temperamento de lo mas de este Depart^{o} es muy benigno y con tal motivo siempre se goza de buena salud ecepcion de los q.

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bienen inmediatos a la Costa en donde anualm^{te} p^{r} el verano se padesen calenturas intermitentes.

SEGURIDAD

Las antiguas poblaciones de esta Ciudad y Goliad, y los nuevos de Guadalupe Victoria y Gonzales desafortunadam^{te} son ostilisados por los Yndios Barbaros del norte en este Dep^{to} Comanches, Tahuacanos, etc Sus abitantes viven con las sosobras conciguientes a los muchos asecinatos de q^{e} han sido oculares perpetrados p^{r} estos ferosos y barbaros enemigos p^{r} los robos de caballadas q. reciven de ellos con frequencia y p^{r} que no pueden gosar de las garantias de seguridad que disfrutan los demas habitantes de la republica.

TRANQUILIDAD

Solo los robos y asecinatos q^{e} cometen los Yndios Barvaros en las personas y bienes de los abitantes de los pueblos designados, la alteran p^{r} pocos dias, fuera de esto el departam^{to} de Bejar puede gloriarse de no haber pertenecido a otro partido que el del govierno, en tal virtud despues de haberse destruido la faccion de estrangeros q. se Denominó fredonians en Nacogs. en fin de Diciembre de 1826. Se ha disfrutado de la mayor quietud publica en todas sus poblaciones.

Bejar 23 de Octubre de 1830.

R. Musquiz

Mrs. J. E. B. Austin to Austin

[October 24, 1830.]

* * * writing now and I am anxious to know how the business is or will be settled. You told me last spring you would send me down a pertition to sign—for one league of land—on Galviston. I want to know if the pertition was answered—or whether you are autherized to grant it. I also wish to know what right John had to Lease out my hous and 10-acres for five years. that I always considered my property. and it is hard to give it up. I loaned John last spring My watch on a business day. he has not returned it. that I wish to reserve myself for Stephen his father bought it for him and gave it to me to keep it. the house John knows the circumstance very well. I do wish you to answer my letter and satisfy me. Stephen is much better but still has the fever— I think I shall be able to break it on him to day. I must conclude by wishing you good health and a safe journey—

Eliza [Austin] Phillips.

[addressed:] Col Stephen Austin St. Felipe De Austin

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JOHN AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

[about Ocober 24, 1830.]

I have notified Eliza of your request and will attend to it, I do not Comprehend the whole affair if I have taken a liberty with the place to rent it etc. I thot. it yours and done what I believed to be of your interest, I never have received one cent of the rent Eliza has received it all, I have paid for some repairs making a chimney, etc, If she has complained of me I wish to know it, I never had any other feeling for her than I ought to have had for a sister My conduct towards her will prove it in me she found a friend and protector if she complains of a liberty that I have taken with any thing she conceived her property I am astonished for She has taken as many liberties with my things as my wife and has always been welcome— When I see you more can be said on the Subject—

J[OHN] A[USTIN]

BYRD LOCKHART TO AUSTIN

Lavaca, October 25, 1830.

See Calendar.

JAMES F PERRY TO AUSTIN[1]

New York Oct—27th 1830

DEAR BROTHER

I have been here five days waiting on my Goods shiped from Phil[a] here to ship per Schooner Nelson they have at length arrived and I hope to be ready to start—homeward this afternoon. The Nelson is now owned by Messrs Wade and Sayer of this place and commanded by Capt. Fuller apparently a very clever man. The Nelson will sail on Friday or Saturday and is intended to run regularly between New Orleans and the Brazos. There is a number of passengers going in her among them is Mr. W[m] T. Austin his Lady and child (he is a brother of John Austin of Brazoria) Col. Woodburry and two of his Sons is also expected. I have seen Archibald and John Austin, brothers of Capt[n] Henry Austin since I arrived here they both are very much interested in your sucksess and are very clever men they have treated me with a great deal of kindness since I have been here. I have purchased between 4 & 5 thousand Dollars worth of Goods in Phil[a] and will have about 3th[d] to send from home which with some groceries from New Orleans will make

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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a very good assortment enough I think to make a tryal on. Mr. Hunter will be in readiness to start as soon as I return from Missouri I will consigne our goods to M^cKinstrey and Austin at Brazoria. part of the articles you wrote for is packed among the goods viz Holsters Bridle Martingalc Spurs and Boots and Vattel's Laws of Nations in English. I could not get it in Spanish neither in Phil^a nor in this place. the other Spanish Book you wrote for is not to be found I have made every inquiry I could both in Phil^a and here. Your other cloths was not finished when I left Phil^a the undress suit was partly finished but, the uniform could not be made for want of information how to make it Since I arrived here Mr. James Treat the Mexican Consul gave me a letter of introduction to Co^l [Mexia's] Ladey She shewed me her husbands uniform and with the assistance of the Messrs Austin, I have got a Taylor here to take a particular description of it and when I return to Phil^a I will have it made and forwarded together with the other coat vest Pantaloons Sword Sash appailetts and belt by the way of New Orleans.

I bought a poartable writing desk here for you had your name engraved on it and put in the charge of Mr. W^m Austin for you I have not procured the Book Case and Secretary for you my funds run out but will buy and bring you one from New Orleans— I saw M^r Leaming in Phil^a. he has sent you some maps they will be put in the care of M^r W. Austin for you the law suit with Fox does not come to issue untill december and Mr. Leaming says it is very probable that it may be 12 or 18 months before there is anything recovered from that quarter he was absent from the city most of the time I was there and had not the Geonogical account which you requested him to send you ready but he promised he wuld prepare it soon and send it to you Messrs Gill, Ferguson & Co has promised me to forward to you the Gazette and the Quarterly Review I have not got the paper that the advertisements you mentioned was in I expect to get the one that yours was in but the one Smiths was in I am afraid I will not find but I will try and if I can find them will send them by M^r Hunter. I have rec^d letters from home. They were all well. I am afraid Woodbury will have trouble about his colony, as I am told that Prentice (the same that broke the Kentucky Insurance Company) and Co^l Mexar [Mexia] has claims to it. What the nature of these claims is I know not— Co^l Mexhas Lady told me her husband was going to Texas next Spring to Settle that colony and they say Woodbury has no claim to it, that he is merely an agent for the others. It will be impossible for me to move my family before March and if you are elected to the Legislature it is possible

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that you will be home against the time we get there adieu may God bless and preserve you

JAMES F. PERRY

I will send you the Quarterly Review by Mr. Hunter I expect he will be there nearly as soon as the Nelson as he will be in readiness as soon as I get home.

I have failed in procuring the necessary description of the uniform Coat the Taylor could not describe it so that it could be made by the description, as I have procured the cloth in Phil[a]. I will send it on my return to our mutial friends Austin and Taylor who have prepared to attend to having it made here and forward to New Orleans by the first opportunity and will probably be there against Mr. W. M. Hunter arrives at New Orleans

J. F. P.

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar, October 28, 1830.

See Calendar.

FROST THORN TO AUSTIN

Nacog[a] 29 Oct *1830*

DEAR SIR

Coln Piedras it appears has of late received orders, not to suffer any persons to pass here, unless they have actually made a Contract, either with yourself or Dewitt; or have a passport, from the Mexican Consul—in case of a previous Contract being made he requires Documents to that effect— He has a *strong disposition, to strictly adhere to his order*

The bearer brot with him such voucher as the Colonization Law required—and presented himself to the Alcalde but it appears the Ayuntamiento have not the power of judging of the qualifications requisite, as the Col[n] took them from the Alcaldies office, and acted on them himself— you will readily see the embarresments, it will place THOSE Innocent persons under, that Emigrate to the Country in good faith; and rarely with much surplus Means— It must have the effect to retard Emigration and as a good wisher of the Country, I have always used my feeble exertions to encourage its settlement

You are I presume acquainted with the late regulations on the subject of Terans reserves etc—or I would say more— If you have any friends Emigrating on the Road, that will pass thró this place, would it not be well to give Col[n] Piedras a List of the Names, which would supersede the necessity of there riding to S[n] Phillepe, and perhaps much difficulty,

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I am induced to write to you, as I am told many families are expected—and the advance season will not admit of there delaying much time on the Road—

Coln S. F. Austin F. THORN

P. S. I start for N. Orleans Tomorrow, and expect to be absent 2 Months

F. T

as I deem it expedient that you should receive this as soon as possible, I send it on by mail, under the direction of Colo Ruis, for it is out of my power to see you myself for a few days

[Addressed]: Coln S. F. Austin. St. Phillipe de Austin favd by Mr. [Alexander] *Thomson*

EDITORIAL BY AUSTIN

October 30, 1830.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO AYUNTAMIENTO OF SAN FELIPE

ILUSTRIOS AYTO.

In the month of May last I was informed verbally by the chief of Department at Bexar that persons had been recommended to the Gvr of the State for commissioner to dispatch the land business of the several Colonies of Texas. On the 17 day of July I officially applied to the Gvr for the appointment of a Commissioner for my colony and on the 19 day of this month I again repeated the application, Not having recd. any answer to these applications, and there being a necessity that the land business of the colony should be completed I beg leave to call the attention of the Ayto. to this subject and request that an official application be made to the Gvr by that illustrious body representing the necessity and importance of having a com. appointed without delay.

S. F. AUSTIN

31 Oct. 1830

JOHN AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

[November 1, 1830.]

DR. SIR

Herewith I send the papers of H. Austin Should Sent them before but had no safe conveyance that I could rely upon their being handed you, enclosed I also send the list of appraisment of the property at the Gin I have sold some of the Stock at the appraised value and think it best to sell all the stock as it has not increased

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in value since it was put there and unless a sufficient number could be put there to make it an object for the person attending to devote his whole time the stock will not do well Harris wished to give up the place I settled with him according to the contract, W. D. C. Hall wishes to live at that place and will take a lease of it for a number of years and as the land belongs to a minor I would advise you to let Mr Hall have it for a certain number of years and for the rent to leave a certain improvement and in good order by so doing the place will be Kept in good order without Expence and will become every day more valuable, I advised Mr Hall to write you and make his terms to you I think that much the best plan for if the place should be hired from year to year those who have it will not take care of the fence Buildings etc which would go to wreck and then the whole or more rent would be expended in repairing. The buildings are good the Gin house is sound with the exception of some of the posts on which it stands not much work to replace them Mr Hall wishes it to Keep stock at and for a summer residence he will agree to plant fruit trees and to leave good buildings on the place and in good repair, if the proposition made by him suit you I think it much the best plan he will write and make proposals to you. I will send you the Sugar the first opportunity there is no flour in the place, I will come up in a short time any thing that you may want If to be got here I will send it by having notice that you want it—

JOHN AUSTIN [Rubric]

Have not yet heard of the Steam Boat crossing the Bar the Capt. is rather timid would it not be well to let Henry Smith have the land at the Prairie you can esily keep others from troubling you by putting 5 dollars pr acre price Smith is poor and a good steady man has always been on the right side of the Question he is not in a situation to go on his League at this time I have not said any thing to him about your instructions concerning the land and do not wish to influence you to let him have the land if you think it an injury to you

J. A.

Since writing the above Mr Jesse Thompson has made aplication for the Gin Place will agree to take it and in five years leave the improvements with 100 Dollars more than at this time I think best to let him have it for in that time it will rent well. please let me know your wish on the Subject by the first opportunity

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F. Austin San Felipe Mr. Borden

REPORT OF APPRAISERS

The undersigned called upon by Col. Stephen F. Aus[tin] and Capt. John Austin to estimate certain property be[long]ing to the

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said John Austin and the Estate of [the] late James B. Austin deceased have on this first [day] of November in the year 1830 proceeded as follo[ws]:

Thirteen head of horses mares and colts appraised at	$475.00
Twelve cows and calves apprd. at	120.00
Eight Two year old horned cattle apprd	56.00
Four yearlins apprd at	20.00
Two bulls apprd. at	20.00
One yoke of oxen at	50.00
The stock of hogs, supprd. to be forty, apprd	80.00
House and out buildings at the Prairie appd.	225.00
The gin house and cotton gin, as it stands, apprd. at	140.00
The cleared land and enclosure apprd. at	150.00

Having closed said estimation we have herewith Signed in presence of Robert M. Williams[on] and Robert Martin the day and year first above writin.—

WARREN D. C. HALL
JAMES R. PHELPS

In presence of
R M WILLIAMSON
ROBT. MARTIN

AUSTIN TO AYUNTAMIENTO OF SAN FELIPE[1]

To the Illustrious Ayuntamiento of the Municipality of Austin.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the official communication, made to me by that corporation, dated yesterday, and a copy of the resolutions, adopted on the 2nd inst. relative to the removal from this colony of certain persons therein named, of notorious-infamous character; and recommending a rigid scrutiny as to the conduct of certain others, before they are received as settlers.

The 5th article of my contract with the government for the settlement of this colony, is in these words, "It shall be an obligation upon him (Austin,) not to admit criminals, vagabonds, or men of bad character, and he shall cause all those of this description who are found within his limits to leave it, and should it be necessary, he shall put them out by force of arms."

The 122d article of law No. 37, prescribing duties of the Ayuntamientos, says: "They shall not permit in their jurisdictions, vagabonds, drunkards, gamblers by profession, nor any other idle or vicious people who have no visible means of subsistence, etc. etc."

The above mentioned 5th article of my contract has imposed a very heavy and responsible obligation upon me, and one which from its nature, might necessarily involve much delicacy and ought to require great prudence in its execution. This has never been more particularly the case, than at present, for heretofore the ex-

[1] From the Texas Gazette, Nov. 6, 1830.

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pulsions of bad men ordered by me, have been made, solely on my own individual responsibility, without the powerful support of a special recommendation to do so, from municipal representatives of the people.

The situation of this country on the borders of a foreign nation certainly exposes it to impositions by criminal fugitives and vagabonds, who are nuisances in all countries, but more especially so in a new and thinly settled one like this. The first settlers who have devoted years of hardship to bring it forward, justly deserve and have a right to expect protection from such nuisances. The Government has offered the most liberal inducements to honest emigrants, but nothing to fugitives or vagabonds, and it expects and commands that no such shall be admitted. It is therefore due to the people who are permanently settled—to the law—and to the government, that the 5th article of my contract, and the 122nd article of law No. 37 which I have quoted, should be rigidly executed; always, however keeping in view what is due to justice and to humanity.

The measures which I have heretofore deemed it my duty to adopt on this subject, have been promptly executed by the militia officers charged therewith, and they have been sustained by public opinion, which in this colony has always been on the side of good order, and opposed to the admission of bad men. But notwithstanding this, it is with great satisfaction, that I find the Ayuntamiento co-operating by the weight of its authority and influence, in a measure which might be construed by the designing, or the ever-scrupulous, into an act of oppression, or as being too strong for mistaken ideas of liberty. I have therefore to assure that corporation, that the removal of Peter Whetstone, Trammel Pryor, John or Jack House, and Brooks Williams, which is recommended by it, shall be immediately ordered; and that the course will be adopted which is indicated, with respect to the other individuals named in said resolutions.

I embrace this opportunity to present to that illustrious corporation the assurances of my consideration and respect; and of my hearty co-operation in all measures which are calculated to promote the public good, and to inforce the laws.

San Felipe de Austin, Nov. 5th 1830.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

MIGUEL ARCINIEGA TO JUAN VICENTE CAMPOS

La Bahia de san Bernardo en las costas de este depart^{to} fue habilitada por cedula del rey de Espana que existe en el Archibo de Gov^{no} del mismo el año de 1805 con diferentes objetos, y princi-

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palm^te con el de facilitar a las Habitantes de esta parte de la Republica, que entonces se llamo Prov. de Tejas el comercio para su fomento y subsistencia, en consideracion sin duda a la remota distancia enque se halla del centro de los demas Pueblos de America, y a la miseria enque vivian reducidos tanto por las frequentes incurciones que resentian de las diversas parcialidades de barbaros que los circundaran y aun circundan como porque es ebidente que sin recibir este auxilio de la benefica mano del Gov^no jamas podria florecer, ni disfrutar tranquilos las ricas produciones de una Pais dotado prodiggam^te de ellas por la naturaleza, declarandolo con suma libertad libre de todos derechos por tiempo indeterminado. Despues lo fue por decreto de las cortes españolas de 9 de Noviembre de 1820, y asi lo declaro el Exmo Sor Presidente de la Republica en el año parado de 1828 a conseg^a del cumuloso expediente que se le instruyo sobre este asunto y debe existir en el Archivo gral de Gov^no

Por el extracto de discuciones habidas en la camara del senado en los dias 31 de Agosto 11 y 13 de septre de este año a visto este Ayuntam^to se trata de una Ley para el establecim^to de Aduanas maritimas, y de frontera declarando por el articulo 2° serrados los puertos aunque esten habitados, en donde conforme dha Ley no se plantean las referidos Aduanas, y como en el se comprende las citadas Bahias de San Bernardo no puede menos esta Corporacion que ocuparse en tan interesantes asunto y llamar acerca de el la ocupada atencion de VS. con las observaciones siguientes.

Primera Los benemeritos habitantes de esta preciosa parte de la Republica, que despues de cien años de su descubrimiento la han conserbado a costa de sus vidas y hacienda, siempre han reclamado con Justicia el amparo y proteccion del Gov^no como unico resorte de sus esperanzas para verse libres de los inauditos males que han resentido y solo podra enumerarlos la antiquedad, pero desgraciadm^te nunca se oyeron o mejor diremos no se les quizo auxiliar hta el año de 1805. que afortunadam^te obtuvieron el privilegio de la habitacion de la expresada Bahia de San Bernardo, por cuyo puerto si no alcanzaran eficaz remedio para todos los males que les afligian—esperavan por lo menos un lenitivo consolador logrando por el la probacion de aquellos articulos de primera necessidad para pasar la bida y efectos con que comadam^te poder cubrir su desnudez, y que esta fuera un poderosa aliciente para el aumento de la poblacion mas por las ocurrencias politicas todo quedo sin efecto aquella peligrosa epoca hasta la venturoza del ano de 821, que seraron, y se comenzo hacer un moderado uso de aquel privilegio, el qual si es verdad que en sus principios no produjo todo el efecto apeticido, miravamos ya muy proxima el complemento de su perfeccion por el aum^to que a recibido de poblacion, porque el comercio ramo vivificador de todos los demas, comensava a tener impulso, la Agricultura hermosean los campos, la

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industria y Artes a consolidar los tayeres, quando por disgracia obserbamos que aquellas beneficas manos que debian protejerlos labran las cadenas de su eterna ruina y perdicion privandoles de aquella gracia.

Segundo Combiniendo en que el departam^{to} de Tejas no haya producido hasta ahora interes alguno a las rentas del Erario publico o que por sus Costas, y frontera se halla echo algun contrabando y que estas sean las causas porque se le prive del beneficio de tener puertos habitados, y provistos de los empleados—necessarios preguntemos de que provienen aquellos causales, y hallaremos que el primero emane de la falta de proteccion del Govierno y el Segundo que en todos tiempos y casi por los principales Puertos habilitados se ha benificado tiene el mismo origen y por tanto no es extrano que alguno vez se haya echo al abrigo del despoblado de las costas y frontera sin recelo de caher en manos de caher en manos de los empleados que deven zela de este fraudulente comercio, y que a demas el que se a echo por esta parte de la Republica, en muy poco debe perjudicar a las rentas nacionales, y desde luego paremos a examinar si el medio de evitarlo sera cerrandole los puertos y frontera y precisam^{te} convendremos en que no, por que el hombre resintido de verse privado de una gracia que deve proporcionarle su felicidad mientras viva y la de sus futuras generaciones, tratara de buscarla ppr quantos medios le aconseje sus recentimientos arnostrando los mayores peligros e inconbenientes que se le presenten hasta el ultimo grado p^{a} conseguirlo, Todo lo que podria costarle dejandolos en el libre uso de aquel privilegio y con sujecion a las Leyes y ordenes que se ditaren para los demas Puertos agraciados.

En atencion a todo lo expuesto esperamos que VS. se serbira influir con su respecto en la Camara de representantes afin de que en la Bahia de San Bernardo se establesca una Aduana maritima, otra en el puerto de Galbeston, y una terrestre en la frontera de Nacogdoches, bajo el seguro concepto de que si por ahora no son suficientes sus rendimientos a satisfacer los sueldos de los Empleados que necesitan lo seran dentro de poco tiempo, pues con este recurso seguiran en aumento las poblaciones el comercio y la industria, lograran los Pueblos transquilidad y en pocos años sera indemnisada la hacienda nacional de los gastos que al pronto enogaran en la erecion de estos establecimientos con tal motivo tiene esta coparacion el honor de producir a VS. las protestas de su mas destinguida consideracion y respecto—Bexar Nov^{e} 7 de 1830—Miguel Arciniega—Franc^{o} Xabier Bustillos—Ignacio Chaves—Jose Flores—Jose Maria de Cardenas—Ignacio Arocha Srio—Sor Deputado por este Estado en la Camera [Nacional] de Representantes Lic. Dn. Juan Vte Campos—es copia

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Austin to Elias R. Wightman

Nov[r] 8. 1830

Mr Weightman

The heirs of Richard Graves have petitioned for the 29 League on the side of Trespalacios Bayou. it is the next League above the one selected by Partin, and I wish the returns of all that Creek as soon as you can send them James Moore will pay the surveying J. H. Scott has selected a quarter on the west side of Trespalacios below where the new road to La Baca crosses—and John T. Brush a quarter from the forks of a branch that comes into Trespalacios a little below the road to join Scott and run up for quantity

The quarter League which Etherton paid for surveying has been chosen by McLairn who lives at R. Williams, and he must pay Et[h]erton who takes a quarter which Borden is to survey west of Colorado nearly opposite Kincheloes, and perhaps you can make the arrangement with Borden but if so McLarn must pay you

I am in want of the returns you have finished in fact all you have run

My respects to Mrs Weightman

S F Austin

What does Cummins say about the quarter for Maria Tell Mc.Farland that his title is ready for the League he applied for East of Colorado. the one that king talked of taking—

A

Archibald Austin to Austin

New York 11 Nov 1830.

My Dear friend and Cousin

A private opp[r] offering to New Orleans I forward a letter for Laurence Remmey which by accident, I omitted sending by the Nelson, which vessel I hope has arrived safe with you by this time, as the winds have been very favorable for her, since her departure— I also send you Mr Tornels caution to Americans not to go to Texas, which may deter some from going, until the Mexican Government revoke the Law, to which he alludes, those who do go, I presume will not meet with any difficulty on their arrival there—

You can tell Henry that his wife is now here on a visit to her Aunt Thompsons, in very good health, and left her children in good health, she is desirous of going to Texas, to join him, provided he

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meets with sufficient incouragement to remain there— remember me to him,

ARCH AUSTIN [Rubric]

There is a vessel advertised for your Colony and—will probably sail in about a Fortnight—The Robert Sentor Schooner— Mr. Perry sent the cloth for your coat to this city, which is now making up, I hope it will be finished in time to go by Mr. Treat who leaves this his Brother tells me about the last of this month for your Colony

Henrys wife told me this Evening she had written a letter to you given it to John to send by Mr Treat who expected to go in the vessel alluded to I proposed her letting me send it with this, but John was of opinion that it would reach him quicker the other way, I however do not believe it will by some weeks—

I send you a file of the American which you will probably find interesting, and to Henry they must be particularly so altho' we have been deprived of arrivals by a long storm—

[Addressed:] Col° S. F. Austin, San Felipe de Austin Texas.

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

GEFATURA DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE BEJAR

Por el oficio de V. fha. 18. de Sep^e ultimo he bisto con la mayor satisfaccion que la asamblea Electoral de partido en este Departam^to depocito en V la confianza de los pueblos sus comitentes nombrandole diputado al cuerpo Legislativo, por cuya asertada eleccion y bien merecida confianza me congratulo y doy aV. las mas exprecivas enorabuenas.

Aunque mis luces no pueden llegar al grado de ilustrar aV. sobre las importantes materias a que se contrae en su citado oficio, deseando obsequiar su boluntad en esta parte me ocupare para cuando llegue el caso de que V. marche a exercer las funciones de su ministerio de formar algunos apuntes que le sirvan de entretenim^to en algunos momentos, mas bien que de ilustrar sus esclarecidos talentos y bien conocido juicio y literatura, aprovechando con este motivo la ocacion de reproducir aV. el aprecio y alta consideracion que debo.

Dios y Libertad Bejar 11. de Nob^e de 1830.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

Ciud^no Estevan F. Austin Diputado nombrado pr. este Departamento—

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AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

12 Novr 1830

Mr E. R. WEIGHTMAN
Surveyor

I wrote a few days since to survey a quarter on the west side of Trespalacios for John H. Scott, and one for John T. Brush. Since then C. Johnson has applied for a quarter next below Scott on the same side of the creek— he says that he wishes it run so as to have some front on the manin Creek and then to run back of Scott across the Juanito

I cannot say whether it can be run in that way or not, for I do not know the situation— you can therefore use your own discretion, always taking care not to give too much front, nor to injure the adjoining tracts, nor to have irregular vacancies—

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Make returns of these surveys as soon as you can as I wish to finish the titles before I leave for Saltillo

A

NATHANIEL COX TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, November 12, 1830.

See Calendar.

JAMES W. BREEDLOVE TO AUSTIN

Mexican Consulate
New Orleans Novr. 12 1830

Col STEPHEN F AUSTIN

DEAR SIR Your favor of the 13th Oct by Mr Ker reached me this morning, and contents observed. I regret much to learn that George Fisher had turned out so badly. I had formed a favorable opinion of him. I am very glad that you have placed his character in its proper light before me as he may perhaps wend his way hither, having a family in Mississippi—

I am of opinion that the Emigration to Texas this Winter will be much greater than any previous season. If I may be allowed to Judge from the many letters addressed to me from all parts of the United States, asking information respecting the Country— By this conveyance I send you many letters etc received for the last two Mo[s]

I am much gratified to learn that things are going on well in Mexico, and that the present administration have better feelings towards North Americans, Should Genl Bustamante progress well

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with the affairs of the Genl Government until the next presidential Election, he will doubtless obtain the voice of the people for President

General Pedraza the President Elect before Guerrero, is now here in Exile, he seems to be a man of good sense, modest and unassuming living a very retired life. on his return from Europe to Vera Cruz he met an order from the Supreme Government ordering him from the Coast of Mexico. he came here about a month since

Jas W Breedlove [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F Austin San Felipe de Austin Texas Schr Reaper

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Alexander Thomson to Austin

Tenoxtitlan—Nov^{r} 13th 1830

Respected sir,

I am unacquainted with you personally, yet situated as I am, I think it necessary, to address you, and apprise you of a considerable difficulity, that now exist in the settlement of your colony, and the others also; namely, the order from General Teran, to the Col^{o} at Nacogdoches to suffer no person to pass, unless, they have a passport, I was not apprised of that order, and came here, I think on the 28 ultmo—, the Alcalde inform'd me when the families came into town I must collect them all together, and present them, I done so, then the Coll, sent for me, and inform'd me that he had the saturday before recd- the above mentioned order and could not consistent with his order, let me pass, but as we were ignorant of the late Law, and as we had compleatly complyed with the Colonization Law, having our certificates Legally arra[n]ged, by the proper authorities, he would venture to give five of us a permit to you, who he said was authorised to give us passports; but the families must remain until our return, we had traveled better than 8 weeks, had spent a great deal of money, and was much fatigued, we could not feel willing to remain in that part of the country on expences so Long, we therefore came round, which caus'd us to loose 2½ days travel, we are now at the barracks, at Mr Williams that is the families, We arrived there Last night, Today I came up to the new garrison to see the commander here he says that he has rec^{d} the same order, and advises us to remain where we are, until he receives further orders in answer to his letter that he had writen after Maj^{r} Robertson had inform'd him that I was on the road, which answer he expected would arrive in four days, mean-while he gave us permission to explore the country, which we intend to do immediately— Col, Thorn has sent you a letter by me on the subject, We, him and myself think it advisable for you to have an agent appointed in Nacogdoches, he says he is

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willing to act for you if you wish him, but he expected to start in a day or two for New Orleans and be absent two months, There ought to be some person there authorised immediately, for since I left there I have been informed of two more families that have been stoped, and detain'd,— I have been particular in giving the particulars of my detention, to you, in order that, you may have a clear view of the impediment, emigrants will meet with in comeing to the colonies— So soon as I can, I expect to see you, but can not for a few days,— Majr Robertson has inform'd you that I am interested in the settlement of this colony—

ALEXANDER THOMSON

[Addressed:] Colo S. F. Austin San Phillipi De Austin

AUSTIN TO M. B. MENARD

San Felipe de Austin Novr 13. 1830

Mr M. B. MENARD

DR SIR, The enclosed letter from T. F. McKinny Esqr. will explain to you the reasons why I have taken the liberty of troubling you with this letter and the enc[l]osed instructions. I applied to Mr. McKinney to recommend to me a suitable person in Nacogdoches as agent to give certificates of reception to emigrants bound to this Colony, who pass through that place. On his recommendation I have sent to you the enclosed appointment and instructions made out in Spanish. He has aprised me that you would attend to it, and that full confidence might be placed in you. I hope this will be sufficient to explain to you why I have troubled you with this matter. Should you feel any unwillingness to attend to it, you can return the papers to me, or to Mr. S. M. Williams at this place by some safe conveyance.

The object of the certificates which you are to issue to the emigrants, is to place Evidence in their hands that they are a part of the Settlers who enter into my contracts, which they can present to Col. Piedras, so as to avoid any detention or difficulty in pursuing their journey to this place

I send you a pamphlet containing translations of the colonization laws, and of my contracts with Government. You will see that the 5 article of my contract (page 49) prohibits me from admitting criminals etc etc (see the said article) This article is cited in the 2d. article of your instructions. I wish to do my duty strickly. The object of the government I understand to be, to keep out bad and useless men, and to admit all who are honest, industrious and moral, and I wish you to keep that rule in view in giving the certificates. Men of families who bring their wives and children are

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less objectionable in general than single men, and I wish you to be more cautious and particular with the latter class, than with the former.

I do not require that all should be rejected who bring no recommendations with them, for I know that many good men emigrate without providing themselves with recommendations, because they are not apprised of the necessity of doing so. A vagabond or an indolent drunken, or disorderly person is very apt to shew what he is by his appearance, conversation or deportment and a nice observer may generally form a pritty correct idea of him on a short acquaintance

I must request that you take pains to impress upon the emigrants the necessity of presenting themselves, immediately to Col. Piedras, and that they treat him with respect and attention which is due to the commanding officer of this nation on that frontier, and also that they treat all the officers and authorities of this government with proper respect, and I hope you will refuse certificates to all who fail to do so.

Shew your instructions to Col. Piedras, as you are required to do in the 7 article and have a friendly understanding with him. try to remove all difficulties to the emigration of good men, and get all through you can who are worthy of being admitted: Trouble Piedras as little as possible; but call on him often enough to shew that you respect his authority and wish to act in concert with him.

You will of course expect a compensation for your trouble. This business is for the benefit of the emigrant, and I think that each certificate ought to entitle you to receive half a dollar from the person who gets it, and you can charge that sum— Should you think this insufficient write me frankly your views on the subject

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

N. B. I hope you will keep me informed of whatever may occur of interest. In my absence your letters will be answered by Mr S. M. Williams—

Austin [Rubric]

Nombram^to^ de M. B. Menard como mi agente en Nacogdoches—

Algunos emigrados honrados y dignos de ser recibidos en las contratas de colonizacion q. tengo celebradas con el Gob^no^ Mexno—, entran en el territorio Mex^o^ sin los pasaportes necesarios; parte por no saber que era preciso tener pasaportes, y otra parte por no poder conseguirlos por la falta de un agente competente en el puerto de su prosedencia para espedirlos— A fin de remediar estos embarazos que impiden la poblacion y progreso del pais, y para cumplir con mas ecsactitud con la ley de colonizacion, y con mis contratas

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celebradas con el Gob^no^. sobre la introduccion de familias; he nombrado al vecino de Nacogdoches M. B. Menard mi agente p^a^ espedir certificados á los emigrados pr. esta colonia que pasan por Nacogdoches. Mi dicho apoderado observara las instrucciones siguientes en la materia.—1°. Espedira á los emigrados un certificado en esta forma. " certifico qe _____ entra en las contratas de colonizacion del Emp° Dn. Estevan F. Austin, pudiendo recogerle este certificado spre qe. sea justificado qe. el dho _____ [no] es hombre malo, fugitivo, ó vagabundo" bcha y firma como Agente del dho Emp°—2°. Al espedir dhos certificados mi dho agente tendrá á la vista el articulo 5°. de mi contrata celibrada con el Gob^no^. 4 de Julio 1825—3°. Tomará especial cuidado de no dar certificados a ningun hombre malo, ó aun de costumbres sospechosas que dan motivos de creer qe. es boracho, osioso, revoltoso, fugitive, ó vagabundo—4°. Ecsaminara á los solteros con mas cuidado qe. a los de familias, porqe. el tener familia ofrece una especie de garantia para la conducta é industria del individuo. 5°. No dará certificados á ningunos que hayan faltado al respecto debido á cualquiera Autoridad Mexicana.—6° Me dará cuenta oportunam^te^ de los certificados que haya espedido, especificando el nombre de la cabeza de la familia, numero de la misma, y clase, prosedencia y ocupacion 7°. Manifestará estas instrucciones al Sor Comandante de la frontera Col. Dn Jose de las Piedras y se pondra de acuerdo con el mismo Sor en los casos necesarios, á fin de obrar con mas acierto en no dar certificados á gente mala, y en remover embarazos á la venida á esta colonia de gente buena y util.

San Felipe de Austin 13 de Novb^re^. 1830

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Inclosure: Blank certificate.[1]]

H. H. LEAGUE TO AUSTIN

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR my wife will start tomorrow morning to remove to Jennings Camp it is unnecessary for me to attempt a description of her deplorable situation and feelings, or my own I have not sufficient use of my faculties to address you as I would wish, but I call upon your humanity and merciful feelings to come down and see and have an interview with Mrs League before she starts and also with myself

H H LEAGUE

Nov—13th—1830

[1] See Austin to Williams, Dec. 28, 1830.

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James W. Breedlove to Austin

New Orleans, November 22, 1830.

See Calendar.

Francisco Ruiz to Austin

Comandancia Militar de Tenoxtitlan

Con sentimiento ví la mañana del 16. del corriente á un indio Kichas, de tres qe. se hallaban de paz en este campo, qe. seme presentó manifestandome el dedo pulgar dela mano derecha rompido de un tiro de caravina qe. me dijo le habia disparado un Americano sin causa alguna, y aunque al momento no pude averiguar qn. fue el agresor, como despues tengo entendido, pr. testigos varios, qe. fue un individuo llamado *Cúpar* [Cooper?] dela partida de civicos qe. condujo el capitⁿ Cuikendoll, y tal procedimtᵒ es ageno de hombres qe. respetan las autoridades legitimamtᵉ constituidas y se sugetan a las Leyes, me fue del mayor desagrado, pues en el caso de *qe.* el Yndio le hubiese infuriado al Sor. cúpar debio primero poner su querella y no traspasar la razon y la Justicia ala vez qe. se hallaba en un punto donde pudo hacerlo sin dar lugar al justo sentimiento con qe. atentamente tengo el honor de avisarlo áV. pª su inteligencia, reiterandole las protestas de mi mas alta concideracion y aprecio.

Dios y Libertad Tenoxtitlan 22. de Novᵉ de 1830.

Francᵒ Ruiz [Rubric]

Sor. Tenᵗᵉ Coronˡ de Civicos Ciudᵒ Esteban Austin

Francisco Ruiz to Austin

Comandancia Militar de Tenoxtitlan

Con singular aprecio recibí el oficio de V. de 6. del corriente en qe. se servio comunicarme la providencia dictada pr. el ilustre Ayuntamtᵒ de esa municipalidad, é igualmte. el objeto á qe. se dirigia el capⁿ Abner Cuikendoll comandᵗᵉ dela primera compª del Batallon de civicos del mando de V., y en su consecuencia ofrecí al referido capⁿ los auxilios qe. estubieron ami alcanse pª dar el lleno atan justa como venefica providencia, y qe. desde luego podia proceder al cumplimtᵒ de ella sin el temor de qe alguno de los individª á qⁿ se dirigia la ejecucion pudiese eludirse de ella pr. haber sabido de esa jurisdicccion huyendo del justo castigo á qe. su perjudicial conducta lo hacia acredor, pª de ningun modo permitiria esta comandª militar su introduccion en este nuevo establecimtᵒ antes bien haria salir á

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cuantos en él se hallasen en igual caso pr. ser en todo conforme á la mente dela superioridad y ordenes con qe. me hallo.

Doi áV. las mas exprecivas gracias pr. los auxilios qe. me promete p^{a} la persecucion de gente vaga pr. esta parte del pais, como asimismo pr. la buena disposicion del ilt^{re} Ayuntam^{to} y habitantes de esa Colonia pa. el mismo fin seg^{n} me indica en su citado of^{o} qe. atentamente contesto, suplicandole ala vez se sirva dar ami nombre las devidas gracias á tan apreciable corporacion y vecindario, reciviendo V. las protestas mas sinceras de mi respetuosa concideracion y aprecio.

Dios y Libertad Tenoxtitlan 22. de Nov^{e} de 1830.

Sor. Ten^{te} Coronl Ciudad^{o} Estaban Austin

Franc^{o} Ruiz [Rubric]

Francisco Medina to Governor Viesca

Nacogdoches, November 23, 1830.

See Calendar.

John Raney to Austin

Bolivar, November 23, 1830.

See Calendar.

Ayuntamiento of San Felipe to Austin

Municipality of Austin

Information having been given to the Ayunt^{o} of this Municipality that the inhabitants of the Colony of the Empresario Green De Witt, belonging to this jurisdiction are suffering from the robberies of barbarous Indians, who are supposed to be assisted and directed by men of infamous character, prowling in the vicinity of that Colony and who are stealing horses etc to carry to some other place for sale. This Ayuntam^{to} in the discharge of the duties and obligations confered on it by the Laws have thot proper for the preservation of the property of the inhabitants and for the preservation of good order and tranquility to appoint Mr Francis W. Johnson as a Commissioner to proceed, with a number of militia men to the western frontier of this Colony, and to the Colony of the sd Dewitt for the purpose of investigating the true situation of those inhabitants and also to endeavor to apprehend and secure those disturbers of the tranquility and violaters of the Laws in order that they may be brot to exemplary punishment. for which reason the Ayun^{to}

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calls on you as the Colonel Commandmant of the Militia of this Municipality to place at the disposition of the before mentioned Mr. Johnson a sufficient number of Militia Men, to secure the objects of the Ayuntam^to^ and the apprehension of all such evil doers as may be found connected in the outrages Committed by the Indians.

God and Liberty

Town of Austin 24th Nov^r^ 1830

THO. BARNETT [Rubric]

SAMUEL M WILLIAMS Secy protem [Rubric]

Colonel Stephen F Austin

Commander of the Batallion of Militia of Austin

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

GEFATURA DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE BEJAR.

El Exmo. Sor. Gob^or^ del Estado en orden de 13. del corriente se ha servido decirme lo qe. sigue.

"con esta fha. digo al Ciud^no^ Miguel Arciniega lo que sigue.—
—Habiendo representado a este Gobierno por conducto del Gefe del Departam^to^ de Bejar el Ciud^no^ Estevan F. Austin pidiendo un comicionado qe. dé las poceciones de tierras que falten en sus empresas de colonisacion fuera delas dies leguas litorales y en conformidad delo dispuesto pr. el H cong^o^ en or^n^ de 5. de Abril de este año, he tenido abien nombrar aV. p^a^ el indicado objeto a fin de q. con arreglo alas instruciones expedidas p^a^ esta clase de empleados pr. el mismo H Cong^o^ de 4 de Sep^e^ de 1827. de q. le acompaño un ejemplar prosedido al repartim^to^ de tierras que corresponde entre las familias que el referido Austin tiene contratadas con este Gob^no^, cuyo espediente de consecion debe poner en manos de V. el mismo empresario; en el concepto de que previam^te^ debe imponer V. de esta Comicion al Gefe de ese Depart^o^ p^a^ su inteliga. y a fin de que cumpli con lo dispuesto en el árticulo 7. ° del decreto no. 128. de que tambien acompaño aV. un ejemplar.—Y lo trascribo a V S. p^a^ su intelig^a^ y en contestacion de su oficio num^o^ 256. de 25. de Octubre ultimo, ordenandole al propio tiempo qe. al Ciudadano Estaban F. Austin debe VS. recordarle lo dispuesto pr. el art^o^ 77. dela constitucion del Estado al instruirle de q. este Gob^no^ se ha impuesto del citado oficio de VS. en que incerta el del espresado Ciudadano."

Y lo traslado a V. p^a^ su inteligencia y fines consiguientes.

Dios y Libertad Bejar 25. de Nob^e^ de 1830.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

Ciudadano Empresario Esteban F. Austin.

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FRANCISCO RUIZ TO AUSTIN

Tenoxtitlan 26. de Novᵉ de 1830.

Sor. Dn. ESTEBAN AUSTIN.

MI ESTIMADISIMO AMIGO: Por su apreciable de V. 17 del corriente quedo impuesto con la mayor satisfacion de qe. V. hará cuanto esté de su parte pª quitar obstaculos ala colonisacion pª esta parte del pais, yo pr. la mia tengo escrito de ofº, y en particular tanto en favor dela materia, qe. temo lleguen a pensar llebo algunas miras particulares en ello, de lo qe. estoi mui lejos, pª no pienso mas qe. pr. el bien de mi patria y semejantes, sentiré mucho si seme mancha con algⁿª desconfianza, pero no pr. eso dejaré de decir las ventajas, qe. en mi concepto, resultarán con admitir gentes Laboriosas, y honrradas, sean de cualqª pais como V. dice, ó delos infiernos, ciendo utiles, pª de otro modo el pais ó pr. mejor decir la mayor parte de este Departamtº. solo será habitado de barbaros y fieras qe. nos devoren, esto es verdad verdad.

No quiero hablar del estado en qe. me parece se hallan los asuntos politicos de nuestra republica, pr. qe. me aflijo, y desespero, mas me vale hablar de otra cosa. V. no tenga embarazo pª decirme con franqueza su opinion en cualesqª materia sea del grado qe. fuese, en el concepto qe. espero me haga la justicia de creerme soi su verdadero amº y qe. mi pecho será un archivo de sus secretos ó reservados sean cual fueren, pª cuando yo no coincidiere á ellos no pr. eso seria, ni pr. asomo, motivo de faltar ami promesa qe. la hago como protesta solemne de cumplir con ella.

Amigo estoi cansado yá con mi destino en tan corto tiempo, me parece qe. duraŗé poco tiempo con él, conosco qe. me combiene mi separacion dela carrera militar pr. qe. mi genio no es pª mandar en tiempos tan calamitosos, y mucho menos en un punto tan abanzado y sin recursos pª yá comienza la escases de numerario y en seguida las necesidades, no me es posible poder referir V. el estado en qe. me encuentro con mi guaranicion, baste decirle qe. hago ó represento, un papel mui triste, y no sé en qe. vá á parar este establecimtº el tiempo nos dirá, é interin dire otra cosa.

Le incluyo áV. los adjuntos dos oficios, uno en contestacion al de V. de 6. del actual, y el otro sobre un balazo qe. dió á un indio Kichas en el dedo pulgar dela mano derecha, un individº dela partida de civicos qe. trajò el capⁿ cuikendoll, No es mi objeto qe. V. se empeñe en otra cosa qe. hacer entender, si le parece, al agresor qe. cometio una falta en atropellar la autoridad qe. represento, y qe. no estubo bien quiciera vengar su agravio del modo qe. lo intentó, sobre sangre

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fria, ala vista de un puesto ocupado pr. tropa con autoridad competente, y quizá con un indio qe. no tenia culpa, V. no ignora qe. yo detesto alos indˢ, pˢ conosco lo qe. son, y solo los aguanto pr. qe. las sircunstancias demandan la prudencia, en fin mi oficio se dirige á V. y quede recibirlo con la confianza de un amigo pˢ pr. mi parte todo lo qe. V. haga y diga es bueno.

Remito aV. con el portador seis rrs. valor de dos cartas qe. de porte me mandó y recivi, la una del capⁿ D. severo, y la otra mia.

Sirvase V. dar mis saludes al amigo D. Samuel y famᵃ reciviendo V. el singular afecto qe. le profesa qⁿ se repite deveras su amigo Q. B. S. M.

FRANCº RUIZ [Rubric]

P. D.

pienso poner una habitacion donde pueda criar ganados, y si es posible sacar mi familia de Bejar pr. lo qe. deceo encontrar un terreno valdio y. qe. esté á cubierto delos indˢ, le pido su consejo sobre el terreno qe. deceo, ps. V. puede saver si hai algⁿº en su Colonia, pˢ estar cerca de V. como nuevo poblador, pr. qe. ya no quiero mas. Ve.

JOHN DURST TO AUSTIN

Nacogdochˢ Novᵉ 27 de 1830

S. F. AUSTIN

MUY SOR MIO Y AMIGO con esta fha. salen de este las familias siguientes Randol Foster con siete personas Francᶜº Morris con sinco, Jose Whiting con siete y Nathaniel Brocker, los qe. Diecen ser de las comprehendidas en sus contratas de colonisacion, haviendo sido detenidos en este punto pr. el Comᵗᵉ Sor de las Piedras pr. no traer los sufficientes pasaportes o certificados Me he Tomado la responsabilidad—obligandome como su fianza a qe. con la brevedad posible han de poner en este punto los Justificantes nesesarios para acreditar el qe. pertenesen a sus empresas. Si es qe. son de su colonia tenga la bondad de mandarme sus certificados o un aviso al Sor. de las Piedras insertando sus nombres en qe. acredite son de las familias pertenesientes a sus contratas, pˢ con Ella subsanar mi responsibilidad y si por casualidad no son de sus contratantes y han abusado de la confianza qe. he hecho de ellos Tenga la bondad Disponer buelvan por este punto siendo de Nesesidad lo agan si es qe. no pueden obtener las Documᵗᵒˢ antes espresados, esperando su breve contestacion me subscrivo con el mayor respecto su amigo y servidor.

JUAN DURST [Rubric]

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M. B. MENARD TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches. Nov. 27th. 1830.

Col Stephen F Austin
San philippe

DEAR SIR I receved this morning by Mr. Novara your Letter and document appointing me your agent to give certificat to such deserving persons as should wish to Emigrate to your Colony I felt disposed to Accept of the apointment for three Reason 1er to oblige a man who has done the most for the Interest and promotion of this province 2er to satisfy the desire that I have if I had the power to promogate the growth and importance of this province 3er to the Request of Mr. Mc.Kinney a man that I have the highest Estime and Consideration for.

But not wishing to Expose myself being a Stranger in the Contry I thought proper (allso in accordance with your Instruction) to call on Col Piedras to give his approbation on the Subject after due Consideration he said that he did not think he Could give his assent being Contrary to his Superior order that he had order to stop any one who Should not have a passport from a Mexican Agent that you had a wright youself to give pasport or Certificat to such Number or persons as by your Contract with Government you were to settle in your Colony and no more. that having the wright youself (to give Certificat) it was surpassing your faculty to Extend that wright to other and in short that the power and Instruction you give me were (if Complyed with) in direct violation of his order and to the 9th: article of the Law of the Sixth of aprill Last for he said by those Instruction you are impowered to give Certificat to any men (if good men) who Should say that he is Emigrating to Austin Colony not specifying the Number while your Contract with Government Specify a Limited Number and that no one ells ought to be admited in the province besides: it is an affair of too much Responsability for him to permit it he said if you would furnish him with a List of the names of those persons you have Contracted with which are to settle in your Colony or them to have a Certificat of your own Signature he has no objection to Let him pass. but upon no other term—Saying it would be transgressing his order to do the Contrary.—he Requested me to Let him take a Copi of your Instruction to me and that he would Write to the Govment to know whether they would allow you to appoint an agent for this business not finding it objectionable I Let him have the paper and he took a Copie of it I am no Lawyer therfore I do not know whether Col. Piedras is wright or wrong in this affair nor do I wish to have any Contantion

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with him on the Subject therfore I wrote you the Subtance of what he said it is for you to Juge or to do as you plaese about it

Notwithstanding my Willingness to be of Service to you—you see it is imposible for the present But in this or other Case here after if I Can be of any help or service to you I prey you to Request it of me and I will if in my power do it with greatest pleasure

With Respect and Consideration I am your Obed. Sert.

MICHEL B. MENARD [Rubric]

To. Col. STEPHEN F AUSTIN

Ville de Austin

Addressed: Col. Stephen F. Austin. Villa de Austin Texas Per Mr. Foster

PS. the Comisionner Novara Receved order to day from the Governor of the State not to proceed any farther in his business unless he is sure that Col. Milam Colonist are not North American Emigrant that Col. Milams Contract with Govt. his to settle European Emigrant the Gentlemen is very much dissapointed I am sorry for it.

M. B. MENARD

AUSTIN IN ACCOUNT WITH ASA MITCHELL

S. F. Austin

To Asa Mitchel Dr.

1824	To 3 pr. Cotton cards a 5	15.00	
1825	To 6 Bushels corn furnished Militia under R. Jones for indian expedition	6.00	
1826	3 bushels Salt @ 4	12.00	
1827	1 Set Shaving utensils	8.00	
	2 bushels Salt pr order J. Austin	8.00	
	3 bottles spirits for oyster trip	2.00	
	aid in Surveying	6.40	
		57.40	
	Trade rates deduct ⅓	19.13	
	Cash	$38.26⅔	38.26⅔
order H. Chrisman		3.00	
Due bill		2.00	
Due bill		20.00	
	trade	25.00	
	deduct ⅓	8.33⅓	
	cash	16.66⅔	16.66⅔
			$54.93⅓

Received payment of the above account in full San Felipe de Austin 27 Novr. 1830

ASA MITCHELL

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AUSTIN TO COLONEL PIEDRAS

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

OFICIO AL SOR COR DN JOSE DE LAS PIEDRAS COM^te^ DE LA FRONTERA

He recibo el oficio de V. S. fecha 12 del presente mes relativo a la conducta de los emigrados del norte Alexander Tomson, Santiago Ledbetter, Tomas J. Wooton, Juan Sherman, y Everton Kennerly— cuyos individuos con otros pasaron aquel puesto con sus familias sin los pasaportes nesesarios y en desprecio de las ordenes que V. S. les habia manifestado, y suponiendo que havian entrado a esta colonia me suplica V S. de prevenirles regresar inmediatam^te^ para que salgan del pais

Ningunos de los dhos individuos han venido á esta villa ni se han presentado á mi como colonos de este establecim^to^ ó en otra manera alguna— Entiendo que emigraron del Estado de Tenese como parte de las familias que contrató la compañia de Nashville establecer arriba del camino de Bexar—que salieron del pais de su procedencia sin saber que su entrada era prohibida que han venido de buena fé con la intencion de establecerse permanente in este pais como ciudadanos adoptados bajo la ley de 24 de marzo 1825 y que nunca pensaron en violar ninguna ley, ni en despreciar á ninguna autoridad—

Creo sea cierto que las familias son inocentes de toda intencion de infringir la ley, pensaron que la compania de Nashville tenia autoridad de introducir colonos en su empresa han venido bajo este creencia y bajo la direccion del agente de la dha compania.

Parece pues que la culpa no es en las familias ni se pueda decir con fundam^to^ que esta en la compania ó en su agente porque el Gobierno la concedio plena y amplia autoridad para introducir familias y el hecho de introducirlas indica que creia todavia vigente su contrata la compania. En esta inteligencia parece que la conducta de las dhas familias carece de lo esencial para inculparles de infractores de la ley, que es la intencion de infringir la con previa inteligencia de su ecsistencia— Pero se pueda decir esto solam^te^ hasta el tiempo de su llegada a ese punto, y saber de V. S. que no pudieron pasar adelante, y no cabe duda que hicieron muy mal en pasar en la noche por caminos estraviados de ese pueblo, despues de recibir ordenes de V. S. para hacer halto—sin querer constituirme como defensor de ellos suplico que me permite V. S. manifestar la situacion infeliz y desesperado en que se hallaron segun he entendido— havian ya caminado cosa de 500 leguas por tierra con sus familias— sus recursos eran ya casi acabados—havian vendido sus posesiones en el pais de su procedencia y hecho todas las preparativos y calculos

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para establecerse en este—toda su esperanza era llegar al punto de su destino antes de comensar el rigor del invierno para fabricar casas, y desmontar y limpiar labores para mantener sus familias el año entrante en un pais despoblado y careciendo de recursos como aquel arriba del camino de Bexar. En tales circunstancias el regresar al norte, ó el quedar en la vecindad de Nacogdoches era ruina para ellos, y es muy probable que continuaron su marcha, porque estaban persuadido que no hubo otro remedio ni otro recurso esperando de la humanidad y justicia de V. S. y del Gob^no^ un apoyo que les cubreria

Tan luego que puedo comunicar al Sor Alexandro Tompson le manifestaré el mal paso de ha tomado y no dudo que hará cuanto sea posible para remediar lo—y entre tanto suplico que me permite V. S. pedir que en obsequio de las circunstancias del caso se estiende á los dhos desgraciados emigrados toda la lenidad posible, representando la materia en su favor a la superioridad, a cuyo efecto hará V. S. el uso de este oficio que le parece conveniente Dios y Libertad villa de Austin 29 de Nov^re^ 1830

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO RAMON MUSQUIZ

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

OFICIO AL GEFEDEL DEPARTAM^TO^ C. R. MASQUIZ

He recibido el oficio de V. S. fecha 25 del presente mes en que me transcribe el del Exmo Sor Gob^or^ del Estado de fecha 13 del corriente participandome el nombram^to^ del Sor Dn. Miguel Arciniega Comisionado de las empresas de colonizacion que tengo contratadas cón el Gob^no^ Supmo del Estado fuera de las diez leguas litorales de la costa, cuyo nombram^to^ es enteram^te^ agradable a todos estos habitantes y á mi por las muchas virtudes y calidades apreciables del Sor Arciniega y suplico se sirva V. S. elevar mis gracias a S. E. el Gob^or^ para esta providencia al mismo tiempo participando a S. E. que el dia 15 del po. vo. mes me pondré en marcha para la capital del Estado para entrar en mi destino de diputado, esperando esforzar mi marcha para llegar el dia 1^o^ de Enero con lo que atentam^te^ contesto al citado oficio de V. S. reiterando las protestas de mi consideracion y respecto—Dios y libertad

villa de Austin 30 de Nov 1830

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Austin to Ramon Musquiz

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

Oficio al Gefe del Departam^to C. R. Musquis sobre los presos Ingram y League

El dia 2 del mes de Septiembre po. po. hubo una dificultad en la calle de esta villa entre Seth Ingram y H. H. League contra, John G. Holtham en que este fue matado por un pistolazo de Ingram Holtham tambien era armado con pistolas. League fue inculpado como complice en la muerte de Holtham porque estuvo junto con Ingram— El motivo de la dificultad fue que el difunto havia puesto pasquinas sobre la puerta de la oficina del Alcalde, anunciando al publico que Ira Ingram, hermano de Seth era cobarde, picarro, y hombre sin honor etc. Parece que el motive que estimulo á Holtham á esta medida fue que algun tiempo antes entró en la puerta del coral de la casa de Ira Ingram boracho y este le hecho fuera a patazos— Holtham escribio a Ira Ingram para que se le de satisfaccion y creo que era bien entendido que el objeto era desafiar a Ira Ingram en el caso que rehusiera dar alguna satisfaccion al dho Holtham. Ira Ingram no quiso dar satisfaccion ninguna Luego Holtham pusó pasquinas contra Ira Ingram, y su hermano Seth Ingram encontró á Holtham en frente de la casa donde habia puesto una de las dhas pasquinas y le ordenó de quitarla, lo que rehuso Holtham—sucedio la pelea y Seth Ingram mató a Holtham— En consequencia Seth Ingram y League han quedado presos en grillos desde entonces hta ahora— El Alcalde no quiere soltarles bajo fianzas por dudar si es legal o no— La causa no esta concluida por falto de traductor, segun me dijo el Alcalde antes de Ahier, y parece que se concluira por la misma razon, por muchos meses y tal ves años, si el mismo sistema de administrar justicia continua que ahora rige— No hay carcel ni otro modo de guardarles sino por medio de los civicos, y se ha adoptado este modo, hta que han rehusado los milicianos a servir, y nó habra otro remedio entre poner multas ecsesivas contra muchissimos Milicianos, y colectarlas por la fuerza, ó mandar los presos a Bexar á esa carcel, ó soltarlos bajo fiadores— Puedan dar fiadores de los mejores hombres que hay en la colonia, tanto por sus propiedades, como por sus otras calidades y estoy persuadido que nadie sospecha qe. qualquiera de los presos intentará escapar— Estos presos no son vagabundos— El Holtham lo era, pero esto no es escusa por haberle matado— Mejor hombre que Seth Ingram no creo que hay en la colonia— El otro, League, tiene

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pocos amigos, casi ningunos y la causa es que tiene un genio sumam^te^ ecsaltado y ha sido su costumbre maldecir á casi todo el mundo— no appruevo de su conducta en ninguna manera— La cuestion es ¿Se ha de tener estos hombres en cadenas para siempre, ó pueda el Alcalde ponerles en libertad bajo fianzas.— Yo he dado mi opinion al Alcalde que debe designar les un punto fixo y determinado en que deben quedar y tomar fiadores fuertes que no saldrán de alli sin orden del Alcalde— Deseo la opinion de V. S. a fin de poder dar datos al Alcalde para disponer de este asunto en el mejor modo para el bien general, y para cumplir con la ley y la justicia Dios y Libertad—vila de Austin a los 30 de Noviembre 1830—

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO RAMON MUSQUIZ

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

OFICIO AL GEFE DEL DEPARTAM^TO^ SOBRE VIATICOS

Con el fin de proporcionarme de lo nesesario para los gastos de camino etc de esta villa á la capital, para ir á tomar posecion de mi destino como diputado en el H. Congreso de este Estado Suplico á V. S. se sirva librar á mi favor contra el Sor administrador de la renta del papel sellado de esta villa por 250 ó 260 pesos, que dice esta debiendo á las rentas, y por lo restante que me corresponde por mis viaticos, puede V. S. proporcionarme en el modo que estime por mejor— Por el calculo que tengo hecho hay de esta villa a la capital 270 leguas quales á la razon de 10 riales por legua hace una suma de tres cientos treinta siete pesos 4 rrs, dejando a V. S. al arreglo de esta materia en el caso de ser equivocadas mis ideas El dia 15 del po. venidero mes me pondre en marcha para la capital, por cuya razon he de suplicar á V. S. que á vuelta de correo se servira atender á lo que antecede—D—y L—villa de Austin 30 de Nove. 1830—

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

Dec. 3. 1830

Mr E. R. WEIGHTMAN

DR SIR Mr Brush has entered his quarter I perceive that the 29th, 30 and 31st leagues on Trespalacios, as you have returned them in the book of that Creek cross the trespalacios creek I know not

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whether this will interfere with the place Mr Brush wants—the 29th league is deeded to the heirs of Richard Graves as you have returned it and cannot be altered—the 30. and 31. are still vacant—Brushes can cross the bayou if it will not interfere with other tracts

The Bowman and Williams League on the East of Colorado next below Betts is not run as I gave you the memorandum, and the consequence is that the quarter which was selected by John McLarren will be nearly all taken on the front by Bowman and Williams—their League was deeded in the old colony and the lines cannot now be altered— Agreeably to the deed it begins at Betts lower corner thence N. 62E 5500 vars thence S. 28E to a point from which a line S. 62. W. to the river will make one League— by refering to the plot you will see that this will cut off more than half the front of McLarren's quarter— I sent you the notes of this league and am surprised that it was not run in conformity— it must be so run and the fraction between it and E. Hall must then be calculated and plotted in a quarter it will be in a triangular shape with a very narrow front on the river— Explain this to McLarren without delay so that he can choose another quarter if he doesnt like to take the same after the correction is made— I have not made an exact calculation but think that Bowman and Williams will leave but a few hundred yards above Halls upper corner— As I have said this tract must be run as it was first deeded, no alteration can be made at all in it

S F Austin

I shall start on the 15 of this month positively— Send me the notes or begining of Brushes tract is you can do so—that I may finish his deed

A

James W. Breedlove to Austin

Mexican Consulate New Orleans Dec^{r} 4 1830.

Col Stephen F Austin

Dear Sir You have herewith a publication made by the Mexican Minister at Baltimore, which has gone forth in a great many papers printed in the United States, this publication has created a belief in the minds of many thousands that all North Americans are prohibited from going to Texas to Settle, and is calculated to do your Colony verry great injury, I feel verry certain that Col Tornel did not mean this prohibition to extend to any grants which stood on the same grounds yours does, and so I have Explained his meaning to all who have called on me—

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I am under the impression that it would be well for you to publish in the Texas Gazette under your Signature as Empresario a full explanation, send it to me and it shall go into the News papers of this Country— Unless the prohibitory Idea is explained it will prevent thousands from Emigrating this Winter and Spring that have intended doing so until they saw or heard of this publication

JAS W. BREEDLOVE [Rubric]

[Inclosure]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

Having received information that several offers have been made to citizens of the U. States to colonize the lands in the State of Coahuila and Texas, I consider it my duty to caution them by publishing the 11th Art. of the law of the 6th of April of 1830, which is as follows:—

"ART. 11. In virtue of the authority which has been reserved by the General Congress to itself, by Art. 7th of the law of the 18th of August of 1824, all foreigners, whose country is bounding on said State and Territory of the Federation, shall be prohibited from settling within the said State or Territory, in consequence of which all the contracts that have not taken effect, and are opposd to this law, shall be suspended."

Wherefore, I declare, in the name of the Mexican Government, that whatever contract shall have been made in violation of the said law, will be null and void, it being understood that colonization in the State of Coahuila and Texas, and the territory of New Mexico, by citizens of the United States, has been prohibited.

JOSE M. TORNEL.

JAMES W. BREEDLOVE TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, December 4, 1830.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO AYUNTAMIENTO

ILUSTRE AYUNTAMIENTO,

Haviendo completada la introducion y establecim^{to} de las tres cientos familias que el Gob^{no}. Sup^{mo} Mexicano me autorizo introducir y establecer por decretos fechas 18 de Feb^{o} y 11 y 14 de Avril del ano 1823 espedidos bajo la ley general de colonizacion de 4 de Enero 1823, como consta la adjunta lista nominal de las dhas familias con especificacion de la cantidad de terreno concedido a cada colono y la fecha de la concesion, cuyo lista cita sacada del registro de la dha primera colonia a que me refiero—y habiendo me concedido el Gov^{no}. Supremo del Estado de Coahuila y Texas, autoridad para establecer otras colonos hta el numero de nueve cientos familias Sobre el terreno valdio

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dentro de los limites de mi primera Colonia: Es de urgente necesidad que se determine si todos los colonos que recibieron comisiones en mi dha primera colonia han cumplido con las condiciones y requisitos de la dha ley de 4 de Enero 1823 y de la dha concesion del Supremo Govno nacional de 18 de Febo 1823, afin de poder saber cuales terrenos son valdios y cuales no lo son, para establecer familias de mis ultimas contratas sobre los valdios y no estorbar los que son ponidos en legitimos titulos, porqe, asi manda el Gobno en todas las contratas ultimas celebradas comigo sobre Colonizacion—

Por tanto pido, que se servira ese ilustre ayto en uso de las facultades concedidas a los Aytos por el articulo 23 y demas articulos de la ley de colonizacion de 4 de Enero 1823 antes citada, y por el articulo 26 y demas articulos de la ley de 24 de Marzo 1825 dada por el Estado de cuahuila y Texas sobre colonizacion, y en uso de las facultades grals concedidas por las leyes a los Aytos y del conocimto que tenga un cuerpo de todos los habitantes de su jurisdiccion, y de cuanto en ella pasa, y pertenece a la administracion de las leyes y la seguridad de las propriedades, ecsaminar la referida lista, y las concesions de tierras concedidas en mi dha primera Colonia y determinar definitivamto quienes de los colonos de mi dha primera Colonia han cumplido y perfeccionado sus titulos, y quienes han abandonado sus terrenos, y decirme cuales terrenos de los concedidos en mi dha primera colonia son valdios, por falta del agraciado de cumplir con las condiciones, quedando por esta medida a salvo y para spre cubierto los titulos y derechos de los que han cumplido, y anulando los titulos de los que no lo han, para que puedo respetar los titulos y terrenos de los primeros y establecer colonos sobre los terrenos concedidos a los segundos, de conformidad con los poderes del Gobno. y con mis contratos sobre colonizacion y con las leyes en la materia—

Villa de Austin 7 de Decbre. 1830

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Ilustre Ayuntamiento de la villa y Jurisdiccion de San Felipe de Austin

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Austin to Teran

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

San Felipe de Austin 7 de Deciembre 1830

Exmo Sor Dn Manuel de Mier y Teran (no de oficio)

Hay muchos embarasos y dificultades para que los emigrados pueden pasar Nacogdoches, para remediarlos en cuanto dependia de mi he nombrado un agente alli M. B. Menard para dar certificados en mi nombre á los que vienen á esta colonia. Mi objeto era remover los embarasos á la venida de gente buena y util a esta colonia hasta el numero de mis contratas— El oficio de V. E. sobre este punto

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era muy claro y bajo esta inteligencia he obrado en la materia No he recibido contestacion del Sor Piedras si respectara los certificados espedidos por mi agente, y no tengo motivo ninguno ni el mas leve para creer que no los respetará [1]—pero sin embargo he creido de mi deber esplicar esta materia a V. He entendido que las familias mas decentes y que trahen muchos bienes y tienen grandes familias son las que encuentran mas dificultad en pasar Nacogdoches— No entiendo esto— Yo crei que objeto del Gob^no era admitir gente buena y util y de proporciones y excluir los vagabundos y gente de poca utilidad—con respecto a esclavos, me parece muy claro que, aun suponiendo vienen un colono con cien negros y que al presentarse dijera que eran esclavos, semejante declaracion no cambiaria la ley ni el articulo 13 de la constitucion del Estado y no convertirian en esclavos personas que son libres desde el momento de pisar el territorio— De consiguiente me parece que todos los negros son sirvientes y no pueden ser otra cosa, y que como tales deben ser admitidos— No tengo otro deseo en esta materia que el de servir a mi patria y cumplir con mis contratas y obligaciones

Texas esta en peligro de los indios emigrados der norte, En octubre se concluiran los tratados con los chactas y chicosás para su remocion del Este al ueste del misisipi Los Cherokees y muscogues y seminoles Shauni Deluers, Kicápu, Quapas, y Potawatamis todos estan en movim^to hacia el ueste del misisipi y muchos han ya entrado en Texas.

La ley está dada para la remocion forzosa de los cherokis No podemos suponer que semejante enjambre de barbaros quedarán satisfechos en el Esteril.pais al norte del rio de Nachitoches ¿que baluarte se puede oponer contra ellos? No veo mas que uno y este es poblar el pais con gente civilizada y util— Me perdonara V. mis molestos é inquietudes—Estoy en el caso de un padre de familia con muchissimos hijos— El 15 de este salgo para el Saltillo—recibi noticias hoy que el Sor Tanner me ha mandado algunos ejemplos del mapa de Texas que le remiti a Filadelfia para publicar—luego que llegan (que espero seran antes de mi salida) le remitire algunos a V. si ofrece ocasion p^a hacerlo con seguridad—E. F. A

Austin to Teran

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

oficial

Exmo Sor Dn Manuel de Mier y Teran

He recibido el oficio de V. E. de fecha 21 de octubre po. po. remitiendome un ejemplar de la instruccion p^a colectar y preparar objectos de historia natural

[1] See Menard to Austin, Nov. 27, 1830.

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Contribuiré con el mayor gusto en cuanto permiten mis cortas luces en coadyuvar alos objetos grandiosos y utiles á la sciencia en lo general y a patria en lo particular, propustos, por la superioridad en colectar datos para la historia natural de la republica; pero al mismo tpo debo decir á V. E. que mis conocim^{tos} en la materia son tan limitados que no puedo ofrecer mas que un deseo vivo y uno industria que no perdonara trabajo para cumplir con las instrucciones que V. E. me ha hecho el honor de remitirme

Mé aprovecho de la ocasion para presentar a V E los homenages de mi consideracion

Dios y Libertad, villa de Austin 7 de Diciembre 1830

E. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

JAMES W. BREEDLOVE TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, December 8, 1830.

See Calendar.

P. W. GRAYSON TO AUSTIN

Bells Dec^{r} 10, [1830] Saturday

D^{r} Sir,

I received yours of 6th today— I am much pleased to learn from you that the subject I offered to your Consideration had been receiving it before— It argued me at least, not a *lone* dreamer—

I shall be much gratified some future day to talk it over with you at our Convenience.

You observe the "*Main Spring*" has brought me quite promptly to accept your influence for a League of Land, "Hombre Soltero" tho' I am—

I should in the event of the petitions succeding like to have it located on the Karankaway (the East branch) in case of forfeitures, which from what I understand are extremely probable as to some few—far more than enough of Course to let me in— There is time enough for that— Something certain may be effected by your Consent When something more Certain is Known as to the persons likely to fail,—

As to the Kind of Court, the people are wanting this *ambulatory* Kind of one—they are just seeking the means of their own Wicked Discord—to have them just at hand for every day use— The Miserable *glory* of having a suit in the *big Court*, as it would seem to hide many a scoundrels worthlessness,—how many would it entice

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to that Witching height of momentary greatness—the subject a *shadow!*

I had an especial eye to that evil in refering to them in my thoughts. A big Court as it were on every plantation—

The Theatre for display before the local Magistrate would be a poor one and would I think tempt but a few comparatively to figure upon it, to show their dexterity in litigation and reap a wonderful Conspicuousness—

P W GRAYSON

Col. Austin

WYLY MARTIN TO AUSTIN

San Felipe, December 14, 1830.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR ECA Y MUSQUIZ

[From Austin's Blotter, in file of June 5, 1830]

(oficio)

He tenido la honra de recibir la comunicacion oficial que se ha servido V. E. dirigirme con fecha 12 del po. po. mes de Nov^bre^ transcribiendome la solicitud de los Sores Villaveque y compania de Paris, y los Sors Villaveque y hermanos, con el mapa sobre el cual se ha delineado los terrenos que soliciten pa. colonizar con familias europeas—El dia de mañana me pondre en camino para esa capital, y como es mi intencion esforzar mi marcha á fin de llegar el dia 1° de Enero. no me da lugar la premura del tpo á contestar á la citada comunicacion de V. E. con el preciso exsamen nesesario del mapa, con presencia de los contratos ya celibrados por el Gov^no^ con varios Empresarios para partes del mismo terreno designado por los Sors Villaveque, Por cuya razon, y tambien por la de nesesitar algunos datos sobre los contratos ya celibrados con otros Empresarios que solam^te^ puedo conseguir en el archivo de ese Gob^no^ ó de las copias que trajo el Sor Comd° Gral Juan An° Padilla que estan todos en Nacogdoches (segun he entendido), me hallo en la presisa nesesidad de llevar la dha comunicacion de V. E. conmigo a esa capital, a fin de estender mi informe con mas acierto.

Hasta ahora no he recibido copias ningunas del mapa de Texas que forme y fue publicado en Filadelfia, Mas tengo noticias de la llegada de una goletita que se dice tiene abordo los mapas, y he despachado un correo a traher los que debe regresar mañana, y en el caso de conseguir los, llevaré el numero de copias que V. E me idica. Uno de

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mis objetos mas principales en encargar estas copias (que es todo la remuneracion que he de recibir por la copia manuscrita que formé) era tener algunos para presentar al Gob^no^ del estado y al nacional, como una manifestacion, aunque muy corto de mis deseos p^a^ obsequiar en cúanto puedo al servicio publico por el aumento de los conocim^tos^ geograficos de esta parte de la republica—D y L.

villa de A. 14 de Diciembre 1830

E. F. A

Exmo Sor Gobernador del Estado de C. y T.

Austin to William T. Austin

Col Stephen F Austin

Bot of Wm T Austin

1 pr 4 point Blankets		$6.00
3¾ hemp Linen	@4	1.88
2 pr. Woolen half hose	@4	1.00
2 Silk Hkfs	@2	4.00
5 lb Coffee	@2	1.25
10 lb Sugar		2.00
		$16.13

To articles for Jose Maria—

1 lb. Bread		.19
1½ hemp Linen	@4	.75
1 pr half hose	@4	.50
1 Blanket		3.00
1 Pocket knife		.37
		$20.94

Brazoria Decr. 14th 1830

Austin to James F. Perry[1]

San Felipe de Austin 14 Dec^r^ 1830

Dr Brother,

I have the satisfaction of acknowledging the receipt of yours of 2^d^ October from New York, and of informing you of the safe arrival of the Nelson. I rec^d^ a letter yesterday from John Austin stating that the Nelson was at Brazoria and he was then unloading your goods—She lost her false keel coming over the bar and thumped severely—the bar is much worse than when you came over—Henry Austin came near loosing his Steam boat going out, he put to Sea very much damaged and I have not heard of him since—

I wrote to John to follow your instructions strickly as to the goods, and not open them untill M^r^ Hunter arrives. I have not yet finished

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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the Store house, it is raised (in this place) the Shingles are hawled—the plank is all sawed and wagons have gone after it—So that I hope it will be ready by the time Hunter arrives—I have no house under way for the family—you will get out in the Spring and the weather will be pleasant, and you can get along very well untill some buildings are put up—Emily has seen a new country in times long past and can manage very well for a month or two—The fact is I have no one to attend to business and if I undertake to build while I am absent it will cost ten prices. My advise is that you build on the out lots above Williams; in this place on the creek—I think the situation a healthy one—

Edwards gets the League at the point—There was no other way of arranging the thing—The tract between the two creeks I think is the best Stock farm in the lower country, and I am clearly of opinion that Stock is the best business that can be followed, and if you intend to go into that business the Clear Creek and Dickensons Creek is the best tract you can get—I am very anxious for you to be here. We can soon fix ourselves comfortably—the family will have to undergo some privations the first year I leave here the day after tomorrow for Saltillo and shall not be back untill June, and I then hope to see you all here in health—. I have left my will with S. M. Williams and he has a power of attorney to attend to all my business, there is considerable due me and you can get work and plank etc. without paying money Also I wish you to begin collecting cattle due me—I think it will be a good plan to bring a mexican family with me from Saltillo—

I have heard nothing from Hunter and am very uneasy about him—the Brazos bar is very dangerous Galveston must be the principal port—

Call on Williams for any notes due me or all of them—and use any thing of mine as if it was yours without any kind of reserve. If I live through these two years, I am done for the balance of my life with all kind of public matters

The person who takes this is waiting so I will close by wishing you all a safe journey and good health

farewell S. F. Austin [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr James F. Perry Potosi Missouri

John P. Austin to Austin

New York December 16. 1830

My dear Cousin,

I had this pleasure on the 28. Oct per Mr. Wm T. Austin, who sailed from here, in the Schooner Nelson due for Brazos, to which I

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beg leave to refer, and have now to add a few lines by Mr. Treat who was with you about a year Since. Now on the eve of sailing for New Orleans on his way to Galveston Bay. I presume with a view of fixing on a permanent location. Since my last I have not been able to obtain any further information worthy of Communicating relative to the proceedings of Mr. Wilson in regard to his Texas lands, but should not be surprised if he had paid you a Visit ere this, as he writes from Matamoros October 12th—that he had in part succeeded in the object of his Visit to Saltillo, but not to his satisfaction, and of his intention of leaving in about a Month to Survey his Texas lands and expected to reach here in about six Months. Mr. Tornel, Mexican Minister at Washington, a short time since addressed a circular to the Mexican Vice Consuls directing them not to grant any passports for Coahuila and Texas, and to refer those applying for them to the legation, but on the consul here representing to him the situation he would be placed in by refusing them to American Citizens against whom no doubt the order was expressly intended to operate, the Minister in reply authorized the Consul to use his own discretion in granting them since which have been obtained without difficulty. Passports were however at first refused and a vessel with a Valuable Cargo, bound to Matamoros, detained some days and until the above permission was received from Washington. Had the Government known it at the time which it probably did not, from the order not being published and so soon annulled, I think Mr. Tornel would have been Called on for an explanation of so singular a procedure. You will see by the Enclosed that a Company has recently been formed here to Colonize the Grant of Zavala, Vehlein and Burnet, and Agent to be immediately Stationed at Galveston Bay to receive Settlers and afford them every facility in settling on the land. From what I can learn it is the Most extensive land Company that was ever known in this or any other Country probably extending its interests throughout the States, and its board of Directors is composed of the most respectable and influential Men among us, with the President of one of our first Banks at its head, as also on the Trustees. They are soon to publish a Pamphlet which I shall not fail to send you and was in hopes to have got it in time for this opportunity.

Should the Company Carry their plans into full operation and I see no grounds to doubt it, as the funds at Command are said to be very heavey, I should think could but be of essential benefit to your Colony as I look upon Emigration to any part of Texas as favourable to your interest and more particularly between you and the Sabine. I had a conversation this Morning with an intimate friend,

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who is well acquainted and has considerable influence with the Trustees, and strongly recommended that the above Company should and without loss of time Communicate to you direct their views and plans fully, that you may not get an unfriendly impression towards them, from the various reports which would reach you thro'. Various sources, and should Mr. Treat be detained a day or two longer I am in hopes he will be the bearer of their Communication as I feel confident they will see their interest in Making it. the Company have already chartered a Vessel to take out 50 to 100 Swiss Emigrants and am told they have 250 families Engaged. They also load the vessel I presume mostly with provisions. For further particulars I would refer you to Mr Treat whom I have no doubt is well acquainted with the Views of the Company, as well as to Mr. Woodbury who also leaves here on Monday for your place Via New Orleans and will probably be with you as soon as this. The Coat ordered made for you by Mr. Perry I have the promise of this week and if not disappointed will be in time to send by Mr. Woodbury, who offers to take Charge of it or anything I may have to send you. I have however seen very little of him since he has been here this time. The Coat has been nearly a Month in the hands of the Embroiderer and not possible to send same sooner. Col. Mexia, who says he is a particular friend of yours, Very politely loaned the Taylor his Coat that there might be no mistake in the uniform, and is so much pleased with the Making of yours as to order one Made for himself. As yet no letters from brother Henry since his arrival with you, which I cannot account for it being nearly four Months and very anxious to know how he is likely to succeed there with the Boat. In hopes of soon being in receipt of your esteemed favors

J. P. Austin

P. S.

December 17th.—Mr. Treat being still detained it gives me sincere pleasure to add, that he is the bearer of a friendly Communication to you from the Trustees of the land Company refered to above which has been handed to me for perusal and perfectly coincides with my Views of the propriety of Making known to you their plan of operations as I can but think it will further the interest of the Company as well as yours by having a Mutual and friendly understanding at the Commencement, as it will at all events prevent any unfriendly feelings that might arise from Various reports that may be in Circulation. That the success of the Company as they progress may advance your interest as I think it undoubtedly will is the Sincere wish of your Affectionate Cousin

J. P. Austin

Mr. Zavala also writes you by this Conveyance

To Col. Stephen F. Austin San Felipe de Austin Texas

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ANTHONY DEY AND GEORGE CURTIS TO AUSTIN

New York 16th. December 1830

Col. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

SIR/ It is perhaps a duty we owe to you to communicate the intelligence contained in this letter, lest from reports that are abroad you should be impressed with an idea in relation to our business, unfriendly towards us, which we think you will not indulge when the business is fully and fairly understood We have no doubt that you are aware of the Contracts made by Government of Mexico and the State of Coahuila and Texas with Gov^r Lorenzo de Zavala, Joseph Vehlein and David G. Burnet as Empresarios in relation to certain Lands lying East of you and bordering on the United States. The land comprehended within the boundaries of the four grants made to those gentlemen is estimated to contain about 15 millions of Acres. One condition among others is to put on in all 1200 families of various Nations These Grants have been formed and combined into one company and conveyed to Anthony Dey and George Curtis of New York and William H. Sumner of Boston as Trustees and Attornies of the Empresarios to fulfil their engagement, and one great effort is about to be made to colonize those grants according to the laws of Mexico— For that purpose Mr. Zavala sails for France in a few days to procure settlers from Germany, France and Switzerland— other efforts are making by other Gentlemen to bring colonizers from England, Ireland and Scotland— A vessel will sail from this City in a few days with Swiss and Germans, with a few agents of the Company—these are intended as a pioneer party, to prepare huts, shantees and other temporary accommodation for the settlers as they arrive from Europe or elsewhere and to prepare for them bread stuff on which to subsist, until the settlers can make their locations and build houses for themselves— The combined interest in these grants is great and the pains taking to diffuse knowledge and information in relation to Texas will we think have the tendency to direct the attention of many persons towards that country and your colony must of course considering it[s] advanced state of cultivation have an advantage over any other We are making a publication which we will take pleasure in forwarding to you in a few days which developes our whole plan of operations and we expect to send Col. Mexia to see you, with an agent very shortly to propose to you certain arrangements which we think will tend much to your advantage in relation to the future settlement of your colony and for consideration of such other matters as may be considered for the joint benefit of all the Empresarios in Texas—

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Gov^{r} Zavala Mr. Vehlein and Mr. Burnet each retain large interests in the Company and will use their best endeavours for the promotion of its interests.—

We cannot however but express a wish, that there was a toleration as regards religion in that Country, many of the best farmers, who are not Roman Catholics would remove to it, were it not for the fact that they must become Romanists in their religion, and we hope soon to see a more benign feeling in the Government towards North Americans— The Government must be satisfied by this time that the United States have not had any disposition to take the Country by force of arms.

The class of men that would improve the face of that country more than any others would be the hardy yeomanry of the New England states. We now contemplate to send in their place Europeans to comply with the Contracts but we hope the time is not far distant when a more friendly relation will exist between our governments— We shall be glad to hear from you any suggestion that will tend to our individual and mutual benefit— Our Co-Trustee Mr. Sumner is at Boston at present, and we avail ourselves of the present opportunity by Mr. Treat to make this Communication to you which we trust will be met with a corresponding feeling on your part. and

remain very respectfully

ANTH^{Y} DEY
No. 27 Nassau St
GEORGE CURTIS
No. 17 Hanover Street

LORENZO DE ZAVALA TO AUSTIN

N York D^{e} 17 de 1830

Sr D ESTEBAN AUSTIN

M. Sm.: habiendo formado aqui una compañia para colonizar las tierras qe se me concederon quiero hacer áV participe de este suceso interesante á V y ala republica por la clase de poblacion qe debera haber.

No dudo qe V. contribuira por su parte á ayudarme y quiere para conocimiento de V. qe conosca los nombres de los qe se han colocado aqui á la cabeza dela empresa. Estos son los SS. A. Dey, Curtis y Sumner, qe obran como fides comisarios en este asunto.

Salgo para Francia con el objeto de remitir colonos. Creo qe dentro de tres años habremos hecho alguna cosa util.

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En esa tiene V de secretario del Ayuntam^to á un tal Fisher á quien hice algunos favores en megico y se ha tomado la libertad de pagarmelos con agravios. Este hombre cree desde luego qe un Secretario de ayuntam^to vale algo en el mundo.

Regresare en seis meses y tendre el gusto de ver á V y nuestras tierras— Recomiendo a V al Sr Treat hermano de nuestro consul en esta, qe entregara á V la adjunta.

Soy de V spre

LORENZO DE ZAVALA [Rubric]

[Addressed:] D Esteban Austin S Ant^o de Bejar

JOHN P. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New York December 18. 1830

MY DEAR COUSIN,

I wrote you yesterday by Mr. Treat, who was to leave this morning Via New Orleans, and now add a few lines by Mr Sayre a respectable Merchant of this City, to whom have taken the liberty of giving a letter of introduction who is also to leave this morning Should the weather permit, to join his Schooner Nelson at New Orleans, which Vessel sailed from here about Six weeks Since for Brazos, and intended as a regular trader between there and the above port. Mr. Sayre tells me he takes with him property to the amount of ten thousand dollars, and that he is at a loss whether to take an interest of 10 to 20,000 Acres of the Trustees of the Grants of Zavala, Vehlein and Burnet or wait until his arrival out and has an opportunity of seeing you, and very desirous to know if you would dispose of any of your lands and if so on what terms. Which information I regret not being able to give him. I however rather advised his seeing you before purchasing. There is so much interest excited of late in favour of the lands of Texas, with the View of Speculation that it is possible I might further your interest, were I aware of your plans or dispositions as regards your Colony, and should you think proper to give me that information or authority to act, you may rest assured it will give me pleasure to forward your Views as far as may be in my power. Or were I only to be made acquainted with your ideas on the Subject it would enable me to give Satisfactory answers to the many who call on me for information as regards your Colony. Mr. Treat is the bearer of a friendly letter from the Trustees appointed by the proprietors of the Grants of Zavala, Vehlein and Burnet, (as named in my letter by him) which was wrote at the Suggestion of a particular friend of mine who has great influence

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with them, having previously agreed with me that it would be to your interest as well as that of the Company that you should be immediately made acquainted with their plan of operations as it would prevent any unfriendly feeling that might arise from the reports that may be in Circulation and at alevents [all events] the information Could but prove acceptable to you, and which I was pleased to find was approved of by the Trustees the moment it was named to them. I am told the first Company obtains the land at from 1 to 2 cents an Acre and that they have sold at 10¢, which price Mr. Sayre would have to pay, and soon are to fix the price at 20¢ the Acre. I have no doubt Mr. Sayre as well as Mr. Treat can give you much interesting information as to the plans of the above land Company which is represented to be the most extensive in the world, and would refer you to them for further particulars.

I hope yet to get your Coat in time to send either by Mr. Treat or Mr. Sayre. Col. Mexia who politely loaned his Coat to the Taylor as a pattern that there should be no mistake as to the Uniform, is so much pleased with the Making of yours as to order one made for himself. We have not a line from brother Henry since his arrival with you and Very anxious to know how he is likely to succeed there with his boat. In hopes of soon being favored with aline from him as well as from your good self

J. P. AUSTIN

P. S.

December 20th—Mr. Treat as well as Mr. Sayre are detained by the weather but expect to get away this morning which gives me an opportunity to send your Coat by either, and as Mr. S. goes first to Bahia I give it in Charge of Mr. Treat who will forward it immediately should he not go direct himself as he probably will do— It is a splendid Coat and I can but think you will be pleased with it. the Cost of Making far exceeds the sum named to Mr. Perry so much so that the Tailor charges no more than what he actually pays his journeyman, the principal Cost is in the embroidery, which Cost $41—The Cloth was secured from Mr. Perrys friends in Philadelphia—with whom Mr. P. wrote he had left $20— to pay for Making. The Money has not yet Come to hand but presume will

J. P. A.

AUSTIN IN ACCOUNT WITH G. B. COTTEN

1829	Dr. Col Stephen F Austin	
Nov. 20	To printing 50 certificates and 25 Notices	14.00
30.	To printing Notes	5.00

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Decr. 1,	To printing extra Notices 20th Nov	4.00
27.	To printing 100 Certificates, do Notes	20.00
"	To printing Land titles for Padilla	20.00
1830		
Jany. 15	To 9 Pamphlets	13.50
"	To printing 100 Certificates $6 and 25 Petns	16.00
23.	To adv. Certificates 3 sqr. 21 t	22.00
"	To printing 12 quires blanks @ 2.50	30.00
"	To 175 Copies of Pamphlet @ 1.50	262.50
March 22	To printing 100 Notes	5.00
Apl. 14	To printing 100 Certificates	8.00
May 18.	To printing 2 quires of blanks	8.00
22	To adv. order Austin Battallion	4.00
28.	To printing Notes	5.00
June 1.	To printing blank deeds	15.00
21.	To 150 Certificates	9.00
29.	To 110 do	7.00
July 22.	To 9 Pamphletes from De Witt	13.50
Augt 14.	To 5 Subscriptions to Texas Gazette	30.00
Nov. 21.	To printing deeds 2 sides	20.00
	To 50 Copies of Laws @ 75 Cts	37.50
To printing 1000 Electoral tickets and 200 Circulars		25.00
		594.00

1829	Contra	Cr	
Nov. 20.	By Cash for paper		15.00
1830, Augt 14	By 6 pamphlets		9.00
	By Whiteside's order		127.50
	By Cash from S. M. Williams		20.00
	By do. by Mr Converse		6.00
	By do---- do		9.00
	By order on Cotten		10.00
	By 21 Pamphlets		31.50
	By Petit		47.50
			$275.00
	By Smalls note	61.00	
	By Ira Ingram	35.00	
			96.00
			371.00
	Amt. of Debit	594.00	
	Do of Cr	275.00	
	Due G. B. Cotten	$319.00	
To amt. of Debit of the within a/c			594.
To 1400 feet plank @ 666			93.24
			687.24
By credits from other side			371.00
			316.24

Recd. payment in full by draft on John Austin Decr. 18, 1830

G B COTTEN

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AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Decr. 19[18]30

DR BROTHER

I wrote you a day or so since and improve another opportunity— your goods by the Nelson arrived safe John Austin came up yesterday and had stored them all up in good order— Nothing will be opened untill Hunter arrives— I shall have to use up some of the nails to finish the store house— I have all the Shingles and all the weather boarding on the ground the plank for the [mutilated] and the sheeting for the roof will [be ready in] a few days. The frame is up so that [the building will be] all ready by the time Hunter arrives he can get the goods up— I think a small assortment of goods would do at the Mouth of Trinity—

I am very anxious for you to get here, I shall be as poor as I now am without you, as long as I live— I need some one to take care of my money matters, and I w[ant you] to take all the Stock I can collect and manage the whole of that business— I think that you had better build on the lots of mine above Williams on the Creek, or if you prefer town I have a whole square fronting on the South west side of *Constitution* Square—or you can get out lots and building lots from the Ay^to^ do as you please in this matter and use my lots if you want them— The League of land above town, is mine, there are fine situations on it for a stock farm it is nearly all prairie, only timber for fire wood. I have bought the Dickenson League on Clear Creek, for you if you want it—the title is in my name, but if I die before I get back you will get it in another way, *by will*— I have appointed you and Lessasier and Williams my executors—the first is a Lawyer and can be usefull in [settlin]g the estate and Williams knows more about my affairs than any body else— you see I have made my arrangements as tho I expect to die, but I hope to see you all here next summer every man ought to make his will when in good health as all are liable to acc[iden]ts.

I have written to Col. Piedras at Nacogdoches that you will be on—you must call and see him and shew your passport from me and report your *servants*— Some have had the imprudence to tell him that they had Slaves— you must indenture them. do it before a magistrate, or clerk of a court or of [mutilated] witness let Hunter be out . . . and others who are . . . so that . . . —the contract here I think of [will] have no difficulty but be particular to call on Col Piedras immediately on your arrival, get John Durst as interpreter or some other—Col Bean [if he] is there—or Sterne— the last person named is the best, tho any of them will do, they all understand Spanish—

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I leave this day for Saltillo and do not expect to be back before June, and to that time I look forward with great anxiety as the period of meeting you all once more

The note you sent me on Sims is in the bottom of my red trunk in one of your letters— farewell may heaven bless you and Emily and the Children and give you a safe and pleasant journey here

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

If you come by Little Rock get Fathers writing desk I want it because it was his

S. F. A.

[Addressed:] Mr James Perry Potosi Missouri

D. R. HOPKINS TO AUSTIN

Cant[onment] Jessup La.
December 20th. 1830

DEAR SIR.

It has been a long time since I had the pleasure of your acquaintance, but I beg leave to bring to your recollection The time you passed Fort Riply, on the Sabine in 1821.

The bearer of this Mr. N. D Labadie I beg leave to introduce to your acquaintance, as, a, young Gentleman, who visits your Country with a view of locating himself somewhere, in your District of Country, Either in the profession of medicine or in the Mercantile pursuits—

Mr. Labadie has been in the Employ of Harrison and Hopkins for the last Eight Months and from what we have found, from That Experience, we have no hesitation in introducing him to you as a Gentleman worthy of the highest, respect, and one well qualified to discharge the duties of his profession—

If you can render Mr. Labadie any services in the way of his making an advantageous location—you will not only place him under particular obligations to you, but allso your

D R HOPKINS [Rubric]

[Addressed:] To Col. Stephen F. Austin St. Phillipe de Austin Texas P[r] M[r] Labadie

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JOHN P. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New York December 20. 1830

MY DEAR COUSIN

The weather having detained Mr. Treat, until this morning, Enables me to place your Coat under his Charge, and he promises to see that you get it with as little delay as possible. The Cost of Making it, far exceeds the sum named by the Tailor to Mr. Perry, which

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was but $20. So much so that the Tailor only Charges what he pays his journeymen. The principal Charge is the Embroidery, which at first was refused to be done for less than $35.— The work however is beautiful and I think you can but be pleased.

Whole Cost of Making is	$40.
Box	.50
Exp. of Cloth from Phª	.50
	$41.—

The Cloth was received from Mr. Perry's friends in Philada. with whom Mr. P. wrote he had left $20.—to pay the Making which latter has not yet Come to hand but presume will be sent. Refering to my previous letter by Mr. Treat I remain

J. P. Austin

P.S.

I also send you by Mr. T. a late publication, by O. Halsted Showing his new Method of Curing Dyspepsia for which secret he had previously charged $50— It is without Doubt one of the greatest discoveries of the age, being an effective Cure of a Disease that had baffled the Skill of our Most eminent Physicians, Medicine no doubt having a most injurious effect, in most Cases, as any thing would that tends to weaken the tone of the Stomach—I most sincerely hope as I trust you are not troubled with the above worst of all Maladys, but if so unfortunate, and the disease is very prevalent here, you may rely upon Mr. Halsted Cure as simple as it may appear, and will thank you to loan the book to brother Henry whose health, unless improved much since he left here, would no doubt receive benefit, was he to apply the Method to himself with perseverance—

I know instances here where persons have been so afflicted by the Dyspepsia as not to be able to attend to their ordinary business and so far gone that a cup of black tea would require something to Correct its ill effects, recover entirely by Halsted Method, and a friend of mine in that Situation gained 12 to 15 pounds in weight in about three weeks time—

We are a long time without arrivels from Europe, there is however a French Packet reported below, to have sailed 4 Novr—and hope to get the news by her in time to send with this—

J. P. A.

To Col. Stephen F. Austin San Felipe de Austin Texas

Piedras to Austin

Nacogdoches Dize. 25. de 1830.

Sor. Dn. Estevan F. Austin

Muy Sor. mio y Amigo: Me tomo la livertad de presentar áV. al Sor. Nicholas D. Labadie q. pasa á ese punto á ver el pais, és sujeto

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recomendable y de respectabilidad á quien suplico áV. le ministre los conocimientos q. pueda nesesitar y lo vea como á mi propia Persona.

Soy con toda concideracion su mas afectisimo amigo y atento servidor q. b. s. m.

JOSE DELAS PIEDRAS [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Al Sor. Dn. Estevan Austin. Villa de Austin

MUSQUIZ TO GARZA[1]

N 35

GEFATURA DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE BEJAR

De los fondos de la depositaria del cargo de V. entregara al Sor. Diputado por este Departam^to^ Ciud^no^ Esteban Austin la cantidad de trescientos treinta y siete pesos cuatro reales que le corresponden de viatico p^r^ razon de Marcha en doscientas setenta leguas de distancia desde la Villa de Austin hta. la capital del Estado adonde debe pasar p^a^ desempeñar su destino exigiendole de ella el correspond^te^ recivo p^a^ documentar su inbersion

Dios y Libertad Bejar 28. de Dic^e^ de 1830.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

Al Depositario de los fondos del Estado en esta Ciudad Ciudadano Jose Antonio de la Garza

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AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Bexar 28 December 1830

DR SAM.

I arrived here last morning, and shall leave the day after tomorrow by the upper road. I get an escort from here as far as Rio Grande, and another from there to Saltillo— Madero will leave in a few days for that place. I wish you to pay him all the attention you can. Shew him some of the deeds that are finished and explain the mode of translating the Surveyors return etc—also the general plots. he is (I have no doubt) as true and warm a friend as the North Americans have— he is a devoted friend of Guerrero and opposed to Teran and the present administration— on subjects of this kind it is best to be *silent* unless directly questioned, in the latter case you will of course give prudent answers.

[1] From Bexar Archives.

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The people of this place are, in heart, unanimously hostile to the present administration, and they are more friendly to the North American emigration than they ever were. The state of affairs in Mexico is, if any thing, more unsettled than ever. Teran I believe will not go to Mexico, and I think it not improbable that he may turn his course this way— from what I can learn both Piedrass and the General are desirous to have a good standing with the settlers— we ought to encourage this idea for we may derive much benefit from it, at least so far as to keep off harsh orders etc.

I send you two hundred signatures, have certificates printed over them verbatim like the others and fill them up, all except the name [1]— give as many to R. Williamson as he wants and send some to McGuffin and some to Piedrass, and some to Col Thorn. Try and have them printed at night when no one is present and take care that none of the blanks get into other hands, let none know anything of this but Lesassier and Williamson.

Settlers can get in with certificates from De Witt and he ought to have about 200 struck off and sent to Arkansas and Natchitoches etc.

I presume you have heard all the news from Pettus and Johnson, in this place there is Novedad de indios [rumor of Indians] every hour—a large party were discovered yesterday on Medina near the road.

Arciniega will be on by the 15 of next month try and get the coast colony out of the way by that time. I will write another letter by him and one by Madero both of a *public character*, that is you can shew them if you think proper, but this one no person must see except Lesassier.

There can scarcely be a more difficult thing than to play a *double game*, it is dangerous, and it is at times, a nice point to draw the distinction between such a game and dishonor— we are so situated that we must keep a good understanding with Teran and Alaman,— but at the same time all our best friends at Saltillo and in Mexico are very hostile to both those men. Silence, prudence, and vigilance, must all be called in requisition. I shall have a dreadful task at Saltillo—if I am compelled to come out and take sides openly, I must go with the Viescas of course, in this event the whole pack with Licenciado Aguirre at the head will open against me. Tho, it is best not to anticipate trouble, in two weeks after I get there you shall hear what the prospect is. Viesca has returned to the Govt.—this is a good sign. Say nothing for, nor against Zavala, very rigid

[1] For a copy of these certificates, which were intended to relieve immigrants from the embarrassments imposed by the law of Apr. 6, 1830, see Austin to Menard, Nov. 13, 1830.

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orders have been issued by Teran prohibiting the admission of Zavalas families

Keep peace and union at home, I shall not idle abroad.

I have written to De Witt to get 200 certificates of the same kind of mine printed and signed by him and sent in blank to different places. Aid the poor fellow along with it. Chambers has not yet arrived. I cannot concieve what detains him. Pettus and myself parted in such terms as I wish to be with all the settlers—I have confidence in him now, and I think he has in me. The chiefs answer to Williamson will inform you what has been done in his business—A *consulta* with the Superioridad and nothing can be done until an answer is obtained

Attend to the writing of the certificates (do) take care of *my* signatures, don't put m[e] in the power of the printer or his boys. I have written to [name illegible] on this subject

remember me to Mrs. Sweet and Sarah

S. F. AUSTIN

[Addressed:] S. M. Williams Austin

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Bexar Dec^{r} 29. 1830

Mr S. M. WILLIAMS—

You know that my maxim has always been that truth and justice would ultimately prevail. I have a gratifying evidence of this in my old friend, and then bitter enemy, and now again my friend George A. Nixon

The occurrances of 1825 and 6 etc arose from the want of a proper understanding of the subject and of the difficult and critical situation in which the true interests of the North American settlers were placed. They have seen and become convinced that the course which I pursued has saved them, and protected their interests, and that I had no other object in view. Men who are thus convinced can be relied upon as friends and all old feelings should forever cease

I have agreed that Nixon shall have a League in the coast colony. I have told him that he can have the second League on the West side of Karankawy below F. Kellers it is the next League below one selected by Smith for Winston, and is the same that I planted the peach stones on when Ingram was with me.

S. F. AUSTIN

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Should he not like this League, he can get anyone that is unappropriated in Bay Prairie, or any where else—

S. F. AUSTIN.

[Addressed:] Mr. S. M. Williams San Felipe de Austin

[Apparently a postscript to this:]

Madero wishes to take on Borden and some other Surveyor, and if Borden can get a good job I wish you would try and get him a place—also attend to the business for Dr Victor Blanco, and do the best you can. I am better pleased with Madero than I ever was before—the people here are more discouraged, and more in favor of North Americans than they ever were. Arciniega will come by the 15 or 20—have new commissions for S. P. Brown, Chrisman, Wightman, Borden and Ingram[1] after he gets clear of his difficulties if he ever does, and push everything, for you may depend that next year will bring Muchos Cambios y trastornas [many changes and disturbances] and we must be ready for them.

I wish Perrys goods hawled up, I have some order to enforce the collection of duties, on the ground that they came in after the exemption law expired— the opinion here is that as little notice should be taken as possible of the entrada y salida de buques [entrance and departure of ships] and keep all notices of them out of the paper and say nothing de oficio about them, if possible to avoid it— try and push the store house, and have all ready by the time Hunter gets on

Let Jose Carabajal have my odd pistol— all is satisfactorily explained with Navarro— I sent you 200 signatures by Williamson, attend to that without delay—

Gasper wants the [word illegible].

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, January 2, 1831

MY DEAR COUSIN,

I am far from having forgotten you or your visit to Greenfield, as you suggest in your letter to my brother John. Indeed, I often find myself employed in tracing the progress of the "puny boy" through the daring career of the enterprising man. Little did either of us, at that time, contemplate the condition in which the present anniversary finds us. I have been more frequently led to these reflections since I have been living comparatively near to you—since

[1] Seth Ingram, in prison for killing J. G. Holtham, Sept. 2, 1830.

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I have been left alone to mark out the future destiny of myself and my son. More particularly with regard to my son, I have thought I would write to you and renew our acquaintance, in order to learn, what prospect Texas would offer to him, looking some distance a head: whether it would be an object for me to take any steps with such views—securing land—etc. He is a boy of twelve, has talents enough, but as yet I can not decide whether they will be marked by the love of literature of his Father's family, or the love of enterprise of mine. His education is before him, and occupies all my cares. I have thought too, if my brothers could make it their interest to remove to Texas, we could there together build up our fallen family in new hopes and happiness. I am sure my brother Henry's family might be happier there *together* than separated as now. I am happily and usefully situated where I am but I am *alone*, and think—I am sure—I should prefer a place of tolerable comfort, *entirely my own*,—a *permanent home*, to all this luxury, with dependence in the least possible sense. Do I deceive myself? I saw your letters to my brothers, and pamphlet while in New York. Are there persons among you who want education and accomplishments such as I could give if that would be necessary, after a year or so? Be so good as to write me on these points, and others concerning your self. Direct New Orleans, Care of Michael Fortier Esq.

I have taken this moment to write from the possibility that my brother Henry may be with you, and he will thereby hear from me, while a letter directed to him might benefit neither him nor yourself if he should not be there.

Is your Sister and her family with you.

MARY HOLLEY

I lately heard from N York and New Haven all well. I am obliged to hurry to send my letter.

[Addressed:] To, Col: S F Austin St Filippe de Austin Texas Mexico

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ANTHONY WINSTON TO AUSTIN

Tuscumbia, Ala., January 3, 1831.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Rio Grande 3 Jany. 1831

DR SIR.

I have just arrived at this place, and as the mail is on the point of leaving I drop you a line. I am comfortably lodged with Dⁿ Juan Francisco Lombaña whom I think a very gentlemanly man.

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I shall detain here one day for the escort to get ready. The[re] appears to be nothing new that I have heard of—tho have made no inquiries. Padre Musquis has gone on.

[George] Nixon has expressed so much anxiety to be on good terms again that I have agreed to it and wrote you by him stating that he could [have] a League where it was entirely unappropriated— the best conquest that can be made over an enemy is to convert him into a friend. I told him that he could not get any forfeited League. On reflection as to the Lindsey League—I think it had better be held, for the present. After my arrival at Saltillo I think I can get your petition granted, and if so you are more entitled to that League than any one else, and you shall have my support to get it—but keep this to yourself. Send instructions to S. P. Brown how to regulate his chain to the Mexican Measure. He sent me word by Williamson that he had forgotten the difference between the Mexican and english measure.

If young Tumlinson applies for a place up on Navidad let him have one—he is the best of that family

Remember me to Sarah and Mrs. Sweet

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

S. M. Williams

[Addressed:] Al Señor Dⁿ Samuel Williams, en San Felipe de Austin

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John A. Williams to Austin

District of Atascosito. Texas 4th January 1831

Col. S. F. Austin

Dear Sir In conformity with my promise I have endeavoured to learn from the people the public opinion as to the best mode of organizing the local government of this district, no public metting has been had, but I have conversed with a number of persons whose opinions are entitled to respect Messrs. George Orr, Baker McSpinks, our former Alcalde, and Wm Milspaugh the present Alcalde are among those I have consulted They were made acquainted with the object of your address of the 17th Novbr last, and All concured in the course there suggested

If, for the last seven years, the people of this dist, have governed themselves in a peaceful and harmonious manner without courts legally established, without the enjoyment of the rights of citizenship and almost without law, yet obedient to law when known.[1] Is this not conclusive evidence that they are justly en-

[1] These East Texas settlers had drifted in without permit from the government and settled outside any empressario's grant. The arrest of Padilla, the general land commissioner, at Nacogdoches in the summer of 1830 prevented at that time the extension of titles to their lands. They had a *de facto* political organization, each community electing an "alcalde," subject to the ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches.

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titled to the previledges enjoyed by other foreigners settled in this province? For some years the strangers residing in more favoured parts of the State have had their courts legally constituted by which their judicial procedings were entitled to respect, they have been made the rightful proprietors of the soil they cultivate, they exercize the right of suffrage at elections, and have representatives in the legislative counsels of the Nation. In a word they enjoy all the civil rights which the Municiple laws of this nation permit to be exerised by foreigners. But not so with us.

Our judicial procedings altho just, yet they are arbitrary, and that from necessaty. Although we cultivate the soil, yet we are at will. Although our civil rights have been suspended since the day we first set our feet on the soil of Mexico, yet we have been faithful to her political institutions Always ready to defend her cause when defence was necessary, and obedient to her laws when her laws were made known.

These are incontrovertable facts known to your self and also to many worthy Mexicans who have traveled among us. But we complain not nor attribute our misfortune to any willful neglect on the part of the Govt. but solely consider it the result of unforeseen, and therefore unavoidable accidents.

If I had not considered myself authorised by your favor of the 17th of Novbr. to communicate with you on the subject of the organization of the local government of Trinity and Naches. I should have been totally silent, but conceiving the correspondence already opened and that by one of the constitutional representatives of the people, I consider myself under the greatest obligations for the honour you have thought fit to confer by asking my opi[ni]on on the subject now alluded to, and should consider myself liable to great reproach if I should refuse to answer fully and freely on a subject of such vital importance to the political existence of this dist.

I would therefore, with due respect, suggest the following mode of organization for this section of country.

Let there be a court of equal grade, power, and authority, with those of other jurisdictions of the state, legally established. If other courts or Ayuentamentos possess the power of framing police regulations let this possess the same but this kind of power should be but sparingly given to any court for there is always danger where legislative and judicial powers are vested in the same hands, and the power of passing police laws is clearly a legislative power so far as it extends

The limits of this jurisdiction should include the teritory bounded by the following lines (To wit) begining at the mouth of the sabine River thence runing up the same to the dividing ground between

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Cow bayou settlement and Bevells settlement including the former settlement thence to the Trinity river below the quoshato Villedge including the Naches settlement and all the american and Mexican families on the Trinity below the quoshato Villedge, thence from immediately below said Villedge due west to the Langes into your eastern country here, thence down the Sangesinto to its mouth thence along the eastern line of your colony to the gulf, thence along the margin of the gulf to the begining The Naches and Cow bayou settlements have hitherto been considered a part of this dist. and held amenable to our courts and voted at our elections. If it shoul be said this teritory is too large to form one jurisdiction I answer, it is thinly inhabited except on Trinity and that to appoint Ayuntamientos in every settlement of ten or fifteen families would be absurd, and further, that when the population becomes more dense it will be time enough to form new courts.

As to the place of holding courts, At Perries point one Mile distant from the mouth of Trinity a Town has lately been laid out, by Col. Bradburn of the Mexican Army his detachment is stationed there and making rapid improvements A number of american families will settle in that place so soon as they can procure lots and I am informed by Col Bradburn that a quantity of Mexican families have or soon will embark for the purpose of settleing there. I am therefore induced to believe it will soon be a place of considerable commercial importance. Would it not, therefore be better to fix the Seat of Justice at Perries point?

If the plan of organization here suggisted should meet your approbation together with those who will have to decide its fate, the state will never lament the act, for stern necessity requires that there should be some legal tribunal within the reach of every member of society by which every real, or imaginary wrong might have its remedy and every ex[ist]ing difficulty adjusted.

Whether we may be so fortunate as to succeed in this application, or not, you Will please to have the goodness to inform us of the result as soon as practicable and if successful some provision should be made for organizing the court as soon as posible, and ought not (in my humble opinion) to be delayed until the time of the anual election of Alcaldes.

Jn° A. Williams [Rubric]

Asahel Langworthy to Austin

New York Jany 5. 1831

Stephen F. Austin Esq.

Sir, Through the kind offer of your relative Jno. P. Austin[1] Esq of New York I improve the opportunity of writing you on a

[1] John P. Austin's letter of introduction, Jan. 8, 1831, omitted.

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subject, in which, I presume you are much interested, and which, of late has become a subject of much conversation and no little degree of excitement, I mean the Colonization of Texas. A company has recently been formed in the City of New York to Colonize the grants to Veilin, Zavala and Burnet, adjoining, as I understood, your Colony— This Company, are composed of gentlemen of great wealth and respectability who are engaged in forwarding settlers to these grants. One Vessell, has already Sailed, and another will sail this Week filled with Emigrants, principally *Swiss*, with provisions, farming utensials etc. and many other settlers will soon follow— Indeed hundreds I think I may say some thousands settlers, would immediately go out, if they had the means of Conveyance, and a reasonable prospect of being able to obtain subsistance, until they could be enabled by Cultivating the earth to procure a Comfortable subsistence by their own labor. In the Vessell which goes this week, several competent surveyors are going out, in order, in the first place, to lay off the Entire tract, and to subdivide it to enable the Settlers to locate themselves, permanently, on their own Lands, A principal part of the Settlers, that have and are now going out, are hired, the Conditions, except the sum to be paid, which is Sixty Dollars pr Annum,) are contained in the printed Sheet which I send you. Others pay their passage, and all expences and are entitled to receive 177 Acres, subject to reconvey the balance etc. as is therein stated—

The price of Texas lands in Market varies from 5 to 10 Cents pr Acre by large quantities and almost any amount, might be sold at from 5. to 10. or Settled on the conditions proposed by this Company— I am myself interested in those grants to the amount of 1,00000 [one hundred thousand] Acres and now think of going out, in the course of a few days for the purpose of making a Selection of Lands to locate upon, if so, I intend to Visit your settlement and hope to have the pleasure of seeing you there. My particular object in writing you at this time is to appraise you of the Value of your Lands in Our market of the course taken by this Company and also to say, that I should be willing to make some arrangement with you to furnish you with Settlers, or to sell your Lands, as you might find it most advantageous to you— Having for 25 years been extensively employed in the purchase and Sale of Lands, and having formed many acquaintance, in many of the States, I believe I could furnish Settlers to almost any extent, or sell your Lands on as good terms as any other person, I beg leave to refer to your relatives in New York for a confirmation of what I have above stated— I should be glad to soon hear from you on the subject—and as I may be at your place, you will have the goodness to write me in New York, addressed

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to the care of Mr Austin and also to your own village to the care of your agent. Mr Curtis, one concerned in the Galveston purchase I understand intends visiting the Legislature of Texas and Coahuila this winter—you will probably see him He is a very respectable worthy young man— He might feel a degree of Jealousy—If he knew the Contents of my Letter, as he is much interested in the prosperity of their grants, and might fear that the sale and Settlement of their tracts would be impeded by throwing yours into Market,

ASAHEL LANGWORTHY

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN TO AUSTIN

Matamoros Enero 5 de 1831

Sr D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

SR. Y AMIGO DE TODO MI APRECIO: Yguales variaciones q. las q. V. me indica en sus apreciables me han ocurrido pr. la eleccion q. se hizo de mi p^{a} diputado del Congreso General de modo q. se han atrasado mis cosas; pero en el dia que ya esta determinada pr el Gob^{o} la continuacion de mi destino en estos Paises me ocupo en ajitar todo lo atrasado y en particular mi viaje p^{a} el q. no hay mas impedimento q. la incomodidad de la estacion.

En el tiempo q. hemos dejado de escribir sucedieron las ocurrencias de Fisher sobre las q. no he dicho á V. mi opinion. No tiene duda q. el fue á encargarse de dos cosas que no teniendo conecccion entre si le debian dar distintas consideraciones: como Administrador de la Aduana Maritima el Ayuntam^{to} de Austin nada tania q. ver con el pero como Secretario de esa corporacion le era dependiente y entonces yo no tengo q. ver en el asunto: asi se lo he dicho de oficio para q. lleve sus quejas al Gefe del Departam^{to}

No tengo conosimiento de q. el Coronel Piedras ni ninguno otro haya detenido familias pertenecientes á la empresa de V. ni mucho menos pr. la razon de que traigan sirvientes: á mas de que sobre este punto no se ha hecho ninguna prevencion suponiendo siempre que la introduccion de los colonos de V. se hace conforme á las Leyes.

El hecho de q. he tenido aviso oficial es el de la introduccion de unas familias q. pr. no traer documento ninguno fueron detenidas en las inmediaciones de Nacodoches y despreciando la autoridad del coronel Piedras se ha internado de noche como fugitivos y mal hechores: al principio tomaron el nombre de V. y no se detuvieron en afirmarlo q. pertenecian á la Colonia de V.: parece q. estas familias seguian á los enviados de la empresa de Nashville cuya conducta es correspondiente á la indicasion de V. de q. no ès muy

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arreglada. La empresa tambien tiene en contra á la Ley de 6 de Abril y su origen no es muy puro, pues sabe V. q. es traspaso q. ha hecho otro empresario á dicha junta y en la transacion deben resultar naturalm^te^ quebrantadas las Leyes de Colonizacion, p^a^ de otra suerte ninguna utilidad podia resultar á dicha comp^a^ Sobre la intencion de estas familias he dado parte al Gob^o^ del Estado promoviendo q. no sean admitidas como me parece justo pr. el menos precio de las autoridades.

El Sr Gobernador me á prometido q. en la proxima Legislatura se tratará de el establecim^to^ de Gefe Poli[ti]co en Nacodochis y en cuanto á la administracion de justicia lo q. me parece adaptable y aun lo tengo dicho al Supremo Gob^o^ es el juicio de jurados y la revision de un jues letrada q. visite periodocamente las poblaciones como se hace en la Luisiana. Yo quisiera q. de una vez se decretara el ejercicio de cultos en Tejas; p^a^ lo q. me parece peor es q. no tengan ninguno como sucede.

Ya no tengo esperanza de q. nos veamos p^a^ se hallará V. en el congreso cuando llegue yo á Tejas p^o^ la correspond^a^ será mas frecuente.

Desea a V. toda salud y felicidad su afectisimo amigo q. atentamte. B. S. M.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

ANTHONY DEY AND GEORGE CURTIS TO AUSTIN

New York 5. Jan^y^. 1831.

Col. STEPHEN F AUSTIN

SIR We wrote on the 16 Dec^r^. last by Mr. Treat and to which we beg leave to refer you. Our exertions have been great to promote the interest of the Colony but it is a work of so much magnitude to get into operation, that we have not effected as much as we wish.

Our pioneer vessel sailed on the 29^th^ Dec^r^. Another will sail in a few days with Swiss Germans etc. for Col. Mexia's Settlement. Others we hope will be forwarded without much delay, if no untoward event occurs at Galveston to check the effort to Colonize.

There is much may be done if your views and ours accord that will aid us and add tenfold value to your Colony and increase the value of Texas in every point of view, whether social, Agricultural, Political, or otherwise. We have engaged two Gentlemen as our agents, who we hope will sail from here in a few days, and meet you at Saltillo, where our plan of arrangements for your and ourselves will be developed and which we have no doubt you will consider for your interest to engage in with us in endeavouring to carry into

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operation. We beg leave to commend to your friendly notice as well the infant settlements we have sent out, as all others who may hereafter arrive at Galveston and that may need your aid, countenance, and advice.

Hoping to hear from you soon we remain

ANTHY DEY [Rubric]
GEO. CURTIS [Rubric]

JOHN P. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New York January 5 1831

My DEAR COUSIN

I have addressed you frequently of late, at Austin, giving such information as I thought to your interest or would prove acceptable. Also advised of Mr Treat, who left here about the 18th of last month via New Orleans, being the bearer of a friendly letter to you from the Trustees of the Company, formed by the Grant of Zavala, Vechlin and Burnett, giving a view of their plan of operations, the Success of which I should think could but further the interest of your Colony, and that a material understanding and friendly intercesion would prove equally advantageous to both parties. I am now informed by my friend, who is no Stranger to the plans of the Company that they write you at Saltillo, where I presume your duties as a member of the State Legislature has called you ere this, Via Vera Cruz by the Packet to Sail today, with a wish that a letter from me might accompany theirs, and steps would be taken to secure their safe delivery. Which opportunity I am happy to embrace. The Company now see the importance of communicating with you as speedily as practicable, for the purpose of arousing your interest and with it your influence or at least your friendly disposition toward them. The Trustees and board of directors, as before stated, I can assure you are composed of some of our most respectable and monied men, therefore no want of funds to secure their object, and with an interest extending throughout the States, will in time usurp a powerful influence. Col. Mexia also writes you at this time and will soon leave himself for Saltillo via New Orleans, Vera Cruz and the City of Mexico, to see you in behalf of the Company, who have engaged another special agent also soon to leave for Saltillo to open a negotiation between you and said Company. From the above you can readily infer the light in which you and your Colony are held by the Company, who appear anxious if no more can be done to secure your neutrality looking upon that alone of no little importance to them, if not necessary to their ultimate success. One Vessel has been already despatched with

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about 70 Swiss and German settlers for Galveston Bay and another is early to sail with the same number. In fact the current of emigration is setting so strong towards Texas, that if you had anyone here to represent your Colony, I am confident there would be no want of Settlers, as yours would have the decided preference over all others. While writing I am informed one great object of the Land Company in sending an agent to you is in hopes to induce you to unite your Colony with theirs, but I cannot credit that they would make such a proposition or have any hopes of success if they did, for I cannot conceive they can offer an equivalent, for in that event you may rest assured they would place all settlers on their own lands, for it would be to their interest to do so. In hopes of soon being in receipt of some of your kind favors I am with the compliments of the Season

[Rubric]

P. S.

Since writing the above Col. Langworthy of Vermont, with whom I am but very slightly acquainted, has handed me a letter to you which I enclose, wrote at my suggestion when he called a few days since for information as to your Colony, and to which I would refer as also giving the manner in which the Zavala Company dispose of their lands and of which I was not before so fully acquainted. You will see Col. L. has an interest in said Company of 100.000 acres, cost him he tells me 5 cents p^{r} acre, the payment of which may have been secured, but otherwise I presume not paid for as I understand he is very poor having lost all of his property. I am however told he is a man of information and he informs me in his neighborhood he could get Settlers almost without numbers to go to Texas was he to advise them to go, and that many offered to exchange their farms for these lands. You may therefore be able to use the Colonel to advantage, without incurring any responsibility on your part, and the latter I should advise never to lose sight of, and at the same time further his interest and views. I have promised him a letter to you of introduction and doubt not you will find him much of a Gentleman.

[Rubric]

January 25. 1831

Dear Cousin,

Referring to above duplicate of my last respect. I now add a few lines by a son of M^{r} Woodbury, whom I am surprised to learn is still here, to sail in the morning direct for Galveston Bay, as he gave me to understand that he would leave long since via New Orleans. I send you in charge of Mr. W. a pamphlet just published

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by the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company—the Company before referred to above and in my former letters—giving their articles of association, plan of operations, Translation of their grant, etc., which as yet I have not had time to peruse but doubt not the pamphlet will prove acceptable to you. One of the Trustees tells me they intend to add to it some legal opinions when they will send you a copy. I also enclose their first advertisement which has appeared in the public prints. Col. Langworthy sailed from here for Galveston Bay about the 11th inst, in a small vessel full of Settlers whom I am informed were sent out by Col. Mexia and a private Company. I saw the Colonel on board and he told me as much. Col. L. is agent for a private Concern which he told me however would in no way interfere with is own business and object of his visit. He is very desirous to see you and doubt not will communicate freely with you and that you may be able to elicit from him much valuable information and which I hope you may turn to advantage. In my letter which accompanied your Coat, I gave a statement of the coat of making and Trimming and I stated that Mr Perry had informed me he had left $20 with his friend in Philadelphia to hand on to paye the supposed cost of making at that time, instead of which they have since sent and paid the whole bill say $41 "— I am happy to hear of you thro' brother Archibald, who is in receipt of your letter of the 20th December advising of the receipt of his per Schooner Nelson. You make no mention of a letter and paper roll I gave in charge of Mr & Mrs [Wm.] T. Austin, passengers by said vessel, which I hope came safe to hand. Brother Henry has indeed been truly unfortunate with the Steam Boat. I must acknowledge I had no confidence that your Colony was sufficiently advanced to give him profitable employment, and regreted much to hear that he had taken her off the rio Bravo, but in the absence of his letters must take it for granted that he found it the only alternative. I trust must soon hear from him and hope to have that pleasure from you yourself.

J. P. Austin [Rubric]

P. S. I also send a file of newspapers, but nothing late from Europe.

Seth Ingram to Austin

Austin, Jan. 8, 1831

Dear Sir,

Your seeming unwillingness to converse on the subject I named to you this morning, prevented my saying to you all I had intended on the subject of my petition to Govt for an augmentation of land.

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My reasons for my intended petition is not a mere idle whim, it is because I was amongst the first who emigrated to the country, It will shortly be eight years since I made the country my home. At that time, and nearly ever since, I have been engaged in a business, altogether proffitable to the community, and for many reasons well known to yourself, it has been quite the contrary to myself. I lost all my property that was of value to me at my first landing, to the amt. of upwards of $500.

The business I have followed could not be proffitable to me, until the country should flourish, in consequence of which my last seven years has been spent in a labour, that is hard and rough, living in the woods, during all of which time,[1] I have been saving and economical, and at this moment find myself not only poor, but largely in debt.

I have therefore thought, that as the country has been proffitted by the business I have followed, and has been of public utility, that it might entitle me to a claim on the country, for a remuneration of the losses I have sustained in her services. I wish no extra acquisition of lands unless I merit them, and whether I do or not, depends on the reasons above stated, all of which, comes within your knowledge.

SETH INGRAM [Rubric]

Col. Stephen F. Austin.

JOHN P. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New York, January 8, 1831.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Monclova Jany 9 1831

DR SIR.

I arrived here yesterday sin novedad, and shall leave in the morning. Dn Victor Blanco recd me in his home with great friendship and attention—he has truly an amiable and interesting family. I wrote you by Madero that Dn Victor would appoint you his agent to select his land—by this mail he will send you a power of attorney to act as his agent, and also as the agent of many others. I most particularly request that you will try and make good selections for

[1] Ingram was a surveyor.

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Dⁿ Victor, he wants the most of his land on the Trinity lów down or on San Jacinto. This gentleman is a very warm and sincere friend and I hope you will spare no pains to get good selections for him.

The accounts given to me here by Dⁿ Victor, Tijerina and others, as to the general aspect of political affairs, amount in substance to this—that the present administration have all the effective portion of the Army and all the Legislatures and Governors of all the States in their favor, and most of the Talents and wealth of the nation. They are of opinion that the present Govt. will sustain itself and that Guerrero must soon be put down entirely. Dⁿ Victor and others here, think that this administration is not hostile to North American emigration to Texas, and that the present restrictions will be removed before this year concludes. They all say that my Colony stands very high with the Govt. both in Mexico and in Saltillo. The answer of our Ayto to that of Leona Vicario has given general satisfaction to all intelligent and reflecting men and has raised our character more than you have any idea of. The Senate has approved of Carrillo's credentials as Senator, *unanimously*, not one vote in favor of the Jalapising System proposed by the Saltilleros.[1]

In Rio Grande and in this place (the only towns I have passed through) I have been treated with more attention and respect than I had any reason to expect. The opinion here is that Teran will not go to Mexico, but that he will proceed to Texas in a short time. The enemies to North American emigration are beginning to suspect that he is more friendly to them than they wish etc. etc. I give these ideas as I have recᵈ them. You see that they differ very much from those intertained in Bexar. When I get to headquarters I shall be able to form some certain opinion on these subjects, in the meantime it is best to pursue a prudent and *silent* course as to all matters of politics.

The town at the crossing of the upper road on the Colorado is yet to name.[2] I wish you would request Arciniega not to name it until he hears from me on the subject.

My colleague Padre Murquis passed here on the 3ᵈ of this month. I am told he intends to ask leave to resign, but Dⁿ Victor thinks that it was under a belief that I would not come on.

Try and get the coast colony out of the way, before Arciniega gets there so that you may have nothing to interfere with the other business.

The mountains round this place are white with snow and ice and the weather very cold and wet—my health is good. The horses stand

[1] See above, Sept. 27, 1830, for the reply of the ayuntamiento of San Felipe to that of Saltillo, which was attempting to remove certain deputies of the Legislature.

[2] Bastrop.

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the journey very well—corn in this place is only 75 cents to a dollar the fanega I again recommend Dⁿ Victor's land matter to you particularly—that is, his *own claims*, the others are for his friends and are of secondary consideration in comparison with his, for they want the land for speculation—he wants it for his family, he has ten children, and a more promising family I have never seen.

remember me to Mrs. Sweet and Sarah

S F Austin [Rubric]

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin

Harrisburgh January 10th 1831

Dios y Libertad

My Dear Sir

My object in coming to this place was to load the Schooner Champion with lumber or freight for Tampico, and I intended to keep her in the coasting trade provided I found it to my Interest, knowing it was decidedly to the advantage of the Colony to have a vessel as well calculated as she is to carry off their produce. But I have to state to you with regret that unless a different construction of the maritime laws shall be made, or the laws themselves changed, it will be impossible for any vessel to pursue it. I waited on Colonel Bradburn with the letter you honored me with, and found him as you represented a Gentleman. I stated to him that I had paid in Aransaso Bay a Tonnage duty on the Schooner, and all the other Government dues for which I had a receipt from the Administrador; that after leaving there we entered the Bay of Matagorda in ballast, and finding no loading had come on to this for lumber to proceed to Tampico: he said his instructions were positive, and that I must pay the tonnage duty here, and that had there been an office at Matagorda, the same would have been required there; and further, that the same must also be paid in Tampico: this then, amounts upon the Schooner whose tonnage per U. S. Register is 65, besides other port charges to $552.50 from which 16 p. c. is to be deducted; no vessel can stand this, and unless a change be made the Trade must be abandoned. I am not prepared to dispute the legality of Col. Bradburn's demand, but Mr. Hiram, and several other gentlemen here say they would not pay it, for Colonel Bradburn has nothing to do with this Colony, nor has the ayuntamiento at Austin ever received any official notice of an officer having been placed at Galveston entrance. I have no hesitation in addressing to you, my dissatisfaction, but under the present feeling between the two people prefer a slight submission (for submission I consider it to be) to being the means of increasing that feeling.

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I understood Colonel Bradburn to say his orders were from General Teran, and that as he conceived no vessel upon having payed the Tonnage duty in one Mexican port should be required to pay it in another, unless her last clearance was from a Foreign one, he would write to the General upon the subject, requesting him to give instructions to have the payment made here returned in this case and not demanded in future; but God help us! as the fable tells us there are many tracks into the lions den but none out of it—he further added that he would write to the General, to grant to the Schooner a coasting licence for six months, now my dear Sir, if you would back this request by also addressing the General it would oblige me.

In the course of conversation the Colonel mentioned that the views of the Mexican Government were such that he had no doubt but all north american emigration would be prohibited in the course of a short time, even to this colony; should this prove to be the case, I shall most truly regret it, for my attachment to this my adopted country, where I have located all my interests, and whose prosperity I consider as identified with my own, is such, that I cannot view without pain a step of such short-sighted policy. The Mexican Government have at all times been most liberal towards us colonists and the people we have ever found to be amiable and hospitable; on the other hand we have been true and faithful citizens, ready at all times to protect the country from Foreign invasion, and Indian aggression, as well as to support the execution of the laws, we have Industry and mechanical and agricultural knowledge wherewith we can enrich the country and set a good example to our Mexican brethren. Any step therefore on the part of the Government which might check this Industry, and the good feeling existing between the Colonists and the native Mexicans I consider injudicious.

I shall forward this via Tampico, and return in a day or two to San Felipe.

S. Rhoads Fisher [Rubric]

Colonel Stephan F. Austin.
[Addressed to Saltillo]

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Leona Vicario [Saltillo] 13 Jany. 1831

Mr. S. M. Williams

Dr Sir. I arrived in this city last evening, after an unpleasant journey through the mountains, owing to the cold, which has been

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more than usually severe. My credential was presented to day and refered to the usual committee who will report tomorrow, and I take my seat next day. I am in good quarters, with Padre Musquis and the member from the Partido of Monclova (Canales)—up to this time, great harmony has prevailed in the Legislature among the members, they all appear pleased that I have come on. I hope these appearances may be all solid realities. I have had the pleasure of a visit from el Cura de Austin, y Vicario gra[l] de Texas, Doctor Miguel Muldoon—he has been here about a week. I am truly pleased with him, he is a very intelligent and gentlemanly man, and quite liberal in his ideas. I must believe that if the general Govt. wished to harrass us, they would not have sent a man as vicar gen[l] of Texas, who is so liberal and so enlightened, on religious subjects. Sin embargo, there are some things to be bourne in mind—he has always been the warm and bosom friend of Gen[l] Teran, and as I am told of Alaman—but he is also a great favourite of both Agustin and Gov[r] Viesca, who have known him intimately several years, and speak highly of him, he puts up at the Gov[rs]—he has been accustomed to the best society in Mexico and in Europe, the Society of the nobility and gentry, and I fear he will think us rather a rough set in Texas. I should prefer that he take lodgings with you, on his first arrival, untill a house can be prepared for him, and there ought to be no delay in preparing one. Col Butler has recommended him to me in the strongest terms, and I do assure you that I am greatly pleased with him. He says that there will be a very considerable imigration from Mexico to Texas composed of the first families of the City in point of wealth and standing. querie—is it not probable that the *white* portion of the Mexicans look towards Texas, as a retreat in case the indians of the South should finally succeed?—pueda ser. Jorge [Fisher] is writing a book at Matamoros to prove to the Govt. what the American Settlers and Col A—— are. The ground he takes is that he was persecuted by a faction of which I was the head—that the mass of the settlers are my enemies and are opposed to me, that the publication by the Ayto is all false etc—that the settlers are bad immoral, and only want a pretext to rebel etc—I give you this as I have heard it from a person who was some time in Matamoros— Should any such publication be made, I would recommend that the Ayto. call the whole colony together in masse by a notice published in the Gazette, and when they meet, that they appoint a president and secretary to give form to the meeting—that Fishers publication be then taken up and a committee appointed to answer it in the name of the whole colony. My character belongs to the colony and any unjust attack upon me situated as I now am, is in fact an attack upon all. This will shew that it is not a faction.

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The opinion here is that the present administration will sustain itself, tho on this subject I have not as yet been able to get much information.

I am told that Teran is a very credulous man, and believes everything he hears, if so Jorge may mislead him for a time, but if the colony stand to their posts, he will soon be undeceived.

This letter must only be seen by a few. After I take my seat I will write to several and give whatever news there may be of interest.

Be very cautious about inserting remarks in the Gazette, say nothing about Muldoon in the paper as yet.

By Chambers I will write you more fully— he will leave in about a week, he is in trouble— the Tribunal has thrown obstacles in the way of receiving him as a lawyer— they are of a frivolous nature. My opinion of Chambers is very good—he can be usefull in that country. What has passed will be of great service to him.

I send the grey horse by Jose Luis, and the other horse and mule by Chambers—I should loose them here—

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Al Sor Dⁿ Samuel M. Williams Admor de correos de la villa de Austin

Por el Sor Jose Luis

José Ignacio de Alcala to Austin

Saltillo, January 22, 1831.

See Calendar.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Bexar

[From Bexar Archives]

Ponemos en conocimiento de VS que en este correo hemos dirigido al Sor Dipº. al Congreso Gral Ciudadº. Ygnacio Sanches la representacion que VS. nos recomienda en sus instrucciones de 29 de dbre ppºº. asi mismo comunicamos á Vs. que hemos activado todo lo posible para su pronto despacho la representacion que ese Ayuntamtº. tiene hecha solicitando el remplazo de un año para el comercio libre de derechos en completo de los siete que se le tenia concedido á ese departamtº. y no se cumplieron segun la orden superior que suspendió esos puertos. Tenemos asi mismo la satisfaccion de noticiar á Vs. que en la entrevista que tubimos con el Exmo. Sor Govºr. nos ofrecio que si comicionaria al Alcº. de esa Ciudad para que ponga en posesion á los ciudadª. que se les han concedido tierras en esa Municipalidad.

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Con tal motivo ofrecemos á Vs. ntra mas distinguida consideracion y respecto

Dios y Libertad Saltillo 22, de En°. de 1831—

MANUEL MUSQUIS [Rubric]
ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Muy Y. Ayuntam^to de Bexar

AUSTIN TO CARILLO

Leona Vicario En° 24. de 1831.

Sor. Lic. Don MANUEL CARRILLO[1]

MUY SOR. MIO, sin embargo que no he tenido el honor de conocer á V. personalm^te, me he resuelto abrir una correspondencia sobre algunos puntos interesanticimos, tanto á los pueblos de las fronteras de Rio grande y Tejas, como á los intereses generales de la nacion. El conocido caracter y talento de V., en sostener los derechos constitucionales del Estado y de la Nacion, y en promover el aumento de su poblacion, y por consequencia, el adelanto en las artes, en riquezas, en recursos, y en fuerza fisica; me ha animado á dirijirme en derechura á V., sin esperar las formalidades de etiquete; y de esplicar con franquesa los males principales que en mi opinion oprimen las fronteras orientales de este estado, y los obstaculos que se oponen al remediarlos, á causa de las leyes restrictibas que en el dia han paralisado la emigracion, y el adelanto de aquella parte de nuestro estado

Por la comunicacion que le derige mi muy digno compañero Don Manuel Musquiz, cura de Morelos, y diputado en esta legislatura por el departam^to de Tejas, acompañada de un mapa de la frontera del partido de Riogrande, se impondra V. de la situacion decaida y desgraciada de los habitantes de aquellas Villas, á causa de la guerra desoladora de los barbaros comanches. En efecto tan esterminador ha sido el caracter de esta guerra, particularm^te en bienes de campo, y en desminuir los productos de la agricultura, que el mero hecho, que los habitantes de aquellas Villas han podido sostenerse en el medio de una aniquilacion casi entera de los productos de la industria agricola y pastoral, presenta pruevas incontestables de la feracidad de aquellos terrenos en recursos naturales, puesto que en falta de los primeros, se han mantenido casi enteram^te. de los segundos. Lo dicho de esta frontera e igualm^te aplicable a la de Tejas, Ó por mejor decir á todo el departam^to de Tejas: De modo que se quede decir, y con fundam^to incontestable, que el inmenso territorio mejicano situado desde la Cierra madre que corre por Candela y Santa rosa, hasta la linia dibisoria entre Tejas y la luciana, queda en el dia casi inutil á lo restante de la nacion, y quiza se puede decir que es aun un per-

[1] Carillo represented Texas and Coahuila in the Federal Congress.

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juicio, porque á mas de ser un abrigo á los barbaros de donde salen á hostilizar a los desgraciados habitantes, ha costado, y en el dia cuesta muchos millares para el pago y socorro de las guarniciones que se mantienen en diferentes puntos, ¿En que modo se han de remedier estos males? La opinion de algunos es que se les remediaran solam^te^. con el restablecimiento y aumento de las compañias precidiales ¿ Cual es el objeto de poner á gran costo compañias y guarniciones sobre las fronteras? considero que deben ser dos, en su caso, es decir, ó el defender el territorio de invaciones estrangeras ó el proteger los havitantes de las incurciones de los barbaros ó ambos en uno. Creo que las relaciones de amistad y de mutua conveniencia que existen entre este gobierno y el del colindante al norte, añadidas á las obligaciones y garantias fundadas en la estrecha observancia de estas relaciones y del derecho publico, son suficientes para, desbanecer todas ideas ó sospechas de miras injustas y aun fatricidas de parte del gobierno del norte contra el territorio mexicano.

Poner guarniciones pues, sobre la frontera oriental para impedir invaciones parece ser sin nececidad alguna; y de consiguiente se reduce el objeto de estas guarniciones á la defensa de los habitantes de los indios barbaros. Aqui ocurre la cuestion ¿Cual es el mejor modo de contener á los indios? Es por medio de compañias precidiales, ó por medio del aumento y progreso de la poblacion de gente Civilisada? Opino que este ultimo es el plan mas Cierto y el unico; y fundo esta opinion en la esperiencia de los ultimos veinte años sobre la frontera de Riogrande y en Tejas ¿Cual es el mejor modo de fomentar la poblacion? ¿Es por leyes restrictivas y prohibiciones parciales siempre odiosas y perjuiciosas? Creo que la razon, y la sana politica contestaran, que no, mas al contrario que se debe adoptar un Sistema franco y liberal, análogo á los principios de un gobierno Verdaderam^te^ libre y republicano. Si asi es, no puedo entender las bases ó los principios en que se fundó el articulo 11. de la ley de 6 de Abril del año pasado que prohibe la emigracion á este estado de pobladores de una nacion colindante, amiga, y unida á esta por todos los vinculos del interes, de analogia en sus instituciones, y de simpatia mutua en la grandiosa causa de la independencia y libertad de todas las americas, y de toda separacion de los enredos de la politica y diplomacia europea. Se prefiere que el territorio mexicano sea poblado con personas nacidas en europa y creadas bajo la sombra de coronas, antes de los nativos del propio continente americano y criados bajo los ramos protectores del arbol de la libertad. No estoy en ninguna manera opuesto á la emigracion europea, mas al contrario en su favor, pero si lo soy, de distinciones parciales y odiosas, y mas cuando son dirijidas en contra de un pueblo que es, y siempre ha sido el amigo sincero y estrecho de las libertades y

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derechos nacionales mexicanos. Si es el deseo de mexico aumentar su poblacion, riqueza, é ilustracion, abrese la puerta á la entrada de emigrados amigos, sean de la nacion que fueren, El adoptar restricciones para con los de una nacion, no dejara de causar recelos y dudas en todos los demas, porque sera considerado como una manifestacion de malquista á todos los estrangeros sean cuales fueran. Ademas de esto, el designar, sin causa conocida, como si fuere con el dedo, á toda una nacion amiga, como tan mala que no merecia admicion, es herir altam^{te} su pundonor, y no dejara de enfriar por lo menos, los sentimientos de hermandad que antes existian.

Temo haber ya cansado ã V. y dejare para otra ocacion Varias reflecciones que me ocurren sobre esta materia, y concluire esta carta con manifestar á V. unos hechos positivos relativos á Tejas.

Ya sabe V. que aquel pais esta casi despoblado, y que ha sido á merced de dies años de trabajos los mas penosos por los que he podido establecer la colonia de mi nombre. Han entrado muchos indios barbaros del norte y continuan á entrar casi mensualm^{te}.

Los comanches son sin fé en sus tratados, y se espera de un dia á otro que romperan las hostilidades con el objeto expreso de atrasar el aumento de la poblacion, por que la esperiencia les ha demostrado que solo por la poblacion se les estrechen, y no por medio de estacamentos o campañas.

La emigracion de gente Civilizada á Tejas esta en el dia paralizada por la ley de 6 de abril antes mencionada, y la de los barbaros esta activandose por la misma razon.

Traher familias de europa, es obra de un siglo y de millones de gastos, y la emigracion de mexicanos á un pais tan despoblado como Tejas, es muy dificil y costosa, y ademas sera quitar poblacion de una parte para colocarla en otra, sin que por esto se aumenta la fuerza fisica de la nacion, antes al contrario debilitarla, desparramandola sobre una Vasta estension de territorio,

Los terrenos del partido de Riogrande son de mucha estencion y de los mas ferases de todo el estado como ha manifestado el Sor. Musquiz en su carta. Los indios que han destruido aquel patido son los mismos comanches de Tejas. Alli viven, alli existe el mal luego el poblar á Tejas sera cortar el mal de raiz, y asegurar para siempre la seguridad y paz de toda aquella frontera. Para formar idea de las ventajas que resultaran de esto, solo basta una ojeada sobre la estadistica del mismo partido en el año de 1810—y cotejarla con la actual.

El mismo Sor ha manifestado á V la situacion de las compañias presidiales del partido de Rio Grande. Las de Bexar es lo mismo.

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El mantener y socorrer estas compañias es de toda importancia. En efecto, mientras que aquel pais no quiere fuerza fisica por el aumento de la poblacion, para defenderse de los indios, sus habitantes no tendrán otro apoyo ninguno, mas que las dichas compañias, é inutilizadas estas, por la falta de socorro, quedarán á la merced de los barbaros. Asi aumentandose las causas que impiden la emigracion por la falta absoluta de seguridad, y prolongandose indefinitivamente el periodo cuando cesará la nesesidad de mantener las dhas companias, y formará aquel pais, una parte productiva de la nacion.

Los indios Tahuacanos, Huecos, y Tahuayasis siguen cometiendo continuadas hostilidades. Cuando yo vine en fines del mes pasado, encontre tres vecinos de mi colonia mu[e]rtos por los indios el dia anterior en el camino entre Bexar y Guadalupe. Llevaban una patida de puercos á Bexar. El Gefe de aquel Deparm^{to} Dn Ramon Musquiz me escribe por el ultimo correo que desde entonces han muerto á otro Colono, y llevado partes de los situados de Bexar y LaBahia.

Opino que es de presisa nesesidad que se establesca, en adicion á las companias presidiales, otra compañia de cavalleria compuesta de colonos y casadores de Texas acostumbrados á vivir en los campos, y sostenerse por la caza. Seria facil levantar una compañia de esta clase, y si el Gob^{no} me daria facultad para hacerlo, dando á la dha compañia una existencia legal, y asegurado el pago que debian percibir, la tendria completada de mi colonia en un mes, inclusos los oficiales, cavallos y armas. Esta compañia no debe tener otro punto fijo para su residencia, mas que el pais de los indios—

Por lo dicho se impondrá V., que en mi concepto, las medidas siguientes son de urgente y presisa nesesidad

1°. Derogar las restricciones sobre la emigracion impuestas por la ley de 6 de avril de 1830, ó si hay embarazo en remover estas restricciones en su totalidad, que se las quitan con respecto al pais situado a poiente del Rio Trinidad, dejandolas vigentes para el territorio al oriente de aquel Rio, que es cosa de cinquenta leguas de la linia divisoria entre Texas y la Luisiana.

2°. Dejar abiertos los puertos de Texas por cinco años, para la introduccion libre de derechos, de efectos para el consumo de sus habitantes

3°. Pagar con ecsactitud las compañias presidiales

4°. Establecer una compañia de cavalleria, compuesta de colonos de Texas, inclusos los oficiales, cuya compañia será colocada en Texas, en el pais de los indios, arriba del camino que va de Bexar á Nacogdoches, y entre los Rios Trinidad y Guadalupe.

[Estevan F. Austin.]

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JOHN DAVIS BRADBURN TO J. F. MADERO

Galveston Bay, January 25, 1831.

See Calendar.

BLACKMAN COLEMAN TO ———

Brownsville, Tenn., January 25, 1831.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN IN ACCOUNT WITH JOHN CUMMINGS

Mill Creek January 26th 1831

S. F. Austin To John Cummings	Dr
To 106½ feet of pine plank @ 5¢	$5.32½
" 955 do Oak flooring @ 3¢	28.65
" 1200 Do Sheeting plank @ 2¢	24.00
	$57.97½
August 24th 1831 pr Mr Kennon	
To 256 ft of damaged plank @ 1½¢	3.84
144 do of do do @ 3¢	4.32
	$8.16
	66.13½

Col. Stephen F Austins
Acct $66.13½

J. F. MADERO TO JOHN DAVIS BRADBURN

Atascosito, January 28, 1831.

See Calendar.

BRADBURN TO MADERO

Galveston Bay, January 29, 1831.

See Calendar.

MADERO TO BRADBURN

Atascosito, February 1, 1831.

See Calendar.

IGNACIO DOMINGUEZ TO MADERO

Atascosito, February 1, 1831.

See Calendar.

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B. Q. Rigg to Austin

Alexandria, La., February 1, 1831.

See Calendar.

Bradburn to Madero

Galveston Bay, February 3, 1831.

See Calendar.

Austin to Governor[1]

[Saltillo, 3 de Febrero de 1831.]

Exmo. Sr.—El oficio de V. E. fecha 12, de Novre ppdo encargrandome informar si los terrenos que piden los Sres. Villeveques en Tejas, pa colonizar, son ocupados por ser ya designados á otros empresarios, llego á mis manos en Austin al tiempo de salirme para esta, y tuve que traerlo aqui á fin de adquirir los datos necesarios de la Sria. sobre los linderos de las empresas ya concedidas, pa poder evacuar con esactitud el referido encargo, como tengo dho. á V. E. desde la dicha Villa. Con presencia pues de los contratos celebrados con varios empresarios, segun constan en el archivo de la Sria. del Govo. y del mapa de Tejas, parece que los terrenos que piden los referidos Sors. Villeveques, sobre los rios Trinidad y Nueces [Neches], y que han designado sobre el mapa que acompañan su solicitud, con el color azúl, son todos comprendidas en los contratos con el Sor. José Viclen [Vehlein] y Compañia, y el Sor. Lorenzo Zavala.

El terreno qe. piden los mismos Sores. y que han designado sobre el mismo mapa, con el color colorado, esta comprendido en los contratos con la compañia de Nashville, y con el Sr. David G. Burnet. Hay un terreno de bastante estencion situado al norte del camino que vá de Nacogdoches á Natchitoches, que no esta ocupado por ningun contrato, segun estoy informado, y no encuentro obstaculo en otorgarlo á los Sres. Villeveques pa ser colonizado de conformidad con las leyes de colonizacion. Parte del mencionado terreno esta cituado dentro de las veinte leguas limitrofes, y como piden que se les concedan dos contratos, se puede hacerlo en mi concepto, bajo los linderos siguentes.—1°. dejando libres los egidos de Nacogdoches, se tirará una linea desde el dho. pueblo al rumbo entre norte y poniente parelela con la linea divisoria entre Tejas y los Estados Unidos del Norte, y veinte leguas distante de la dha. linea divisorea, hasta

[1] From Archives of Department of Fomento, Mexico, Legajo 4, expediente 14.

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intersecarse con el rio asufre, que és la linea meridional de la colonia del Gral. Arturo G. Wavell, y de alli bajan el dho. rio Asufre (conocido en engles por el nombre de Sulphur Fork) hta. su embocadura en el rio Roxo de Natchitoches, y siguiendo este abajo hta. la linea divisoria y siguiendo esta al sur hasta el camino que vá de Nacogdoches á Natchitoches, en el punto conocido pr. el nombre del paso de Crow, ó por otro nombre, paso de Gains, y del dho. paso siguiendo el referido camino dha. [hta] Nacogdoches, comprendiendo todo el terreno dentro de las veinte leguas limitrofes entre el dho. camino y el lindero meridional de la colonia de Wavell, este terreno esta designado en el mapa que acompaño con el color amarillo.— 2°. La segunda contrata se puede estender bajo los linderos siguientes. Dando principio sobre el lindero occidental del terreno arriva diliniada [sic], y á la esquina nord Este de la colonia de David G. Burn[e]t, cuya esquina és quince leguas de Nacogdoches, y desde la dicha esquina en linea recta al poniente hta. las alturas qe. dividen las aguas de los rios Trinidad y Brazos, y siguiendo las dhas. alturas hacia el nord oeste hta. el lindero meridional de la Colonia de Juan Cameron, cuyo lindero es veinte leguas del Rio Roxo, y siguiendo el dho. lindero hacia el oriente hsta. las cabeseras del Rio Asufre, bajando este hasta entercecarse con el lindero occidental del terreno antes delineado p[a] el primer contrato, y siguendo dho. lindero hacia el Sur hta. el punto donde se comenso la primera linea en la esquina nord. este de la colonia de David G. Burnet. Este terreno esta designado en el dha. mapa con el color verde.—Es de advertir que parte del terreno comprendido en la segunda demarcacion fué otorgado al Empresario Frost Thorn p[a] colonizar, pero nunca ha tomado un solo paso en la materia y su contrato va terminar en el mes de avril p° v° por haverse cumplido su termino.—Es tambien de advertirse que la linea divisoria entre Texas y los Estados Unidos del Norte no esta tirada, y que hay dudas se cayera abajo ó arriva de la emvocadura del Rio Asufre.—Los terreno q. hé demarcado son de buena calidad, segun estoy informado, y abundan en vuenas maderas, ojos, y arroyos de aguas permanantes, y tienen las ventajas de barios conductos á la costa—uno por el puerto de Galveston y pr. los Rios Neches y Angelina que son navegables en tiempo de las crecientes hasta diez leguas de Nacogdoches—otro del mismo puerto por el Rio Trinidad, que tambien és navegable—y otro por orleans y el rio Roxo hasta Natchitoches.—Es cuanto puedo decir sobre el particular en contestacion al citado oficio de V. E. y lo pongo en el conocim[to]. de V. E. devolviendose el mapa p[a]. los fines que convengan.

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AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Leona Vicario Feb. 5. 1831

DR SIR

In my letter to Johnson I have said all there is to say, about public matters—we get on slowly, but I think I shall succeed on the main point, which is the Judiciary. I have been fortunate so far, in keeping a harmonious understanding with all, and shall endeavor to continue it. The petitions for land will all be dispatched next week. The office has been searched for your petition in vain, it cannot be found. This morning I told the secretary that I would present another petition as your agent, he said that he would look once more, and if the other could not be found that I could present a new one, and the Govr has promised that it shall be *immediately* dispatched. So that you may consider the thing as *certain*. Those who asked for large quantities will get what ought to satisfy them, and if they had confined themselves to reasonable bounds at first their petitions would have been granted long since.

Father Muldoon leaves tomorrow for Monterrey, he appears to be a true *Austinian* and I think he is sincere for he has obtained a large *bite* of land from the Govr and looks to Texas as his only home, and final resting place.

Chambers has been *bedevilled* here, by delays of one sort or another, and is not yet dispatched by the tribunal and probably will not be for a month to come. The obstacle to his admission as a lawyer now is, the want of his *certificate of baptism*. Tomorrow he presents a petition to Congress to dispence with that requisite, and he will then be examd by the judges. I think he will be a usefull man in Texas.

Matters are doubtfull in Mexico. The partisans of Pedraza are begining to make a great noise and you need not be much surprised if he should come on by land through Texas—if so treat him with all possible respect and attention for he is justly entitled to it. It is said that Teran is going to Texas soon. My confidence in him is still unimpaired, I believe he is the best among them all. A number of the first men in Mexico have obtained 11 League Grants in Texas.

There is a rumor here which I do not like, which is that Zavala is on the way to Texas, and Teran is going to repel him by force. I know not where the rumor came from. I hope it is not so for I do not wish to see the civil war of the Mexicans introduced into Texas. Say nothing about it, for it is only vague rumor.

I wrote you from Monclova—from here by Jose Luis Carbajal [?] by whom I sent the white horse, also the last mail—you have ac-

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knowledged the receipt of mine from Bexar and Rio Grande, I mention the others that you may know if any miscarry.

I am happy to hear of the safe arrival of Mr. Dwyer and family and others from Alabama which you inform me of in your last letter, the plan of sending the certificates by Grayson was a very good one, I wish you to write to him, that I say he has a league of land in Texas, and that he must hurry back to improve it, and bring a wife and *one hundred good families for neighbors*—you see by Tonys [Anthony Butler] letter that there are some snakes in the grass round San Felipe. I have a *notion* who they are, perhaps I am mistaken—you know that I have been very cautious in shewing his letters—others have done it and critisized them and it is all charged upon me.

Remember me to Sarah and Eliza and all friends

S. F. Austin.

You say nothing about the progress of the store house

I enclose Johnson letter to you lest it should miscarry. You must make him pay his portion of the postage.

[Addressed:] Al Ciudn^no^ Samuel M. Williams Administrador de correos en Austin

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Madero to Bradburn

Atascosito, February 6, 1831.

See Calendar.

Madero to Austin

Atascosito, en la habitacion del Sor. Orr, Febrero 8/831.

Sor. Dn. Esteban F. Austin.

Muy Estimado Amigo y Sor. Las copias que dirijo al Sor. Williams para que remita á V. con esta le instruiran de las contestaciones que hé tenido con el Coronel Bradburn, y su Ayudante que mando á esta habitacion para que se opusiera á la continuacion de mi Comision.[1] Se dice deve benir de un momento á otro el en persona con treinta hombres á suspenderme de ella, y aunque yo podriá oponerle mayor fuersa, no lo haré por que quiero sobre todo la tranquilidad publica, y porque estoy satisfecho que aunque aquí triunfe el Sor. Bradburn, en el Govierno perderá. Lo cierto es que este Sor. Militar no quiere conocer que su autoridad está circunscrita á sus soldados.

Hé sabido que sobre la banda oriental de San Jacinto hay posecionados varios habitantes por V. y como entiendo que están fuera

[1] The copies, which are here omitted, were: Bradburn to Madero, Jan. 25, 29, 1831, Feb. 1, 3; and Madero to Bradburn, Jan. 28, Feb. 1, 6.

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de su Colonia y que hay una resolucion para que no se agreguen á ella, temo se haya V. comprometido en este asunto con la mejor buena fé: para salbarse de este compromiso si V. gusta, yo le rebalidaré los Titulos sin que tenga V. el menor grabamen ni los habitantes tampoco.

Sirvase V. comunicarme lo que ocurra en esa, y mandarme todas las ordenes que guste satisfecho que serán obsequiadas por su atento amigo y obediente servidor qe. le desea felicidades.

J. Francisco Madero [Rubric]

Mui reserbado. Mi amigo. Ya puede que haya V. obserbado en esa legislatura alguna animosidad en mi contra, promobida por el *digno Diputado* Garcia que no ha perdonado medio para calumniarme lo mismo q. a mi P^e^ politico Elizondo.—Es el caso que por orden del gobierno seme bendieron unas trras. y contra el tenor de todas las leyes sesubastaron y mis enemigos (q. sabe V. nunca faltan álos hombres) me las hicieron subir aun precio enorme. Yo Ocurri al gobierno y este mandó se me diesen pr. al abaluo q—se habia hecho pr. Orn. del Sor. gobernador Arispe con arreglo al art^o^ 24 de la ley de colonisacion. He pagado su valor hace dos años y construido fabricas de mucho tamaño y ahora se quiere despojarme de todo. Encomiendo á V. este asunto lo mismo que el de mi suegro qe. es tan injusto como este.

[Addressed:] Al Sor. Don Esteban F. Austin, Diputado por el Departamento de Bejar, al Congo. del Estado libre Yndependiente y Sobno. de Coahuila y Tejas, en la ciudad de Leona vicario

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William S. Parrott to Austin

Mexico, February 9, 1831.

See Calendar.

Zerata and Soto to James Austin

San Carlos, February 15, 1831.

See Calendar.

William S. Parrott to Austin

Mexico February 16^th^ 1831

Stephen F Austin Eq^r^
Saltillo

Dear Sir,

I last had this pleasure on the 9^th^ inst covering you a package received from an unknown hand which I am in hopes will reach you in safety.

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Last mail from Saltillo, brought me the resolution, of the Governor of your State in relation to the Ross grant, of which I made mention in my last and reads as follows

"Y abiendose pasado esta instancia y Documentos respectivos al Exmo. Sor Comand^te General de los estados internos de oriente, como comicionado del Sup^mo Gob^no General p^a entender en la colonizacion del departamento de Bajar, con el fin de que informan sobre el particular. y Habiendo manifestado dho Gefe con fha 27 de Diciem^bre ultimo, que la contrata à que se refiere la antecedente solicitud se opone, al cumplimiento de la ley de 6 de abril ultimo y compromete ademas la Seguridad de dho Departamento, No ha lugar a la peticion que el C. Guillermo S. Parrott hace como apoderado de la Sra Viuda y Hermano del finado Reuben Ross." The object of the law of 6^th april above refered is to prevent americans from colonizing and I would be pleased to have your opinion, as to the propriety of presenting another solicitude, proposing to settle the number of families required of European extract, or Europeans, If you deem the course practicable I will renew my solicitude accordingly, otherwise I will have to abandon it

Respectfully your most obt Sert and friend

W. S. Parrott [Rubric]

[Indorsed by Austin: Ans^d Feb 28.]

A. C. Taylor to Austin

Rushville, Schuyler C^o Illinois
Feb. 19, 1831.

Dr. Sir

Without the honor of being known to you, I have flattered myself that the nature of the subject of this communication will be some excuse for the liberty I have taken in trespassing a few moments on your attention.

There are in this vicinity, a number of families who are desirous of removing to a southern climate; and on my suggesting to them that the country of the Texas afforded very considerable inducements, I have been requested to procure, if possible, further, and more recent information in regard to that country. I have therefore been induced to solicit this information, sir from you, not being acquainted with any person resident in that country.

We are apprised that it has heretofore been the practice to give to every actual settler a certain quantity of land—we would be glad to know whether this practice is still continued—in *your own tract of country*, and if not, whether it is the case in other parts of the country, and if so what quantity of land is now given and what will

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be the expense of procuring the deed and the survey, and whether there are good and convenient tracts of country yet unappropriated. If land is not given at this time in any part of the province, on what terms can it be purchased?—What is the face of the country—how watered, and how furnished with building materials? What are the advantages in a commercial point of view and what are the productions of the country? What are the religious priveleges—are there many wealthy inhabitants—and is slavery now tolerated?—All accounts that we have received concur in representing the country as healthy, still I should be glad to know what encouragement a physician would be likely to meet with.

I have acquainted myself pretty extensively with the culture and manufacture of the grape, and have had some practical experience in that business, I am therefore anxious to know whether the soil and climate of Texas is adapted to its successful cultivation. I should be glad also to be informed whether as yet the silk-worm has been introduced into the country.

Some with whom I have conversed on the subject of removing have expressed fears in regard to the indians—please to say something in dissipation of such fears, if they are groundless.

There are about a Dozen families here who will probably remove next fall if satisfied in regard to the state and coditions of the country, and many more will remove the following season if pleased with their accounts of the country.

Please to send us, if convenient, a copy of the constitution of your general government, and one for the province, if you have a separate constitution, as we do in the States; and also a copy of your code of laws, as those interested, are anxious to obtain all the information possible in regard to your civil institutions.

The above, together with any other information, whether written or *printed*, you may please to send us, will be thankfully received as a very special favor by

A. C. Taylor [Rubric]

Col. —— Austin

P. S. I do not know the regulations of the Post office, but any expenses incurred in that line will be very cheerfully met by

A. C. T

[Addressed:] Col. Austin, of Austin Town St. Philip de Austin Texas

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George Fisher to Governor of Coahuila and Texas

[Copy]

Eosamo. Sr., Gobernador—El ciudadano Jorge fisher ante V. E. con todo respecto, y como en dro. mejor puede y debe espone: Que

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haviendo acabado su defensa contra la calumnia q. sé publicó en la Gaceta de Tejas en No. 45. de 23. de octubre procsimo pasado por orden del Ayuntam^to^ constitucional de la Villa de San felipe de Austin, contra la buena fama y reputacion del solicitante, ha hecho referencia á varios decretos espedidos por el Honorable congreso del estada de Coahuila y Tejas y providencias guvernativas dictadas por ése Supremo Gobierno en los Varios asuntos q. tienen relacion con la referida defensa, como pruebas para coroborar sus declaraciones, y careciendo el solicitante de diversos documentos comprendidos entre los mencionados, Suplica á V. E. se digne mandar, q. por la Sria. de ése Supremo gobierno se le faciliten copias legalizadas de los documentos q. en la adjunta lista van especificados. para q. le sirvan de resguardo, y que haga de ellos los usos combenientes en la materia de q. se trata: Por tanto.

A V. E. Suplico se digne acceder á esta mi solicitud en qe. recibiré gracia y justicia.—Matamoros 19. de febrero de 1831.—Ecsmo. Sor.—Jorge fisher.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Saltillo Feb. 19. 1831.

S M. Willams. Dr Sir

Yours of 25 Jan^y^ is rec^d^ and the letters enclosed except the one from my sister which I hope you will send by next mail as I am very anxious to see it.

I am much pleased with the new arrangement of the pap[er] [1] tho I do not like the motto—*Mexico es mi patria*, would do better, for it will be as much as to say to people abroad " we have a country and are proud of it, and we are ready and willing to defend her rights," and it will remind our *home folks* whom they belong to. I recommend that [the] motto I have suggested be adopted, or something like it.

That paper must be conducted with great prudence, you have no idea there, what importance is attached, even to trifles, coming from the *Austinians*. That little establishment [2] badly as it has been conducted, has been of great service to [Texas] and has had an agency in warding off some blows that were meditated against that country, for it has in some degree tended to correct some very erronious opinions as to the character of the new settlements and their feelings towards the Govt.

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[1] This was The Mexican Citizen, edited by R. M. Williamson. There are four numbers of this paper in the Wagner collection of Yale University, but no other copies are known.

[2] The Texas Gazette.

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Last spring the idea was very general in Mexico that Texas was the Botany Bay of the U. S. and that the Govt. of the North was secretly encouraging the emigration of bad men and vagabonds, who were destitute of principle, for the purpose of enciting them to rebel against this Govt. and produce confusion on the frontier, which would have been a pretext to enter the country and put things to rights as Jackson entered Florida etc. This Govt. now believes that the settlers of *my colony* at least, are men of principle who will respect their oaths of fidelity, and will never forget that they have rec[d] fortunes from this Govt. and favors which no other Govt ever extended to any people. The suspicions against the U. S. Govt. are also all removed. But what is deemed to be the dignity of this Govt. will not suffer it to move the repeal of the law of 6 April unless some prominent reason can be given for so doing. I wish the people of Texas to give such a reason by proofs of fidelity and attachment to Mexico and the best way of manifesting these proofs is through the news paper— Let it be what its title [*The Mexican Citizen*] professes. A *Mexican* defends everything that is mexican—but in gen[l] terms, without being in favor or against political parties.

The parties of this country are not clearly defined and have not that definite and fixed character, nor permanency of purpose which parties generally have in other countries. Thus, since the to[t]al overthrow and imprisonment of Guerrero, a new party has sprung up composed of *Guerreroists* and *Pedrassistas*, a most unnatural connection, for the former expelled the latter by the revolution of the Acordada, and it seems as tho they had now united to put down the present administration—that effected, the Guerreroists will perhaps enter the lists with Pedraza for the supremacy. If we enter into such a scramble we shall be like children in a mob, and as likely to be trodden upon by friends as by foes. Hence it is that situated as we are, it is dangerous to be classed as belonging to any party. Our neutrality injures neither, for our weight is of not sufficient importance to injure or benefit either materially, and it may gain us the good will of both, or what is of just as much importance to us, both will let us alone.

You are well aware that in my intercourse with this govt. I have followed a few fixed rules from which I have never deviated since 1821 when I first entered the country. In the first place I came with pure intentions. I bid an everlasting farewell to my native country, and adopted this, and in so doing I determined to fulfil rigidly all the duties and obligations of a *Mexican citizen*—I have endeavored to keep all the officers with whom I was in direct communication in a good humor, and to make friends of them. I have excused and even invented plausable reasons to justify or explain

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away all the political errors of my adopted countrymen. I have been silent as to all their defects, and lavish of praise where there was the least pretext for bestowing it, but at the same time decissive and unbending where a constitutional or vested right of vital importance was directly attacked. Rights of minor consideration I have paid no attention to, for bad feeling might be engenderd about *trifles*, that would jeapordise an important interest. To sum up all I have endeavored to do my duty as a *Mexican citizen.*

My native countrymen are blunt republicans, and do not always reflect sufficiently, and some of them have accused me of debility, want of firmness temporising etc. It was my duty to steer my precious bark (the Colony) through all the shoals and quicks[ands] regardless of the curses and ridicule of the passengers. *I* knew what I was about—*they* did not.

The law of 6 April was founded in error and unjust suspicions, but to have said so, would have been very impolitic, and highly injurious, for it would have wounded *self love*, *pride* etc. (dangerous things to touch among any people) and it would have strengthened the suspicions which produced the law for everything said against it would have been taken as evidence of disaffection. For these reasons in the remarks which were made in the *Texas* [Gazette] in June, July etc the policy of the Govt. was rather defended than condemned, and circumstances were stated to shew that there were reasons for that measure which justified it. This gratified the *self love* of its authors on the one hand, (a great point gained) and they were very much surprised on the other to see that the very people who were most injured by the measure, were the first to excuse and defend it. This caused inquiries to be made through various channels, as to the real characters of the settlers and their feelings towards the Govt. and the result has been very favourable as to my colony. This at once explains the reasons why so many more favors have been extended to that colony than to any other. The people at large know of no favors they have rec^{d}, neither do they know, nor can they appreciate what I have done for them for the past ten years, but *you* and *I* know that emigration to that colony could have been stopped, and that all the ports could have been closed, or a George Fisher with a guard put at each. These things ought to convince every reflecting man in that Colony that this Govt. will reward and properly appreciate all those who *do their duty as Mexican Citizens*, and who obey the laws and set their faces against confusion and illegal proceedings.

The foregoing remarks are made as an introduction for what is to follow—you will soon find yourselves in an awkward and rather delicate situation in that Colony, and I thought it might shed some

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light upon the path which you ought to take, to explain fully the rules and policy I have uniformly pursued.

There are two points of collision in prospective in that country, both of them, East of my Colony. One is between Madero and Teran—The other between Zavala and Teran—or rather between the latter and a company who have contracted to settle Zavalas, Vielen and Burnetts grants—the Settlers are to be Germans, Swiss french etc—all Europeans—have nothing to do with these collisions—do as I have frequently been compelled to do—play the turtle, head and feet within your own shell—some of the people may curse and abuse—no matter—they abused *me* the best friend they ever had. Better break all the timber in Texas, than to break *Boss*[1] [Teran?] for the former is plenty and can be replaced, but the lat[t]er being a fine texture is not to be found everyday. That colony is the heart of Texas; keep all sound there, and we shall gain the confidence of the Govt. and save the Country, but if you go to the extremities to try and cure diseases, you interfere with the head doctor, which he will take very ill (for all doctors are jealous of their prerogatives), and besides there will be danger of introducing disease into the *heart*, by infection.

☞ Whether the Gen[l] Govt. has authority to annul Zavala's grant or not is no question for *us* to interfere with, neither have we anything to do with Madero's commission etc. those are matters between the interested parties and the Govt. with which my colony ought to have nothing to do, in any shape manner or form. My colony has cleared away the rude asperities of the wilderness—made Texas known—given it a station in geography—a place, and a distinguished one, in the class of *desirable countries*, and has demonstrated its value, by developing its resources. In doing *this*, it has done enough to aid others who now wish to settle in that country, and they ought not to expect that we will unite with them in projects for forcing their way against the will of the Govt. or that we are to make common cause of their quarrels and collisions, and if they do expect it I hope they will be deceived, hope! I know they will, for there is too much sound common sense and too much honest patriotism in the people of Austins colony for them to be misled, or to deviate from the line of their duty as Mexican Citizens, and besides they have a *great deal* to loose, the others have much to gain but *nothing* to loose. ☜

But while, on the one hand, you avoid suffering yourselves to be made parties to the collisions which I have alluded to, against the Govt, also try on the other, not to take any active, or open, or any part at all in them against the new settlers— Be mere lookers

[1] Austin uses this term frequently during this period. It evidently refers to a person, but the context is never clear enough to identify him with certainty. Teran, as commissioner of colonization and general commandant, is a likely guess.

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on—say nothing—give no opinions—no advice—take no part—have nothing to do with the matter at all—refer them to the Govt. but if Gen[1] Teran issues any orders *obey them.* He is our main stay. You may rely upon it and he is worthy of our confidence and support. Don't let the paper be made the vehicle for venting the spleen or abuse of Madero or anybody else, make it a *Dignified Calm Judicious "Mexican Citizen"* adopt the motto I have proposed and adhere to its principles rigidly—all will come round right—many of the most influential men of all parties, in office, and out, in the City of Mexico and elsewhere have procured grants in Texas and more are dayly making. *All these* are true friends to the *real* prosperity of that country. We can make them *our* friends by adopting the policy I have indicated, or rather by following the policy I have always followed.

You can submit this letter to the Congress[1] or to as many of my friends as you think prudent, and should any serious difficulty arrise and you should think that it would do any good to make my opinions known, you can have it done so far as *Congress* may judge prudent and correct, by means of an editorial article—that plan would do better than to make any extracts [f]rom this letter.

Padre Muldoon left some days since—he wrote me from Monterrey that he had rec[d] his appointment of *Cura de Austin* from the Provisor, and I presume will soon be with you—his councils will be of service to you, and the colony, for I believe he has the true interests of that colony much at heart—he has some vanity, and I think a very benevolent heart, and pure intentions. I told him that Texas might be made a Bishoprick of in a few years, if we could get rid of the 13 article of our State Constitution,[2] and the 11 Article[3] of the law of 6 April. I am very much pleased with him, as a man, and much better as a *Padre.*

I have spun out a long thread and it is time to break off, which I will do by requesting you to remember me affcy. to Mrs. W. and Mrs. S. and to Luke [Lesassier], Willy [R. M. Williamson], Jack [one of three brothers—William H., Spencer, or Patrick C.], [Oliver] Jones, [F. W.] Johnson etc, and take good care of my nephew Moses Austin Bryan, besides being the grandson and bearing the name of the man who was the first author of all our fortunes in that country, he is the son of a very favourite sister of mine.

Hasta Cada Rato

S. F. Austin.

N. B. If times get very bad and public opinion should seem to waver, it might be well to publish the paragraph marked thus—

[1] Evidently a group of advisers, probably including Luke Lesassier, R. M. Williamson, and F. W. Johnson, and perhaps others.

[2] The article excluding slavery.

[3] The article prohibiting settlement of immigrants from the United States in Texas.

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[illegible] as an extract from me—tho all this left *totally* to the wisdom of *congress*.

STEPHEN R. WIGGINS TO AUSTIN

February 22, 1831.

See Calendar.

GRANT TO AUSTIN AND WILLIAMS

Saltillo, February 25, 1831.

See Calendar.

E. R. WIGHTMAN AND JOSHUA HADLEY: AGREEMENT

February 26, 1831.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR VIESCA

Exmo Sor

Elevo a V. E. la adjunta lista nominal de los colonos establecidos en mi primera colonia en Tejas contratada con el gob^no^ nacional el 18 de Feb^o^ de 1823, y confirmada por los decretos del Soberano Congreso constituyente, y del Supremo Poder ejecutivo en 11 y 14 de avril del mismo año, todos fundados en la ley gral de colonizacion de 4 de Enero del mismo año de 1823—igualmente se espresa en la dicha lista la cantidad de tierra concedida a cada uno y las fechas de cada concesion

Acompañado va el acuerdo del ay^to^ de Austin calificando los que han cumplido con los requisitos de la dicha ley y los que no lo han á fin de determinar cuales terrenos son valdios de los concedidos en la dicha empresa para ser porsionados á otros colonos, bajo las leyes y contratas de colonizacion vigentes—

Leona vicario 28 de Feb^o^ 1831.

E. F A

E. R. WIGHTMAN AND MATHEW HUBERT—AGREEMENT

March 1, 1831.

See Calendar.

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HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New Orleans March 4th 1831

Col S F AUSTIN
Saltillo

MY DEAR SIR

I wrote you two long letters by the last vessels to Matamoros, chiefly on my own subject. The main object of this is to acquaint you with some propositions made to me here which I think may be directed to the interests of the Colony and also to your own. Mr N A Ware of Philada who has lately sold his plantation on this river proposes to invest forty thousand dollars in a cotton manufactory in the colony, provided he can have permission to do so, a piece of land for the establishment and your countenance and support to the enterprise. He says Mr Boys reports having obtained the exclusive right for Texas, in consideration of establishing a cotton mill at Bexar which he is now going about. I do not believe this to be true, you can ascertain. Mr Ware does not propose to go out immediately himself but to send a confidential and experienced man to erect the establishment, in whose name the location might be made. I have told him I thought it probable you would be much pleased to have such an establishment erected and so far from seeing any difficulty in obtaining permission, I had no doubt you would give it all the encouragement in your power, and obtain for him an encreas'd grant of land proportionate to the magnitude of the enterprise say 5. 6 or more leagues, perhaps as far as 11 He then said if you would do so he would send in immediately a thousand spindles with the force and capital necessary for the operation, and a sufficient number of young negroes under indentures to secure the permanent running of the mill, and give you such a share of the net profits as you should judge reasonable for obtaining an encreas'd quantity of land (over one league) say one eighth or one tenth. He would prefer erecting the mill on a water course to use water power if it could be done in a secure and healthy position without going too far from the coast otherwise would use steam. I think it would be desirable to have it near St Filippe if practicable to encourage the growth of cotton in that quarter and help build up the town on the subject of location you can give him the best advice. He appears to be a sound man and has a large capital laying idle

Mr William Taylor our late Consul at Vera Cruz is now here Mr Ware was introduced to me by him. Mr Taylor has retired from Mexican business with forty or fifty thousand dollars and appears to be at loss how to invest his money. Mr Ware proposed to him to join in his Texas manufacturing project. which he immediately assented to, and desired me to request of you to address a copy

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of your letter to Mr Ware, to him. Mr Ware will leave this for Philadª in four or five weeks and as it is uncertain how long I shall remain here, as I only wait advices from you to determine my future course; I have told him I would request you to write directly to him on the subject and at foot I give you his address also that of Mr Taylor.

This is not a new project of Mr Wares, he has given his attention to the subject for some time and has better information respecting the colony than any man I have ever met with.

On my own subject, I shall get to the Colony in some mode if my solicitation be granted and shall not engage in anything until I know the fate of it. My wish would then be to go to England if I could raise capital enough, to make arrangements for a direct trade,—to procure my equipment and goods at the first European cost, with english artizans and laborers to erect my buildings etc at a cheap rate—and at the same time see what could be done with live oak timber, rail road etc. If a contract could be made for supplying live oak for His Majestys Dockyard it would throw great wealth into the Colony. There is a rail road building here, such an one might be built in the Colony at an expense of 3,000$ pr mile, ¾ of which expense would be in the Iron ways, which might be dispensed with; a railroad of live oak would not cost over 1,000$ per mile. I wish you would advise me of your intentions respecting the Hawkins lands, it occurs to me that if you were to set off the lands on the east side of the river it might interfere materially with any arrangement for live oak—besides circumstances might render it advisable to purchase their right or the lands when set off Who is their agent here?

Europe is in a very disturbed state and in all probability we shall soon have a general war there, revolution in Spain and very possibly in Ireland if not in England, These circumstances will drive a large amount of European capital and labor to this side of the ocean if matters can be managed in the colony to preserve tranquillity and security and the policy of the Govt continues to be liberal Texas will spring into importance with astonishing rapidity.

HENRY AUSTIN

I give you the address of Mr. W on the envelope

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Saltillo March 5. 1831

DR SIR.

I recd nothing from you or anyone from Texas by the last mail—your last letter Jany. 25. I am really uneasy that I got nothing

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by the last mail. I wrote you on the 19 of last month a long letter, also to Luke [Lesassier] and Rhoads Fisher and Hunter, which I hope you have rec[d]. My principal object here is to try and prevent harm—if I succeed in that I shall do a great deal—this you can say to the Ayto. to whom I intended to have written by this mail, but will write a long letter by next [mail].

[I have] sent some papers to D[n] Ramon [with the] request to send them to you, they [v]omit *fire* against the present administration. The death of Guerrero appears to have given new vigor, and a vindictive rage to the fallen party. Bustam[te] can truly say, as Calvits negro did the night his drunken master shot him "*I have taken my head in my hand.*" But, how many storms have passed away with a simple *valgame Dios.* Thank God Texas is beyond the reach of these internal hurricanes and I hope they never will reach there, tho this depends mainly on the people of that country. *Keep harmony and Union among yourselves*—and all is safe.

Private—I wrote by last mail that your petition was granted—since then I have rec[d] the testimonio and will send it and all the others by Fernando Rodrigues who starts in a few days for Bexar.

The power of attorney is effected in union with myself—the lower line is ten leagues from the West—the upper on the heads of the Brazos and Colorado: I wish the [*B*]*oss* [Teran?], to take a part in this—if he will, all is safe. I am operating on a pritty large scale, for a taciturn and noisless man, but I have no other object in view that [than] the gen[l] prosperity of *us all* and particularly of this nation and government. Keep all this to yourself: The fate of Texas, in some respects depends on the month of *May* next—untill then look back and take council from the past a[nd keep] all quiet—you can shew [parts of?] the letter to Luke if you think prop[er but] to no one else and he must not mention or breathe it to anyone.

Remember me affectionately to Sarah and Eliza and my little nephew and write me how Stephen is, you say nothing of him—I presume he is still at Westalls. Send the enclosed by first opportunity.

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Tell Mancha [that] her son is well and * * *

[Addressed:] Sam M. Williams

Amos Edwards to Austin

Galveston Bay on Board Schooner Angelia
March 7th 1831

Dear Sir

I take this favourable opportunity of writing By Col. Langworthy a Gentleman of high respectability from New York who

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is now on his way to Matamoros and possibly may go as far as Saltillio and if he does will hand you this himself, otherwise will forward it from Matamoros, as I have but a few minutes to write before the departure of the vessel, must come to the subject at once and be brief. I named to you last fall that I had expended upwards of $12000 in obtaining the Grant made to the Nashville Company and my share of the expenses since, and emigrated to this Country with my large family nearly three years ago for the purpose of aiding in colonizing s^d^ grant which has cost me much more money and as none of the Company except myself and Doctor Heard emigrated to this country and they have done nothing towards colonizing but have sold out their shares to speculators who will probably try to get the Grant for themselves exclusively and leave me to suffer my losses, although the Grant never would have been obtained for the Company had I not furnished the man and the funds. I advanced Leftwich $6500 previous to his departure for Mexico and my brother furnished him $5000 at Mexico and Saltillio on my acct. which I have accounted with him for since, and had it not been for these funds he could not have succeeded but must have been imprisoned for his expenses as the Company did not furnish him with half enough. I therefore think and hope that if the Government will grant that tract of country to any person they will give the preference to me who is the greatest sufferer by the enterprise and has done everything in my power to get the Grant colonized, and I must request the favor of you to be so good as to aid me in every way in your power in obtaining a Grant for the same boundary of land that was granted to H. H. League as Empresario for the Nashville Company, and I will engage to colonize it with one thousand families within six years one half of whom shall be Europeans. and I wish the Grant to be upon the same conditions as the one named, in every other respect or as near as will be consistent with the laws of the country. I hope you will act as my agent in this matter and draught and present a petition for the grant for me and in my name and sign my name to it and do such other things as is necessary in the business relative to obtaining s^d^ grant and this shall be your authority as fully as if I had made you a regular power of atto. as I have not time now to make one. I have no hesitation in saying to you that I feel confident in having the whole number of families on the Grant within half the time of six years but it is preferable to have time enough.

It will be of great importance to the country and great advantage to your colony and all the lower country to have that section of country settled as early as possible by agricultural people as they will soon be able to supply the lower country with flour etc. which we are now compelled to import from the U. S. Of America and it will also be the means of driving back all the tribes of hostile Indians

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who are now constantly committing some depredations on the Settlements of yours and Dewits Colonys. You know me personally and my standing in the U. S. of America and you have seen the testimonials of my character which I obtained from several of the most disinterested men in the U. States of A. which I would forward with this but left them with Col. Bradburn to have them translated and cannot now get them in time but will forward them to the Executive of this State as early as possible. A letter from Col. Nelson Patteson one of the Directors of the Nashville Company and secretary of the Directory addressed to Majr Hose[a] H. League will accompany this which you will be so good as to translate and show to the Executive and the Honble Congress which will satisfy them in what estimation I was held by the Directory of the Nashville Company as it was written at their meeting just before my departure from thence and it will prove to them that I disapproved of the conduct of my brothers relative to the revolution at Nacogdoches—and the testimonials which I brought from Judge G. P. M. Bibb will prove that I have never been in favour of insurrections which you recollect and was good enough to translate on the back of it. I hope and trust that the Government will remunerate me for the sum of money I have expended about that Grant with the purest intentions of becoming serviceable to the country as well as my family by aiding in the colonizing and improving of it as much as was in my power, and grant me the same tract of country and I trust that you will give me all the aid in your power to effect that object, and your friendship and attention to the Business will be ever duly appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by

AMOS EDWARDS

[Addressed:] The Honble Estevan F. Austin Saltillio

JESSE DENSEN TO ANTHONY———

San Felipe, March 8, 1831.

See Calendar.

JOHN D. MARTIN TO AUSTIN

Randolph, Tenn., March 8, 1831.

See Calendar.

SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS TO W. D. D[UNLAP]

I am informed by yr official Letter of the 2d inst which came to hand the 9th of yr appt by Col J. D. Bradburn as Capt of the Port

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or inspector of the tributary port of the port of Galveston called Brasoria and of your arrival at Brasoria— You may rest assured that I will cheerfully unite with you in every measure conformably with the laws to carry into effect the object of your office— By the Militia Laws of this state the Militia are under the direction of the Alcalde that is to say if you should find the militia necessary for the performance of your duties the order must emanate from the Alcalde— In order to prevent you from laboring under any serious disadvantages. I will call on the Alcalde for an order addressed to the Com^{t} of the Batalion to furnish Militia whenever necessary— altho I hope and trust they will not be necessary

Accept the assurances of my respect and esteem and desires for your success in the discharge of y^{r} duties 10 March 1831 W D D.

[Samuel M. Williams.]

Samuel M. Williams to W. D. D[unlap]

By your official letter of the 3^{d} prest month which came to hand yesterday morning I am informed of the doubts of Cap^{t} Fuller respecting the payment of Tonnage duties— The law respecting the liability of tonnage duties on a vessel or vessels of a foreign nation or under a foreign flag is so clear as not to need comment. Knowing as I do the desires of Gen^{l} Teran, whose authority extends over all the Custom houses from Tampico to the Sabine, to afford every facility and convenience that he can to the settlers and inhabitants of this colony, and that the permission of vessels to enter into the Brasos River as tributary to the port of Galveston is founded in his desire to benefit the Colony, I do most sincerely hope that every Cap^{t} and owner of a vessel trading to that place will comply with the law and pay the Tonnage money. Should the Gov^{t} find that vessels entering the Brasos River do not comply with the laws no doubt exists in my mind that they will totally prohibit the entrance of all vessels— The tonnage money must be paid and unless those who trade to the Brasos River wish to deprive themselves of the benefits of the trade they must obey the Laws— I entertain a perfect belief of y^{r} disposition to do justice in the discharge of your duties in which I have only to add be purdent yet firm in the compliance of the instructions you have rec^{d} from y^{r} superior officer Col. Bradburn— I shall put a notice in the next paper on the subject of y^{r} apointment— Tendering you my considerations of respect etc

10 March 1831 SM W W D D

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AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

[Saltillo] March 12, 1831

This days mail brought me yours of Feb. 8 and 22. The course adopted as to the Trinity business accords with my views as you have seen by my letter of 19 Feb. I then foresaw all this.[1] You say in the letter of 8th that you are going to Trinity, but as nothing is said on the subject in the one of 22d. I presume you did not go. I should have regretted such a visit. No good could have resulted, and some harm might, besides it would have been deviating from the *spirit* of the policy which has preserved us so far, that is to have nothing to do with *extranious* affairs, unless ordered especially by Govt. If anything is said by my colony in favor of one side, or the other, it will be taken hold of to class us as belonging to one party, or the other. This will do an injury—we belong to the *law* and to the Govt and will obey when officially called on to do so.

I have understood that Jorge [Fisher] is publishing or has published a book, against me. He is a second Dayton[2] and believes that nothing was wanting but a leader among the settlers to turn them all against *me*. I fear the main object is to try and create *parties* in the colony and by that means ruin us all. I have frequently said that, that colony had not an enemy to fear except *itself*, if it remains united, and firm to me, NOTHING can touch it.

I have written every mail since I have been here. The prospect of another revolution in Mexico is said to be getting more probable every day. God preserve this unhappy and distracted nation. I know not what is to become of them. If you keep united and harmonious in the colony, you are better off and have more *Solid* guarantees for your rights, than any other part of this vast republic, your fate is in your own hands.

Nothing need be expected from this Legislature—our *iniciativa* relative to the ports of Matagorda and Galveston was approved, and afterwards hung up, by manoeuver, of a strange character. The feeling against foreigners here is overwhelming, all I calculate on is to pass away the time *quietly* and of course silently and get back as soon as I can.

Remember that one of my contracts expires on 4 of June—have all finished by Arciniega before then, for I assure you that nothing

[1] The controversy between Madero and Bradburn over the extension of titles to settlers on the Trinity.

[2] Lewis B. Dayton, expelled from Austin's colony in the winter of 1825. See Quarterly of Texas State Historical Association, VII, 40.

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can or will be done afterwards and perhaps a stopper will be applied sooner owing to the hubbub between *B.* [Bradburn] and *M.* [Madero] push this business if everything else is neglected.

Keep a dead silence as to politics and public men—read over my letters by the two last mails more is meant there than is plainly expressed—also the one to Luke. Don't form opinions about others hastily by *appearances.* I approve highly of what you said to *B*[radburn?] and *P*[iedras?]. Report says that Gen[l] Teran goes to Bejar in all this month, it is also reported that his family is on the way from Mexico to acompany him. I know nothing of the truth of these rumors. About 300 recruits passed here last week for Bejar, and more are expected

(Send this paragraph in confidence to Judge Williams with my respects)—What the people on Trinity ought to say, is that they cannot and ought not to take any part in any quarrel between any two officers or authorities, unless officially called on to do so by the competent superior authorities. If they take sides, they will in the end be kicked by *both sides* as a person who intermeddles in a quarrel between man and wife.

I shall leave [George] Fisher to the colony, if the people there do not think that I merit their support, I will submit, for it will convince me that justice, honor, and gratitude, have abandoned the earth.

Don't neglect the reserves of land I requested you in my last letter to make.

Request Arciniega not to name the town on colorado untill I get home.

I send the grants that are made, I do not know whether any are missing, but think that *Goves* [Jones?] is, tho I am not certain if it was sent for I have no list—you can say to those that are missing if any, that they are not granted, and will not be, for the present Gov[r] will not grant any augmentations. I will try and get the Mexican Domingues through but the others are *hopeless* and you can say so at once to the interested persons, so that they need not blame me.

We have had a very cold winter—three snows of 4 to 6 inches. I have a bad cold and am in bad health. I fear that Chambers will fail and if so he talks of not returning, I shall try to remove this idea—he is a man who has many, very many good and valuable qualities. I am more and more pleased with him every day, and hope he will not abandon Tejas as he sometimes talks of doing—he has taken up an erronious opinion about his standing there—he thinks that the most of you in San Felipe are his enemies, and are jealous of him. I have told him that there is nothing of the kind now—he

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complains that Luke did not answer his letters etc—he was misled on his first arrival by the gabble of past years, and any stranger would have been.

On reflection I think it safest to send the grants by mail, I enclose the list of them I send this letter by Dⁿ Fernando Rodrigues and at first intended to have sent the grants by him, but he would mail them in Bexar and the postage would be the same

S. F. A. [Rubric]

Let nothing be said in the paper about Arciniegas commission or the issuing of titles—M's [Madero's] advertisement blew him up. Remember me to Col Bradburn *very* particularly, say what you think best in my name.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Bexar

[From Bexar Archives]

Ympuestos de la nota oficial de V. S. fha. 28. del pp.° Fbrero. no omitimos medio alguno en solicitar del preceptor que tanto se nos recomienda asi por V. S. como por el aprecio con que vemos el engrandecim^to^ de su Ciudad. Sugeto de buenas luces buenos principios mejor educacion o mediana siquiera como era de deciarse no nos ha quedado ni esperanza de conseguirse lo que solo comunicamos á V. S. en contestacion de su ya sitado oficio.

Dios y Ley. Saltillo, Marzo 14, de 831.

Manuel Musquis [Rubric]
Esteban F. Austin [Rubric]

Sres. del Ylustre Ayunt^to^ de Bexar

William Shaler to Henry Austin

Havana, March 15, 1831.

See Calendar.

Henry Austin to Austin

New Orleans March 15th 1831

Co^l^ S F Austin
Saltillo

My Dear Sir

I wrote you by the Surprize for Matamoros on the subject of M^r^ Wares proposal to establish a cotton factory in the colony. The matter appears to me of so much moment, and the chance of letters reaching Saltillo so small I think it advisable to repeat the sub-

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stance of that letter. The immediate establishment of a manufactory of a 1000 spindles with a capital of 40,000$ would not only encourage the cultivation of cotton in the interior but promptly produce a specie circulating medium by furnishing a comodity for legitimate trade with the interior of Mexico, and the establishment would be rapidly encreased if suscessful, which appears to me certain unless political disturbances should occur. Mr Ware has not only a large cash capital of his own but ability to command any amount that can be securely and profitably invested. He proposes as I wrote you to embark 40.000$ in the establishment of a Cotton manufactory in the Colony, provided he can have permission so to do, and your protection and support. that is if he can be assured no impediments will be thrown in his way to defeat the object. Such as priveleges to others, denied to him, excessive taxes etc. I have told him as my opinion that as the establishment of cotton manufactorys is a favorite project with the Govt and the location of one in the colony obviously calculated to promote the permanent interests of the State and people he might safely calculate on your giving the project all the encouragement in your power consistently with your public duty and that I had but little doubt you would obtain for his benefit an increased grant of land in consideration of the project being carried into immediate effect, perhaps five possibly eleven leagues. He then said if you would do so he would allow you a share of the profits for getting him the land, but on my observing I had doubts whether you would allow your private interest to influence your public duty he observed then that in case of obtaining eleven leagues as an encouragement to establish the factory he would consider half of the land as mine for my agency in making the arrangement or it might be estimated as so much capital on my acct and you might participate in the benefits or not as you might judge proper. He also wishes to engage me in the operation, and on my telling him I had no capital to embark in it offered to consider my attention to the business as equivalent to Capital

It is very doubtful whether I can join in this operation. were my solicitation granted, I might be induced to do so as the most secure mode of establishing myself in the colony to secure my lands, but altho two months and an half have elapsed since your arrival in Saltillo, I have not recd a line from you and give up all expectation of getting the land, I have therefore declined entering into any arrangements on the subject until I hear from you. Mr Ware will also wait your reply, before he moves in the matter. Would it not be practicable to get the Govts sanction to a grant of 11 leagues for the encouragement of the establishment of the first fac-

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tory of *not less than one thousand spindles?* With authority to warrant that encouragement I could ensure the establishment of the manufactory at once. I should think both the Gov^{t} and Gen^{l} Teran would be favorable to this enterprise. Perhaps it would be judicious to apply to Teran for pecuniary aid for the object as he has funds expressly for such purposes and it might add to the security of the property if some Gov^{t} funds were at hazard as a loan for encouragement—yet it would not be well to be entangled with the Gov^{t} in the matter any further than policy might require to make him believe such establishments require encouragement. M^{r} Ware wishes you to write him on the subject as we may not be here when your reply comes I give you his address on the envelope. I shall wait here doing nothing until I hear from you.

My Sister M^{rs} Holley now here with the family of M^{r} La Branch, wrote you some time ago on the subject of getting land for herself and son Her intention is to accompany my family in case I locate in the colony and her object is to secure some ultimate provision for her son. She has a few thousand dollars which would enable her to make the needful improvements. She is full of the project of reuniting the members of our dispersed and reduced family and forming a society of our own, it is not probable her letter has reach^{d} you. Cannot some arrangement be made to connect the U. S. with the Mexican mail? Correspondence with the Colony is now very uncertain.

The Galveston Bay land company in New York are running wild in their operations. Selling land by hundreds of thousands of acres a 5 cents p^{r} acre, etc. Sending out steam machinery for mills boats etc. I fear they will do much harm by calling the attention of Gov^{t} too much to that quarter. I have not rec^{d} a line from the colony since I left and know not how matters are going on. M^{r} Pollet of Nacogdoches told me the other day that the emigrants going in by land had great difficulty there for want of passports. Some for Dewits colony had been turned back. He had pass^{d} some through destined to your colony by engaging to procure passports for them from the Consul here, which the authority said was indispensable This will cause much disappointment and injury if persisted in. The great numbers of people going into the colony will soon fill up your contracts I beg you will let me know when your power to grant lands will probably cease, because if I do go in I may want to provide for some I may take with me. I should be glad also to know, (if you can ascertain *without calling the attention of Gov^{t} to the subject*) when the privelege of taking goods into the colony duty free will cease. I see the law of April speaks only of provisions and lumber, and expect that in case I go in I shall be caught with the whole length of

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the tariff on what I take with me according to my usual luck. I am told they already collect the duty in Matagorda bay.

Respectfully and cordially, your friend and Serv[t]

H. AUSTIN [Rubric]

WILLIAM S. PARROTT TO AUSTIN

Mexico March 16th 1831

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Esqr

Saltillo

MY DEAR SIR

I have before me your regarded favour of the 27th ult[o] and continuation of 28th by which I am advised that my two letters of the 9th and 16th ult[o] had reached you Our old friend Grande was in the counting House when I received your letter; and was much delighted to hear from you, and requested me particularly to remember him to you He is one of 1822 and few now remain in the City or even in the country of our acquaintes [sic] and countrymen of that memorable Epoch; I am the only American that has weathered the changes and vicissitudes consequent; of a continual succession of revolution and rulers, most of the others have for want of perseverance or moral virtue, been obliged to return to their homes and others have passed off in the storm of intemperance and folly to another world; For my part I have had a full share of misfortunes; amidst; the smiles of prosperity. In 1828, when I had gained as much of this world's trash as satisfied my ambition, I left here for the U. S. on a tour of pleasure, leaving the whole under the management of Stephen J Wilson, whom I had interested in my concerns, with a view to better his condition and leave him eventually with the entire controul of the mercantile relations I had formed for some preceding years; I was upon the point of Embarking for Europe when I received letters from a friend here advising me to return forthwith or my House would be in a state of insolvency from the bad management observed in its operations; Though I could scarcely believe it, I returned immediately and to accelerate my steps travelled post from Baltimore to New Orleans finding no vessel for either Tampico or Vera Cruz I freighted and chartered a brig; on my arrival in Vera Cruz in January of 1829 I learned the change in rulers and *saqueo* of Mexico by which latter I supposed I was ruined as I was told my House did not escape pillage; which proved in one sense correct for on arriving at Puebla with my family I rec[d] an express advising that Wilson had fled and that the officers of justice were about to seize upon all they could find supposing Wilson an accomplice in a Duel fought be-

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tween W. Wilcocks and George Follin I again took post, and in 9 hours arrived in the city when to my great astonishment, I found the surmise of my friend but too true; Bad management during my absence; and all the available means carried off by Wilson, to the amt of 30.000$ and upwards; leaving debts to the amt of near 50.000$ more; since which I have had to struggle hard to organize every thing again; not having in the mean time been able to obtain one cent from my *worthy partner*; all is going on well again; I have been thus tedious to give you a full statement of facts which may in part serve you; as I am told Wilson is in your section of the country.

I am well aware of the fatigue and perplexities you must have necessarily undergone since our separation; for which I agree with you, there can be no compensation; but the calm consciousness of having done your duty not only in regard to your contract with the Gov[t] but towards your colonists; which will be better appreciated hereafter, than during your life time; I thank you for the information in relation to my solicitude in favor of the Widow Ross and heirs, I have no personal interest in it other than a desire to serve the widow and orphan of a man whose maintainance was at my charge during his stay in Mexico without having received as yet any renumeration whatever; nor do I look for any, as his estate is insolvent and the company at Nashville refuses to pay me near 1000$ given to him to keep him from starving while, in the prosecution of their designs and his success in a great measure was owing to my friendly interference in his behalf

I have written to the Company in Nashville advising of the result of my solicitude, I was not informed of the location of the grant made to him even. In my opinion, however, the suspension of the colonization [law of 6] April last will result to the benefit of all con[cerned] in it who had not began at that period [mutilated] for [that] law cannot nor does not annul the titles granted, and it will afford them ample time to carry into effect their plans, Should ever a change take place, less pregnant with groundless prejudices, and unfounded suspicions of a neighbour than actually exists and I am much in hopes to see a change ere long; when we will not be regarded as an ambitious neighbour, but as one willing to give aid in time of need; and if allowed to judge from words *not deeds* the work of reform has already begun, tho we have a strong tide of English influence arming against us, which in the nature of things must have its ebbs and flows.

With the hope of hearing from you whenever you have leisure,

W. S. Parrott [Rubric]

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Elisha Roberts and Jonas Harrison to Madero

Al Sor. Comicionado José Franc° Madero.—

Sor.—Un numero inmenso, de Yndios de la Nacion de chochoo ha arribado, recientem^te á estos Distritos, que han venido delos Estados unidos del Norte America y comiensan á hacer establecim^tos permanentes cerca y casi entre los habitantes. Ellos estan en la mayor miseria, y destitutos de casi todo lo indispensable para la mantencion de la vida. Es presiso que vivan, y por estos los habitantes estan bajo de aprehensiones serias por la seguridad desus cavallos, ganados y marranos si estos indios se permiten hacer establecim^tos permanentes entre ellos.

El Gov^no delos Estados Unidos del Norte ha hecho ápropriaciones para estos indios sobre las fronteras del Estado, o territorio de Arkansas, y seria obviosam^te un beneficio mutual tanto para los habitantes como para los indios si á estos se mudasen al terreno que seles ha señalado en Arkansas.

No se nos ha prevenido de las medidas que devemos adoptadas relativo á esta materia, y por esto, si V. tiene algunas noticias en su possecion sobre la materia como sobre el modo que devemos obrar, deseamos se sirva participarnoslas quanto antes, y si no, sirvase procurarnos que el gov^no nos dé los aucilios necesarios en el tiempo mas brebe para hacerlos volver y comunicarnoslo para poder obrar segun nuestras instrucciones y deber de quales en esta ocacion estamos ignorantes, lo que, si se verifica como deseamos tenderá á la continuacion de aquel estado de paz y harmonia que felism^te existe entre los blancos y indios.

Tenemos el honor de ser con el mas alto aprecio los muy obedientes servidores de V. Elisha Roberts. Alcalde del Distrito de Ayish.—J. Harrison Alc° del de Tanaha.—Camino Real 16. de Marzo de 1831.

Ramon Musquiz to Alcalde of San Felipe de Austin

Gefatura del Departamento de Bejar.

Por varias comunicaciones q. tengo a la vista del Exmo. Sor. Comand^te Gral. de estos Estados, se reclama el cumplim^to de las Leyes qe. prohiben la emigracion de los subditos dela Republica del norte america p^a establecerse en los puntos coloniales de este Departam^to y como apesar delas providencias que con tal fin ha dictado esta Gefatura adbierte la infraccion quese está asiendo delas leyes tolerar la introducion de gentes de color y aun blancas prebengo á V. bajo la mas estrecha responsabilidad cuide dela puntual observancia dela Ley de 6. de Abril del año pasado de 1830 y de remitir a esta Gefatura sin escusa ni pretesto alguno, los estados mensuales delos estrangeros

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q se presenten en el distrito dela municipalidad desu cargo en cumplim^to^ delo prevenido en el arto. 17° del Reglam^to^ de pasaportes de 1° de Mayo de 1828 q hta. haora no se han recivido de ese jusgado del cargo de V., sin saber pr. q. causa.

Dios y Libertad Bejar 16. de Marzo de 1831.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

Ciud^no^. Alcalde constitucional dela Villa de Austin

HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, March 20, 1831

Co^l^ S F AUSTIN

MY DEAR SIR I have written you a long letter by this conveyance on the subject of M^r^ Wares propositions. I have since had further conversation with him and find he wishes to come to some conclusion on the subject before his departure for Philad^a^ if practicable.

In the absence of any advices from you I am some what at loss what to decide upon. Gen^l^ Terans officio to the Consul requesting him to facilitate by passports emigrants to your colony and also to Dewits and M^c^Mullens looks more favorable as does the advice from Brasoria that the collector sent by Bradburn had orders to respect indentures of servants. We are satisfied that Buy has no exclusive right and that the enterprize might be safely undertaken. M^r^ Ware is willing to embark in the matter immediately and take his chance for a grant of land, if I will take the direction of the business; This I would do if my solicitation were granted but were I to engage myself as director of this concern, and get no land for myself nor for the manufacturing concern it would be a bad move. I must therefore continue here in suspense until the eve of his departure in the hope that in the mean time something definitive on the subject of my solicitation may reach me.

I see that your contract for 500 families expires on the 20^th^ May next consequently what ever is to be done under that grant must be done promptly I therefore give you our views that whatever may be needful to be done at Saltillo may be done whilst you are there so far as you may deem it expedient

1^st^ It would be desirable to secure a good Mill seat in a good position. This we could not expect to do in vacant land and must purchase. It is said Houghs on the Bernard or peach creek is the best in the Colony and that he offered to sell his league and an half for 2000$ but the question arises, can he alienate with legal title, for not having cultivated in totality? It will not do to expend 40,000$ on land that may be taken away from us:— The same difficulty might arise were we to use steam power on a purchased tract.

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Can this difficulty be obviated without legislative provision? 2° We cannot now give you the name in which to locate the grant for the encouragement of a cotton manufactory and may not be able to do it before the 20 May. Is there any mode by which you can get legal authority to grant a premium of 11 leagues to the proprietor of the Cotton Factory, being resident, on his putting in actual operation at least 1000 spindles if you think proper to do so? This would arm you for a contract with any other party should this one back out, but I should expect you to give us the preference if the thing be done.

My first intention was, in case my solicitation were granted to go to England with a small Brig to get my equipment and a stock of goods for the colony at first cost to make arrangements for a direct trade between the colony and England, procure English Artizans to erect my buildings and laborers under indentures for two or three years, and run out direct to *Port Austin* west end of Galveston in October or November next. At the same time I could ascertain whether a contract could be made for supplying the King's dockyard with live oak, rail road, etc—but I cannot command funds enough to do it on my own acc^{t}, I do not chuse to engage in it for the benefit of others. The duty on foreign timber is too high in England for private contract there. From New York I learn that live oak cut promiscuously will not more than pay charges from Florida but large timber cut to moulds is valuable. M^{r} Echford who has the most knowledge of anybody on this subject is to send me all needful information and the best mode of making it available. I mentioned in my last M^{rs} Holleys desire to obtain a settlement grant for herself and son. She is fully determined to go to the Colony if she can get land for her son. In case you think proper to comply with her wish please enclose her the form of application for her to sign and send back. Her adress is—M^{rs} Mary Austin Holley care of M^{r} Hermogene La Branch New Orleans. She intends to pass the Summer here. her sons name is Horace Holley. Respectfully and cordially yours H Austin [Rubric]

I have this moment rec^{d} a letter from our cousin Charles Austin now Mayor of Tallahasse, Florida. He says M^{r} Morgan who has just returned from Texas, has set the people *Texas mad* and many say they shall go there this fall. he says good lands sell there at 5 or 6$ p^{r} Acre 25$ p^{r} acre has been offered for Lafayettes 22.000 acres. That country in general is wretchedly poor. His son Thomas Hopkins Austin is now here, a fine young man, I have placed him with M^{r} Bogert for the present. He wish^{d} to visit Texas but is not yet experienced enough to trade in that country. Charles says

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he had been desired to call him home to join a young man of Capital in an adventure to *Texas.*

[Addressed:] Al Sor Coronel Estevan F Austin Leona Vicario ó Saltillo

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H. Toler to Austin

Havana, March 20, 1831.

See Calendar.

Samuel M. Williams to John Austin

[March 20? 1831]

[To John Austin?]

Comisarios Departm^{t} of Austin— I have this day rec^{d} your official letter dated 15th inst informing me of your appointment as Port officer in the place of Mr Dunlap who at his own solicitation has been permitted to retire— As an officer of the federation and charged with the executions of the maritime laws it is necessary, that, by all you should be respected in the official discharge of your duties, as well by citizens as by the local authorities, because you represent the laws of the land, any disrespect offered to you as an officer is directed against the laws and not against you as an individual. Consequently I hope that there will be found citizens enough within the limits of the jurisdiction, who not only respect their oaths of obedience and fidelity, but justly appreciate their own interest in the country and the benefits and favors they have rec^{d} from the gov^{t} to aid and assist you as an officer in the prompt discharge of your duties— I have—

[S. M. Williams]

Samuel M. Williams to F. W. Johnson

Comisarios Department. of Austin— By an official letter dated the 15th of the present month, from Citizen John Austin I am informed of his appointment, as comisario or Port officer of that place for the purpose of exacting and collecting the tonnage duty of seventeen bitts per ton, on every foreign Vessel arriving in that port in Conformity with the Arancel of 1827 in its 4th article, and inasmuch as the said Comisario has reported to me the objection made by the Captain of the Sloop Majesty to pay the tonnage duties on his vessel. I am compelled as an officer of the federation, and one with whom the said Comisario has been instructed to consult and

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report to, to call on you as the Alcalde of this jurisdiction to issue an order to the subaltern civil officers, in that precinct and also the Militia officers to furnish all the aid and assistance in their power, to the before mentioned Comisario, and which may be necessary to cause the maritime laws to be respected and enable the said officer to discharge the duties of the office to which he has been appointed— Convinced that, for the preservation of good order and in obedience to the laws, you will see the urgent necessity of a prompt dispatch of the before mentioned order, I take this opportunity of presenting to you my high consideration and respect God and Liberty. Town of Austin 20 March 1831 S. M W.

C. F. W. Johnson Constitutional Alcalde

TERAN TO AUSTIN

Matamoros y Marzo 21 de 1831.

Sr. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO Y SR: Aunque no tengo á la vista el reglamento q. sirve p^{a} el cobro de toneladas opino como V. q. se debe pagar pr. cada procedencia de puerto extranjero. Este punto se va á aclarar y se le daran Davis cuantas instrucciones sean conducentes y aun se le prevendra la devolucion: me parece q. aun cuando se deba cobrar de un puerto nacional á otro los sondeaderos de Tejas merecen una exsecion atendido al valor de los pocos efectos q. puedan transportarse.

En la nueva contrata q. V. ha propuesto lo q. puedo decir es q. vivo convencido de q. será una dificultad insuperable pa. V. el establecim^{to} de familias americanas, y. muy costoso el de Europeas, y solamente qe. V. sepa hacer milagros podra concluir una contrata con tales condiciones.

Mayor cuidado q. el q. V. tiene pr. los puertos de Galveston y Matagorda nos ha dado aqui la iniciativa de la Legislatura de Veracruz p^{a} q. se cierren todos menos el de Veracruz y Tampico, y creo q. esa Legislatura se debia ocupar de un asunto tan urgente y hacer por su parte una iniciativa p^{a} q. las cosas permanescan como estan. La disputa entre Matagorda y Galveston no creo q. tenga mucho interes puesto q. á los dos les permite comercio la Ley del congreso de la Union p^{a} pr. ahora el estado de las colonias exige q. se surta cada una pr. donde sea menos costoso.

Se ha demorado tanto mi viaje á Tejas q. ha llegado el caso de ser mas urgente pr. motivos de familia hacer otro viaje á Mexico p^{a} lo q. he pedido una licencia temporal, y pienso q. de este modo nos veremos p^{a} mi idea es pasar pr. esa Ciudad.

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El Padre moldon se mantiene aqui todavia no obstante el ardor con q. desea cosechar frutos espirituales en Austin. Desea á V. la mejor salud su muy afecto amigo y servidor q. con toda atencion B. S. M.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

FRANCIS W. JOHNSON TO AUSTIN

Town of Austin
21st March 1831

DR. SIR,

I received and have read with pleasure yours of the 22nd. Jan^{y} and 5 Feb^{y} last, and do sincerely wish you may succeed in the Circuit Court and jury system.

Owing to the severity of the weather and the distance that the most of the members resides from this place we have not been able to convene in session but twice, at the first nothing of importance was done and at the second but little finished, in anticipation, however of what will in all probability be done at our next meeting which will take place on the 2nd. of next month, I write you as follows which is the most important so that you may have some time to think and reflect in the best course to be pursued in relation to them.

The first is a memorial to the government praying for authority to rase a company of rangers and to make an appropration for the payment of said rangers which will be forwarded to the Chief of Department by this mail.

Second a committee was appointed to draft a plan for rasing a fund to defray the expenses of the municipality, to pay the debts due by the same: and also for the building of a jail, and a house sufficient for transacting the business of the Ayuntamiento and office of the Alcalda, and also to form and report a plan of the said buildings, and make an estimate of the probable cost of erecting and completing them, which will be reported and acted upon at the next meeting and forwarded to the Chief of Department. I deem it unnecessary to say anything on this subject, convinced as I am that you know the necessity importance and worth of said buildings, and also of some established mode for rasing funds.

At our first meeting in consequence of the frequent outrages committed by hostile Indians on the frontiers of the Municipality, We called on the Lieut Colonel of this Battalion to rase a company of men by draft or otherwise to serve as rangers, which he readily complied with by issuing an order to the 1st. Adjutant, who on his part as readily issued corresponding orders to the commanding

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officers of Companies, who as on former occasions did not obey the order for on the day they were to have rendevoused at this place instead of the required number only ten men reported themselves to the Adjutant, nine of whom were from the 5th Company. Such is the situation of the militia and I fear the diposition of the Commanding officer, that all and every call will be attended to in a like manner, be the necessity what it may. I mention this to show you that the Militia cannot be relied on, and consequently the double necessity for obtaining an appropration for rasing a company by enlistment for some specific time and price. However until this is done or the contrary appears, I am determined to remind the commanding officer of the Battalion of what he ought to have done in the first case, by orders and fines if any can be imposed under such circumstances, until he acts as an officer should do.

On the subject of the administration of justice, as respects myself I can say but little and probably ought not to say any thing but believing as I do that whatever concerns the Colony in any wise is a matter of interest to you, I feel it a duty to give such information as the shortness of time that I have acted in the capacity of an officer will allow. As yet if I have not given satisfaction the people have had courtesy enough not to complain, except the friends of Ingram and League, to whom are united a part of the friends of H. S. Brown, as to the number and respectability I say not. In this case as all others my acts and conduct as an officer are publick, therefore I have the people to judge and time to prove the propriety of both, and whether correct or not I have the consolation of knowing that I have done what I believed to be my duty as an officer.

I enclose you a copy of a letter directed to the Assessor General on the subject of Interest and Usury, which if consistent with your views on the subject, I must beg you will mention to the Assessor and so far as prudence will permit give to it your strength and influence.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging the obligation of gratitude I feel on account of the interest you have taken in my behalf, and your advice will be received with due deference.

A word more on the subject of father Muldoon and I have done. From the character of that gentleman he is anxiously wished and looked for—Messrs. Lesassier, Williams and Williamson are a committee to wait on him on his arrival in this place.

I hope you will keep us informed how you get on in the legislature and excuse me for not writing you sooner.

F. W. Johnson [Rubric]

Col. S. F. Austin

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AUSTIN TO ALAMAN [1]

Leona Vicario 21 de Marzo de 1831.

Exmo Sor Dⁿ Lucas Alaman.

Exmo Sor, He recibido el ejemplar de la memoria del Ministerio de relaciones que V. E. me hizo la honra de remitirme, y Suplico que se servirá V. E. aceptar las mas sinceras y espresivas gracias por una acta de bondad, y de acuerdo de mi, que es en sumo grado agradable.

Deseaba escribir una carta larga y en pormenor sobre los asuntos de Tejas, pero seria ocupar demasiado el tiempo de V. E. recargado de tanta infinidad de negocios, y solo me restringiré á indicaciones generales.

Como observacion preliminaria diré, que toda la ambicion que tengo, ó he tenido, es ser ciudadano mexicano util, y de coadyuvar en cuanto permiten mis cortas luces, y salud debilitada, en la obra de sacar Tejas del desierto. No deseo empleos ni fortuna desmedida, ni les he buscado.

La esperiencia de cada dia me convence que Texas no recibira legislacion adecuada de esta, ni de ninguna otra legislatura, mientras queda unido á Coahuila. Deseo mucho ver una ley organica para los territorios fijando bases fundamentales. Opino que debe haber un Gobernador y Secretario, un tribunal Supremo de justicia colocado en el centro tribunales y jueces de circuito para la administracion de los distritos, Alcaldes y cuerpos municipales. Tambien no seran demas gefes de policia, ó de partidos, pero sera aumentar los gastos y se les puedan suplir por los alcaldes y cuerpos Municipales. Debe haber notarios para registrar y autorizar las actas de venta, contratos etc. Se debe admitir el juicio por jurados (tryal by jury) esto es de suma importancia. Los codigos en lo civil y criminal, supongo se formaran por el Congreso nacional, auq. en el ultimo habra tambien nesesidad de legislacion territorial porque los castigos, y el modo de aplicarles deben conformarse con la situacion del pais, y el caracter de sus habitantes. Texas no está ni nunca sera poblado en villas y pueblos como lo restante de la nacion, porque siempre sera un pais agricola, con los habitantes esparcidos sobre ranchos y quintas (farms) Se esta sintiendo la falta de los codigos en toda la nacion, ó llamarse recopilacion de las antiguas leyes con las convenientes modificaciones.

Leyes ó reglamentos puramente locales, Como devisiones de Municipalidades, establecim^to y organizacion de circuitos judiciales formacion de Villas o Cabezeras reglamentar el modo de administrar la justicia y las leyes generales deberes de los jueces, alcaldes, Ayun-

[1] University of Texas Transcripts from Department of Fomento, Mexico.

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tam^{tos} notarios publicos, Secretarios de tribunales, (clerks of courts and their fees) Alguaziles (Sheriffs and constables and their fees) debe haber uno de los primeros para cada circuito, y uno de los segundos para cada Alcald) fiscales, (*States attornay, or attornay general to prosecute in behalf of the State* debe haber uno para el tribunal Supremo, y uno para cada circuito) leyes sobre jurados (tryal by jury) y todo el ramo municipal y de policia, y el reglamento de la milicia civica y reglamentos sobre esclavos y sirvientes deben entrar en la legislacion territorial, porque las localidades, y el progreso diario del pais, influian en todos ellos. En el norte las legislaturas teritoriales tienen las mismas facultades que las de los estados, con la diferencia que el veto del Gobernador es absoluto, y la ley organica sirve de constitucion del territorio.

Los habitantes naturalizados deben ser elegidos para todos los empleos, y todos los gastos del Gob^{no} territorial, que no son municipales, deben ser costeados por la tesoreria nacional.

En el norte, el Gobernador y su Secretario, los jueces del Supremo tribunal de justicia, (alli son tres) el fiscal y alguazil del dho tribunal (the latter is called the marshal) estan nombrados por el Presidente y Senado de la nacion. De los demas empleados partes estan nombrados por el Gobernador, y partes por eleccion popular del pueblo. El Gobernador es el Comandante en Gefe de los civicos, y espide todos los despachos de los Oficiales, estos no tienen, ni deben tener fuero militar.

La facultad de imponer contribuciones Alcabalas etc. es muy delicada, y debe pertenecer solamente a la legislatura territorial.

Las concesiones y titulos de tierras deben ser muy sagrados, particularmente las de los primeros pobladores y antiguos habitantes que tanto han padecido para adelantar el pais y salvarlo de los indios.

Las tierras valdias de Texas son de mucha estencion y pueden producir muchos millones a las rentas publicas. Componen un interes comun que ahora pertenece á los habitantes de Texas en comun con los de todo el estado, pero mas á los de Texas, porque formando estado separado perteneceria entonces todo el dicho interes á aquel estado.

Si se traspasa el dicho interes al Gobierno nacional, será justo dar, y el pueblo de Texas esperarán algun equivalente. Esto seria un gobierno vien organizado bajo un pie fijo y liberal costeado por la nacion, y se debe admitir la esclavitud de negros, no introducidos de africa, sino de paises donde ya ecsisten en esclavitud. Solo este ultimo privilegio bastaria para hacer los habitantes recibir el gobierno territorial con acclamacion. Sin ello habra descontento. El clima y la naturaleza del pais, y de sus productos requieren el trabajo de esclavos ya ecsisten muchos en el, y deben admitir mas.

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Muchos de los antiguos habitantes de la Luisiana, emigrarian á Texas si pudieran traher sus esclavos. Son pobladores del primer rango por sus virtudes, educacion, y riqueza Con dos palabras se les consigan todos, y se dara un valor inmenso á las tierras valdias. Admitense Esclavos y suspendase el articulo 11°. de la ley de 6 de abril con respecto a la antigua Louisiana y el Estado de Misisipi. Tambien muchos vendran de Mobilia Pensacola [sic] y Florida si se les admiten.

Se puede hacer Texas uno de los estados mas productivos de la federacion El modo es tratar sus habitantes con franqueza y liberalidad. En fin, se debe unir aquel pais á Mexico por lazos que son indisolubles, los del interes, del honor, y de gratitud.

He hablado como si Texas estaba para separarse de Coahuila, Opino que asi debe ser, y que nada falta para verificarlo, mas que saber la voluntad del gobierno general, la de la mayoria de ambas camaras, y ver la ley organica par a los Territorios. El peso moral de mi Colonia influira mucho con lo restante de Texas, mi Colonia me escuchará y yo cumpliré con mis deberes al Gobierno en cuanto puedo y los entiendo; Nadie aqui sabe mis opiniones voy á procurar pasear el tiempo en el modo mas quieto posible.

No debe cerrar los puertos de Texas, como trata en las camaras de hacer Sera ruina. Es verdad que nuestro comercio no es ecsesivo tampoco lo es el alimento que come un niño, pero sin el, muere. El comercio de cabotage no basta para Texas En el año entrante se debe esportar mil fardos de algodon de cuatro quintales despepitado cada uno Texas no produce trigo, y ha de ser surtido de pan de Orleans, o comer mais Creo que lo interior del pais, producirá trigo pero no hay poblaciones alli y no se cuando habra Amas de esto, el comercio de cabotage es nulo por las infinidades de embarasos, molestias y gabillas en todas las aduanas se ha cobrado en cada puerto el derecho de tonelage, y todas los demas cargos, sobre buques estrangeros empleados en este comercio bajo la ley de 6 de abril Estoy informado que un buque, la goleta *Champion*, pagó mil quinientos pesos en tres puertos es decir Aransaso, que es lo mismo que Matagorda, Galveston, y Tampico. Entro en el primero procedente de Filadelfia y pagó el derecho de tonelage como debia haber hecho de alli procedio en lastre a Galveston para un cargam^to^ de tablas del molino de vapor y se cobró otra vez el derecho de tonelage procedio con las tablas a Tampico y entiendo que se hizo otro cobro del tonelage. En mi concepto se debe devolver los dos ultimos cobros, es decir, mil pesos. seria atrasarnos mucho cerrar los puer tos al comercio estrangero si se paga, se debe á lo menos permitir la entrada de familias que vienen por agua con sus efectos libros de derechos. y tambien se debe quitar todos los embarasos en el comercio de cabotage. Este comercio es de mucha importancia a Texas, y sera por fin a la nacion. Siempre he

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sido en favor de ello y he hecho cuanto pude para activarlo. Espero que se tendra presente dos cosas, por lo menos, sino es que Texas no produce trigo ahora la otra es la emigracion de familias con sus efectos por agua seria muy dura forzar familias de europa desembarcar en los puertos pestilentos de vera Cruz ó Tampico pagar derechos alli y entonces costear el viage de dichos puertos a Texas En fin, correran la suerte de los emigrados á Guazacoalco [sic] Por la mapa que remito con esta se impondrá V. E. de la situacion de los puertos Galveston y Matagorda tienen 12 pies de agua sobre la barra el primero es el mas seguro el segundo el mas cerca a Bejar El comercio de Cabotage debe salir del rio de los Brazos, aunq^{e} solo admite goletas de poco calar Aquel rio es lo mas poblado de mi Colonia.

Si el Gob^{no}. esta satisfecho con mi colonia seria muy conducente decirlo por un parrafo corto en el registro oficial. Todavia existen muchas ideas equivocadas de la clase que corrian el año pasado. Este es un mal muy grave, porq. causa descontento, y desconfianza, donde no deben existir. Las preocupaciones aqui contra todo estrangero son muy fuertes se dara una ley en pocos dias para prohibirles el comercio del menudeo.

Pienso emplear algun capital, y la esperiencia de diez años en la colonizacion, en esfuerzos para exsitar la emigracion Mexicana y Europea á Texas. pero las preocupaciones de que he aludido imponen obstaculos muy formidables.

Espero que dispensara V. E. esta carta tan larga y mal escrita atribuyendola á mis deseos en el servicio de un pais, al cual puedo decir, *he dedicado mi vida*, y que se servira V. E. acceptar los tributos del homenage y respectos con que tengo el honor de quedar de V. E. el muy atento servidor.

Exmo Sor.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN. (Rúbrica)

Suplico que se sirvira V. E. presentar mis mas cordiales respectos al Exmo Sor vice Presidente, S. E. esta bien impuesto de la situacion de los puertos de Tejas, y de su necesidad. y no dudo q^{e} acordará de un pais que siempre ha mirado conconsideracion y aprecio.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN (Rúbrica)

SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS TO AUSTIN

Austin 22 March 1831

MY DEAR SIR

I do not pretend this scrawl as an answer to your truly interesting letter of 19th ultimo, but as I really feel that your Texas friends have not received your unwearied attentions with that return they have merited, I determined that you should at least hear from me

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in acknowledgement of the receipt of your favours, even tho I be unable to make mine interesting.

I do most perfectly coincide with you in your opinions respecting the policy and the probable results of the death of Guerrero and more especially as the Mexican people appear fond of change and novelty.

I cannot account in full for your not having rec^{d} any papers since 13th Nov^{r} as I have forwarded to you several numbers, nevertheless a part of the failure has arrisen from a suspension of the paper for want of materials. You will perceive by the numbers that go by this mail that a change has been made. and I assure you that it is an important one. and must prove beneficial to the country Williamson, partner of Mr Aiken is an excellent workman, and quite the gentleman, and they must succeed

Your friends here have viewed with great [satisfaction?] the management of your bark thro. the storms shoals, and hurricanes under which you took the helm: for myself I must say I am truly happy at your perfect success, because had you not succeeded no merit would have been given you nor, no credit allowed for the truly unfortunate circumstances that surrounded your station on entering the discharge of your duties. You will excuse me for enclosing a paper and a half of a paper to you with the last numbers, as I do it to convince you that you are not forgotten. and have friends who are not ashamed to be so considered.

Williamson was in the office when I rec^{d} your letter, and desired me when writing to remember him affectionately to you, and furthermore say that he would be careful your papers should be forwarded regularly.

Thank God we are getting on harmoniously old friends have cured old grievances, and left the unhappy and restless beings Ira and Hosea H. to brood over their own spleen. We are without news, fine planting season, and I am busily engaged in settling families We have the commissioner here. If time permits I will write you by the next mail and give you my opinions of the situation of Texas in the mean time accept the assurances of my best feelings, and desires for your success health and happiness

SAMUEL M WILLIAMS [Rubric]

WILLIAM S. PARROTT TO AUSTIN

Mexico March 23rd 1831

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Esqr

Satillo

DEAR SIR; Conl. José Antonio Mexia arrived a few days since from New York, and requests me to advise you of same, as he

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will start for Satillo in a short time for the purpose of seeing you relative to a colonization project, near Galveston, of which he Says you are advised; by a Brother of yours who has an interest in it. The Empresarios, have also interested me in the same project, for services I had rendered them as a friend; and they have surprised me by their recollections of such services, which are most generally forgotten If you can further their views it will not only benefit your Collony; but an old friend also. However when you are made acquainted with the views of the company, which seems to be composed of the first class of citizens in N. York you will be better able to judge of the influence it may have upon your colony; which I would not have you to injure for any personal interest I could have, in the other nothing new or interesting

W. S. PARROTT [Rubric]

JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA TO AUSTIN

Mexico Marzo 23 1831

MUY SR. MIO Y AMIGO

Sin novedad particular he llegado con mi familia á esta ciudad y desde luego me habria puesto en camino para ésa á arreglar los negocios dela compañia de Galveston, si mis asuntos oficiales me lo hubieran permitido. Lo haré quisá luego que los concluya y és probable qe. tenga el gusto de verlo dentro de més y medio.

Mucho deceava tener una carta de V. en contestacion a las mias de New York y mucho más en razon á las conversaciones que alli tube con el hermano de V que ciertamente le escribiria relativamente.

Tambien el amigo Parrot habrá entretenido á V. y habrá puesto las cosas, con respecto á Texas, bajo el punto de vista vedadero.

En fin mi querido amigo yo me prometo que V. hará lo mejor por las nuevas colonias del otro lado del San Jacinto, en las que tiene yá familias por su cuenta Su afmo amigo y servidor Q. B. S. M.

JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA [Rubric]

Sr. corl. Dn. Esteban Austin

[Addressed:] Al Sr. Coronel Dn. Esteban Felipe Austin *Leona Vicario*

J. FRANCISCO MADERO TO AUSTIN

Atascosito Marzo 24/31

Sor. Dn. ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

MI AMIGO QUERIDO Y SEÑOR DE MI RESPETO. Aun no se benian las dificultades puestas por Bradburn en mi negocio y espero pr. esto la llegada del correo q. me á de remitir nro amigo Williams. En medio de esas dificultades he proyectado facilitar le nabegacion de este rio y

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para llebarlas al cabo me diriji hoy ála legislatura proponiendole hacerlo si me consede un pribilegio de recomendacion. V. sabe mejor q. nadie q. en muchas partes por las cortas bueltas del Rio se necesita abrir canal, lo que en trra. tan deslenable como esta demanda costos de considerasion. Tambien sabe . . . ¿ p° paraque desirle lo q sabe mejor que yo? Por esos conosim^tos de V. omiti estenderme mas en la solicitud q. hago al congreso y me limito ahora á recomendarselo áV. asi para su buen despacho, como para que tomandose inmediatam^te en considerasion se despache enlas actuales secciones p^a aprobechar el buen tiempo dela estasion p^a pasar a New York asolicitar compañeros para la realisasion dela empresa.

Que el congreso tiene facultad de conceder estos pribilegios no cabe duda, respecto aque el decreto que sedio para la empresa del Rio grande se mandó archibar enlas camaras.

No escribo por separado al amigo Musquiz por q. la casualidad dio ocasion á escribir áV. de prisa esta pr. un correo q. los agentes dela empresa de Zabala y compañia mandan á Bejar.

J. Francisco Madero [Rubric]

No se olbide, amigo mio, el decreto No. 128 en la parte que ablé á V. de él en mi anterior referente alos agrimensores por la[s] trabas q. se presentan acada momento con grabe responsabilidad delos comisionados. No es menos la q. estos tienen con una delas obligaciones q sele prescriben en el art° 4. presenciar todas las medidas es cosa imposible é inutil. Imposible por cuanto seria interminable la conclusion de una contrata respecto a que un solo agrimensor debia medir todas los terrenos etc. etc. é inutil porque la presencia delos comd^os no impederia el que los agrimensores abusasen de su oficio, porque no todos los comd^os saben como aquellos la ciencia geometrica y trigometrica y asi solo andaran de *domingejos*. Amas de esto los agrimensores son responsables delas medidas q. practican y tienen fiadores, luego ¿para q. ese otro requisito? Solamente p^a hacer hombres responsables, y como no faltan mal quisientes por un solo Citio cuya medida se deje de presenciar, baya un proseso, un castigo duro etc. etc. V. como empresario sabe q. digo bien, y por lo mismo le suplico liberte á todos los comisi^dos de responsabilidades infructuesas.

Miguel Muldoon to Austin

Matamoros el 28 de Marzo de 1831.

Dip^do Est^n Felipe Austin etc

Apreciable y muy Querido Amigo: He recibido su deseada carta fecha 12 de marzo de esa Capital y he cumplido escrupulosamente con todos los encargos en ella contenidos.

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Meparece que alcanza Vmd al General en este mismo Lugar, porque espera a su Señora Esposa y por tanto no podrá salir de aqui.

D. 1. [sic] Jorge ha escrito mucho aunque (segun mi parecer) con dificultad verá la luz publica.

El General me ha atendido muchisimo y ha celebrado mi fortuna en el Saltillo y Monterrey. le ha gustado tambien las Instrucciones qe, V. me ha dado. y sus verdaderamente paternales cartas órecomendaciones a las autoridades de Austin la ecselsa óprimogenita Colonia de Tejas.—

Mañana Dios mediante, saldré de aqui a las cinco de la madrugada. como un Patriarca con una escolta y demas circonstancias necesarias prevenidas pr. mi gran Amigo el General Teran.

Mis Zambullidos en el Saltillo Monterrey y Matamoros han sido largos; hasta la capital de la Colonia, no haré otro—

Tengo mucho que decirle, pero que reservo para nuestra entrevista y asi "Per varios Casus per tot discrimina rerum tendo et inclino in S. S. P. de Austin," de donde primero piensa escribirle su apasionado Capellan. Q. S. M. B.

Mig[l] Muldoon [Rubric]

Ramon Musquiz to Alcalde of San Felipe

Bexar, March 29, 1831.

See Calendar.

Henry Austin to Austin

Duplicate, original via Brazoria

New Orleans March 30[th] 1831

Col S F Austin

Saltillo

My dear Sir,

Since my last via Matamoros new matter has occurred of very serious import. The enclosed "Notice to Immigrants" put a dead stop to the emigration and I was told the orders of the minister went farther than the notice. I called upon the Consul for information; He showed me the ministers officio from Washington and General Terans on the same subject. The minister says the law of 6 april has no exception in favor of the Colonys of Austin and Dewit [and for] him to publish the notice and the concluding clause is "those who have obtained a location there since the publication of that law (being of the U. S.) *are liable to be expelled at the pleasure of the Gov[t]*" This clause the Consul suppressed because he thought it

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unjust towards you and because it did not correspond with the instructions of Gen[l] Teran whose *orders; no, not orders, instructions* he was instructed by Gov[t] to follow in all matters relating to Texas. He then shewed me General Terans officio, which tells him not to grant pasports for Texas to any emigrants but "*los q[e] dependen a las colonias*" of Austin and Dewit I endeavourd to construe the word dependence as applicable to all who were bonafide destined to those colonies, he took fire at this and I had to back out admitting my imperfect knowledge of the Spanish language I then took the ground that the publications and notices by letters, that persons qualified according to law, who should present themselves at S[ta] Felipe during the term of your contracts should receive lands agreeably to law, was virtually a contract between you and them and brought them within the exception. He said you had undoubtedly agents in all parts of the country to pick up Settlers and all who had contracted with them might go. I assured him there were no such agents. He then said if I could produce a copy of a notice or a letter or a note from Mr Breedlove that he had knowledge notice had been given, he would consider it as an engagement with the emigrants and grant them passports. Your letter of Jany 19 1830 to Mr Breedlove contained a postscript exactly in point. Mr B wrote him a note which I handed him and obtained a reply a copy of which I annex. This removes the difficulty here for the present but will not counteract the effect in the country where you will see it is ordered to be published He expressed the most friendly disposition towards you and the colonys, said the Gov[t] could not pass ex post facto laws, and stopping the emigration to your colonies would be ex post facto etc. but they are doing the thing whatever they may say. He professes to coincide with me in opinion that the Gov[t] has no disposition to deviate from the just and liberal policy heretofore shown to the colonists, appeared anxious to convince me that his personal disposition was the best possible, and published these notices only by Superior order so I got along with him very smoothly.

In my own affairs I am at a dead stand still Mr. W. about whose propositions to establish a Cotton factory of a 1000 spindles in the Colony I wrote you via Matamoros made it a sine qua non, that I should take the direction of the business or he would not embark in it, I acceded, conditionally, we matured the plan, agreed upon terms, and were to reduce the matter to contract so soon as I had advices that my solicitation was granted,— Buys story that he had the exclusive right to establish cotton manufactorys in Texas not true and assurances that a premium in land would be granted for the establishment of the cotton factory of 1000 spindles no advices

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came, altho it is three months since your arrival in Saltillo and six weeks since my letters on this subject. My friend is getting uneasy at these consular notices, impatient of so much delay and has gone to day to attend the sale of a sugar plantation. If he buys it it will absorb 200,000 dollars of his Capital and I shall be thrown out of the saddle after all besides if the ministers construction of the law is to obtain, we cannot get a legal title to land enough to [settle] the manufactory upon. However whichever way things turn I must take a hand in the game somehow or other. I hope I may soon hear from you as I have already been here two months on expense and must soon be in action or raise the wind.

HENRY AUSTIN

[Inclosure]

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE MEXICAN CONSUL

New Orleans March 30—1831.

Mr J. W. BREDLOVE

SIR I have recd your letter of this morning in answer to it I inform you that I will have no kind of objection to give passports to any person whatsoever, if you will send me by those Persons an assurance that they are going to Mr Austins Colony to settle, It has never been my intention to refuse granting passports to Persons going to Texas on their private business or with a view of seeing the country.

FRANo PIZARRO MARTINEZ

[By Henry Austin:] ps April 2d—I have just recd your favor of March 5th Mr W has not yet concluded the purchase of the Sugar plantation but is in treaty for it I may yet do something with him. Tailor has purchased and paid 50.000$ cash—I shall leave this for the colony shortly. The consular notices and reports that Mexican troops in great numbers are pouring into the colony are doing much harm. Morgan and Reed have given up their intention of going out altho they had made purchases and Reed had come from North Carolina. The consul told them they could not take their negroes there on any terms—and that Genl Teran was going to the colony to inforce the law and set all negroes free that had been taken there contrary to law etc.

I find it in vain to combat the many reports afloat here, some of which are that the colonists will have to fight for their lands or lose them, that the Govt is determined to drive them out etc. These reports have a bad effect every way, those who have money do not like to hazard it where there is but little security.

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MANUEL DE MIER Y TERAN TO AUSTIN

Sr. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

Matamoros Marzo de 1831.

AMIGO Y SR DE TODO MI APRECIO: Por mano del Sr. Padre D. Miguel Moldoon he recibido la apreciable de V. de 8 del p° y es la primera noticia de la residencia de V. en Leona Vicario. En orden al destino del Sr. Moldoon conosco las ventajas morales q. resultarán á la Colonia de V. de la dedicacion de un parroco q. posee el idioma y conoce las costumbre de los colones; p° recelo q. no se logre ningun efecto pr. q. caresere de medios abundantes p^a subsistir del modo á q. esta acostumbrado; y mucho mas q. en aquella Sociedad encontrará grandes diferencias con respecto á las ideas q. pueden haberle ministrado en Mexico y en los demas lugares del transito.

Segun las noticias q. tengo la emigracion á favor de la colonia de V. no se ha suspendido y se esta verificando con la combeniente actividad: sobre la introduccion de esclavos lo q. he opinado es q. si se conceden p^a Tejas es preciso admitirlos en todos los Estados q. tienden costas y requieren aun mayores trabajos p^a su cultivo; p^a de otra suerte seria un privilegio q. trastornaria su industria de campo y trasenderia hasta el valor de las tierras. Hago á V. presente esta objeccion p^a q. la medite y me diga con franqueza si es punto q. se debe tener presente.

La extension de terreno q. asignan á cada familia es en efecto sobrada, y tanto q. puede tenerse pr. un desperdicio de tierras, la reduccion no embarazara á ninguna mira q. se puede tener p^a el aumento de la poblacion Mexicana, con tal de q. sea igual p^a todos la concesion de cada familia.

Por todo lo expuesto advertira V. q. no tengo idea de q. haya grandes obstaculos p^a la prosperidad de Tejas comparativamente al estado de la Nacion Mexicana; pero como en todas las cosas es necesario tener paciencia y no aspirar á q. en un año se hagan progresos q. solo vienen de la madures del tiempo. La admision de Esclavos no hay duda q. daria un aumento rapido á las producciones de las costas Mexicanas p° tambien se incurriria en los inconvenientes q. trae consigo un medio de fomento de q. ya ninguna nacion quiere usar y todas los gobiernos se aplican á extinguir; de manera q se estima pr. ventajoso no tener necesidad absoluta del trabajo de los esclavos.

Tengo presicion de ir á Tejas p° no lo podré antes de un mes y para entonces creo estara V. en su casa lo q. es importante p^a mi p^a de nada me prometo mayor utilidad q. de las conferencias con V. y deseandole toda felicidad me ofresco de nuevo pr. su afmo amigo y servidor q. con toda atencion B. S. M.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

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Ramon Musquiz to Alcalde of San Felipe de Austin

Gefatura del Departamento de Bejar

En Or[a] superior de 18. de Marzo popo se ha servido el Exmo Sor. Gobernador del Estado decirme lo siguiente.

Por los medios correspond[tes] haga a V S en tener alos habitantes de ese Departam[to] que todo individuo que solicite terrenos valdios ó tenga que ocurrir á este Gob[no] pr. cualquiera otro negocio que sele ofresca y demande gastos de papel sellado y ótros, lo verifiquen remitiendo su instancia franca de porte y compareciendo pr si o por medio de alguna persona encargada suya, p[a] q. haga la exivicion correspondiente: no esperando en caso contrario el despacho del negocio que haya promovido.

Del mismo modo hara V. que llegue a noticia de todos los individuos procedentes delos Estados Unidos de Norte America qe. reciden en ese Dep[to] ó intenten nuevam[te] abesindarse en el, que a ninguno de estos se consedera terreno ni se aumentará á aquellos pr. este Gob[no] el que les corresponde conforme la ley de Colonizacion del Estado interin exista vigente la ley expedida pr. el Soberano Congreso gral en 6. de Abril del año ppdo."

Y lo traslado aV. p[a] su intelig[a] y efectos consiguientes.

Dios y libertad Bejar 2. de Abril de 1831.

Ramon Musquiz [Rubric]

Ciud[no] Alcalde constitucional de la Villa de Austin

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

L[eona]. Viacario April 2. 1831

Dr Sir.

I have nothing of much interest to communicate. I refer you and Luke to my letters to Johnson and Williamson. I kept no copy of either of them, and may need the one to Johnson after my return, for which reason I wish you would request him not to let it be destroyed.

There is nothing new from Mexico of a political nature—Mexia has arrived there from New York and will be here in all this month, on the subject of the land company formed in New York.

Gen[l] Teran writes on 21 ult. that he agrees with me in opinion that Bradburn has misconstrued the law as to tonnage duty—that he will examine into it and give an order to have all but the first refunded to S Rhoads [Fisher] and I have no doubt it will be done—he says that he probably will be here this month on his way to Mexico where he goes to visit his family.

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I wish you to take the copy of the oficio that Jorge [Fisher] wrote about the free negroes, and burn it, that is I mean the copy that was signed by me, in case I ever signed any which I do not recollect to have done, and carefully keep the copy and letter on that subject which is in his hand writing don't neglect to do this before you forget it, and send him no papers of any sort—you did very right in not sending those he wrote for.

Padre Muldoon was still in Matamoros on the 21 March, but anxious to get on. I presume he will wait untill the Gen[l] decides whether he goes to Mexico or to Texas.

This is holy week, of course nothing done in the Legislature, tho we have had any quantity of processions etc—the one last night which began at 8 and ended at 11—was beautifull—about 800 females walked in two lines each with a wax candle—the night was calm and dark—the lights made a fine display in these streets, some of which assend near 200 feet in half a mile.

We are at a law to prevent foreigners from retailing—at first I thought it would pass—I now think it will not. I shall oppose it in its present shape.

I am promised an officio to Arciniega by next mail in answer to the consulta about the restriction—he may go on and put them all in possession, without any fears. I shall have no difficulty of any sort with *Boss* [Teran?]. Close all the 4 of June Colony as fast as possible. I ought to go to Mexico with Teran if he goes, but how can I, without money, and required at home. I am undecided as yet as to this point, and rather think that if I had 500 dollars I would go on. Much depends on the organic law for the territories. I have written many sheets on this subject and on slavery to Mexico but there is nothing like being personally present. Let me know by return of mail (if time will permit) what Luke and Johnson and others think of my views about a territory and the manner of managing the slave question—don't fail in this, there will be time for it [to] get here by 1 of May. As to the Trinity business Madero has the right side of the question—of that there is no doubt—and in the end he will come out, if he is prudent. I am compelled to touch that matter cautiously for the colony has much at stake—too much to be embarked in the cause of another. It is a hard and unpleasant situation to be placed in. Some use may be made of the big *colonizing business* of New York, but that must also be touched prudently. In these matters say little or nothing, *and nothing deffinite*, as many smooth words without meaning as you please. By Rodrigues I sent forty titles, on which I have paid forty dollars cash which you must collect. Send out the Gonzales titles without delay get Pettus to attend to it.

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Tell Arciniega that I have rec[d] his letter of 8 March and will attend to all his requests. I fear that Hunters application is hopeless, on the subject of augmentations this Govt. will not yield. Matamoros is in a hubbub about its port. I shall try another iniciative on Tuesday (Monday is post day) for Matamoros and Matagorda. I have written direct to the Vice President and minister as to Galveston and Matagorda some time ago, also to others in Mexico—Poca importa—they cannot build a wall across them all, as I told the good folks here which they took very ill, for they say the law ought to be a wall—I answered so it is, but the law of nature has a just right to break down all walls that are violent and notorious public nuisances.

The act of the Ayto, which you sent me would have been very important if anything could have been done with the judiciary, but it is impossible. Shew Johnson and Williamson the article of the constitution about *Jueces Arbitros*, and remind Luke of my recommendation to him on that subject.

All harmony is at an end in the legislature, the Menudeo [retail] law has split us into three or four odd sort of lumps.[1]

Remember me to Sarah and Eliza and my nephew Austin and Mr Hunter. I rec[d] Austins letter and am much pleased with it, would have written by this mail but have not time—will try and bring him the poney and rigging he writes me for.

The Gov[r] has issued an order as I am told, to the Chief of Department to report what colonies are commenced and how many families are rec[d] in each. Be very particular as to this, and make out a corrected list, for the one on the old book is very incorrect—one fourth of them have left the colony and ought not to be counted. The certificates ought to be numbered differently, for otherwise mistaken ideas will arise—by examining the Gen[l] law of 14 April 1828 you will see the importance of keeping a regular and correct list of the colonists and it will be still more important if the Menudeo law passes.

This paragraph to yourself only

I expect Henry Austin is in the colony by this time—tell him to select his land without delay—he had the promise of tracts in the 10 League East of Brazos and must have the preference, but the best way is to give out the idea that all that land is hung up untill I return. I also want a good tract for Mrs Holly, widow of the late Doctor Holly, who will remove to the Colony next fall certain, and be the most valuable acquisition we have ever yet received, in the female line, or probably will receive. I shall get

[1] A law to exclude foreigners from engaging in retail trade. It appears not to have passed at this session, but was published Apr. 9, 1832. See Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 295, and Austin to Williams, Apr. 18, 1831.

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home the last of this month. I am glad to hear that Bowie is married.

P. S. Since writing the above I have had a long conversation with the Gov[r] relative to Texas. [He] is a very just man, and will not consent to an unjust act, if he knows it. I am fully satisfied that the rights of the people east of my colony will be fully respected in the end provided they do not attempt in any way to seek redress by force or violence—that will totally ruin them, and they had better submit to temporary evils than bring greater ones on themselves. I am much better pleased with the Gov[r] than I ever expected to be. During the session various causes and considerations prevented me from being as intimate with him as I have been since—also the statements of others misled me as to a part of his character.

I hope my ideas as to a territory are not misunderstood. I think I stated distinctly in my letter of 31 March, that the people of Texas ought not to move that question at present. I wish the Gen[l] govt. to move it, we shall then have the advantage of making terms—that is we will agree if it suits us, and if not refuse, just as it may be *expedient*. I have more confidence in the present administration than I had—my faith in *Boss* [Teran?] is unimpaired and all will be right in the end. If the official publication is made in the U. S. papers stating that my colony is not included in the 11 Article of the law of 6 April, have it published in the Mexican [papers.]

If no notice has been taken of the retail law, let it pass off in silence.

Take care that the Ayto. do not entangle themselves by raising arbitri[os] not authorized by law, as I see they are about to do—the resolutions adopted as published in the paper of 14 April are illegal—the Ayto. can collect half the Taxes authorized by the 8 chapter of the ordinance as you will see by the law that was passed the last day of the session but you cannot tax anything not mentioned in that chapter. Be very cautious on this point. I proposed to give the Ayto. power to raise 8000 dolls. and assess the Tax as they might deem proper—it was objected to on the ground that no such discretionary power can be given, and I was compelled to accept of the law as it is or fail in toto

S. F. Austin

Shew this letter to Johnson or such parts as you please.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin

Matamoros Abril 3/831

S. D. Esteban Austin

Amigo y Sor. de toda mi estimacion: El dia ultimo del mes anterior ha salido p[a] su curato el Padre Moldú [Muldoon] con la

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escolta y bagajes qe. le facilite; cuantas ocasiones le hable sre. su establecimiento intente persuadirlo, y creo qe. lo esta en qe. ninguno de los medios conocidos p^{a} la manutencion de los parrocos en los curatos de la republica era practicable en las colonias de Tejas; y qe. sus recursos principales serian ofrendas qe. le presentarian en especies y el beneficio de sus tierras. Los once sitios qe. le han concedido y qe. no estan asignados cre qe. le será conveniente disfrutarlos en diferentes puntos como Galveston Nacodoches y Austin, y sobre esto le aconseje qe. no se determinara hasta adquirir conocim^{tos} en el pais.

Es muy exacto cuanto V. observa sobre los establecimientos de Tejas, qe. en el dia se vienen á reducir al de V. unico del qe. se pueden esperar los beneficios de una colonizacion; pues en los demas se han separado mucho de las miras de colonizadores, y convirtieron las contratas en beneficios personales adquiridos pr. ventas: actualm^{te} me estoy ocupando del negocio de Sr. Zavala qe. vendido su contrata á una compañia de Nueva York, qe. ha enviado dos goletas con pobladores á Galvestoun, á quienes no se puede admitir pr. la ley de 6 de abril.

Las mismas reflexiones qe. V. hace en orden á la admision de esclavos y otras mas urgentes he dirigido de oficio al Gob^{o} de Mexico, y en lo particular he dado las comunicaciones qe. me han parecido mas propias p^{a} ganar partidarios á esta opinion; y hasta he dado un encargo p^{a} qe. se promueva la cuestion en los periodicos de Mexico; p^{ro} mi opinion es inseparable de la generalidad con qe. se debe adoptar en todas los estados qe. tengan costas en el golfo mejicano; de manera qe. si á uno se concede, debera ser á todos; y vice-versa; tambien qe. en los estados situados en la elevacion de la sierra se prohiban con grande severidad. Estoy persuadido qe. tarde ó temprano se han de admitir los esclavos, pr. qe. estoy convencido de qe. las costas de Mexico no prosperaran sin ellos; p^{ro} en la actualidad á lo menos durante las convulsiones politicas creo qe. no se tratara de esta materia.

Es efectivo qe. á nombre de V. se hizo la prevencion de qe. en Tejas no se recibian hombres de color libres; p^{ro} ignoraba qe. habia sido disposic^{n} de Fisher. Este individuo no tiene ning^{a} influencia en el concepto qe. he formado de los asuntos de Tejas y en las quejas qe. dirijio pr. los acaecim^{tos} con la municipalidad de Austin se le contexto qe. no eran asuntos de mi incumbencia, y pertenecian al Gob^{o} del Estado á q^{n} di conocimto, p^{a} qe. obrara pr. las vias legales.

Cuando V. regrese á su colonia creo estar detenido aqui; p^{ro} bien pr. mar ó pr. camino de tierra yo tengo precision de ir á Galvestoun, y spre. qe. penda mi voluntad elegire el viaje pr. tierra.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

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AUSTIN TO MEXIA

Saltillo 4 de avril 1831

Sor. Dn. JOSE ANTONIO MEXIA,

Muy sor mio y amigo, He recibido la muy apreciable de V. fecha en esa ciudad el 23 del po. po. mes, y es la unica qe. ha llegado á mis manos, habiendose estraviadas las otras qe. me dice haber escrito de New York.

Recibi una carte de un primo mio de New York incluyendome otra de los sres Dey y Curtis sobre los asuntos de colonizacion en Texas. Mas, como me avisaron la venida procsima de un agente suyo a esta capital, para tratar el negocio con el gob^no^, consideraba mejor esperar la llegada del dho agente antes de contestar, porque nada de importancia pude decir sobre la materia.

Parece que hay algunos obstaculos, ó embarazos, para la colonizacion de las veinte leguas limitrofes fundados, segun entiendo, en la ley de 6 de abril del año pasado—Este asunto parece ser bajo la direccion del Gob^no^ Gral—y del Exmo Sor Com^te^. Gral de los estados de oriente. Creo que no debe haber duda que el Gob^no^ respectará todas las contratas que hayan celebrados, en cuanto los contratistas han cumplido con las leyes, y con sus capitulaciones.

Puedo decir qe. he dedicado mi vida al adelanto de Texas, y por lo mismo haré todo cuanto puedo para el fomento de su poblacion pero sin mesclarme ó enradarme en cuestiones particulares agenas con el Gob^no^ ó en asuntos politicos, y bajo este pie ofresco mis cortos servicios á la compañia en cuanto pueden ser utiles, reproduciendo a V. los sentimientos de respecto que me ha manifestado, y quedando.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

LUCAS ALAMAN TO AUSTIN

Mejico Abril 6. de 1831.

Sr. D. ESTE (BAN AUSTIN) LEONA VICARIO

MUY SR. MIO Y DE MI APRECIO: Debia áV. dos contestaciones á dos largas é interesantes cartas que V. se ha servido escribirme y antes de poder satisfacer esta deuda ha venido á aumentarse conla que recientemente he recivido fha del pasado, No puedo contestaria hoy conla estension que se merece pero desde luego diré que estoi tan persuadido como V. de que Tejas no puede florecer y adelantar sino separandola de Coahuila y haciendola un territorio de la federacion hasta tanto adquie a los elementos para ser estado, y creo que tambien á Coahuila

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le convendria la separacion. Para efectuarla seria muy conveniente que V. como interesado [Presentara?] al congreso del Estado y adoptada la idea por este se acortaria mi dificultad en el Congreso general. Luego se procederia a formar una ley orgánica que llenase las miras de V. Creo pues que debería V. trabajar con este objeto y se consiguirá cuanto se apetece.

Me rerservo á ser mas largo por mi próxima y concluyo repitiendome de V. afmo. S. S.

LUCAS ALAMAN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] A. D. Esteva[n] Austin Leona Vicario.

ALEXANDER THOMSON TO AUSTIN

Texas, Austin's Colony, April 9th 1831

Dr SIR,

I am sorry to be compelled to trouble you with a few lines, but necessity forces me to do it, I arrived with my own, and eight more families, on the 2nd Inst. at Harrisburgh, at which place I learn'd that, the families I had brought out Last fall were ordered below the St Antonio road, and that they had all moved down, the most of them to Mr. Milligan's, I immediately went to St Phillippi, to know the particulars, while there, an order arrived, that all the families, and myself, should return, to the U. S. I at first concluded to go immediately, but all with whom I convers'd, at St Phillippi advised me to wait, and pe[ti]tion for priviledge to remain in this colony, and become a settler here, I have arranged all my business in the U. S. and came with view to become a permanent residentor in this country, and have sacrificed much, and underwent a great deal of fatigue, and trouble, to get here, if we have to return, it will break us all prety well.

I anticipated no such difficulties, or I never should have engaged in the business, but remain'd where I was well settled in Tennessee.

As I believe it is in your power to do more with the government, and with Gen[l] Teran, than any one else, and believing that you are dispos'd to be friendly toward us, I now take the liberty to request you, to intercede for us in any way your discretion, may point out, and that as soon as you can, for I will not be able to know what to do until I hear from you, If I am obliged to return the sooner I know it the better, or if I am permitted to remain, I wish to be trying to settle myself, if I can remain, I wish to settle in the uper part of your colony.

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Any attention paid to my situation by you, will be greatfully acknowledged, now is the time, sir, for you to do me, perhaps a greater kindness, than you may ever have an opportunity to do me again.

ALEX[r] THOMSON

N. B. until I hear my destiny, I expect to recide in the settlement of M[r] Milligan.

[Addressed:] Col[o] S. F. Austin, Diputado Leona Vicario. Att of Maj[r] Reynolds

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J. K. HALE TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

Brazoria, April 15, 1831.

See Calendar.

MICAH P. FLINT TO AUSTIN

Alexandria, La., April 15, 1831.

See Calendar.

JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA TO AUSTIN

Mexico Abl. 16 1831

Sr. D. ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO Y COMPAÑERO. Mucho gusto me há dado la grata de V. de 4 del que cor[re]. Siento que mis cartas de New York no hayan llegado asus manos y que las sesiones de ese Legislatura terminen en el tiempo en que me preparo para pasár á esa ciudad.

Mi amigo: la compañia formada en New York para los asuntos delas colonias de Zavala, Uehilan [Vehlein] y Burnet no tiene ningun objeto politico (si lo tubiera Mexia no estaria en ello) és puramente especulativo y yó estoy enla persuacion que producirá muchos bienes á Texas. La misma compañia penetrada delos sentimientos de V. me consta que le há escrito manifestandole su objeto é intenciones y el comicionado que debia ir al Saltillo á ver al gob[o] era yo mismo. Más á mi llegada á esta Capital los asuntos que hé tenido con el gob[o] general en razón á mi caracter publico y mis negocios particulares me han impedido hacerlo. creo q. me veré pronto desembarasado de todo aqui y entonces desempeñare lo que se me há encargado.

Por ahora tengo que suplicar áV. se digne proteger á Monsieur Adolpho Decaen aquien mandé á Galveston desde New York en la goleta Creasant desde el més de Enero. Lo envié ala caveza de diez familias *europeas* que fueron por mi cuenta y llebó á demas todos

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los instrumentos de labranza, Cemillas, proviciones, dinero, y hasta una casa para que me la erigieran enla cocecion de Uehilan en las margenes de San Jacinto ó en el trinidad. Aun no sé si han llegado ó nó las mencionadas familias, pero es probable que cuando V. llegue á Sn Felipe sepa de ellas. Por lo mismo y porque tengo invertida en esa empresa cerca de $5000 le ruego encarecidamente tome á su cargo el informarse de todo, dirigir mis gentes como mejor le dicte su prudencia aconsejarlo a Mr. Decaen, ó representando mi propia persona si fuere necesario p^{a} lo que autoriso aV. ampliamente por medio de esta carta.

Desde la lucha con los españoles en Tampico se há deteriorado mucho mi salud y como me concidere yá cansado para el servicio de la patria, tengo puesta mi atenci^{n} en Texas para retirarme á gozar al lado de mi familia del reposo a que me jusgo acreedor. Lo más florido de mis años los hé pasado sirbiendo a la independencia y libertad: es tiempo que sirba yá a mis hijos ¿Me querrá V. por vecino?

I hope we shall be a very peacible people: no noice, no politics; nothing but bussines and comforts.

José Antonio Mexia [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Al Sr. Coronel Dn. Estevan F. Austin Saltillo

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Bexar

[From Bexar Archives]

En obsequio ha nuestro dever, y en testimonio del poco lucro que esperamos sacar en beneficio del departamento que representamos á compañamos á VS. una copia del dictamen de la Comicion de comercio el que despues de una acalorada discucion el dia 11. del actual fué aprovado en lo gral, y abiendose enpatado la votacion del art^{o} 1^{o} lo retiró la comicion y no la ha buelto a precentar.

El primero de los que subscriven está por la ley si se reduce unicam^{te} a prohivir el comercio al menudeo al estrangero mere transunte, como precentaron la proposicion sus autores, pero nunca podrá estar ninguno de los dos p^{r} que se ataquen en manera alguna los dros del Cuid^{o} y han de sostener siempre á lo menos con su voto la observancia de la constitucion.

Corren rumores de que podrá haber un motin como el de el ultimo Sep^{e} y aun se asoman ya algunos anonimos contra el Sor. Aguirre, solo por que se opuso con energia al mencionado proyecto.

Dios y libertad Saltillo Abril 16 de 831.

Manuel Musquis [Rubric]

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Muy Y. Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Bejar

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Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Lea Vco [Leona Vicario], 16 april 1831

S. M. Williams

Dr Sir. I refer you to my letter to the Ayto. and its enclosure, where you will find as huge a monster as ever appeared in any Legislative Hall on earth. I have endeavored to do all I could for Madero, but nothing can be done with the present Govr. I will attend to this matter at Matamoros [with Terán] where more can be effected than here. I wish you to write to Madero or get Arciniega to do so and inform him of this.

By the last mail I recd the pamphlet from New York which you sent me, and the other letter. I have given no answer, and shall give none untill after my visit to Matamoros.

I have a letter dated 6 April from Alaman and one of 3d. April from Teran, all seems as well as could possibly be wished for. The excess of tonnage duty paid by S. Rhoads [Fisher], will be refunded—Texas will be remembered in regulating the ports. The arms of the Genl Govt. are *wide open* to receive us as a territory, (but no basis is stated with the absolute precision which I think necessary) agreeing in genl terms to the plan of Arkansas or something like it etc. The question of Slavery with the reasons which I presented (some of which you have seen in my letter to Johnson of 31 March) has made a very great impression. I sometimes shudder at the consequences and think that a large part [of] America will be Santo Domingonized in 100, or 200 years. The wishes of my colonists have hurried me into this thing—but I am now in for the cuestion and there is no retreat, for my rule is to go ahead after once coming to a decisive resolution on a matter of such consequence as this.

My health is not very good, this atmosphere does not agree with me. I wish for a long life, for if these devils *jalapize*[1] me, I have a desire to live long enough to *Texize* them with full interest.

I have prepared a bill to amend the colonization law in the article which prohibits sales untill cultivated in totalidad, but I found there was a desire that I should move the subject so as to destroy the whole law and do all the harm possible.[2] Jesus Grande is at the head of all the mischief—his brother Mariano made a handsome fortune out [of] the *Salary* he recd in a few months as vista of the Aduana of Matamoros, and now no doubt would find it to

[1] Meaning, to remove him by "address."

[2] Such a law was passed a year later. See Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 299–303.

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be a very comfortable thing to exclude foreigners from retailing here so as to employ his capital to proper and honest advantage.

I could have obtained anything and all I would have asked by joining in this retail law—but better nothing, than everything on such terms. Push the titles as fast as possible.

Remember me very particularly to Father Muldoon—I have no objection to his seeing all my letters to Johnson, particularly that of 31 March, and of this date, also what I said to Williamson relative to the evident necessity of never separating from Mexico. I have confidence in Father Muldoon and in Teran, tho time will shew all things. He ought to be consulted as to the policy of forming a territory of Texas, and in doing so my letter on that subject might be shewn to him by Johnson, with a request that he could give his opinion, in as much as it was a subject of great importance and could involve the gen[1] interests of the country etc. Tho do as *circumstances* may seem to indicate as the best.

I have become responsable for all the fees on all the pe[ti]tions sent on from Bejar, La Bahia and Nacogdoches, and shall have to borrow money, and you must have some ready to send in U. S. Bills.

Remember [me] to all and particularly to Eliza and Elizabeth and Arciniega, tell the latter that I have attended to all his requests read to him my letter to Johnson in full.

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

I shall send two seals for the Jusgado and Ayto by Powel and Hickoke who start in a few days

My colleague [Manuel] Musquis is in favor of excluding those who are merely foreigners in transit.[1] I would not have opposed that, if the legislature had power to legislate on the subject, but I think that the 50 Article of the national constitution gives that power exclusively to the national congress. Musquis is a man of sound principles and unshaken integrity, he has made a host of bitter enemies here by his vote on the 1 Article [2] and I fear will have an unpleasant time in the permanent deputation.

I think nothing ought to be said in the paper at present relative to this law—or if anything is said, don't fail to compliment Musquis on his vote against the 1 Article—on reflection I see no harm that can arise from publishing the dictamen of the committee, and the names of those who voted for and against—tho do as may be thought best. It would be a very good opportunity to make some energetic but respectful remarks on the danger of violating the constitution, and on the sacredness of that instrument etc—mention the thing to Wil-

[1] That is from retailing in Coahuila and Texas.
[2] Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 295.

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iamson and Luke. I have sent a copy of the law to Alaman, and to Teran so that they may not attribute the results which may happen from its publication in Texas, to any but to the true cause.

D. W. Smith to Austin

Matamoros 18th April 1831

Col. Stephen F. Austin

Leona Vicario

Dr Sir, Your favours of the 15th ulto. and 19th inst. were duly received. The letters which you enclosed in the former, were transmitted to the U. States in compliance with your request.

It is truly gratifying to me, to learn, that there is yet, some prospect of defeating the Law; which the Hon. Legislature of your State has attempted to pass; prohibiting Foreigners from the privilege of retailing their merchandise a copy of which, you did me the honor to transmit—for your politeness and attention, I beg leave to return you my sincere thanks. If such a law as contemplated, should go into effect, it would most unquestionably, militate materially against the interest of my countrymen. Its practical operation would have a similar tendency towards the natives generally. It would throw the whole trade into the hands of a few capitalists; who, availing themselves of the monopoly, could compel the consumers to pay almost any price for their goods, that their consciences would permit them to ask: in a few words it would benefit the *few* to the obvious detriment of the *many*. I have never understood that you was an advocate of that law; nor has any such report been in circulation here. your letter gave me the first report of its supposed existence. The laudable effort made by your Legislature, in behalf of this Port, will be duly appreciated by every friend of equal rights and free trade. It is to be hoped, that the open hostility, manifested by the citizens of Vera Cruz, against the growing prosperity of this section, may be tranquilized; and that the interested selfish motives, disclosed in their application to the General Congress to close, the Port of Matamoros may be responded to, in the language of denial.

The natural advantages, which this place possesses, in point of health, over the Southern Ports; the superior facilities in the transportation of merchandise into the interior; its contiguity to the frontier, and to the U. S.; and its importance as a military port, claim the consideration and protection of the general Government. Those common advantages to the nation, should not be easily yielded by those entrusted with its affairs; nor sacrificed by the cupidity of local jealosy, and self-aggrandizement.

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I have been informed, from a quarter entitled to credit, that the Commercial Treaty, concluded by the American Charge des Affaires at Mexico, with this Government, has been ratified by the Senate of the U. States, that the American citizens are placed upon an equal footing with those of the most favored nation; and that the principle of reciprocity has been fully recognized and established, by the respective Governments.—by the next arrival I expect to receive that document.

The latest accounts from Europe, represent the powers that be, in a high state of excitement and commotion—A general war is anticipated on the Continent.

I have been confined to my room, by severe indisposition, for some months past; in consequence of which, I have not replied to your communication of the 15th ulto until now, I herewith enclose you a letter from capn Henry Austin of N. Orleans. He directed me to enclose it under cover to some friend in Saltillo, as he apprehended there would be danger of its being intercepted in its progress, provided it went to your address. I have therefore enclosed it to Mr. Judah, an intelligent merchant of that place, and beg leave to recommend him to your particular attention and regard.

D. W. Smith [Rubric]

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

April 18. 1831

I have drawn on you this day for one hundred dollars in favor of Mr. Joseph Powel, who let me have that amt. here. I think I can get along with this. I should not have wanted any but I have agreed to pay the office charges on the petitions that are pending from all Texas, which will amt. to upwards of 200 dollars I expect.

The present governor has carefully separated from the petitions all who are not native Mexicans, and will reject them all, he hates all foreigners as he does the devil and he must hate the old boy mortally for he is a fanatic en extremo.

Arciniega can safely go on and issue the titles, that had the restriction, there will be no difficulty altho no deffinite or satisfactory answer could be had from the Govr. As a genl. rule you must tell Arciniega never to consult on any subject, unless he wishes to get himself and everybody else into trouble.

I have done all I could for Madero, which is as much as to say that I have effected nothing, for this Govr. thinks that Madero is a heretic and the more he suffers the better, as it will only be a taste of hell in advance. At Matamoros I may [do] something and

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will attend to it. Inform Madero of this, or if as I presume from a hint I saw in one of your letters that you and Madero and his Comitiva are at cross questions because a paper was sent through another hand than yours, you can get Arciniega to communicate.

There is nothing new here since my last which was on the 16th—the retail bill is asleep and I think it probably will so remain. The pasquinades that were put up against Aguirre have not had the effect which the shop gentry expected, and I think the matter will not be moved again.

I send Johnson two seals, such as are used in this place.

S F AUSTIN [Rubric]

I paid forty dollars on the grants which I sent by Rodriguez which you must collect

[Addressed:] Mr. Samuel M. Williams San Felipe de Austin Mr. Powel

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AUSTIN TO GOVERNOR LETONA

EXMO. SOR.

Acompaño á V. E. una representacion, que al efecto me han remitido los havitantes establecidos entre los rios Neches y Sabinas, en Tejas en el lugar conocido por el nombre de vecindario de Bevill, en que piden que se les mande el Sor. Com^{do} J. F. Madero á fin de concluir los asuntos de colonisasion pendientes alli, de la comicion del Sor. Com^{do} Juan Ant^{o} Padilla.

Hace muchos años que estos pobladores se establecieron alli, y estan comprendidos en la gracia del Supremo Gob^{no} nacional y la del Estado, por la cual se les consedieron las tierras que ocupaban. Son de vuenas costumbres é industriosos y tienen hechas mejoras de mucha consideracion en labores y casas.

Considerando que es justicia lo que piden, y que combiene al interes publico el concluir sin mas demora estos asuntos de colonisasion que por tanto tpo han quedado pendientes, suplico que me permita V. E. recomendar el pronto y faborable despacho de este asunto tributando á V. E. los homenajes de mi mas alto respecto y consideracion.—Dios y Livertad Leona Vicario Abril 27 de 1831—Estevan F. Austin—Exmo. Sor Gob^{or} del Estado. Dn. J. M^{a} Letona Es copia AUSTIN

LEGISLATURE OF COAHUILA AND TEXAS TO CONGRESS

SEÑOR—Combencida esta Legislatura de q. el comercio, Yndustria, y Agricultura, son las unicas fuentes inagotables de la prosperidad comun, y de q. en la Republica no pueden entorpeserse estos ramos sin

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hacerla caér en una pobresa estremada ó en una ruina absoluta, no há podido veér sino con sorpresa la proposicion hecha en la camara de Diputados por los Sores. Villa Carbajál, Loperena y Verruecos, sobre q. no queden habilitados otros Puertos en la Republica para el comercio de Ultramár, q. Veracruz y Tampico en el Seno Mejicano y Acapulco en el mar del Súr: Esta medida muy propia siertam^te^ para reducir á los habitantes de los Estados de Oriente, Chihuahua Zacatecas y el Territorio de Nuevo Mejico á un fatal bassallaje en beneficio de unos cuantos comerciantes y especuladores capitalistas de Veracruz y Mexico es pr. otra parte ruinosa á la Nacion Mexicana: ¿de q. sirbe q. la feracidad y su temperatura convide á manos laboriosas á recojér con abundancia los frutos de mas valór en los mercados estrangeros, si la imposibilidad ó dificultad del trasporte á q. da lugar la clausura de los Puertos, impedirá pr. spre. q. las esportaciones formen una especie de cambio con las importaciones? parece q. no se quiere si no que el oro y la plata sea el unico pago de los efectos que nos introduce el Estrangero, y si bien la Nacion Mejicana abunda hasta en demacia en estos metales no son ellos como yá lo ha acreditado la esperiencia en los que puede fundár su riqueza de un modo permanente: los Mexicanos hán hecho esfuersos ultimam^te^ muy notables para poner en giro y dár aumento á su industria, y los Legisladores no hán omitido medio para protejer la Agricultura, acordando esepciones de derechos y Alcabalas, y procurando la facilidad del trasporte por la habilitacion de Puertos para el comercio Estrangero, y serian por demas estos esfuerzos, si se creyese que la estraccion de monedas es suficiente sin perjuicio de la Republica para pagár las importaciones de los efectos de q. carece: admitida la proposicion, sobre q. esta Legislatura crea hacer valér su voz en las camaras de la Union, se arruinarán con evidencia los Mejicanos y sus productos agricolos y manufacturados, jamás por su esportacion darán á la Nacion el fruto que de ellos puede y debe resultár: si se atiende á los Estados de coahuila y Texas, Nuevo Leon, y aun el mismo Tamaulipas, serrandose en este el Puerto de Matamoros, y en el primero el de Matagorda, se vera desde leugo q. se les prohibe todo comercio que no sea el puramente casero, paralisando los—su cultivo y sus progresos: á esto equivale nada menos la nesesidad en que se les pone de cargar sus frutos hasta Tampico ó Veracruz en busca de un mercado. Las poblaciones q. en los desiertos de Texas han logrado plantearse despues de sacrificios y dificultades sin numero, y los capitales q. en ellas se hán introcido de paises Estrangeros, recibirán admitida la proposicion de los Sores. Villa Carbajál, Loperena y Verruecos, el golpe mas fuerte que há podido caér sobre ellos, y Tejas se verá en consecuencia, ó abandonado sin que sus imensos desiertos ó admitirá coahuila y Estados limitrofes, sino de un perjuicio y ruina,

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ó admitirá con gusto el contrabando q. se hará inebitable en toda la Republica; no siendo posible como no lo es, resguardár mas de seiscientas leguas de costa, a cuyos faciles puntos ocurrira el contrabandista protejido por el mismo interes de les habitantes. Estas solas consideraciones entre otras muchas de que pudiera haserse merito, hán movido á esta Legislatura á proponé á las Augustas Camaras de la Union por formal Yniciativa la siguiente—No se sierren los Puertos de Matomoros en el Estado de Tamaulipas y Matagorda en el Departam^to de Texas. Leona Vicario 27 de Abril de 1831.—José de Jesus Grande—Presidente—José Maria de Mier—Diputado Srio.—José Joaquin Canales—Diputado Srio.—Es Copia.

Austin on Encouragement of Commerce and Agriculture

[April 27, 1831.]

1. Que no se cierran los puertos de Matamoros en el estado de Tamaulipas y el de Matagorda en Texas—

[Deleted by Austin: 2. Que se adoptan todas cuantas medidas posibles, para el fomento de la poblacion y agricultura de la costa particularm^te en frutos vendibles en paises estrangeros].

Examinado el asunto bajo el aspecto economico restringido puram^te al influjo que tendra sobre la renta nacional se encuentran razones las mas fundadas en su contra—

Consta por las cuentas de la aduana de Matamoros que produce una suma muy considerable a la hacienda publica que esta aumentando cada año y proporciona recursos para el pago de las tropas empleadas en la frontera sin el costo y riesgo de remitir dinero de Vera Cruz ó Mexico— El contrabando esta cortado en el dia pero cerrando el puerto, sera dificil, si no imposible el impedirlo, porq^e sera el enteres de todos los habitantes, y aun de los mismos guarniciones el favorecerlo y el resultado inevitable sera el atraso de los entereses de la hacienda publica, y muchas confuciones y desordenes, en desprecio de las leyes.

Es muy evidente por lo mismo que la causa mas principal de la escases de numerario, y de la decadencia que se esta esperimentando en muchos ramos de la industria en todas partes de la nacion, tiene su origen en la falta absoluta de productos agricolos ó manufacturados del pais para esportar en cambio de las importaciones. En el dia Mexico no tiene otros recursos para pagar las importaciones, mas q^e. los metales, y el resultado evidente é inevitable es la ecstraccion casi total de moneda, asi dejando el pais de oro y plata enteramente disprovisto de ellos—

El conocer la causa de un mal debe ser suficiente, en lo general para indicar el remedio, pero disgraciadam^te no ha sucedido asi, como

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claramt^e demuestran los esfuerzos para estancar el comercio, cerrando todos los puertos de la nacion menos tres, con el fin evidente de retroceder las cosas al antiguo systema de monopolio individual que tanto oprimio á los Mexicanos bajo el Gob^no español.

Si el origin del mal es lo que se ha indicado ¿no sera aumentar lo en sumo grado reduciendo los puertos de la nacion como se propone? El fomento de la agricultura depende en el precio que se paga para los frutos y en la demanda para ellos. Esto ha de ser regulado, en gran parte, por la facilidad del trasporte al mercado. Todo la costa del seno Mexicano ofrece recursos muy abundantes en tierras feraces, y en un clima que produce los frutos de mas valor para los mercados de europa, y los Estados unidos del norte, de modo que pueda producir efectos suficientes y aun sobrantes para pagar todas las importaciones sin la necesidad de estraer un peso de oro y plata. El gran objeto pues, debe ser sentar la prosperidad de la nacion sobre la base solida y permanente de la agricultura, y particularmt^e el fomentar este ramo sobre la costa en productos vendibles en paises estrangeros, como Café, Azucar, Cacao, añil, grano, arroz, algodon, la vanilla, y muchos otros que se encuentran desde Yucatan hasta el lindero de la Luisiana—Varios son los medios de promover este gran objeto, como el aumento de poblacion, de brazos, y de capital sobre la costa por la imigracion de paises estrangeros—El protejer el ramo agricola por escemciones de derechos y alcabalas, y sobre todo el aumentar las facilidades del trasporte, en lugar de disminuir los, por medio de puertos habilitados para el comercio estrangero.

Supuesto que los productos agricolas de la costa fueren suficientes para pagar todas las importaciones, como en efecto lo puedan ser, y solo basta una ojeada ligera sobre los recursos naturales de la nacion, para demostrar que en pocos años subiría á un grado de requeza y de prosperidad disconocida en todo el mundo, porque entre muchas otras ventajas que resultaran se vé claramt^e los siguientes

1°. Se ahorraria la necesidad de la estraccion de moneda para pagar las importaciones, y el resultado de esto seria que el producto de las minas quedaria dentro del pais, y causaria un aumento de riqueza nacional disconocido en la historia de otras naciones.

2°. Se criaria un mercado domestico sobre la costa para los granos y demas viveres, vinos, caballadas, y todos los productos del pais arriba de la cierra y asi se fomentara la agricultura y la cria en lo interior de la nacion.

3°. Se fomentaran las manufacturas en lo interior en todos sus ramos y mas particularmt^e en generos gruesos de algodon y cañamo, y en mantas y cuerdas de pita, y costales de guangoche y muchos

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otros que se nesesitaran en grandes cantidades para el consumo de los habitantes de la costa, y para preparar el cafe, azucar, cacao. algodon etc., etc. para el mercado estrangero

4°. Se estrechará la union de los estados entre si, haciendo los de la costa dependiente sobre los del interior para muchos renglones de primera nesesidad, y vice versa, y de esto resultarán como consequencia natural la apertura y mejoras de caminos, canales y todas las comodidades del trasporte, y una demanda inmensa para bestias de carga, carros etc. etc.

5°. Se aumentaran los productos de las aduanas maritimas, por el fomento ecsecivo del comercio estrangero, hasta suplir de ellas todos los fondos nesesarios para costear los gastos del Gob^no^ y aun dejar un sobrante considerable, como ha sucedido muchos años hace en los estados Unidos del norte

6°. Se fomentara la marina nacional por la nesesidad que habra de buques para el trasporte de los frutos bultosos de la agricultura, á otros paises, y para el comercio de Cabotage—

7°. Se fomentara rapidam^te^ la ilustracion de la educacion, por los recursos sobrantes que habra para el establecim^to^ de escuelas y colegios

En fin no hay ramo de industria en ninguna parte de la nacion remota q^e^ sea que no esperimentaria un beneficio notable por el fomento de la agricultura de la costa y siendo la habitacion de los puertos uno de los medios mas necesarios para promover esto se ha visto con sorpresa la proposicion para reducir los como se propone Medida que seria destruir todo el comercio de este Estado y de los de Nuevo Leon y gran parte de Tamaulipas, Chihuahua y Nuevo Mexico, y reducir sus habitantes a un estado de vassallage sobre unos pocos comerciantes y especuladores capitalistas de Vera Cruz y Mexico.

Bill for Establishment of an Institute of Modern Languages

[Saltillo, April 30, 1831.[1]]

[An accurate translation of this document by Mrs. Mattie Austin Hatcher appears in the Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, XII, 236–239, and the original is here omitted.]

[1] This date is somewhat arbitrary. Austin wrote Lucas Alaman, Sept. 20. 1830, that he intended while in the legislature next year to endeavor to get such a law passed. The legislature adjourned Apr. 30, 1831. The journals are not available to show the disposition of the bill, but it was not passed. Whether Austin actually presented it is uncertain. It would seem that Austin turned over to his colleague, Manuel Musquiz, "Cura de Morelos," the other representative of Texas, the task of framing the bill. This is suggested by the ecclesiastical cast given to the organization, and by a copy of the bill in a different hand with interlineations by Austin. Compare with a draft on the same subject, Oct. 11, 1827.

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ESSAY ON BACKWARDNESS OF MEXICO

[Saltillo, April 30, 1831?][1]

Conseguida la independencia de Mexico por los esfuerzos y sacrificios heroicos del pueblo Mexicano, y sentadas las bases de su libertad y prosperidad en el sistema federada, los Mexicanos se lisonjeaban que su felizidad era afianzada, y que en pocos años los adelantos en la poblacion, ilustracion, agricultura, en las artes y manufacturas, y en el comercio, les sacarian del medio de las nubes mentales de los siglos 15. y 16. introducidas por los Cortéses y Pizarros, en las Americas, del hemisferio fanatico y despotico de España, y mantenidas en su primitivo estado sombroso, por la astuta politica de esta, con el fin de encadenar con la ignorancia á las americas para spre.—Desde el año 1821 Mexico ha sido independiente, y desde el año 1824 se establecio las bases fundamentales de su Gob^no ¿Pero, se ha logrado el fin de su establecimiento? El quadro presentado por las devergencias politicos, planes, y revoluciones de los ultimos años presente una solucion triste de esta cuestion, tan triste, que el patriota que no se dedique al examen minucioso, y al analises juicioso de las verdaderas causas de tantas desgracias y aberraciones, se desanimaria enteramente, y se hallaria en peligro de caer en el error debil, de desesperar en la causa de las libertades patrias— ó de creer que solo las asegurarian por el cambio de nuestro Sistema actual, para otro modelado de conformidad con las antiguas ideas.

¿Cuales han sido las causas de los males y desgracias á que se alluden? ¿Tienen su origen, en las defectos radicales del Sistema adoptado, ó en la falta de cumplir con sus reglas fundamentales, y en el olvido, casi total, de aquellos principios politicos, que formen el alma de esta sistema, y son tan indispensables para mantener lo en sano vigor como lo es, el aliento al cuerpo humano?

La razon despreocupada y calma, dira que en las ultimas, y no en la primera es donde hemos de buscar las verdaderas causas de las desgracias que en el dia sufre la patria. De la falta á las leyes fundamentales ha emenado todos los males, porque violada la constitucion una vez, se abrió la puerta p^a infringirla repetidas ocasiones, hasta que ha llegado por fin a tener una ecistencia precaria, sujeta enteramente á interpretaciones y suspenciones, apoyadas en pretendidas urgencias publicas, pero en realidad p^a convenir á las miras de los partidos, ó al asperantismo de particulares. Aqui el patriota desesperada, tal vez, preguntará, ¿pues que remedio hay, cuando los supremos poderes, y las mismas camaras cuyo deber espreso es el guardar y hacer guardar la carta fundamental, son

[1] This date is little better than a guess. The trend of thought in the document is similar to that of other documents which Austin drew up during his first session in the legislature, and the legislature adjourned Apr. 30, 1831.

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los primeros pª enfringirla ¿Que tribunal hay para jusgarlos, puesto que todos los ramos del Gobno Executivo, Legislativo y Judicial son complices en el mismo crimen?—El observador superficial tal vez diria que no hay ninguna—pero el patriota ilustrado contestaria, que si lo hay, el tribunal de la opinion publica, *un tribunal moral, justo y omnipotente*, cuando esta fundado en aquellos principios despreocupados é ilustrados que son propios del sistema republicano—¿Pero si la mayoria de la nacion carece de la ilustracion y despreocupacion necesaria para jusgar questiones de esta naturaleza, y de la franqueza para espresar sus opiniones? Adoptense medidas para ilustrar los pueblos, y sacar los de aquellas nubes funestas de los siglos pasados que hasta el dia obscurecen la atmosfera politica de Mexico. Aqui ocurre la cuestion ¿Cual es el mejor modo, y el mas pronto, de ilustrar el pueblo Mexicano? La enseñanza en las escuelas primarias, es para la generacion venidera, y es de advertir que en estas escuelas todavia entran las antiguas ideas, puesto que los maestros son empapados en ellas—

Estenderemos la vista á otros paises, para ver que medidas adoptaron en iguales circunstancias, y cuales han sido los resultados. Los estados Unidos del Norte presenten un ejemplo acertado, porque aquel pueblo, como los mexicanos, ha corrido los pasos de esclavitud colonial, de sacudir el yugo, y de constituirse bajo el sistema federado. Aquellos Estados al tiempo de declararse independiente en el año 1776 contaron con menos de tres millones de habitantes se hallaron muy atrasado con respecto de todo el mundo civilizado en la ilustracion artes, agricultura, en fin, en todo—El pueblo de aquel pais conocieron su verdadera situacion, y en establecer su Gobno fijaron por bases fundamentales—La emigracion franco y sin limites ó restricciones, de gente de todo el mundo—La libertad absoluta de la imprenta, en todas materias publicas, sean de la clase que fuesen, y la introduccion y circulacion ilimitada de libros, no siendo obscenos—Por lo primero se aumentó su poblacion, se adelantó en la agricultura, en manufacturas, en comercio y en riquezas, porque cada emigrado trajo algun capital y los conocimientos de su pais en algun ramo de la industria. Por lo segundo y tercero, la nacion se ilustró en la sciencia de Gobierno, en la literatura, en las artes, y se desprendio de las antiguas ideas crudas, fanaticas, y esclavisadas, propias solamente á un Gobno colonial; de modo que en el corto tiempo de 50 años la poblacion de aquellos estados ha aumentado hasta mas de 12,000,000 de almas, y en el dia entran en competicion con las naciones mas ilustradas en la literatura, y en todos los giros de la industria, manufactura, agricola, ó comercial. Aquel Gobno es solido, sin sacudimientos intestinos, ya ha surtido todos los felices resultados que esperaban sus autores, y ¿porque?—¿Acaso es

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porque los 2,000,000 y pico de habitantes que establecieron el nuevo Gob^no^ eran tanto mas sabios que todo lo restante del mundo, que han podido acertar en la politica, y adelantarse tan milagrosam^te^ solo por sus propios esfuerzos?—No. Mas al contrario, fue porque conocieron que eran atrasados, y nesesitaban de poblacion, capital y luces de otros paises, y abrieron la puerta para su entrada, quitando todas restricciones, y ofreciendo en su seno un asilo seguro á los emigrados de todo el mundo. De esta causa, procede el engrandecim^to^ rapido é increible de aquella republica en tan corto tiempo—Mexico ha seguido otros principios con respecto á los emigrados estrangeros, y con respecto á la libertad de la imprenta, y la remocion de las antiguas errores y preocupaciones; y el resultado ha sido, que muy poco se ha adelantado en los diez años de su independencia, y de consiguiente, *el tribunal moral de la opinion publica*, se halla en el dia casi en el mismo estado de impotencia en que estaba dies años hace. Aberraciones politicas han seguido unas tras de otros, porque la nacion ha carecido de *ese tribunal moral*, para contener á los gobernantes en la senda constitucional y poner limites al aspirantismo militar, y á la ambicion particular.

De lo dicho se infiere claram^te^ que las raises de las desgracias patrias, tienen su fundamento en el error que se ha cometido en no adoptar en la administracion del Gob^no^ aquellos principios que son analogos y propios al sistema requblicano. De este error ha resultado la anamolia monstruosa de un Gob^no^ ilustrado libre, y republicano, en teoria, y fanatico, perjuicioso, y despotico en la practica: contradiccion estremosa, que no pudo menos que sucitar esfuerzos en la parte sana y liberal de los mexicanos para destruir semejante descrepancia y equilabrar la practica, para conformarse en un todo a la teoria. Esta lucha debe concluirse porq^e^ esta despedazando á la nacion—De ella ha resultado la guerra del sur, y todas las desgracias que ha padecido la nacion en los ultimos años. El modo de concluirla y sentar las basis permanentes para formacion de ese tribunal moral de la opinion publica. Sin el cual ninguna republica puede ecsistir, és, que adopten por principios fundamentales.

1°. El abrir las puertas para la emigracion franca de gentes de todo el mundo no siendo enemigos nacionales, quitando todas las trabas y restricciones que impiden su entrada, ó que embarasen el obtener los derechos de ciudadania, y el adquirir vienes raises en plena propiedad—2.° El permitir y sostener con la mas rigorosa escrupulosidad la libertad absoluta de la imprenta—3°. El distruir por todos cuantos modos sean posibles, todas las antiguas ideas fanaticas, é intolerantes, y cambiar las para los principios liberales y generales que son propios del sistema que la nacion ha adoptado, y que componen el alma de la libertad en cualquier forma de Gob^no^.

[Estevan F. Austin.]

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Report of Committee on Industry

[Saltillo, April 30, 1831?] [1]

La comision de industria ha ecsaminado con la atencion y meditacion que merece tan interesante asunto, el proyecto para establecer una compañia fabril, que ha propuesto el Sor Enrique Pickworth, y que el H. C. tuvo a bien pasar á esta comision

No cabe duda en la opinion de la comision que los intereses generales del Estado, y los particulares de los departam^{tos} del Saltillo y Monclova esperimentaran un aumento importante en varios modos por el establecim^{to} proyectado Analizado el proyecto en breve se advierte

1°. Que una gran parte, y tal vez la mayor, del capital invertido, sera extranjero, introducido de otros paises y empleado en este

2°. Que los operarios y jornaleros, con la ecsepcion de artesanos maestros, seran nativos del pais

3°. Que se fomentará la introduccion de artizanos maestros de otros paises

4°. Que el algodon, lana, hilo, seda, viveres y bestias de carga consumidos y empleados por la compañia serán productos del estado

5°. Que todos los gastos de una obra tan considerable han de ser espendidos en el pais, y

6°. Que se aumentará el valor de los productos del estado.

Examinados estos puntos, parece muy evidente que por el primero se aumenta el capital activo y productivo del estado, en una cantidad igual al capital estranjero asi introducido

Por el segundo se dará destino a un numero considerable de los habitantes que en el dia carecen de ocupacion productiva, como son los jornaleros, las mujeres indigentes y niños de ocho años arriba que pueden ser empleados en la manufactura.

Por el tercero se aumentará el numero de artizanos maestros en muchos de lòs ramos de la industria fabril, de los cuales, los hijos del pais apprenderán en breve tiempo, y servirán en su turno de maestros para plantar y dirigir otros establecim^{tos} de igual clase

Por el cuarto es muy evidente que se fomentará el interes agricola y de la cria, por las cantidades de algodon, lana hilo granos, carnes, bestias de carga y otros productos, consumidos y empleados en varias ramificaciones de la obra.

Por el quinto es evidente que se aumentara la circulacion de dinero, porque siendo los gastos de mucha diversidad, una parte tocaria á cada clase del pueblo, y

Por el sexto de aumentará la riqueza solida y permanente del pais, porque esta spre creserá en proporcion al ecseso de sus productos

[1] The date is uncertain.

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sobre el consumo. siendo de una clase que pueden ser esportados y vendidos con ventaja en otros paises, ó en los estados colinantes, ó siendo de la, que no ha producido el pais hasta ahora, y se ha traido de otros. En el primer caso el estado recibiria dinero ó efectos de valor en cambio, y en el segundo se ahorraria la ecstraccion de moneda para hacer compras en paises estranjeros

Por las razones q. en bosquejo van espresadas la comicion somete a la deliberacion del H. C. la proposicion siguiente

Se aprueva en lo general el proyecto presentado por el Sor Enrique Pickworth para el establecimto de una compañia de industria fabril y se procederá a la discucion de sus articulos

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Austin to Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches [1]

El Congreso serro sus secciones el dia de hoy en armonia.

La comicion no presento otra vez el proyecto de ley Proibiendo el comercio al menudeo á los estranjeros y a muchos de los C. C. del Estado y es de esperarse que aquel asunto vergonzoso quedará á dormir para spre.

Se há dado una ley consediendo livertad de dros. al ganado mallor y menor y Caballada en los departam^{tos} de Bejar y Monclova é igual escension al algodon caña y uba y las producciones procedentes de ellos en todo el Estado. Ygualm^{te} se hiso iniciativa al congreso Gral. pidiendo que no se sierren los puertos de Matamoros y Matagorda.

Habiendo sido informado que el Gob^{no} habia espedido una orden que no se consediera ninguna solicitud para tierras sin el previo pago de los dros. correspondientes a la Sria. yó hé ofrecido pagarlos sobre todas las solicitudes pendientes de Tejas y en esta inteligencia espero lograr el despacho de todas ellas para llevarlas conmigo lo que suplico se sirva V. S. poner en conocim^{to} de los interesados que se hallan en esa municipalidad.

Dios y Livertad—Leona Vicario 30. de Abril de 1831.

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Al Ayuntam^{to} de Nacogdoches

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

April 30/31

Dr Sir.

I have only time to say that the Session is closed (thank God) for this year—no harm has been done, which is saying a great deal for

[1] From Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library. An identical report went to the ayuntamiento of Bexar and is in the Bexar Archives.

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such a body as this has been. I think that some good will be effected next year.

The points you speak of as to locating low down on Colorado, and to Mexicans must remain untill I get home—do nothing with them at all.

The Trinity affair is at last beginning to make a proper impression on the mind of the Govr. and I am more pleased with him than I was—I think he will take [a] stand.

I go to Matamoros, and have strong hopes of a favourable result tho I have doubts. They will be all removed one way or the other in a month more.

The clock is striking 8 which is the hour of closing the mail so remember to all and farewell.

S F Austin

I leave next Sunday, that is tomorrow week for Matamoros in company with Chambers

[Addressed:] Al Sor Sam. M. Williams admor. de correos en la villa de Austin.

Miguel Arciniega to Musquiz

[From Bexar Archives]

Remito a V pr el orden numerario tres listas que contienen cada una las familias q. hasta la fha. tienen introducidas el Sor. Empresario C. Estevan F. Austin en conformidad de las contratas que tiene selebradas con el supremo Gobno de este Estado q. Vs me pide en oficio de 14 pasado Abril pa los fines q Vs me indica.

La N° 1° contiene la contrata de 500 familias de las cuales hay introducidas 408 y faltan completarla 92. La N° 2 tambien contiene la contrata de 300 familias pa estableser dentro de las diez leguas litorales de las q hay introducidas 129. y faltan pa completarla 171 y por ultimo la N° 3, contiene la contrata de 100 familias pa estableser sobre el Rio Colorado arriba del camino de Bejar delas que solamte hay introducidas 15. y faltan pa completarla 85. por manera que el numero total que falta pa el completo de las referidas contratas haciende a 348 familias todo lo q. me ha parecido combeniente pormenorizar. a Vs. en cumplimto de su citado oficio—Dios y libertad Villa de Austin 4 de Mayo de 1831.—Miguel Arciniega.—Sor Gefe del Departamto de Tejas

Es copia del Original q. se remitio al Govno pr el correo de 9 de Mayo con las Listas.

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THOMAS KIRKHAM TO AUSTIN

Franklin, La., May 6, 1831.

See Calendar.

HENRY S. TANNER TO AUSTIN

Philadelphia, May 6, 1831.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Leona Vicario May 8. 1831

DR SIR.

I voluntierd to pay the office fees on all the petitions for land pending from Bexar, Goliad and Nacogdoches, and to take on the grants. This has detained me a week longer than I expected as they could not be completed. I am told that they will all be ready tomorrow morning, so that I can start in the afternoon.

The mail of yesterday brought me yours of 19th ult. and Lesassier's. I am much gratified to hear that Burnet and wife have arrived he will be a very valuable acquisition I think, that is, provided he keeps cool and always has a good stock of calmness and prudent discretion on board, articles which are dayly becoming more and more necessary in Texas. The sending of the Cotton seed was just as it should be. I am truly pleased that you did not forget it, for you recollect that I was compromitted by officio to send a few boxes to La Baca—much better that it was sent to Tampico—close attention to such small matters will do great good. I presume the tonnage duty has been satisfactorily regulated—that is as to the principle that it cannot be collected from one Mexican port to another—if it has not, it will be.

The first part of Lukes letter alarmed me, but I laughed before I finished—who or what is this firebrand he speaks of—Stockton—he can do no harm unless consequence is given to him by putting him in irons, or some other notice of that kind—you know the people there well enough to know, that a scape gallows, or a dog can be made a great man among them, merely by being opposed by a few decent men and especially by any one in office.

"*The abuse of a little brief authority*" is in the mouth of every North American and there is not one in 50,000 who are competent to distinguish between, a proper and necessary exercise of authority and its abuse—with the most of them an officer is always wrong—either too undecisive and weak—or too rigid and despotic. Let such

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firebrands alone, and the good sense of the sound and reflecting part of the colony, will put them down much sooner and more effectually than opposition or irons, by the authorities. If the civil authority had taken hold of Dayton, he would have become popular, altho he was a most perfect jack ass and a scoundrel. However if the civil authority have already intervened, it must sustain itself, firm as a mountain—either hands off in toto, or go the whole.

The clouds which are hanging over the Trinity and eastern part, as well as other parts of Texas will pass away, unless others, and more dense ones are raised by the imprudence and hasty temper of "firebrands." The Empresarios, whose imprudence, and total ignorance or neglect of the law and of their duty has brought all this trouble upon Texas, need not expect much or anything—but the actual settlers are safe, and in the end will all be secure, unless they, themselves entangle matters—your fears as to *Boss* [Teran?] so far as my colony or Dewitts are totally groundless, notwithstanding *appearances*. Some gross errors have been committed by some one, as to the rights of actual settlers east of my colony—but they are errors which can be easily corrected, and I have no doubt will be, when the whole subject is properly understood. Things are in reality, not half so bad now, as they were a year ago. Texas has hundreds of friends *now*, who at that time were bitter enemies—all the difference is, that at that time, myself and a very few more, and as to some things I might say, myself alone, knew what was on the carpet, and what the true state of things was—now it is in the mouth of everyone—a ship cannot be turned upon its keel like a top—neither can a govt, a people, or deep rooted prejudices. If I could shut up all the mouths in Texas for one year, I would pledge myself to deliver every man his title within that time. I am much better pleased with the gov^{r} than I was—he is an honest man and will go right in the end.

On the 11 of April, dia de celebre memoria, I sent a copy of the retail law, to the minister of relations, with an *oficio*, stating the leading unconstitutional features of that project, and the evils it would give rise to—by yesterdays mail he answers me officially, that on the 22d. the Vice President transmitted my oficio and the copy of the said project to the Chamber of Representatives, with a strong recommendation that some declaratory law should be passed to prevent the states from attacking the constitutional rights of citizens or naturalized foreigners, and also as to the right of the states to regulate commerce

I leave tomorrow for Matamoros—Chambers and the two Yorks go with me—the prospect for the latter is not very good—tho, not quite hopeless. I have done all I can, and hope to do something for them at Matamoros.

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"*The abuse of a little brief authority*" is in the mouth of every North American and there is not one in 50,000 who are competent to distinguish between, a proper and necessary exercise of authority and its abuse—with the most of them an officer is always wrong—either too undecisive and weak—or too rigid and despotic. Let such

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firebrands alone, and the good sense of the sound and reflecting part of the colony, will put them down much sooner and more effectually than opposition or irons, by the authorities. If the civil authority had taken hold of Dayton, he would have become popular, altho he was a most perfect jack ass and a scoundrel. However if the civil authority have already intervened, it must sustain itself, firm as a mountain—either hands off in toto, or go the whole.

The clouds which are hanging over the Trinity and eastern part, as well as other parts of Texas will pass away, unless others, and more dense ones are raised by the imprudence and hasty temper of "firebrands." The Empresarios, whose imprudence, and total ignorance or neglect of the law and of their duty has brought all this trouble upon Texas, need not expect much or anything—but the actual settlers are safe, and in the end will all be secure, unless they, themselves entangle matters—your fears as to *Boss* [Teran?] so far as my colony or Dewitts are totally groundless, notwithstanding *appearances*. Some gross errors have been committed by some one, as to the rights of actual settlers east of my colony—but they are errors which can be easily corrected, and I have no doubt will be, when the whole subject is properly understood. Things are in reality, not half so bad now, as they were a year ago. Texas has hundreds of friends *now*, who at that time were bitter enemies—all the difference is, that at that time, myself and a very few more, and as to some things I might say, myself alone, knew what was on the carpet, and what the true state of things was—now it is in the mouth of everyone—a ship cannot be turned upon its keel like a top—neither can a govt, a people, or deep rooted prejudices. If I could shut up all the mouths in Texas for one year, I would pledge myself to deliver every man his title within that time. I am much better pleased with the gov^{r} than I was—he is an honest man and will go right in the end.

On the 11 of April, dia de celebre memoria, I sent a copy of the retail law, to the minister of relations, with an *oficio*, stating the leading unconstitutional features of that project, and the evils it would give rise to—by yesterdays mail he answers me officially, that on the 22d. the Vice President transmitted my oficio and the copy of the said project to the Chamber of Representatives, with a strong recommendation that some declaratory law should be passed to prevent the states from attacking the constitutional rights of citizens or naturalized foreigners, and also as to the right of the states to regulate commerce

I leave tomorrow for Matamoros—Chambers and the two Yorks go with me—the prospect for the latter is not very good—tho, not quite hopeless. I have done all I can, and hope to do something for them at Matamoros.

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El C° Jorge Fisher, interprete publico de lenguas estrangeras en el Distrito y dependencias del Puerto de Matamoros, en el Estado de Tamaulipas—Certifico en cuanto puedo, debo y el dro. me permite qe. la precedente traduccion del anéxo docum^to, és fiel y ecsacta de su original en el idioma ingles. y p^a qe. conste donde haya lugar doy la presente bajo mi firma en Matamoros á diez de agto. de mil ocho cientos treinta y un años.—Jorge Fisher.—Escribo. publico—Dros. seis p^a cuatro rs.—

Es Copia Matams. 18. de Oct^e de 1831.

GUERRA [Rubric]

SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS TO THOMAS TAYLOR—AGREEMENT

San Felipe, June 2, 1831.

See Calendar.

STERLING C. ROBERTSON TO AUSTIN

San Felipe de Austin 7^th June 1831

DEAR SIR

I have just learned that you have arrived I expect your house is crowded with those that are wanting to know the news from the Interior therefore I dont wish to call on you at the early hour.

I and my friend Alexander Thomson has been ordered forthwith to the place from whence we came and all those that we brought with us M^r Williams and the Alcade of this jurisdiction are ordered to see that we do so. I am anxious to know our fate my own I dont care for although I have spent a fortune in what is called the Nashville Colony—but [for] esq Thomson and the unfortunate settlers who we have brought with us I have great anxiety. I expect you can give me all the information on the subject and you will please do so. report says our colony is given to Mr Williams. please wright to me on the subject and the fate of our settlers also the fate of Esq Thomson—whether we have to leave the country or not

STERLING C. ROBERTSON

Colo Stephen F Austin

AUSTIN TO ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN

San Felipe de Austin 10 June (31

DR SIR,

I find in examining the memorandums of surveys returned by your deputy Mathew Hubbert that no one can understand them You are the responsable person, and I fear will get into very serious

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difficulty, for if another surveyor is sent to do the work over again, it will be at your expense

Lose no time in attending to this matter and come up as quick as possible and make a final close of all your work and complete all your returns. If you delay I shall be compelled to send another surveyor there at your expense a thing which you are aware would be very injurious to you and unpleasant to me.

Please remember me particularly to Mrs. Weightman and the rest of your family

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Mr. E. R. Weightman

J. M. GUERRA TO AUSTIN

Matamoros, June 11, 1831.

See Calendar.

ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN TO AUSTIN

Matagorda 12th June 1831

DEAR SIR

I feel to Congratulate you on Your return, and have much to say and inquire when your business which (now necessarily presses on your first arrival) shall give you leisure. But Relative to my Surveys and returns It must be remembered that Coast Surveys require four times the work in Surveying as well as plotting to what just square Leagues do, and great time is Spent in hunting land, to suit people such was the fact on, and about, Spring Creek, Mr Hubert Said he believed he could explore and find land that would be taken and If I would let him Survey it he would take the trouble to explore, While I was there; had I known; where, was any land I could soon survey, ec. but no one knew of any; but it seems he has found some and surveyed—which would otherwise been unknown, I have myself been exploring a good deal over this section and I run back and forwards to Spring Creek for notes which I am now blamed for I could do little else and my services would be lost to the office.

You know I am industrious: But I shall obey every order, and be there, for whatever I may be wanted; and I am expense to myself of paying for the surveying of the land I did not know was found. Some mistakes, I am sorry for; that any should occur, But believe me ever the same

E. R. Wightman [Rubric]

Col. S. F. Austin

Hubert is not much of a Surveyor I did think as he had been out with me and carried the Compass some that he could run Cor-

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rectly all he would find on and adjacent to Spring Creek and if his minutes had not been sent to all the Surveyors to be Condensced I Could understood them but this was his fault he should have sent them enclosed to me, for it is not to be expected that other Surveyors would take the trouble if they could understand them neither Jones nor Cook,s minutes could be understood by those unaquainted with their notes

E R W

SYLVESTER MURPHY TO AUSTIN

Brazoria 12th June 1831

Col S. F. AUSTIN
Dr SIR

I take the liberty of droping you a line by Mr. Wm Austin my health being very delicate prevents me from addressing you personally. I arrived here from Georgia the latter part of February with fifty odd Slaves, but understanding you were absent from St Phillipe, I have not yet applied for any Land. I have been respectably informed your disposition has been, to encourage those, that bring into your Collony a large disposible force. I will feel grateful to you to select and reserve for me one of the most valuable Leagues you have to dispose of. *Common report says, that Doctor Phelps has forfeited his League*, should that be the *facts*, I beg of you (if in your power) to give it to me, but should the Government alone have the disposal of it, you will oblige me by useing your influence in my favor. I am now living at the Gin Place, and that tract of land would suit me better than any other person in the Collony. I have agreed with Mr John Austin to open and fence one Hundred acres there, and I could improve both places at the same time, and if Dr Phelps has forfeited, I think I deserve the land more than any other man in the Collony, for I have the force to cultivate a large portion of it. I refer you to John and William Austin. a reply is respectfully asked for.

SYLVESTER MURPHY [Rubric]

THOMAS BARNETT TO AUSTIN

June 15th 1831

DEAR SIR.

I have recently understood that yourself and Padre Muldoon will shortly pay a visit to the Fort Settlement, where the neighbourhood will assemble for the purpose of marriages, and Christening. Owing to the extreme indisposition of myself and the helpless situation of my family it will be inconvenient for me to attend. I have therefore

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to request you, and through you the Rev^{r} father Muldoon to call at my house on your way down. to the end that the marriage contract betwixt myself and wife may be consummated and my children christened.

I request also that you will have the goodness to inform me on what particular day it will be convenient for you to be at my house.

THOMAS BARNETT

Co^{l}. S. F. Austin

JOHN T. CRISWELL TO AUSTIN

Matagorda June the 18—1831

DEAR SIR after my respects to you although an entire stranger I have moved along way into your Colony from Kentucky by Land by the way of the Missouru State and not being pleased with that country I made my way with a wife and Eight Children six sons and two daughters I made applycation at Mr. Williams office for League no 10 on the west of the Colorado Mr Wightman at that time thought it was vacant but it was entered to Mr Norton Sir if you can with any Degree of propriety Let me have the League of Land no 11 on the West of the Colorado although it was reserved by you for a Governmental town Mr Wightman thinks you mentioned to him as the Government had selected a Cite on the Labaca and at Galveston for their towns that the four reserved Leagues at the mouth of this river might be Entered, I mentioned this to Mr Williams your Secretary Mr Williams thought perhaps you might consent for me to have no 11 as you Could attach another League adjoining to No 12– 13– and 14 and Let me have League no 11 and Mr Williams Entered my name and League so it Stands for you to approve or reject and as I have Bought Some town lots in this place and will settle Here it would suit me well as I Could git timber from that by water. My trade is that of a Blacksmith and I will also observe I am not wealthy but can say to you I Came to this Country Clear of anything Debt or Bad fame and I have sold a waggon I brought with me and am prepared to pay in to your office the first installment besides settling the surveyors fees and you will much oblige me and not disoblige yourself by Letting me have the League and my settling in this country will be no disadvantage for If I am pleased with this Country a Good many more Good Citizens will emigrate from Kentucky you will be good enough to write me an answer by some safe hand so I will know what Course to pursue If I Cannot be accomodated with that League I Expect to go into Dewits Colony to be Suited in a League

JOHN T. CRISWELL.

[Addressed:] Col^{o} Stephen F Austen San Philip Texas favour by Mr Wightman

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JOHN MCLAREN TO AUSTIN

Bay Prairie, June 18, 1831.

See Calendar.

JOHN RICE JONES TO AUSTIN

Coles' Settlement, June 19, 1831.

See Calendar.

A. MARTINEZ DE LEJARSA TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches, June 21, 1831.

See Calendar.

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO ALCALDE OF SAN FELIPE

Gefatura del Departamento de Bejar.

Hordene V. alsa cuatro familias introducidas pr el Sor. Sterling Rovertson de que me hable en ofico de 26. de Mayo popo no se separen del punto enque se encuentran hasta la resolucion del Supremo Gob^no^ del Estado, y en el entretanto procure V. contoda eficacia averiguar el paradero de las cinco familias mas que binieron con las primeras, dandome abiso delas noticias q de ellas adquiera

Dios q libertad Goliad 21. de Junio de 1831.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Ciudadano Alcalde Constitucional de la Villa de Austin

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S. RHOADS FISHER TO AUSTIN

San Felipe, June 22, 1831.

See Calendar.

TERÁN TO AUSTIN

Matamoros Junio 30/831.

Sr. D. ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

AMIGO Y SR DE TODA MI ESTIMACION: Precisam^te^ pr. qe. nos anduvimos buscando tuvimos la desgracia de no encontrarnos: una de las miras qe. me llevaron al Saltillo fue la de hablar de los asuntos de este Tejas qe. merece tantas consideraciones y sobre el qe. me toca tanta responsibilidad.

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El nuevo contrato de V. no me es conocido y asi no podre exponer nada sobre el modo de practicarlo. La compañia p[a] fabricar texidos creo qe. sera la cosa mas util, especialm[te] si se pone en Tejas.

No hay ningun embarazo p[a] qe. establesca V. en su colonia las ocho familias qe. vinieron de Tenesee pr. cuenta de la comp[a] de Nashville, y aun creo qe. es el mejor auxilio qe. puede darseles si quieren quedar en el pais. Si V. lo cre conveniente puede ponerme un oficio p[a] contestar como ahora lo hago en lo particular.

El asunto del Sr. Chambers va contextado pr. conducto de V. como le propuse en el Saltillo. Los demas asuntos de tierras los creo terminados segun me ha dado aviso el Sr. Davis.

Puede V. en mi concepto elegir los terrenos qe. ha comprado en el Colorado ó dentro de los asignados á la Colonia, qe. no esten en la costa, pues no se preve qe. el Gobierno genl. haya menester en esos puntos.

Me es urgente ir á Galvestoun p[a] lo qe. no mas espero una goleta qe. ha de venir de Veracruz, y las circumstancias determinaran si me he de dirijir á otros puntos del interior de ese departam[to] lo qe. tendré cuidado de avisar pa. qe. se verifique nra. deseada entrevista.

Llego mi muger con buena salud y parece qe. el clima no le perjudica. Agradesco la expresion de V. con este motivo y deseando qe. goce de toda salud y felicidad me repito su Am[o] y at[o] servr. q. s. m. b.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

Los empresarios Power y Santiago Huvetson han ocurrido reclamando la situacion de Juan York en terreno qe. les corresponde, y he remitido el asunto al gefe politico de Bejar.

ARCHIBALD AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New York 30 June 1831.

DEAR COUSIN,

I hope my letter acknowledgeing receipt of yours of 17 March last has reached you ere this, in which I inclosed some directions rec[d] from M[r] Burgh, one of our principal Ship Carpenters, relative to the proper dimensions in which live Oak should be cut, to answer in our Ship yards, for fear that letter may have miscarried, I inclose a copy of it,[1] as there is I understand on the banks of the Brazos, a large quantity of that valuable wood, all the information that can be obtained from such a man as Burgh, must I presume be of consequence.

In my letter alluded to above I signified my desire to become a landholder in your Colony, if it could be done without interfering with your plans or views, say the usual quantity allowed to a man

[1] See p. 772.

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with a family if practicable, I should like to have it in a healthy situation, to have some part of it extend to the river. Henry writes me that he will be situated near Brazoria that is so near the Gulph, that I should think it must be unhealthy, in many other respects I should consider it preferable, particularly for commercial operations, perhaps a situation on the Border of Galveston Bay, may be more preferable for those purposes being easier I believe of access for vessels, and more contiguos to the United States, but my impression is that there is a good deal of low marshy ground in that vicinity, besides the Galveston Bay Company appear to have arrogated to themselves, the whole of that Bay, which might subject a body to some restrictions that would not be altogether agreeable—it puts me in mind of the State of New York claiming jurisdiction over all the navigable waters on the Jersey shore, this side of that state.

To have some of that valuable live oak included in my farm, would be very desirable as that must become very important sooner or later, but I presume that is out of the question, for if I mistake not it is all disposed of in another way. I should like to locate somewhere in your neighborhood.

Henry writes me from New Orleans that he would inform me, when an opp^{y} offered in Texas, by which I might get a living, it would be strange if that opp^{y} does not soon offer, in a Country that was so recently in Embryo, now possessing thousands of Inhabitants, and a rush of population, setting that way unpresidented, of such a variety of character and diversity of occupations, and represented to possess so many superior advantages over any part of North America, that I cannot but flatter myself, that I may benefit by a removal to it.

I should like some occupation when there, by way of variety and relief from the toils of the plough, a reasonable proportion of the time; as not having been in the habit for many years past of wielding any instrument in the way of labour, more weighty than a Goose quill, I fear my hands are too tender to follow the plough and hew timber for a constancy, practice may bring them to a proper consistency.

I saw a letter last evening from one of the agents of the G. B. C^{o}, dated last April in Texas, in which he speaks of the country on the Trinity being very fine, but observes that it is superior on the border of the Brazos, a good deal for them to allow.

As you calculated to be back in May, I am flatering myself with the pleasure of a letter soon announcing your safe return, if you take the Leag of Land for me, let me know what the amount of expenses are as they accrue that I may remit the same, I think the time is six years before the whole amount becomes due, a pretty long credit, however I suppose that depends on circumstances. I hope to be with you within the year from the date, cannot go immediately.

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should like to be here when you make your visit this way, but do not think you will be able to accomplish it, for several years yet.

The European powers are striving hard to prevent a general war on the continent, and it looks at present as if they wood succeed but it yet remains doubtful. The Poles fight desperately but must be overpowered and subdued by the Russians unless assisted by some European power, of which there appears no indication at present. The Gen[l] who went to Spain from the Mexican Government for the purpose of forming, or proposing a Treaty between the two countries had had an interview with the King, and by the last accounts taken his passage at Bordeaux for Vera Vruz, where it is supposed he is about this time, with the Kings answer, and terms, on which he is willing to accede to, to lay before his Gov[t] which are thought to be so favorable that a Treaty will soon be concluded. I understand that it is probable one of the Ports of Mexico will be declared a free port ere long. Please remember me particularly to Mr. and Mrs. Perry who I presume are with you. I hope to receive a letter from you soon telling me you returned safe in May last, and your health much improved.

ARCH AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col[o] S. F. Austin, San Felipe de Austin, Texas.

SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS TO GOVERNOR

[From Bexar Archives]

Ramo **de derechos de tonelage correspond[te]. al Estado de Coahuila y Texas hasta 30 de Junio de 1831. A cargo del Ciudadano Samuel M. Williams.**

Cuenta **de cargo y data que Yo el Ciudadano Samuel M Williams Receptor de rts. [rentas] corridas del mismo Estado doy al Exmo senor Gob[or]. de lo colorado de los derechos de tonelage causados por los buques extrangeros en los puntos de *Galveston y Brazoria* correspondientes al mismo Estado.**

CARGO

	Pesos	*R[s].*	*G[s].*
Primeramente son cargo 38 pesos 1 rr. entregados en 9 de Agosto de 1830 por el Admor. Int[no]. de Galveston D Jorge Fisher correspondiente a 152$\frac{4}{8}$ avos toneladas	38.	1.	00.
Tambien son cargo 184 pesos 4 rr[s]. entregados por el Snor. Con[l]. Bradburn Com[te]. Militar del puesto de *Anahuac* encargado de la Admon de Galveston como producto de dcho puerto en este año segun la adjunta nota	184.	4.	00.
Tambien son cargo 74 pesos 4 rr[s]. entregados por el mismo como producto del puerto de Brazoria en este año segun la adjunta nota	74.	4.	00.
Total Cargo	297.	1.	00.

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DATA

Es data 14 pesos 6 rr^s. 10 q^s. que me corresponde de honorario a razon de un 5 p % sobre la cantidad de 297 p^s. 1 r	014.	6.	10.
Es data tambien un rial para dos pliegos del sello 4°. para la formacion de esta cuenta en duplicada	000.	1.	00.
Existencia en 30 de Junio	282.	1.	02.

Villa de San Felipe de Austin a 30 de Junio de 1831.

SAMUEL M WILLIAMS. [Rubrica.]

AYLETT C. BUCKNER TO AUSTIN

Bay Praria 2nd July 1831

DR COL°

Agreeable to your request I have informed the people of your cuming with the Priest to christen and marry them I am informed there will be numbers who will collect at Mrs Williams for that purpose for they are now making preparations against your arrival

You will do me the pleasure to call I shall try to make things as agreeable to you and Mr. Balodon [Father Muldoon] as possible

AY. C. BUCKNER [Rubric]

COLUMBUS R. PATTON TO AUSTIN

Hopkinsville, Ky., July 12, 1831.

See Calendar.

JOHN G. BURT TO AUSTIN

July 13, 1831.

See Calendar.

BILL OF LADING

New Orleans, July 14, 1831.

See Calendar.

WILLIAM H. WHARTON TO AUSTIN

At home July 14th 1831.

Colonel AUSTIN

D SIR. You must excuse me for again troubling you on the subject of the land I wish to purchase of you. I would thank you to send by My Brother your obligation to convey to me so much land

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when such a price per Acre is paid. If you have any difficulty about the quantity to be expressed in the obligation, say 100 Acres, if you think this too much say enough to cover the emprovements I have already made which would not exceed 10 or 15 Acres. I cannot conceive that you would hazard any thing by doing this, and I should in the event of a transfer or of death be and feel much more secure. Some future owner of the land unaware of what has passed between us or disregardful of it, might take advantage of the improvements I have made on the land in question and incommode me materially by refusing to sell altogether or by asking ten prices. You doubtless recollect that a short time previous to your departure for Saltillo you told me to go on with my building that I should have the small amount I wanted. I should therefore think that I ought to get the lands at the price you would have put upon it last autumn, without regard to its subsequent enhancement. This would seem to me to be right. should you think differently however I must acquiesce, not hereby insinuating that I believe you capable of taking advantage of my situation, Defer not this on account of haste or occupation or amusement for the penning of the obligation will not take up 2 minutes of your time. Were you here I would show you conclusively that the quantity of land I want ought properly to belong to mine and would not diminish the value of yours. your league from the Brazos runs across the prairie and takes in about 30 or 40 Acres of the Oyster Bayou timber not enough timbered land for a settlement on the Oyster Bayou side of the prairie. it is out of the question to cart that timber across the prairie. But of this when you come down. I am anxious to see you at my house not more on account of the land than for other reasons. Our personal intercourse has always been of an undefined negative and unconfidential character. which I am sick of and wish to put an end to for the future. However indifferent I may feel toward the *million* in my likes and dislikes of gentlemen with whom I am brought in contact I have no middle ground. I go in this case for open war or confiding friendship. If nothing has occurred on the part of either [of] us to prevent mutual friendship and esteem, let an ecclairissement place us in that delightful relation to each other. if on the contrary there should be found to be cause for hostitity and enimity let it be avowed and aboveboard. At all events let us understand each other.

Be so good as to present my regrets to Mr Wm T Austin on account of not being able to comply with his polite invitation, With the hope of soon seeing you I remain yours Respectfully

Wm H Wharton

Colonel S. F Austin
[Addressed:] Col S. F Austin Brazoria

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Austin to Mary Austin Holley[1]

San Felipe de Austin, July 19, 1831.

My Dear Cousin

I see by your letter to Henry that you are looking towards Texas, and have even made up your mind for a permanent removal to this Colony. It is needless for me to say that I shall be happy to see you here and anxious to serve you, for I hope you are satisfied of that fact without any assurance from me. You will think us somewhat in the wilderness perhaps; but our ideas on this as well as on most matters, are comparative, and dependent on habit and disposition. To me, this country does not *now* seem like a wilderness. I saw it ten years ago when it was so in fact. Most of the habits acquired in what is called civilized and refined society, which I once may have had, have pretty much worn off long since; though I do not wish you to understand that I have become a bear, or a Comanche: And the strongest proof I can give that I have not is, that the idea of your removal here, and of the society which will of course spring up under the influence of your wand, gives me more real pleasure than anything which has occurred for some years.

May we not form a little world of our own where neither the religious, political, or *money-making* fanaticism, which are throwing the good people of our native country into all sorts of convulsions, shall ever obtain admission? Some philosopher, or dreamer, has called man a *bundle* of *habits*. I think he would call the North American of the present day a *bundle of extremes*—rather loosely tied together, for they dash round the political, religious, or some other compass, as it were by fits and starts, without any apparent reason.

Let us unite a few choice families and make a *neighborhood* as we say in this country. Abundance of such substantial and wholesome food as sound health and useful exercise require will never be wanting. Most of the things called luxuries are inventions or phantasms of the imagination. We can invent and give reins to the fancy in this country as well as any where else; and can supply our own luxuries in case we cannot get a regular supply of them from Paris, London, or New York. In short I think we can live happily if we choose to do so.

The emigration to this Colony for the last year has been of a very valuable character, in general, and well calculated to advance the Country. I have lately had many assurances of emigration from Virginia (my native State) of the first class of people. Many of the *old* families of the *Old Dominion* have planted their tobacco until their land has become *old*, and worn out. Their *old pride* will

[1] Copy by Mrs. Holley.

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never let them down to a moderate style of living so long as they remain in that country but here they would take a *new* start, and make first rate settlers; for, in general, they are a high-minded, liberal, and honorable race, too fond of politics to be happy in any country, but I hope they will leave their politics behind them, as an appendage to their worn out land.

From New York the prospect of emigration is good. Texas has made quite a stir in that quarter—and though some embarrassments lie around The Galveston Bay Company, owing to their having mistaken the law, and started *wrong foot ahead*, yet I think with prudence the difficulties can be gotten over, in a great measure, and we shall have a large emigration from the Eastern States.

On[e] of the strongest proofs of the want of a correct idea of this Colonization business, in most of those who have attempted it, and failed, or met with embarrassments, is, that they should suspect *me* of any unfriendly disposition toward them, or towards their enterprizes. Nothing can be more unjust, or more at variance with the plainest dictates of common sense than such a suspicion.

I began here, ten years since, *alone*, unaided by influential men, and *almost* destitute of capital. With one exception, and of small amount, I owe no obligations to any one out of this country for my success, but I do owe a great and heavy weight of responsibility to my settlers, and to my adopted Government. Would I be doing my duty to the former to involve myself and consequently their interests (for circumstances have made their interests and my acts, even private ones, in a great degree inseparable) in serious difficulty by identifying myself with the views of an individual, or a company, who were in any manner in collision with the Mexican Government? I see by a clause in Mr Treat's letter to Henry, that the Newyork company charge me with being unfriendly to them. They know nothing at all of the business they have undertaken, and still less of me, and the general principles by which I am governed, or they would never suspect me, or any permanent settlers of Texas of a wish to keep back emigration or the improvement of the Country.

The difference between others who have attempted colonization in Texas and myself is this. *Their object* has been *speculation only*. *My object* has always been, and still is, to settle and improve the country, regardless [of] whether I made a fortune or not. Judging of my views by their own, and knowing nothing of the Colonization Law, nor of the vastly superior advantages of my Colony over any other part of Texas, it was very natural in them to suppose that *competition* would be unpleasant to me. *They know me not.* If to make a fortune had been my object I should have been enjoying myself in Europe, or where I pleased, with wealth, and

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all that wealth can give, and Texas would now, and forever be, as I found it—a wilderness, and many of the capitalists of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore etc: would have been gulled out of thousands.

A moneyed fanatic would say that I have followed a shadow, for a fortune I have not made as yet, but I shall have a competence and am satisfied. The credit of settling this fine country and *laying the foundation for a new Nation which at some future period will arise here can not be taken from me;* and that part of my family who have ventured to follow me will be sufficiently provided for. Your brother Henry for instance, has eleven leagues of land, *title indisputable*, for it is a *special grant* direct *from government.* All he has to [do] is to remove his family here this fall and settle permanently in the Country, take care of his land, and it will make his children independent. But his family *must come this fall* or the title will be defective; for another mistaken idea of the New Yorkers is that land can be held here by persons who live in the United States. This is so far from being true that a man who lives here and his family is elsewhere cannot hold land except as a single man; and even that is doubtful, for his *domicil* must be here, and that is considered to be where his family resides.

There is a vast opening in this country for emigrants. The old inhabitants of Louisiana would be well received by this Government if a number of the French Creoles would apply to the Mexican Consul for passports to remove to this Colony, or request him to write officially to the Government in Mexico on the subject of an emigration from Louisiana it would aid me some in my efforts to get the law of 6th April 1830 stopping emigration from the United States, modified or repealed.

Negroes can be brought here under indentures, as servants, but *not* as *slaves.* This question of slavery is a difficult one to get on with. It will ultimately be admitted, or the free negroes will be formed by law into a separate and distinct class—*the laboring class.* Color forms a line of demarkation between them and the whites. The law must assign their station, fix their rights and their disabilities and obligations—something between slavery and freedom, but neither the one nor the other. Either this, or slavery in full *must* take place. Which is best? Quien Sabe? It is a difficult and *dark* question.

I am spinning out a long letter, and I fear a dry one. But as you are about to remove here as a colonist I thought it would be satisfactory for you to know as much of the matter as possible, and as some of your New York friends are in the Company operation you might let them know that their ideas of my unfriendliness are all

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wrong. My motto is *Fidelity and gratitude to the Mexican government; and to be true to the interests and welfare of my colonists.* I will never deviate from this motto as long as I retain my senses. Within the sphere of this duty any person may command me, but beyond that I wish to be looked upon as a direct and open enemy.

I will set apart a league of land for you and hold it in reserve until next winter or spring, and then if you remove here the title will be made out and delivered to you, which is all the law will permit. Besides this should you fancy a situation for a settlement in any of my own land you shall have one, for the land you get from government can be settled by a tenant

On the first of December I leave for Saltillo, the seat of Government for our State, 550 miles distant, and shall from necessity be absent at least seven months—perhaps, a year, for I think of visiting the City of Mexico before my return. Let me know, before that time, all your wishes in relation to this country, and what I can do for you, or any of your friends who may wish to settle here. Henry says you wrote to me. I never received a line from you, and have now written as though a month, and not twenty five years had intervened since we met or had any communication. I hope you will follow my example, for it will be my greatest pleasure to hear from you.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

WILLIAM MCFARLAND TO AUSTIN

Ais, July 20, 1831.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO THOMAS F. LEAMING

July 23. 1831

I have rec^{d} your kind fav^{r} of March 17. and thank you for the information relative to my mothers family— the embarrassments in bringing the suit with Fox to a close are to be regretted, but the law must take its course altho it be that of the slothes If Perry has not sent you the 50 Doll^{s}. you wrote for I will remit it, immediately on receiving information that you have not rec^{d} it— I hope that the suit will soon be terminated under the able direction of Mr. Southard for whose character I have always had the highest respect—

Things in this country are very quiet, the Mexican Govt. appears to be settling down upon a more solid basis than heretofore— at least there is peace all over the nation,—the civil dissentions have disappeared— the administration of Bustam^{te} has acquir^{d} the public

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confidence to a great degree, and the probability is that there will be no more convulsiones untill the next presidential election, which takes place in September 1832. How we shall get through that God knows, but we hope for the best— The candidates are not yet fairly before the public I expect however that Alaman, present Minister of state, Generals Teran, Bravo and Santana, will probably be of the number The first never was a military man and is believed to be the most able statesman of the nation, the second the most scientific man that belongs to the army, the third is not much celebrated for common sence, and the last is a sort of Mad Cap difficult to class— The two first and the present vice president Genl. Bustamante have befriended me, and protected my colony in many instances— They belong to that class of mexican politicians who wish to improve, populate and civilize the nation so far as they dare attempt it particularly Alaman and Teran— It is quite doubtfull whether Bustamante will be a canditate for reelection, some doubt his eligibility on the ground that the president cannot be reelected to a second term untill after an interval of 4 years—others say that he is only *vice president* and the disability therefore does not apply to him— There is no doubt of his being a very amiable man in his private character— The same may be said with truth of Alaman, and Teran

In this colony matters are getting on very well. The intentions of the Govt. as to the colonies established by me are clearly developed and publically manifested—that is to afford them every aid and protection posible

The principles which have uniformly governed me since I began colonizing in this country in 1821 are so different from those which appear to have influenced others who have attempted colonization in Texas that neither this colony, nor myself ought to be confounded with the others— My object, the sole and only desire of my ambition since I first saw Texas, was to redeem it from the wilderness—to settle it with an intelligent honorable and interprising people. To make a fortune, a great pecuniary speculation for myself, was and always has been and now is, a secondary consideration with me, When I left my native Govt. and became a citizen of this I consider[d] that all and every kind of political obligation ceased as to the first, and became fully as binding as to the second, as if this had been my native country.

More than this, I consider[d] that the liberality and confidence with which this Govt. treated the emigrants who came here in good faith, and who conducted themselves with any thing like ordinary decency or common sence, imposed a moral obligation on them to give in return, at least common gratitude— in short my mottoes have been— *The redemption of Texas from the wilderness*, *Fidelity and*

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gratitude to my adopted country—and to be inflexibly true to the interests and just rights of my settlers. It is my boast to say, that I have never deviated from these general principles, and it is a matter of proud gratification to me that my colony has always possessed the confidence of this Govt.

A fortune I have not made, on the contrary except my land I am poor, but am satisfied, for I have fully succeeded in the main object— If speculation had been my object I should now have been dashing in wealth in Europe or where I pleased, worship[d] by the thousands and dispised by the two's or three's (two or three out of a 1000 is perhaps a low estimate of those who would be gov[d] by principle *alone* when placed in opposition to wealth) Texas would have remain[d] to this day, what I found it, a wilderness and many of the Capitalists of the U. S. and of England would have been gulled out of their money

Others who have attempted colonization here have wished to make a matter of great and speedy speculation of it. No one who starts on that plan will succeed in doing any thing except to injure this country and throw it back many years. They have fail[d] so far, and strange to say, some of them have wished to throw the blame of their failure on me, and have suspected me of an unfriendly disposition towards them, or towards their interprises, on the ground that competition was disagreeable to me— such a suspicion displays a total want of all correct knowledge of the subject. There can be no competition to my injury with any others who have attempted, or ever may attempt colonizing in Texas. The plan of the New York company for instance is to send out families get the title of a league of land made to each of them, and then bind each one to convey to the company all but a few hundred acres, thus expecting to monopolise the whole country. All of which is illegal and inadmissable—their misconception of the law defeats them, and they attribute their defeat to the interference of others against them. In this colony the settler gets the full amt. of land which the law allows—the expences are light, and a long credit is given to pay the most of them and then they can be payed in part in cattle or other produce of the country which the settler can make off the land he gets before it is due under this system how could the New York company or any others take my settlers from me?— what injury could competition do me?— They do not understand the matter at all for the result would be that *all* their settlers who could get away would leave them on their arrival here and come to me— besides, most of the emigrants to my colony are men of capital, who bring numbers of indented servants as laborers or a considerable cash capital—

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It has been my policy to slide along without any noise. I discover[d] on examining Texas, that in point of soil, climate, and natural advantages it was greatly superior to any other part of North America that I had seen, or had any knowledge of. I saw that its value was unknown to this govt. or to any body else. I knew that I would be suffer[d] to go on undisturbed, because no one believ[d] that there was anything here worthy of attention and I should thus lay a foundation, which could not be broken up by the hungry swarms of speculators who would inundate the country as soon as its value was known. Had all others followed my system and kept Texas out of the Newspapers the law of 6 april 1830 would not have been passed prohibiting emigration from the United States. My friends in that country have blamed me for keeping so quiet, and for not adopting the *bellows system* so much the stile in the north, and making a great blow—by so doing I should have blown away my own foundation as others have done. But the time for keeping quiet as to my colony has now passed, and I shall be benefited by some publications and judicious paragrafs not too long to go the rounds noticing the prosperous and happy situation [of] my colony and its uniformly warm decided and inflexible attachment and adherence to the Mexican Govt. etc, etc.

[Intended by Austin for publication:] It is perhaps a matter of some surprise that the only colony which has fully succeeded in Texas, and which is now in a State of almost unparalell[d] progressive prosperity should have made so little noise that its existence is scarcely known, to the people of the U. S. we allude to Austin's colony. This probably proceeds from the character of S. F Austin its founder, which is said to [be] naturally retireing and modest, we are informed that when he commenced his settlement in 1821, he adopted certain leading principles from which he has never deviated—which were Fidelity and Gratitude to his adopted Govt.

That his labors should be directed to redeem Texas from the wilderness, rather than to make a fortune for himself—that he would be true to the interests and just rights of his settlers, and never hold out any deceptive or imposing allurements to draw emigration, least many might emigrate without a sufficient previous enquiry as to the country, and afterwards be dissatisfied, and thus greatly injur[d]

Hence it is that he has slided along silently for ten years and has founded one of the most prosperous settlements perhaps ever known for its age in any country— we are assured by an intelligent gentleman lately from Texas, that this colony is in the highest degree prosperous—that the emigrants to it in general of the most respectable class the society good—the greatest good order and subordination to the laws prevails, and the people are happy and satisfied

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with their situation, so much so that they would oppose any change of Govt. and they consider it an honor of which they proudly boast, that they have always deserv[d] and always possessed the confidence of the Mexican Govt.

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.]

[To Thomas F. Leaming, Philadelphia, Pa.]

AUSTIN TO N. A. WARE

San Felepe de Austin, Texas, July 24. 1831

MR. NAT. A WARE,

DR SIR, A few days before my departure from Saltillo I received a letter from Cap. Henry Austin informing me of your wish to establish a Cotton Manfactury in this colony. I should have written to you immediately but was on the eve of departing for this place, and concluded that it would be best to defer writing untill I arrived here,

On my arrival at home I found Cap. Henry Austin quite sick, which has caused a delay up to this time.

With respect to the probable success and profits of a Cotton Manufactury, I have no hesitation in saying that I believe there is no mode in which capital can be employed to greater advantage.

This colony, and Texas in general is in a state of secure and progressive improvement. The natural resources, and capacities of this country to become populous and wealthy, are superior to any portion of north America which I have seen or have any knowledge of. It affords all the elements necessary for the establishment and support of extensive manufacturies, except one, *hands*, which at first must be introduced from other countries. It no doubt is the settled policy of the government to encourage manufactories of cotton, and I think that the large capital which has been invested in this branch, by the Government itself, affords a very secure guarantee that the present policy will not be departed from. This being the case, it needs no other assurance to insure great profits from the business

The stock of cotton now raised in this colony may be rated at one thousand bales of 400 pounds, This amount will increase of course every year, so that there is no scarcity of the raw material. Provisions are getting very abundant and cheap, and will also increase in quantity at a rapid ratio, with the exception of wheat flour, which is not yet produced in the country, but will become a secure and profitable staple, from the interior parts of Texas high up on the Brazos and Colorado rivers.

This colony affords many eligible situations for cotton factories, but I should recommend the Steam power, in preference to water—as to the location of the factory, I think it ought to be a matter for

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your detirmination after examining the country, which I presume you would do before you made an investment of so much importance.

The forks of Buffalo bayou at the head of tide water navigation six miles above Harrisburgh, where John Austin has offered a tract—or at this place—or on the Colorado river west of this—or a point on Galveston bay—or at the town of Brazoria—are all eligible situations, and there are many others. I think that land can be procured by means of a direct grant from govt. but if it cannot *capital* will easily procure as much as could be desired

I will give every aid in my power in this respect, and in every other particular. I advise you to visit this colony this fall or as soon as you can, and examine the country and judge for yourself if however your mind is fully satisfied as to the advantages of the business, you would save time by bringing out the machinery at once. Cap Henry Austin will settle himself for the present about 15 miles above Brazoria on tide water navigation of the Brazos river. If you should come into this river which is the best place to land be particular to get a vessel that does not draw more than five feet water or 5½ at most—on account of the bar off the mouth of the river

The policy of the mexican govt. as to the colonies which have been legally established, is clearly developed and frankly manifested which is to foster and protect them by every possible means. My colony in particular has uniformly rec^{d} the fullest support and protection of the Govt. and I have the most substantial reasons for believing that they will prosper during the next year more than at any former period.

Those who have acted in good faith in their colonizing opperations in Texas, and who have adherd to the law and to their contracts, have uniformly been protected and there is no cause nor the shadow of just cause to distrust the good faith of this govt. I should and do consider property as secure in this colony as in the U. S. or any where else.

I shall be happy to give you any information in my power at any time. I expect to leave here in Dec^{r} for Saltillo and shall necessarily be absent six or seven months indeed it is rather probable I shall visit the city of Mexico in which event my absence will be longer.

STEP F. AUSTIN

If you visit this country do not fail to get a passport from the Mexican consul.

S. F. A.

W. D. C. HALL TO AUSTIN

Bolivar, July 26, 1831.

See Calendar.

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JESSE U. EVANS TO AUSTIN

Harrisburg, July 27, 1831.

See Calendar.

SUMNER BACON [1] TO AUSTIN

Caney Creek July 30th 1831

DEAR SIR

No doubt you have heard many saysoes concerning me or my publik addresses or Exhortations etc and from those tails perhaps may have thought it was injuring the cause of your setling the affairs of the coloney with the Government Which has been the fartherest from me I have been very careful not to abuse any privilege that has been held out by government or its Agents. My practice has been to go no whar where I hav not been invited and when and whare I have gone. And sung prayed Read a chapter in the Bible or testament and Exho[r]te the people to love God and each other: deal justly love mercy and walk humbly before God and the wourld. And to make their peace with God and try to show them by precept and example how to obtain that peace: And this far I thought we (or I) ware privileged: found[ed] on the first address of the *Rev* Muldoon;—

No man perhaps feels agreater anxiety for your wellfare and that of the coloneye than I do and instead prejudicing the minds of the people against the Priest I am persuaded I have been the means in the hand of God of quieting many and reconciling their feelings.

The whims superstition ignorance of a community cannot be helped. But to sattisfy them on the best and easest terms is the question and to do the most or greatest good to the wourld of Mankind: This has ocupied my mind for some months past. Religious policy is as necessary (and requires more) as state or National The fear of being compeled to become Romans or recanting some of their Religious tenets or habits on the part of the colonist and jealousy on the part of the government that they are not Romans—

The plan that is most impresed on my mind on the subject is to cite some one who has preached or Exhorted in the coloney (as I understand I am not the onely one) before the priest as I presume from his [Muldoon's] third address he has all power on the subject: and let the accused produce testimony of what he has inculcated and if it be adgudged to be Religion declare it so to be and put the sir name Roman to it and let him (or them) go on. My Bible teaches

[1] Bacon was a Presbyterian.

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but one Religion and I presume a Romans is the same it matters not what names men give it so it is pure and undefiled, whether Roman Methodist Baptist Presbyterian or Catholick: and a liberal minded man can wave on these points for the sake of doing good: A course of this nature would certainly prove to the colonest that the government did (or do) not wish to oppress or compell them in to any unreasonable or just measures: and prove to the government that even the preachers are of the Religion of the Government as well as hearers and instead of it prooving an ingry to the setling the affairs of the coloney it will make in its favor and it is a tract that will ear long lead to the liberty of concience which I have no doubt is the ernest [wish] of your soul: I can see no impropriety or injury in the course: I have reasoned with myself for and against it and if it can be adopted; it will surely answer the desirable end and be the means of doing a great good

I mention this subject to you for the first believing it to be my duty to do so as there is much talk and clammer, and this appears to come to the middle ground as both are tenacious and superstituous—should such acours meet your approbation after viewing it and be adop[t]ed my prayer will be answered And if not may it remain with you. and as coming from the purest intentions: I feel it my duty to reprove vice and immorality whare and when I see it and to inforce the love of there assosites [associates]

I have three weeks confinement to my school and then I shall go to San Felepe wher I hope I shall have the pleasure of conversing with you on various subjects

And rest assured I shall do all I can for the good of the coloney in cutivating peace and friendship with all—And abuse no privlilege but use them

And may the Blessings of Heaven rest upon you and yours and guide you in all wisdon and so I Remain

SUMNER BACON

Hon S. F Austin Esq.

WARREN D. C. HALL TO AUSTIN

Phelps Place, July 30, 1831.

See Calendar.

SYLVESTER MURPHY TO AUSTIN

Gin Place, July 31, 1831.

See Calendar.

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Austin in Account with S. Sawyer

Austin, 1st August, 1831.

Col. S. F. Austin,
Bought of S. Sawyer

1 Bedsted Matrass etc ---------- @	$80.00
By 1 Mule ----------	40.00
Balance due ----------	$40.00

Governor Letona to Ramon Musquiz

Las cuatro familias estrangeras introducidas pr. Roverson que segun V. S. manifiesta en su oficio N° 174 de 17 de Julio ultimo y documtos que me acompaña, ecsisten en la margen hisquierda del rio Colorado o el de los Brazos cosa de cinco leguas abajo del camino de Bejar, no pueden permanecer en el territorio de ese Departamto en razon de haberse introducido clandestinamte y pr lo mismo hara V. S. q. salgan fuera de la Republica, disponiendo lo mismo con las otras cinco familias q. faltan pa el completo de las nueve que introdujo el espulsado Roverson,[1] y con cuantas del mismo modo se presenten, sin q. pa ello seles proporcione ninguna cantidad de fondo publico alguno como propone el Alce dela Villa de Austin pr. que el Gobierno no tiene la culpa de su ilegal introduccion.

Para q. esta medida surta su efecto podrá pedir V. S. los aucilios q. necesite al Sor. Comandte pral. de las armas de ese Departamto quien creo no lo negará en ninguna de cuantas ocasiones le sea pedido.—Dios y Libertad Leona Vicario 3 de Agosto de 1831.—Santiago del Valle Srio.—Sr. Gefe de Policia del Departamto de Bejar

Es Copia de su original que ecsiste en el archivo de la Sria. de mi cargo de donde se mando sacar pr. disposicion del Ecsmo. Sor. Gobor Moncla 16 de Mayo de 1835.

J. Mariano Yrala [Rubric]
Srio.

Sylvester Murphy to Austin

Gin Place 4th August 1831

Col. S. F. Austin

Dr Sir. I received your favour of the 1st Inst by Mr Hunter, I am truely sorry I could not obtain the Clear Creek tract. I am a

[1] Terán had permitted these families to settle in Austin's colony. See Terán to Austin, June 30, 1831.

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stranger in the country and my health has been and still remains so bad I have had no oppertunity of travling to make a Selection— even one or two rides to Brazoria has weakened me in such a manner I have been compeld to take two days to it. Mr Hunter informs me that *Major Douglass* has made an Entry of my Negroes in your office as his property— Now sir, I wish to prove to you that I am, and know, I shall always remain above *falsehood*, I told you the property was mine Enclosed you will receive Vouchers sufficient to satisfy you and every other person that he does not, nor ever did own any part of the property in my possession nor does he own one Dollars worth in the Colony—his statement is gratuitous and false and unauthorized by me—

When the Major went to San Phillipe last March, I asked him to take an Indenture that he was a witness to and prove it before the proper authority in San Phillipe, when he return[d] I asked him why he had not done so— he then told me that himself and Mr S. Williams had a misunderstanding—but he did not tell me he had presumed to enter the property as his, and I do hope his imprudent conduct will not be suffered to weigh one jot against me—

I also inclose you a letter from Capt- John Austin, and I think I may venture to say (without egotism) that they are few men that have settled in this Colony that have behaved better, and have made more friends in so short a time.

I have been anxious, and nothing but delicate health has prevented me from coming to San Phillipe long since, to comply with the terms of the Law, Mr Hall can inform you I have been very sick—but I say again, as soon as my health permits I will come up and do every thing that is necessary to make a Citizen— Under those considerations I do hope sir you will reconsider my *Case* and if it is a possible thing give me the *Clear Creek tract of land*— I assure your sir I remain your very obed[nt] and humble Servant

SYLVESTER MURPHY

NB you will observe the Major acted as agent for me in clearing the Negroes, my health was so bad I could not attend to it, and on the back of the Manifest he acknowledges that fact— S M

J. R. BEDFORD TO AUSTIN

Gonzales 5 August 1831

RESPECTED SIR

A short respite from almost incessant writing enables me by this opportunity to make my acknowledgments for the Kindness (unmerited altogether) with which you have favor'd an individual personally a stranger to you; the value of which is doubly enhanc'd

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by the testimony it affords of the disposition of the Gov^t^ to reward in a reasonable way the services however humble of those who have been instrumental in defence of the Country, and the source by which it has been receiv'd, as without your interference, it would in all human probability have continued for me a dead letter—

On reverting to Art's 10, 22 and 27 of Law 24 Mar: it appears that this species of grant is exempted from paym^t^ of any dues to the State, this has not been attended to in my case, tho' officers in the Navy from a Mid' in the line of promotion are "Militares" and I would feel oblig'd for your opinion whether it is worth troubling the Gov^r^ with a representation or whether a saving clause could not be inserted in the deed to provide, against the payment, I am undecided where to locate this League, I am poor and unable to improve it when located, and would if a fair offer could be had sell it, what is your opinion?

We get on slowly making out the deeds, the people are fractious and unprovided, the Commissioners fees are high, the Surveyors not being able to get half their pay are hostile and untractable, much praise is due to Mr. Byrd Lockhart for his forbearance and exertions in the dispatch of business, and without him every thing would have been por la obra de Dios. Col: De W. is well and will save his premium. I have heard that two of Martin de L's Sons are in durance on the Rio Grande taken in their laudable exertions for the extention of the Tobacco business, one of them is Dn, Fernando Commiss^r^ elect for his father's Colony. Compliments and best wishes for your welfare and happiness from Mr. Navarro, the De-Witts Lockhart and those of your much oblig'd and obedt.

Jos^h^. R. Bedford [Rubric]

To S. F. Austin Esqre

N. B. I enclose you a dollar and a half which makes us quits.—

P. S. Mr. N. thinks that the Communication in No, 18— of 27 June last as coming from him and affecting indirectly the honor of his friend Musquiz might have been better edited. the word "declamation" is inserted for "*acclamation*" and he is made to sign himself Señor which appears to have been done thro' irrasion, this is the liberty of the press with a vengeance.

J. R. B.

[Addressed:] To Col: Stephen F. Austin Austin

Austin to Teran

Exmo Sor.

Las ocho ó nueve familias quienes emigraron a Texas con stirling Robinson y Alexand Thompson como partes de las contratadas por la compania de Nashville cuyo establicim^to^ en la espresada empresa era

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impedido por orden del gob^no^ federal me han solicitado ser recidido como pobladares en mis colonias yo de mi parte no tengo embarazo ninguno en acceder a su solicitud con tal que merecen la aprobacion de la superioredad la situacion de estas familias es en sumo grado disgraciada. no tienen recurso para salir del pais, les considero inocentes de toda intencion de entrar en este territorio en violacion de la ley—entiendo que son familias industriosas y de buenos costumbres —En esta intelegencia les recomiendo a la consideracion de V. E. y pido que se me permita encorporar los en mi colonia

6 de agosto 1831

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Teran

S. R. Miller to Austin

Mill Creek, August 7, 1831.

See Calendar.

James W. Breedlove to Austin

Mexican Consulate
New Orleans Augt 11 1831

Co^l^ Stephen F Austin

Dear Sir By an arrival yesterday I am favored with a communication from Mr George Fisher dated 6 July, in which he says you are in want of a Copy of your officio to him of the 5^th^ of June. which he remited to this consulate. I herewith hand you a Copy of Mr. Fishers entire Letter to me, in which yours to him is embodied

In Mr. Fishers letter to me of the 6 July I am surprised to find the following sentence "Free people of Colour are coming in dayley into this Country, and you are much sensured on the subject"

Now I would like to know why sensure should be attached to me for the commission of acts in which I can have no agency what ever, on the receit of your officio, I published in the dayly Gazett of this City that all free Negroes who had been driven out of Louisiana by a law of the last Legislature were forbiden to enter the States of Cohahuila and Texas, and all masters of Vessels were informed that they would be compelled to bring away all such passengers they might have on board their Vessels. which was doing all I could lawfully do to put a stop to such Emigrants, for I defy any man of that discription to shew a passport from this consulate Since the date of my publications.

If the authorities of Texas who have the power of preventing those people being landed on their shores, or entering by land, will not Exercise it, I am not to be blamed. I have no power here as a

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Mexican Agent to prevent their going on board Vessels leaving this port. then why not let the blame rest on the proper persons, Such things are calculated to injure my Commercial business with Texas. I hope therefore you will do me the Justice to correct the erronious opinions of its being my fault

JAS W BREEDLOVE [Rubric]

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar 18 de Agosto de 1831.

Sor. Dn. ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI AMIGO Y SOR. MUY ESTIMADO: Si la egecusion de la horden del Gov^no p^a las medidas de tierras qe. hisiese con los Rios etc entiende V. qe. es impracticable en esa Colonia, y qe. en su concepto seria mejor qe. hantes de procederse alas pocecciones se midiese el terreno qe. pudiese ocuparse consultando el mejor acomodamiento de las familias y qe. no resultara vacios de posecion á posecion supuesto qe. este es uno de los objetos á qe. mira dha. horden, me parece seria mejor p^a no comprometer al comicionado qe. V. como empresario dirigiese al Gov^no una fundada esposicion manifestandole todos los incombenientes qe. pueden presentarse, pues de otro modo nada podemos hacer legalm^te

Arciniega llegó aqui bueno y está dispuesto bolber a fin del mes qe. entra á continuar su Comicion, estoy contento con la mejora de fortuna de este amigo.

Por el correo de hoy he recivido horden egecutiva del Gov^no p^a auciliarme del Sor Comandante Pral. y hacer salir alas familias qe. introdujo Sterniles Roverson á consequencia de haverle trasmitido la Comunicacion del Alcalde de esa villa, entiendo qe. abria sido mejor aberse conducido del modo qe. dije a V. en goliad.

Por idiotas qe. sean los hombre[s] qe. biven en sociedad saben muy bien no les es permitido hacerse justicia ellos mismos, generalm^te los Norte Americanos conocen muy bien el govierno de su pais y de consiguiente en el qe. se encuentran, y no entiendo como ha sido posible el qe. V combiniendo en qe. los soldados cometieron una falta y los vecinos un atentado p^o qe. se sobre pusieron a las Leyes y a las autoridades, hayan obrado unos y otros vien, semejante dotrina en boca de V. me aturde, pues no hay una razon p^a hacerlo una injusticia al Comand^te militar de Tenostitlan suponiendo dejaria impune el robo cometido p^r los soldados aun en el Caso de qe. los vecinos havian cumplido con su dever, qual hera presentadolos y dema[n] dadolos a su Comand^te

De oficio recuerdo a V. el informe qe. ha su trancito pr. Goliad le suplique darme de todos las familias estrangeras qe. se encuentran

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dispersas en el Dep^to^ espero qe. se tomara este trabajo en obsequio de qe. se determine de una manera positiva y terminante la estabilidad de dhas. familias.

Me alegro mucho de qe. el padre Cosa tenga bastante ocupacion en su ministerio, y qe. este apreciado y respetado de todos sus feligreses.

No escribi á V. pr. el correo anterior pr. haver estado muy ocupado, espreciones á Dn. Samuel y V. mande a su afmo servidor y cordial amigo Q. S. M. B.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

P. D. Llá habrá V. savido qe, su Compañero el padre mi hermano se retiro de la Diputacion pr. enfermo, se ha visto muy malo en morelos y está resuelto no bolber al Saltillo pr. temor de aquel temperam^to^ El Alcalde de Nacogdochas hasta haora no me acusa recivo de las solicitudes de tierras decretadas pr. el Gov^no^ qe. le remiti pr. conducto de V. digame si se las mandó por qe. me dá cuydado el silencio qe. ha guardado.

JOHN CALDWELL TO AUSTIN

August 24, 1831.

See Calendar.

HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Brazoria 26 August /31

MY DEAR SIR,

My health is so far restored that I am on my way to the mouth of the River for shells for my buildings and have hopes I have conquered the desease— I have been extremely anxious about you and [your] Sister's family, the fever is so prevalent that travelling in such intense heat as we have had is extremly hazardous, to persons unacclimated and even to you who are so hardy— John has brought on fever by riding in the sun but is nearly recovered— It positively will not do for either myself or Mr Perry to think of keeping our familys in this part of the country in the summer months, the insects alone would drive them mad. They have operated upon me at Bolivar like a perpetual blister. I wish much to accompany you to the upper country when you go. I beg you will advise me of your movements— at present I have five men under pay till the 10^th^ prox^o^ and as nothing is done unless I am present, I do not wish to leave until then, still should you go sooner I would endeavour to join you.

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I had hopes you would have taken your Sisters family to Coles Settlement until the heats were over, would it not be best for them to go there now?—

Should you come to Brazoria do me the favor to let me know when, if opp^{y} offers for Bolivar

I have a letter from Ware altho he had no accounts from me he had contracted for Machinery with the intention of working it in Louisiana in case my report should be unfavorable for Texas, the advise of the failure of a house in orleans whose paper he held for 10600$ payable 1 June here caused him to suspend the contract until he could ascertain the result of that and his other N orleans papers this being part of the sum appropriated to Texas Speculations, his letter was obviously written at the moment of receiving the unpleasant news, as he seems to consider all his orleans paper in Jeopardy— so much for lending Money at 12 prct—the receipt of my letters and ascertaining the actual extent of loss will probably put him in better spirits

My best regards to Emily and Compes to Mr Perry—I will indeavour to visit St Felepe by the middle of Septr at all events

H Austin [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col S F Austin St Felepe

Richard Hawes to Austin

Winchester Kentucky 29th August 1831

Col. Stephen F. Austin

Dear Sir, I avail myself of the opportunity afforded by John T. Mason Esqr. who is about to visit the province of Texas and who will pass through the Austin Grant, of addressing you on the subject of the grant and particularly so far as the heirs of Mr. Joseph H Hawkins are concerned in it.

You have been heretofore informed that Mrs. Hawkins resided with me from a short period after the decease of her husband to the time of her death; that her children have been mainly supported by me; that they are the nephews and niece of Mrs. Hawes, that I have been appointed by the proper tribunal of this country their guardian; and that their only prospect or hope of advancement from their fathers estate is founded on their interest in your grant.

The children are some of them now grown and all of them approaching maturity, and they feel a strong interest in knowing what they may expect from your quarter. Standing in the relation which I do, towards them I feel it to be my duty to enquire of you as to the position in which they stand, and the rights and interests which they have in the property under your management. With a

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view of procuring full information in relation to the interests of the heirs of Mr. Hawkins in the grant, I have authorized Mr. Mason to call on you, and as my agent to request of you to furnish him with an account of the boundaries of the Grant, the quantity of land, how much of the grant yourself and the heirs of Mr. Hawkins are entitled to under your contract of copartnership in the lands; to inform him whether the portion to which the copartnership are entitled has been surveyed and set apart from the remainder of the grant; if so whether there has been a division between yourself and the heirs of Hawkins, and if not whether you desire such a division. In the event of a division, what acts on the part of Hawkins heirs will be necessary to hold their lands according to the laws of your country etc. etc. and in fine every information touching the subject which is in your possession. Mr. Mason has undertaken under the authority I have conferred on him to make a report of the condition of the grant so far as the heirs of Hawkins are concerned and the state of the copartnering accounts with you. I presume that Edmund St. Jn° Hawkins one of the heirs is in the province of Texas. He is yet a minor, but it is possible he may be of some service to you, and that he may furnish some aid in the settlement of the lands which belong to the grantees. I have written you two letters on this subject since Mrs. Hawkins death, but have recd. no reply. The original papers of correspondence between yourself and Mrs Hawkins—relating to this property are in my possession. The letters to Mrs Hawkins evince on your part much affection towards the family, and a determined purpose to do them entire justice. The favourable reports I have heard of you induce me to believe, that their interests will be safe under your agency. Mr. Mason after he reaches your country will be able to suggest to you more fully than I can the precise points of information about the property, which it may concern the heirs of Hawkins to know.

Mr. Mason is a Gentleman of high standing in this country, of great intelligence, and information, and has recently enjoyed a station of much honour under the Government of the United States. He is one of the Virginia family known to every well informed citizen of the U States and a family identified with the political history of our country. The present postmaster General of the U States (Mr Barry) is his brother in law any aid or attention you may afford him will, while in your country will confer a favour.

RICHARD HAWES.

N. B. I have furnished Mr. Mason with a copy of your contract with Mr. Hawkins, to which you may refer, in the event that you are not possessed of a duplicate

R. HAWES

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JOSEPH FICKLIN TO AUSTIN

Lexington, Ky., August 29, 1831.

See Calendar.

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO ALCALDE OF SAN FELIPE

Gefatura del Departamento de Bejar

Por superior orn. de 3 de Agosto popo ha resuelto el Exmo. Sor. Gob^er del Estado que las nueve familias introducidas al territorio de este Departam^to pr el estrangero Roverson con el objeto de Colonizar se restittullan al pais de su prosedencia sin exijir cantidad alguna del Gob^no p^a sus gastos por haber emigrado sin su conocimiento contrabiniendo a las leyes y faltando alas ordenes que les comunico el Sor. Comand^te militar dela frontera de Nacogd^s con tal motibo he pedido al Sor. Commandante Pral. de este Departam^to el correspondiente aucilio p^a q. tengo su verificatibo aquello superior resolucion, y en tal consepto prevengo aV. pr lo respectivo alas cuatro familias que se hayan establicidas sobre el Rio de los Brasos cuatro leguas abajo del camino de Nacogdoches a Bejar, ministre sin demora por si y pormedio delos Comisarios de Policia del distrito enque se hayan al Cuid^no Comand^to Militar del establicimiento de Tenoxtitlan los Conocimientos que necesite de ellas, el numero de personas de que se componen y el punto fijo enque reciden p^a q asi pueda cumplir con la or^n que se le comunica respecto de ellas, dandole conocimiento delas sinco restantes si yá estubiere averiguado el punto de su recidencia p^a q. reunidas todas se conduscan a despocicion del Cuid^no Alcalde de Nacogdoches con el fin indicado, y en el caso de ignorarse el paradero de estas ultimas podra V. solicitarlo yá de por si ó yá pr noticias que le franquen los comisarios de Policia de los diferentes partidos enque esta dividida la comprencion de esa Colonia dirigiendolas al efecto las ordenes correspondientes, y en especiales al de el distrito inmediato a Tenoxtitlan p^a q de acuerdo con el Comandante de aquel punto Coadyube ala salida de las cuatro familias quese hayan dentro del termino de su jurisdionsdicion, y espero que del resultado de todo me de V. oportuno conocimiento.

Dios y libertad Bejar 1 de Sep^e de 1831

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

Cuid^no Alcalde Constitucional dela Villa de Austin

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO ALCALDE OF SAN FELIPE

Gefatura del Departamento de Bejar.

Habiendosele cumplido el tiempo, delos seis años que le consedio el supremo Gob^no del Est^o al empresario Ciud^no Estevan Austin al

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selebrar la contrata de Colonisacion con quinientas familias desde 27 de Abril de 1825, y resultando delas noticias q pasó en 4 de Mayo ultimo el Comicionado a esta Gefatura q para esta fha. tenia introducidas cuatrocientos ocho correspondientes ha esta contrata he benido en disponer conforme con lo qe. sobre este punto disponen las Leyes y ordenes vigentes, se impida la introducion de las 92 familias qe. faltaron al espirar el termino dela contrata a qe. pertenesca, y a este fin se pondrá V. de acuerdo con el citado Ciud^no^ Empresario

Dios y libertad Bejar—12 de Sepe. de 1831.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

Cuid^no^ Alcalde Constitucional dela Villa de Austin

E. ST. J. HAWKINS TO AUSTIN

Col S. F Austin

Please pay to Mr Westall 20 dollars the amount of my Boarding.

Brazoria September the 12, 1831

EDMUND ST JOHN HAWKINS

[Endorsed by Austin:] Paid to Hawkins twenty dollars in cash in addition to the within—

Septr. 13, 1831

J. JUSTO LIENDO TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches, September 27, 1831.

See Calendar.

JAMES F. PERRY TO ISRAEL MCGREADY

San Felepe De Austin Oct 1^st^ 1831

MY DEAR SIR

I take the oppertunity of a Gentleman who leaves here tomorrow for the U. S. I wrote to you from the Sabine and enclosed David Imbodens and Jno L Robins notes which I hope you have recieved and have put it in train for collection We had a long tedious journey geting here we arrived on the 14th August all in good health without any serious accidents considering the distance and the nomber of our famaly togather with the Season of the year we came in we have no reason to complain. Our famaly has kept their [health]so far prety well some of them has been a little sick but not dangerous Kenner has had a brush of the feavour and ague but has got clear of it for several days and with care I hope will remain so. Hunter has been quit[e] sick but is now on the recovery and able to attend to business there has been a good deal of sickness here this season

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and a number of deaths in this place since we arived here. all of which ware strangers and mostly men and it is thought by many that most of them might have recovered if they had been properly attended to in the first stage of the disease but being strangers ware necessaryly compelled to stop at public houses where they could not have that attention paid to them which was necessary. I promised to write to you my oppinion of this country and the prospects as I have been here so short a time I can give but verry little more light on the subject than heretofore my oppinion is about as when I first visited the country the soil and climit is here and all that is wanting is industry and enterprise togathere with a well regulated and perminent Government to make this one of the most desirous parts of the wourld I have ever seen I have made an excursion of two weeks looking for a situation to fix ourselves on. I was down on the coast I now expect to start in a few days to look at some of the country above here. before I decide where to reside the country above here is verry much extold by those residing there but I am prety much determined to settle near the Coast within a few miles of the West end of Galvesten bay, and as soon as I determine on the place will start with all my force to put up some cabbins to move my famaly to. they will remain at this place until we can get some place for to live in and in one year after I get to farming I will be better able to give you my oppinion of the country, but for the present I would not advise any of my friends or acquantence to move to this country without first coming to see it and judge for themselves before I left the mines I requested you to pay my last years Tax but whether I gave you any writen memorandon to that effect I dont recollect but I hope you have and if not I wish you to do so I also wish you to get me out of Scotts administrator as soon as posible and we have several smalle a/cts which wish to send you but have had no time as yet to examine the old books please urge the collection of the claims I left with you. write to me on the receipt of this and give me all the news of the place and particularly [how] the Exeters of S P are coming out as you know I am some interested in the management of that Est. but I have verry little dout but that it will be attended to strictly and correctly I will get Bells act and rect against James Austin the first time I see him which will [bring] the balance on that a/c considerably in my fav.

[James F. Perry.]

[Indorsed:] To Israel McGrady

Mary Paxton to Austin

Lincoln County, Mo., October 3, 1831

See Calendar.

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JOHN P. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New York October 10. 1831

MY DEAR COUSIN;

referring to my last report I have now the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your much esteemed favor of the 27th July pr Mr. Sayre. Contents duly noted and will receive my particular attention, and beg you will not hereafter hesitate commanding my services whenever can be found useful to you.—The things ordered will be sent by Mr. Sayre, or brother Henrys wife—whose family goes out in the Nelson, to sail on or before the 20th inst and trust will reach you in due time and prove satisfactory— I can but think you must have got the Uniform Coat I sent you—it went by such good hands—Mr. Treats—although you do not name it, and should be pleased to know how it Suited. The Jacket will be made after the same measure, and pattern of one lent me by Mr. Treat—Mexican-Vice Consul—. I am to have the advice of a Mexican Lady as to the Dress and Mantillio, and my wife will take a pleasure in seeing to having them made as also to the dressing of the Dolls in the latest and best fashions—

I hope you may not be disappointed in the expected Visit from Genl. Teran—although a Gentleman who arrived here a Short time since from Matamoras, says he had given up the idea of going—As I should be much pleased to know his Views as to the Galveston Bay and Texas land Company, and Texas in general, and I can assure you any information you may give me on the subject, would be most acceptable to said Company—

I have never doubted your friendly feelings towards the company, as I have ever expressed myself when Called upon, as far as might be consistent with your duty to yourself and Colony, which could but be benefited by Settlers anywhere in its neighborhood if properly conducted.—I understand several who have purchased Scrip of the Company have commenced suits for the recovery back of their money, after having been out and disappointed, in finding no land of the compʸ to locate on. Say the Company have no lands therefore a false sale. As each purchaser is supposed to have been made acquainted with the terms of purchase I do not see how they are to recover, except it be by a point of law, for it was all a speculation between the parties— I am happy to learn of the continued friendly disposition of the Mexican Government towards your Colony, which I believe has ever been the Case, and that it is prospering equal to your expectation— Mr. Sayre is delighted with it and takes his wife out with him. He is beset on all sides with inquiries— Many men of respectability and Capital have been waiting to hear his report, before going out, which they will find most favourable. Mr. S. is considered a man of handsome property, Some estimate

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it at 20 to 30,000$—from what I have seen of him, I have been most pleased and look upon him as Very correct and worthy of Confidence and a great acquisition to your Colony—.

Henry was most unfortunate in being sick, at same time fortunate in being in such good hands.—He is now where I wished him to go, years ago, and hope he may succeed. this much I am confident, he will not want for a friend in You, and that you will aid him in his plans as far as may be practicable—He has a large family—wife and six children—but remarkably well Governed, and I think will prove acceptable to the Colony—there are now three Vessels up for your Colony, and a pleasing Sight it is to me to see their Sign boards and to read them as I pass. Viz. Sch. Nelson, for Brazoria—Austin's Colony.—Sch. Boston Packet, for Matagorda—Austin's Colony.—Sch. Glide, for Anahuac Galveston Bay—Austin's Colony.—now quite a novelty here but will not probably be So long, for I expect the trade will ere long rapidly increase—there is also a Vessel building to Sail from here about the 15th next Month for Brazoria, I presume by the friends of Mr Williams, for the Conversation I had with his brother-in law Mr. Sam[1] St. John, a short time since—Mr. St. John is a man of very hansome property and much of a Gentleman. He is to leave this in a Short time for Mobile and intends paying San Felipe a Visit in the Course of the Winter, at which time you will probably be at Satillo, as I am informed thro my Sister Mary Holly, that you are to be absent some time from your Colony, and will therefore miss seeing him.—This goes by the Sch. Boston Packet, direct for Matagorda. She is loaded with ready made Houses, Materials for d° Some Crates, Goods etc, and is intended as a regular trader between there and New Orleans—A Mr. George C. Hale—I am told goes out in her with a View of Establishing himself at Matagorda, and that he will proceed direct to San Felipe on arrival, too good an opportunity not to write— I also write Henry, from whom I am Very anxiously looking for later dates, as well as from your good self—I shall do myself this pleasure pr Nelson, to which I refer and remain

J. P. Austin [Rubric]

New York Oct. 21. 1831

My dear Cousin

refering to annexed duplicate I have now the pleasure to add a few lines by my brother Henrys wife, who with the rest of his family take passage in the Nelson to sail in the Morning—I have all of the things you ordered ready to send (except the Hat and that was finished, but a mistake in the Color, being black, which am so well Convinced would not suit, altho you name no Color, and an

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opportunity offering next week pr Sch. Elizabeth which thinking would be in time, I ordered an other made in place of it) and to my no little surprise and disappointment there is not room in the Nelson for them, or even for the passengers baggage—Mrs Austin being obliged to leave the most of her Trunks, furniture etc. I however do not regret the disappointment so much as the above Vessel follows so soon after and by which shall take good Care to forward them and trust will reach you in time—The Dress and Dolls occupy quite a large box, being necessary to be packed with great Care, not to injure them—I have Sent Henry for you . . . , extra size Manifold writer, with extra Copying and Coloring paper. The Jacket and Cord for pantaloons I shall send by Mrs. Austin. the other things must remain for the Elizabeth. You will please accept from me a Small box of Very Superior Shaving Soap, by Mrs. A—also from my wife a Dozen of Shirt Collars and a Stock, made by herself which, from having made some of same pattern for me, and found to fit better than any Collars I ever wore She thought might prove acceptable to You, particularly so when traveling as I think they will at all times—false Collars are very much worn here. It was my intention to have wrote you more fully by Mrs. A. but my time has been so much taken up for the last few days in preparing for her departure that I must close in haste and refer you to my next, which I do the more willingly as an opportunity offers so soon again—and run on—

JNO. P. AUSTIN.

P. S. I would refer you to a file of papers Sent Henry.—I enclose a bill for the articles ordered—altho not able to send them pr Nelson . . . which you will notice has been paid by Mr. Sayre— I doubt not the cost far exceeds your expectations for I can assure you it does mine—but we cannot be aware in ordering them, particularly the fashions and dress, no price can be fixed—I think however can best please the Mexican Ladies—which as you say is all important—being so much admired here—the fashions are of the latest and most admired, and by one of the first mantua makers in the city in her best stile—I have letters from Henry as late as 19th September but not favored with any from you since the arrival of the Nelson but daily looking for that pleasure

Must close in haste
Yours truly J. P. A.

THOMAS POWELL TO AUSTIN

October 11, 1831.

See Calendar.

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J. Mariano Guerra to Austin

El. Co. Franco Pizarro Martinez Consul mejicano en Orleans me dice desde aquel puerto con fha. 30. de Mayo ultimo lo Sig^te—

"E. S.—Mr. Ezekiel Hayes, natural de estos Estados, acaba de entregarme la esposicion qe. tengo el honor de acompañar á V. E. Ella se contrae á un punto sumam^te delicado, pues se trata de recobrar una esclava qe. segun parece, se llebó con engaño á Tejas un individuo llamado Patrick Henry Herndon. Espero qe. V. E. se servirá comunicarme á la mayor brevedad el resultado de la solicitud de Mr. Hayes, p^a con él á la vista destruir las especies á qe. pueda dar lugar este incidente en este pais.—Admita V. E. las seguridades de mi respetuosa consideracion."—[1]

Transcribolo á V. incluyendole copia de la esposicion qe. se cita afin de qe. si el individuo qe. se demanda se ha presentado en esa Colonia se sirva V. manifestar lo á la autoridad municipal de ella p^a qe. verifigue su espulsion.—

Dios y Lib^d. Matamoros oct^e 13. de 1831

Por aus^a de S Ex^a

J. M. Guerra [Rubric]

Co. Estevan F. Austin.—

Walter Turnbull to Austin

Pinckney Ville 13. Oct. 1831

My dear Sir;

When I parted with you, I believe I informed you that my family would be in Texas in December or January, but since my return home, I find it will be impossible for me to do so, I will not be able to remove them before April or May, I shall however be in Texas with my property in December, when I shall make a location and commence erecting Cabins etc. the object of making this communication is a desire on my part not to deceive you as to the time I shall have my family in the Colony. This letter will be handed you by Doct. Phelps who sets out on Sunday next for San Felippe de Austin and will be followed in the course of the winter by his family, who owing to the unusual unhealthiness of this and Louisiana consider it unsafe to attempt to travel before winter— This whole country has been visited with a dreadful Gale of Wind and a great deal of rain which has cut the crops of Cotton and sugar off more than one half and I have no doubt there are a great many plantations that will not make more than expences— In Virginia and North Carolina they have had an insurrection of the negroes,

[1] See Hayes to Teran, May 30, 1831.

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who before their progress were stopped butchered 70 or 80 persons, say men women and children spareing neither age nor sex— Serious apprehensions are entertained of an Insurrection of the blacks in this state and Louisiana particularly in the latter state, the people are on the qui vive patroles are moving at all hours and I think it impractable, even should they make the attempt to do much mischief

I have not seen a well day since I left Texas, I have had an attack of Jaundice,—I have taken the liberty of sending you by Doct. Phelps a few late News papers—

WALTER TURNBUL

[Addressed:] Colonel Stephen F Austin San Felippe de Austin Texas Favd. by doct. Phelps

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RICHARD MARSH TO AUSTIN

New York, October 21, 1831.

See Calendar.

JOHN TEAL TO AUSTIN

Tenoxtitlan, October 29, 1831.

See Calendar.

W. H. TEGARDEN TO AUSTIN

Hopkinsville, Ky., November 7, 1831.

See Calendar.

GEORGE DUTY TO AUSTIN

Col Stephen F Austin

To Matthew Duty

To hawling brick for house of Col Anthony Butler at $4 per day 5 and 3 fourth days—makes } Dr. $23.00

The above is the contract I made with Mr Duty as to the price and the number of days he proves by Mr Cravens and Russell Holt.

L LESASSIER acting for Col. Austin

Novemr 9 1831

Recd Payt from S M Williams

GEORGE DUTY

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AUSTIN TO MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY[1]

November 14, 1831

MY DEAR COUSIN

I received yours of 2nd instant this day, and am barely able to acknowledge its receipt. I have been very ill, and am not yet able to leave my room, and can only set up ten or fifteen minutes at a time.

I like the idea of a *notice of this country* that will make it better known. I believe the time has now come for such a thing. *The opposite to this, however, has been my policy, until a year or so past.* This I can better explain verbally. I should have replied to the queries of the "London Geographical Society" had I not been in bed for forty five days.

There is no vacant land below Brazoria so that you cannot get your league there. I have a place for that location in view near Galveston Bay which is as good as any now to be had.

As to my premium land and private affairs, you will be much surprised to learn exactly how they stand; and will feel much inclined to say that I have been a faithful servant to all the colonists except *one:* that one is—Stephen F Austin.

All the *premium land* I hold around and below Brazoria is in *partnership* with the heirs of my old friend, Joseph Hawkins Esq: and so entangled that I, myself, know not what to do with it. But, if I enter on this matter *now* I shall worry myself.

I must apprize you of one thing that you may not be too much disturbed when you notice it. The mass of the Colonists look on all relations of mine who come here with envy and suspicion and great jealousy. The reason is this. They *suspect* that something more will be done for *them* than for those who "*bore the brunt of the battle*"

I fear (judging by my own experience) that the predominant traits in the North American character are ingratitude, selfishness, and avarice. The people of this Colony have caused (what I had formerly said was impossible) a shade of misanthropy to pass over me. I do not say that it *dwells* in my mind, long at a time. But to know ourselves is a difficult task, if not impossible, and perhaps it is a more settled conviction than I allow. Would that it were but the airy nothing of a fevered brain.

Gen. Terran has arrived at Anahuac—*positive—I must see him;* and shall leave here in a carriage for that purpose, in a few days, if able to do so. I do not see that we can meet until I return from

[1] Copy by Mrs. Holley, in file of July 19, 1831.

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the visit to Terran. It will be short. I will then go to see you at Bolivar.

I must stop, for this effort has cost me all my strength. I have a letter from your brother, John P Austin, by "the Boston" in at Matagorda, dated Oct: 11. He says the "Nelson", with Henry's family was to sail the 20th October, *certain.*

Farewell: I am truly anxious to see you. Think well *all about this country* before you finally remove, so as to be fully contented afterwards.

S F AUSTIN.

HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Bolivar 15. Novr 1831

MY DEAR SIR

My last advices of Mr Mason left him at Louisvill waiting for the sickly season to pass away— Mrs. Holley now informs me that he had taken passage in the Spica, giving out that he was coming here to settle the Hawkins business with you After embarking, a letter was shown him from young Hawkins stating that you were packing up for Mexico—Mrs. H told him she had letters from you and myself both stating the time of your departure to be 1 December, He thought Hawkins account to be more to be relied upon and as his sole business in Texas was to see you, wisely left the Spica and embarked for Vera Cruz *to meet you in Mexico* He is not the Mason who was in Mexico with Poinset never was in Mexico and does not speak Spanish, so you can judge of the probable result of his mission at all events the affair is hung up as relates to us for the present—

Mrs Holleys friends would not consent to her leaving them until spring— her purpose therefore is to return and compleat her engagement and as she loses 100$ pr month during her absence is impatient to return yet is unwilling to do so without visiting St. Filipe and seeing you— She is now here and I would hazard the journey with her on horseback but for the expectation of the immediate arrival of My Family— They left N York in the Nelson to sail 20th of last month, I shall go to Brazoria tomorrow and will endeavour to induce John to take her and his wife in Walters Carriage as he proposed when I was last there, if that fails I will try to get Mr Perry who I expect here tomorrow to let me have his Carriage for the purpose— She has brought money to build her house and stock her farm 900$ and appears decided to vest all her interests in the colony, I shall however vest her funds in cows and calves for the present If you think it propper to admit her location

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and give her a passport of absence to settle her affairs, She will without doubt return in time and occupy her land altho some what alarmed at the occupations of Phelps place, fearing She might be served the same way if detained by sickness of her children or other insuperable cause— she wrote you from Brazoria, but does not expect an answer whilst you continue feeble—I am glad to hear you are able to walk about the room and hope you may be speedily restord I shall come to St Felepe so soon as my family are housed—

Archebald appears decided to come out so soon as he can realise his real Estate which ought to yield 2 or 3000$—with that I am [sure] he could do better here than there

H. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col. S F Austin St Felepe d Austin pr Dr A E Phelps

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J. B. BAILEY TO AUSTIN

November 15, 1831.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO FATHER MULDOON

San Felipe, Nov^{r} 15, 1831

Rev^{do} Dn. MIGUEL MULDOON

MI AMADO PADRE Y AMIGO Con muchisimo gusto recibi la grata de V. fha 8 del presente participandome la llegada del Exmo Sor Gral Teran—

Suplico qe. me hara V. el favor de presentar mis mas cordiales respectos á S. E. y la enhorabuena para su feliz llegada en Texas. Tendré el placer de hacerlo en persona tan luego que puedo caminar, pues desde la salida de V. no me he levantado de mi cama, hasta ayer y hoy—y creo qe. la carta de V. ha contribuido mucho para darme fuerzas aun para escribir estos ringlones borrones pues es la primera vez qe he intentado escribir— Hoy hace 45 dias qe. he estado en cama, gran parte del tpo reducido al ultimo estremo— ah mi amigo que de padecimientos y trabajos me ha costado este Texas en los ultimos dies años yo hallé este pais desierto, lleno de salvages hasta la costa y desconocido aun á los mismos Mexicanos— Si yo he contribuido mas qe. qualquiera otra persona á cambiar este estado abandonado del pais para otro mejor, es question qe. otros han de determinar— una cosa, si diré, que es esto yo he contribuido mucho y mui eficasmente en preservar la orden y la tranquilidad publica, y en una ocasion aun la integridad del territorio, amenasado en 1826 y 1827 por aventureros y millares de indios sobre la frontera—mi mote ha sido y es, *fidelidad y gratitud*

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á Mexico—y esta, ha sido y es la regla qe. ha movido todo qe. he hecho, y que ha governado mi colonia y todos sus habitantes—nunca he pedido ausillos del Gobno. p[a] sostenerme en el medio de tantos peligros y dificultades—ni ha costado mi colonia un peso, al Gobierno—

[Indorsed:] Copy S. F. Austin to Padre Muldoon

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY[1]

D[r] BROTHER,

I am getting better slowly but cannot yet go out—I can sit up and walk about the room and intend to ride out tomorrow

Gen[l] Teran and Fisher have now arrived at Anahuac there is a report that only ¼ duties are to be collected—I do not know the truth of this report— The Nelson was to sail on the 20 of October from New York— You ought not to let your goods stay any time not a day in Brazoria after they arrive, get them away as soon as you can— I shall go and see the Gen[l] as soon as I can ride in the Dearborn which will be in 4 or 5 days I think— the prospects of matters are very good and I am in good sperits

I wish you to remember and remind Emily that I wanted you to settle at peach point— the reason I mention this is because Brazoria will in a very few years be a large town and land round it will be up to 20 or 40 Doll[s] an acre and *then* Emily may complain that I had sent you to Chocolate Bayou

farewell—after my return from Anahuac I will go and see you before I start for Saltillo—

S F AUSTIN

Nov[r] 15. 1831

Angier I expect will remove to Anahuac, *immediately*, and perhaps you may buy Mrs Angiers Cattle and the mill

After you get that place under way and well stocked you might *then* remove to Brazoria or Peach Point

[Addressed:] Mr James F. Perry on Chocolate Bayou Mrs Angier

AUSTIN TO MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY[2]

Nov: 17, 1831

Dear Cousin,

I wrote you a scrawl some days since, (I do not recollect the date) when I was quite debilitated, and with rather a feverish brain, and really have no clear recollection of the contents of my letter, but

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.
[2] Copy by Mrs. Holley, in file of July 19, 1831.

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doubt whether I answered all the inquiries contained in yours of 2nd November.

I am pleased with the idea of some publication that will make the world acquainted with Texas, as Texas and its inhabitants deserve.

When I explored this country in 1821, it was a wild, howling, interminable solitude from Sabine to Bexar. The civilized population had not extended beyond the margins of the Sabine in that quarter; and was confined, on the west to the towns or villages of Bexar and La Bahia (the latter is now called Goliad) which were isolated military posts. I found the country so much more valuable than I expected that the idea of contributing to fill it with a civilized and industrious population filled my soul with enthusiasm. I can with truth, and with a clear conscience, say, that none of the sordid and selfish motives which influence the mass of adventure[r]s had any weight in determining me to attack this wilderness. I commenced on the solid basis of sound and philanthropic intentions, and of undeviating integrity. I asked the *favor* of the new government of Mexico—that is, *permission* to settle this country, and become one of its citizens. What I asked was granted. I became a Mexican Citizen. From that moment, honor, the sanctity of an oath, gratitude—all bound me to Mexico and her interests. Never have I for one moment, deviated from the line of duty which those obligations imposed on me. And, I attribute my success (for I may say with pride I have been successful) to this circumstance. Should this Government ever attempt to trample upon us, however, honor, duty, justice, the approbation of all good people of all good Nations, will point out the course for us to adopt. But, I have no fears—not the most distant of such an unhappy event. But few of my native countrymen understand me, my character, motives, or principles. An earnest desire to benefit *all*; in short, more good will, and confidence in mankind than [was] deserved, have often led me into mistakes verging on weakness, and exposed me to the impositions of the crafty and designing.

A thorough knowledge of the Mexican character, the policy of the Government and the feelings of the mass of the people towards foreigners convinced me at an early day that Texas must be settled *silently*, or not at all. Hence it is that I was progressing here for years, and rearing a flourishing settlement in this country, and it was unknown even in parts of Louisiana, the adjoining State, that such a thing existed. The circumstances are now changed, and it is time to bring out my *ward* and introduce her to the world.

The emigration of North Americans is now *totally prohibited*. I wish to start an emigration of English, Irish, Scotish, German, Swiss, French, any civilized people; the three first are the best from the

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unity of languages, similarity of character etc: A work on Texas would do much good in Europe especially in Great Britan I think a little exertion would set in motion an English emigration of respectability, and as I am authorized, in company with another, to introduce eight hundred families, Europeans, besides my former contracts, I feel a great interest on this subject. I have no *North American prejudice* against the English, on the contrary I only remember that *our ancestors were English.*

There is a gentleman here from Virginia Doctor Branch T Archer of Richmond, a relation of the Congress[man] Archer, with whose character you are no doubt acquainted. He arrived in July, and talks of writing a history of us, and has been to Bexar collecting materials relating to the country generally.

As soon as I can I will try to spend some time with you at Bolivar, and will give you all the information I can. After I have seen Gen: Terran I can form a more certain opinion of the future policy of the Government, and shall be better able to answer the proposed queries of the "British Geographical society"—certainly with more satisfaction than at present.

I shall not leave for Saltillo until I am fully restored in strength, which will not probably be sooner than 1st February. This will give me a week to spend with you for this reason I omit many things I have to say until then. I rode out yesterday in a carriage, the first time I have left my room. In a week I hope to be at Anahuac, and if I can hire a boat will go thence to Chocolate and then to Bolivar

I am a houseless bachelor and have no accomodations to offer you, but my sister can furnish you a room in a *Texas Cabin*—with Texas fare—and an affectionate welcome. Hope promises better things for next year, though as for *me*, a tree, or a tent, with blankets and plenty of fat wild meat—, I am satisfied.

I congratulate Henry on the near prospect of seeing his family. We have been scattered before the four winds of Heaven. Texas will bring our dispersed family together, and afford us competence, and—a *home.* To me the idea is truly grateful.

S F Austin.

Austin to James F. Perry

Novr. 17. 1831

Dr Brother

I am happy to inform you that I left my room yesterday and rode down to see sister, also that last night She was safely delivered of a fine *Son* I give you joy—all is doing well—what a host of boys you will have—

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If I recruit as fast as I have the last four days I shall be able to start to Anahuac in a week, If I can hire a boat there, I will go by water direct to your place on chocolate bayou, and thence up home by Brazoria and Bolivar but you must furnish me horses.

I forgot to mention that north side of pleasant Creek will be the best for the field on one important particular, the wind is so severe from the sea that I am told it whips out the corn and blows it down, the timber of pleasant Creek would keep off the wind from a field on the north side, The south side is the place to live

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr. James. F. Perry Chocolate Bayou—Care of Cap. John Austin who will please forward it by first safe opportunity

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JAMES F. PERRY TO AUSTIN [1]

Bells Nov 18th 1831

DEAR BROTHER

I got down to pleasant buyou all safe a week ago and have selected a building spot a little below where we camped it is below the head of tide and at high tide the watter is a little brackish but there is a good stream of fresh watter now and by builds a small dam say about 2 or 2½ feet high it will keep out the tide and the situation I think is much preferable to any above and will be geting nigher to navigation which I think is desirable. I have come here with the waggon for some articles we wanted I left Kenner and the other boys at work and if the saw mill goes on any reasonable time I hope it will not be very long before we will be prepared to bring the famaly down. I expect to get on . . . . ploughs started next week—or the week after. I was at Capn H Austins as I came here Saw Mrs. Holly she is very desirous to see you before she returns (as by her engagements she is compelled to do) and would be very glad if the dearbourne could be sent down for her I have wrote to Emily if Joel has got well enough to ventur out to send him for her and if he is not perhapes you could get one of the young men at Williams to go down for her She expects to return by the next vessel

As I passed Majr Halls yesterday I saw Doct Phelps—and from what I here I think it is proble they will settle there deficulty and in that case it is very proble Hall will apply for some of the Clear Creek land I would like to see you before you give him a promise of any . . . for . . . very much prepared a farm . . . the boy notwithstanding . . . was still very plenty on pleasant bayou when I

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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left there by a traveler just from San Philipe I hear you are still on the recovery and against I see you which will not be for some time yet that you will entirely be recover[d] your health. I have heard Gen[r] Teran has ariv[d] at Galveston

JAMES F PERRY

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

TERAN TO AUSTIN

S. D. ESTEBAN AUSTIN.

Anahuac Nov[e]. 20 1831

AMIGO Y SR. DE TODO MI APRECIO Y ESTIMACION: He venido á visitar este puesto y si mis asuntos cada vez mas urgentes me lo permitieran pasaria á S. Felipe; p[ro] no tendre esa satisfaccion hta—el mes de marzo pr. el camino de la Bahia por el Pe. Muldoon y el cor[l] Bradburn me he impuesto de los quebrantos de su salud, y el peligro en qe. se ha visto: ultimam[te] nos han dicho qe. ya estaba en convalesencia. Me es muy sensible qe. V. se enferme; á mas del afecto y amistad qe. profeso á su persona, estoy entendido en qe. hace suma falta p[a] la direccion de su establecim[to] en punto ábuen orden y seguridad en sus interesantes operaciones: no miro, quiza pr. qe. tengo poco conocimto. de las personas qe. habitan en su colonia quien podría remplazar el influjo de V. y qe. condujese los asuntos con la moderacion y prudencia qe. ellos exijen: asi mis deseos mas vivos son pr. qe. V. se restablesca.

Uno de los asuntos á qe. he venido es el de establecer pr. orden del Gob[o] Federal la aduana maritima de Galveston, creada pr. una ley del congreso general: sobre este punto veo muchas dificultades pr. los muchos fondeaderos qe. se encuentran en la Bahia de esta parte, y en la costa. Como los habitantes de Tejas no estan acostumbrados á tales establecimientos, temo qe. tengan falsas ideas y aprensiones qe. originen disgustos. El punto principal es el de viveres, cuya introduccion es libre de todo dro [derecho] pr. la ley de 6 de abril, y cuya prorroga tengo empeño en solicitar: los demas articulos son de poca neccesidad p[a] Tejas, y aun no mereccian el establecim[to] de una aduana; sino fuera necesario resguardar las costas p[a] impedir las introducciones en otros estados: la prohibicion del tabaco ó la han soportado ya, ó la han eludido lo mejor qe. yo veo es qe. lo cultivaran en sus terrenos y no lo tomaran del estranjero, pues se aprovecharian de las utilidades. Las ocurrencias anteriores con el administrador Fisher ponen tambien algun tropiezo. Como entre las desavenencias no se le imputo causa alguna pr. la qe. debiese perder el empleo, y el ayuntamiento se limitó á un procedimiento arbitrario sin acusarlo legalm[te] de ningun delito, el Gobierno no tiene arbitrio p[a] quitarlo; p[ro] al tiempo de ocuparlo yo pr. la comision qe. se medió p[a] el estab-

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lecimiento de la aduana le he exijido promesa formal de olvidar dar cuanto ha ocurrido, y asi lo ha hecho hta. ahora: le he recomendado mucho qe. se ciña á los deberes de su empleo, sin mezclarse en ningun otro asunto del pais, y de esta suerte creo qe. no habra embarazo ninguno pr. este lado; y al efecto espero qr. V. interpongo su influjo en esa villa p^{a} qe. todo se olvide calmando los resentimientos; en el concepto qe. de cualquiera falta qe. se advierta en Fisher en orden al comportamiento qe. debe tener en esa colonia, dara V. ó el Sr. Williams y el ayuntam^{to} aviso al cor^{l} Bradburn p^{a} qe. con su conocida prudencia ocurra prontam^{te} al remedio y me de conocimiento p^{a} tomar la providencia qe. sea conveniente.

He tenido esperanza de ver á V. en este punto; p^{ro} al imponerme del mal estado de su salud la he perdido; y como es preciso volerme prontam^{te} p^{a} Matamoros, y de alli p^{a} la Bahia y Bejar, creo qe. nos veremos cuando V. vaya p^{a} el Saltillo. Entretanto reciba V. las exp^{s} sinceras de mi afecto y con el mas vivo deseo de qe. se recobre me ofresco pr. su muy atento Amo. y Srvr. q. b. s. m.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

Nov^{e} 20

Detenida esta carta en espera de conductor ha habido lugar de qe. vea lo qe. escribe V. al P^{e} Muldoon; y puedo asegurar á V. qe. ni Fisher ni ningun otro me ha podido sugerir ideas poco favorables á V. y sus designios, pr. qe. los hechos me ministran conocimientos mas seguros qe. los qe. pueden darme los informes de los hombres. Asi debe V. deponer todo recelo en esta parte. Vale—

MOZEA ROUSSEAU TO AUSTIN

Col. AUSTIN

will be so good as to pay James Haggard seventy dollars worth of Cows. and Calves and this will be good in our settlement and you will oblige your Friend

MOZEA ROUSSEAU

19th Nov 1831

Good for forty Dollars in Cows. and Calves

S M WILLIAMS

To a/c Nov. 29, 1831

P. A.

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Nov^{r} 21. 1831

Joel intends to go and see you which gives an opportunity to write

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If Mrs Holley wishes to come up I want the Dearborn to go into Bolivar after her, and as the road is bad through the bottom by Harris I think you had better go in with it to Bolivar yourself and you can then have the iron work done, which is much needed or it well break worse— If Mrs Holley does not wish to come up she will send word out to Mrs Bradleys for the Dearborn not to come in after her—

Dr. Angier talks of going to Anahuac and perhaps you might trade your Horses to his wife for her cattle— John Austin says that cattle are falling, and I also think they are, and that they can be had cheaper by Spring—I shall leave here in a few days for Anahuac, and from there I shall hire a boat and go direct to your place— you must then furnish me with horses to go to Bolivar and Brazoria— It probably will be two weeks before I get to your place.

In the bend on the north or upper side of Pleasant Creek close to the timber some distance up the creek from its mouth is very rich Shumac prairie and a field there would be protected from the heavy winds from the sea which sometimes whip out the corn and blow it down

I have spoken to Cap John Austin for a number of orange fig and peach trees— you must be very particular to go into Brazoria after them in February, also pomegranite— when you move down you can take peach trees as many as you want from here but get from all sides so as [to] have a greater variety— attend to this for a season lost in planting fruit trees is a great deal— from Bolivar you can get *plums* at Henrys—

The place for the garden and orchard is on the South side of Pleasant Bayou and it ought to be broken up the first

I am in better spirits than I have been for Six months—all things are working around right

I want you to send for the Mares and horses I have at Coles as soon as you can take care of them, tho When I see you we can arrange about that Emily has *a fine* fat boy and all well—

S F Austin

Sinse writing this Mrs Bradley has had an application to stay up here some time longer,

[Addressed:] Mr James F. Berry
pr. Joel

Margaret Dickinson to Austin

Perry County, Mo., November 23, 1831.

See Calendar.

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AUSTIN TO THOMAS H. BENTON

Novr 25 1831

T. H. BENTON

About eighteen months since I had the pleasure of receiving your friendly letters introducing Col Woodbery who visited this country with a view to a permanent Settlement and removal of his family

I afforded Col. W. all the assistance and gave him all the information in my power, as it will always give me pleasure to do to any of your friends who may visit this country.

The particular object of this letter (after acknowledgeing the recept of yours by Col. W. and assuring you that our former acquaintance in Missouri is still fresh on my memory,) is to recommend to you the bearer Mr. W. B. Travis, who probably will apply for the appointment of U. S. consul for the Harbor and Bay of Galveston in Texas—

My personal acquaintance with Mr T. is very short and limited, he has been recommended to me by persons of respectability and I can with full confidence say that he has acquired the esteem and respect of the better part of the people in the section of country where he resides which is on the Trinity river near the head of Galveston bay, and I have my self no hesitation in recommending him as a suitable person for the appointment of Consul—

Texas when thickly settled will no doubt require four consuls or vice consuls on its sea board—one for Galveston, one for Brazoria at the mouth of the Brazos river, one for Matagorda bay, and one for Aransao and the Neucis bay—At this time I think the location of a consul at some point on Galveston bay, with authority to appoint vice consuls for the Brazos and Matagorda, would do—or consuls might very properly I think be appointed now for the Brazos and Matagorda—The most of the business of Texas is now done through Brazoria near the mouth of the Brazos river—

I directed my friend in Phia to send you a copy of the map which I compiled of Texas, published by Mr Tanner which I hope you recd. and which will give you a correct general idea of the points I speak of and of all Texas, it is not of course topografically correct, but I think is as much so as the first maps of unsurveyed countries generally are, and perhaps more so—

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.]

FATHER MULDOON TO AUSTIN

Anahuac 28 de nov 1831

Sor. C. AUSTIN.

AMADO AMIGO—El Jueves 24 salio de aqui el General Teran despues de haver quedado justamente 15 dias

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Yo como organo ó Vicario general de este pais le recivi en nombre de todos los gremios o cuerpos representando en mi pequeña persona toda la Curia Ecclesiastica!—todos estos discursos se veran con el tiempo en los papeles publicos con un largo y liberal arenga pr el sor Burnet— estos fueron los acontecimientos del Jueves o dia primero de la llegada del General que fue el nueve—el Lunes sigiuente comimos en la casa de campo de D[n] John M. Smith a cinco millas de aqui por tierra o por agua—el viernes siguente asistimos al gran Convite dado pr. los Anahuacenses al General yo en tiempo mas oportuno le diré los *Brindos* que huvo—Este celebre dia acabó con un Bayle al cual no asisti. por haver estado algo indispuesto.

Se desbarato la municipalidad de Libertad. Anahuac es desde Luego la Cabecera—El General se quexa de la redundancia de los Abogados esa plaga de Langostas o Ociosos—a la verdad creo que no pueden contribuir a la felicidad comun—esto es uno de los puntos que mas le incomodan—

Dice que La Colonia de Austin tiene pr limite el San Jacinto y parece inflexible en esto—

Le Corridan todas los moradores de aquellas tierras y de libertad para exhibir sus titulos o derechas de posession etc.—

Se establecio La Aduana a disgusto de todo viviente y al mio en particular—espero no progresara y esto mismo signifique al General—

Las obras del General Verdaderam[te] estan en directa oposicion a sus deseos a sus sentimientos—permitió algunos americanos a posessionar despues de su llegado, y aun convida!

nopuedo ni quiero creer que el Gran Teran permitira *Louisiana* trunfar de la Provincia de Tejas! No, no no, No mi querido Austin y tengo la satisfaccion de asegurarle que ocupa v. el punto mas alto en las estimacion, y opinion de Teran. de esto le daré pruevas convencentes cuando nos veamos—ha estado tres aguardando a Vmd por haverle dicho Spillman—y Edwards que V. salia de Sn. Felipe el viernes 18—aunqe pr. mi carta que leyó sospechó lo contrario y parcialmente pr. ella contesto a V—

Deseo infinitamente Vera V. y le doy mil parabienes por su mejoria— Al mismo tiempo que tengo estos deseos tengo de ellos inseparable el disgusto, de hallarme alli en medio de mi Parroquia sin Casa—sin criado—sin rento ni provision alguna pr. ese Ayuntamiento—parece que vengo a mil parroquia a mendigar—a recivir en lugar de derramar favores—

Quisiera que V. antes de irse pusiera en esto una cabal mano porque yo en lugar de recivir mas favores de mi Amigo Williams—quiso recompensarle ampleamente pr los ya recibidos

Estoy muy quijoso de la conducta nada fina del Sor Lesassier en la noche llamada pr Vmd de las Reconciliacionces sobre esto tengo

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mucho que decirle—Estoy pr. decirle que si no fuera por Vmd no volviria—a lo menos pr. aora a *Austin*. Entodo caso soy de Vmd su apasionado amigo—y nofingido capellan

MIGUEL MULDOON [Rubric]

HENRY AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Brazoria 28 Novr. 1831

Col S F AUSTIN

MY DEAR SIR I have just rec[d] yours pr D[r.] Archer and am sorry to find the disappointment as to the Dearborn vexes you so much—as matters have turned out it was perhaps a fortunate circumstance the cold winter storm for a week past would have rendered the journey dangerous if not impracticable— She [Mrs. Holley] rec[d] your letter stating your intention to go to Anahuac and see her on your return, before I left She therefore determine[d] to remain at Bolivar until my return with my family and then if you were at St Felipe to go up with me on horse back if I could not get a carriage— I have now arranged for one here if wanted on my return

I have been detained here six days by the storm, there is no chance of the Nelson getting in until it be over— we are now informed that Genl Teran has returned to Matamoras, and conclude you will not now leave St Felipe until quite well. However severe your disappointment in not seeing Teran I think it is better than that you should have made the journey for travelling in this bad weather would in all probability have killed you— you have no doubt better information as to his departure than we have If it be true that he has removed the Garrison to Galveston Island and suspended the collection of duties till April as report says I see no reason to regret his visit or sudden departure, it gives time to observe the moving of the waters I am told Jalisco and two other states have withdrawn from the union, if so there may be a general break up next thaw and Teran will have enough to look after at home— I have seen your letter to John—you ought not to permit these matters to worry you so much The bablers are mostly men of little influence the substantial part of the community are not disposed to take any steps in public matters without your previous approbation—The talkers in the case of Capt Doon[1] were mostly the shopkeepers and whisky drinkers. I arrived here a few days after and defended the conduct of the officer who had done no more than his

[1] J. Doane was captain of the schooner *Spica*. The trouble to which Austin refers is not clear.

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duty and had shown more lenity than would have been shown in such a case in any other country

When the case was fairly understood all the reasonable men condemned Capt Doons conduct—

I wish much to have Mrs Holley see the upper country as she is already preparing a work for publication on her return and I wish her to have a fair opportunity to describe the country and to see you long enoug[h] to get your ideas as to the representation best calculated to make such impression on the public mind as will suit your views of policy—

The affair of Hall and Phelps is like to do much mischief—which ever way it goes if Hall gets the land it establishes the principle that an individual may occupy the property of another without the warrant of any public authority or judicial act which might lead to much mischief and great disconfidence in titles generally[1]— If Phelps has vitiated his title no act of Halls can make it good. but it strikes me as very dangerous to permit an individual to appropriate the labor of another to himself *before any judicial act of forfeiture is had*—if permitted on one pretense now it will soon be resorted to on another. I have already heard men speak of denouncing land on the ground of forfeiture for non settlement, having a league of the Hall family in view on which they say not a tree has been cut— who can foretell the effect of such proceedings upon the public mind here and in the US where the Matter will not be understood and no doubt be much misrepresented— I am very anxious about my family. the cold storm still continues. The moment I get them housed I shall come to St Felipe and visit the upper country if the weather will permit to look out a retreat for the summer I would not keep my family at Bolivar through such a Season as the last for all Texas it would be a certain sacrifice of the lives of some of them— I think somewhere near Coles or Chrismans will from all accounts be healthiest and safest there being a strong population there and in case I get the Swiss families I have sent for I will place one of them there to commence a vineyard— J W[e]stall has this moment come in with information that the Nelson is off the Bar and my family on shore at Captn Chases all well— It rains hard but I start at once

H. AUSTIN [Rubric]

My fingers and Ideas are froze up

[Addressed:] Col S F Austin St Felipe de Austin

[1] See Hall to Austin, July 26, 1831.

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Thomas Davis to S. M. Williams

Mr Willims Sur Pleas Pay and to Thom Davis two gentle Cows and Calves and the amount shall be Credited on Mr Austens note Richd Andrews for Moza Ruzaw [Rousseau] Nov 28th 1831

Pay the within To Henry Applewhite

Thomas Davis

Austin to Musquiz

[From Bexar Archives]

Remito á V. S. una certificacion del medico que me asistió en mi enfermedad, atestada por el Sor Arciniega, por la cual se impondra V. S. de la causa por q. no puedo emprender mi marcha para la capital del Estado en tiempo para asistir á la apertura de las sesiones del H. C. como es el deber de cada diputado, y suplico que se servira V. S. elevarlo al Exmo Sor Gob^{or}. del Estado para q. la pase al H. Congreso si la estima por conveniente como una constancia de la causa de mi ausencia, al mismo tiempo aseguro á V. S. que mi pondre en marcha para la capital tan luego que mi salud lo permita.

Dios y Libertad Villa de Austin á 29 de Nov^{e}. de 1831

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Sor. Gefe del Depart^{o} C. Ramon Musquis

Austin's House Plans

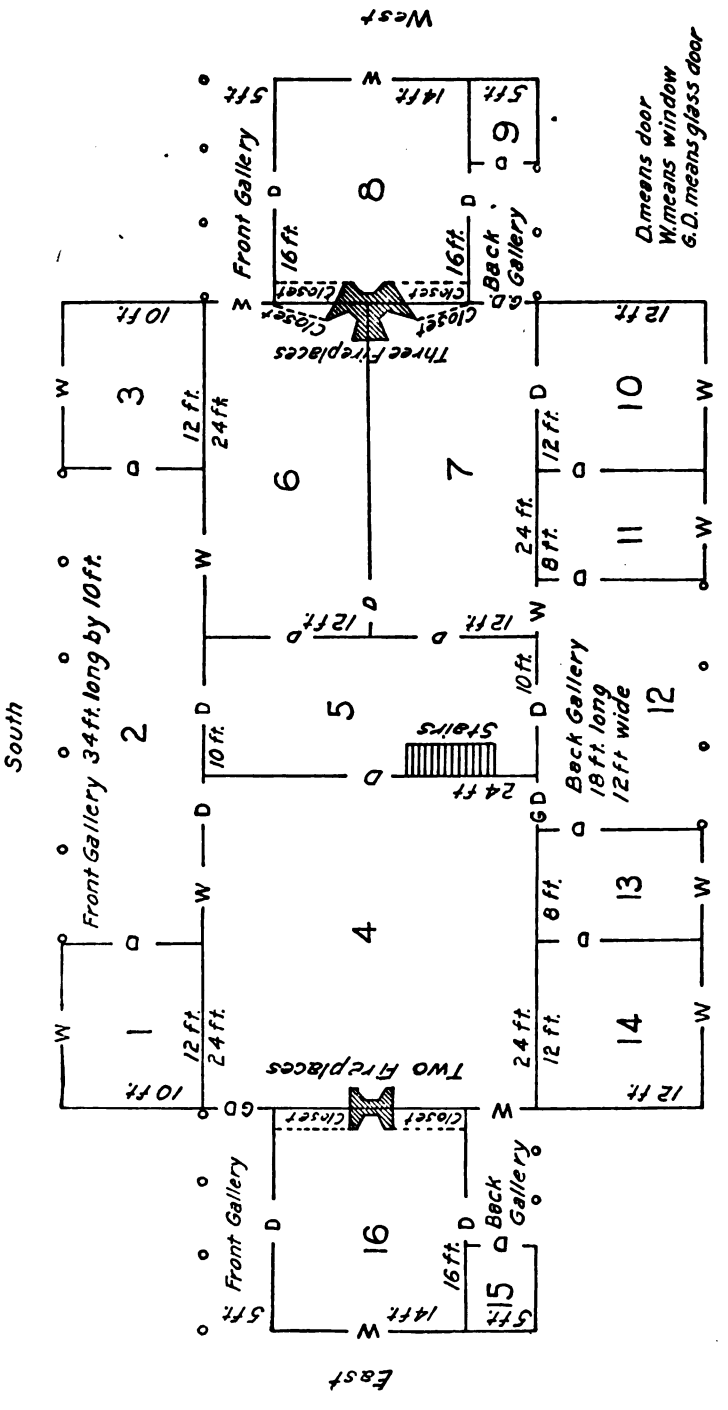
NORTH

Back here the kitchen and other out buildings will be placed between the house and Pleasant Bayou, so as to be convenient to wood and water—the back yard must extend down to the bayou and all the large trees ought to be carefully preserved so as to have a cool shady grove back of the house on the bank of the bayou, also this grove will break off the north winds in winter

The garden and orchard can be east, or west of the house along the edge of the timber, and the cow pens stables &c ought to be on the opposite end of the house from the Garden, that is, if the garden is west or below the house, the cow pens, stables barn and calf lot ought to be to the east of the house up the bayou which I think will be the best place— The farm ought to be on the north side of Pleasant bayou

Explanation of the Plan D Means door—W means windows
G D. means glass door

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N.os 1 and 3 bed room on each end of the front gallery 10 by 12ft

N.o 2 Front gallery 34 feet long 10 feet wide— The whole of the sills, posts and floors of this and all the other galleries ought to be of cedar or they will rot from the wet in a few years

N.o 4 Dining room, 24 feet square—a door in the South west corner which opens into the front gallery, another in north west corner which opens into the back gallery The upper part of this last door ought to be of glass— A door into the passage, and a glass door in the South east corner on the gallery of the east wing marked G D—

N.o 5 Passage 10 feet by 24—a door at each end with a half round window over head of each door

N.os 6 and 7 Bed room 12 by 24 with a corner fire place in each out of N.o 7 a door of glass at G D to open to the back gallery of the west wing

N.o 8 West wing 14 by 16 with a fireplace and a Gallery on each side 5 feet wide

N.o 9 A closet on the back gallery of the west wing

N.os 10 and 11 childrens bed rooms, through which there is a communication into the back gallery without having to go round through the passage

N.o 12 Back gallery 12 by 18 feet— This will be useful to breakfast or Dine in the summer and to keep the water buckets and wash bowls &c &c—

N.o 13 Pantry, which opens into the back gallery and is adjoining to the dining room, through the G D at the north west corner

N.o 14 Store room 12 feet square—such a room is indispensable to keep liquors and necessaries of various kinds in—

N.o 15 Closet on the back gallery of the east wing

N.o 16 East wing— This is S. F. Austins room and is to be finished expressly for him In the passage there must be a stair case to go up into the garret where there may be two good winter bed rooms, one at each end, with windows in the gable ends—the roofs of the wings need not be as high as the main body—in fact they might be made flat roofs with a door to go out of the garret on them, so as to have a view of the bay—

Agreeably to this plan the west half and west wing of the house can be made entirely private, for family use—for besides the doors into the passage out of N.os 6 and 7 there will be two private back doors, one out of N.o 7 on to the back gallery of the west wing, and one through the

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childrens bed rooms 10 and 11 into the main back gallery, and thence into the pantry and Store room, or out to the kitchen

The pantry situated as it is, will be convenient to the kitchen, and dining room, and store room, and will be a useful and handy place to arrange and prepare the materials and *knicknacks* of a dinner or supper—also to keep crockery ware &c &c. The west wing will be a very pleasant and a very private family room either for summer or winter.

The dining room is large enough to entertain company in handsome stile without being jamed to death for want of room—and it will make a very pleasant sitting room winter or summer— The door into the back gallery will communicate with the kitchen and pantry. The East wing will make a room for S. F. Austin, and will be connected with the body of the house through the glass door into the dining room out of the front gallery of the East wing.—

The body of the room ought to be 14 feet between the floors so as to give the roof a sufficient pitch over the galleries— The wings ought to be 12 feet between the floors and *flat roofs* with banisters around them—

By raising the house four or five feet from the ground, a cellar may be easily made under a part of it—

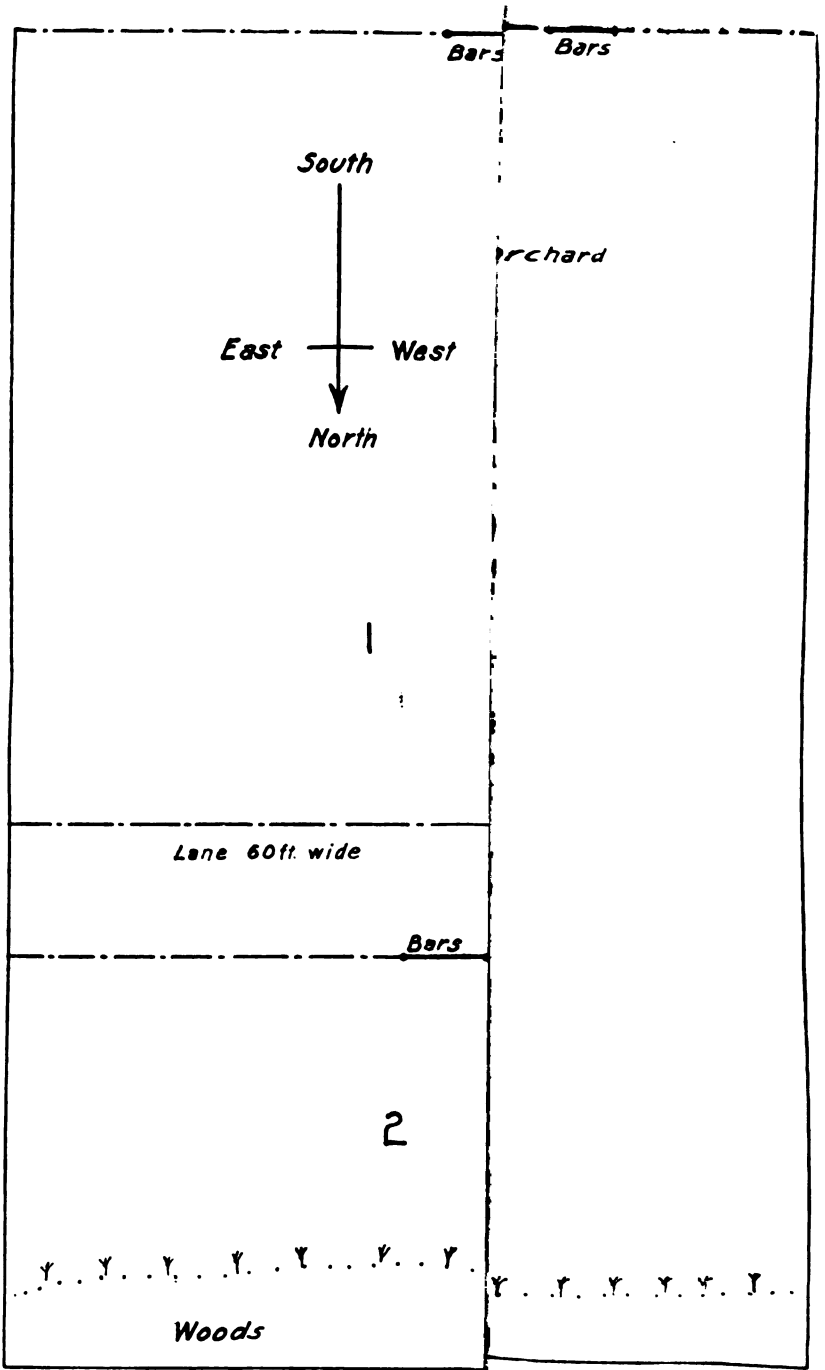
The whole body of the house might be raised now and enclosed, making a calculation to add the two wings afterwards, taking care to have the fireplaces made on the outside of the wings, and also to have all the mortises made that might be necessary to unite the wings to the main body and the wings could then be put up next year when there is more time to do it— The west half of the main part of the house, that is the rooms 6. 7. 10. 11. and 3 might be finished this winter and spring so as to receive the family, and the whole of the east part of the house might be let alone and finished next summer and fall— Lime is so convenient there from shells, that I would lathe and plaster the inside of all the rooms it will be much cheaper I think than to ciel them with planks

By commencing on this plan the whole of it may be finished at different times at a leisure spell or according as workmen and lumber can be had for the family can move as soon as the rooms 6. 7. 10. and 11 are finished, or even half finished— This house will be a convenient one and large enough for your family and leave some rooms to accomodate friends and visitors, of whom you will have a number after a while— In a year or two, should more room be wanted, another story can very easily be put on to each of the wings

I think that 10 feet is wide enough for the passage, this passage is in fact but of little use except to divide the house and make the rooms

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88370—28. (Face p. 719.)

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private, and also for the stairs to go up into the garret— The ground for the garden and orchard, and cow pens and stables corn cribs &c &c, and also the place for the kitchen and smoke house and the hen house and poultry yard ought all to be selected and marked out before the house is raised, and then you will do everything on a fixed plan, and all will come out right, even if you are three or four years finishing it—

S. F. AUSTIN

November 30, 1831.

This plan shows the situation of the garden, yards, kitchen, cow pens. stables &c— I think that 16 feet square is too small for the kitchen, it ought to be 20 feet at least, for the chimney and oven will take up all one side and in this hot climate a small room for a kitchen would be very hot and unhealthy— All the back buildings ought to be brick with brick floors—a common log cabin would do for a kitchen untill you could build of brick you will have to make bricks next fall for your chimneys— The place where you ought to make the brick is up the Chocolate bayou at Brays old Cabbin where there is Clay and Timber, and take the brick down by water

By beginning on this plan and finishing it by degrees you can do it all in a year or 18 months and not feel it materially—and when it is done you will have a valuable place and a convenient one

EXPLANATION OF PLAN

No. 1 Horse Lot—The fence round this lot ought to be very high and strong so as to pen wild horses or Cattle—which can be driven into the lane and so through the bars

No. 2 Calf Lot and Cow pens to be divided so as to make it convenient for milking

No. 3 Gate or bars To go out and in with a carriage or on Horse back, so as not to interfere with the trees in front of the house

No. 4 Front Yard to be planted with orange trees etc

No. 5 In this back yard the pig styes—Lye gums and such things can be put up

No. 6 This is laid off North and East, and I think it will suit the course of the Creek and timber to place the house in that way and make all the fences to correspond

NOTE—The Garden fence ought to run down to the Creek, and also the calf lot fence— This would leave a space of upwards of an 100 feet wide from the garden fence to the calf lot fence extending back of the kitchen down to the Creek which would serve as back yard, poultry yard—and a place for washing and drying clothes,

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then there need be no cross fence back of kitchen for the back yard would reach all the way down to the creek which would be about 200 yards from the kitchen and about 150 yards of that distance would be through the woods—

None of these woods must be cut down on any account as they will be a shade for the calf and poultry lots and break off the north winds from the gardin and orchard

---

EMILY M. PERRY TO JAMES F. PERRY

December 1st 1831

MY DEAR HUSBAND—

I was highly pleased to hear from you by Joel, and of your safe return from your last scrape, I hope to God that you will not suffer by your being so exposed to the Cold for so many nights, I am fearfull that it will give you the *Fever* and *Ague*, you are not half as carefull of your self as you should be, how, careless to go out with out your hat, or coat, I am really astonished at you, all the uneasiness that I have now is on your *account*, for you are so careless, of your self, I have to live so very much *exposed*, I shall be miserable if I hear of your being Sick, you must try and come up, if you should be taken unwell,— I am very smart, the Baby is not two weeks old, and I have been *out* into the eating room twice, as bad as the weather has been, we have the prospect of a pleasant day at last, the first for two weeks,—

I send you a *Plan* of a House that Stephen sent down for me to look at, I approve of the Plan very much, it will be a very convenient, and pleasent house, altho it is on a pretty large *Scale*, but not two large, if you think your *purse* will allow you to venture so far, if you could git the frame up, and the *roof* on and *weather-boarded*, by having one chimney and three rooms made habitable the Balance could remain unfinish'd untill, time, and money ennabled you to finished it; at all evence you can make some improvement on your own Plan by comparing it with the one I send you, I would rather have more room thrown into the rooms, and not have the Passage so *wide*, I should prefer having the Back-Gallery much *wider*, than the Front Gallery as it will always be *used* more than the Other, I approve of Stephen Plan as it respects that end of the house, were the Childrens' rooms are struck of; also by deviding one of the large rooms,—; but you can make such alterations as you think propper, you are a better judge that I am how, large a house we can build, and the expence attending it; go according to your own

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judgement, if Plank can be had to lay down on the Passage and *back* Gallery, by closing in three rooms, we could move down, (I mean putting in doors and windows) the rest of the unfinished House would do for the boys to Lodge in, through the Summer; I approve of his Plan in laying off the *Grounds* very much I wish the Back Yard to run down to the Creek and do not let the Boys cut down any of the trees that will make a Shade, you know I am a great Friend to trees and sh[r]ubbery— come up as soon as possible, for we are all very anxious, to see you, write by every opportunity, Adieu—

E. M. P.

Have received letters from John Perry and Rachel, all friends were well, nothing perticular in them;

Austin to James Hope

Mr. James Hope,

You inform me that you are going to England, your native country, on a visit, and expect that many enquiries will be made by your friends and relations relative to Texas, and as to the encouragement that is given by this government to emigrants and in order that you may be enabled to answer them correctly you wish me to give you a memorandum on the subject—

In complyance with this request I herewith hand you a pamphlet which contains translations of the colonization laws now in force— you will find the national law on the 40th and 41st pages numberd 20, and the law of the State of coahuila and Texas on pages 42, to 48—it is numbered 21, and commences at the bottom of page 41.— The State law is the one which prescribes the quantity of land each settler is to get and the mode of issuing the titles, The instructions to the commissioners on pages 55. 56. 57. and 58. also clearly explain the mode of issuing the titles etc—

It will be seen by examining the state law above mentioned that a league of land and a "*Labor*" can be granted to each family, and the quarter of that quantity to single men— A mexican league is equal to *four thousand four hundred and twenty eight acres* english measure— A Labor is equal to 177 acres— The whole cost of a league of land including surveying, office fees and what has to be paid to the Government under the 22d article of the state law, will not exceed about four cents pr acre, and a considerable portion of this is payable in instalments—

By a new contract which I have lately made with the Government in which I have taken Mr S. M. Williams in as a partner, We are authorised to introduce eight hundred European families, and settle them on the vacant land within the limits of and adjoin-

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ing my other colonies which are completed, The new emigrants therefore who now come, will not have to settle in a wilderness, destitute of supplies as the first emigrants did, but on the contrary, they come to a country abounding in provisions, and in all that is necessary to make them comfortable By the existing laws of the Mexican Govt. Europeans are prefered to North Americans, and no people would be better received than the subjects of Great Britain, for no nation is on more friendly terms with the Mexican Government—

English farmers, and capitalists would greatly benefit themselves by a removal to Texas— The industrious and economical habits of the former, would advance their fortunes rapidly by agriculture, and the capital of the latter invested in Manufactories, Agriculture, or commerce would yield them an immense interest— There certainly never was such an opening on earth for european emigrants, as is now presented in Texas, for it will be remembered that they are not compelled to settle in Austin's colony unless they chuse to do so, but can settle in other parts of Texas—it will also be rememberd that no money is required of the settler, untill he has actually recd. his title from the commissioner of the Govt. duly appointed for that purpose—no one can get a title without an actual removal of his family to the country. By the constitution and laws of this nation slavery is forever prohibited within the mexican territory, emigrants from England would therefore do well to bring a number of laborers and white servants, bound under written contracts specifying their wages and the term for which they had engaged—such contracts will be binding and enforced in this country. It would be a good plan to bring out a number of Dutch, Belgian or German families as laborers. It is thought by some that they would be much more easily managed and more profitable, than either english, irish, or scotch laborers

Emigrants will be required to produce evidence of their good moral character, respectable standing, and industrious and sober habits, from the judicial or civil authority of the country they remove from, which must be properly authenticated to avoid frauds and impositions, without this indispensable requisite, land will not be granted to them as settlers—

On their arrival in this country, those who wish to settle under the [last] contract of Austin and Williams, must apply to one of those persons in this place, and report himself with a list of his family and present his documents of recommendation, and also his passport from the mexican consul of the port where he saild from

[Stephen F. Austin.]

San Felipe de Austin 5th December 1831

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Francisco Ruiz to Austin

Tenoxtn Dice 11 de 1831.

S. D. Esteban Austin

Mi fino y estimado Amigo. Con la Mayor satisfon recivi la grata de V. de 29. de Nove Anterior, celebrando por ella q. se halle fuera dela cama, sintiendo solamente lo devilitado ó estropeado q. la fiebre le ha dejado, yo deseo y espero que del todo se ponga en perfecta salud.

Reciví el Amparo q. el Señor Alcalde se sirvió estender en mi fabor y á virtud del cariño q. le debo á V. y al Señor D. Samuel cuyo fabor spre. tendré presente sujetando me por ahora solo adarles las mas expresivas gracias por tamaño bien—y como un efecto de mi eterna gratitud

No sé el objeto de la venida del Sor Teran y su corta Mancion en Anahuac, sin duda algunas Attencionas le hicieron regresar tan pronto á Matamoros.

Siento mucho tenga V. q. biajar á Europa para poder cumplir con la nueba contrata sobre colonisaon pues me parese tiene mucho q. trabajar, hacer grandes gastos y quisa con poca utilidad, Dios quira que Antes de su hida Venga mejor tiempo y le ha[b]orre el hir á Europa.

Sirvase V. dar mis saludes muy espresibas ál Señor S. Samuel su Sa. y fama. y V. disponga de la buena voluntad q. le profesa su enbariable amigo q. le ama muy deveres

Franco Ruiz [Rubic]

P. D. Me ha sorprendido lo qe. me dice de Vermendi, no lo creo pr. qe. no encuentro una causa pa tan repentina mudanza, en Bejar sé qe. hai partidos y quisa los contrarios de unos se valen de pretestos frivolos y mentiros pa enunder la discordia, no obstante yo procuraré indirectamte saver algo sobre la materia y lo qe. sepa selo diré como buen amigo pr. ultimo V. obre sin temor en bien dela Patria y burlese dela Malicia.

Ruiz [Rubric]

William S. Parrott to Austin

Mexico Dec 17th 1831.

Stephen F. Austin

San Filipe

My Dear Sir Col. Butler advises me of the receipt of a letter from you, communicating the painful intelligence of the Death of My Ex. Partner S. J. Willson, and of a protracted illness with which you had suffered; But it afforded me pleasure to hear of your convalesance and hope e'er this you have regained good health,

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so necessary to enable us to enjoy the temporal blessings of a short life

Willson as you may have learned has been owing me for some time, say since 1828 a large sum, of money drawn from my resources while he was a partner and in my absence; no part of which I have been able to get of him directly tho I have succeeded in collecting for his a/c here and elsewhere some small amounts compared with principal debt; and I now feel confident he has left Something with which to make on abono if nothing more, and with the hope of having a favourable result, forward this day to Thos. J. Chambers Esqr. of your place. My a/c current up to date having a balance without interest in my favour of $21,201-20/100— With a carta poder; to examine into the matter and to recover for me, what he can, tho I am personally acquainted with Mr. Chambers I would feel much obliged to you to recommend the matter to him in a special manner.

When you have leisure, I would thank you to advise me, if I have any chance, to get hold of his grant tho I am half interested in it, of this however no document exists other than his letters,

W. S. Parrott [Rubric]

Report of Land Commissioner

December 22, 1831.

See Calendar.

Austin to Mary Austin Holley[1]

E. F. A. empresario p[a] el establecim[to] de colonos en Texas en las colonias que le tienen designados el Supremo Gobn[o] Federal Mexicano, y el del Estado de C. y T.

Certifico que la Señora viuda Maria Austin y Holly es uno de los colonos de mis referidas empresas legitimam[te] recibido y establecido de conformidad con las leyes de colonizacion y demas leyes vigentes: que tiene empleados su capital y recuesos para cultivar las tierras que ha adquirido como colono y poblarlos con ganado: que pasa a los E. U. del Norte sobre negocios particulares con la intencion de regresar a esta en un año ó año y medio y para que sea reconocida por las autoridades mexicanas de su transitu com[o] ciudadana mexicana lejitimam[te] naturalizada doy esta al mismo tiempo suplicando a las referidas autoridades qe. no pongan embarazo en su

[1] This is from the last page of Austin's address to emigrants from Europe, Dec. —, 1831.

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ida ó vuelta con su familia y criados ó dependiemtes antes al contrario ausiliandola en caso necesario—

Es dado en la Villa de San Felipe de Austin a los 22 dias de Deciembre de 1831

ESTEVAN F AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO EMILY M. PERRY

Decr. 23. 1831

DR SISTER,

I remained at Henrys during the bad weather—my face and jaws were quite painful owing to riding down in the damp air— I am not yet rid of the mercury— A more lovely or beautiful family than Henrys I have never seen in all my life— his eldest daughter goes with Mrs Holley— they are all very anxious to see you and sent their love— Mrs H. will remove here as soon as she can arrange her affairs— She is a very superior woman and the most agreeable company I have met with for many years

I have not seen Mr Perry and suppose he has gone up, Tell him to call on Williams for the Cattle—there are two yoke of oxen amongst them also a mare— he will have to find hands to hunt them up I have written to W—about it, and also left instructions before I started—

No news of the Dart, or Elizabeth. The Spica is here and leaves tomorrow— Mrs Holley will be down to day to go in her to New orleans

remember me to Lavinia— your brother

S. F. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY[1]

December 25, 1831.

DEAR COUSIN,

I am glad of the excuse afforded by the inclosed to say farewell *once more.* I beg you to take especial care to go no where but to the post office.

I think you can benefit *your adopted Country* by your correspondence with your numerous acquaintance. Credit, you know, is all important to a young and *new house.* The erroneous impression that Texas is settled by bad men must be totally done away with. I need not remind you that what is said in New Orleans soon flies through the South. It would be a good plan to have the printed

[1] Copy by Mrs. Holley, in file of July 19, 1831.

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copy of the Colonization law published with the translated copy and both will be perpetuated, and can be compared side, by side.

May you have a safe and pleasant voyage. The next year—how much happiness—or how much bitter disappointment—it may bring—, for I hope *then* we shall all be quietly and happily settled.

Farewell—

S F A

AUSTIN TO JAMES F PERRY[1]

Brazoria [Dec] 27. 1831

DR BROTHER:

I rec[d] yours from Bells and have sent all the letters by M[c]Kinney that I can find there is but *one*— John open'd one which is the invoice of the goods on board the Dart, he will want it to regulate the manifest— The *Dart* will be here tomorrow, also the *Elizabeth* and *Wildcat*— They all left the mouth this morning—*all well and harmoney*. Hunter had best come down I think to attend to the goods, tho I do not know what arrangements he made

As to settling—I left the whole matter to you from the first—and did not urge you to any one place in particular I wished you to please *yourself*— I will now give a *positive opinion*, which is that you go direct and immediately to Peach point, or come to this place— The idea of a *good house* for this year must be abandoned, log cabbins must do—remove all your stock to peach point, make corn there in the cane brake—let the work at Chocolate go and begin down here at once—and from this time forward make up your mind finally and definitively on the subject—and also keep up your sperits—no low sperits will do in any one as nearly connected to me as you are—it is noticed by others and attributed to the wrong cause

Mrs Holly has gone. She and Henrys wife send their love to Emily—Mrs. H. is a *divine* woman— she will be a neighbor at peach point, also Henry and Archibald. I mean to make a little world there of my own

Keep up, my D[r] brother—keep up your spirits we will be happy when we are all collected at Peach point

Shall be up soon

STEPHEN

I have now taken it on myself to direct where you ought to settle—think no more about it but go to peach point and fix some cabbins or a camp, and let building alone for this year— Three years ago Westall began where he is—he had 1 negro man 1 boy 3 women—this year he *only makes 80 bales of cotton.*

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[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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AUSTIN TO MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY[1]

Brazoria, December 29, 1831

DEAR COUSIN,

Henry returned yesterday and gave me your welcome letter. Yes; my friend, there is a pleasure in meeting with congenial feelings and tastes and sympathies, that few—very few—in this cold and selfish world can appreciate and enjoy. It is therefore like the diamond to the miser—invaluable.

I entered upon the busy stage of life with ideas of human nature, which, had they been true, would have made this Earth a paradise. My temperament was sanguine and confiding, my sensibility acute. The early part of my life was spent happily in the quiet enjoyments of home; and in the dreams of youth unpoisoned by ambition; unruffled by care, unclouded by a true knowledge of man. The world was to me what the *veiled Prophet of Khorassan* was to his blind devotees. My angel Mother, and my nobleminded and kind hearted father were my first standards of human nature. In the ardor of young hope I supposed the rest of the world to be something like them. It was a childish dream after my twentieth year *the silver veil* began to rise;—gradually—for the impressions of my whole life—short as it had then been—were not to be shaken off at once. Pecuniary troubles swept away my father's ample fortune, and broke up our family home. Ever ardent and persevering he conceived the idea of a settlement in Texas which I was destined to accomplish.

I entered this country with my ideas of the perfectability of human nature but half corrected, I labored with faithful intentions, and as disenterested views of general good as circumstances and my capacity permitted. I had never learned the value of money, at least that value which the world gives it: and the hope of amassing wealth was not the principal incentive that led me here. For the first time *Ambition* kindled its fires in my breast, but I think I can with truth say that the flame was a mild and gentle one, consisting more of the wish to build up the fortunes and happiness of others, and to realize my dreams of good will to my fellow men than of the overbearing spirit of military fame, or domineering power. My ambition was *to redeem this fine country*—our glorious Texas—and convert it into a home for the unfortunate, a refuge from poverty, an asylum for the sufferers from selfish avarice.

Here the hand of nature had spread her bounties with such profusion that the most indigent, with moderate industry, could make a support. The poor, but honest, man's cottage would not be looked down upon with contempt from the lofty attics of the lordly palace, for in that particular there would be perfect equality.

[1] Copy by Mrs. Holley, in file of July 19, 1831.

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I took upon myself the task of getting secure and valid titles for their land, and to furnish each emigrant with solid *grounds* on which to build the hopes of his family, and his humble "*forest home.*" Avarice was as incompatible with such views as I trust it has ever been foreign to my heart. Had I fixed an unreasonable value upon my labors and been rigid in exaction, or been led away by the mania for speculation, none but the wealthy would have been benefitted. My still youthful imagination (I was but 28 years old) became enthusiastic. I had read of the withering march of the blood-hounds of war over the fairest portions of the old world spreading fire and famine and desolation and death in their course, and sweeping whole nations from existence—*all to promote the happiness of mankind.* I could not understand it, but I *could understand* how that happiness might be promoted by conquering a wilderness by the *axe*, the plough, and the hoe.

Thus I entered Texas. Is it surprising that, with such feelings—the "*Silver veil*" but half raised—I have too deeply suffered from the ingratitude of the *few* who returned me abuse and curses for my hard and painful labors to build up their fortunes? I did feel it. And there have been moments when I have been threatened with misanthropy.—moments only, for, like the withering blasts of the Sirrocco, they could not have been longer endured. It was but the weakness of human nature, and as such may be pardoned. I looked around for some congenial minds to unburden my own. Judging by my exalted and unnatural standard I saw but selfishness, envy, jealousy, false pride disappointed vanity, and vindictive, furious revenge. It soured, disgusted, and sickened me. In this unhappy frame of mind I lost my good, and dearly beloved brother, my sister was settled for life in Missouri, as I thought, and I began to feel like an isolated, lone being. Reason and reflection had done much toward correcting this morbid and baneful excitement, and I began to look upon my fellow beings more as they deserved, though when prostrated by sickness, with a fevered brain it still comes over me, as you have perceived in some of my letters.

I had become convinced that I could not find happiness in a general and extended intercourse with the world, nor in popular favor, nor office, nor honors, nor wealth, were all these within my reach And yet I was a social being. The life of a hermit is odious to me. I need a social circle—a few friends of congenial tastes the want of which left a void. That void is being filled. My sister's family, and Henry's, and Archibald's, and you—my friend, you,—how shall I ever thank you for venturing into this wilderness—how express the happiness of the ten days visit at Henry's—his family so lovely and blooming and cheerful, and his own tall figure and sea-beaten countenance smiling over them? Yes, we will be

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happy. Before you came I had begun to change the opinion that I was laboring here solely for others and posterity, and am now convinced that I shall enjoy some of the fruits of my planting. This is a powerful incentive to persevere and finish my labors, and finally wash my hands of all participation in public matters. We will then arrange our cottages—rural—comfortable—and splendid—the splendor of nature's simplicity. Gardens, and rosy bowers, and ever verdant groves, and music, books, and intellectual amusements can all be ours; and that confidence and community of feeling and tastes which none but congenial minds can ever know; all these, without excessive wealth we can have. Millions could not buy them, but the right disposition, with competence, insure them.

You say the world knows nothing of me. I have never sought for notoriety, nor extended fame, nor do I expect any thing of the kind. A successful military chieftain is hailed with admiration and applause, and monuments perpetuate his fame. But the bloodless pioneer of the wilderness, like the corn and cotton he causes to spring where it never grew before, attracts no notice. He is either cried down as a speculator, or his works are too unostentatious to be worthy of attention. No slaughtered thousands or smoking cities attest his devotion to the cause of human happiness, and he is regarded by the mass of the world as a humble instrument to pave the way for others. I feel thankful that my happiness does not depend upon the possession of fame. My ambition is to deserve and receive the approbation of the *good*, and I feel truly grateful to you for your kind intentions in this respect. But pray do not, through partiality, *say too much.*

On reviewing what I have written I fear you will laugh at my enthusiasm, and think I am suffering my fancy to wander in the *Elysian Fields* when every thing around ought to remind me that before I can enter them the *Styx* and *Infernus* are to be passed. It may be so; but even that can not prevent enjoyment by *anticipation.*

I hope for the best, and must still believe that all our difficulties with the govern[t] will be speedily and satisfactorily adjusted. I shall go home tomorrow and lose no time in communicating with the Government in such a manner, I trust, as to make all go right again, *There must be a change of some kind*, as we are now situated our commerce is anihilated; all emigration to the country is entirely stopped, and our hopes of prosperity totally overthrown. Do the people of my colony, or of Texas, *or do I*, merit this? No; we have been to this Government *true* as *steel.* And we have redeemed from a state of nature, and given value, and credit, and consequence to a large territory which they knew nothing about and which, comparatively, was valueless before. All this we have done under full

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authority from, and under the especial request of the Government, at the risk of our lives, and by years of sufferings and hardships, *without the cost of one cent to the nation.* Our fidelity and hard services, it seems, are to be rewarded by acts of arbitrary despotism, and a total disregard of the constitution and our just rights. Shut out from the civilized World, which, after ten years of struggling through cane-brakes, thickets famine, Indians and wild beasts, we were just beginning to get a glimpse of, we are to be condemned to the wilderness forever, and forever deprived of the consolation of dividing our homes and lands with our nearest relations and dearest friends who might, otherwise, emigrate and join us!

Never was a man more consciously scrupulous and faithful in the discharge of his duties to any government than I have been to the Mexican. I came here in good faith, have labored in good faith, and now there is a struggle between my desire to adhere to them and the indignant feelings which their acts create. I will exhaust all honorable means of obtaining the redress of our grievances. *Should these fail the last resort will be adopted.* One word from me *now* would anihilate every Mexican soldier in Texas. But I am opposed to all violence—all bloodshed—so long as there is even a plausible hope of avoiding such extremes. And I am opposed to a separation from Mexico, if the government will treat us as we merit, and as the true interests of the Country require.

Our situation is extremely delicate and interesting. To remain as we are, is impossible. We have not the right kind of material for an Independent Government, and an union with the United States would bring Negro Slavery—that curse of curses, and worst of reproaches, on civilized man; that unanswered, and unanswerable, inconsistency of *free* and liberal republicans. I think the Government will yield, and give us what we ought to have. If not, we shall go for *Independence*, and put our trust in our selves, our riffles, and—our God. Adios

S F A

AUSTIN TO ———[1]

[December 29, 1831?]

It is not difficult for the immagination to determine what must be the future destiny of Texas. Should the Mexican Government adopt a correct policy as to this country, it will form one of the most powerful states of their confederation, for under a judicious system it would not be [to] the interests of Texas to separate. But should

[1] This is an undated fragment. Probably a rejected draft of part of the letter to Mrs. Holley of Dec. 29, 1831. Austin touches on the same subject with Thomas Leaming, June 14, 1830.

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the reverse of this, unfortunately be the case, a speedy and total separation will naturally follow as a matter of course, and an independent government will probably be the result. The permanent and substantial interests of both Mexico and the U. S. of the North, would be promoted in very many respects by the establishment of an independent republic in the middle ground. Such a new nation would remove the line of immediate contact which now exist between the two great republics, and do away with those innumerable small incidents and vexatious causes of complaint and excitement which always will arise on the border limits of large nations remote from the seat of Govt. Too feeble to be feared by either of its neighbors, it would opperate as a kind of sacred and necessary barrier against the encroachments of either. Texas would form a compact nation, and under the patronage and protection of both the U. S. and of M. could sustain a respectable standing unless it should enfeeble itself by the system of negro slavery. By the existing constitution and laws this worst of evils is totally prohibited. Should this wise policy be abandoned and Texas become what Louisiana is the receptacle of the redundant and *Jail delivered* Slaves of other countries, it must from necessity have a prop to lean upon and become dependent. as a slave state it probably could not *stand alone.* The annexation of such an extencive country to the U. S. would be a measure of such doubtful policy, that it would no doubt be opposed by reflecting men from all the states and especially by the eastern and Atlantic ones on the ground that it would endanger the union by too great an extension of Territory to the Southwest.

Austin to John Davis Bradburn [1]

Brazoria Dec^{r} 30th 1831.

My dear Sir

I embrace the opportunity by Mr. Treat to drop you a line, I am very anxious to see you but that is impracticable at present. The state of things in Texas is I fear rather critical, and such as to require very great prudence on the part of the public Officers and especially in the military and revenue departments. The revenue regulations made by Fisher, as to their views are utterly impracticable and their execution is impossible. The Officer at the mouth of the River has done his duty, so far as it was possible, I found that a Flame was Kindling which if not checked would very soon have removed the guard from this River and it would then have spread and soon reached Anahuac and Mr. Fisher. The conse-

[1] From Wagner collection, Yale University.

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quences you can imagine. *You* know your native countrymen and you also know that at this time the people in Texas have just causes and very many of them to complain. In this state of things, I wrote to the officer at the mouth of the River and told him what the true state of things was. My advise is to let this River alone and let things go on as they now are, and as I indicated in my letter to Dominguez, I cannot understand the policy that is pursued as to Texas if you understand it I wish you would explain it to me. This is no time for ambiguity, for it will require all our management united to keep things quiet unless a more Liberal System is adopted towards the people. As we are now situated the country will be totally broken up and all commerce totally annihilated. Is that the object of the Government—if it is I wish to know it. This Gov[t] never had a firmer friend than I have been. do I merit or does the people of my colony merit to be shut out from the whole world and have all their commerce destroyed. I think not.

Please let me hear from you on this subject.

S. F. AUSTIN

Col Juan D Bradburn . A Copy

[On margin:] A Copy of Col S F Austins Letter to Col Juan D Bradburn

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EMIGRATION TO TEXAS FROM EUROPE.

December, 1831.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY[1]

Austin, January 4, 1832

DEAR COUSIN,

We are always more or less influenced by the state of the atmosphere. While at Brazoria every thing around me was greatly above fever heat, and its influence could not but reach me. The rumour of difficulties has set in motion all the violent passions of the *body politic*, and there will not be wanting persons who will catch at straws to attack and injure me if they can, and some of those I have most served will be foremost to raise a clamour against me. How little they know me!

The true interest of this country requires that it should remain united to Mexico *as a State* that can legislate for itself in all local

[1] Copy by Mrs. Holley, in file of July 19, 1831. See Austin to Terán, Jan. 8, and Terán to Austin, Jan. 27, 1832; also Austin to Holley, Feb. 19, 1832.

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and internal matters. *I must go to the interior by February.* It will be a fatiguing journey, and [at]tended, perhaps, with difficulties and dangers. My situation is unpleasant and unnatural. I long for retirement and quiet, and I much fear that, in spite of myself, I shall be borne along on the current of events into a stormy and troubled sea. Such is life!— *a speck between two eternities*, as has been aptly said. A speck—and yet how much of troubles and perplexities! But it is our all. The past is but a picture, a shadow of various hues. The future—we know not what. Theological and mythological contradictions and inconsistensies make it everything, anything, nothing. The mind is lost that seeks for a clear and absolute demonstration of doctrinal or sectarian aphorisms, unless it rests with confidence upon the throne of *one, only just and omnipotant God;*—the God of the eternity past—the speck—and the eternity to come—uncreated, and undeformed by mythological fancies, or theological investments—the self existing, consistent, and bountiful Father of Worlds, of time and of Eternity. From such a throne the jargon and choas of religious strife may be calmly viewed and understood. Yet it is sickening to see the wickedness that is practised under the most sacred of names, and beneath the garb of religion.

I reached home night before last after riding forty seven miles that day, and found sister Emily at a ball, dancing away in fine spirits. She enjoyed the party, and I joined her, caught the excitement, remembered your injunction to "laugh away care," and soon forgot my forty seven miles ride. Sister is quite delighted with the prospect of your removal here. I write without study or disguise, confident that you will be an indulgent and candid critic. The weather has been beautiful and I hope you are this day in New Orleans.

Adios, amiga mia.

ESTEVAN.

Your brother Henry is authorized to chuse a situation for you out of my "Peach Point" survey of premium land—say two hundred acres. I expect to be back soon enough to designate it myself before it will be necessary to begin building, and should prefer doing so, but if I am detained too long he can make a selection. Farewell.

AUSTIN TO TERÁN[1]

San Felipe de Austin 8 de Enero 1832

Exmo Sor Gral Dⁿ MANUEL DE MIER Y TERAN

EXMO SOR. Y AMIGO DE TODO MI RESPETO Y CONSIDERACION Pocas cosas me han ocurrido desde que entré en los despoblados de Texas,

[1] From Wagner collection, Yale University.

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q^{e} siento tanto como el no haber visto à V. E. en su ultima visita a Anahuac, pero la enfermedad q^{e} entonces me tenia prostrado me impidió ir à presentarme à V. E. como deseaba

Me consuelo con la esperanza de tener la satisfaccion de ver à V. E. en Feb^{o} ó Marzo como me indica en la apreciable carta que me hizo el honor escribirme desde Anahuac fecha 20 de Nov^{bre}. En la misma carta me dice V. E. que nadie ha podido sugerir á V. E. ideas poco favorables á mi, y mis designios Esto me es un consuelo porq^{e} nadie en este mundo puede dejar de tener enemigos.

Tengo mucho que decir à V. E. sobre la situacion de Texas, y relativa à su poblacion y adelanto, pero esto ha de quedar hasta que nos veremos, porque no supé de la salida tan pronta del Sor que lleva esta carta, hasta este momento en q^{e} esta ya en camino. Deseaba que V. E. tomase la nueva contrata para colonizar 800 familias que he formado con el Gob^{no}. del estado, bajo su proteccion, como indiqué desde el Saltillo.

Tal vez recibirá V. E. informes que los habitantes de Brazoria han rehusado pagar los derechos maritimos, etc. si llegasen semejantes informes, suplico que no se dé credito à ellos hasta verme, porque no hay tal cosa. Las ordenes espedidas por Fisher en 24 de Nov^{bre}. relativas al comercio del rio de los Brazos, causaron disgustos como era de esperarse, por ser impracticables, pero ahora todo se ha allanado por la llegada de un encargado de la aduana en la embocadura del rio para despachar los negocios alli, y en Brazoria, en lugar de forzar à los capitanes de buques e interesados hacer el viage de cincuenta leguas cuyo transitu es enteram^{te} impracticable lo mas del tiempo, hasta Anahuac para despachar los asuntos.

Aseguro à V. E. que no hay disposicion p^{a} oponer las medidas y ordenes del Gob^{no} porq^{e} los habitantes descansan en la justicia y buena fé del Gob^{no} cuando está bien impuesto de las cosas.

Es muy evidente por todo que veo, y por lo que me dice el Padre Muldoon que hay equivocaciones y opiniones las mas ecsajeradas y fatales con respeto a los habitantes de Texas en lo general, y mas particularmente relativos a los de mi colonia. estos habitantes son infinitam^{te} mejores que V. E. ó el Gob^{no} supone si, infinitam^{te} mas dignos de aprecio que V. E. ha creido.

No me queda tiempo para estenderme mas, y me limito a suplicar à V. E. que me diga lo mas pronto que sea posible, el dia, poco mas o menos en que puedo tener la satisfaccion de ver à V. E. en Goliad ó en Bexar, como me indica en su carta de Anahuac, y detendré mi viage al Saltillo hasta entonces. y entretanto suplico que no se toman medidas sobre ningun informe hasta aquel tiempo, pero que se dejan las cosas en el en que ahora se hallan.

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Deseando toda felicidad a V. E. y descansando en la esperanza de recibir de V. E. noticias del tiempo de su llegada à Goliad para poder juntarme con V. E. alli antes de mi salida para el Saltillo, quedo como spre el amigo y muy atento servidor de V. E.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

G. A. NIXON TO AUSTIN

January 9, 1832.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO J. A. E. PHELPS[1]

El Ciud° Estevan F. Austin, Empresario y comisionado delas tierras dentro de la faja litoral sobre la costa entre los Rios San Jacinto y Labaca.

Certifico en quanto puedo y el derecho me permite que el Sor. James A. E. Phelps uno de los colonos de mi primera colonia ha cultivado el sitio de tierra que se le concedió en 16 de Agosto de 1824 en la dicha primera colonia que varias causas le ha impedido trasladar á su familia á este pais para establecer permanente sus tierras, y de consiguiente, y tomando en consideracion las mejoras importantes y los gastos que el dho Phelps ha erogado sobre el dho terreno, Yo el referido Empresario y comisionado le concedo el plazo de seis meses desde la fecha para traher su familia á esta colonia para domiciliarla, declarando hta cuanto alcanzan mis facultades valido el titulo que recibió el dho 16 de Agosto de 1824 referido, en el caso que asi verifica.

Es dado en la Villa de Austin á 12 de Enero de 1832.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

De asis^a^ Samuel M Williams [rubric] De asis^a^ C. C. Givens [rubric]

JAMES SMALL TO AUSTIN

Colo STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR the amount of the inclosed account is not only half price for the Servises and attention I paid to the oald man you heard Doctor Miller say that he could not Live over three days and that he could not attend on him any Longer you then asked me to Give him medison and do all that I could and you would pay me Stateing he was Exiled from his country and it would be a pitty to Let the oald man Lay and die like a brute I attend on him

[1] From Appendix to Empresario Contracts, vol. 54, p. 113, General Land Office of Texas.

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day and night for the time Specified in my account which he was helpless as a child nearly all the time Mr. James Whiteside who will hand you this Letter can inform you the Same and that I freecantly called on him to let me have some of his blacks to help wash and dress the oald man. Colo Austin I want my deed for my Land and if you have a mind to pay my account fifteen dollars can go to you as commissioners fees for my deed and an order for the ballance in any store in town will answer your compliance with the above will oblige yours

JAMES SMALL

13 Jan 1832

Be So good as to inform me if the Land I petitioned to government for was granted

JAMES SMALL [Rubric]

[Inclosure]

Jan^{y} 12 1832

Colo Stephen F Austin
To James Small Dr.
by your assumption for taking care of Don Cevastian rodriges one month_ $30 00

AUSTIN TO MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY[1]

San Felipe de Austin Jan: 14 1832

I received yours this morning and have stolen an hour from the cares of business, in the solitude of night, to answer it.

What you say about the dissipation and other things in Brazoria has too much truth in it; in a little time, however, these matters will correct themselves. They are so repugnant to me, and to all my ideas of propriety that sometimes I lose patience.

I am glad you are pleased with the situation I have selected. In the year 1824 I first saw it, and then indulged the hope, though faint at that time, that I should one day be happily settled there with my brother, and sister along side of me, and for that purpose selected it as a part of my premium land. My brothers death made a most melancholy void in my arrangements. *You must fill it.* Yes, my friend, you shall have a place along side of me and my sister. On our ponies we will scamper over the flowery prairies to the sea beach, and along it with the wide waste of the ocean on one hand, the level green carpet of nature fringed by distant woods, on the other, and friendship and happiness in our hearts.

I am glad to hear that the officer was polite, though it is what I expected of him. Colonel Ugartechea is a very honorable and gentlemanly officer. I have no doubt but our temporary embarrass-

[1] Copy by Mrs. Holley, in file of July 19, 1831.

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ments in the custom house regulations, as well as all others, will be satisfactorily arranged by the Government, and when that is done Texas will flourish and prosper as a *state of the Mexican confederation* more than in any other situation in which it could be placed. The wild intemperance of some of the good folks almost put even *me* into a fever. But, it is past. Such men do harm, for their feelings are not sufficiently guided by judgment. Your observations about ——— are correct. I have seen many things in him I could wish different, yet he is about the best I have near me. Can you wonder that I am poor, or that I should sometimes have felt like an isolated being? But I will let that chord alone. It jars too harshly with the harmonious things at the bottom of this page.

Such an enterprize as the one I undertook in settling an uninhabited country must necessarily pass through three regular gradations. The first step was to overcome the roughness of the wilderness and may be compared to the labor of a farmer on a piece of ground covered with woods, bushes and brambles, which must be cut down and cleared away, and the roots grubbed out before it can be cultivated. The second step was to pave the way for civilization and lay the foundation for lasting and productive advancement in wealth, morality and happiness. The step might be compared to the ploughing harrowing and sowing the ground after it is cleared. The third and last and most important step is to give proper and healthy direction to public opinion, morality and education;—to give tone, character and consistency to society, which, to continue the simile, is gathering in the harvest and applying it to the promotion of human happiness. In trying to lead the Colony through these gradations my task has been one of continued hard labor. I have been clearing away brambles, laying foundations, and sowing the seed, the genial influences of Cultivated society will be like the sun shedding light, fragrance and beauty.

I am more and more anxious to close my colonization business and retire to private life. They laugh at me when I speak of it, and declare that I shall die of ennui—that gardening farming and stock-raising will tire and disgust me. They do not know my disposition. There is nothing visionary in our calculations. Wealth here is not indispensable; and I would set the Colony an example of economy and plainness. In all countries the poorer class are too often mortified, and the middling class ruined by the extravagant example of the rich. The former feel degraded because they are so far below, and the latter indulge a false pride, and waste their substance by futile attempts to ape their more dashing neighbors. Heaven save us from extremes. Let us have a just and reasonable medium between poverty on the one hand, and excessive

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luxury on the other. We began with buckskin clothes, and buffalo meat. Let us not end with silks, laces and the dainties of the cook shop. Envy and jealousy can never be banished from the human heart, but something may be done toward reducing the food, and tempering the excitement which keep them in activity, and madden them to fury.

Thus far for the *bright*, now let us look on the gloomy side of the picture. *The blights of Governmental restrictions overspread the land and paralyse its progress*—a darker shade than I could wish. The lights of reason and sound policy will dissipate it by showing the Government that the only true policy is to make Texas a state, and bind it to the nation by the ties of *interest*—the only ties that are not cobwebs with the mass of any people. Bueno: that shade is irradiated by *hope*. what next? *Hope may vanish like a meteor, and the current of events become dark turbulent* and *impetuous*. Such waters engender mists. I see a cloud of them passing before our beloved picture. a *brisk Norther* will drive it away. What else? *Fevers in our long summers*. Is not sickness every where? Exercise of body and mind with temperance will keep it off; and patience and perseverance will brush away all the shades. But, be not too sanguine. It is necessary to keep the dark as well as the bright side in view, then, if disappointment come it will be deprived of a part of its sting.

Adios, adios.

[Stephen F. Austin.]

James Cummins and Samuel Hoit to Austin

Matagorda, January 16, 1832.

See Calendar.

Governor José Maria Letona to Austin

Los Sres. Diputados Srios. del Honorable congreso con fecha 17 del corriente me dicen lo que sigue.

"Ecsmo. Sor.—Esta H. Legislatura há tenido ábien acordar en sesion de este dia que los Sres. Diputados CC. Cayetano Ramos, José Maria Mier y Esteban F. Austin se presenten á desempeñar sus funciones lo mas breve que les sea posible, y que V. E. disponga se haga saber esta providencia al Sor. Diputado Suplente por el partido de Bejar ciudadano Franc° Bustillos para que suspenda su benida que acordó la Diputacion Permanente en Or^n de fecha 5. del corriente, satisfaciendole por las rentas del Estado los gastos que al efecto haya erogado.— De or^n de la misma Legislatura lo decimos á V. E. para su conocimiento y fines consiguientes."

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Y lo transcribo á V. E. para su conocimiento y espero que á la mayor brevedad posible se presente V. S. en esta Capital en obio de los retrasos que sufren los negocios publicos por la falta que hacen en el He. Congreso los individuos que pertenecen á la Augusta Asamblea. Dios y Libertad. Leona Vicario 21. de Enero de 1832.

José Maria de Letona [Rubric]
Santiago del Valle Srio [Rubric]

Al Sor. Diputado Cno. Esteban F. Austin.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin

Matagorda, Jany 22 1832

My Dear Sir—

I have at last safely arrived with my family, after an unpleasant and tedious passage. I am a good deal occupied endeavouring to fix up some place to go in; and unfortunately am deprived of Mrs Fisher's management, in consequence of a fall she received a day or two Since. Could I possibly have left my family I would have gone up to See you as I am very anxious to have a conversation with you. Since my arrival I have learned that our friend Lessassier has abandoned the practice of the Law, and turned teacher. Now school masters are generally needy, and I hope I may not experience delay or diffuculty in settling my business with him; he must have collected a considerable sum on my account, and I am already suffering for the means of Settling for my freight and passage. I wrote to him to have it in readiness for me at Brazoria, and perhaps he may have, but as my letters were directed to San Felipe the chances are he has not received them. I write you in confidence that you may advise me. be good enough to write me when you expect to go to Saltillo, and when you will return. enclosed is a letter from our friend Leaming. Present me to Mr. Williams and family and to my padrino

S Rhoads Fisher

Col. S. F. Austin

Enclosed is a letter to Mr. Lesassier which you will please deliver to him, as it contains a request to send me immediately $300 by Mr Jaques, who will return the day after he reaches town. Your suggestion to him of the inconvenience I am put to may probably stimulate him to send it. Judge Cummins has received a good deal of money belonging to me, but has spent it, and says he cannot pay me a dollar. this to say the least is ungenerous, as I paid for him to the Sheriff last year between 2 and 300 drs.

S. R. F

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JUAN DAVIS BRADBURN TO AUSTIN

Anahuac January 24th 1832

MY ESTEEMED COLONEL AUSTIN

I have seen Mr McKinney and received his information respecting public tranquility of which I was previously in possession I hear with pleasure your proposed interview and should be happy to go as far as Saint Philipe to meet you, as I consider you very weak from your exhausting sickness, if my manifold avocations, and more numerous embarasments, expecting every moments trops from Matamoros, directing the various sections of Publeck Works on this Point, Land office business, and other negociations, did not employ my existence the most shackled of human beings, yet I shall make an exertion, and will meet you at any place you will appoint on the *San Jacinto* or the *Buffalo Bayo.*

I have not answered your letter handed me by Mr. Treet and which threw me into some consternation it might create an arduous, if not an insuperable difficulty in any person placed in my posetion and circumstances to do so without very poignant feeling and communicating the same perhaps to his correspondent however our polished atmosphere seems more serene and I shall meet you when and as soon as you please

JUAN DAVIS BRADBURN [Rubric]

BEN R. MILAM TO AUSTIN

Washington Hempstead County
Arkansas Territory January 26th 1832

To Col STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR This letter will be handed you by Mr. David Roberts of this county whom permit me to introduce to your acquaintance. He visits your colony in quest of some negro property which has been fraudulently conveyed there, by Morris May, Jacob and John Buzzard of this Territory. The property is also claimed by one Andrew Pawley who I am informed is now in your colony. The property doubtless belongs to Polly Williamson who holds the same under the will of her late husband Robert Williamson who died in the county of Carrol in the state of Georgia. The title of May Buzzard and Pawley was brought before the court having jurisdiction of the matter in the county of La Fayette in this Territory, the investigation of which exposed the most villanous scene of fraud I have ever witnessed. May and Buzzard by an order of one of the judges here, were injoined for a time from removing the negroes from the Territory, but another judge who held the court after-

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wards who to say the least acted most unwarrantedly, dissolved the injunction, and the negroes were conveyed into Texas, before the agents of Mrs. Williamson, who arrived in court a few hours after the injunction was dissolved could have them detained. Your friendly interposition in behalf of the widow whom Mr. Roberts represents under a letter of Attorney will confer a personal favor on me, further the ends of Justice and protect the rights of the widow and the fatherless. Mr. Roberts in behalf of the widow will apply to the Judicial tribunals of your colony, to have her right to the property Judicially determined. he informs me that he will be compelled to ask a postponement of the trial to such time as the widow can procure such testimony from Georgia as shall be required by the court. Mr Roberts is a Gentleman of truth and honesty and you can rely with the utmost confidence on any and all of his representations. Any advice or assistance that Mr Roberts shall require you will confer an additional obligation by affording to him

BEN R. MILAM

JOHN P. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New York January 27 1832

MY DEAR COUSIN,

Your Esteemed favor of the 27th Ulto. is at hand and contents noted with a lively interest. In answer to your main question, I will refer you to my letter to Henry per yesterdays mail, via New Orleans, as showing that no time had been lost since the receipt of your and his letters. that the business is in its proper train appears to have excited due interest, and as far as could judge did not think you need fear the result etc, etc, etc., which I requested him to communicate to you immediately on receipt and would write further next week. A friend, wellknown to Henry, in whom, as he will tell you, the utmost confidence can be placed, takes a deep interest and will render every aid in his power to accomplish the object and I know no one better qualified or that has half the weight with the principal gentlemen interested in the Galveston Bay Company that he has or who is so well informed on the subject generally or the means of obtaining so correct information either private or otherwise and further I am well satisfied he will go heart and hand with us, a true friend every wish of him, so that whatever we do you may rely on secrecy. I could wish however, that you could see Mr. M. [John T. Mason?] as I have good grounds for believing he would meet your views and wishes fully with ample power to act. It is possible he may be with you, as he with Mr. Butler were to have left the City of Mexico for your colony, the present month,

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but is to be feared the Counter revolution of which advises were received here last packet from Vera Cruz, may detain them both.

I send you and Henry, with this, an abridgement of the Colonization Laws etc of Mexico, just published by Col. Langworthy, who visited your colony the last year. Have also sent Mrs Holley a copy. I regret extremely that circumstances should delay your intended visit, which we have been anticipating with so much pleasure. My sister Mary, appears, from her letters, perfectly delighted with her visit to your colony, says there is no mistake or exageration as to the favourable impression she had previously received that she wishes all she has was there and that she would not return upon any account. she mentions her book on Texas, and was to send the manuscript per first packet. Also requests me to pay fifty dollars, for her, on your account, which Mr. Leanning has drawn for, and his Draft duly paid, agreeably to your letter of advise, and the amount placed to the debit of Mrs. Holley. It is to me highly gratifying to hear you passed your time so agreeably at Henrys as well as the high commendations in which you name Mrs. H. She mentions that visit with rapture and says would have done me good to have seen how all enjoyed it, and quite made me wish myself and wife could have been of the party, as I know nothing that could give me more pleasure than to make you a visit, but fear will be some time yet before circumstances will admit of it which alone keeps me here. The weather is so intensely cold, it is with difficulty I can direct my pen (4 Degrees below zero) I beg you will let me hear from you by every opportunity as I can but feel an intense interest in your and colonys welfare.

J. P. Austin

P. S. I would refer you to the enclosed letter recd. per last packet from Vera Cruz, as giving some particulars of the movements there. I also send with this a file of papers for your and Henrys perusal, which will give much interesting matter if not previously received and to which I would refer. To days mail from Washington, brings the news of the rejection of the Senate of the nomination of the Honbl. Martin Van Buren as minister to London.

J. P. A.

Terán to Austin

Matamoros Enero 27. de 1832.

Sor. Dn. Estevan Austin.

Estimado Amigo y Sor. Con la carta de 8. del corriente q. se ha servido V. dirijirme tengo ala vista la q. escribio V. al Sor coronel Davis en 30 del pasado, y otra de D. Juan Austin escrita al mismo

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Gefe en 27. del mismo, todas relativas alos sucesos de Brasoria y la boca del rio, pareciendome necesario reunirlas todas p[a] contestar sobre la misma materia.

No sé si estará V. instruido de q. tuve comision particular del Supremo Gobierno para el establecim[to] de la aduana en Galveston y q. á virtud de aquella he procedido. Mi intervencion en tal asunto ha sido tan considerada y parcial por los intereses de Tejas y particularm[te] por la colonia de V. q. casi compromete mi responsabilidad, y para q. no paresca q. esto se dice sin fundam[to] haré mencion de los siguientes hechos: 1° mas de un año han gozado de la libertad de comercio por q. no estableci la Aduana cuando se concluyeron los siete años q. señaló la ley de 29. de Set[e] de 823.—2° Siendo Galveston el unico puerto habilitado para el comercio, y poniendo alli la aduana debian cerrarse todos los demas fondeaderos; pero considerando el uso q. los colonos han hecho dela barra del rio delos Brazos he permitido q. continuaran entrando por alli buques, disponiendo q. hubiera alli un empleado subalterno del Adm[or] de Galveston para q. despachara alli mismo; para la éjecucion de este permiso se han atropellado grandes inconvenientes, pues claro és q. una misma aduana no puede tener libros de cuenta en dos partes distintas, ni un solo Adm[or] dos responsabilidades; pero ni está en mis facultades habilitar puertos q. solam[te] el congreso puede señalar, ni tampoco poner administrador a donde no hay puerto habilitado; asi desentendiendome de todo y por no causar el perjuicio de cerrar la barra se puso un empleado, y toda la desgracia es q. habiendose embarcado en Matamoros para los Brazos los vientos contrarios y las averias lo llevaron á Tampico.

Ympuesto de estos hechos ¿Se atrevera V. á decir, como en la carta del Sor Davis q. la mira del Gobierno es destruir el comercio de su Colonia de V.? Tantos favores q. debe, V. al Gobierno Mejicano y tantas consideraciones a sus agentes no han producido en V. mas q una facilidad p[a] formarse juicios érroneos, y quejas injustas con q sé exitaran discordias y motines entre los colones. Dice V. en áquella carta q. ignora la politica q. se ha propuesto el gobierno con respecto á Tejas. Sin embargo de q. ni el Sor Davis ni yo debemos saber mas q. las ordenes q. se nos han dado, és tan facil la respuesta q. es preciso darsela áV. La politica del Gobierno con respecto á Tejas, asi como cualquiera otra parte es que se obedescan las leyes, y q. no haya quien se crea autorizado para quebrantarlas. El pago de derechos sobre el comercio obliga alos colonos de Tejas lo mismo q. alos mejicanos de todas partes, y solamente en Brazoria,—causa tumultos, quejas, y como dice D. Juan Austin q. iban a destruir la guardia mejicana. Esa guardia, pudiera ser degollada por q. se

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consideraba segura entre subditos mejicanos amparados por las leyes; pero si esto no es cierto—esa guardia puede estar de otro modo, como se está entre enemigos, modo q. no desconocen los soldados Mejicanos.

Dice V. al Sor Davis q. los pueblos de Tejas tienen justas quejas. Esto será muy nuevo, y solo V. sabrá cuales son. Sirvase V. decirlas; por q. nadie sabe q. violacion se ha hecho de las leyes q. gozan los pueblos de Tejas, ni aun de los privilegios con q. estan distinguidos en la Republica Mejicana: quiere V. q. el gobierno adopte una politica mas liberal. Se servirá V. decir q. liberalidad apetece á mas de aquella con q. es tratado; pero vea V. antes por toda la costa oriental del continente Americano desde la Bahia de Hudson hasta el cabo de Hornos ¿en q. nacion en q. puerto no se pagan derechos por el comercio, ni deja de encontrarse una aduana? Todos los habitantes de Mejico pagan con docilidad lo q. expresan las Tarifas puestas por el Congreso, los extrangeros de todas las Naciones q. habitan entre nosotros se someten a tan justas exacciones, y solamente en Brazoria se cre q. esto sea un motivo para amotinarse, para q. se salgan los buques ocultos y haciendo fuego como piratas, hiriendo á un soldado Mejicano, q. creido en q. áquellos colonos son sus conciudadanos se halla indefenzo y entregado ala confianza ¿Y es esta la hospitalidad q. un soldado del servicio Mejicano encuentra entre los colonos de V. Sor Austin?

Ya vera V. hasta donde podemos ir á dar. Exije V. al Sor Davis prudencia de parte de los empleados militares y de hacienda. Lo q. indudablem^te^ se debe exijir és sumision alas leyes. Si nosotros las hemos quebrantado, dirija V. sus quejas y razones al Gobierno; pero no autorize V. ni con su opinion insolencia y tumultos que tengo todos los medios de reprimir

Juzgo conveniente imponer a V. de las providencias q. he dictado por las ócurrencias y son: que los dueños de los efectos q. condujeron las goletas q. se hicieron ala vela violentando el pureto paguen los derechos q. les correspondan y dejaron de pagar aquellas, 2ª q. dichas goletas si se presentasen otra vez con la misma tripulacion y propiedad en algun puerto de Tejas sean detenidas hasta q. entreguen alos q. hirieron al soldado para q. sean jusgados conforme a las leyes: q. se situe el empleado destinado a los Brazos en Brazoria, si encuentra la suficiente seguridad y ni remotamente queda expuesto á ultrajes ni a sufrir impedimento por los habitantes pues en este caso quedará en la barra amparado del destacam^to^ Deseo q. la salud de V. sea completa y disponga de su afmo. amigo y S. q. b. s. m.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

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AUSTIN TO MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY[1]

San Felipe de Austin, Jan: 30, 1832

As you will be entertained by hearing all you can of our Texas I will give a short note to my friend Jose M Carbajal who has promised to deliver it in person. He is a native Mexican, was born at Bexar where his Mother and family live. In 1823 he went to Lexington, K, with Mr Littlebury Hawkins, and was educated by Mr. Campbel of Bethany, Virginia, near Wheeling. He is a sprightly, intelligent youth, and his principles are very sound and honorable. His own countrymen call him a Norte Americano. The people of Bexar are pretty unanimously my friends, and the friends of all the Colonists of Texas. Carbajal is rather enthusiastic, the fault of youth, but you can get some information from him that may amuse you.

There is nothing new since you left of much importance except a *report* that Gen. Teran is to be on in March with 3000 men to fit out a campaign against the Comanche Indians. So says rumour, but I place little confidence in it, for that number of troops could not be collected so soon.

I leave for Saltillo in fifteen days. My health is so so.

ESTEVAN.

S. RHOADS FISHER TO AUSTIN

Matagorda Feby 1, 1832

Col: S. F. AUSTIN

MY DEAR SIR I wrote you a few lines by Mr: Jaques, mentioning my arrival: We are still entirely in an unsettled state; and I therefore cannot do myself the pleasure to see you. I wrote you from the U. States respecting my land business which I am satisfied your goodness will have promptly attended to. I have now to ask you agreeably to your promise, to send me a power to vote upon your two shares of the Matagorda Town tract. Let me ask you if you have received your quota of the notes arising from the sale of the lots thereof, as I understand there has been a division, tho' I have received nothing. I should very much like to know when you start for Saltillo, tho' I hope you may deem it most advisable to remain this season in your own colony.

S. RHOADS FISHER.

Should Mr. Lesassier not have sent me the money that I wrote for, I wish you my Dear Sir to urge him on the subject, as it is absolutely essential I should have it.

S. R. F.

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[1] Copy by Mrs. Holley, in file of July 19, 1831.

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S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin

Matagorda Feby. 2 1832

Col. S. F. Austin

My dear Sir—I have just received your favour of 28 ulto: by Mr. Jaques and hasten to reply to— Mr. Lesassier writes me he has not been able to make collections, but assigns no other reason than the indisposition of Mr. Johnson. It is to me a most unpleasant thing to write you on a subject in which you have no interest, as it has the appearance of importunity; but could you feel the inconvenience and unpleasant situation in which I am placed for the want of a few hundred Dollars, you would I am convinced excuse it. Arriving with a family in a new country, you are aware that it is one continued expense, and without some means it is impossible to get along; in my last settlement with our friend Lesassier, in consequence of his being disappointed in some funds, I consented to his retaining about $100 after he had collected it, with a full promise he would amply supply me on my arrival in this country. I mention this to you in confidence; not to induce any unfavorable impression on your mind toward Lesassier, but to show you I have been placed in my present situation not from any neglect or want of foresight on my part. I am sorry your arrangement for land has failed; and as I have yet the privilege of locating one league, you would oblige me by permitting the title to be made for the one adjoining mine on Peyton's Creek originally taken by Col: Wallace.

Be good enough to inform me, if there be any other court of *record* in your jurisdiction, than that of San Felipe, also if I cannot settle upon my wife her furniture which belongs to her and a House and lot I intend to erect, I want to secure to her at least a shelter, and Household utensils. Also the mode of doing so. Your advice upon these subjects will materially serve me. I send by Mr: Jaques a letter, maps and a bundle of newspapers for you. In my last letter I wrote for a power of attorney to vote on your Matagorda property and now remention it, lest the other may not reach you. Nothing but the utter impracticability of my leaving here prevents me seeing you; but if it could by any possible means suit you to take Matagorda in your way to Saltillo I need not say how much sincere pleasure it would give me; for independent of my personal feelings I want to know something of our political relations. Accept thanks of Mrs: Fisher who I am pleased to say has recovered for your remembrances, and accept of hers in return. She begs me to say she would be much pleased to see a gentleman of whom she has heard so much in her little cabin.

S. Rhoads Fisher

Be pleased to tender my best regards to Mr: Williams and family.

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AUSTIN TO TERÁN

En la casa de Lynch cerca de la desembocadura
del rio San Jacinto 5 de Febº 1832

Exmo Sor General,

Viné a este punto con el fin de ver al Col Bradburn

Los acontecimtos en la embocadura del rio de los Brazos aunqe. en realidad de poca consideracion, han causado mil rumores ecsagerados lo que sin duda llegarian a V. E. y tal vez darán motivos a creer que la tranquilidad publica aqui esta en peligro.

No cabe en una carta corta el esplicar detalladamte todas estas cosas, y me reservo hacerlo en persona solo restringiendome ahora á decir que la tranquilidad no esta alterada, que los rumores han salido de unos pocos ecsaltados y han sido ecsajerados resultando de ideas equivocadas—y de una fermentacion momentania causada por estas ideas, y que ahora todo esta en paz y tranquilidad—

Las ideas equivocadas de que me refiero han salido de varias causas, pero lo principal es las medidas de Fisher con respecto del comercio del rio de los Brazos

Con tres palabras se pudiera haber evitado todo esto—es decir una orden (en lugar de la de 24 de Novre) que se despacharian los negocios del comercio del rio de los Brazos en la embocadura de aquel rio, *interin* se establece la Aduana en puerto de Galveston, sobre la isla de este nombre

El reglamto hecho por Fisher en 24 de Novre fue absolutamte. impracticable, y de consiguiente se lo atribuyó a sentimientos personales en el, y esta idea causó los correspondientes resentimtos en el pueblo en su contra

confieso a V. E. que la ecsaltacion fue temible y para evitar las desgracias que naturalmte y spre resultan de fermentaciones populares yo me entremeti en la cosa, y di la opinion a los oficiales que seria mejor y aun necesario no esforzar la orden de 24 de nobre por ahora, y qe. si dejan la entrada de buques, cobrando los derechos y despachando los negocios en su embocadura del rio enterin se pudo arreglar la aduana en Galveston—Supé muy bien que en cierta manera yo me comprometia—mi objeto era preservar la tranquilidad, y evitar la ruina del pais, que evidentemte seria el resultado de desordenes—fue muy importante calmar los animos por el momento, y estuvé bien convencido que unas pocas dias de refleccion sanarian todo—asi ha sucedido—ahora todo se ha calmado enteramte y es muy facil evitar la repeticion de semejantes cosas, con unas medidas muy sencillas y en mi concepto muy necesarias, que esplicaré á V. E. en persona, una de ellos és la remocion de Fisher del empleo de administrador de Galveston—

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Suplico a V. E. encarecidam^te que no se toman medidas violentas hasta ver me. pasado mañana llegaré en San Filepe y saldré en muy pocos dias para buscar a V. E. sea en Matamoros ó en el camino

Mi salud se ha restablecido enteram^te pero confieso que estoy muy infeliz, seria una desgracia lamentable si un hombre como George Fisher destruyese todo lo hecho en diez años p^a redimir este pais del desierto Todo hombre aqui qe. tiene algo qe. perder, ó qe. tiene tres granos de sentido comun se opone á separacion de Mexico, y á toda desorden, y creo qe. es muy importante dejar la ecsaltacion momentania morir de si mismo, como en efecto ha hecho ya, y si es posible remover a Fisher seria en mi opinion muy conducente á la preservacion de la harmonia

Con el mayor respecto y consideracion p^a V. E. quedo su muy atento servidor y amigo q. s. m. b.

E. F. A

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Feb. 10 1832.

DR. BROTHER

I saw a man the other day at Harrisburgh who told me that there were two horses between Dickinsons Creek and Clear Creek one a roan, they are represented to be gentle American horses— have you found all yours or has any one in your neighborhood lost any horses—if so let them know of these two—

I hope you have not neglected to send to Brazoria for the peach and figs and orange trees and to H. Austin's for the grapes and plums—after this month it will be too late to set them out.

Genl. Santana has taken up arms against the present administration of the general government and has possession of Vera Cruz and the castle there. So far as I can judge by the Mexican papers, that part of the nation is in a state of civil war— I wish if possible to keep peace in Texas, and think that Fisher will be removed from office in a few days and also that the guard at the mouth of the river will be ordered not to interfere with any vessels or perhaps it will be withdrawn entirely. I think the latter most probable.

We are all well.

S. F. AUSTIN

[Addressed:] Mr. James F. Perry Chocolate Bayou

SYLVESTER MURPHY TO AUSTIN

Gin Place, February 10, 1832.

See Calendar.

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JOHN WOODRUFF TO AUSTIN

Brazos, February 11, 1832.

See Calendar.

AYUNTAMIENTO OF SAN FELIPE TO SUPREME GOVERNMENT[1]

El Ayuntam^to^ de la municipalidad de Austin en Tejas con el debido respeto se presente al Sup^mo^ gobierno, suplicando su alta atencion á la esposicion de unos puntos de suma importancia á la prosperidad de esta parte del territorio mexicano

El arancel maritimo de 1827 como reglamentada por ley opera muy injuriosam^te^ sobre la prosperidad y mejora de este pais

Hace pocos años que todo Texas ha sido un inhabitado desierto, infestado por indios hostiles desde el Rio sabina hasta Bejar. Animado por las invitaciones de la ley general de colonizacion el establecim^to^ de este desierto fue comensado por empresa individual destituido de todo socorro del gobierno y ha progresado mas rapidam^te^ que podia esperarse bajo dificultades que se oponian á su progreso. Estas dificultades no estan vencidas del todo y estan aun aumentadas por los exhorbitantes derechos sobre articulos del consumo general, en una nueva y agricultora comunidad, situada como esta donde como un asunto de indispensable necesidad se han de procurar de otros parages durante la infancia de su establecim^to^—Algunos articulos de esta descripcion estan absolutamente prohibidos, otros no se prohiberán hasta el 6 de Abril po. venidero, y los derechos sobre otros son tan altos que llegen á prohibicion

Este evidentemente destruye toda esperanza de prosperidad por q estas restricciones cayen pesadisimam^te^ sobre las clases laboriosas y agricultoras. El establecim^to^ de Tejas no ha costado al gobierno sacrificio alg^o^ en numerario y si abrigado por el brazo paterno dará en pocos años una renta importante

Estas consideraciones han inducido esta corporacion respetuosamente á solicitar una modificacion del Arancel para la introduccion de los siguientes articulos en Tejas libres de derechos por cinco años

1° vivires de toda clase

2° hierro y acero, maquinas, utensiles de labranza, herramienta de las artes mecanicas, quincalleria, tlapalaria, clavos, carretas y carretones

3° cortencia y mecates de toda clase para abrigar los fardos de algodon

4° casas de madera

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[1] The ideas in this document are undoubtedly Austin's. It is likely that the document is a translation by Williams of Austin's English copy. For disposition of the memorial, see Austin to Henry Austin, May 8, 1832.

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5° ropa hecha de calidad inferior, sapatos y sombreros, adaptados á la clase laboriosa y agricultora de los habitantes

6° Muebles generales de casa y cocina introducidos por los emigrados, y los introducidos para el uso particular de los Colonos,

7° Tabaco p^a^ mascar en pequeñas cantidades, y hasta que el gob^no^ haga un deposito de este

8° Plomo, Polvora y municiones de toda clase para el consumo de los colonos

9° Medicinas

10° Libros, papel y todo lo necesario para un escritorio

Estos articulos todos son de 1^a^ necesidad para este nuevo pais, su admision libre de derecho por un tiempo limitado no puede en manera alguna perjudicar el erario publico, abriendo una puerta para el contrabando de los puertos de Texas, para lo interior por la razon que estos articulos son de poco valor en comparacion con su pesantez y volumen, y dificiles á transportar por tierra, consiguientem^te^ no pueden estimular á los contrabandistas, por q el costo de transporte solo excederia el precio por el q podrian venderlos fuera de Tejas—

Esta corporacion tambien respetuosam^te^ hace ver que los pasos del Administrador del puerto de Galveston ha excitado la justa indignacion de los habitantes en general, y particularmente de los pueblos de Anahuac y Brazoria donde sus operaciones han sido mas especialmente esperimentadas. Esta indignacion no existe sin causa suficiente y la remocion de este empleado se desea generalmente Por cuya razon esta corporacion suplica respetuosamente que sea removido y que se nombre un Mexicano en su lugar.

Esta corporacion suplica al Supremo gobierno se sirva dirigir la atencion á otro asunto que segun nuestro humilde juicio, tiene una intima relacion con los intereses grandes de esta republica dela que es nuestro orgullo y gloria, titularnos ciudadanos.

Es al articulo 11 dela ley del 6 de Abril de 1830 que deseamos llamar la atencion del Supremo Gob^no^ Sentimientos de respeto y delicadeza no nos permiten detallar sus provisiones. Pero humildemente solicitamos que pondere debidamente las relaciones fraternales que existen entre los Estados Unidos del Norte y los Mexicanos no se olvidará deque los Estados del Norte no habian gozado todavia cincuenta años de emancipacion del yugo que esta republica acababa de sacudir

Al reconocer este mundo entero en busca de simpatia y un afecto fraternal, en donde se descansaria la vista con tanta propiedad, como en los que tan recientemente habian padecido lo mismo, y que

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tan ultimam^te^ se habian libertado por el mismo esfuerzo varonil y denodado

Durante la lucha que tuvieron los habitantes de esta Republica para el don de la libertad dirigieron los del norte sus anhelos y ruegos al omnipotente para su triunfo. Y los saludaron como dignos hermanos y trabajadores en la grande obra dela emancipacion del hombre

El supremo gobierno los convidaron á participar en la libertad que habia logrado, y el territorio que habia redimido. Ydentidad de opiniones fue la causa deque muchos acceptaran la invitacion. No fue en la parte cultivada, y civilizada del pais que entraron. Osaron el poblar un desierto que hasta entonces nunca se habia penetrado por el hombre civilizado—la guardia de las fieras, y del indio salvage y atrevido que diariamente acosaba los pueblos dela frontera. Han logrado redimir en parte este desierto, y seria ocioso contar los sacrificios y privaciones que han padecido en este trabajo; pero si son protegidos por el supremo gobierno, ya pueden columbrar la consumacion de todos sus deseos y el premio de todos sus sufrimientos

Los nuevos pobladores de Tejas de los Estados del Norte tienen parientes y amigos en aquella republica que desean emigrar á esta Muchos de estos pobladores vinieron para preparar en este pais casas y hogares para recibir un padre anciano y otros parientes y amigos, que no se podian mudar á un desierto despoblado, sin alguna previa preparacion para recibirlos

El articulo 11 dela citada ley prohibe la Emigracion delos naturales de los Estados Unidos del Norte, y asi totalmente separa muchos delos primeros emigrados de sus parientes y amigos, que deseaban venir, y habian vendido sus propiedades para verificarlo. Familias, los vinculos y relaciones mas caras y mas estrechas de parentesco y de amistad, se han separado

Pues no pueden creer, que sin causa ó provocacion dada por ellos, ó motivo de quejarse, el supremo gobierno romperá los vinculos de parentesco y amistad como se verifica por el citado articulo de dha ley, por cuyo auxilio habian esperado hacer esta una delas mas hermosas delos Estados de esta republica.

Esta prohibicion tambien estorba el aumento dela poblacion util y los adelantos de este pais, y le espone á que se llene de salvages y malvados, que pudieran alterar la tranquilidad publica en sumo grado. La esperanza de poblar este pais por Europeos, es, seguramente muy debil y lejana: y para verificarlo se requieren un capital muy vasto, y muchos años de esfuerzos y trabajos infatigables. No se puede esperar que muchos capitalistas y personas de alta respetabilidad y rango, que pueden vivir con comodidad al otro

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lado del atlantico, sufriran las dificultades y privaciones de pasar el mar, para principiar una nueva poblacion en un pais desierto, que aun apenas se conoce por nombre en aquella parte del globo. La clase mas baja y pobre delos Europeos que se pudiera traer por capitalistas ricos con el objeto de especular en tierras, seguramente no seria la gente que desea el Supremo gobierno.

La poblacion, de Tejas crearia una defensa segura y permanente contra los indios belicosos, y muy pronto se reducirian los Comanches y otras tribus errantes, á una subjeccion completa, y asi se lograria el cubrir y proteger los pueblos sobre el Rio Bravo y la frontera toda, sin causar á la Nacion el costo de un peso.

En vista de todo esto, esta Corporacion, muy respetuosa y humildemente solicita al Supremo gobierno, que el articulo 11 dela Ley de 6 de Abril de 1830, se modifique asi que se admitan emigrados de un caracter bien establecido, de buen moral y respetabilidad, y propiedad de cualquiera nacion que no este de guerra con esta republica, y que se escluyan vagamundos y malvados de todas naciones.

Como cosa q envuelve la prosperidad general de Tejas, esta Corporacion, muy respetuosam^{te} desea atraer la atencion del Supremo gobierno, al Estado de incertidumbre en q se han quedado tanto tiempo, los habitantes al oriente del Rio San Jacinto y en el distrito de Nacogdoches en cuanto al asunto de sus tierras sin entretener la intencion ni el deseo de entremeterse en materias que no entran inmediatam^{te} en la esfera de sus deberes, este cuerpo humildemente recomienda que se concluya definitivamente este negocio: Esta medida enla opinion de esta Corporacion tendrá un influjo muy feliz en la prosperidad de este pais

Villa de San felipe de Austin á 18 de Febrero de 1832 Exmo Señor

Horacio Chrisman Presid^{te}—John Austin 2° Alcalde—P. D. McNeil 1° Regidor—J. H. Bell 3° Regidor—Jesse Grimes 4° Regidor—Martin Allen 5° Regidor—Abner Kuykendall 6° Regidor—Henry Cheves 1° Sindico proc^{or}—Rawson Alley 2° S proc^{or}—Asa Brigham Comisario—John W Moore comisario—John Bowman comisario—Pedro Whitaker Sindico—Samuel M Williams srio—

ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN TO ———

I am geting along verry Slowly in my affairs but find Considerable land in my Surveys taken, and I have got about $150 in notes since I Came to Town and there are as much more to Collect and on the Sanjacinto I am in hopes of geting some and then I shall come home without surveying much only finishing some old work—

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If you want more Corn get it of Yeamans and tell him I will pay him the Cash when I return— If possible which I expect I can do Forward the Crop, all you can, and take care the pigs— perhaps we shall conclude to Start for N. York via. Tampico as Marias letter [suggests?] of that more when I come home, If Cayce got the oxen all will be well. with Grassmeyer and other matters I can get along with I hope Remember not to burn till a heavy rains falls on the fallow and then a dry time with brisk south wind about 10 c. when the sun is hot and plant immediately after— plant out more potatoes, as soon as may be tell Griffith I want him to forward his ploughing so as I can have the oxen when I come home O. take care of the potatoes at G's and asort them, burying the good ones again

Saturday San Felipe 18th Feby 1832

Mrs Mary [Wightman?]

E R WIGHTMAN

Tell Alvin If he will go to Leagues and get a Colt I have bought— Finally he has no order for him wait till I come

E R W

AUSTIN TO MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY[1]

Austin Feb: 19, 1832

I was made happy to day by the receipt of yours of 5th and 6th Ultimo. I had before heard of the arrival of the Spica, and presumed you were well, but wished for the assurance from yourself before I leave. It was like a gleam of sunshine after days of clouds.

How cautious ought we to be, in all stations of life, but especially in places where our opinions and expressions are liable to be misunderstood or perverted for evil purposes, never to deviate, even *in appearance* from permanent rules of action. You know that my motto is *fidelity to Mexico*. I never departed from it, and never intend to depart from it. The most unfortunate, and furious excitement, a part of which you saw at Brazoria, placed me in a peculiar situation. To control that excitement and keep it within bounds I had but one course left, which was to float along with it for the moment so as to temper it down after a few days of reflection had cooled the first effervescence. This matter has cost me more uneasiness than I expected. My own expressions drawn from me by the heat of others, and by the circumstances of the moment, have been caught at, and a much wider meaning given them than I intended; and this, too, by those who ought to be my friends. It is now over—I think—and all will go on quietly, harmoniously, and

[1] Copy by Mrs. Holley, in file of July 10, 1831.

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peaceably with the Government, a respectful memorial has been adopted by the Ayuntamiento praying for a repeal of the prohibition against North American emigrants, a modification of the tariff, removal of Fisher, etc.

Our last dates from Mexico are to the 10 Jany. the next mail no doubt will bring us something important relating to Gen. Santanas movements and plans. What is to be the fate of this Nation? Constantly torn to pieces by internal discord and civil war—where will it end? They have all my sympathy for success and happiness because they have *tried to be free*, and considering the state of civil and mental vassalage they have so long been in we must give them credit for many things they have done.

I expect I have tired you out with my long letters. Taciturn, as they say I am, you see I can be loquacious some times, and to some persons. It is long since I have been able to talk frankly as I wished. This is the last letter you will receive from me for the present. Now to business. In a few days, I shall be off, to return, a free man, about June, and commence my improvements. Nothing can be done to advantage until then. To employ workmen without personal inspection would be to waste money to no purpose. You can go on preparing for your removal according to your wishes. Your league of land is not very far from where my brother in law is settling. It is on a navigable tide water Creek, called Dickinsons Creek, (Perry's is on Chocolate) on the South side, beautifully situated, has some timber and rich prairie, and is within a few hours sail of Galveston Harbor. Farewell, a long farewell

S F A.

AUSTIN IN ACCOUNT WITH PERRY AND HUNTER

Col S. F Austin
In a/c with Perry and Hunter Dr

1831				
May	14	For	1 Bolt Irish Linnen 26 yds 1.25	32. 50
		"	Buttons and Thread	1 00
	30	"	24 yds Linnen Sheeting pr Mrs Williams @ 87½	21 00
		"	11 Super Ticking @ 50	5 50
		"	7 ½ Rusia duck @ 37½	2 81
		"	6 yds Fine Sea Island 50	3 00
		"	¼ yd Linnen cambrick	1 00
	21	"	6 Skeins white thrd	75
June	14	"	1 watch Ribbon	50
		"	1 wriding whip	3. 50
	19	"	1 Black Silk Vest	5. 00
Augt.	8	"	Amt Wilson and Harris ord. favr. Jno. Allcorn Delivd. you	40 00
	21	"	Cash For Spaniard	25
	27	"	Cash paid James Whiteside	43. 00
Sept.	7	"	1 Bridle	1 50

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1831				
Oct.	20	"	Amt Mosea Russaw ord. on You	10. 44
	24	"	6 yds Yellow Flannel @ 87½	5 25
		"	Thread Tape and Buttons	. 31
		"	¾ yd Bleachd. Dom	. 25
Nov	4	"	Amt Your Order favr. Jno. Allcorn	41. 00
	5	"	1 Bottle Godfrey's Cordial	38
	7	"	2 Do Do Do	75
	11	"	½ lb Raisons	25
		"	Godfreys Cordial	75
	14	"	½ Qr paper Bot of Mosley	25
	23	"	1 pad Lock	62
	23		1 Bell	75
	"	"	6½ lb. Lether of R Mosley @ 30 c	1. 95
	"	"	1 pr. Sterup Lethers	1 00
	25	"	amt M. Russaw's ord. favr. Jas. Haggard accepted for 4 Cows and Calves	40. 00
Dec	11	"	Amt Merch[d] pd Geo. Tennell as pr Bill rendeted	695 17
1832				
Jany	3	"	1 pr Shoes	1 50
		"	1 " Lambs Wool ½ Hose	. 87
	8	"	1 Linnen Cambrick	6. 00
			1 Blk Silk Vest	4. 00
			3½ yds Bombazett @ 62½	2 18
			amt over	$974 98
			Amt Brt. Forward [Next page]	$974 98
Jany	8	For	2 Yds Ratinett @ 87½	1 75
	10	"	1⅞ Yd Irish Linnen @ 1.25	2 34
	12	"	1 Furd hat pr S. M. Williams	8. 00
	30	"	1 pr Saddle Bags	6. 00
Feby	1	"	pd your ord. favr. Thos Borden	47. 65
	16	"	17340 Brick @ 10$ pr. Thousd	173 40
		"	Nails pr Stack and William at Sundry times for House @ 18¾	20. 00
		"	Bolts Hinges and Screws	4 50
	18		Cash Loaned you	8. 00
			Cash paid in Philadelphia for	
Oct.	28.	1830	pd Subscription to quarterly review for 1830 5. 00	
		"	Do National Gazett " 5. 00	
		"	Do Quarterly Review up to Decr. 1832 10. 00	
		"	Do Nat. Gazett up to Oct. 1832 5. 00	
Jany	1831	pd for Making Coat and Co in N. York 41. 00		
		off the amt left to pay sd Bill 20. 00. 21. 00.		46 00
1832				
Feby	28	1 pr Suspenders		75
	29	Amt Your order on us this day Accepted		47 13
	"	Amt. F. Stacks ord. on your accpt. 26. Inst		81 87
	"	Amt pd Mosea Rusaw pr. your ord. order a/c Rendered You		44 50
	"	Shoeing 2 Horses all Round New Shoes		6. 00
				$1472 87

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Cr. 1831. 28 July			
	By Eagle Money	57. 00	
	By 4 pr. Ct on the above	2. 28	
	By Hand Money	23. 00	
1832 Feby.			
	By fees as empressario and commissioner on Greenberry Logans Land	25. 00	
	By your fee on Land for Mr. Rodgers	10. 00	
	By ord. in favr. William Williamson Returned	47. 13	164 41
	Ballance Due as pr Book's		$1308 46

Austin 1st Mar. 1832

PERRY AND HUNTERS

CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM

Maria Isabel Bryan se cristianó segun el sagrado Rito Catolico Apostolico Romano—baxo Condicion—siendo sus Padrinos Samuel M. Williams y esposa el dia 5 de Marzo del ano 1832.

[Rubric]

Ego infrascriptus Pastor Parochialis COLONIAE DE AUSTIN; necnon Omnium Advenarum Vicarius Generalis Papali et Episcopali authoritate in Regionibus Texarum respectu Dispensationis Praemunitus: Omnibus quibus interest certioro.

Mariam Elizabetham Bryan (sponsoribus ejus S. M. Williams ejus que uxore sute conditione—Baptizatam fuisse secundum Ritum Sanctae Romanae Catholicae Ecclesiae hacce quinta die mensis Martiu—Anno vero Salutis nostrae 1832

MICHAEL MULDOON [Rubric]

Reg. L. 1 Pag. 2

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

MARCH 6 1832

DR BROTHER

I send you Simon and wish you to keep him close at work until I return. He has been idle so long that he will require a tight rein—he is in the habit of gambling—but he is a usefull hand on a farm if he is kept close to his business. I wish you to send for the Mares and Colts of mine at John P. Coles they will be fat—sell them, or keep them as you please. I do not know how many there is of them— I have given the deed for the place you are on to Emily there is a league and three quarters instead of a league and a half. I have left my will with S. M. Williams. You are one of the executors and H. Austin the other.

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Don't neglect to have a good orchard under way and by next fall have a good sail boat for the bay to go oystering and fishing I can spend some time with you next fall and winter. I have left a bundle of notes with Hunter—try and get Cows as many as you can and young cattle—sell the horses for cattle—the more cows the better

S. F. AUSTIN

Bells receipt and Sims note are in the bundle I gave to Emily.
[Addressed:] James F. Perry

JAMES CLARK TO AUSTIN

Rushville, Illinois March 14, 1832

DR. SIR,

It is probable that the lapse of many years, and the necessary attention to business have effaced all recollection of even my name; I once had however the pleasure of an introduction to you which I have not forgotten, for public fame in your native Country has so constantly kept you before me associated with every act of kindness of encouragement and support to your former fellow citizens that you must needs be remembered— I have presumed to trespass upon your attention for the purpose of introducing to your acquaintance Mr. Thomas Christian who will hand you this letter. He is a native of Virginia and has resided for some years in this State in the peaceful persuits of a Farmer— I think I know him well and hazard nothing in saying that in steadiness of habits in integrity and honour he yields to no citizen of our Country. His circumstances are easy tho not affluent and he seeks in your Country under a climate more congenial an asylum from the cold of the North— Such a man I should regard as no doubt you do an acquisition to any Country; and any kindness or attention the generosity of your character may dispose you to show him or his family consisting of a wife and several small children I am sure will be most gratefully felt and acknowledged— If you can spare the time to write to one so almost a mere stranger it would afford me much pleasure— Every thing relative to your Country interests me much particularly its *Government*, soil, productions, Exports, imports, climate, seasons, water etc and a letter embracing these topics or some or any of them, or any other would gratify me much— Be pleased to pardon this intrusion and believe me to be

JAMES CLARK

[Addressed:] The Honbl S. Austin Texas

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JAMES W. BREEDLOVE TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, March 14, 1832.

See Calendar.

GARZA TO AUSTIN

El ciudadano Jose Antonio dela Garza Gefe de Policia Ynterino del Departam^to^ de Tejas.

Pase el Ciud^no^ Estevan F. Austin vesino y Empresario dela Colonia de este mismo nombre, y actual representante enla Legislatura del Estado por este Departamento ála ciudad de Leona Vicario á desempeñar su micion. Por tanto ruego a las demas autoridades haci civiles como Militares delos Pueblos por donde trancite, no le pongan impedimento en su marcha; sino antes bien lo protejan y aucilien con los recursos que solicite previo su correspondiente pago.

Dado en la Ciudad de San Fernando de Bejar a los veinte y un dia del Mez de Marzo de mil ochocientos treinta y dos.

José Ant^o^ dela Garza

Por auciencia del Srio. JOSÉ FRANC^o^ FLORES [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Bexar March 21 1832

DR SIR

I leave tomorrow for Saltillo. There is nothing very important here from the interior. The *Sabios* of this place are very doubtfull that Santana will fail, except *one*, he thinks he will succeed—this one is Erasmo [Seguin], who expresses the same decided republican principles now, that he did many *years* ago, and I believe is the *same* warm friend to colonization and to Texas that he was at first.

Personal feelings are more violent here now, than ever, I mean amongst each other. I am told that the Ayto. here will support the memorial,[1] but they think that they ought to have been consulted first and that even now if they do anything, it ought to bear a date anterior to the memorial from there, so as to make it appear that Bexar was the *Movil*, and then the other Aytos. should follow in its wake.

I have agreed to this idea and assured them that nothing should be said about it, you will therefore keep this part of the letter entirely to yourself.

[1] The petition of the Ayuntamiento of San Felipe, Feb. 18, 1832, above.

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A great deal of pains has been taken by *some one* to foment discord between Bowie and his connections and me, one of them has told me who he thinks it is—he thinks him to be an aspiring man, an enemy at least to both Bowie and myself— I care not much about such matters. I shall soon be clear of all this stuff and of public matters I hope.

An order has gone on to inquire how the two cannon came to be at Brazoria etc. This thing should be managed very prudently. The facts as to how they came into the country should be clearly stated, that is—The Steam boat Ariel had them on board on the rio grande. This boat started from that river for orleans and put into the Brazos river for wood, and after taking in the wood it was found necessary to lighten her as much as possible to get over the bar again, and those two guns and other things were left for that purpose; that, notwithstanding this, the boat stuck on a bar and was damaged so much that she was finally lost in Galveston bay etc. etc.

It would be best to sell those two guns to Bradburn as he requested—they will do more harm than good in their present situation—or they might be delivered to the custom house officer that has gone to Brazoria.

The best friends we have in this place are alarmed lest there should be some imprudent act committed at Brazoria, which will put the colonists in the wrong, and afford a pretext to harrass them, and also defeat the memorial. They think that if any such imprudence is committed, it will turn the Santana party against the colonizing system and make them enemies—but if no imprudence is committed they think the memorial will succeed, even with the present administration, and *certain* if Santana gets up. This is also my opinion. There is over 1000 troops in Texas, and over 700 in Matamoros, and a large garrison in Tampico. *This* force can all be thrown into Texas by water, in a few days, besides the militia of the adjoining states.

If things can be kept quiet in the colony all will end right and prosperously, of this I have no doubt—what is needed there is a *dead calm*. All reflecting men will become convinced that the true interest of Texas is never to separate from Mexico, and that it is the true interest of this nation to encourage the population of Texas, and make a state of it. This being the case the govt. will remove the restrictions and the country will prosper.

We have already seen what a check, even the *rumor* of difficulties in Texas has given to emigration. If difficulties should arise in reality, there would be no emigration at all, and many would leave the country, and the indians would take possession of it.

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The news from Saltillo says that the retail law has put all in confusion there— it had not passed, but was still pending— the Govr. had refused to sanction it on the ground that it was unconstitutional— he is *right.* ☞ I understand that the officers sent on from Matamoros prisoners, are to be sent to Tenoxticlan, should they come into the colony, they will be treated *kindly* and with *hospitality*, of course—very *kindly*—also the officers from the La Baca Station. I saw them at La Bahia—Chovel is Teran in full—the others have no confidence in Chovel, as I suspect. I wrote you by the last mail from La Bahia which I hope you received.

Navarro has mil congojas about the land sold to Royall—he first petitioned to take it in my colony, then wrote to the govr for authority to take it in Dewitts, and that the Alcalde should be authorized to give the possession. He now says that he cannot request the Govr to appoint a new comr to put him in possession on the west of the colorado, for it will make him appear ridiculous in the eyes of the govt. to be changing about so often. My advise to Royall and Caldwell is to take it in Dewitts Colony and finish the thing at once—or if any place can be found in my colony that will not interfere, let him take it there, and finish the matter at once. They must recollect that this purchase is in the eyes of the law totally void and of no effect untill they are in a situation to hold land by purchase legally in their own names, and untill the possession is legally given, and a transfer from Navarro—and for this reason they run the risk of loosing all by delay and by being too particular—the best plan is to take it in De Witts Colony as was at first intended.

There is a project before the legislature, as I am told, to reform the colonization law, so that no time is to be lost in closing the titles as soon as possible. I have not seen the plan, but it is said to be almost a total change. Keep this matter in view so as to be ready for it—but say nothing about it for the report may not be true. John Brown's widow spoke to me here about the land granted to her husband on the West side of Carankawy. He settled on it and has a considerable improvement which is now in cultivation. I believe the title is finished but the copy not delivered. See to this and finish it.

S. F. Austin

D. Gaspar sends mil memorias and says I must write to you in conjunction with him that you must not "por ningun motivo separarse de sus destinos." Arciniega will return early in April—be ready to go above and finish that colony.

Mrs. Brown, the widow of John Brown will send for the deed of the league on Carancahua bayou, send it to her by a safe conveyance.

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She leaves here today for Gonzales, where she will remain for the present—her stock is on the league—it is the first below the two quarters below Coleman's.

Tell sister Emily that Austin is very well and pleased with his journey.

S. F. A

[Addressed:] Mr. Samuel M. Williams Mr. Mitchel Austin

N. B. Send Padilla's Solicitud by first mail—I forgot it—it is for a lot in Nacogdoches—it is with the power of attorney.

otra—Powers will go on now with his colony. all difficulties are removed—he will settle it rapidly and add very much to the population of Texas. There is no doubt of this.

NATHANIEL COX TO AUSTIN

New Orleans 22 March 1832

Col: STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR, I have perused with some attention you letter of the 30 Jany last and think with you that the representatives of our lamented friend Hawkins has been sensurable, in the great neglect shown with regard to the Texas grant but I have some reason to believe Col: John Thompson Mason (now somewhere in the Mexican States) has authority to divide land and settle all accounts. Until the fate of his mission is known I shall urge the representatives no farther but should I be mistaken, there is now here a relative who will visit you, and I presume be cloathed with full power to act— he will set out at any time that may be advised.

Mr. Carbajal is still here but returns in a few days with quite a small venture, having failed in making any collection from Mr Bowie as contemplated It affords me great pleasure to find his conduct has been such as to gain your Esteem

NATH: COX.

ISRAEL MCGREADY TO JAMES F PERRY

Potosi, Missouri, March 26, 1832.

See Calendar.

THOMAS F. LEAMING TO AUSTIN

Philadelphia, April 7, 1832.

See Calendar.

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Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Leona Vicario 9 April 1832

Dr Sir.

I arrived here Sin Novedad, on the 5 and took my seat on the 6th. Nothing has been done except the ley de comercio, which I presume you have seen. The Govr opposed it very violently and returned it, but the legislature approved it a second time, only *three* voted against it. Aguirre, Fuentes, and Figueroa. It will do the colonies no material harm, for not many of them have ever retailed goods out of the colony. In principle it is unconstitutional, but nothing need be said on that ground at present.

The Governor is decidedly in favor of the colonists, he will sustain them if they act prudently, and had it not been for this Santana business he would have taken some measures relative to the *Trinidad de la Libertad* affair, but to notice it now would be adding fuel to the flame of discord that threatens the ruin of the confederation. The opinion of *many* who are opposed to the ministers, and of *all* who are opposed ton Santana is, that *his* real object is *centralismo*. The Ministers are suspected to have the same views. The real federalists are therefore opposed to the ministers and support Santana so far as to insist on their removal, but *there* they will stop, and if Santana still persists all parties will [be] united against him except his personal friends and he will fall. Tamaulipas is in great confusion. Santana is besieged in Vera Cruz—all the rest of the nation is quiet.

On my arrival here I found rumors in great abundance relative to Texas—that it had separated and declared independence etc. etc. The Govr did not believe anything of the kind, and I have fully satisfied him, on that subject, he is in favor of the memorial and will recommend it when it returns through the Chief of Department— he thinks it will be granted if no imprudence is committed by the colonists. There will be a change of ministers, an express who arrived last night from Mexico, I am told brought news that it had been finally determined to change all the ministers. The Memorial will therefore reach Mexico with the Govrs recommendation in the right time, just after the new cabinet is formed, and whilst *reform* is the order of the day. The object is a very important one, and it is best to bear almost any thing rather than jeapordise *all* by rashness and ill timed passion and imprudence. All the wild sayings and gabbling over cups and *speeches* etc at Brazoria have been circulated over this country with wonderfull augmentations. The fact is that the great majority of the thinking and intelligent part of the people in the towns I passed through and in this place

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are in favor of the colonists but they fear the settlers will ruin themselves by their imprudence. If they are unjustly oppressed and can so make it appear the majority of the whole nation will be in their favor, but if the reverse of this is the case, and they fly into a fit of passion for slight causes the whole nation will be against them.

The advice I have recd. from a high source is, as follows— "Harmonize as much as possible with the military—give no cause for disgust—be calm and never shew any passion—never use threats or harsh language. The Alcalde or Ayuntamto. ought to keep an exact and detailed account of all the oppressive acts of the military or revenue officers and report the same to the Chief of Department. Any one who is illtreated by a military or revenue officer ought to exhibit proof of the same to the Alcalde who ought to report it immediately to the Chief of Department. No violence must be used on any pretext—no imprudent talking etc."

Better advice could not have been given and if properly followed will produce favourable results. Do try and impress this on everyone, and especially on those in Brazoria who are rather warmer than they ought to be, tho perhaps not much more so than rigid justice requires.

Some men in the world hold the doctrine that it is degrading and corrupt to use *policy* in anything. Without saying whether I approve of this doctrine or not, I do say that there is no degradation in prudence and a well tempered and well timed moderation. The absolute freedom of speech that is used in the U. S. of the North is unknown in this country and hence it is not properly understood, and for this reason *just complaints* when made in harsh language are construed into rebellion etc. etc. As a general rule all over the world *Language* and *Acts*, must be regulated in a great degree by *circumstances* and *characters*.

Gen[l] Teran has evidently been deceived very much by the arts and management of Fisher but he will soon be convinced of that, if he is not already, and all will end right.

Some amendments to the colonization law are proposed—they are not very unfavourable—the quantity of land is proposed to be reduced to half a Sitio for those who exhibit proof that they have at least 100 head of Ganado Mayor—those who have not that quantity are only to get one labor—the price is proposed to be increased a little etc. I doubt whether anything will be done with it this session. The members do not harmonize amongst themselves. The prospect is good that *nothing* will be done by this Legislature except the retail law.

I presume that Ugartachea is in Brazoria—remember me to him—his sister Mrs. Ibarra is in good health and all the family.

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The memorial to divide the municipality will be passed to the house tomorrow—there seems to be no objection to it— you can read this letter to whoever you think proper— remember me to Sarah,

S. F. AUSTIN

Shew this to John Austin—

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Saltillo 12 April 1832

DR SIR

I wrote you on the 9th, since then Col. Butler arrived here and proceeds to San Felipe to settle his private business with Whitesides and others.

I have nothing particular to add to my letter of the 9th. Peace and harmony in Texas, and especially in the Colony is all important, and I hope no event will transpire to interrupt the individual or public tranquility of the inhabitants. Nothing more is known of the State of things in mexico than what I communicated in my last— you will see by the Registro, that Texas is reported to be in a revolutionary situation. I have contradicted this false report in a letter to Mr. Alaman, and everything will end well and prosperously if prudence and moderation are used by the colonists, but they must be prudent and quiet.

I wish you would make out the items of my account with Butler and calculate the interest, one of my notes to him is paid—take that up and arrange what has been paid on the others as you and him may think right.

[John T.] Mason I presume will go to the Colony and in that event I shall return home in May, for he is authorised to settle the Hawkins business—my anxiety to have that matter finally closed will probably take me home instead of going to Mexico. If any money can be had to make a payment to Butler, or if you can make any contract with him to finish the improvements on his house I wish you would do so—at least so far as to take up the note that was due in Jan^{y} last. I am anxious to have that dept [sic] paid, so as to avoid the accumulation of interest.

The consulta relative to the families who came in between April and June is favorably dispatched and will go by next mail to Arciniega so that you can now push all the business and bring it to a speedy close.

Remember my reserve on the Colorado above the road, and above Tannihill I do not wish that interfered with by any means. The

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land is poor, but I think the situation will be healthy which is my object in wishing to fix a residence there at some time when I can, so as to have a retreat from the fevers, mosquitoes and insects of the low country near the coast.

Keep peace and quietness in the colony at all hazards. The settlers ought to have full confidence in me. I say that they must bear a *great deal* from military oppresion and still remain quiet and patient. I refer you and the Ayto particularly to my letter of the 9th instant and to the advice it contains on this subject.

As regards the captains of vessells who behave imprudently, as the captain of the Boston packet did, I hope the colonists will unanimously set their faces against them and against such conduct. I expect that some schooners will have to be sunk, before they will come to their senses, but that is *their* affair— if they are in the wrong I will not protect or countenance them and I hope none of the colonists will— if they are wrongfully sunk, or ill treated let them appeal to their own govt for redress and not to the colonists who have nothing to do with the matter.

Prudence and a *dead calm* in the Colony will insure a favorable answer to the memorial—imprudence and rashness, even if just cause is given, will totally defeat everything and ruin all.

My standing motto—"*Fidelity to Mexico*"—ought to be in every man's mouth and repeated, instead of *many* other things that are said, *over cups* and in moments of heat— it is a good toast and ought to be used as a standing toast in the grog shops— try and have it so.

Remember me kindly to all

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

S. M. Williams

I sent my motto in Decr last to John Austin to be generally spread amongst them at Brazoria, but I never heard of his having mentioned it to any one— ask him if he did.

S. F. A.

Branch T. Archer to Austin

San Felipe de Austin April 22d 1832

Colonel S. F Austin

Dear Sir, The variety of subjects, on which I desired conversations, previous to your departure for the seat of Government; and the little time allowed us, in the hurry of our interviews, one of the most important subjects, was neglected, or forgotten.

Connected with the settlement of the new colony, (without regard to the character of the settle[r]s, or the nations from which they

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may be taken,) the most important matter, is the improvement of the River Brasos, (To say nothing, of the advantages, that must accrue to the present settlers on said River,) This improvement, is of vital importance, to the great interests of the country we inhabit; and its accomplishment would give a new character, and a powerful impulse to its growth.

If a grant can be obtained, by myself and company, to make the said improvements for reasonable tolls, the work shall be finished in two years, From the head of tide water to the Waco village for boats, of twelve feet breadth; drawing thirty inches water.

With this reservation to the State, that it may, at any time, after the completion of the work, possess itself of two thirds of the improvements, by paying to the company two thirds of the amount expended in making the same.

You know as well as myself, the importance of the undertakeing; and infinitely better, how to obtain the grant, on reasonable terms. I will therefore confide its details to your management.

Have the goodness to let me hear from you on this subject, before the 1st of June; as I shall start for the United States at that time. Should the grant be obtained, I will bring with me the force to commence the work next fall

Connected with this business, six of us have associated, to get a small steam boat, calculated to draw thirty inches of water, with an engine, of thirty five horse power, adapted to sawing timber on board the Boat.

Nothing new in this neighbourhood since you left us.

B. T. ARCHER

Colo *S. F. Austin*

[Addressed:] Colonel Stephen F. Austin Mail Leona Vicario

SMITH AND STILLMAN TO AUSTIN

Matamoras, April 23, 1832.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Saltillo April 28 1832

DR SIR,

The legislature's labors closed today (Saturday) for altho there will be one more sitting, on Monday, nothing more will be done on that day than to go through the formalities of closing the session etc.

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The new colonization law has passed[1]—it had progressed considerably before my arrival and is as favorable as could be obtained or expected at present. A law has passed reducing the Alcabala one half in the departments of Bejar and Monclova—another stating that the military in service have not, and never have had, any right to vote at elections, except the presidial companies in the towns where they belong—another establishing the municipality of Brazoria. Three years more have been granted to Powers, Cameron, Beales, Viehlien and Burnet to settle their colonies.

Upon the whole this legislature have done no harm except the retail law, and some good.

The States of Jalisco and Zacatecas have formally *demanded* the dismissal of the ministers. Tamaulipas is all at sixes and sevens—the Legislature have annulled the decree of the junta Legislativa of 19 March last, and asked pardon of the general Government, etc. The Governor of that State, Vital Fernandez, refused to sanction this last act of the legislature and mustering all the troops and militia he could marched towards Tampico in the night of the 20 April. General Teran it is said was within six leagues of him on the pursuit, but I doubt this, for I have a letter from Teran 14 April from Matamoros, he was then starting for Victoria. Santana is already besieged in Vera Cruz.

It is impossible to form any definite opinion as to how this matter will end, but I think the most probable conjecture is that the ministers will retire soon, and that a general amisty will follow and a total cessacion of all hostility. I must confess that I doubt very much whether the nation will gain anything by a change of ministers—our *Congresito*, very wisely I think, have adopted the turtle sistem, *callado*.

So much for general matters—now for *home* affairs. The removal of Fisher, and the establishment of a custom house office at Brazoria I presume has satisfied everybody, and of course you have peace and harmony in the colony. The prospect of getting the law of 6 April modified is much better than I expected. If the whole of Texas and that colony in particular are quiet, prudent and obedient, and can keep all the local officers and especially the Military in a good humor, and well satisfied, I will almost insure a repeal of the 11 article of the law of 6 April, but there must be no more such violent excitements as that at Brazoria in December—no more such illegal and even *piratical* conduct as the Boston Packet,—No more speeches. How silly and imprudent the best of us will talk and act sometimes when under excitement. Those who were abusing me at Brazoria and in San Felipe because I insisted that Teran and Brad-

[1] Decree No. 190, Gammel, Laws of Texas, I. 193.

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burn were not the enemies of the colony [as] some charged them to be, and who even ridiculed me for believing that Fisher would be removed and an officer of the custom house sent to Brazoria, ought now to be convinced that I knew more of the subject than they did. I can assure the whole colony and all Texas that nothing but the outragious imprudence of the people themselves will bring trouble on that country. If the whole of the Settlers will adopt my motto *Fidelity to Mexico*—and act and talk in conformity they will flourish beyond their own expectations, and every favor will be granted to them, they could expect in reason. The legislature of the State are favorably disposed towards colonization, as the new law will shew. The Governor is also friendly, and if a *dead calm* has been, and can be preserved, all will end well—very well. I rely on the old standards, the first settlers. They have known me for years. They now know that their destiny was almost entirely in my hands—nay I might say completely in my hands for several years, for my legal authority over them was very nearly absolute. They can now look back and see that I have taken them safely through all difficulties, and that so long as their affairs were exclusively under my own control, they progressed in peace and harmony with the Gov^{t}. These things ought to give them full confidence in me, and I say to them, as I have often said, that they have more to fear from the imprudence of drunkards and talking demagogues amongst themselves, than from the Gov^{t}. I recommend my motto to them, and those who have any influence ought to exert it to have that motto used as a popular toast in the place of some others that I have been told were drank.

It would be a good thing for the people of Brazoria to make a present to the new custom house office of the *two guns*. If they will do so and the expense is any obstacle, I will pay for them myself. Shew this to Cap. John Austin and any others you please and tell John that the assesor and judges say that if he has had a court at Brazoria it is *illegal* and his acts void and himself liable to punishment. Many papers have been, or will be sent into Texas from Tampico and Vera Cruz and *perhaps* some agents of that party, if so, treat them all *politely*. That is read the papers—and feed and lodge the agents while they stay—but nothing more. No matter which party gains, it would ruin the people of the colony to take any part in any way. They must be mere spectators, and silent ones, hear and see everything they can, but without taking any part or expressing any opinion. Try and get them to adopt this idea all over the colony and especially at Brazoria.

I think I shall go to Monterry, and perhaps to Victoria. Gen^{l} Mason wishes to see Gen^{l} Teran, and so do I. I do not see any necessity for my immediate return to the colony, and am as yet

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undetermined whether I shall return untill after the September session—tho I do not know how you are getting on for I have not heard a word from San Felipe since the 8th day of March, which was the day I left there, the last mail brought nothing.

Tell Sister Emily that Austin is well—has a Mexicanita Sweetheart and begins to hablar.

The session of today continued untill 4 P. M. so I have not time to write to the Ayuntamto, and therefor request you to read this letter to the members—and to present my respects to each of them individually—also to Sarah and all friends—y al Padre.

S. F. AUSTIN

Reservado: Tell John Austin not to dispose of any lots in the new part of Brazoria untill my return, not one to any person nor on any account. I particularly request and charge you to attend to this—I mean the lots that were bid in by him for me, which includes the most that were sold. If he is not in San Felipe write to him immediately.

You need not send any letters to me untill farther orders, for I do not know where I shall be during the summer.

Gen[l] Mason wishes you to keep his letters and papers, if any should come for him untill he arrives en esa

S. F. AUSTIN

I wrote you from Goliad—Bexar—and twice from here by Don Luis del Valle, and Butler.

[Addressed:] Don Samuel M. Williams Austin

HENRY MORSE TO JAMES F PERRY

Hall's Bayou, May 6, 1832.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO HENRY AUSTIN [1]

Saltillo May 8th 1832

DEAR SIR—I sent your letter to Smith and Stillman from Canada, and by this last mail recd. their answer, and an order on the agent of the late firm of R. P. Staples and Co. for the acknowledged balance of $756.05. The agent left here for Mexico before I recd. their orders. I applied to some others who are employed in arranging the accounts of the concern, and they all tell me that nothing can be had, and recommended that the account be sent to some one in Mexico to represent it at the *concurso* of the creditors. I fear this

[1] Copy by Moses Austin Bryan, in file of Aug. 27, 1829.

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money will be lost—so far as I understand, the affairs of the house are much more embarrased than was supposed. Mr Sharpe one of the agents of the concern here, for posting up the books (a Philadelphian) thinks that not over 20 pr. cent, will be divided—he says that your debt was lost by neglect for if it had been called for six months ago it would have been paid, as the creditors in Mexico had then agreed to suffer the house to go on—since then they have become alarmed, and every one is pressing—the result is a total stopage. I have written to Smith and Stillman on the subject and recommend them to send the account to Parrot, to do the best he can with it. I leave to-morrow for victoria and shall not return to Texas before October. Mason goes with me to see the General on business, and he has a fair prospect of effecting something tho to what extent is rather doubtful. The political state of things is still unsettled and it is doubtful what will be the result, and whether the ministers will be able to sustain themselves or not. It matters not much for Texas, provided peace and harmony can be preserved there which is all important now. I have very friendly letters from Don Lucas Alaman, Genl. Teran and the Vice President. The memorial of the Ayuntamiento of Austin[1] has been passed to congress with the recommendation of the President, and the prospect is good of a repeal of the 11 article of the law of 6 April 1830 also of a modification of the duties. Remember me to Mrs A. and children. Yours truly S. F. Austin

You ought to loose no time in locating your other sitio—

Austin to Samuel M. Williams[2]

Saltillo, May 8th 1832

Dr Sir.

The last mail brought me yours of 3 and 17 April, am truly gratified to hear that peace and prosperity prevail. I shall leave in a few days for Victoria in company with Mason and Greaves, where we expect to see Gen[l] Teran. I have very friendly letters from Teran, Alaman and the Vice President (see my letter to the Ayuntamiento). I have every confidence that the law of 6[th] A[pril] will be modified, I also have full confidence in Ter[an *Poli*]*tical matters will probably soon take a favourable, and p*[*robably an*] *unexpected change.* Peace and harmony in Texas are [more] important now than ever. I cannot give you all the reasons I have for this opinion, but they are many and very weighty. Make what use

[1] See above, Feb. 18, 1832.

[2] From a copy presented to the University of Texas by Mrs. R. H. Connerly, of Austin, Texas.

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you deem prudent of these remarks, always avoiding *talkers* and *news paper paragraphs.*

Aparte—I send you all the necessary papers and powers to perfect the titles for the grants mentioned in them of Aguirre and Vega. The concessions are in my trunk of which you have the key get them out. I think they are in a bundle rolled up in a news paper. This land has cost me $1000 and will cost much more besides the expenses and the gov[t] dues, settlement, etc.

You will want a sufficiency to take the front on the Colorado river from the upper line of Tannihill's league in the upper colony, to 500 varas at least above the big springs at the foot of the mountain, also the fourth of a league on the mountain on the west side of the colorado opposite the said big springs the falls to lie in the center of the front of said fourth league. To make the matter more clear I give a sketch of the land as near as I can recollect, ten sitios which you will locate on the west side of Colorado, bounding on onion creek (Burro, or Garrapatas) on the lower or south east, and on the Colorado river on the eastward—thus. [A sketch map is here omitted.] These three locations I wish you to be particular about. The Burro or onion creek I believe runs more parallel with the river than I have marked it which of necessity will extend the front up the river. The ¼ sitio at the falls is all high mountain—has some timber and plenty of rock, no land. but I want the falls for a very special object and therefore wish them to lie in the center of this tract on the river—to say—7 or 8 sitios above Tannihill east side—¼ at falls W. side—10 sitios in forks of river and onion creek.

You will also locate the 4[th] league above Bastrop (cedar league) The balance of the land to fill the three concessions you will locate on the Sanjacinto W. Side above the Tuscasite road, or up the Brazos or between this river and navisoto, or on the yeagua—*en fin*, I want the best land that can be had and prefer taking it all below the upper road within the boundaries of my old contracts, out of the ten league reserve. I shall fix a place on the colorado at [the] foot of the mountains to live, and wish for those location[s for] my own use and not to sell. The balance is for m[mutilated] or for sale. I must request you to attend to this matter [promptly] and have it all concluded as soon as practicable. [Present] a pe[ti]tion to the Alcalde for the two tracts west of colorado with[out] any delay, not one day, for there are various applications for that colony of Milams and also for DeWitts.

As soon as the titles for the colorado tracts are finished execute the deed for sale of them to me, the balance you can let alone for the present, I mean the deed of sale.

As regards what you say about Dexter, I never made him any promise at all of any kind whatever. Nixon I think is so reasonable

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that his wishes might be complied with, especially as he is about to marry and settle permanently. tell the widow that she had better yield than have the LAW put in force against her, as I laid it down and left you to execute. As regards others who wish to locate above the road you can do as you please *con plena poder*—but keep them away from the limits of my old colonies, be particular as to this. As regards Bowie do as you think right I have never objected to his having a reasonable portion, and he has no cause to find any fault with me. As regards the subject proposed by Madero and others do as you think proper, always keeping above the road, Navarro is appointed in place of Madero. For your government in the general, I have to say that I have rec[d] very favorable offers to settle our contract, but shall not [mutilated] until I see the GENERAL. Also, I shall in futu[re have] nothing to do with the *home details* of the busin[ess you] will have to do it all and if you start badly [mutilated] to cause any entanglements it will give you trouble in the end. The sistem of surveying must be changed immediately—the price is too much. Stop this at once in the old and the new colony—except the work already done, but have no more done on the same terms. make *speoial* contracts for the surveying of my lands.

I shall get Arciniega appointed com[r] of the new colony, it will probably be done next week. Mr. Greaves an english gentleman will go to Texas, he is applicant for Milams colony. he will make a good secretary for the Brazoria Ay[to] being a very good Spanish scholar, an educated and very moral man and much of a gentleman.

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Josiah H. Bell to ———

Colorado May 17th 1832?

Sir

I have this day sold your sorel Horse to Mrs Bucknor and Powel for five second rate mules as will be shown in the receipt for the note I also have in my possession a Horse belonging to those Gentlemen which I think to be worth twenty dollars should it suit you on your return to make any arangement with them satisfactory to yourself it will be good—

J. H. Bell [Rubric]

Archibald Austin to Austin

[New York, May 22, 1831.[1]]

it is only temporary, this of course can be onely conjecture with him, as it must depend on the political elements of Europe, whether

[1] The misplacement of this letter was not discovered until the index was making. It should be inserted on p. 662.

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tween France and some of the other powers of the Continent, and will probably burst forth ere a great while, the french Government have managed to prolong the time, like throwing water on a fire you may smother it, yet not extinguish it, it will flash out occasionally, and then all is dark again, so they appear to manage, they are not ready yet, and the probability is that the government would prefer to have a continuance of peace, but the materials are too combustible, they will have war or another revolution must be the result—

My request to Mr Burgh was that he would give the particulars in the way that he would like to receive the oak at his yard, which he promised to do, and desired me to give him a call when it arrived— He told me they formerly sent moulds, but he prefers it according to his directions, He sais men ought to be employed, from the north who are acquainted with the manner of cutting Timber of this discription— Mr. B. builds most of our Havre packets, and many of the Liverpool, however Hy knows all about him— You should be careful he sais not to send cedar, that has any worm holes in it, as they generally penetrate into the heart of it, and then it is good for nothing, not even for firewood— What you say in regard to the *new concern* is just what I anticipated, and told John long ago that I was confident you would not. I shall not say anything about it, and have told John he must be particular not to speak of it— They consider it quite an enigma that you should be averse to this Government obtaining that Territory by negotiation, they think you would be made immencely rich almost immediately in that event and far more so than if it remains as it now does, altho' they think in time, you will become rich under the present Government, to be sure it does appear so, but you ought to be your own counseller on that score— I forwarded your letter for Charles and wrote Henrietta at same time relative to her son, who I believe is now in Mexico at San Louis de Potosi, with his uncle—

My children have sent me a letter of thanks to you for your kind remembrances which I inclose— I am sorry to hear your health is not reestablished yet, you propose making a trip this way, but do not say when, your friends will be very happy to see you here, and I think the change would be of great service to you, brace you up, and hope restore you to perfect health, but you should manage not to be here during the winter, for they are not only excessively unplesant, but too tremindously cold, for any thing but an Esquimaux, I fear it would be too much for you, and yet a West-Indian or one that has been accustomed to that climate will come here in a debilitated state, and find the climate to agree with him, the cold resusi-

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tates him, and he feels like another man— I do not know that this is [the] case generally, but I know of a few—

I saw Perrys advertisement in the Texas paper, so I conclud he is there, just jog his elbow for me, by way of putting him in mind that he was to write to me on his arrival there, I hope, he, his wife and family are well,— Please remember me affectionately to them.

22 May In the commercial of 19 inst you will see something relative to the Galveston Bay and land Compt which looks very favorable for them, I am told it is from our Charge d' affairs—

After all the deprivations, toilsome and anxious life you have been put to, you may well seek repose, and the oppy offering, I am not surprised at your proposed arrangements for a quiet life, ere you are too old to enjoy it— However I presume your intention is to keep an eye to the Colony, you cannot divest yourself of the pleasure of considering the prosperity of the Colony the main object, after all the toil you have passed through, when it is so rappidly marching on to the Zenith of its Glory, all Eyes are directed that way with admiration and astonishment at the rise and progress of it, and consider you as having performed prodigies, I was pleased the other day to hear a Gentlemen of learning, and who holds and has held many distinguished situations express many high encomiums on your Colony and your management. he observed there never had been any thing of the kind to equal it— You have unfurled your colours, let them continue to wave in so noble a cause, you now will give up the ship—22d—

not meeting with a good oppy to send my letter, I have left it open to add whatever might occur interesting—

The Packet of the 15 ult., from England brought news that the Poles had defeated the Russians in which the latter lost 7000, and some accts say 12000 men, Lithuania had revolted, Sweden was about taking up arms to recover Finland, the Turks rebellouis, and talking about commencing hostilities against Russia, Austria had or was about withdrawing her troops from Italy,—and by another packet a few hours later there was a report that the Russian General Diebitsch had been taken prisoner, and the main body of his army dipersed, such great Achievements by the Poles, caused a thril of delight through this part of the Country, and a meeting is called in this city, to congratulate the Poles, in regular form— Yesterday we had a packet in from France, a little later, contradicting the report of Diebitsch being taken—

In France the people were very restless, several revolutionary movements had taken place in Paris, and dispersed by the national Guards—

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I see by an extract from an English paper that hence forward all the Ships of the Royal Navy, are to be built exclusively of English and American Oak in equal portions—

The Galviston Company appear to have been for some time past in Statu quo, The Steps Col° Bradburn took on the arrival of the Emigrants sent out by them put them hors de Combat, but they appear to consider all in a fair train again, I have called Several times to see one of the concern to make some inquiries, but have not been able to see him—

The last accounts from Mexico say the Treaty between that Country and this was already to be signed, and would be dispatched in the Lavinia now on her passage to this place—

As I have understood that Henry was to return to Texas late in April, I presume ere this is there please tell him that I saw a letter from his wife on Thursday evening last, saying she and her family were all very comfortably situated in New Haven and waiting anxiously for the time for them to embark for Texas—

tell him also that we have now a Steam Boat plying between this and New Haven, that leaves here in the morning at 7 O'Clock, and returns the same day— remember me to him,— wishing you better health,

A A—

When you write again I should like to hear something about the live oak, the quantity size situation etc—that I may be able to answer some of Eckfords and Burghs inquiries about it, from what I have already heard about it, I should suppose it must be very valuable—

[addressed:] Col. S. F. Austin Sn Felipe de Austin Texas—

Austin to S. M. Williams [1]

Victoria 23 May 1832

Dr Sir.

I wrote you yesterday by mail, since then Mr Greaves has concluded to go on direct to Texas, and not follow Mason and self in the *vuelta* by Tampico through *heat* and *war*. you will find him a very usefull man, much more so than any I have ever seen in Texas for an office where Spanish and english is needed. You must make good use of the time between this and Jany to bring up all the back writing of the office.

I sent you from Saltillo by mail,[2] all the necessary papers to finish the titles for the lands granted to the Aguirres and Vega

[1] From a copy presented to the university by Mrs. R. H. Connerly, Austin, Tex.
[2] Above, May 8, 1832.

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with directions as to locating it—on reflection I think I shall return home from Matamoros—that is if I am not detained too long in getting there, and in that event I will attend to their location myself—but I wish you to employ a person of confidence to explore the land up the San Jacinto, west side, and see if one of the grants can not be located there *entire* to advantage, have this done without delay so that I may know when I get there whether to take it or not. I wish the location on Onion Creek west side of Colorado, and on the east side at the foot of the mountains, also the cedar league N° 4 above Bastrop— *Enfin* this land will cost me very dear and unless it is well located I shall loose on it.

You will see by the new colonization law that all sales heretofore made must be located within 18 months—this will cause a great push, and unless some care is taken all the land in our colony will be occupied by them—keep this in view—also remember that I have very advantageous offers to settle that colony which I shall decide upon after seeing the General.

Above all things keep peace and harmony in the Colony. We have *all sorts* of reports here about Texas, and it is said that three soldiers were killed at Anahuac by the crew of a vessell. I hope this is not so—do keep peace in that quarter—urge this on the Ay^{to} and on every one

Remember me to Sarah and all others.

S. F. Austin

Juan Martin de Beramendi to Governor

Exmo. Sor. Gobernador del Estado

El ciudadano Juan Martin de Veramendi asociado en comp^{a} con algunos otros indibiduos p^{a} promober varios objetos de especulacion qe. á la vez puedan refluir en utilidad de toda la Nacion Mejicana, y particularmente de la de este Estado q. V. E. dignamente vigentea, ante V. E. y á fin de que si lo estimase justo y conveniente, se digne elevarlo al augusto conocimiento de la soberana asamblea Legislatiba del mismo, hace presente lo qe. sigue. Sin necesidad de acumular pruebas ni recordar la triste historia del opulento y feraz Territorio de Tejas, en el archivo de la Secretaria de V. E. en el del H^{o} Congreso del Estado, lo mismo qe. en cualquiera ótro qe. en este y en todo tiempo, haya debido conocer de los asuntos de esta parte del Estado; y para decirlo de una vez, en el conocimiento de los hombres mas vulgares se tienen hoy por acciomaticas las siguientes propociciones: el territorio conocido antes con el nombre de *Provincia de Tejas* es una de las porciones mas ricas de la Republica Mejicana: Los infinitos germenes de prosperidad qe. en ella se encuentran en los reinos

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vegetál, Mineral y animal se hallan hasta hoy en su estado natural y solo esperando la mano benefactora del industrioso artesano á la vez qe. la proteccion paternal del gobierno Nacional para engrandecerla y nibelarla al mismo tiempo al rango de las Naciones mas civilisadas y ricas hoy en el mundo conocido tanto por la benignidad de su clima como por la navegacion de qe. son subseptibles varios de los rios qe. la fertilizan y el contacto en que se halla con los Estados Unidos del norte que es bien sabido el lugar qe. se meresen: la causa primaria y casi la unica, pues todas las demas deben estimarse como accidentales qe. ha entorpecido desde la epoca en qe. se descubrio Tejas su poblacion y engrandecimiento en todos ramos es y ha sido sin contradicion la destructora guerra de los barbaros que en aquel tiempo y hasta la fha. hostilisaron y estan hostilisando los muy pequeños pueblos qe. solo se han podido conservar á costa del sacrificio de las vidas de millares de sus hijos y de otros mil padecimiento de toda especie. Si Sor Exmo las propociciones relacionadas son otros tantos axiomas qe. ya no necesitan de prueva alguna, y por lo mismo ¿Que cosa mas digna de los actuales poderes legislativo y ejecutivo del Estado y de todo ciudadano qe. como yo se precie del honrroso titulo de coahuiltejano promobiendo como lo hago en union de mis asosiados la pesca de nutria y castor y perla en todo el territorio qe. hoy habita la numerosa y guerrera tribu Comanche procurando a la vez la catequisacion y civilisacion de estos, en cuanto cabé en los estrechos recursos de una compañia qe. llegara á hacer mucho acia este respecto si se le dispensa la proteccion qe. implora del gobierno Supremo Gral. y del particular del estado? Este es en espendio la solicitud del q. espone y sus compañeros q. para Regularisarla si acaso llega á tener el objeto qe. deceamos se sircunscrive a las peticiones siguientes.

1ª El Ciudadano Juan Martin de Veramendi en union de otros varios sujetos con quienes tiene formada compª solicita el pribilegio exclusivo por el espacio de catorce años para la pesca de nutria castor y perla en todos los arroyos y rios del terreno q. habitan ahora los comanches.

2ª Afin de procurar la catequisacion y civilizacion de esta abundante y belicosa Tribu, asi como para entablar con ella y cualquiera otra de las Varbaras qe. habitan el Departamtº de Tejas, el cambio de otros frutos, ofrece dha. compª a sus espensas el establecimiento de una Micion con su Yglesia y sacerdote arriba de la union del rio de conchas con el corolarado; é igualmente el de una casa de comercio en el mismo punto ú otro q. sea necesario pª surtir a los indios de los articulos de su consumo previa la correspondiente ecepcion de derechos de introduccion por el puerto q. mas conbenga pª qe. los precios á qe. se espendan sean lo mas equitativos posible.

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3ª La estraccion de las pieles de nutria y castor y la de perla tanto para otros Estados de la federacion como para lo esterior de la Republica si se quiere podra reportar desde un principio algun moderado dro. qe. á la vez qe. acer[e]sca el erario del Estado no grabite demasiado en este naciente giro de la compañia.

Finalmente por si V. E. con su autoridad ó influjo, lo mismo qe el augusto Congreso del Estado se dignasen recabar delos supremos Poderes Federales la guarnicion de cincuenta hombres de los veteranos armados y montados para la Seguridad del establecimiento relacionado, ofrece igualmte la compª cuando llegue a faltaries su socorro corrte racionarlos mensual mente con 8. almudes mais uno de frijol, y con la carne q. diariamente adquieran casadores qe. ha sus espensas mantendrá, y que en la abundancia de casa de aquellos terrenos sin duda bastará pª el consumo de carne de aquel establecimiento ya sea de cibola qe. casi y la hay todo el año, ya de ganado bacuno de castilla qe. tambien se suele encontrar masteño, ya en fin de venado y verrendo que jamas falta.

Por tanto Sor Exmo.

A V. E. encarecidamente suplico se digne prestar su benevola proteccion é informe faborable á la presente Solicitud, cuyos resultados solo cuando se empiesan á palpar podran dar una ideá suficiente de los grandeosos objetos que ella abrasa.

San Fernando de Bejar 23. de Mayo de 1832

JOSÉ M. J. CARBAJAL TO AUSTIN

Bexar, June 4, 1832.

See Calendar.

MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY TO AUSTIN[1]

[New Orleans], June 8, 1832

DEAR COUSIN,

I can not go hence without writing to you, if but a line, at once of adieu and welcome. I shall soon be on my way to Kentucky, while you I hope are not far from your cherished home. I rejoice to hear, as by last accounts, that your health and prosperity are so flattering and pray God that you may be blessed in all things.

Our book is not out yet that I know of The late political disturbances in Mexico caused such a panic in New York, that everything was at a stand. I hope it will be no disadvantage in the end, as they say it will not. In the mean time all Europe is in commo-

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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tion with wars and rumors of wars cholera etc. Despotism is seeking its last vengeance in Spain and Poland, it is to be hoped. In consequence immigrants are thronging to this country. Where can they find such an asylum as Texas offers? How prophetic were your views! With you, I am heartily sick of the old world and all its doings—the great tyrannies and the little ones. Pray be firm against slavery. I witness such cruelties as fill me with abhorrence *of myself* and my species. How I long for our peaceful and simple and quiet life, where we will admit no debasing passions. I will not aim at too much and I can not be disappointed. My personal wants are few. My plan for a school is drawn up, but at the present it shall remain in my escritoire.

I can not forbear to give you an extract from a letter of Orville Holley about my work. He says, "I intirely agree with you in your appreciation of Stephen Fuller Austin's character. He is to be ranked among the founders of Commonwealths, intrepid, interprizing, benevolent and just—a man of sense and soul. I am not only pleased, but proud to be friendly and respectfully remembered by such a man; and it will be among the many grateful considerations connected with whatever I may be able to do in the matter of this book, that it may serve in some degree to promote his just and sacred interests." He says he has half a mind to emigrate himself, supposing he could fix in some prairie, where he could gather his own eggs, and after learning the *bee business* take his own honey etc., etc.

I mean to return here in October when I will arrange the details for further operations. I can not now regulate everything, nor tell the moment of my going to the Colony. But I assure you, my [dear] cousin, that it will be at the first moment I am able, for there is nothing I so ardently long for— In the mean time the happiness of being once more with my dear children will absorb me. If they were in Texas and I with them, I should not have a wish. My health is very good. May all happiness attend you—remember me kindly to your sister and family.

Your cousin

M A H

Hubbard has his passport—He and John are well—

[Addressed:] "Col: S F Austin San Felipe de Austin Texas. Brazoria

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Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Matamoros June 15—1832

Dr Sir.

I left Saltillo on the 12th May—thence by Monterrey, Pelon, Linares, Victoria to the Hacienda del Cojo, the head quarters of

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Gen[l] Teran 20 leagues back of Tampico, thence by Soto Marina here. Gen[l] Mason accompanied me to this place, and we both intended to have gone to Texas, but the fatigues of so long a journey as the one we have just made through excessive heat and drought in an *almost* uninhabited country, has worn us both down very much—he has concluded to embark for N. York from here, and I shall return to Saltillo to wait the meeting of the Legislature in September, consequently shall not reach home untill October.

M[r] Alex[r] Greaves, who came directly here from Victoria proceeds to Texas. I have told him to go direct to your house—he is the most useful man for an office I have ever seen in this country—rigidly moral, industrious, and in every respect worthy of confidence—his knowledge of the Spanish is most accurate—you will discover that his general knowledge of human nature and of mankind is not quite as extensive as that of some men, but his judgement in general is very correct. I think him a very worthy man—a better man could not be found for the Secretary of the Ayto. either of Austin, or of Brazoria.

I send you the law extending the privilege of introducing certain articles free of duty in Texas for two years—it is not as extensive as we need. I wish the Ayto. to petition again on this subject, and ask for a modification of this new law, so as to leave out *whiskey* and *lumber* from the law, and include all tools made of iron and wood used for farming or the *trades*—furniture—carts and waggons—iron and steel—cotton baging and bale rope.

It will not do to go any farther, and nothing else ought to be included or mentioned in the petition. Send one *original* copy to Gen[l] Teran and one to the Minister of Hacienda—also let the Ayto. write an official letter to Bradburn, Piedras, and Elosua, enclosing the memorial, and requesting each of them to give his opinion in writing to the Com[t] Gen[l] Teran on the subject. If their opinions are all favourable Teran will also support it, and the measure will succeed. Also request father Muldoon to write to his friends on the subject.

The news papers will have informed you of the political state of affairs in Mexico—we have no information here as to who are to compose the new ministry. Some think the revolution will stop with the removal of the ministers, others are confident it will not. I think myself that not much quietness can be expected untill after the Presidential election is over—and even then—*quien sabe.*

Gen[l] Teran has gained much credit with moderate men for avoiding bloodshed—but he has also *lost* with the same men, and with everyone except fanatic fools and old Spaniards, for the manner in which he has spoken of foreigners in his letter to Moctezuma

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written from here, and his Altamira proclamation both of which you have seen published, the latter begins "Ya lo habeis visto." I sincerely believe that neither of those papers contains his real sentiments as to foreigners—but most people are in the habit of judging of a man by what he *says*, and not by what he thinks, and for this reason I think those two papers will do the Gen[l] great harm both at home and abroad. They will also irritate the other party excessively, for they contain a direct charge that the Santana party are the mere tools of foreigners, which is certainly an incorrect charge.

The Gen[l] was greatly perplexed, and overwhelmed with *affairs* when I saw him at the cojo. He had just retreated from Tampico—had just heard of the removal of the ministers—was not in very good health, and in a camp in the midst of his army, of course not in a situation to talk much about Texas matters—however, we had considerable conversation on the subject. He expresses great interest for the prosperity of the settlers—is in favor of repealing the 11 Article of the law of 6 April and of extending the commercial privileges. He told me that he had sent on Fishers resignation to the Govt. to be acted on by the President as he might deem proper etc. etc.

If harmony and confidence can be maintained between the merchants and settlers and the *local* officers of the custom house and of the army at Brazoria, all will get on very well. *Some one* reported to Gen[l] Teran that there were more goods imported into Brazoria in October and November last, than had entered the port of Matamoros for one year—this was the real cause of his sudden trip to Texas last Nov[r] when he took out Fisher.

He says that what the Settlers need for their own use is of no consequence, and if goods could be prevented from being taken from Texas to the interior, no custom house would be established there for many years—but he says that the importations there for the purpose of the interior trade reduces the revenue of of this port, and defrauds the Govt. etc. I told him that the person who made such a report to him stated what was false. He said that every indulgence would be allowed on all articles for the necessary use of the settlers, but that the utmost rigor would be used as to light and fancy dry goods, suitable for the interior trade. By the by this interior trade has never been carried on from Brazoria or Galveston—it is a loosing business at best, and I hope for the future our merchants will let it alone. It is more important at this time to encourage the farmers than the merchants.

I shall go to Monterrey and try to enlist some friends there who have influence in Mexico to use it with the new administration in

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favor of a repeal of the 11 Article of the law of 6 April. I have every confidence that, that law will be modified. I shall probably be in Saltillo in July where I shall expect letters from you, giving me the news as to how the colony is getting on. I hear you had a very wet spring and have fine prospects for crops.

Gen[l] Mason has succeeded *in part* in getting the New York Company business arranged, and I think they will go on with the settlement of those colonies by europeans.

Remember me particularly to Padre Muldoon and *all others*. These long trips in the sun through such a wilderness as this country totally destitute of every comfort for the traveller, are truly wearisome to the body, to the health, to the patience and to the mind, but if I can do any good to the colony I shall feel myself well compensated for all.

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr. Sam M. Williams San Felipe de Austin

AUSTIN TO HORATIO CHRIESMAN

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Matamoros June 19. 1832

H CHRIESMAN Esqr
Prest of the Ayuntamto

D[r] SIR.

[I] arrived here a few days since, [and] as I must [be] in Saltillo by the 28 August when the Legislature will have its first or preparatory meeting, I have concluded not to return home until after the September session.

I am happy to hear that harmony prevails [among the people and that pros]pects of crops are good

The [political disturb?]ances in Mexico will I think end very favorably for the [cause] of liberty, and there is well founded cause to expect a republican administration after the next election. I [believe] the next President will [not] be a [militar]y man—in fact the power [of the mili]tary is dayly becoming more [weak? I] mean its *moral* power. All [the bes]t men of the nation are becoming [convinced] that there can never be harmony nor liberty, nor even a republican gov[ernment] untill the military authority is subjected to the civil authority, and the army reduced. [I] believe this to be one of the main objects of what is called the Santana Party—that party will certainly get into power, and [if] there was only [a *Th*]*omas Jefferson* Am[erican?] to place at the helm, Mexico would be free and its republican institutions established on a solid basis—but where is *such* a man to be found—[certainly?] not in this

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nation. Guerrero ruined the old republican party by the incapacity of a part of his absurd * * * and dessol * * * principles of the whole of them. [Nor] will the Santana party do anything better [tho] I hope they will. If a man of the talents and habits and industry of Lucas Alaman could be found of the *right* political creed and sufficiently balanced, [of] honest and disinterested patriotism, [all would] go on well. We must however [hope for] the best. I think it very probable [that] Garcia Governor of Zacatecas, [will be] the president—if so he will pu * * * Juan Dios Ca[ñe]do[?] and make him secretary of state, decidedly the best one that [could] be selected.

I fear that not much harmony has or will exist between the military and civil authorities of Anahuac untill the *new* [state of] things places the power where it ought to be in all republics, s[ubordinate] to the latter. However I hope that nothing of a serious nature will occur. The course which ought to be pursued is a very plain one, and [a very sim]ple one, it is this— Every outrage, disorder arbitrary or illegal act of the military ought to be reported officially [with the evidence to the?] Chief of department—those who are [misused?] ought to go before the nearest alcalde, or any alcalde [the one of the municipality of Austin would be the best] and make a [clear] and full declaration in [writing?] under oath and * * * sus[tained?] by witnesses—this declara[tion an]d all the proceedings ought [to be re]corded in the judicial records [and co]pies sent to the Chief of Depart[ment] and redress ought to be asked but in the most respectfull manner. All acts of violence ought to be avoided and put down or stoped. But should [acts] occur of so flagrant a nature that public indignation could not be restrained, a thing which my knowledge of military opperations generally in Texas c[auses me] to fe[ar ma]y happen, great ca[re] must be taken not to do or say anything against the Govt. *take gre[at] care and use great prudence on th[is] point.* If any public act, or publication is made, head it with " Fidelity and [obedience to the laws and] the Constitution a[nd nation, or so]mething of that kind.

Let all your acts if any are made, begin with an article that in express terms declares the fidelity and rigid adherance of the people to Mexico, to the State, to the Constitution and System of Government now adopted etc—then go on to shew [what] particular outrages had be[en com]mitted state what they are by [acts?] committed and all the facts—[shew] that legal redress had been [requested?] in [vain?]—the laws were no longer respected—the guarantees of the Constitution no longer any safe guard and for *these* reasons, and not [through] disaffection to the government violence had [be]en

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or would be resorted to as the last and the only [reme]dy etc. But let all be done calmly, not one rash or abusive word ought to [be use]d—nothing that indicated passion or excitement or *person*[*al* f]eelings or animosity of a *personal* nature against any one—let all be mild, decorous and respectful but clear and firm—in short let it be a plain, open and unvarnished statement of facts. Also anything of the kind that is done and all the facts ought to [be] pub[lished] in Spanish and english and more especially in *Spanish* and sent to all the free and liberal papers in the nation, and to the government. Also if any official complaints are made to the government they ought to be published in Spanish and English—[if th]is course be adopted you will at once see the great importance of having all such publications drawn up in pure and decorous language and in handsome stile—this is all important—for such papers [do not appoint a] com[mittee of] persons who have [not] a correct grammatical knowledge of the English language, or whose stile is inflated or bombastic or loaded with obscenities or a super-a[bund]ance of useless words etc [it] would [be * * *] exposing the colony to ridicule [every]where—this is in fact *all* [import]ant—under that view of the matter I hope no one will take it amiss if I recommend you to call in the aid of P. W. Grayson, Doctor Archer, T. J. Chambers, and Mr. Alexander Greaves. Also Father Muldoon—the three last for the Spanish language in particular, and Mr. Greaves most particularly, f[or I know] that his knowledge of the Spanish is better than any mans in Texas—he is an elderly, a silent, and a calm and prudent man.

You will of course perceive that all I have said on this subject is predicated on the *fear*, that *circumstances* may drive some of the people on Trinity to desperation—if so and the cause is just, the sympathies of the colony will be enlisted—it cannot be [prevented] and indeed I believe it ought not to be, for all outrages against law, justice and good morals are attacks upon the whole community, however low or * * * the individual may be who is *personally* assailed.

There is one point which must be kept in view, which is that by the constitution and laws [of the nation] and of the [sta]te the military are not subject to the judicial power; they are a privileged order, and cannot be tryed by a civil judge for any offense—a most infamous and unrepublican principle,—but [allowed by?] constitution and law, and as such must be sacredly respected—[an] alcalde, or judge, cannot punish a soldier—keep this in view—take care and have all the law as well as all the justice on your side, for you see that under this military system what is law is sometimes very far from being justice—the rule which I have given to the [state?] and gen-

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eral govt. and to all others with whom I conversed as to the people of Texas is as follows— "They will adhere to Mexico and rigidly execute their duty to the constitution and laws, and religiously observe [their] oaths [as] Mexican citizens—but at the same time they will with great pertinacity [do] their duty to themselves and to their neighbors as members of one political community— If their rights are violated, they will seek legal redress in a calm and peaceable and constitutional manner—if that fails and—or [is] treated with contempt they will then and not before, seek redress by any means in their power of an honorable and open nature for they *will not* tamely submit [to] illegal outrages—also they consider an in[vasi]on of the constitutional rights of one man, as an attack [on the] whole community.

If I know the people of Texas, as I think I do, I am confident that they will prove by their acts and declarations the above is correctly applied to them and especially the first clause of it.

My own individual motto has always been *adherence and fidelity to Mexico.* Under the influence and guidance of [this] motto I have been enabled to [succeed] in securing to the settlers of my col[ony] all the benefits they [have] obtained [as far as?] I have had an agency in procuring them, and I will here, as I have often before, recommend it as [the] standing motto of the colonies, and [a]s a general and standing popular toast—[It would?] tend to remove the unj[ust prejudices an]d suspicions which m[any] good men among the Mexicans have had, and will thus pave the way for our permanent prosperity, by the removal of restrictions—Also it will have a good effect at home, as a [poi]nter, a rallying point, a *point d'appuit* for p[ubli]c opinion, which is all important in any community, to produce union and unity of action and of purpose and besides all this, it is required of us by *our oaths* as Mexican citizens.

Another of my fixed rules of action as to Texas generally is that with respect to her rights *she must always act on the defensive and never on the offensive.*

In December and January last I act[ed] under the rigid guidance of this [rule] I *think* [now?] that there was a [strong?] determination to break up the * * * [of] American settlers, and that any plausible pretext would be taken hold of to march an army into that [coun]try. I formed this opinion from t[he a]cts of the Govt. and * * * since * * * and * * * [line totally gone] * * * [circum]stances which occurred in the * * * department in November—the appointment of Fisher, is w[as] known was obnoxious and unpopular—it must have been known that his order or decree of 24 Novr. last relative to the com-

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merce or the Brazos river was high[ly] vexatious—one fixing the custom house at Anahuac, instead [of Galv]eston where the law really placed it—also the 20th article of that decree which subjected vessells then in the river to its vexatious restrictions was retroactive and illegal from the face of it—a vessell may have been six months in the river, with cargo all distributed over the country and sold six months before the custom house [was] established, and still by that arti[cle it] could not have gone to sea untill [the] master owners etc [wen]t to An[ahua]c and presented manifests, and paid the duties which were not due nor collectable when the vessell came in and discharged. The whole thing in [fact] evidently carried upon its face an intention [to irri]tate and to [make difficulty it] *must have been* supposed that it [would cause?] difficulty. The nation was then at peace its phisical f[orce the]n was not para[ly]sed by internal wars, nor by the fear of external invation and the whole power of the republic would have been brought to bear upon Texas. Al[so a]t that time the press [of] Mexico was muzzled. There was no liberal party, no opposition to raise its voice in favor of justice, and the prejudices of the mass of the people were against all foreigners—we should have appealed to justice in vain.

I believed we would be attacked. [I] have since been most positively assured that there was no such intention—be it so but that does not change the mat[ter] as to us in Texas—situated as we *then* were for anyone who had an eye to p[erceive?] ever [woul]d believe that there w[as no such?] intention. In this state of things, [situ]ated as I was with reference to the colony and to public opinion both at home and abroad so far as anything was [know]n of me, it was my duty to prepare for the general defense. So far as I c[oul]d, I acted [on this principle?] until th[e arrival of the] mail which came in at that time brought the news of [Sant]anas affair at Vera Cruz. I also had some other information of a peculiar nature which had its influence with me. I [be]came convinced that *Texas could not* be attacked by the Govt. for the want of [phy]sical force to do it, and also because the influence of liberal principles was gaining ground too fast in Mexico, to give the administration any time to work an unjust attack upon anyone. So soon as I was [convince]d of this, the necessity for preparations [at on]ce ceased, and *then* agreeably [to the] rule before stated all further [prep]arations would have been impro[per im]politic and even highly [immor?]al for we ought not in any case to [act o]n the *offensive*. B[ut] much had [bee]n said—something had been done—and much had been written— to [un]say, undo, and *unwrite* all this was awkward and embarrassing, for at a superficial view it looked like inconsistency * * * I did not [hesitate to set?] to *work undoing* * * * in

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fact got up the *memorial*[1] as much with a view to allay public feeling by *giving* something for hope and expectation to feed upon, as for any other cause. I mean the memorial as it was finally adopted and not as it was at first [con]templated.

Thus things have turned out—we adopted a very wise course—I believe the best that could have been taken under the peculiarly difficult circumstances and doubts in which we were placed. If Texas will now keep quiet, and so [try to?] convince all that the people do not [want to] seperate but are truly firm adhe[rents to] the constitution and to the inte[grity of] the Mexican territory all w[ill turn] out right and that country w[ill] be a [flour]ishing state of the Mexi[can] confederation and a firm [and] efficient supporter of Mexican [li]berty and of its national rights. This is the station I wish to see that country occupy and the one which I have no doubt it will occupy.

This [letter is for the in]formation of the Colony generally but not for [publi]cation—su[ffer n]one of it to g[et] into the newspaper, for altho it contains nothing which I have not said either in writing or verbally to th[e la?]st to the state and National govt I have no desire to be figuring in the newspaper.

[I] have heretofore informed you [that I] would not consent to be a candidate for reelection to the legislature. I now again say the same and wish that this fact be stated in the newspaper for the information of all.

[Pres]ent my respects to Mrs. Chrisman [and to] each of the members of the Ayunto. [and to] *all* others. Write me fully to Saltillo [how you] are getting on.

[I saw] Genl. Teran the first of this month [at Ta]mpico—he speaks very favorably of T[exa]s and in the most friendly terms. I presume you have [ere] this received the law extending the time two years for introducing certain things free of duty into Texas. By some strange whim whiskey is admitted—and yet iron and farming [tools] and furniture are not—[yet it is a] cu[rse] the others are indispensable and * * *

May heaven [bless you] all and the Colony is the sincere prair of your friend and Humble Sert

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Austin to Ugartechea

Matamoros 19 de Junio 1832

Sor. D Domingo Ugartechea

Muy Sor mio de mi aprecio, Tuvé la satisfaccion de abocarme con S. E. el Sor Teran en la Hacienda de Buena Vista del cojo, y recibi

[1] The memorial of the ayuntamiento of San Felips, Feb. 18, 1832.

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una carta de S. E. para V. la que remiti hace pocos dias por el correo que despacho el Sor Guerra de aqui—

Mi deseo fue visitar a Texas en este mes, pero la mucha calor, y la necesidad de estar en Saltillo el 28 de Agosto a la apertura de la legislatura, me hizó variar el viage, y de aqui voy al Saltillo.

Espero que V. ha encontrado las cosas en Brazoria muy diferente de lo que se pintaba por el rumor, y que ha advertido que los habitantes son de una clase muy diferente de lo que algunos suponian.

La verdad es, que la situacion de Texas es algo desgraciado—si sus habitantes tienen motivos justos de quejas, y los manifiestan son reboltosos—y si sumeten humildemente a arbitrariedades e injusticias, son miserables—asi habla el rumor. V. habra ya observado por si mismo que nada ó muy poco que se ha dicho de aquellos pobladores por medio de los rumores es verdad—Ojala que todos los pueblos de la nacion tenian la misma industria agricola, y el mismo amor para la libertad y para la constitucion y las leyes, que tienen los pobladores de mi Colonia—habria mas prosperidad nacional, y menos revoluciones.

Es muy claro que el objeto del Gob^{no} gral desde 1830 ha sido entorpecer el progreso de Texas—creo que ahora no ecsiste el mismo objeto, y que al contrario el deseo del gob^{no} es promover y fomentar en quanto sea posible la prosperidad de las colonias—Es muy importante que este concepto se generaliza entre los colonos—hecho esto se ejecutarian todas las leyes y ordenes del Gob^{no} por los mismos civicos y alcaldes sin un solo soldado, ó el costo de un peso á la nacion—Por regla general aquellos habitantes cumplirán estrictamente con sus deberes, al Gob^{no}, *y a si mismos*—teniendo siempre esta regla a la vista es facil gobernarlos. porque se puede siempre contar con ellos para ejecutar la ley—y al mismo tpo. se ha de esperar que se opondrán a toda infraccion de sus derechos, y á todo paso arbitrario.

La situacion del pais, tan nuevo y desprovisto de recursos, requiere alguna indulgencia en la aduana, sobre las cosas de nesesidad para el uso de los habitantes, y no siendo articulos que se puede introducir en el interior para comerciar—como muebles de casa, carritos, arados, asadones, en fin toda clase de herramientos de labor y de obrages, el fierro y asiero—La nueva ley ha ampleado el tiempo para la introduccion libre de viveres y algunas otras cosas, pero nada dice de herram^{tos} fierro aciero, y la cotencia gruesa para los bultos de algodon—y por lo mismo los encargados de la aduana pueden hacer un bien, ó un mal al pais, en este particular—Suplico que me escribe con entera franqueza al Saltillo, y me diga lo que habra advertido de mal entre los habitantes—

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Habra V. encontrado sin duda, á algunos habladores—estos los hay en todas partes del mundo—pero estos no componen el pueblo, y nada tienen de peso ó de influjo—las voces de un boracho son como el ayre inflamable que echa de la boca, nada mas que ayre, y muy liviana—nada tiene de peso ni de substancia, y por lo mismo nada importa

En breve tpo estaré en el Saltillo y tendré la satisfaccion de saludar a la Sra hermana de V. y el Sor Ibarra, y en Octubre me lisongeo tener el gusto de dar a V. un abrazo en esos *desiertos de Texas*, donde tantos años he pasado de trabajos y de pesadumbre para redimirlo del despoblado y convertirlo en una parte util y productiva de la republica mexicana. recomiendo muy particularm^te^ á los habitantes de mi colonia á la amistad y a la proteccion de V. y me ofresco a su disposicion en quanto ser util, quedando su amigo q. s. m. b.

Estevan F. Austin [Rubric]

Austin to Ugartechea

Matamoros 20 de Junio 1832

Sor D. Dom^o^ Ugartechea

Muy Sor mio de mi aprecio, Acabo de saber por el Coronel Guerra que una dificultad ha ocurrido en Anahuac, pero como no se ha dado los pormenores no puedo formar opinion definitiva sobra la materia—Supongo por lo poco que he entendido que el Sor Davis ha puesto presos algunos vecinos sin contar con la autoridad civil

Se puede aplicar una regla general á todos los habitantes de Texas que es esto. *Cumplirán estrictam^te^ con sus deberes á la constitucion y á las leyes—y al mismo tiempo cumplirán con los deberes que, como ciudadanos, y hombres deben desempeñar á si mismos, y á sus projimos*— Me refiero en esta regla principalm^te^ á los deberes politicos—con la constitucion y la ley en la mano, se les conduce como con un hilo—pero nada se hará con ellos por medidas ilegales, ó las que ellos crean son ilegales—

Teniendo esta sencilla regla siempre a la vista es muy facil, facilisimo gobernarlos, y ejecutar las leyes—sin un solo soldado ó el costo de un peso a la nacion—

Como parte de la regla arriba mencionada puedo añadir, que en primer lugar pedirán respetuosamente de la autoridad competente la correccion de abusos, y el castigo de los que intentan contra sus derechos constitucionales pero desatendido, ó tratado con silencio ó con desprecio su pedimiento, no lo repitirán por creerlo inutil, y entonces, como es muy probable que como el unico y el ultimo remedio, ocurriran a la resistencia pasiva ó activa—otra cosa—creen que un ataque contra los derechos constitucionales del hombre mas infelis y miserable que hay siendo ciudadano ó hombre libre en el ejercisio

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de sus derechos, es tambien un ataque contra cada ciudadano ó hombre libre que hay en el estado ó en la nacion, y de consiguiente que es el deber solemne, de cada una en lo particular y de todos en masa, de resistir semejante ataque—por medios legales y pacificos primeram^te^ y faltando estos, por los que pueden.

Aqui tiene V. las reglas generales que influyen mucho con aquellos habitantes creo importante tenerlas spre á la vista p^a^ mandar con acierto y harmonia en Texas.

Ahora, suponiendo que Davis ha puesto presos algunos vecinos sin otra autoridad qe. la militar, y que el Alcalde les ha reclamado y su reclamo ha sido tratado con desprecio, se quede en un momento comprehender toda la cosa,

Yo espero y he de creer que hay algun equivoco en este asunto—En Anahuac ecsiste una autoridad civil y judicial establecida por el poder Militar, y no por el del estado—pero aun suponiendo que dicha autoridad civil carece de una creacion ó ecsistencia legal como que algunos creen por falta de la aprobacion del gob^no^ del estado, sinembargo la autoridad militar en Anahuac debe respetarla por haber emanado del Exmo Sor Comandante General—por lo mismo yo no puedo creer que Davis ha tratado esa autoridad con desprecio, negando entregar a su disposicion los presos vecinos, con los cargos á fin de que se procediese contra ellos por el poder judicial de conformidad con la constitucion y las leyes—pero si es que el Sor Davis ha hecho como se supone, no veo otro arbitrio p^a^ remediar la cosa y evitar males de mucha consideracion, que el de entregar sin demorra los presos al Alcalde, y si este despues de recibir los, no les forman el proceso que debe segun las leyes, entonces [el] presentara una acusacion a las autoridades del estado contra el—de este modo se quita el aspecto ilegal y militar que parece tiene este asunto y se conservara el orden eficasmente—

[Estevan F. Austin.]

Austin to James F. Perry

Matamoras June 20 [1832]

Dr Brother and Sister,

I wrote you a few days since by Mr. Evans, and now drop a line by an express going direct to Brazoria.

I left Austin in Saltillo studying Spanish in which I think he will make considerable progress by next fall.

I have had a very hard and hot trip—the country is all parched up—in many places between here and Tampico it has not rained in 8 months.—

Our Texas affairs are getting on very well in this quarter, but I hear there is some trouble at Anahuac. I hope nothing serious

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and that peace and harmony will prevail in the colony.— You, of course have nothing to do with these matters but I wish you to write me a little news, also how you like your place, and how you are getting on—what is your prospect for a Crop and how the Stock thrive etc.

remember me affly. to all the children. I leave in a few days for Saltillo where I shall expect to hear from you.

Farewell—remember me to your neighbors.

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Al Snr. James F. Perry Brazoria Care of John Austin.

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

S. M. WILLIAMS.

DR SIR We have a wild account of difficulties at Anahuac. The course to be taken is a very simple and plain one. Let a full statement of all the facts be made out *judicially* keeping certified judicial records, and send them on to the Chief of Department. This is the only legal and correct course, and it will put all things right. The reign of military power is over I think, and justice may now speak openly and plainly—let a copy of the facts be published in the paper—but treat the Govt. and the officers with respect—even when the latter have to be censured, let it be in mild and very decorous language. Nothing inflamatory or passionate. But above all things keep down popular commotions and all [acts] of violence. I know nothing of this new cause of difficulty, but suppose that there has very likely been some imprudence on one side—and some acts of hasty and passionate violence by Bradburn— the fact is he is incompetent to such a command and is half crazy part of his time.

Keep peace and harmony at all hazards. Now is a critical time— it is said that a new and liberal party are getting *up*. pray try and keep the people there from any acts that may be construed into opposition to the Govt. for *that* will *turn all* parties against us.

I leave in a few days for Saltillo where I expect to hear from you. I wrote you from Saltillo just before I left I think on 8 May and enclosed a number of papers of value to others—also from Victoria, and yesterday from here by Mr. Greaves. I also gave John W. Moore an order on you for fifty, and one to Greaves for one hundred fifty dolls also I send in the [word illegible] and mules and two horses.

Nothing new from Mexico—nothing as to the new Ministers. Gen[l] Teran is at the Hacienda de buena vista del Cojo 20 leagues

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from Tampico. When I left him on the 31 of May he expressed himself very favourable to Texas—tho. he was overwhelmed with troubles and Consejos— also I wrote you the other day by a [milit?]ary correo.

Prudence and harmony and legal proceedings—no violence

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

June 20. 1832 Matamoros

AUSTIN TO [EDWARD LIVINGSTON?]

Matamoras June 24. 1832

You stand before the public in the character of a philanthopist. By your labors to ameliorate the condition of your fellow citizens in their various relations with each other through the medium of the tribunal of justice—your codes designed for the particular use of Louisiana but embracing genl. principles applicable to all civilized communities you seem to have given to the people of all countries a species of tacit claim upon the richly stored treasures of your mind in relation to the political organization of society and the general principles of jurisprudence.

Should this view of the subject be correct, it will serve as my apology for this letter—but should you deem it incorrect, I must then solicit your kind indulgence for having intruded upon your valuable time—hoping that the great interest I feel in the subject will be viewed by you as an excuse for what might be deemd. presumption in me.

It may perhaps not be entirely unknown to you that I have been engaged since 1821 in establishing colonies of foreign emigrants in Texas. I have spent the prime of my life trying to redeem that country from the wilderness and feel the greatest solicitude for its future prosperity. When I commenced there it was entirely uninhabited by civilized man except the small villages of Bexar and LaBahia on the San Antonio river, and a few scattering families on and near the right bank of the Sabine just over the boundary line—since then the colonies settled by me on the Brazos and Colorado rivers have progressed considerably and now contain a population of about 8,000 souls principally all natives of the U. S. of the north—other parts of Texas have also been populated by the same kind of emigrants, and a sufficiency of the country has been redeem'd from the wilderness to form a *basis* for the future rapid population and progress of the whole. The native Mexican population has also augmented some, tho not in proportion to the foreign.

I have stated this much merely to show the fact, that the principle difficulties those arising from the wilderness state of the country,

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against settleing Texas are surmounted, and that its progress in future will probably be rapid. *There will be population*—which of course forms a basis for political and social institutions

Texas, under the Spanish Govt. was a separate province and after the independence it was annexed to the former province of Coahuila which together now form the state of C. & T. The act of congress establishing this state expressly says that they are thus united untill Texas possesses the necessary elements to form a state of itself of which fact the national congress are to judge. The formation of a seperate state govt. may be more distant than the sanguine expect, tho in all probability it will not be very remote. In anticipation of this important event, many of the first emigrants, who have acquired a *home* in this wilderness by means of toil and privations which have learned them to appreciate its value—have anxiously turned their thoughts to the subject of their *local laws*, their social regulations—their state constitution—

The general basis which they have adopted and will most rigidly adhere to, is to form Texas into a state of the Mexican confederation. They do not wish to seperate from Mexico—and of their own accord never will seperate. If such an unfortunate event should ever occur, its causes will originate in the mistaken policy of the national Govt. of Mexico in relation to Texas, and *not* in the desire or in the true interests of the people of that country. I state this as a positive and permanent rule of action with the people of Texas from which nothing but the most aggrivated injustice can ever cause them to deviate in the slightest degree. I deem it necessary to be the more positive on this point, because opinions of a very different nature have heretofore prevailed amongst some of the Mexicans and even with many persons elsewhere. Those opinions are very unjust and have had a fatal effect—they produced the 11 article of the law of 6 April 1830 by which natives of the U. S. are prohibited from emigrating to Texas, and caused the colonists and North Americans generally to be viewed with jealousy which seemed at one time to have extended to the Govt. of the north who were suspected of having designs on Texas. Those ideas were all erroneous—they have however pretty much passed away and I think have no weight at this time with any intelligent or thinking man.

[Deleted by Austin: It is the firm belief of many that the real objects of the plan of Jalapa, by which the Guerrero administration was overthrown, was to centralize and aristocracise the Govt. and perhaps to monarchise it—whether that was the object or not I do not pretend to say—Mr. Alaman, the soul of the Bustamante administration, personally hated Mr. Poinsett and a portion of his hate may possibly have extended to his countrymen in general—he is said to

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have been the author of the law of 6 April before mentioned. It is the opinion of many very good and impartial men, that the intreagues, speculations and general deportment of Mr. P—— would have caused any people or any Govt to loose confidence in the purity of his intentions and even to doubt the good faith of the Govt. which he represented—he was certainly an unfortunate minister for he has left a prejudice against his countrymen in the minds of some which nothing but time can remove.]

No, sir, the people of Texas do not wish to seperate, and it is not and will not be their interest to do so, unless they should be kicked off. They will do their duty to this govt. but they will also have an eye to the duty which every man in all communities, owes to himself.

But to return to our future state consitution we have some few settlers in Texas, now bending under the weight of years, whose youth was spent in building up a home in the wilds of Kentucky and other parts of the west. The indians, the Buffalo, the cane breaks and the forests gradually disappeared—population and *civilization* soon changed the face of everything. They rejoiced and looked forward to the enjoyment of a quiet old age in their once forest homes, surrounded by their children, and by peace and plenty. It was all a delusion—there was nothing real but the pleasure of dreaming that thus it would be—civilization brought with it the *monied mania*. The hostile indians were replaced by civilized savages of a more brutal and dangerous character, cold hearted unprincipled speculators, men who considered that to make a fortune, was the great and paramount and only object of human life—*Lawyers*, who found in the labyrinths and abstruse sections of the common law, unexhausted and unexhaustable arms for the protection of tergifersation quibbling and injustice, and for the ruin of unsuspecting and ignorant honesty.

The forest homes of the first settlers were converted into scenes of legal discord and contention—the first emigrants whose enterprise had opened the road for the easy entrance of land and law harpies were dragged by them into court and after years of ruinous suspence were finally told that they might live in their *homes* as tenants or if that did not suit them they might go penniless farther west and seek new ones. We have a few of another class who have been reared in affluence, and were content with their situation—they enjoyed in a prudent manner what they possessed without jeopardising it by grasping after more—their prudence and systematic mode of living availed them nothing—it ruined them, for it gave them credit. Their neighbors and friends needed endorsers, ruin, beggary, and the total loss of friends was the result.

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We have a No. of another class—able bodied men, capable of earning an honest and competent living by labor—but having been raised in a country where the *credit* system prevails to such an extent that everything is regulated by it where men of empty pockets and emptier heads with a little credit to begin with, disdain to work, and live by their wits, upon the earnings of honest laborers, they have acquired habits of cunning and the art of imposing by appearances and fictions, which renders them nuisances to society.

We have some southern men who are longing after negros to make cotton to *buy more* negros—it is in vain to tell them of the demoralizing influence of slavery, of its ruinous effect upon the physical energies and enterprise of the community—or to lead forward their imaginations to the period (perhaps not very distant) when the natural increase of the slaves will enable them to masacre their masters and desolate the country—all stuff—the future will take care of itself, and as to the present, nothing is wanted but money, and negros are necessary to make it. The mass of the settlers are plain honest farmers, working men—untill within a short time past they have had no lawyers amongst them, and consequently very little litigation. The *monied mania* did not disturb the repose of the wilderness—it enters not the temple of nature they have had time to contemplate from the peaceful solitudes of their new homes the war of lawyers the intreagues of speculators, in short the agonizing th[r]oes of neighborhoods counties and states, under the high pressure of the credit system. Having enjoyed a few years of quietness they dread a change and [wish to] shield themselves from the evils of the monied mania and the expensive labarinths of the old law systems but how prevent it? Here sir is the great question which we all wish to have solved. Many very wise and good men have raised their voices for centuries past against the mal organization of society, the rottenness of the old systems etc.

Books have been written and Rob. Owen undertook to teach mankind how to govern themselves. He expected to distroy the monied mania, by making everything common. This distroyed man's individuality it confounded him with a common herd, character was therefore of no consequence to him. Would not the reverse of Mr Owens basis be a better one? The old systems recognize the individuality of property—to this let us add that of *character* but entirely divested of the weight which property gives to it—character based upon intrinsic moral worth good faith and virtue without any regard whatever to wealth. How is this to be effected? By changing the old laws so as to base the credit system upon moral character alone, and not upon wealth and coersive means—or in other words to place the whole credit system upon good faith, and

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annul all laws, (avoiding unjust retroactive effects) for the coersive collection of debts all landed or personal securities, all imprisonment or process against the person or property for debts.

Under the present system the enquiry that is made when a person applies for credit is what is he worth or who is his security? Under the new basis it would be what is his character for good faith, honesty, and industry. The monied mania seems to be inherent in man or perhaps I should say in civilized man it belongs to his nature and never can be distroyed. It is and always will be the general moving principle to all his actions. I speak in the general for there are no doubt some exceptions.

If then our social systems were so organised that the never tireing propensities of this mania could only be gratified by establishing a solid character for morality, good faith, industry, and honesty would it not have a powerful and regenerating influence on society? A young man begins the world poor, and wishes to get rich—to do so he must establish a *character* for industry, and virtue *this* gives him credit, and constitutes his capital—during the first years of his exertions his *interest* keeps his bad passions in check for fear of injuring his credit—it finally becomes *habitual* for him to watch and restrain himself and to be honest. Man is supposed by many to be the perfect creature of habit. If so we have a guarantee for the good conduct of the same person *after* he has made a fortune—the guarantee of habit—to this also may be added that which naturally proceeds from the love of virtue and a belief in religion, this latter I think is absolutely *indispensable* for the well being, and sound organization of all societies.

I am well aware that the total abolition of the credit system as it now exists will to a certain extent cramp the progress of improvement for a time. It would not only be impracticable in a country that did not abound in natural resources or that depended principally on commerce but this would not apply to Texas.

It has become a matter of very solicitous inquiry with me to know how far this system is practicable. What would be its probable effect upon the advancement of the country, and upon the morals harmony and character of the people. It would evidently be a very bold and perhaps a dangerous experiment it would effect more or less all the relations of society. My greatest doubt arises from the fear that men who were injured by misplaced confidence would endeavor to seek redress by *personal violence*—in fact this fear has sometimes caused me to abandon the idea as visionary and hopeless. Some of my friends however in Texas have full faith in its practicability and utility—they are very sanguine on the subject and wish to see the experiment made. They think it cannot cause as many

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personal quarrels as the present system does. Some doubts of a constitutional character have also occured to me. The genl. principles of the Mexican constitution are similar to those of the U. S. How will it affect the citizens of other states who have dealings in Texas to prohibit the coersive collection of debts there—how will it affect debts contracted by citizens of that state, in other states, or in foreign countries who have treaties with this nation? Those debts would of course be contracted with the knowledge by both the contracting parties, that they could not be coersively collected in Texas. There would have to be an exception in favor of debts due to the Genl. or State govt.—ought there not to be some others? for example in favor of mechanics or laborers for their wages—or of minors or widows for property sold on credit to settle an estate etc.—of carriers and freighters—how far ought the exceptions to extend or ought there to be any? This system would probably greatly reduce the number of lawsuits about $\frac{99}{100}$ which would of course greatly diminish the number of lawyers—this would be an important point gained. I wish you to understand that I have no prejudices against lawyers merely because they belong to that profession. My objections are to the system of laws that renders such a swarm of agents necessary to administer them. [Deleted by Austin: if justice ought to be prompt plain simple and not expensive—to be so the laws must be plain, as few as possible, and accessible to the understanding of everyone—not loaded down by a labarinth of forms, nor by the precedents and decissions of centuries past, which no one but a very well read lawyer can comprehend]

The situation of Texas is peculiarly fortunate in some respects, with reference to its future political organization, As a member of the Mexican confederation its weight will be respectable—it is a new country untrammeled by old and fixed habits customs or local laws—a vergen soil ready to receive any seed that is sown upon it. But few such opportunities have occurred of perfecting the local organization of a community [such] as Texas will present.

I have no doubts as to slavery, it is now prohibited in Texas by the constitution and I hope always will be.

I have trespassed greatly upon your time and cannot hope that you will answer this letter to the extent that the subject with all its bearings and details admits of, but I should esteem it as a favor to have the benifit of your experience and of any other learned and experienced man so far as the expression of an opinion, whether a system based on the general principle that debts should not be coercively collected, would be benificial in practice as applicable to Texas and what would be its probable influence upon society, and its effect on human happiness. I think it is a question worthy of the

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discussion of Philanthropists. It is not entirely a new one, but it needs anilizing—in fact the sifting and critical examination of a public discussion. My object is to get all the information I can that will be useful to the people of Texas. and with this view you are at liberty to show this letter or make any use of it you may think best calculated to affect that object. The learned and pious in the U. S. have devot[d] much of their time to the discussion of the merits or demerits of the systems of other countries, with a view to enlighten public opinion generally. Why not also take some interest in the happiness of a new and rising country, their close neighbor and a sister republic a friend.

I am now on my way to Saltillo the capital of our State to attend the Legislature of which I am a member from Texas, and shall not return home untill October or November next. Should you think proper to answer this letter it would be best to send the answer through some person in New Orleans who would attend to forwarding it to me at San felipe de Austin, by some vessel bound to Brasoria.

[Stephen F. Austin.]

Concerning Security for Debt[1]

[June 24, 1832.]

Desirous that the Colonists of Austins Colony should prosper in wealth peace and harmony. From and after the promulgation of this Law no debt shall be recoverable by law that is contracted between any persons in the Colony but it will be considered when one credits another [that] it is in faith of the good opinion and confidence he entertains of him and does it to oblige and not to ruin him and if the person credited decieve the other he is a base character and never will be respected and his credit for ever dam[d]. many objections may be raised but when both sides of the question are examined fairly it will appear evident it is very much in favor of the poor, as it is them generally who want credit—then monied men prey upon them—they will apply for credit and if it is for property and the owner has it to spare he will demand 50 or 100 per cent more than he would be willing to take in cash by waiting a year. there is from 50 to 100 per cent on his property and money is not worth more than 10 percent, I have known many widows and Orphans ruined by the like for the man would drink and trade while drunk and everyone [was then] his friend, because he had a little property and at the same time they are planning to ruin him. let him have what he wants for he is good and they can make him willing by law and every advantage is taken of his distress. The family is brought to suffer, It is generally said that it is hard to pay a

[1] This curious fragment is in a handwriting that may be that of George Fisher. It is perhaps an awkward translation of a Spanish draft of a bill by Austin.

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security debt. This [law] prevents any one from giving or asking a security except in cases where men have confidence and are willing to pay one another's debts. Men generally do not credit for more than one Year and their is some one that will oblige him if he is a good man and if not they had better as they have been Obliged to do in this country suffer one year than be eternally ruined; For instance had there been plenty of provisions and clothing brought here and sold at the Enormous prices that the settlers would have given it would have been their ruin instead of that they have suffered and now are clear of debt and have plenty of provisions it may be said if one gets credit and dies the property is lost. It had better be than ruin a poor family but this can be remidied for every man intends for some one to manage his Estate when he dies let him take with him his friend and both pass their word and should one die all will be wright. The creditor does it to favor the debtor and not to ruin him, Much could be said on this subject.

Let it be plainly understood that if one of this Colony Contracts a debt out of the Colony where a similar law does not exist the most speedy remedy at Law must be used for the collection of it and all debts contracted previously to this shall be collected by Law.

TERÁN TO AUSTIN

De trancito en la villa de Croix
Junio 25 de 1832.

S. D. ESTEBAN AUSTIN

AMIGO Y SR. DE TODO MI APRECIO: He recibido la noticia de una inquietud pr. Anahuac contra Davis, sugeto qe. parece se ha complicado alli en negocios de comercio. Ugartechea parece estar mas bien recibido y á este le prevengo qe. absolutam^te^ se ponga de acuerdo con V.

Las cosas de Tejas no son entendidas mas qe. pr. V. y pr. mi, y los dos solos somos los unicos qe. podemos arreglarlas; pero no es timepo, sino de calmar las aqusaciones lo qe. es muy posible pr. qe. se disputa pr. cosas fijas y terminantes. Creo qe. nada habra tenido consecuencia. El nuevo distrito con ayuntamiento qe. ha formado la Legislatura ahorrara muchos choques.[1]

Sirvase V. decirme lo qe. jusga del nuevo decreto, cuya circulacion he encargado.

Sirvase V. dar mis respetuosas expresiones al Sr. Masson si aun esta en su compañia, y reproduciendo los testimonios de mi amistad queda de V. Amo. y Servr. qe. con toda atencion b. s. m.

MANUEL DE MIER Y TERÁN [Rubric]

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[1] Brazoria was created a municipality by the legislature Apr. 28, 1832. See Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 807.

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Terán to Austin

He recibido la desgraciada noticia dela alteracion de los Colonos de Tejas, q es mas temible por la complicacion de intereses q. pocos conocen de aquel hermoso Pais.

En tales circumstancias le encargo aV. aplique su influxo a q. todo permanezca en sosiego mediante las orns q. doy y de q. le acompaño Copias; asi como doy conocim^to^ delo demas alos Supremos Gobiernos dela Union y de ese Estado.

Dios y Libd. Quartel Gral en Croix Junio 25—de 1832

M. Mier y Terán [Rubric]

Sor D. Estevan F. Austin.

Austin to J. H. and W. W. Allsberry

Matamoras, June 26, 1832.

See Calendar.

Austin to Terán[1]

Matamoros, 27 de Junio de 1832.

Sr. general D. Manuel de Mier y Terán.

Estimado general de todo mi aprecio: Recibí la muy grata de V. de 9 del presente, y quedo muy agradecido por la noticia que me da de la ley, ampliando el tiempo para la introduccion en Tejas de los articulos que se espresan. Siento ver entre ellos el wisky (uhisky). Se presenta aquí una demostracion de la poca ó ninguna idea que tienen en México de la clase de proteccion que se necesita para un pais puramente agrícola. No se han esceptuado el hierro, acero, las herramientas, carros, carretas, muebles de casa y de cocina, cotensia gruesa para los fardos de algodon y cuerdas para el mismo; pero sí se admite *wisky*, que es bueno para la industria, la buena moral, el órden y la armonía; en fin, es una maldicion al pais, porque el precio es tan barato en Nueva Orleans, que siendo libre en Tejas, todo el mundo se emborracharia con poco oosto, lo que no sucederia con aguardiente de Francia ú otro mas costoso. En la representacion que hizo el ayuntamiento de Austin, nada se dijo de *wisky;* pero parece que poco caso se hace de representaciones de los ayuntamientos.

Confieso que dudo la política de continuar á Fisher en la aduana de Galveston: yo opino que se le permita retirar, y que no vuelva á Tejas con destino público. Es de temerse que el pueblo allí nunca presentará quejas al gobierno contra Fisher, sea cual fuere su manejo,

[1] From Filisola, Memorias para la historia de la Guerra de Tejas, I, 231–236.

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porque si él queda allí despues de lo ocurrido, seria lo mismo que decir al ayuntamiento de Austin y á los habitantes de Anáhuac: "Todo lo que Vdes. han dicho, es falso. Vdes. son unos miserables, que no merecen mas que ser tratados con desprecio." Si ellos piensan que se tratan sus quejas de este modo, no las repetirán nunca; pero hay mucho peligro que occurrirán a la ley de la naturaleza ó ley natural, para el remedio de lo que ellos crean son agravios, abusos ó insultos. Sean justas ó no estas ideas de parte del pueblo, lo cierto es que es mejor evitar semejantes estremos.

He dicho á V. muchas veces, y lo repito ahora, *es imposible gobernar Tejas por el sistema militar.* Estoy convencido que cuanto mas se aumenta el ejército de Tejas, tanto mas se peligra la tranquilidad de aquel pais; y la parte inversa de esta regla es cierta y verdadera, que es que se asegurarán la tranquilidad y la integridad de aquel territorio, en proporcion que se reduzca allí el ejército. Por ejército quiero decir, todo lo sobrante, á mas de la tropa necesaria para la guarnicion de los puertos y de los puntos de la frontera expuestos á los indios, como Tenoxtitlán. San Sabá etc.

Desde el año de 1821 yo he mantenido el órden, y se han ejecutado las leyes de mi colonia por medio de los cívicos, sin un solo soldado y sin el costo de un peso á la nacion. Me atrevo á apostar mi cabeza que haria lo mismo en todo Tejas, solamente con la constitucion en la mano y unas cuantas leyes sábias y adecuadas á la situacion del pais. Hace mas de dos años que pensé en organizar los cívicos, como coronel del batallon del departamento de Béjar que soy con despacho del gobernador del Estado, y recibí órdenes del gobernador al efecto; pero en aquel tiempo hubo mil sospechas é ideas sin fundamento ninguno en la verdad relativas á Tejas y la organizacion formal de los cívicos hubiera sin duda aumentado estas ideas falsas y ruinosas á la tranquilidad del pais. Nada hice, por esta razon, con la excepcion de una organizacion limitada sobre la frontera de mi colonia, para defenderla contra los Indios.

La situacion de Tejas es muy desgraciada. el artículo 11 de la ley de 6 de Abril ha paralizado el progreso del pais, y le espone en sumo grado á ser llenado de indios y de gente mala, que vendrá sin hacer caso de la ley. A causa de los choques que ha habido en Trinidad y otras partes, entre la autoridad militar y la del Estado de Coahuila y Tejas, la desconfianza ha entrado, y muchos de los habitantes al oriente de mi colonia, creen que no hay gobierno, ni ley, ni nada allí, mas que la ley del mas fuerte. La única autoridad legítima para corregir estos males, es el gobierno del Estado y no el poder militar. La ley de 6 de Abril, en la parte á que me refiero, debe ser reformada por el congreso nacional; esto es muy importante.

Segun me dice el Sr. Guerra, las cosas en Anáhuac van mal: es probable que de mal irán á peor; y de esto á *pésimo:* de este último

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grado volverán al órden, y al estado *buenísimo*, porque llegado al último estremo de malo, el pueblo se levantará en masa y restablecerá el órden constitucional del Estado. Digo que todo esto puede ser probable, porque dudo de la moderacion y el *civilismo* de mi amigo Davis. *Es muy militar* en sus ideas sobre el modo de mandar. Otra desgracia con él es, que le falta firmeza moral para despreciar á los sublevadores, sean estrangeros ó mexicanos: algunos de los primeros le maldicen por déspota militar, y de los segundos hay unos que se sospechan muy injustamente, porque no es mexicano de nacimiento. Debe mirar todo esto con desprecio, sin hacer caso de ello.

El empleado, y mas particularmente un comandante militar que abre sus orejas á los informes de espías y de pretendidos amigos oficiosos, es un miserable, siempre infeliz, lleno de recelos y de mal humor, y por fin va á ser despreciado y desconfiado por todo el mundo.—Davis es hombre de bien y cumplirá con su deber, ó lo que él cree eso, cueste lo que costare; pero parece que le falta *política:* pudo haber grangeado la buena voluntad y el apoyo de los habitantes; pero esto tal vez le hubiera perdido sobre otro escollo: los recelos del gobierno ó de los mexicanos nativos. En fin, su situacion es delicada y desgraciada.—Espero que no se ofenda V. con mi mucha franqueza y claridad con que hablo del poder militar. Sobre este punto nunca he titubeado en manifestar mi opinion y mi aborrecimiento de todo lo que puede llamarse despotismo militar, el gérmen de los desórdenes, de las revoluciones, de la esclavitud y de la ruina de los gobiernos y pueblos libres.—Creo firmemente que entretanto no se reduce el ejército y quita el fuero militar, nada de paz, ni de estabilidad, ni de adelanto puede esperarse en México. Esto y la tolerancia de religion, son dos cambios que se necesitan, y el hombre que los ejecutase me merecerá el apellido honrado del Washington de México. La historia imparcial le colocará entre los grandes héroes y bienhechores del mundo. Ah! mi amigo, que corona de gloria hubiera sido para V., cuyo nombre ya pertenece á la historia como defensor de la independencia desde la primera época de la revolucion. Esta sí es una corona que un republicano puede y debe apetecer.

Creo que el partido que se ha levantado contra el ministerio, está muy mal nombrado el partido de Santa-Anna: segun yo entiendo las cosas, debe llamarse *el partido democrático republicano federal.* Parece que han usado de Santa-Anna por la falta de otro gefe; y esto ha dado su nombre al partido, lo que me ha parecido una locura, porque da el carácter de *personal* al partido, cuando debe ser de *principios*, sin respeto á las personas. Parece que este partido está muy fuerte, y que tarde ó temprano abrazará la gran masa de la nacion y triunfará como ha hecho en el Norte y tambien en Inglaterra y Francia, con la diferencia de forma y hombres; y no dudo

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que por fin triunfará por toda la Europa y las Américas: este es el órden natural de las cosas. El agua corre abajo, y el hombre sube del estado natural á la civilizacion y á las ciencias: de la esclavitud á la libertad, avanzando por los escalones de la escalera. Estas son leyes de la naturaleza, á veces tarde y lentas en su operacion, pero ciertas en sus resultados.

Yo he determinado ir de aquí al Saltillo, llegué muy fatigado del calor, la seca y las incomodidades de vijes en paises poco poblados: lo mismo el Sr. Masson, quien abandonó la idea de ir por Tejas, y salió * * * para embarcarse en la goleta *Tejas*, destinada en derechura á Nueva-York. Regresaré á Tejas en Octubre, y creo que en Abril ó Mayo del año entrante iré á visitar mi patria nativa. Hace cerca de doce años que no la he pisado.—El Sr. Masson me encargó presentara á V. las mas espresiva memorias de su parte.—Yo salgo en tres ó cuatro dias para Saltillo, para respirar el aire fresco de las sierras.—Quedo el amigo y muy atento servidor de V. Q. S. M. B.—Estéban F. Austin.

Austin to James F. Perry

Matamoros June 29 1832

Dr Brother and Sister

I heard from Austin yesterday by a man from Saltillo in seven days— he was very well. I leave in few [days] for there. We have had a revolution here, or rather a change of garrisons and of officers. The Govt. troops very quietly marched off at one end of the town, and Col. Mexia with 300 marched *in* at the other end— he is of the Santana party, or rather of the true democratic federal republican, party at the head of which is Genl. Santana. That party will tryumph all over the nation as it ought to do.

Have you been to look at Peach point yet, take Emily there and see Westalls family and McNiels and Munsons etc etc also to Calvits and Whartons. Mrs. Wharton is a fine woman. Emily will be pleased with her. farewell

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

J. F. Perry

Austin to Ramon Musquiz

Estimado Gefe. Yncluio copia de una carta que he escrito al Sor Ugartechea, para que V se impondra de mi opinion sobre el mejor, y el unico remedio para arreglar las cosas. que es que se restablece la constitucion y la autoridad del Estado—

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Mexia entro aqui con 300 hombres de Tampico no hubó opposicion ni confusion, ni alteracion ninguna del orden

Quedo como Spre su amigo

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Matamoros 29 de Junio 1832

[Addressed:] Al Sor Gefe del Departmento de Bexar D Ramon Musquis en Brazoria ó en Bejar.

AUSTIN TO UGARTECHEA

[Copy]

Matam^{a} 29 de Junio de 1832

Sor D DOMINGO UGARTECHEA

MUY SOR MIO DE MI APRECIO—Recibi un oficio del Exmo Sor Com^{te} gral Comunicandome haber nombrado á V. p^{a} el mando de Anahuac en lugar de Davis, q Duclor se traslade á Brasoria y que Cortinas se encarga de la Aduana de Galveston ygualm^{te} me encarga S. E. ponerme de acuerdo con V. á fin de conservar la tranquilidad en Tejas—

De conformidad con este encargo escribi á V el 27 por el estraordinario manifestando mi opinion con franqueza. Para aplicar remedios debemos ecsaminar la causa del mal. La verdadera causa de los males de Tejas es qe el poder militar se ha sobre puesto á lo civil y aun al del Estado de Coahuila y Tejas—La prision de Madero un comisionado del Estado la prohibicion de este funcionario del Estado de dar titulos á los habitantes de Trinidad y el distrito de Nacog^{s} La suspension del Ay^{to} de Libertad, El establecim^{to} del de Anahuac, La espulsion y prision de varios vecinos todas actas del poder militar, han hecho creer que no hay constitucion, ni ley ni garantia p^{a} la seguridad personal y de propiedades en Tejas, sino es la ley del mas fuerte.— Aqui tiene V la causa de todo el mal. Sabido esta es facil aplicar el remedio—Entiendo q el Gefe del Departam^{to} ha ido á Anahuac si asi es, está en sus manos componer todo obrando como representante del Gob^{no} del Estado, Que haga saber á los habitantes q el reinado dela ley del mas fuerte ha cesado y que el de la constitucion está establecido—Que restablece otra vez el ayuntam^{to} de libertad—Que se da un caracter legitimo al de Anahuac loq no ha tenido por no ser establecido porla autoridad competente del Estado—Que asegura á los habitantes q se nombrará un Comisionado para posesionar los de sus tierras de conformidad con el permiso del Exmo Sor Presidente dado en Abril del ano de 1828, y conlas leyes de colonizacion—Que haga saber á los coman^{tes}. Militares que han de poner los presos vecinos dentro

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del termino que fija la constitucion, á la disposicion del tribunal Competente, pª jusgarlos—En fin q reina la Constitucion y la ley

Las mas delas medidas del Gobno gral desde 1830 han sido dirijidas á entorpecer y embarasar la poblacion y el progreso de Tejas—No es posible suponer q esto pueda ser agradable á hombres q han padecido muchos años pª redimir aquel pais del desierto. Si no hubiera sido por las colonias, los habitantes de Bejar y de Goliad, tal vez hubiesen perecido por los indios. Estos benemeritos habitantes y sus padres abuelos y vici abuelos han luchado contra los indios y contra el desierto ¿Es justo condenarlos pa spre á igual suerte? Se ha dicho q los colonos de Tejas quieren declarar su indipendencia, Separarse de Mejico, unirse al norte, qe hablan con disrespecto delos Mexicanos, y mil otros rumores y cuentos—Todo esto sirve muy bien para causar preocupaciones contra los pobladores y asi destruir el progreso del pais; y al mismo tiempo sirve pª alterar la tranquilidad publica de Tejas dando pretestos pª medidas despoticas y anticonstitucionales y asi causando disgustos y exaltaciones en los hibitantes—Ningª fundamto en verdad tienen semejantes cuentos. Pueden si fundarse en los dichos sueltos de borrachos ó hombres exsaltados, pero estos no componen el pueblo;—Parece q hasta ahora no se ha advertido q. es imposible gobernar Tejas Militariamto. Los q mandan alli pª mandar con acierto deben entender el caracter, el genio, y las costumbres de los habitantes, y arreglar las medidas de conformidad al mismo tiempo teniendo á la vista la constitucion y la ley.—

Amigo mio no se ofenda V. con mi franquesa he pasado los mejores años de mi vida en esfuersos para poblar Tejas. Siento pª cada uno alli sean Colonos ó Mejicanos Nativos el mismo interes de un padre pª su familia Ademas de esto soy amante de un gobno Constitucional y aborresco todo poder arbitrario. Por lo mismo todo lo q toca á Tejas me llena el corason y el alma. Soy Ciudº Mejicano y la situacion de mi patria adoptada me vuelve loco—pero espero q el partido democratico constitucional federal compondra todo. Dispenseme V. y mande á su amigo. E. F A

James W. Parker to Austin

June 29, 1832.

See Calendar.

Manuel de Mier y Teran to Ugartechea et al

Comision de Colonias.

"Al Sor. D. Esteban F. de Austin digo hoy lo que sigue.—Aqui el oficio.—Ynsertolo aV. para su conocimto y espero que se pondra en todo de acuerdo con el citado D. Estevan F. Austin, mandando

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suspender toda traslacion de unos puntos á otros.—Dios y Lib^{d} Cuartel gral. en Croix Junio 29 de 1832.—Manuel de Mier y Teran.—S. Ten^{te} Corl. D. Domingo Ugartechea "

"Al Sor. cor^{l} D. Juan Davis Bradburn digo hoy lo que sigue.—Sirvase VS. entregar el mando de ese establecimiento al Ten^{te} corl. D. Domingo Ugartechea, y del haberlo asi verificado me dara aviso.—Ynsertado aV. para su cumplimiento. Dios y Lib^{d} Cuartel gral. en Croix Junio 29 de 1832.—Manuel de Mier y Teran—S. Teniente cor^{l} D. Domingo Ugartechea."

"La Aduana de Galveston prevenga V. se entregue al 2^{o} Ayud^{te} D. Juan Cortina, dando para ello las disposiciones convenientes, los avisos necesarios y parte a mi de los terminos en que se halla verificado—Dios y Lib^{d} Caurtel gral. en Croix Junio 29 de 1832.—M. de Mier y Teran.—Sor. Ten^{te} Cor^{l} D. Domingo Ugartechea."

Disponga V. que la receptoria de los Brasos se traslade á Brasoria y que quede á cargo de D. Franc^{o} Duclor, expidiendo al efecto las orn^{s} necesarias y dando aviso á quienes corresponde.—Dios y Libertad Cuartel gral. en Croix Junio 29 de 1832.—Manuel de Mier y Teran.—S. Ten^{te} Coronel D. Domingo Ugartechea."

Son copias. Croix. Junio 29 de 1832.

J. M^{a} Diaz Noriega [Rubric]

Austin to ———

This nation is in a dreadful situation—it seems to be necessary that they should pass through an ordeal—a kind of revolutionary furnace, to purify them from the hereditary evils which unfit them for republicanism—the present struggle is between the *democratic republican federal party*, commonly called the Santana party, and *aristocratic central party*. I think the result of the present civil war will be the election of a President who is *not a military man*, and the organization of a democratic administration for the next four years—The port of the Brazo Santiago and the city of Matamoros containing about 10,000 inhabitants, were taken peaceable possession of on the 25 and 28 June by Col. José Antonio Mexia, The old garrison quietly marched off one way and the others marched in—not one drop of blood has been shed, nor one cent of private property lost or interfered with. No foreigners here, not even naturalized citizens, have taken any part whatever, tho that will not prevent them from being unjustly censured by the other party, who would no doubt be well satisfied to see them all expelled the country. Mexia came from Tampico by water. The result of his expedition is doubtfull for it is said that Genl. Teran is near with his troops—those who left here expected to meet him—Mexia has about two hundred and fifty

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men. His conduct so far has been very correct and highly honorable to him as a soldier and as a man. The Governor of the State of Tamaulipas, Don Vital Fernandez accompanied Mexia from Tampico, where the events of the revolution forced him to seek refuge from the aristocratic party.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

July 1. 1832

Dr Sir—

A revolution—or rather a change of garrisons has taken place in this town—Col. J. A. Mexia entered on the 28 without opposition, he fired three cannon shot at a small party of cavalry between this and the Brazo, which dispersed them. The most of them joined him, and escorted him into town, for he brought none but infantry, as he came by water.

I have never seen anything conducted with so much good order—one party quietly marched off towards San Fernando, and the other as quietly marched in and took up quarters in the barracks. The ordinary business of the merchants was not interrupted one hour—not one cent of private property has been touched—not one act of confusion nor even of disorder has occurred since Mexia arrived. By the by, he is a very different man *now* from what he was when you knew him—he has had ten years experience, a great part of the time as Secretary of Legation in washington city—he is now a useful, and I think quite a liberal and good man, I am much pleased with him.

I have written to Ugartechea by the express which left here on the 27, also day before yesterday by cap Ross of the *Exert* bound to Galveston, he promised to call at the mouth of the river. I also wrote to Musquis, to the Alcalde to John and to you.

Ugartechea is ordered to take command at Anahuac. Duclor is ordered from the mouth of the river to Brazoria. Cortina is provisional collector of Galveston.

The course for the people there to take in the present distracted state of the nation, is to declare *that they will take no part in the civil war at all—that they will do their duty strictly as Mexican Citizens—that they will adhere to Mexico and to the gen. and State constitution, and resist any unjust attacks upon either, by any, or by all parties no matter who they may be.*

This must be the basis of all they do, or say,—that is, should they find themselves bound to do, or say anything to protect their personal

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security and property from unjust and arbitrary attacks—but should there be no such necessity they ought not to say, or do anything—a dead calm is the best.

I am told the chief of department has gone on—*he must act*, and sustain the dignity of the State. I rec[d] an officio from Gen[l] Teran informing that he had ordered Ugartechea to advise with me, and put himself *de accuerdo* with me. I am requested to do the same with Ugartechea—in obedience, and full complyance with this request I have written to Ugartechea twice. I sent a copy of my first letter to the Chief by the express, and of the last by the *Exert*, and I now enclose you another for Ugartechea.

From the best information I can get I think that Teran will be upon Mexia in this place in a day or two with his whole force—if so it will be a bad business, and I fear the result for Mexia is in a just and good cause and deserves to get through well—his movement here was bold and prompt, and well managed.

I say that he is in a good cause for the reason that what is called the Santana party, is in fact the *democratic republican federal* party of the nation, opposed to the aristocratic party.

I have waited here to see the event of these things before I went to Saltillo—shall probably start tomorrow if nothing new occurs. Tho if Teran is close at hand, I will wait and see the end of his attack, he will take the place of course, for his force is very superior—it is said that Moctezuma has taken the field, which it was thought would detain Teran, but I doubt that—it is not certain. How horrid is civil war. God keep it away from Texas. Mexia will not go to Texas, there is no object he can affect by going there, but on the contrary it would only make confusion. I have advised him not to go there and he will not—neither did he intend to go when he left Tampico.

The Governor of the State Vital Fernandez came with him from Tampico, the Lieut. Gov[r] Juan Molano is also here.

Keep peace in Texas, and if there is anything done, mind the *main basis*, UNION TO MEXICO, *and obedience and adherence to the Constitution*, repeat this basis in all that is done, and all that is said—never loose sight of it one moment.

I have had a good deal of talk with Fisher, and am reconciled with him—his intentions were better than were supposed, but he greatly mistook the means and committed imprudencies of which he is now aware—he never intended to go back—or at least not soon—let him alone—say no more about him—he is an unfortunate man and anything s[a]'d against him now will be taken for persecu-

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tion—he would finally have done well and made a good collector, but he thought that he must be very rigid at first—

Let the past be forgotten—

S. F. AUSTIN

Teran was still in victoria on the 27.

S. M. Williams

AUSTIN TO [DOMINGO UGARTECHEA?]

Supongo que desea V. saber algo de noticias.—El Coron[1] José Ant[o] Mexia con 300 hombres de la 2[a] Division del ejercito Republicano federal desembarcó en el Brazo el 25, y tomo posecion de esta Ciudad el 28.—nó ha habido el mas leve disgusto, desorden, ó confucion—El coron[1] Guerra salió por el camino de San Fernando con los demas de la Tropa, el Parque y muchos bagajes, la mayor parte de estos se han recojido y entraron muchas mulas cargadas hayer y hoy—Mejia se ha conducido como Soldado y hombre honrado—El General Teran escribió de oficio Desde Victoria con fha. 27. del po pdo. que Santa Anna salió de Veracruz y se acercó a Jalapa, donde estava Calderon—Que por la mediacion de Camacho y Victoria se celebró un amnistia provicional, el objeto dela cual es que se nombren comicionados de ambas partes para formar un Tratado, Entiendo que Victoria y Camacho son los comicionados de parte de Santa Anna, así dice un Sor. que viene en derechura de Tampico—este Sor. Tambien dice qe. Montezuma salió de Tampico el 23. con 1500 homb[s] p[a] Victoria, y de allí á San Luis donde ha sido convidado.

Yó ópino qe. todo se compondrá pronto, que habrá un combenio entre Montezuma y Terán y que sesan las hostilidades en todas partes, pero siempre el triunfo de la causa dela libertad cuya causa ha sostenido Santa Anna—El Gob[or] del Estado de Tamaulipas Vital Fernand[s] vino con Mejia y ha sido reconocido por el Ayuntam[to] aquí.—El vice Gov[or] Juan Molano está áquí tambien. es probable q. iré dentro de pocos dias á ver ál Gral. Teran sobre las cosas de Tejas, y de allí ire ál Saltillo—mi objeto es conseguir ordenes á las Autoridades que compondrá todo—y en el entre tanto sociegase V. las cosas—Mi primo 2° Juan Austin merece la confianza de V. No someterece á cosa ninguna que es anti constitucional ó arvitraria, ní deve someter pero sí, sostendrá á V. en cuanto obra V con moderación y constitucionalm[te]—Quite V. de esa idea q. es un insulto al pabellon Mejicano. el oponerse á los abusos y arbitrariedades que se cometen bajo el Mismo pabellon. Esta idea es muy equibocada y puede perder á V.—no hay tales insultos.—E. F. Austin—2. de Julio de 832.—He dicho á Juan Austin que de ningun modo comprometa la

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dignidad del Estado en su empleo de Alcalde 2º sumetiendo á pasos abanzados sobre la autoridad del Estado—pero al mismo tiempo le digo ponerse de acuerdo con V. para sosegar las cosas.—

E. F A

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

[Matamoros] July 2 1832

Dr Sir,

Since writing things have changed—*Exert* by which I wrote to Ugartechea and to Musquis, John, the alcalde and you went ashore yesterday and it is said will be lost—this will detain my letters. I send by Grey a duplicate to Ugartechea—keep a copy of it and my other letter to him of this date. I have sent a copy to Musquis of the letter of 29 and I wish you to send him a copy of my other of this date—also shew them to John, but do not have them made public—tho use them as the public good may require.

1. Let the basis of all that is done be to sustain the constitution and authority of the State of Coahuila y Texas.

2. To adhere firmly to Mexico and the Mexican confederation, and to preserve entire the integrity of the Mexican Territory.

3. To approve of the principles of the democratic constitutional federal party, of which Genl. Santana is the active leader.

The two first are the most important and must be the basis of all that is said or done.

Moctesuma left Tampico on the 23 for Victoria with 1500 men. Teran was in that place on the 27, so he cannot come here. Mexia has done himself great credit as a man and a soldier—all is peace and harmony. The Grampus U. S. Schooner is here—the Cap. Tatnall and the consul of Tampico Robertson are now in this place. I think one result of the commissioners appointed by Santana and the Govt. will be a treaty of peace. Get Greaves to translate my letters to Ugartechea, so that John and the Ayuntamto can understand them, or get Chambers to do it—let him see them.

It would be best to leave out the 3d point I mention on the other side, unless the state of things requires it and Ugartechea takes that side—should the chief be there try and animate him to sustain the dignity of the State against military attacks—have all things suspended and try and keep the public mind quiet. I think I shall go to see Teran again and from there to Saltillo—my object is to get such orders as will put all matters in Texas at rest and if the Chief will prepare the mind of the Governor properly by a statement of the facts, so as to show that the people have in fact done no more

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than to sustain the outraged dignity and authority of the State, I shall be able to do something. But if he throws all the blame on the people it will be a very bad business all round.

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Seal Ugartechea's letter after you have taken the copies and send it as quick as possible.

CONVENTION BETWEEN J. A. MEXIA AND J. M. GUERRA

Matamoros, July 6, 1832.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO SANTA ANNA

Matamoros 6th July 1832.

Sor D. A. L. S. [Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna]

MUY SOR MIO DE TODA MI RESPECTO. No seria amante de los principios fundamentales de la libertad constitucional de mi patria adoptada si dejase de respetar al Gefe cuyas armas spre han sido dirigidas a proteger, y sostenerlos.—

He considerado qe la presente lucha que desgraciadam^te^ ha alterado al reposo de la nacion es entre la democracia constitucional federal, y la aristocracia en tal concepto basta mi nacim^to^ y educacion Norte Americano para convencerme de la justicia de los principios que defiende V. He esperimentado los felices resultados de la practica de aquellos principios en los E. U. del Norte, y no me cabe duda que seran igualm^te^ beneficos en Mexico.

En el norte hubo tambien esta misma lucha, porque aun alli en aquel pueblo ilustrado y republicano, la aristocracia osaba intentar levantar la cabeza—fue atacada derotada y destruida, pero no con armas belicosas—La emprenta libre fue la bateria—tinta y plumas, las armas, y principios sanos, las balas y bombas Apoyada por esta bateria la opinion publica se generalizo, y la democracia constitucional triunfo—Porque no hemos de creer que la misma bateria produciria iguales resultados en Mexico?—Se ha dicho que la masa dela nacion falta ilustracion, y que primeram^te^ se ha de educar los pueblos é ilustrar su juicio para que puedan calificar con acierto las cosas que saldrian de una imprenta libre. Esto seria lo mismo que encerrar á uno que tenia ojos debiles, en un cuarto enteram^te^ obscuro sin un solo rayo de luz, con el fin de prepararle para aguantar la luz brillante del sol—es decir debilitar la vista mas bajo el pretesto de fortalizarla.

He trabajado por los 11 años pasados para poblar Texas, redimirlo del desierto y hacerlo una parte verdaderam^te^ util de la nacion—

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Ha habido alli choques entre el poder militar y la autoridad constitucional del Estado de coahuila y Tejas—que a veces han causado confusion—Esta ha dado un pretesto para acusar los colonos de ser revoltosos de tener miras de separarse de Mexico de declarar su independencia y mil otros cuentos imaginarias y falsas. Yo conosco bien a los habitantes de Tejas y puedo asegurar a V. en el modo mas solemne que no tienen otras miras, ni otros deseos que ver aquel pais permanente unido a Mexico bajo el systema federal—no desean separarse, no es en ninguna manera su interes y nunca han pensado en semejante cosa, ni lo pensarán, sino es que no les quedan otra arbitrio o esperanza para salvarse de la ruina entera

Entiendese muy bien la obligacion moral y sagrada de sus juram^{tos} y cumpliran con sus deberes como ciudadanos naturalizados Mexicanos, crean que por la constitucion este no es un Gob^{no} militar y por lo mismo opinan que los que faltan á esta constitucion, intentando gobernar militarm^{te} son los que insultan el pavillon Mexicano y no los que se levantan para sostener la constitucion, las leyes, y la verdadera dignidad de ese pavillon—asi es que algunos han dicho que los habitantes de Tejas han insultado la pavillon Mexicana porqe. han quejado de actos anticonstitucionales y resistido el despotismo militar—Suplico que se sirve V. informarme sobre este punto. yo soy Mexicano, y como tal perdiria mi vida si fuere necesario p^{a} defender el honor del pavillon de mi patria y la integridad de su territorio, y puedo decir que todo Tejas hara lo mismo—

Me parece muy importante que se ponga comandantes Militar[e]s en Tejas que conocen el caracter de esos pueblos hombres capaces de distinguir entre un Gob^{no} Militar, y uno puram^{te} constitucional—creo que el Coronel Mexia seria muy bueno para un mando militar en Texas

El Art^{o} 11 de la ley de 6 de avril 1830 ha paralisado el progreso de Tejas, y le espone a ser llenado de gentes sueltas é indios que vendran sin hacer caso de esa ley, lo que no harán hombres de proporciones y de delicadeza—¿y porqe. escluir a nuestros hermanos del norte, y admitir a todo lo restante del mundo? me parece una distincion muy odiosa a lo menos.

Suplico que me dispense V. esta molestia creo que no cumpliria con un deber si dejase de manifestar a V en lo particular, mis respectos para sus esfuerzos en la causa de la libertad, y al mismo tpo asegurarle que los rumores que ha habido desde 1830 que Tejas quiere separarse son todos falsos—y espero qe. nos hara la justicia de manifestar lo mismo a los dignos compatriotas y amigos de V.

[Estevan F. Austin.]

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J. M. Guerra to Austin

Matamoras, July 7, 1832.

See Calendar.

J. A. Mexia to Austin

Matamoras, July 8, 1832.

See Calendar.

Austin to José Antonio Mexia[1]

I have received your communication of the 8th inst. accompanying a letter of Colonel Guerra of the 7th also a copy of the articles of agreement, entered into between that officer and yourself on the 6th.

You are pleased to say to me in your communication that you and Colonel Guerra agree that I ought to accompany you in your expedition to Texas, in order to contribute by my influence in the colonies to calm the passions of the people unhappily aroused there, In answer, I have the honor to say that I am ready to accompany you and anxious to contribute with all my power to the service of my adopted Country. At the same time I would observe that I am convinced that the Colonists of Texas have no views opposed to the integrity of the Mexican Government. The disturbances there were in consequence of the arbitrary conduct of the Officers of the General Government and excesses committed against the Constitution and rights of the State of Coahuila and Texas, and had no other cause, How ever I believe that my presence in Texas is necessary to calm the irritation and to restore harmony.

I avail myself of this occasion to present to you the assurances of my respect and consideration

God and Liberty

Stephen F. Austin

Matamoras July 9th 1832

Austin to Governor Letona

Exmo Sor.

Los choques del poder militar contra la autoridad del estado de Coahuila y Tejas sobre Trinidad y en el puesto de Anahuac, añadidos á muchos actos arbitrarios de parte del comandante del dicho punto, han disgraciadam^te^ alterado la tranquilidad de aquella parte de Tejas. No estoy informado menudam^te^ de todo lo ocurrido, pero

[1] Translations in Nacogdoches Archives from Bexar Archives, Texas State Library.

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sí puedo con entera confianza afirmar en lo positivo que, aquellos habitantes han sufrido mucho—talvez, mas de lo que se debia haber esperado de qualesquiera ciudadanos de la nacion, y que no han ocurrido ha medidas violentas hasta verso estrechados por las arbitrariedades del Coronel Davis Bradburn á tal punto que no les quedaba otro arbitrio pª defenderse a si mismos y al propio tpo sostener la constitucion del estado ultrajada por aquel Gefe Militar. Puedo asegurar á V. E. que no hay, ni ha habido objeto ninguno, de oponerse al Gobno legitimo y constitucional del estado ni de la nacion—no se ha intentado contra la integridad del territorio, ni han pensado en semejante cosa—: todo esto es nada mas que un disen de emaginario que han levantado los amigos de un Gobno Militar que desprecian á la constitucion y la dignidad del Estado de Coahuila y Tejas, a fin de cubrir sus actas despoticas. El finado Exmo Sor Comtr gral D. M[anuel] de M[ier] y T[eran] quedo convencido de este hecho, y por oficio fecha 25 del po. po. mes relevo al Col. Davis Bradburn del mando de Anahuac y se lo confirmo al Tente Coronel D. Domingo Ugartechea—con igual fecha S. E. me encargo de oficio muy particularmte ponerme de acuerdo con el Sor Ugartechea a fin de concervar la tranquilidad publica. En devido cumplimto de este encargo escribi una carta al dho Sor con fecha 29 de po. po. cuya copia tengo el honor de remitir a V. E. con esta, esperando que merecera su superior aprobacion—

Hoy recibi otro oficio del Coronel J. M. Guerra fha 7. del presente incluyendome un tanto del convenio celebrado el 6 del presente entre el, y el Sor coronel José Anº Mexia, y al mismo tpo. S. S. me encarga "convinar con el coronel Mexia las medidas convenientes para restablecer la tranquilidad publica en bien de la conservacion de la integridad del territorio Mexicano objeto el mas importante que puede ocupar ntra atencion en las actuales circunstancias"—En cumplimto del referido convenio cuya copia va adjunta el Sor Mexia sale mañana con su tropa y buques de guerra para Tejas, y me ha llamado de oficio para que lo acompañe prometiendo me desembarcarme otra vez en este punto en tpo util pª llegar al Saltillo atiempo de la apertura de las seciones el dia primero de Setiembre—En tales circunstancias y en cumplimto con los oficios del finado Exmo Sor Comª Gral y del Sor Coronel Guerra, y en obsequio del mejor servicio de estado a que pertenesco, he considerado de mi deber acompañar al Sor Mexia—Deseo que se sirva V. E. penetrarse que no voy porqe. crea qe la integridad del territorio peligra porqe todo lo que se ha dicho sobre esto es un cuento, pero si voy con el objeto de calmar las irritaciones que sin duda han habido de una parte y de otra. y mas particularmte para insistir

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que se respeten las autoridades y la constitucion del estado de parte de los comandantes militares que quieren disponer de los ciudadanos como de su tropa—

Todo lo cual elevo al superior conocim^to^ de V. E. para los fines que pueden convenir, al mismo tpo suplicando se servira V. E. pasar lo a la H. Depu^n^ perm^to^ para que si acaso por alguna desgracia en la navegacion impidiese mi viage a esa capital en tiempo oportuno queda impuesta S. H. de la causa de mi ausencia—

D y L. Matamoros 9 de Julio 1832

E. F. A

Exmo Sor Govor. del Estado de Coahuila y Tejas D. J. Ma. de Letona

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Austin to J. Mariano Guerra [1]

Colonel Mexia delivered to me your communication of the 7^th^ inst, with a copy of the articles of agreement entered into between yourself and that Officer.

You request me "to acquaint Colonel Mexia with the actual state of the insurrection in the colonies, and to consult with him as to the means of restoreing peace and public order in view of the preservation of the integrity of the Mexican Territory—the most important subject that can claim our attention under the Circumstances"

I must in the first place say to you that I am a Mexican Citizen and will with the most scrupulous fidelity, comply with my duty as such and as Colonel of the Battalion of Civil Militia of the Department of Bexar, and if it becomes necessary will cheerfully sacrifice my life in defence of the constitution and rights of the State and nation, to which I have the honor of belonging. Señor Mexia has officially invited me to accompany him. In compliance to the communication of His late Excellency the Commanding General, Don Manuel de Mier y Teran bearing date 25^th^ ult, your letter, and Señor Mexia's invitation, I shall accompany that Gentleman to Texas although a sea voyage is very injurious to my health, owing to sea sickness which acts severely on me.

I beg to be allowed to correct a natural error, resulting from an imperfect knowledge of the State of affairs in Texas, and the honorable character of its inhabitants, There is no insurrection of the Colonists against the Constitution and Government, neither do they entertain ideas endangering even remotely the integrity of the territory. No portion of the inhabitants have committed any insults against the Mexican flag, nor will they do so.

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[1] Translations in Nacogdoches Archives from Bexar Archives, Texas State Library.

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It is necessary to take a retrospective view to understand the cause of the evils that originated the disturbances at Anahuac. The arrest of the Commissioner of the State of Coahuila and Texas, Don Francisco Madero by Colonel Davis Bradburn, Commander of Anahuac— The suspension by military orders of the Constitutional Ayuntamiento of Liberty—the creation of the Ayuntamiento of Anahuac by the same power without the authorization or knowledge of the only Government lawfully competent to do so, The State of Coahuila and Texas. The arbitrary arrest and expulsion of several honorable citizens, by Colonel Davis Bradburn— The arbitrary intervention of that Officer in preventing an organization of a company of militia by the Ayuntamiento of Anahuac, and the arrest of said Officers of said company and finally numberless acts of despotism perpetrated by that military Commander have caused the people on the Trinity to believe with reason that there were no constitution, laws, or guaranty for the protection of person or property in that section, save the law of might.

The Government of the State did not resist Colonel Bradburn's bold measures as it should have done, and therefore the unfortunate inhabitants sank into despair, and I suppose pronounced themselves in favor of Santa Ana whose avowed object is the reign of the Government and not that of whim and personal caprice. Consequently if there is an insurrection among the colonists it is for supporting the constitution and the honor of the Mexican flag, and not for attacking them.

It has been said that the Colonists have insulted the Mexican flag; I dare answer that it is false; those who have trampled upon the constitution, Laws, and guaranties under the authority of that honored flag are the ones to bear the reproach of the insult, and not the Mexican citizens who resisted such abuses of power.

All that has been said in regard to dangers for the integrity of the Territory of Texas, is a mere tale, which serves in ruining the progress of that unhappy Territory, by creating prejudice amongst the Mexicans, and disgust among the Colonists, thus disturbing public peace.

No man who is acquainted with Texas will say or think that it ought to secede from Mexico, supposing that it were in its power so to do. I am well aware as to what is the true interest of that country, and know the opinion of the people and therefore I say, that were the Government to declare that Texas was free to secede or not, The answer of the inhabitants would be, "Let the Constitution of the nation and State be observed, and we will never consent to such a secession."

I beg to insist on this point in order to enable you to make a distinction between a lawful opposition to infractions of the Constitu-

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tion, and opposition to the Government, dangerous to the integrity of the territory. Then you will no longer entertain the doubts, and erroneous ideas expressed in your above mentioned communication. and the unjust and fatal habit of criminating the Colonists in general, as has been done heretofore will cease. In every population there are idle talkers, drunkards, and fools: is it just or politic on the part of the rulers to denounce the mass because there are some of that kind? Is it just or politic to irritate the wise portion of the community by insulting treatment, and to attribute to them criminal ideas which they do not nor never did entertain.

I proceed to Texas, not indeed, for preserving the integrity of the territory which is not endangered, but to do every thing in my power to calm the exasperation, which undoubtedly existed on both sides, and that may lead to dangerous extremities, I wish to save Davis Bradburn if he has not already perished and I will also interpose all my personal and official influence to uphold the dignity and constitution of the State of Texas and Coahuila against the attacks of the military power, and against whomsoever has insulted it or should attempt to do so.

On these terms I will act. I have expressed some time since, in writing these sentiments to Colonel Ugartachea and His Excellency the Governor of the State, and hope that a feeling of justice and a desire to throw light on the subject will induce you to transmit a copy of your letter to me, and of this answer to the Supreme Power of the Nation and of the State of Coahuila and Texas, at the same time that you will give your instructions in consequence to the commander at Anahuac. It is, then, understood that we will be guided in our operations by the Constitution and rights of the State, and not by Martial Law that the irritation shall be calmed and the past forgotten, without compelling the Inhabitants to make public declarations in their defence or against any person. Finally let the balsam of harmony be poured on all the wounds.

God and Liberty.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

Matamoras July 10th 1832

JAMES F. PERRY TO ISRAEL MCGREADY

Oak Grove, July 12, 1832.

See Calendar.

JAMES F. PERRY TO FERGUSON, JONES AND CAMPBELL

July 12, 1832.

See Calendar.

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Mexia to John Austin[1]

[Translation, by Austin, of Col. Mexias letter to the Alcalde John Austin letter and reply]

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of the convention entered into between the Commandant in chief of Matamoros and myself on the 6 of the present month. This document will inform you of the motives which brought me to Texas, and what would have been my course had the late movements here been directed against the integrity of the national territory.

But if, as I have been assured by respectable citizens, the past occurrances were on account of the colonists having adhered to the plan of vera Cruz, and I am officially informed of that fact in an unequivocal manner, you can in that case assure the inhabitants that I will unite with them to accomplish their wishes, and that the forces under my command will protect their adhesion to said place.

This occasion affords me the opportunity of presenting to you the assurances of my consideration and respect—

God and Liberty off the mouth of the Brazos river on board the brig of war Genl Santana.

José Antonio Mexia.

To Citizen John Austin Alcalde [of Brazoria]
16 July 1832—

John Austin to Mexia

[Answer of the Alcalde John Austin to the foregoing official letter]

I have recd. your official letter dated 16 of the present month, and in reply have the honor to inform you that a committee appointed by the inhabitants of theis town will present to you copies of the acts and resolutions heretofore adopted and the documents as to the past occurrances, which will explain to you the principles that have governed us up to this time—. These documents contain our true sentiments, and will serve as an answer to your official letter to me dated the 16 of this month

The enemies of Texas, the enemies of the enterprising men who have devoted their time and labor to improve a country that was never before trod by civilised man, have taken pains, and are continually doing it, to attribute to us a disposition to separate from the Mexican confederation— We have never entertaind, and have

[1] For a detailed study of Mexia's expedition to Texas see F. H. Turner, "The Mejia Expedition," in Quarterly of Texas State Historical Association, VII, 1–27. For the acts of Bradburn at Anahuac, which precipitated the uprisings of 1832 in Texas, see Edna Rowe in ibid., VI, 265–299. For a general account of the period, see Barker, *The Life of Stephen F. Austin*, chapter XII.

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not any such intention or desire, We are Mexicans by adoption, we are the same in heart and will so remain

If the laws have granted to us the honorable title of citizens, we wish that that title should be respected, and that the authorities established by the constitution of the State, shall govern us. We are farmers and not soldiers and therefore desire that the military commandants shall not enterfere with us at all—

Since 1830 we have been pretty much governed militarily, and in so despotic a manner, that we were finally driven to arms to restrain within their limits the military subalterns of the general govt.

We have not insulted the flag of our adopted country, as has been falsly stated by our enemies, but on the contrary we have defended and sustained its true dignity and attacked those who have outraged it by using it as a pretext for their encroachments upon the constitution and sovereignty of the state of coahuila and Texas, and as a cover for their baseness and personal crimes. The commandant of fort velasco acted under the orders of the commandant of Anahuac Col Juan Davis Bradburn who was his superior. An investigation into the conduct of this officer at anahuac will inform you fully of the details of many despotic and arbitrary acts—He refused to respect the authorities or the constitution of the state of coahuila and Texas, or to adhere to the plan of vera Cruz which we had adopted. He was sustaind by the commandant of Nacogodoches Col Piedras, y [and] by that of fort velasco Leut. Col Ugartechea, and consequently we were compelled to oppose them all. We attacked Fort velasco on the 27 of last month with 112 farmers hastily collected without disciplin and badly armd, and after an obstinate and bloody engagement of 7 hours it capitulated on the terms expressed in the enclosed copy of the capitulation every article, of which has been strictly complyed with on our part, besides furnishing him with the provisions he needed for his troops—I herewith furnish you with a return of the killed and wounded on both sides as nearly as can be ascertained

This sir is what has passed I hope it will be sufficient to convince you that these inhabitants have not manifested any other desire or intention than to unite with Genl Santana to procure the establishment of peace in the republic under the shield of the constitution, laws, and that soverignty of the states shall be respected—

It is a matter of pride and congratulation to me, that you have come to this place to see with your own eyes the rectitude of our sentiments, and that it has afford[ed] us the opportunity of presenting to you our respects and the assurances of our hearty cooperation in the great and glorious cause which is so nobly advocated by

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our distinguisd Commander in chief Genl. Santana—God and Liberty Brazoria 18 July 1832

JOHN AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO RAMON MUSQUIZ

Brazoria 18 de Julio de 1832.

Sor. Don RAMON MUZQUIZ.

ESTIMADO AMIGO. No me quedo tpo. pª escribirle largamtº por que el correo pª la Labahia que lleva esta no puede ser detenido. Daré mi opinion en pocas palabras y *francas.*

Opino q. la felicidad y paz de la Nacion solo se consigue adhiriendose todos al plan de Santana que se generaliza la opinion publica lo mas pronto que sea posible por el pronunciamtº unanime de los Ayuntamtºs y pueblos,—que no pierda V. un momento en componer las cosas en Bejar pª qª se pronuncie alli por el Ayuntamtº y vecindario—ó si se opone, que los *civicos*, es decir el pueblo de una vez los arrestan, asi haciendoles saber qº los mejicanos libres ya entienden sus derechos, y no temen ni sometiran por mas tiempo al reinado del despotismo de las bayonetas; que V. como Gefe, y el Ayuntamtº como la cabeza pral. de los Ayuntamtºs de Tejas levantan sus voces respetables al Supmo Govno en favor de la verdad y de la Constitucion, y que digan que las Colonias de Tejas y esta Colonia de Austin en lo particular no han tomado las Armas contra la integridad del territorio, ni contra el Govno ni la Constitucion, ni para insultar al pavellon Mejicano, sino al contrario en defensa de todos, y contra los que han violentamtº insultado ese pavellon honrado y los derechos Constitucionales qª representa que los Colonos son fieles, q. saben sus deberes como Mejicanos y los sostendran á todo costo—que tomaron armas pª sostener al pronunciamtº de Santana y los derechos del Estado de Coahuila y Tejas infinitamtº ultrajado por Teran, Bradburn y demas Despotas Militares con quienes aquel Gral. aristocrata y enemigo de Tejas han llenado el paiz.

En fin hablan V. V. como *hombres* y como *Tejanos.* Nada de agua tibia en un asunto como este—No hay q. transigir con derechos Constitucionales ni con la verdad.

Esa ley de 6 de Abril 1830?—¿Como es posible q. queden V. V. quedar quietos y contentos bajo semejante impedimtº al progreso de su paiz? Puede V. enseñar esta al q. gusta—Creo que escribó á un amigo y un conciudadano.

E. F. AUSTIN

Es copia de su original qª se remitió al Govno. Bejar 30 de Julio de 1832—

JOSÉ M. J. CARVAJAL. Srio. Ynto. [Rubric]

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PROCEEDINGS AT BRAZORIA

July 18, 1832.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Brazoria July 19 1832

Dr Sir,

I had not time to say much by Wm. Austin. Since he left I have heard of the excitement which some have felt against you owing to the difference of opinion as to what ought to be done in the critical situation of the country. These [are] things to be expected everywhere and amongst all people under excitement—they have their hour and pass away and are forgotten. All that is necessary for you to do or say is, that you wished to do for the best—may have been mistaken as to the means, that nothing but an anxious desire to serve the common cause of the country actuated you, without personal feelings against anyone, that in your moments of excitement you blamed others who differed in opinion with you, and that they also had the same right to blame you, for both thought their course the best etc. Something of this nature and in a good [hu]mored way, without any display of passion or irritation against anyone will soon put it all at rest—some of the leading men in the U. S. have had the honor of being stuck up in *effigy* for political opinions, so that you need not feel mortified at that. A few persons here last night had you and two others Chambers and Lewis up in effigy—it will do *you* no harm unless you get into a passion about it—so keep quite cool and let it all pass away, as it will do of itself. The fact is that the state of things has been such that, at times none of us knew or could tell what course was the best—all had but one object in view which was to do right as near as they could—en fin, vale mas reir qe maldecir.

The colony and all Texas have but one course left which is to unite in the cause of the Santana party, and if necessary fight it out with the ministerialists— I have written to Musquis urging him to make a pronunciamto. in Bexar. Nacogdoches will follow as a matter of course and Piedras will acquiess or have to leave the country for Matamoros.

I have great need here for Mr. Greaves and hope he will come down—tho it is now almost too late. I wish the Ayuntamto to make a formal pronunciamto as soon as possible and advise the Alcalde to call an extra meeting as soon as possible so as to give time for the members to attend, this is very important indeed. We must now all pull at the same end of the rope.

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Teran killed himself at Padilla on the 3—he ran his sword through his heart on the very spot where Iturbide was shot. Montezuma left Tampico for San Luis with 1500 men soon after Mexia sailed for Matamoros—it was a combined movement, ordered by Montezuma, to [enable] Mexia to take Matamoros by keeping Teran employed elsewhere—commissioners are appointed by Santana and Bustam^te to meet at the Puerto Nacional to settle the question, Victoria by Santana, Camacho by Bustam^te and I think it probable the whole matter is settled by this time.

Mexia and myself have been enthusiastically recd. here—it was a joyfull event for the whole country, for I think it [will] unite Texas on the same side, and right or wrong we must all pull together. I intended to have started up tomorrow and if necessary gone from there with volunteers against Anahuac by the time Mexia got round with the fleet—but day after tomorrow is a grand Ball, and we *must* stay. I think it will be unnecessary for any men to go to Anahuac for the troops there will no doubt pronounce.

Don't let these matters worry you, what you have done was for the best. Under the circumstances in which you were placed it was impossible to say what was for the best—all reasonable men will look at the *motives* and not at hasty expressions made in a moment of great excitement. I will write to the Alcalde to call a meeting of the ayto.—it must be as soon as possible for I wish to return with Mexia to Matamoros so as to be at Saltillo by the 1 of September. He will stay no longer at Galveston than is necessary to regulate them at Anahuac and take Bradburn where he will probably never more hear of Texas. His cup of disgrace and infamy is full, up and over the brim.

Farewell—remember me to Sarah and Mr. Greaves

S. F. Austin

Muchissimas memorias a Arciniega digale que escribi a Bexar p^a que se pronuncian por Santana.

A

20th.

I have this moment recd. yours by William Austin. I am fully aware of the motives which influenced you.

I have always expressed to you, both verbally and in writing a wish that the colonists should not take part in the civil wars of the Mexicans, unless they should unfortunately reach Texas, in that event there would of course be no remidy left but to take a hand.

I had no right or reason to expect that that most consummate of all fools, Bradburn, would have acted as he has done—he promised and assured me at Lynches that he would respect the civil Authority at

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Anahuac and concilliate the people there, and I believed he would—he was too much of a jack ass to be governed by reason or judgement, or anything else except brutal passion—I therefore could not foresee what has happened, and could not give you instructions in time— what I feared if the colonists took part in the civil wars was they would get into anarchy and confusion—but will come right now and we shall all pull heart and hand at one end of the rope. See Chrisman and have the Ayto. convened by wednesday or thursday at most—remember me to Mr. Greaves. I shall need his aid in the spanish line of business as soon as I get up. Speak to him on the subject. I refer you to Johnson for particulars as [to] our arrival here etc. I wrote from the mouth of the river the moment I landed and Cap John Austin directed a copy to be sent up, when he started down to meet us, which was done, but it went up the river on the other side.

Col Mexia would go up with great pleasure, but his fleet is anchored off and he is limited as to time,—he starts on Monday to embark for Galveston Bay, and will only be two days at Anahuac, as he last night recd. official information of the pronunciamto of that place under *Col Suveran.* The report you speak of, that there had been a saqueo etc is all false. Suveran has written to Cap J. Austin and Lieut. Domingues is here direct from Anahuac— all goes well over there and Bradburn has taken to the brush. If Piedras refuses, we must and will fight him. All Texas must go together. I will write to him from San felipe and to Ayish bayou.

S F A

write to Gonzales and let them know what they ought to do—*La constitucion y Santana.*

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Mr Samuel M. Williams

Furnish the troops of Lieut. Col. Ugartechea two wagons and provisions to last to La Bahia and two hundred dollars in cash. I have recd. here two hundred dollars [more?] and will take them up with me—make contracts for the waggons etc so as to get the proper vouchers. The provisions can be got in part on the road, some on Colorado and some on Navidad.

Brazoria July 22 1832

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

The waggons are needed to La Bahia—it probably will be the better plan to get them as far as Guadalupe, and have them re-

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placed there by others for La Bahia—or perhaps some may [be] had on Navidad or La Bahia. All this can be done by writing to James Kerr, or some others.

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Also furnish a horse for Lieut. Manuel Pintado to [co]me to this place—and Bagages for the officers to go to La Bahia.

S. F. AUSTIN

Amigo D. Samuel: No tengo lugar escribirle solo le digo qe Duclor queda con su destino, y yo marcho a Matamoros exp. a la Señorita, y le encargo a V. qe me abilite a mi tropa lo mas pronto hta la Bahia pa. qe no tengan dificultades.

D. UGARTECHEA [Rubric]

(Indorsed): S. F. Austin July 1832 Order in favor of Ugartechea for money.

J. M. WOODSON TO AUSTIN

Gulf Prairie, Texas, July 23, 1832.

See Calendar.

JOHN AUSTIN TO MEXIA

Brazoria, July 23, 1832.

See Calendar.

W. C. WHITAKER TO AUSTIN

Clinton July 25th. 1832

Col AUSTIN

Dr SIR I have not written to you on my return home according to my promise when in your Country. I had for some time declined the Idea of visiting your Country again, owing to misfortune in my family etc. At present however I have become satisfied to come to Your Country in the fall, provided I can hear from you, and understand the state of affairs, I see an account in one of your last papers, of a meeting of the Inhabitants of your Colony and resolutions past etc also I see an account of Bradburns defeat at Anhuac by Capt Adams and also of the defeat of Velasco Commanded by Capt John Austin on the 27th June, since which time I have become quite anxious to hear the true and correct statement of the state of the Country at present, Therefore Col I wish you to write me respecting the same and give me your opinion with regard to what I could do there at present, and what I will have to depend on when I come

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if I do, I shall come to remain in the Country, to make it my home perhaps for life—

I should be very happy to be there, in defence of your Colony and there is numbers in my Parish who would go at any time, where there should be and inducement held out to them worthy of their attention—we are all anxiously awaiting to hear of Santa Anna proveing Victorious and your Colony open for emigrants, and to see your Colny at peace and a Flourishing write me upon the reception of this, and you shall either hear from me amediately, or see me personally and accompanied by as many as you would wish If directed by you so to do—

W. C. WHITAKER [Rubric]

AYUNTAMIENTO OF NACOGDOCHES TO INHABITANTS OF AIS

July 28, 1832.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO MUSQUIZ[1]

San Felipe de Austin July 28th 1832

MOST ESTEEMED CHIEF AND FRIEND

I suppose that you have received the few lines that I wrote to you hurriedly from Brazoria. In that letter I manifested the opinion that under the actual circumstances it was very important for us all to join the plan of Santa Anna: I will in this letter explain that idea, and expose the reasons on which I ground it. In the first place, in regard to this Colony. On my arrival at Brazoria, I met the whole people unanimous and enthusiastic in favor of the plan of Santa Anna. They welcomed General Mejia with such rejoicing and enthusiasm as I had never witnessed in this country. On the day before in a large meeting they had resolved to persevere in their adhesion to the plan of Veracruz, and that previous to having heard of the arrival of Mejia. Under such circumstances, and observing that the personal feelings against the inhabitants who had not given their adhesion, and more particularly against the Ayuntamiento were rather violent, and even gave rise to strong excitement against some individuals; considering also the situation in which the colony would be in regard to the division command by Col. Mejia if they did not pronounce themselves; and finally taking into consideration that the party of Santa Anna is truly the liberal republican, and constitutional party, and that it is proper that a strong manifesta-

[1]A translation from the Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

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tion of opinion should be made throughout the Republic in favor of the plan of Veracruz, as the only means to bring civil war to an end, and to secure peace and the constitutional liberty of the Nation. I expressed my opinion to the Ayuntamiento, advising them to pronounce themselves in order to avoid evils and local misunderstandings which prove always fatal. A meeting of the Ayuntamiento took place the day before yesterday, and another yesterday, of the people, which was well attended, and in which the plan of Veracruz was unanimously adhered to, the most perfect unison and harmony prevailing in that expression of the public will. The resolutions and their preamble contain a true manifestation of the causes and origin of the difficulties at Anahuac, and of the objects of those who went to attack Bradburn, in short they offer a concise history of the whole transaction. It was said by the partizans of the Cabinet at Matamoras, that the colonists had risen against the integrity of the territory, and a thousand other false and imaginary versions.

You may in your visit here have formed a correct idea of the whole affair, and I am convinced that there was no other object in view, but to show to the despot John Davis Bradburn, that there is such a thing as the constitution and State of Coahuila and Texas. That man was the cause of the whole evil, loss of life, and misfortune. I assure you most solemnly, that I have not heard, even from the mouth of the most exasperated, one word against any Mexican holding an important command, or in office in these colonies: The complaints are against Davis and Fisher, and most particularly against the despotic procedings of the first, always supported by General Teran. Fisher told me at Matamoras, that the untimely, impolitic, and impracticable order issued by him on the 24th of November last, in relation to the Navigation of the Brazos River was dictated by General Teran himself, and cannot be charged to him, as he did but obey: In such case he has been very unfortunate, because the whole odium fell on his head. I assure you also, with the same solemnity, that I have not heard one single word, that might countenance insinuations, often made by friends of the Cabinet and enemies of Texas, that the colonists wished to secede and to declare their independence from the Mexican Federation. On the contrary, the most intelligent among them, told me that the late difficulties have convinced them more than ever, that to think of such a thing would be the ruin of all. My own and the general wish is, to see Texas forming by itself a State of the Federation, and as long as it is not so, we can expect no peace, progress nor government, and in fact nothing.

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In answer to the question, what are the causes of the convulsions in Texas, and why did they declare themselves in favor of the plan of Veracruz, You may say; that in Texas, there is a military government, more or less despotic according to the character and disposition of the commanding officers: that there is a civil government more or less strong, according to the disposition and intelligence of the Alcaldes, and Ayuntamientos, and their distance from a military post, and thus there is no government at all in several points, excepting that which originates in a mutual agreement on the part of the people to submit to the decisions of some persons elected by them: But at the same time, all acknowledge the authority and laws of the Nation and State: There is not throughout Texas, one single "Juez de Letras," nor one "Licenciado." The supreme tribunal of Justice is at Saltillo, a distance of 300 leagues. The legislature understands neither the situation nor the wants of Texas, nor can it understand them. The military powers under the anti-republican anti-liberal administration of Guerrero's assassins who have extended their iron sceptre over the nation, since the *black cloud* of Jalapa appeared, have treated the government and constitution of the State of Coahuila and Texas with a complete contempt. If the authorities of the State have borne such insults, there is no reason why the people should do so. In short, you may say that Texas needs a *government*, and that the best she can have, is to be created a State in the Mexican Federation. For which we want more population, and to obtain it, the Article 11th of the law of April 6th 1830 must be abrogated.

The inhabitants of Texas have always had their eyes and hopes fixed on the authority and Ayuntamiento of the Capital of Bexar, they with that City, would take the lead in advocating and defending the interests and rights of Texas. It is the oldest settlement: the fathers and forefathers of its inhabitants, have conquered the wilderness and struggled against the Indians. In the years 1820-1821-1822 and 1823, they were reduced to almost the last stage of decline and suffering, and the whole of Texas was in danger of returning to its primitive state, to be untrodden by civilized people. The immigrants did not, and do not believe that Bexar would shut its eyes to the evils that affect the Country, or would remain contented and silent, without even representing against the measures that prevent emigration, and paralyze the progress of the land of their ancestors. It is now time for it to meet the expectation of the people. Bexar must speak in a respectful, but firm and decided tone and voice, fearless of commanding generals, bayonets, ministers, or any body. Let it adhere to the pronounciamento of Veracruz, urge the whole of Texas to do the same, and thus unite us under the flag of the

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Constitution. Let it represent against the laws preventing imigration from other countries, request that the above be flung open to all nations at peace with the Republic. Let it complain of the maratime tariff, a barbarous contrivance ruinous to agriculture; let it expose clearly the abuses of the military power, and above all, let it be the first to urge a separation from Coahuila and the formation of a seperate State. The character of the people of Texas is interprizing and decided, they scorn dangers and laugh at obstacles; therefore if Bexar wishes to be at the head of these people, it must be decided in its course, it must be *Mexico-Texan.*

If Bexar will pronounce itself, Nacogdoches will follow, but otherwise the people of that district will do what they have done here; they will attack Colonel Piedras, and the whole population will be up again, and Mexico overflowed with rumors and lies about the *rebellion of the colonists* of Texas: All this may be avoided if Bexar follows the example given by this town and LaBahia Things have now come to such a pass, that lukewarm measures are ruinous, it is necessary to adopt a party, and to declare it publicly, otherwise I apprehend that it would be difficult to avoid difficulties, divisions, and local ill feeling throughout Texas.

Señor Mejia left the mouth of the Brazos for Anahuac, and may thence proceed to Nacogdoches, in which case, the people will join him in mass. All this may be avoided if Bexar and Nacogdoches pronounce themselves, and the whole of Texas unites in mass under the same banner—that of Santa Anna. I have expressed my opinion to the government of the Nation and that of the State, as well as to General Santa Anna from Matamoras, with a particular notice of the slanderous, unjust and Machiavellian lie, of that imaginary ghost raised by the aristocratic and designing enemies of the immigration of republican settlers—that the inhabitants of Texas wish to secede from Mexico. I have also declared that it is impossible to rule Texas, militarily, and that its peace would be endangered in proportion to the increase of regular troops, above the sufficient number for the protection of the frontier from the Indians. Some friends of the liberal party, asked me at Monterey: What are the Ayuntamiento and People of Bexar about that they do not manifest to the nation, the true state of affairs in Texas? Why do they not represent against article 11th of the law of April 6, 1830, which opposes so many obstacles to emigration? I write to you with my accustomed candor, and with the most sincere wishes for the prosperity and peace of my country, and in these terms I avail myself of this occasion to give you the assurance of the respect and cordial friendship of your fellow citizen and friend &c.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

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AUSTIN TO HIS CONSTITUENTS

July —, 1832.

See Calendar.

JAMES WHITESIDE TO ANTHONY BUTLER[1]

Coles Settlement 2nd, August 1832

Col A BUTLER

DEAR SIR When you was here last we had a conversation Respecting the debts that Mr. Peyton was Owing in this Colony, you Remarked to me that if Peyton would mortgage his property to you that you would lend him the money to pay his debts, I told Peyton of the talk that we had, and since that Time he has requested me to write you on the Subject, he owns 12 likely negroes, 6 of them likely fellows, 4 women and 2 children 60 acres of land under good fence and in cultivation a horse mill that grinds for the Town and Country Round about it, all of which he will mortgage to you for the use of twenty five hundred dollars, and to give you a good interest, he has either to sell some of his negroes and land or Mortgage his property. I had forgot to mention his Town property, it is worth fifteen Hundred Dollars he has heretofore been offered that sum for it, he has to pay a good sum of money this fall and if he dont succeed in some way, his property will suffer, he is willing to give you any interest you may think proper to ask. You will please to give an immediate answer to this matter if you think proper to accomodate him I will get Col Thos J Chambers to do the writing between you and him, Mr. John R Jones has got two men at work at the well, but has only got about 30 feet deep in about 3 weaks work Pit has Caved in all Round & fild up half-way with sand, has got Timber to build a very large stable that will hold 30 horses has entered into a writen contract with a Mr Bartlet to put the stable on the lots at his own expense for $600, he has got the most of the lumber for building the Dining Room, and is agoing to have it a two Story House, I think it will cost at least $1200—it will take about Ten thousand Bricks to wall the well, Jones says the well will cost about $300 he says he must have a new post and plank fence made round the lots the Bricks are made for all the chimneys and I have a waggon going to Harrisburg after shells to make lime, I told Jones that I thought that the improvement he was puting on would cost $2500 I wanted to know of him what he would be willing to give for the Rent, he said he had offered you $400 pr year after the improvements was compleated, I told him that you had no idea that him Jones was going to put such costly improve-

[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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ments on the lots, I told Jones that you was drawing 10 pr cent on your money and to lay it out on building or anything else that would Decay it would not be Reasonable to suppose that you would take the interest of your money and be satisfied, he wants me to say to you that he should like to know the least you will take, he Requested me to tel you that times were very Dull, and that is a fact, no imigration at all everything here has been in confusion, Col Bradburn at Anahuac Calaboosed some of our citizens Patrick Jack Monroe Edwards and a man by the name of Travis a Lawyer, Bradburn kept them there fifty days, and until he was himself arrested, the prinsoners was then Turned out, but not till after there had been many lives lost on both sides, since that time Wm H. Jack has undertaken to Cain Majr Lewis, he give Lewis a couple of Blows with a stick, Lewis drew a pistol on him, Jack retreated pretty fast Lewis challenged him the next morning and Jack accepted, they have choose their seconds, McQueen for Lewis McKinney for Jack, I do not know when they will fight.—

I wrote you in my last I had sent Mr Jerard after the Mares and on his way he met James Kerr coming to San Felipe, Jerard went to Gonzales to wait untill Kerr would Return he remained so long at San Felipe that Jerard would not wait any longer, Kerr has now started home, I had a goodeal of talk with him I give him your letter, he Read it and said he could prove that Albert Pettus was not in company with him when the Mares was purchased, him and Albert had some sort of falling out and parted, I told him that you thought very strang that there was no increece on the 10 mares from 1829 to 1831 he said that he had told Col Pettus that he intended to put in 7 yearlings he thought that was about right I told him I was directed to Receive Just what he delivered to me and ask no questions, I have now got Joshua Parker to go out and bring thim in and I will write you again, I inquired of Kerr what sort of a Jack he had got he said he was not first Rate tho he said he was only four years old,

I wrote to David Tally to come and see me, he has never done so nor even answered my letter, I have made all sorts of inquiry concerning his circumstance and find he has not Cattle nor very little of any thing else, besides his land, you must now Tell me what I shall do next, Robert M. Williamson gives me fair promises Respecting the nine Cows and Calves, Col Austin arrived here a few days since from Matemoris but could [not] stay long enough to do any business, he is now gone to Anahuac and will not Return under ten days, I Rode with him about two miles and I had [a talk?] with him. I showed him my instructions from you, he was pleased to hear that Cows and Calves were wanted, he said he Could always get Cows and

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Calves, but money was out of the question he has to be at Matemoris by the 20th instant so that I cannot make any settlement with him untill after he Returns from the fall Session at Saltillo, I must now tell you a little more about Jack and Lewis there was what is called the San Felipe Club five or six men O Jones at the head of them, F. W. Johnson R. M. Williamson Doctor Miller Col Pettus Thos Gay and Wm H Jack they intended to Brake down Lewis and Chambers because they were Reather taking the lead, the club put it on Jack to bring on the quarrel he brought it on Reather too Rough, They find that they are Compelled [to] fight and now they all left Jack to fight by himself Except Wmson he stays, the balance is gone to the Buffello Grange Lewis and Chambers says they shall all fight or knock under,

You mentioned in your letter that Tom was blind of an eye, that you presumed I did not know it, or I would unquestionably have mentioned it, I never did know he was blind, he got one of his hurt and there come a sort of phelm on it, I had some glass pounded up very fine and blew it in his eye and it took it all off in one night and I never discovered anything the matter afterwards,

As soon as Col Austin returns from Anahuac I shall make arrangements to get the Cows and Calves and do the best I can with the mares and colts and as soon as the Dueling scrape is over I will write you again, or anything else that I think will be of any interest for you to hear of my wife sends her best compliments to you and says if you ever come to San Felipe again you must take time to come and see her

JAMES WHITESIDE

P. S. everybody in this country has declared in favor of the plan of Gen[l] Santa Ana and the Mexican troops is all to be taken from this country,

JW

[Addressed:] Al Señor Coronel D Antonio Butler Ministro de los Estados Unidos de America Mexico

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HENRY MORSE TO JAMES F. PERRY

Halls Bayou August 5, 1832

Mr. PERRY

DEAR SIR, I am just from Brazoria where on Friday morning I saw Captain John Austin who had just returned from Anahac reports that the Fort at that place was dismantled and the Troops embarked for the westward and the fleet gone back to Matamoros, Colonel Mexia had not marched on Nachidoch on account of the

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scarcity of provisions nor had he heard from them he however left it with the Americans to send Col. Pedras on to the Westward a prisoner, to take him without bloodshed if possible, if not, to use force Poor Bradburn had crossed the Sabine. There were eight men in pursuit of him and had come so close upon him that they had got his Horse, he swam the river above the ferry and had got on eight miles beyond on foot, the men still in persuit and it was supposed had overtaken him, Captain Austin learned that at the time the Americans were before Anahac There were four Mexicans killed and four wounded, The troops from two or three other stations had commenced their march to the westward. Have you heard of the death of Mrs. Henry Austin? she died on Thursday morning and was buryed the following day, Captain Austin was very much afflicted with his loss, Mr Jimmison of Brazoria died early last week and there was much sickness in and about the Town. We may congratulate ourselves on good health out here if nothing else, Mr Harris informed me as I passed there last evening that a Gentleman right from New Orleans had passed there and reports that a terible Indian War had broken out about Rock Island on the upper Mississippi and the borders of Indiana, considerable fighting had taken place and that the Indians had committed a great deal of mischief in the Murdering of families. It seems that a good many tribes had joined in the war, such as the Winibagas Sock and Foxes, Soux etc.

HENRY MORSE

Should you learn that Col. Austin does not intend to visit you and a chance offers to send him my letter I would be glad you would do so—

[Address:] Mr James F. Perry Oak Grove

MARIANO VILLALOBOS TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

San Luis Potosi, August 7, 1832.

See Calendar.

JAMES BOWIE TO AUSTIN

Angeline Augt. 8th. 1832

Col^{n} Steph^{n} F Austin

SIR I write to inform you that the 12th. Regt. of Infantry formerly of Nagodoches and in command of Col. Jose de las Piedras has been induced by certain American arguments to declare in favor of the Constitution of S^{a} Anna—that Col. Piedras is a prisoner in

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Town soon to be dispatched for Anahuac,—and that the Regt. has put itself under my command. They are now on their march for San Felipe de Austin They are very destitute of necessaries, and in particular of horses and provisions. The Officers are many of them on foot. If you have, or can procure twenty horses or cattle or provisions on a/c of Govt. and will forward them on to meet us you will much facilitate the cause of our Chief We depend much on you in this thing.

JAMES BOWIE [Rubric]

P. S. There have been killed in the recent action at N. —— of the Spanards 33 and about 17 or 18 wounded—of the S^{a} Annistas 3 and 7 wounded. More particu^{s} on arrival. The Alcalde of N. among killed.

J B.

N. M. HENDERSON TO AUSTIN

Rodney, Miss., August 8, 1832.

See Calendar.

HORATIO CHRIESMAN TO AUSTIN

San Felipe, August 9, 1832.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO PIEDRAS

Por la acta del Ayuntamiento de esta municipalidad que el Alcalde remite por el portador de esta, se impondrá V. S del pronunciamiento formal y unanime de esta Colonia por el plan de Vera Cruz. Espero que está conforme con las ideas de V. S, y que se servirá apoyarla; contribuyendo así á la pacificacion de la Nacion, y á la conservacion de la tranquilidad publica en Tejas, objetos importantisimos que solo se puede esperar lograr por el restablecim^{to} complete del orden constitucional en toda la nacion, indebidamente interrumpido por la fuerza desde el año 1828.

Entiendo que se ha dicho por los enemigos de Tejas, que los colonos tienen miras contra la integridad del territorio Mejicano. Aseguro á V. S, en el modo mas solemne, que semejante especie es una calumnia: no hay tales miras. Ninguno que conoce los intereses de Tejas apoyará semejante cosa, ó consentirá en ella, aun suponiendo que no habria impedimento p^{a} verificarlo.—Todo lo que se ha dicho sobre este punto en los dos últimos años, no ha sido mas que un duende imaginario levantado por los enemigos del adelantam^{to} de Tejas.

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En la parte espositiva de la acta del Ayuntam^to^, antes citada, se han manifestado las verdaderas causas de los males que han estrechado á los habitantes de esta Colonia á pronunciarse por el plan de Vera Cruz: paso que, es probable, no hubieran tomado, á no ser por los actos imprudentes é ilegales del coronel Davis Bradburn, un Jefe del Gob^no^. Gral. Este hombre, apoyado por su Jefe superior, precipitó las cosas á su situacion actual, contrario á los deseos de los colonos, quienes hubieran quedado quietos sin tomar parte en la guerra civil. Estos habitantes son labradores, y no les conviene entrar en conmociones ni en revoluciones; y nunca lo harán, sino es que se les estreche á la desesperacion por el atropellam^to^ de sus derechos constitucionales. En tal estremo no cabe en el juicio de nadie decir que sucederia; por la razon de que en semejante lucha nado pesarian en la balanza ni intereses, ni propiedades ni vida; estas dichas dejando de serlo sin garantias para gozarlas.

Corren en ésta colonia rumores desde Nacogdoches los mas alarmantes. Se dice que V. S ha sufocado por la fuerza la libre espresion de opiniones por el Ayuntam^to^ de esa municipalidad, amenazando levantar los Indios recien venidos de los Estados Unidos del Norte, y llamar los que restan de estas tribus, de aquel pais hasta el numero de muchos millares, á fin de esterminar los inhabitantes que han pronunciado por el plan de Vera Cruz.—Yo he dicho que semejantes rumores son falsos;—no puedo creer, ni creo, que un Jefe del juicio y establecido caracter de V. S, daria semejante paso— Qual seria el resultado?—Una guerra de vida y muerte: una guerra esterminadora.—Cree V. S que los Comanches y los Tahuacanos quedarian quietos en semejante guerra, y que no se aprovecharian de la ocasion para hostilizar toda la frontera del Rio Grande, Bejar, y Goliad?—Cree V. S que los Indios del Norte serian mas faciles á gobernar, y mas útiles á dores é industriosos que han redimido este pais del desierto; ó que seria fácil satisfacer sus demandas como aliados?—Cree V. S que hombres de juico, de honor, é imparcialidad, sean del mundo Americano ó del Europeo, aprobarian la conducta de cualquiera Jefe que encendiese una guerra esterminadora y barbara contra mujeres y niños?—No; no puede V. S creerlo: ni puedo yo creer que V. S se haya ligado con los Indios p^a^, declararnos la guerra como se ha dicho.

Debemos entendernos sobre este punto y sobre todos los demas; la tranquilidad publica lo requiere; la vida de millares de habitantes lo demanda.—Los Jefes de la Administracion han precipitado esta Colonia al pronunciam^to^ que han hecho. El paso está tomado, y no podemos retroceder un apice:—sostendremos, cuanto permite nuestra situacion, dicho plan y las medidas del Estado de Zacatecas. Si por este acto hemos de ser entregados á los cuchillos de los Indios, no tendremos otro arbitrio que el de defendernos de todos modos, y

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pedir aucsilios de cualquiera y de todas partes, porque semejante guerra esterminadora e indiada no puede llamarse guerra nacional, ni guerra de gente civilizada; sino un atentado contra la humanidad que daria motivos justos p[a] apelar al mundo civilizado.

Anoche llegué del viaje que hice á la Trinidad. Hallé todo aquel pais enteramente quieto, y unanime por el plan de Santa Anna. El coronel Mexia, con la flotilla y todas las tropas de Anahuac, salió de la Isla de Galveston p[a]. Tampico el dia 3. Este Jefe despachó una Goleta á Matagorda p[a]. las tropas de la Vaca y Goliad que habian pronunciado, y entiendo que han embarcado todas— Por la adjunta copia, que es autentica, se impondrá V. S de las medidas que va á tomar el Estado de Zacatecas.— El Reg[o]. Of[l]. del 10 del pasado, anuncia, como desde Victoria la muerte del Grãl. Teran, acaecida en Padilla el 3— Una goleta llegó á Galveston desde Tampico el 3 del presente, al tiempo de salir la flotilla: trajo la noticia de la llegada del Grãl. Pedraza en Vera Cruz; y de que el Grãl. Moctezuma estaba cerca de San Luis, habiendose aumentado mucho su ejercito.— Tabasco ha pronunciado por el plan de V. C.— El buque de guerra la bella Indie se ha unido álas fuerzas de Santa Anna; y se dice otro tanto de la Veracruzana.— Le he dado á V. S. estas noticias para su gobierno, y para la mejor aclaracion de estos asuntos.— La tranquilidad de Tejas depende enteramente de V. S; y por lo mismo esperaré su contestacion con mucha ansia— Dios y Libertad: Villa de Austin: 12 de Agosto de 1832.—

Estevan F. Austin. [Rubric]

Sõr. Coronel D. José de las Piedras: Comte. de la frontera de Nacogdoches.

Militia Order

[The] Alcalde of the jurisdiction of Aus[tin] by proclamation issued on the 8th instance in my absence from this place has ordered the Mititia to rendevous [at] Bowmans on the 18th—

The future movements of a warlike character will be governed by the answer which Cap Johson may bring back from Nacogdoches, and as it may be highly important to retain the men who may collect, at some point on the frontier, until the true situation of things can be ascertained, I must request you under the authority of the Alcalde to organise the said men into one or more companies according to their numbers, and let them elect their company officers, and remain under their command untill further orders.

I have requested Col. Talbot Chambers to assist you with his military knowledge in this business—

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You will make a return to me as soon as practicable of all your proceedings

San Felipe de Austin 13 August 1832

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Col of the Battn.

To Jessee Grimes Regidor of the Ayuntamento of Austin

MILTON *et al.* TO AUSTIN

Tenosticland August 13th 1832

GENTL

Your fellow Sitizens of the upper Colony have to inform you of the death of our valued friend and fellow Sitizen Mr H Read—who was found on Friday morning last—he was killed on thursday Evening on his way from this place to his Father within one mile of the latter place This foul deed was commited by the Indians—the point of several arrows have been extracted from his body circumstances and facts which have since been discovered Leave but Little doubt of its having been done by the Ketchie tribe who have their Town about fifty miles distant from this place— Your fellow Sitizens feel it a duty which they ow to themselves as well as a duty to a departed friend to avenge this outrage on humanity We feel that we have not a sufficient force to go and attact their Town and drive them from our borders and respectfully Solisit the aid of our fellow Sitizens of the Lower Colony to enable us to carry into effect this Mutch desired object we can start from fifteen to twenty men we are well informed the Ketchies have about seventy five fiting men we request you will Send to our aid sutch number of men as you may think necessary to effect our object We regret to say that the military force Stationed here has taken but Little interest in the matter and we fear nothing is to be expected from them Your early attention and complyance will be recd as a Spec-favour

EBEL MILTON.
RADFORD BERRY.
F. SMITH.
WM. H. SMITH.
JOHN TEAL.
THOMAS ———
[illegible]

Cols Cole and Austin

WILLIAM BARTON TO AUSTIN

August 14, 1832.

See Calendar.

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Austin in Account with Perry & Hunter

Col. S. F. Austin

In a/c with Perry and Hunter Dr.

1832			
Mar	2	To Ballance due as pr. a rendered	1308. 14
"	3	" 1 Round Jacket, 5.00 1 pr. shoes 3.00 pr. Order Bill rendered	8. 00
"	4	" 1 Butcher Knife	. 63
"	"	" 1 lb Best Powder	1. 00
"	"	" Spoons	. 40
		" 2 Bottles of Brandy @ 75c	1. 50
		" 1 Bairskin Of Veeder	1. 50
		5 Havanna Sugar	1. 00
		1 Coffee Boiler	1. 00
		1 Blanket for Simon	5. 00
		4 Yds domestic @ 25c	1. 00
		1 Large Trunk	4. 50
	7	1 pr. Kip Monroe shoes	3. 00
		2 lb. Shot @ 18¾	. 38
		1 pr. Cordovan Boots	8. 00
		3 pr. New Shoes and setting on Horses	4. 50
		Making Key for Locks	1. 00
Apr.	9	Amt E. Hawkins Order On you favor I C Payton Excepted	19. 50
		18 Bottles Porter purchased of L L Veeder for You	4. 50
May	31	Amt S M Williams order favr Hosea Russaw's Estate	27. 03
		Amt. Geo. W Scotts Account	21. 50
Augt.	13	Amt Your Order favr Jno. Cummings	24. 25
		Amt. Geo Tennels Order on you	501. 10
		Cash Loaned Decluc as pr Rect delivd. S. M. Williams 59.00 Less for amt chd. on J. F. P. Books 6.00	53. 00
		Amt Whitesides Order favr Butler	6. 65
		Amt. Jno. P. Coles Note	205. 42
		Amt. pd On Your Order Excepted favr Wm. Williamson	36. 55
		Amt. Jno. W Coles ord favr. Jones	111. 00
		Amt Do Do On You	106. 00
		Amt Your Order favr Jno. Brown	90. 50
		Amt Bartletts Order On You	117. 42
		Amt Jas. Whitesides order On You favr. W W Hunter 26 Decr	40. 00
		Amt Solomon Browns Note Delivd. S M Williams	16. 32
Account		Expence on Store House	298. 99
		Amt paid Nathl. Townsend On your Acceptance as pr Receipt on Same	135. 67
Jany.	11	Amt Jas. Whitesides Order on you favr Wm. W Hunter	35. 14
			$3201. 09
Jany	11	To Bal Due from above	$1654. 09

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	CONTRA	Cr.
1832		
	By Amts. Collected from Notes left in Our Hands	
	Recd. of J. K. Looney	25. 00
	" " Edw. Burleson	40. 00
	C. B. Stewart	40. 00
	John Landrum	40. 00
	Robt. Brotherton	40. 00
	William Cooper	40. 00
	Grasmier	80. 00
	Josiah Lester *cattle*	30. 00
	M. Sandifer *cattle*	80. 00
	William Clapp	15. 00
	Jno. Cummings	155. 05
	Adam Lawrence	40. 00
	Edw. Baty	40. 00
	Youngs Coleman	65. 00
	Barrett and Harris	30. 00
	Samuel Phar	40. 00
	Sutherland	65. 75
	Charles Fortran	40. 00
	Isaac Jackson	10. 00
	Caleb Wallis	20. 00
	Elisha Roberts	320. 00
	Charles Donaho	21. 00
	Elisha Barton	40. 00
	Benj. Barton	50. 00
	Wm. Barton	50. 00
	M. M. Battle	8. 25
	Mrs. S Gilbert	11. 94
	Saml. McKerley calve	40. 00
	Schuer Cow	10. 00
	James Moore	50. 00
	By Amt Your fee on Thos. Hills Land	10. 00
	By Amt to Bal. Caried Down	1654. 09
		$3201. 09

AUSTIN TO RAMON MUSQUIZ [1]

Stephen F. Austin To
The Political Chief of Bexar.

The resolutions of the Ayuntamiento of this Municipality passed on the 26th and 27th ult° have already acquainted your Lordship with the formal and unanimous adhesion of this Colony, to the "Pronunciamunto" of Vera Cruz, and the true and only motives of the movements against the ports of Anahuac and Velasco.

That the Government may know circumstantially the cause of my journey from Matamoras to Texas, when I was about to proceed to Saltillo, to take my seat in the Legislature of the State, I accompany

[1] Translation in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

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to your Lordship copies of my correspondence with Colonels Don Mariano Guerra, principal Commander of Matamoras, and Don José Antonio Mexia, 2nd in command of the Division of the Liberating Army, by which your Lordship will perceive that I returned to Texas, in compliance with the invitation and instances of these officers.

Peace having been entirely restored in this Colony I was preparing to take my departure for Saltillo on the 14th inst, but I received from the Alcalde of this Municipality the annexed copy of a communication he had received from the Alcalde of Nacogdoches, informing him that Colonel Piedras, threatened to gather up the Indians against the inhabitants; thus kindling a war of extermination. Under such circumstances, and considering, that the security and peace of the people, is the first duty of the Government, its officers, or public agents, I felt under the necessity of postponing my journey, and directing my attention to the organization of the civil militia under my command, as Colonel of the Battalion of Bexar, in order to be enabled to contribute to common defence, at the same time that I tried to open a correspondence with Colonel Piedras. For this purpose, I sent to him by an express, a communication, a copy of which, goes herein enclosed. The express returned, after having met on the road a courier from Nacogdoches, bearing the news of Piedras defeat, and of the complete restoration of peace, and constitutional order, in the State of Coahuila and Texas. That Courier gave us positive information, that the inhabitants of Nacogdoches, called by the Ayuntamiento, and led by the Alcalde, Don Encarnacion Chirino, pronounced themselves in favor of the plan of Vera Cruz, and on the 2nd inst: attacked and completely routed, Colonel Piedras, after a hot contest of 7 hours, in which the Alcalde was killed. Col: Piedras' troops withdrew, during the night, to the Angelina, and there pronounced themselves in favor of the plan of Santa Anna, and arrested their Colonel.

These occurrences have so delayed my departure, that it would be impossible for me to arrive in time for the opening of the session, on the 1st of September and therefore I beg that your Lordship will be pleased to inform His Excellency the Governor of the State, of all these incidents, and to transmit the same to the Honorable Congress hoping that my attendance to the session of September will not be required. My position is rather delicate: however, none of our actual difficulties can be charged upon me; it was the unconstitutional and imprudent proceedings of some military men, and not, by any means, the wishes of the Colonists that hurried the affairs to their present state: Just as may be the motives that dictated the steps made by this people, or the principles and objects of the "Pronunciamiento" of Vera Cruz, to which they have adhered, I

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am well aware, that the enemies of Texas and her prosperity, will attribute to them, intentions against the integrity of the Mexican Territory. This allegation has been necessary and very useful indeed, to deceive the Mexicans, and justify certain measures taken by the General Government in Texas, since the year 1830. There has never been, and there is no foundation in truth for such an allegation, nor is there any foundation to be found in reason or the nature of conditions, for it neither is nor can be the interest of Texas to secede from Mexico, even if there were no obstacles to this course. I can assure to your Lordship, that if the ties that unite Texas to the Federacy, are ever broken asunder, the stroke shall come from the Government itself, and not from the people of Texas. These inhabitants have with their toil and labor redeemed the Country from a state of wilderness, without one dollar of expense to the Nation, and they expect in return to be governed agreeably to the spirit of the Constitution and Federal system and in a manner adequate to the necessities of the Country, and their own interest. The object of the republican institutions adopted by Mexico, is to secure the happiness and prosperity of the people, and to provide for common defense. Can this object be obtained in Texas, by following the restrictive system adopted since the year 1830? Is it possible to provide for common defense, by weakening the whole northern frontier, with obstacles opposed to immigration, thus leaving it exposed to the incursions of the Indians, instead of promoting an increase of civilized population so as to inhance the physical strength and resources of the Nation?

Man seeks hapiness in the improvement of his condition—this is a natural and invariable law—a law that will bind Texas to Mexico with stronger ties, than the force of large armies. With a due regard to this law, and the true spirit of the system of government that rules the Nation, no one would harbor in his bosom, a suspicion that Texas will ever attempt to secede: Let on the contrary measures be taken for an increase of its population, so as to qualify it to be admitted as one of the Statets of the Mexican Union, and this step will be as favorable to Coahuila, as to the whole Nation, because the whole northern frontier of the Republic would be protected and the effective strength of the Nation considerably increased. I believe that these people will not recede from their "pronunciamiento", now that they have made that step under the dictate of reason and principle: They are firmly convinced that the Constitution and the most sacred rights of the people have been violated since the citizen who, in the election of September 1828, obtained a constitutional majority of the votes for the Presidency, was forcibly expelled from the chair and country: They understood that the present effort is to do, in good faith what was promised, by the

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plan of Jalapa, and was not done:—to restore public affairs on their constitutional basis, without distinction of persons, parties, or names. My first duty is to preserve as far as I am able, public security and peace and to watch over the observation of the Constitution and Laws: in these terms, I trust that my conduct shall meet the approbation of the Superior Authority. I avail myself of this occasion, to offer to your Lordship the assurance of my consideration and respect.

God and Liberty—Town of Austin August 15th 1832.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

P. S. I have just been apprised that the Tahaucanos, or Keechai Indians, have killed a man named M. R. Read on the frontier of this Colony, near the Bexar road on the Brazos.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

FRANCISCO RUIZ TO AUSTIN

Tenoxtitlan Agosto 15. de 1832.

Sor. Dn. ESTEVAN AUSTIN.

MI ESTIMADISIMO AMIGO: Con singular aprecio tengo ala vista la favorecida de V. fha. 13. del corriente y enterado de todo su contenido tengo el gusto de contestarle diciendo qe. segn entiendo cuando V. la escribio aun le llegaba la noticia delo ocurrido en Nacogdoches pero pa esta ya supongo sabra qe. todo terminó aunque no faltaron sus desgracias emanadas dela imprudencia ó el capricho de un solo hombre, no tomaron partido los Yndos pr. ninguna delas partes litigantes, yo aunque mui distante tuve la previcion de aconsejar á algunos Yndos de diferentes tribus qe. vinieron á preguntarme lo qe. harian de no meterse en nada con los Blancos y al efecto hize qe. marchasen algs y diesen la noticia pr. todos sus pueblos, lo mismo hize con algs vecinos de Nacogdoches aconsejando á estos qe. obrasen con prudencia qe. no se comprometiesen pr. caprichos ó personalidades de algn hombre, en fin todo pasó y vamos á otra cosa—

Ayer Recibí una comunicacion demi sobrino politico el Sor-Bowie qn viene de Nacogdoches con el 12mo. Batn permante; y algnas caballeria, todo pronunciado pa el Plan de Santana y con direccion á Bejar, dentro de pocos dias llegará á esa y dira aV. todo lo ocurrido, hoi mismo le he contestado poniendome de acuerdo con el pa aunque ya me estaba marchando pa. Bejar suspendo mi salido hasta recibir nueva comunicacion pa en lo qe. yo le he contestado le digo qe. me parece mejor dar tiempo a mi llegada en Bejar donde con mi presencia é influjo calmaran todas las inquietudes y quisa se uniformaran las opiniones. Lomismo digo áV. mi querido amigo, fuera temores ú miedos sobre Bejar, V. me conoce y save qe. no hablo mucho, amo

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á mi patria y deseo su tranquilidad; mucho he sufrido en ella y mas sufrire hasta el morir, con gusto, pr. el bien de mis semejantes y en particular los comprendidos en mi Patria suelo fundado en la razon y la Justicia, ahora de nuevo, y con placer, tengo la satisfaccion de asegurar aV. qe. mis travajos ó pr. mejor decir cuanto de mi dependa hare pr. concervar el orden la union y tranquilidad Publica y mucho mas con la noticia qe. V. me dá del Sor. Pedraza á qn tengo pr. Precidte dela Republica Mejicana electo Constitucionalmte y pr. qn ahora nuevamte segn noticias qe. he recibido de un amo fidedigno, el Estado de Zacatecas ha puesto 6000. hombres sobre las armas pronunciados pr. Santana pero con la precisa condicion de qe. el Sor. Pedraza deve ocupar la cilla Presidencial aunque sea pr. un dia, con tan inesperado accdte repito áV. qe. no hai qe. temer pr. Bejar; me parece puedo asegurarlo sin temor de equivocarme, yo hasta ahora no me he pronunciado aqui solemnemte pr. el plan de Santana pero no ha sido pr. razon de desafecto ala Constitucion y leyes y solo és pr. qe. he pensado mui despacio qe. en hacerlo yo se me priva pr. su propia virtud la entrada en Bejar donde como he dicho mi presencia hará mas qe. pronunciada esta insignificante guarnicion, esta es la causa y no otra pa consequente alo qe. ofreci áV. en mi anterior nunca faltaré y en prueva de ello si áV. le parece qe. es mas ventajoso mi pronunciamto aqui espero melo diga y al momto lo hare como se requiere pero creo y reitero en qe. es mejor del modo qe. pienso hacer con el cual se ahorrará mucho y soi de sentir qe. no tendra V. qe. incomodar muchos Colonos pa obligar con la fuerza qe. al fin seria sencible.

Por todo lo expuesto espero qe. en primera ocasion me de su opinion pa en todo, como Mejicano, como Patriota, y como amigo, quiero obrar de acuerdo con V. como tambien pr. qe. en carta qe. recibi del Sor. Mejia haci melo encarga y pide, parece qe. con lo dicho es bastante y solo me resta hablar cuanto al encargo de Espadas sobre las cuales diré con mi natural franquesa y como V. me pide, tengo las 50. Espadas ó pr. mejor decir las tiene el habilita dela Compa del Alamo, qe. es ami interino cargo, áV. no sele oculta lo qe. son intereses de Compa qe. el Comte de ella no puede disponer delo qe. pertenece al soldo y pr. lo mismo no está en mi mano el facilitarlas á nadie sin obrar con advitrariedad y quedar en descuvierto, sin embargo si V. las necesita urgentemte me echare la responsabilidad encima y mande pr. ellas conla condicion de qe. V. en lo particular se hace responsable á volverlas, en Bejar, segn las reciba ó en el mismo estado y de nó su valor, qe. me parece algo suvido, qe. son diez pa dos rrs. dos granos cada una á cuyo precio las recibe el soldado, pr. ultimo, ya qe. V. me ha obligado á hablarle con tanta franquesa, espero su resolucion lo mismo qe. lo relativo asu opinion en el concepto qe. mi marcha sera en la semana proxma venidera y antes de

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ella, el Domingo, mandaré un correo pª esa con el qe. puede mandarme su resolucion y entre tanto cuente V. con su intimo é ymbariable amº qe. le ama y decea verlo.

FRANCº RUIZ [Rubric]

P. D. recerve V. el objeto de mi anciosa llegada á Bejar pa. qe. no malogre mi proyecto

V.

Mis saludª mui expresivª antro. amº Dn. Samuel

HORATIO CHRIESMAN TO AUSTIN

I have just been favored with your official note of this day transmitting to me a copy of Mr. James Bowie's letter to you from the Angelina

The municipality at this time is entirely destitute of any public funds whereby aid might be promptly furnished to the troops of the 12th Batallon that formerly garisoned Nacogdoches— Nevertheless on account of the great importance that succor should be promptly furnished them as also in compliance with my duty— I have appointed a Commissioner to proceed to Mr. Roman's Comisario of the precinct of Viesca and in conjunction with that officer to afford every aid that may be practicable, and which I hope may be sufficient to meet their present wants.

God and Liberty Austin [August?] 16 1832

HORATIO CHRIESMAN

[Addressed:] To Col Stephen Austin Commander of the Militia of Austin

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RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Gefatura del Departamento de Bejar

Por el ultimo correo con fha. 14 del actual diriji al Exmo Sor. Gobºr del Estado la communicacion que ala letra sigue.

EXMO. SOR.—En la entre vista que tube con el Ciudno Diputado Estevan Austin a su transito por la villa de Goliad le entregue las instruciones que tube pr. conveniente formar con el fin deque me informara el numero de familias estrangeras que existen dispersas enlos valdios de este Departamento sin pertenecer a empresa alguna por haberse suspendido aquellas a qe. vinieron destinadas, del que existe en el punto de atascosito y en los distritos de Aises, Sabinas y Tanaja a mas delas agraciadas pr el supremo Gobno dela Union pª permanecer enlos terrenos que ocupavan persuadido deque tanto pr.

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estar establecido mas inmediato atodos los puntos habitados enla forma que queda indicada como pr los conocimientos que tiene de ellos y delas gentes quelos ocupan podra dar una noticia exacta y circumstanciada cual se requiere p^{a} disponer se reduscan al terreno demarcado pr. la colonia del Empresario Gren Dewitt como propuso a VE. el comicionado Ciud^{no} Jose Antonio Navarro, con cuya opinion se hayan de conformidad el Exmo. Sor. Comand^{te} Gral de estos Estados como lo manifiesta en su nota oficial de 27 de Junio anterior que VE. se sirvio incertarme en oficio de 14 de Julio popo a que atentam^{te} contesto—

Para proceder con mayor asierto en un asunto tan interesante reiterare al mismo Ciud^{no} Diputado Estevan Austin y al Comicionado Ciud^{no} Jose Antonio Navarro al primero p^{a} q evaque el informe que ya le tengo pedido haciendo referencia en el del numero de familias que halla establecidas en el distrito de puente pacana, y de que el segundo como autor dela propocicion esplane sobre su contenido el informe conveniente p^{a} con presencia de ellos proceder en el asunto; no obstante que desde áhora preveo las dificultades que deben impedir su ejecucion y son la primera que habiendo fenecido ya el tiempo dela contrata del Empresario Gren Dewitt, y declarado se valdios los terrenos que quedaron bacantes parece que hay una nesesidad de aclarar bajo que aspecto o con que caracter deben ocuparlos ahora estos individuos con perjuicios del derecho que hasiste álos Mejicanos de la colonia del Ciud^{no} Martin de Leon á quien se le habia consedido parte de la demarcacion dela Dewitt sobre lo que se ha reservado hacer sus reclamos p^{a} q. sele rebalide, tan luego como se concluya pr el comicionado el repartimiento de tierras, y segundo que en los puntos donde aquellos individuos tienen fijados sus establecimientos han fabricados casas, habierto labores, hecho otras mejoras y que en ellos viven libres delas incurciones delos varvaros. En tal concepto parece que en caso de moverlos de ellos hay nesecidad de indemnisarles los costos que tienen impendidos y asegurarles sus personas y propiedades como pr. la ley seles ha ofrecido, sobre cuyos delicados puntos espero que VE. tendrá la vondad de fijar su alta consideracion y comunicarme la resolucion que estimare justa"

Y lo transcrivo aVS. afin de q. ensu consecuencia se ocupe como selo suplico de evacuar y remitirme el informe circunstanciado que sobre este punto le pedi asu transito pr la Villa de Goliad p^{a} dar cumplim^{to} alo resuelto pr. la superioridad.

Dios y libertad Bejar 17. de Agosto de 1831.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

Ciud^{no} Diputado
Estevan Austin

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FRANCISCO RUIZ TO AUSTIN

Tenoxtitlan Ag^to^ 18. de 1832.

Sor. Dn. ESSTEVAN AUSTIN.

MI SIEMPRE ESTIMADO AMIGO. Aunque enmi ultima dije áV. qe. el Domingo mandaria un correo p^a^ esa: atendiendo alas muchas lluvias y pesado del camino me ha parecido mejor hacerlo salir hoi mismo sin otro objeto qe. cumplir con mandarlo segun ofrecí á V. p^a^ si tuviese algo qe. decirme ó disponer hantes de mi marcha qe. pienso será el Jueves ó viernes dela semana qe. entra D. med^te^—Como es de esperar—se qe. no venga correspond^a^ de Bejar le suplico diga á ntro. am^o^ Dn. Samuel no me detenga al correo p^a^ es lo qe. me interesa ó pr. mejor decir me detiene p^a^ la salida.

Ayer llegó á este punto un Yndio chactó en junta de un Cadós á ocasion qe. Juan Williams, el famoso vevedor, llegó tambien montado acaballo y con pistola enla cinta corria á todas partes y al fin quisó matar de un pistoletaso al pasifico chatcó qe. tuvo qe. escaparse corriendo y se fué no se p^a^ donde, con tal occurrencia alg^a^ americanos me pidieron la aprencion de Williams yo les permití lo hicieran ellos sin mesclarme en nada pr. qe. aunque quiciera no tengo ning^na^ tropa disponible, ellos lo llevan p^a^ esa, D^s^ les allude, V. lo conoce muy bien, yo siento tales acontecimtos. pero no puedo remediarlos, paciencia.

Sea V. feliz y dando mis saludes a ntro. am^o^ Don Samuel y personas de su cariño.

FRANC^o^ RUIZ [Rubric]

JOHN P. COLES TO AUSTIN

18 August 1832

DEAR SIR

It appears that the Inhabitants above here are all in confusion and I am vary much afraid unless some Incouragement is given to them they will not Remain. The affair of the Indians killing Reed has alarmed them vary much, and Ruis will Leave the garreson in five days as I am informed and unless there is something done I hear the Setlers above there will all Leave about that time and in this being the Case we should become a Frontier— Smith is coming over and perhaps you could Recommend some plan to them to prevent there Breaking up If you can satisfy them and Keep them there I should be vary glad

John Williams and his party appears to be Troublesome to the Inhabitants above and they Look upon him to be a vary dangerous man. I vary much fear that Williams is a vary Bad and Troublesome man and particularly at this time he is now sent down a prisoner you will be able to Learn from the documents all about

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this for I have not Enquired into the particulars If you can doo anything to satisfy the people above there It wood be a vary good thing to Keep them from Breaking up your sincerly etc

J P COLES [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col. S. F. Austin Town of Austin

MORGAN AND REED TO AUSTIN

Col. S. F. AUSTIN,

Harrisburg 19th. Augt. 1832

SIR, We have been favor'd with yours of the 17th. offering to charter the schooner Exert to transport the troops of Nacogdoches to Tampico. A voyage of the kind you have suggested will so materially interfere with our previous arrangements that we cannot consent to let our vessel perform it. The Exert is under contract to take a load of lumber from Galveston Island to Brazoria—She is now ready (having lately undergone a thorough repair) and will sail tomorrow—We calculate on her arriving at Braz. by, or before, the 1st. Sept. There is no doubt of your obtaining the Martha—. We are not prepared to say whether provissions and a sufficient number of water casks are to be had for such a voyage. We have some provissions on hand and believe there are more at Anahuac.

MORGAN and REED—

AUSTIN TO COLONEL ELOSUA

Por las actas del Ay^to^ y demas correspondencia de esta villa dirigidas al Sor Gefe del Departam^to^ qe es regular habra manifestado a V. S. dicho Gefe se habra impuesto V. S. del pronunciam^to^ unanime de esta Municipalidad por el plan de vera Cruz. Habra advertido que este paso resulto del abuso del poder de parte del Coronel Davis Bradburn, y de las usurpaciones contra la constitucion y autoridad del Estado de Coahuila y Texas

Ygualm^te^ se habra informado por la correspondencia del Ayuntam^to^ y Alcalde de Nacogdoches que el pueblo de aqella Municipalidad se pronunciaron el dia 2 del presente, qe. atacaron al Coronel Piedras quien se retiro hasta Angelina donde la oficialidad y tropa del 12° Batallon se pronunciaron

La situacion de Texas es sumam^te^ delicada, é importa conservar la tranquilidad publica de todos modos—Donde hay uniformidad de opiniones, no puede haber alteraciones por falta de motivo ó

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pretestos—Todo Texas se ha pronunciado con ecsepcion de esa capital

Seria por demas usar de argumentos de uno parte á de otra en favor ó en contra de la justicia del pronunciam^to de vera Cruz, ó para demostrar ó negar que la constitucion fue violada por la revolucion de 1828 y 1829 y que el objeto que tiene la presente guerra civil es legitimar al Gob^no y establecer el principio que la constitucion, y sola ella, ha de reinar, sin respetar las personas, los partidos, ó los nombres. Me parece que en las circunstancias actuales de Texas no son estos los puntos de mas trascendencia para nuestra consideracion, La tranquilidad publica ocupa el primer lugar en esta cuestion, mirada meram^te con respecto á Texas, porque muy poco puede influir el pueblo ó las guarniciones de Texas en la decision de tamaña materia

Texas unido y en harmonia, esta, espuesto á un peligro que le amenaza con ruina, la entrada, y la guerra de los indios ¿que seria de él si estuviera dividido por dos partidos beligerantes y en confusion? Otra cosa, no es desconocido de V. S. que el Gob^o local de Texas, particularm^te en el ramo judicial, es en sumo grado defectuoso—enfin que hay partes del pais donde apenas ha habido ó hay organizacion—En tal estado de cosas ¿no seria hacer peligrar la seguridad de todos, dar motivos para divisiones y convulsiones intestinas?

Es bien sabido por todos aqui que mi consejo a estos habitantes fué de no tomar parte de ninguna manera en la presente guerra civil—Este consejo se hubiera seguido estrecham^te á no ser por los pasos impoliticos y arbitrarios del coronel Davis Bradburn porque era conforme con los deseos de los mismos habitantes—Este hombre encendio la mecha de la discordia, y ecsalto las pasiones al punto de la desesperacion. A mi llegada en esta el mes pasado encontré la opinion publica en tal estado que era muy evidente que la tranquilidad peligraba—si es que me es escusado sugerir á un Sor de la esperiencia de V. S. los perjuicios que hubiera sufrido el pais por un choque de personalidades y pasiones ecsaltadas. Los resultados de semejantes cosas son spre los mismos en todos paises y en todo pueblo con poca diferencia. La base que yo adopte en esas circunstancias fué, conservar la tranquilidad y restablecer la harmonia No es dificil imaginar que la presencia del Sor Coronel Mexia tenia un influjo desisivo sobre la opinion publica, ya irritada por los antecedentes, y se uniformo esta por el plan de vera Cruz restableciendose asi la harmonia, y asegurandose la tranquilidad. Poco peso puede tener la uniformidad de opiniones en esta Municipalidad p^a la terminacion de la guerra civil, pero si, importaba mucho á la tranquilidad del pais, y para calmar las irritaciones—Esta misma razon se puede aplicar tambien á Bejar. Importa a la tranquilidad de

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Texas, y tal vez á su salvacion de los indios, que no haya divisiones ni discuciones ningunas entre sus habitantes—¿Pero como es posible que no las haya de haber si Bexar queda separada de todo lo restante del pais en la presente cuestion? Opino pues que conviene al interes comun de Tejas y de la nacion que se conserve la tranquilidad de este departam^{to}; y que el unico modo de hacer esto es por el pronunciam^{to} de esa capital, y en tal concepto le ruego á V. S. no dilatar en pronunciarse por el plan de vera Cruz, generalizando asi con la opinion en Tejas, y quitando todo pretesto p^{a} discusiones ó embarazos en la administracion del Gob^{o} en todos sus ramos,—

Suplico que se sirva V. S. contestarme con la brevedad posible, para poder tranquilizar ál publico, inquietado por toda clase de rumores—

Me aprovecho de la ocasion de presentar a V. S. las seguridades de mi respecto y consideracion

Dios y Libertad villa de Austin 21 de Agosto 1832

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Com^{te} Pral de Texas Coronel D. Antonio Elosua en Bexar—

GAVINO ARANGO TO AUSTIN

San Felipe, August 21, 1832,

See Calendar.

WILLIAM BERRY TO AUSTIN

Milford, August 22, 1832.

See Calendar.

FRANCIS SMITH TO AUSTIN

Tenoxtitlan Aug. 22nd 1832.

SIR.

All the Spanish inhabitants left here this morning for Bexar. I met Col Ruiz two miles from this place quite sick, he requested me to write to you about his situation, of being sick and not having help enough to move on conveniently. that it was out of his power to go to Bexar in haste as you requested. Three days since a small party of indians came here brought the horse saddle and bridle that was taken from H Reed when he was murdered they saw Reeds hat and pantaloons they had a severe battle with the murderers and killed five. they brought in the scalps of two. they say there is so much indian sign above that they are afraid to hunt. The

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people here wish you to appoint a man to act as civil officer for the present. untill things can be better regulated. herewith I send you the names of the men here. and account of election.

FRANCIS SMITH [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col Stephen F. Austin San Felipe

THOMAS G. WESTERN AND OTHERS TO AUSTIN

Golird, August 24, 1832.

See Calendar.

JOHN P COLES TO AUSTIN

24 August 1832

DEAR SIR

I Recd. Inteligence to day that the party of Indians that killed Reed has been defeated there were 8 off them they were Wacos a Hunting party on Little River Consisting of 2 Mexicans 2 Delewas Indians 2 Caddoes and 2 anadarkas were the party that defeated them Killed 5 Brot in the Scalps of 2 and says the other three were killed in Little River and Sunk they Brot in Reeds Horse and saddle and deliverd to Reeds Farther the people above has appointed Company officers the appointment has not been as good as might have been But to place them in a Still Better situation appoint Some civil officer among them this is what the thinking Class of men among them think Best. they are willing to be governed by any thing that you say and It is vary Import^{t} to keep them together up there I think that Frances Smith wood make the Best civil officer Because he is more Interested and wood doo more to sustane the place and to keep order a Line from you saying that Smith shall be the Civill officer among them wood be all Sufficient If you doo not think proper Let the Ayut^{o} doo it. But an order from you wood be all sufficient and wood be more Respected than anything the Auyto cood doo

10 men starts from here this evening to join the people up there and to Remain with them untill other arrangements can be made or untill the appearance of Danger subsides It is all Important to sustain them people above for If they Break up the whole country above the Yeawa, and perhaps above the Navasott wood be abandoned

J P COLES [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col S F Austin

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J M Lopez to Joseph Urban

Brazos, August 24, 1832.

See Calendar.

Thomas G. Western and Others to Austin

Goliad August 25—1832

Sir

In addition to our representation under yesterdays date handed to you here with, we have further to lay before you the following facts,—

The Military commandant of this post continues obstinately to oppose the Plan of Genl. S^{ta} Anna, after the receipt of the pronouncement of your Ayuntamiento (by the Authorities here) he was called upon by them to attend a meeting of their Corporate body to deliberate upon the reply to be made, he refused, alledging that himself and his officers would continue to adhere to the actual Govmt. of S^{r} Bustam^{te} untill compelled by force of arms to act otherwise.—

After closing last evening our respects before alluded to, the mail arrived from your quarter— it brought dispatches to the Commandant and this morning he waited upon the Alcalde, shewing him a confidential letter he had received, stating that Mr. Bowie was now on his march to Bejar, with troops,—that a force had been prepared with you to come to this place, but that it had not come hither in consequence of your having been informed that this place had already pronounced in favor of the Constitution and Laws—He demanded of the Alcalde his aid, of the Civicos etc. in case this force should come, the Alcalde told him not to expect from him any aid whatever, that neither he nor the Citizens would oppose the forces of Santa Anna, and that should they come, he might get within his own walls and make what defense he could with his troops—he then said he would communicate with him on the Subject and make his demand officially—to which the Alcalde replied, that he should make him the same answer in writing, that he then did verbally—finally the Commdt. manifested, that should he find no assistance here, he would proceed with his troops to Bejar, and join those of his own party there,—these are the last occurences transpired here up to this hour 4 P. M.—

J. Antonio Vasquez [Rubric]
Secrtio. de Ayunto.
Thomas, G, Western [Rubric]
Jno. Hallet [Rubric]
J W. H. Living [Rubric]

To Col. S. F. Austin San Felipe

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SAMUEL STAMPS TO AUSTIN

Monticello, Miss., August 28, 1832.

See Calendar.

FROST THORN TO AUSTIN

Nacogdoches 28 August 1832.

DEAR SIR.

Your letter of 12th. inst. was yesterday handed to me, it affords me as well as my friends pleasure to see that y^r^ views so completely agree with the course adopted in the late difficulty with Co^l^ Piedras

Perhaps a greater Interest never was taken to accomidate matters than was taken in this case, day after day and time after time, the citizens of this village called on him for that object. I myself urged the case so strongly and so repeatedly that I was fearfull he would arrest me if I persisted.—and as a stronger argument I showed him a letter I had received from Mr. S. M. Wms noting the arrivel of yourself and Coln. Mehir and that 1000 colonists would assist Coln. M. if needed etc. etc.—his replies I will not pretend to state to you, but they were all full of fight, and If in Justification to the cause, and to counteract any false representation that might be made, you should wish to be made acquainted with the efforts the Citisens used to prevent the effusion of Blood, a Note from you to the Alcalde of this district to take evidence, will be immediately attended to—and It will appear that there was the utmost courtesy on the one side and the most determined obstinacy on the other.—Coln. P. complains of the unceremonious note of Coln Bullock to him

It merely stated that at a meeting of the officers under his command, it was resolved to support the constitution and the plan of San Anna. demanding of him to surrender to some officer friendly to that cause he (Bullock) reserving to himself the priviledge of apptg. that officer and that Piedras should surrender as a prissoner of War. pled[g]ing to him Protection. Suitable attent^a^ etc. etc. Allowing him 4 Hours for an ans. the note was answered and you are acquainted with the result.

The Indians doubtless were employed as auxeliaries and it required much explanation to counteract his influence over the cherikees. but I am induced to believe that these feelings at this time are entirely changed. and that we have but little to fear from them.

However I shall proceed tomorrow in company with Juan Durst to see Bowls when so much of y^r^ letters to us, will be explained to them, as relates to them. This course we deem important, as a party of Americans are now assembling to attack the Kechise (in conse-

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quence of a murder it is supposed they committed on an american near Tenoxtitlan) In order to explain to Bowls that the Hostility (if the party proceeds) is only against that party of Indians and to entirely neutralise the cherekes etc. etc.

Coln Bullock is taking an Inventory of the public property a copy of which will be forwarded to you. The country is now in a state of perfect tranquility—

F. THORN [Rubric]

Coln S. F. Austin.

J. A. G. TO AUSTIN [1]

He recivido su comunicacion oficial de V. S. de 15 del actual, juntam^te^ con los docum^tos^ q^e^ me acompaña, todos relativos á los recientes movim^tos^ q. han tenido lugar en esa Colonia, y en la frontera de Nacogdoches—Asi como q. estas mismas causas, no le han permitido á V. S. pasar á la Ciudad de Leona Vicario á las proccimas sesiones de Set^e^.

Por la premura del tpo. no pude mas q. extractar á S. E. el Gov^or^ del Estado por el correo de ayer, aquella parte de su oficio q. habla de la imposibilidad en q. se halla de concurrir á las sesiones del H. C. p^a^ q. S. E. lo comunique á Su Honorabilidad, como V. S. pide; pero, tendré muy presente elevar á la Superioridad el citado oficio de V. S. á q. me refiero, y todos los docum^tos^ q. se ha servido acompañarme p^a^ el Sup^or^ conosim^to^ de S. E. y en obsequio á la suplica de V. S. siendo como son, docum^tos^ de bastante importancia.

He visto con agrado q. la venida de V. S. con el Sor. Mejia de Matamoros fué solicitada por este Sor. y el Sor. Cor^l^. D. Mariano Guerra, y no fué resolucion tomada, por V. S. espontaneam^te^. para imbertir el horden en su Colonia á favor del plan proclamado en Veracruz.

Esta Gefatura ha tenido siempre la satisfaccion de llevar una perfecta harmonia con V. S. y los habitantes de su Colonia; y como q. siempre se ha entendido, q. á los habitantes de Tejas no les conviene mesclarse en revoluciones, ni en guerras fratecidias me era sumamente sensible el ver á V. S. á quien siempre he considerado como un amante de ntra. Patria, de su perfecta felicidad y de la paz entre los hombres, (que se deven apreciar primero que todo) volverse un guerrero p^a^ derramar la sangre Mejicana maxime quando no estaba impuesto de lus verdaderas causas q. movian á V. S. á dar los pasos q. ha dado, no es estraño el sentim^to^ q. me havian originado—Pero, tengo la satisfaccion de manifestarle q. la correspondencia de V. S. con los Sres. Guerra y Mejia los han debanecido completamente toda clase de defaborables congeturas.

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[1] Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

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No puede dudarse q. la politica de algunos pasos dados por la admⁿ del Govⁿᵒ actual respecto al ramo de Colonizacion, no ha sido ni francos ni liberal. Tampoco se pueden negar los abusos cometidos por los militares en Tejas desde el año de 1830, q. no se havian podido remediar, extendiendose hta. el completo desprecio y ultraje del Supᵐᵒ Govⁿᵒ del Estado. Los deseos de todo hombre libre son los de ver remediados estos males, y ver á la Patria en paz, prosperidad y adelantamᵗᵒ no interrumpido. El corazon se acongoja al ver la pintura q. representa la republica en el dia! ¿Dios querra q. la presente revolucion sea nada mas q. un presagio de la "regeneracion politica de la Republica," dejandola en el estado en q. la desea todo verdadero patriota—!

Retribuyo á V. S. mi concideracion y distinguido aprecio.—Dios etc.—Bejar, 28 de Agosto de 1832—J. A. G.

[José Antonio Garza] (?)

[Addressed:]—Sor D. E. F. Austin, Corˡ del Batallon de Civicos de Austin.

William Hardin to Austin

August 29, 1832.

See Calendar.

Antonio Elosua to Austin

Comandancia Principal de Coahuila y Tejas

Enterado del contenido del oficio de V. S. de 21. del corriente mes, tengo la satisfaccion de contestarle: que en consequencia de orden del Sr. Comᵗᵉ Gral. de estos Estados D. Ygnacio de Mora me he pronunciado con toda la guarnicion de mi cargo, reconociendo por Presidente dela Republica al Exmo. Sr. D. Manuel Gomes Pedraza, objeto primordial del plan de Veracruz proclamado y sostenido por el Exmo. Sr. Gral. D. Antonio Lopes de Santa Anna, invocando al mismo tiempo el respecto debido á la constitucion y leyes; y comunico en esta fha. la correspondiente orden á los comandantes Militares dela demarcacion de mi cargo para q. se pronuncien en el mismo sentido.

Debo tambien anunciar á V. S. q. mi pronunciamᵗᵒ há sido en union de las Autoridades Civiles y Vecindario de esta Capital, en la q. se recibieron por el correo, venido ayer, noticias oficiales de haberse pronunciado en el mismo sentido la Legislatura y Gobierno de este Estado.

Yó me felicito con V. S. que estos acontecimientos q. sin duda restablecerán la tranquilidad y buena armonia entre todos los

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havitantes de este Departamento, por cuya comun prosperidad hago al cielo los mas ardientes votos, entretanto q. á V. S. ofresco las seguridades de toda mi consideracion.

Dios y Libertad. Bejar Agosto 30. de 1832.

ANTº ELOSUA [Rubric]

Señor Coronel Dⁿ Estevan Austin

J. M. LOPEZ TO BOWMAN

Arroyo del Pino, August 30, 1832.

See Calendar.

J. M. LOPEZ TO AUSTIN

Arroyo de las Palmas, September 1, 1832.

See Calendar.

JAMES WHITESIDE TO AUSTIN

San Felipi de Austin
4th September 1832

Col STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

please pay to Samuel Marshall fifty dollars in Cows and Calves thirty eight dollars in the Store and twelve dollars in Cash and oblige.

JAMES WHITESIDE

Accepted
S. F. AUSTIN

Recd. on the within order seventeen and 38/100 dollars in merchdz of J. F. Perry

SAML. (his X mark) MARSHAL

Sept. 6, 1832
Test W. W. Hunter

Recd on the within of Lewis L. Veeder twenty Dollars and sixty three cents

SAML. (his X mark) MARSHAL

Sept. 6, 1832—Wm. J. Eaton—Paid in full

MIGUEL MULDOON TO PUBLIC

Colonia de Austin.

Varios son los rumores acerca de la salida del cura de su parroquia y jurisdiccion de Tejas.

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Unos me preguntan si es verdad que aquellos colonos persiguen al clero? otros que si he estado preso en Brazoria?

Considerandolo un deber mio corregir la opinion publica respecto a mis feligreses me valgo de la imprenta de nuestra metropoli para refutar una calumnia tan infundada y tan contraria al caracter hospitalario de mis parroquianos quienes a porfia me festejaron y merecen toda mi gratitud.

He salido de la colonia para congratularme con mi Sr. Obispo, el actual principe eclesiastico tan dignamente colocado en el solio de Monterrey, quien sabedor ya de la moral publica la justicia reciproca las virtudes domesticas y religiosas de los colonos ha abierto de nuevo los tesoros celestiales derramando á manos llenas las prerogativas y gracias de la Santa sede facultandome para administrar el sagrado, sacramento de la confirmacion, prueba nada equivoca del amor de este santo padre para con sus amados hijos.

Mas si hubiere alguna aberracion en el gobierno politico de aquella gran colonia, los juiciosos de ella son muy capaces de corregirla ni toca á un padre ocupado en el importante ramo de su ministerio saber tales defectillos, mucho menos referirlos porque ciertamente no puede llamarse padre afectuoso ó fino el que se levanta para acusar á sus hijos, y tales boruquillas harto frecuentes en las familias mejor arregladas, puedo asegurar con toda confianza no envuelven el mas leve desprecio de nuestra santa religion mas al contrario, aquel virtuoso pueblo debe servirnos de norma, que por todas partes rechaza los indios, los sucios acerrimos é inflecsibles enemigos del cristianismo, aquel pueblo que jamas admitirá la escandalosa infraccion de la moral cristiana, como permitir hombres desnudos entrar en sus casas, tener roze con sus familias para tentar la fidelidad de la esposa, y corromper la modestia de la inocente hija.

Monterrey 4 de setiembre 1932.—

MIGUEL MULDOON.

MONTERREY Y 1832.

Imprenta del gobierno dirigida por el ciudadano Trinidad de Mier

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J. M. LOPEZ TO BENJAMIN BEASON

Arroyo del Colorado, September 4, 1832.

See Calendar.

FERNANDO DE LEON TO AUSTIN

Comision de repartimiento de Tierras de Guadalupe.

En oficio superior de 30 de Julio ultimo me dice el Sor. Gefe de policia del Departamento lo q ala letra copio.

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"Al Alc^{e} dela Villa de Goliad con esta fha digo lo siguiente—Las muchas ocupaciones de q se ha recargado esta Gefatura la han obligadó á dilatar algun *tpo* su contestacion: ahora lo hase asu oficio Numero 12 de 6 del popo disiendole q pa. no embarasar ni entorpecer la administracion de Justicia de q. está V. encargado cumpla como és debido con mis ordenes relatibas ala persecucion y castigo de los cuatro anglo Americanos q impunem^{te} han estado entorpesiendo é inutilisando la huvicacion de varios establecimientos pr. individuos de la Colonia del Ciud^{o} Martin de Leon, despues de haber sido combenidos en Juicio de no tener ningun dro sobre aquellos Terrenos y allanados sus evacuacion bá p^{a} un año; Mas la indevida consideracion q les tubieron tanto V. como su antesor faltando a las dispociciones de esta gefatura, han dado lugar á los Tropelias é insultos q han cometido y si proponen repetir segun estoy informado, pues la poca energia con q fueron perseguidos pr. la partida q V. mandó los ha imolentado á no desistir de sus incurciones sobre aquellos inermes colonos a quienes prevenga a V. aucilir poniendose de acuerdo con los Comand^{tes} Militares, disponiendo dela Milicia civica de esa Municipalidad librando sus ord^{s} al Comisario de Policia de Guad^{e} p^{a} q en cualquiera vez q esté amenasada la seguridad personal é intereses de cualquiera de aquellos avitantes, procure defenderlos, pidiendo al comand^{te}. Militar dela Baca como mas inmediato el aucilio q necesite ó echando mano del vecindario q tiene a su cargo siendo ya intolerable la incurcion con q desde un principio se han manifestado cuantos han tenido y conoser enla persecucion y castigo de estos cuatro criminales; y pr. lo mismo a V. q esclusivamente está encargado dela seguridad de todos los individuos y se encuentran en esa Jurisdicion lo hago responsable de los daños q puedan inferir dhos colonos:

Y lo traslado a V. p^{a} su conocim^{to} y con el objeto de q si el sitado Alc^{e} ó el Comisario de Policia de esa Villa se desentiende de protejer a los Colonos q han sido molestados pr. los Criminales de los Yohor [Yorks], obre V. contra estos asi pr. el caracter de comisionado como pr. la Autoridad q aeste respecto le confiero, de acuerdo con el Ciud^{o} Empresario y pudiendo a virtud de esta ord. pedir el aucilio q necesite de cualquiera autoridad p^{a} arrestar pr. la fuerza aestos delincuentes y ponerlos á disp^{n} del Jues de su causa—Del selo y eficacia de V. en obsequio dela Justicia no dudo se esforzará en el cumplimiento de esta comision q he debido encargar a la filantropia y patriotismo de q tiene V. dado testimonio."

Y tengo el honor de transcribirlo á V. S. afin de q ya pr. la instituto q tiene como empresario, ó ya pr. ser coronel del batallon de civicos de este departam^{to} se sirba en obsequio de nuestras Leyes, dela ord. q procede dela Justicia y dela humanidad Cohonestar con migo y auciliarme en qto dependa de las facultades muy amplias

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de V. S. enla aprencion de esos hombres criminales q todos los dias agrabian mas y mas sus delitos peligrando las vidas y propiedades de varios abitantes honrados de esta colonia q pr. esto an tenido q abandonar sus ranchos no teniendo seguridad desus vidas pr. las incursiones de esos malbados q se han abrigado en los limites de esa colonia de V. S. y pr. lo mismo no dudo delas buenas disp^{nes} de V. S. q se pondra de acuerdo con el Alc^{e} de esa villa p^{a} q libre inmediatam^{te} la ord. relatiba al Comisario dela Navidad afin de q este me aucilie ami en lo q. se me pueda ofrecer enla aprencion de dhos Criminales Lo q sucederá luego q reciva contestacion de V. S. q és lo q espero

Esta ocacion me presenta la de ofrecer a V. S. mi mas alta consideracion y aprecio

Dios y Libertad Guad^{e} 17 de 7bre de 1832.

FERDINANDO DE LEON [Rubric]

Al Sr. Coronel del Batayon de Civicos del Departam^{to} Ciud^{o} E. F. Austin

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LEANDER H. MCNEIL TO AUSTIN

Nashville Tenn. Sept. 10. 1832

DEAR COLONEL

Genl. A. Houston of this town is a going to depart for Texas in a day or two, he is going by the way *Arkansas Territory*, it will take him until in the month of Decr. sometime to reach you, I have given him a letter of introduction to you which he will hand you on his arrival there, I am not informed of his views in Visiting that country, I think he would be a great addition to Our country as a Citizen, he is a very intimate friend of the Presidents and has a great number of friends and acquaintances in this State. I think it would be well worth your trouble to try and Make him a Citizen of your Colony.

I have seen several accounts in the news papers Respecting a considerable difficulty in Texas between the Americans and Mexican troops Stationed in your colony which terminated in a total route of them from that part of the country, I also saw an account in a New Orleans paper of the arrival of four or five hundred troops from Genl. Santa Anna and several ships of the line which will be a great advantage to the Americans, if an attack was made on them by Genl. Bustamenta and his party. I have no doubt but it will be an advantage to the Colonists in future to Keep those Mexicans from interfering with there Rights and privileges.

I have nothing in the way of news to write that would interest you, The prest. of the U. States has been in Nashville and its vi-

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cinity for two weeks past which has caused a considerable stir here I think of leaving here for Texas about the 20. of Decr. next.

Leander H. McNeil

Col. S. F. Austin

[Addressed:] Col. S. F. Austin San Filipe de Austin Texas Politeness of Genl. Houston.

PHILIP DIMMITT TO AUSTIN

La Vaca, September 10, 1832.

See Calendar.

JOSÉ ANTONIO DE LA GARZA TO AUSTIN

Gefatura del Departamento de Bejar

Acompaño á V. S. en copia el adjunto informe circunstanciado q pazó á esta Gefatura el Empresario Ciud^no^ Martin de Leon, p^a^ que impuesto delos ultrajes y daños inferidos a individuos dela Colonia de su empresa por Juan y Tomas York y Estevan Betts residentes enla de VS., se sirva ya como empresario y como Coronel del Batallon dela Milica Civica de esa Municipalidad, poniendose de acuerdo si nesesario fuere con el Ciud^no^ Alcalde de esa Villa, dictara todas las providencias nesesarias para aprehenderlos, y habidos que sean se remitan al Jusgado dela Villa de Goliad, en donde á virtud de la causa que seles formó, deben comparacer a contestar a los cargos q les resultan, tanto por haberse justificado legalm^te^ cuando informó el Ciud^no^ Martin de Leon, cuanto por los nuevos excesos que han repetido contra los mismos colonos hasta el grado de atentar contra sus vidas disparandoles por dos veses unos tiros de carabina, con cuyo motivo han tenido (segun los ultimos abisos que se han recivido) que abandonar sus establecimientos con las labores en fruto y toda clase de ganados que posehen en mucho numero, por hevitar las desgracias que son consiguientes.

Supongo que VS. tendra conocimiento de q el terreno que disputan estos hombres, está contratado para colonizar con familias Mejicanas y de Irlanda, habiendola acordado la preferencia al Empresario Leon, y como son de distinto origen los York y haberse establecido sin conocimiento del Gob^no^ del Estado previa la aprovacion del supremo general, fue nesesario desalogarlos del terreno que ocupaban á solicitud de los Empresarios, y de aqui es que no han devido ganar ningun derecho, mayorm^te^ cuando quedaron conbenidos en juicio: por lo mismo las vejaciones é insultos y daños que han cometido los hace tener por por unos verdaderos delincuentes dignos dela atencion de VS. para no perdonar ninguna cosa hta. lograr ponerlos á dis-

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pocicion del Jues de su causa, y conseguir de este modo buelban á sus establecmientos con toda seguridad de no ser ya mas molestados, los Ciudadanos de q se hace referencia.

Dios y libertad Bejar 12 de Septiembre de 1832.

JOSE ANTº DELA GARZA [Rubric]

Sor Empresario Ciudadano Estevan F. Austin

AUSTIN TO ——— MARTIN

Statement presented to —— Martin, relative to the settlement of the business between S. F. Austin and the late J. H. Hawkins[1]

In Novr. 1821 a contract was made between S. F. Austin and J. H. Hawkins, relative to settling the colony originally contracted to be settled by Moses Austin, the father of the said Stephen F. Austin.

A partnership was also formed between the said S. F. Austin and the said Hawkins for certain purposes: this partnership expired by the death of Hawkins in 1823.

At the time of forming that contract, it was supposed that something could be realized out of the settlers; and an arrangement was made for them to pay 12½ cents pr acre for the land they received, Austin to be at all the expense. This arrangement was totally destroyed by the interference of the Govr. of Texas in 1824. A large sum was lost by Austin for surveys which were made up to that time, and meanderings of the river.

In May 1824 the Govr. of Texas interfered with the said first arrangement, and established a fee-bill. None of these fees belonged to Austin; and he had no right to use any of them. One hundred and twenty seven dollars, 50 cents, were allowed to the Commissioner, including his milage from Bexar to the colony; 30 dollars to the Govt.; and 8 dollars for the Title. The Commissioner relinquished to Austin the third of his fees.

Austin was appointed by the Govt. to administer the local government of the colony in all its branches, civil, judicial, and military, without any salary. He also had to attend in person to all the land-business. Besides this he kept an open house and was compelled to

[1] In 1859 William B. Victor printed in Cincinnati a Memorial to the Legislature of Texas, a pamphlet of 35 pages. Victor had married the last surviving heir of Joseph H. Hawkins, and prayed the Legislature of Texas to repay the advances which he believed Hawkins had made to Austin over and above the original advances to establish the first settlers in 1822. He based his claim on letters of Nathaniel Cox, saying that Hawkins's advances and expenditures totaled some $30,000. Austin pointed out that much of this money was lost in commercial speculations having no connection with the partnership between himself and Hawkins. Hawkins estimated his expenditures directly and indirectly at $7,000. See Hawkins to Austin, May 31, 1822, and to Mrs. Austin, Mar. 29, 1823. See also Nathaniel Cox to Austin, Mar. 20, June 3, and Aug. 6, 1824. On Apr. 2, 1833, Austin wrote Cox expressing gratification at Cox's approval of his settlement with the Hawkins heirs.

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do so: his house was always full, for the first six years, as is well known to those who were here then. It is also well known, that he had constant visits from the Tankaway, Lipan, Beedi, and other Indians; and the situation of things required him to make them large presents.

These expenses were not all: he paid for expresses, furnished provisions, and amunition, and many other things for campaigns against the Indians. He was compelled to keep an office, and a Secretary, and Clerks, acquainted with the Spanish and English languages—It will be remembered that, at that time, every thing was dear—Cows at from $20 to $30 each; pork from $9 to $10; beeves from $25 to $30 a head; corn from one to two dollars the bushel; etc. The expenses of his household were not less than $2000 a year: his office including the Secretary's salary, stationery, etc $1500. a year: presents to Indians $500 a year. To all this is to be added a variety of other expenses, such as expresses, guards, and supplies for Indian expeditions. Also he had a heavy surveying debt to pay, as above stated. Besides these expenses, there are many others which can not be mentioned.

A large amount of the fees never has been collected, and never will be. Also a considerable amount was lost that was received in horses, which died or were stolen by the Indians. Twelve head were stolen at one time, ten of them mules, at Buckner's old place on the Colorado.

But even supposing that the fees had all been collected and in money: the whole amount of the Commissioner's fees on 300 families at $127.50, is $38,250—of this one third was relinquished by the Commr to Austin, which is $12,750—which would not have half paid the expenses of the local govt. and other expenses of the colony from 1823 up to 1828, the time when the Ayuntamto was established; to say nothing of a compensation for Austin's services, and a deduction of more than one half for property payments at an excessive value.

It will be remembered that Austin received no salary from the Govt., nor any allowance whatever for the local government of the colony, that all the labor, expense, danger, and responsability rested on him alone:—all the vexations, labyrinths of the colony—matters with the government, and with the settlers, who were several times in a state of rebellion against him, and always complaining and abusing him, because they had anything to pay: he had to bear all this patiently, as the salvation of the colony required it. The facts as to advances made by Hawkins are as follows:

The Schöoner Lively, a small vessel of about 30 Tons, was purchased for $600 in Novr. 1821: of this sum Austin furnished $400, which he borrowed from Lovelace and now owes, with the interest—The Lively brought out 17 or 18 men, emigrants, and provisions

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and tools. I do not know the whole amount of her outfit; but it is very evident that it could not have been much. The Lively landed the emigrants at the mouth of the Brazos, and was lost on Galveston Island. William Little had the charge of the men who came in the Lively: I never saw any of them until after my return from Mexico in 1823, owing to their having landed in the Brazos instead of the Colorado, to the mouth of which latter river I went to look for them, agreeably to appointment in Decr. and Jany. of 1821 and 1822; and not finding them I proceeded to Bexar and thence to Mexico. The men who came in the Lively became discouraged, and all returned to the U. S. except two or three.

For a part of the expences to Mexico, I drew on Hawkins; for I had between 300 and 400 dollars of my own money which I brought with me from New Orleans in doubloons. I lost my memorandum and account book at Monterey, on my return from Mexico, and cannot state what was the amount of my drafts on Hawkins; but they were not for a large sum:—I lived very economically, and even endured privations to save expense. I raised $100 in Mexico by the sale of my watch.

When I started for Mexico, I sent into Hawkins my negro man Richmond, a stout healthy negro, about 28 years of age: he was worth $800.

On a fair statement of this whole matter, what benefits or aid, have I derived, in the settlement of this colony, from Hawkins?

He aided in fitting out the Lively: he furnished the amount of my drafts for the expenses to Mexico: he could not have been of much aid in sending out emigrants, for he died before there was much emigration. The money which he spent for the goods that Littlebury Hawkins brought out, and a vast sum in the negro speculation of which John Botts had the management, had nothing to do with the colony; and I was in no manner concerned in those speculations, nor ever had any control over them. Both these persons arrived after I departed for Mexico, and left before I returned.—Neither am I accountable for an enormous interest account which, I am told, Hawkins paid in New Orleans, to raise money for the expeditions of Littlebury Hawkins, and John Botts.

In the contract with Hawkins I acknowledge to have received four thousand dollars, but the truth is I had not then received that amount, and never have received it up to this time. For, as I before observed, all that ever was spent for the benefit of the Colony, that I have any knowledge of, was the outfit of the Lively, and the amount of my drafts for the Mexico trip: and out of that the $400 dollars I borrowed from Lovelace, and over $300 which

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I had of my own money, and the value of my negro Richmond, and $100 for my watch, making about $1600 ought to be deducted.

As I before observed, none of the fees that were collected in the first colony, belonged to me of right; a part of them were given to me; but necessity compelled me to use much more of them than the portion thus relinquished:—and I thus may yet become entangled in an endless and ruinous labyrinth. Up to this time Hawkins is entirely clear of all responsibility as to those fees thus used by me. I have always been very cautious not to implicate any part of his landed interest in any way. I have been a true and paternal guardian of the interests of his heirs in this country, and I have kept his part of the land entirely clear. I have not even sold any more of it, than was absolutely necessary to give value to the balance, and to comply with the law by having the land settled; and this has subjected me to the abuse and slander of persons who wished to get places near Brazoria, and who have spared no pains to try and prejudice public opinion against me. I have, in fact, from the beginning of the Colony struggled *alone* in this wilderness, undergoing all sorts of privations, and my life often embittered by the unjust clamors, slanders, and abuse which I have been compelled by circumstances to bear. No pecuniary remuneration could, or ever can, recompense me for the last ten years.

If the fees, received from the Settlers in the first Colony, as above stated, are now to be considered as partnership property, Hawkins must also become liable for all the responsibilities which I am, or may ever be, liable to for having used more of those fees than I had a right to. Also a fair statement must be made of all the expenses of the local govt. of the colony, of the losses by bad debts, robbery of Indians, office expenses, losses by surveying, and a yearly compensation to Austin for his services. The gross amount of all this must be made up: then the amount of the fees which Austin was entitled to receive by the relinquishment of the Commissioner, must be made out, and deducted from the gross amount of the expenses. It will then be found that a large balance of many thousands will be due to pay those expenses, and the balance will be a charge against the partnership land, and would consume a large part of it.

But this is not all. Hawkins would also have to be liable, in union with Austin, for all the responsabilities that may arise, owing to Austin's having used more of the fees than the amount relinquished to him by the Commissioner. In short, it would place Hawkins' estate in the situation in which I am now placed; that is liable to be harrassed as long as I live, and involved in an endless labyrinth of difficulties; and besides all this, there are matters connected with

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this business which are in the highest degree confidential and cannot be explained without a breach of faith.

I have probably done nearly as much to benefit individuals as ever was done by any one man in America who acted in the humble sphere of an unpatronised, unprotected, and private person. I have been instrumental in laying a broad foundation for the fortunes of many thousands. The enterprise has succeeded, and begins to attract notice; but no one knows, or seems to care, or to ask, how, or by what means, or through whose instrumentality it has been brought about. The only idea most persons seem to connect with the matter is, that of a mammoth speculation; and they say that Austin, in doing so much for so many, must have done a great deal for himself. Thus the most erroneous impressions, and the most unjust rumors, are set afloat. Ingratitude, jealousy, and suspicions are always active and vociferous.

What benefit has Austin received from the fees of the first colony? There are six leagues and a half, and two labors, of land which were acquired by purchases from the settlers out of these fees, and deeded to my brother J. E. B. Austin because there was no judicial officer in the colony but me, before whom the deed could be acknowledged. The titles for a part of this are doubtful. I have also used a part of those fees to pay some of my old debts, but I have also used a large amount of the proceeds of my last contracts that Hawkins had nothing to do with, to satisfy the debts that were properly chargeable to the first colony: and consequently if the fees of the first colony are to go with the partnership accounts, all I have paid out of my last contracts on account of the first colony, must be charged to that colony.

What benefit will Hawkins' estate receive for the advances he made in fitting out the Lively, and in paying my drafts for the Mexico trip, which was all he did advance that was of use to the enterprise? The estate gets the half of 22½ leagues of land. I get the other half, and I have done all the labor. In fact I have done *every thing* alone and without receiving aid from the personal services, or the capital, of Hawkins to the extent that was originally contemplated.

To recapitulate.

The first arrangement with the settlers, as to fees, was distroyed by the interference of the Govt of Texas. A new arrangement was made by the Govt as to the fees, which allowed Austin to receive none of them. The Commissioner relinquished a part of them to Austin. The part thus relinquished has been used by Austin for the joint benefit of the partnership; for by that means he has main-

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tained the colony without creating any charge against the partnership lands which are now clear.

Austin has used more of those fees than were so relinquished; and by so doing he is liable to be harrassed; and if Hawkins claims a part of those fees, he will have to bear his share of that liability: as also to bear an equal share of all the expenses of the colony, and to pay Austin for his services. This can not be done without taking a part of the premium land.

Austin never did receive $4000 for the use of the colony from Hawkins; and he did furnish about $1600 which, on a rigid settlement, Hawkins would be accountable for. Austin is not liable for the money spent in the expeditions of Littleberry Hawkins and John Botts; nor for the interest paid by Hawkins.

It would be the work of many years, and of endless expense, to bring this matter to a judicial or litigated settlement; and I am confident that such a settlement, in any court of justice, would involve more than one half the premium land to square the accounts of the colony if they were justly stated; besides the delay and expense.

I therefore think that in offering to divide the premium land, twenty two leagues and a half, and three labors, deducting the expenses of surveying it, I offer at least one half more than could be recovered in any court of justice. The original expenses of surveying the premium land are a just charge against it: they were paid by me in 1824 and 1825. More than this I am unwilling to do; and in doing this I consider that I am relinquishing a part of what justly belongs to me; for if a fair allowance were made to me, I should be entitled to a considerable portion of Hawkins' part of the premium land. The truth is, that I could have done all that I have done, had I never known Hawkins, nor received one cent, nor aid, from any quarter beyond my own resources.

Difficulties present themselves as to the manner of making this settlement. Ever since early in 1824 I have repeatedly requested, and urged often and often, that an Agent might be sent out to settle this business. The delay has not been of my causing, or of my seeking. Now after so long a period Mr. Martin is sent with very imperfect powers. George is not represented at all. The original contract between me and Hawkins is not produced: I never had a copy of it:—there was but one made out and that J. H. Hawkins retained. Edmund Hawkins, who is here present, is not competent to settle his own share of the business, for by the laws of this country he is a minor until he is twenty five years of age, and is therefore incompetent to bind himself, or any one else. He can not legally hold the land after it is divided: he will have to appoint a guardian in the

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manner prescribed by law, and this guardian will have to attend to this part of the business.

I wish to make a final settlement of this matter, and will do every thing to effect that object which will be legal and finally binding on all parties.

I make this statement to correct the erroneous impressions which the parties interested in this business appear to have received from common rumor; and to show that, on my part, every thing has been done which circumstances would admit to protect the interests of Hawkins' estate. Also it ought to be remembered that I requested a settlement of this business since soon after Hawkins' death, and that I could long since have brought it to a settlement by a judicial process. The delay has been very injurious and very harrassing to me, but it has been beneficial to the estate.

There is another erroneous idea relative to the business of colonization in Texas. Many believe that actual grants are made by the Govt. of large tracts of land, or sections of country, to individuals who are denominated in the Law *Empresarios;* and that these individuals can sell this land. This is all a mistake. It is also wrong to call them *grants:* they are nothing more than *Trusts* by which the contractor or "empresario", is constituted the agent of the Govt. to settle a certain number of families of a particular description, in certain designated limits, within a limited time. If he comply with this contract, he will then, and not before, be entitled to receive a certain quantity of land as a grant, which is called premium land, for which a special title is issued to him by the government commissioner. The settlers receive their titles direct from the Govt. through a commissioner, and not from the empresario. In the colonization law of 1825, the contracts made between the "empresario" and the settlers are guaranteed as valid, if not contrary to that and other laws; but in the colonization law of the 4th of Jany. 1823, under which my first colony was settled, there was no such guarantee.

San Felipe de Austin September 14 1832

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

HAWES TO AUSTIN

[About September 14, 1832.]

Mr S. F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR, I avail myself of an opportunity afforded through Col. John Thompson Mason of addressing you on the subject of the interest of Hawkins heirs in the Texas property. I will thank you to confer with Mr. Mason and between you devise some plan to relieve

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you from the unpleasant situation which from your letter to me through Mr. Mason you state that you are placed in relation to this property. I am from every information I have, disposed to do in the matter so far as my power extends whatever you and Mr. Mason may think I ought or can do. Please if you chalk out a course to give me the forms of the transaction which would be authentic in your country— I deputed Mr. Martin to act as agent, but I have not heard a word from him.

R. HAWES

This letter is directed to Mr Mason at Cincinnati Ohio, who has proffered to bear it.

[Addressed:] Col. John T. Mason Care of Major Henrie Innkeeper Cincinnati Ohio.

MOSES AUSTIN BRYAN TO AUSTIN

Saltillo September 23d 1832

DEAR UNCLE

This will inform you that I am well, and recd, your letter of the 4 of this month this morning and with much pleasure. and glad to hear that you have arrived safe home and that you found all the family well. you need not be uneasy about me, I am now living with Mr. Sharpe. I did get tiard of Friholes and Tortillos and went out to Parras and stayed with Doct Grant about 4 or 6 weeks, and when I started to come a way he told me that he would not let me go back to Saltillo unless, I would promise not, to go and live with Grande aney more, but live with Mr Sharpe, and I though it was the best plan myself, and so I was not above a month and a half with Grande, the Doct. is a great friend of yours and of the Colony, he has elected 2 *biputados* [diputados] at Parris in favor of the Colony and *Estrangeros.* and has put Loco Ernandes out, he sayes if you can onley send two more from Texas he will show them a thing or two; I will stay untill after the fare as it will comence to morrow and then it is very probable I will go down to Matamoras with some of [the] strange[r]s over hear to the fair, most likley with Mr. Dibblee or Mr Coldwell I have got but about 8 or 10 Dollars, and Huetson hasent got a sent to lend me he says, but I must do the best I can I wanted to buy a saddle and rigging but I havent got the money theirfore I must do with out. Huetson talks of going on to the Colony but I would go by myself before I would go with him he has made a compleate brute of himself. I have got your papers safe I have been obliged to go indet for a leather trunk to Mr Coldwell he sayes he will be very apt to go through the Colony on his return to New Yorke and then I can settle with him. nothing more at present but I am in hopes I will see you in the course of a

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month or two give my respects to Mr. and Mrs. Williams and Mr Hunter and give my love to all the family and tell them they will see me in course of 2 months at furtherest if I have health I have no preasants for them because I have no money to get them with I have scarce enough money to carry me to Matamoros.

Most Respectfully

Your nephew

Moses A Bryan [Rubric]

Austin to James F. Perry

Brasoria Sept. 27. [1832]

Dr Brother

I am dividing the land with Hawkins estate, and shall go to San felipe tomorrow in about ten days I shall return and run the dividing lines— I have left a letter for you with James Westall as to the place where you must improve so as not to interfere with the part that Hawkins gets.

I am fast getting through my business and before spring I will take leave of public matters for the balance of my life— I intend to live principally with you, or near you and go to farming. Love to Emily and Lavinia

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

What does Col Morris ask for his improvements

The land on oyster Creek below Mitchels falls to me in the division, inquire of Hodge what kind of land it is. I am told that the cane comes to the Prairie just below Mitchels line—that would be a good place for a farm, and not over 12 miles from Pleasant Bayou to go straight, but there would be three Creeks to bridge—it would be unhealthy perhaps on oyster creek merely inquire of Hodge generally as to the land—how wide the cane is and how the land is for 4 or 5 Miles down the creek below Mitchels, without telling him whose it is etc also ask him how the land is between oyster creek and Baylies prairie and out side the cane

S. F. A.

What do you think Col Morris improvement is worth—

[Addressed:] Mr. James F. Perry Pleasant Bayou

Francisco M. Duclor to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe

Receptoria maritima de Brazoria

Con esta fha digo al Alcde Dn Juan Austin lo Siguiente.

" Siendome absolutamte imposible dar el lleno debido á las obligaciones q. las leyes me imponen pa la recaudación de dros. en esta

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oficina de mi cargo; tanto por la total carencia de empleados, pues los tres unicas q. me acompañaban han resuelto separarse de mi lado; como tambien por otros varios obstaculas q. acada paso se me presentan y q. no es de mis Facultades Allanar; he determinado retirarme de este punto y pasar al de Tampico para dar cuenta del tiempo de mi administracion.—

En consecuencia espero se sirva V. encargarse de esta admon. y al efecto adjunto á V. una nota espresiva de las deudas activas y pasivas de esta ad^{n} p^{a} q en visto de ella se sirva verificar el respectivo cobro y pago; y si p^{a} este faltase alguna cantidad, podra. V. cubrirla con el arrendam^{to} q. rindan las casas ubicadas en la boca del rio, pertenecientes á la hacienda nacional: las cuales dejo bajo el encargo y protección de V., esperando q. en obsequio de los intereces dela republica cuidará de en mejor conserbacion."

Y lo inserto á V. S. para q. obre segun estime conbeniente, con respecto al punto de Galbeston, para poner ácubierto los intereses de la hacienda publica en aquella parte.

Reitero á V. S. las protestas de mi consideracion y aprecio

Dios y Libertad Brazoria Sept. 27. de 1832

F^{co} M. y Duclor [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Ylltre Ayumtamto. de la Villa de Austin

Austin to ———

October 2, 1832.

See Fisher to Austin, April 16, 1833.

J. G. Wright to Austin

Harrisburgh Octr. the 3rd 1832

Dear Sir

From Various Circumstances, I have concluded to ask Your advice, and opinion on some few subjects, and to be as concise as possible I will remark, that this Jno. W. Moore (who I believe is a Greater Tyrant and less a respecter of the Constitution and Laws than Col. Bradborn), has been persecuting and Slandering me, ever since a short time after my Arrival at this place— I can trace to him the Source of all my difficulties in Harrisburgh, which surpassed all I ever witnessed before— He has industrously circulated *falsehoods*, in various ways respecting me, and prejudicial to my *Character* and *Interest*. He has not only made *false Statements* injurious to me, but he has gone so far as to swear to them

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This last he has managed so ingeniously, that I cant prove it on him.—

He refuses to respect me as a Physician not withstanding, upon a personal Examination by the Medical Board, I obtained a License, and he refuses to give Judgments allowing anything—for my Medicine and Service

He tells *people* that I am not a *Physician* But applies to me the *Vulgar Term Quack*—so I am Creditably informed, for he never has said it to me— This accusation is *false*, and made use of to injure me— I consider myself able to prove to any Judges the Contrary—

By his *Intrigue* and Management I have been unable to collect my *Debts* here In no Case whatever have I had a fair chance, to obtain Justice, He has chosen my Absence, and without giving me notice to try all my Cases, He has called upon Men whom he could sway as he pleased to Arbetrate— And I can safely say—before him I have never had Justice done me—

All This has resulted from the *fact*, that I would not sanction his *Unjust Measures*, Nor suffer myself to be made his *Toot*— To remain in this condition is more Intollerable than *Banishment Itself*— How to proceed I am at a loss, And Your *Advice* I hope to obtain.

On reflection, There occurs to my mind, Three modes of redress— and which to choose I am unable to Determine

First a *Suit* of *Slander* —The law on that Subject, in this Country, I am unacquainted with, —And should the letter of the law even be favourable to me, what chance I might have to obtain Justice, Under present circumstances I dont know—,

Second, To call on him, to give Satisfaction at the *Mouth* of a *Pistol* —This I have two important objections to—first I am seriously opposed to it by principle—And second, I have a family— should, I happen to be *killed* who would be left destitute, in a country, without Friends—And I might add a third in relation to him, did we live in a Country, where men were respected agreeably to their real merits—and where we were both known, I should— most certainly refuse to *Notice him*—

A third mode presents itself—which is. To leave the Country— This I have more objections to than the Second—That Course would give Credence (here at least) to his Slanderous—and—*false reports* And *Death* Sir would be more desirable to me.

I must believe, if you—and Capt. *Jno Austin* and the respectable Gentlemen in General in the Country, were in possession of the truths on the subject, that you and They would enlist your Interest in behalf of Justice—

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I have choosen you as my first adviser in this matter, for the reasons—That I believe if you will give advice in the Case at all That it may be depended on—and I flatter myself that you Will from your previous Friendship—and your knowledge of My—Father In Law—whom I look for here again this winter—and from my opinion of your desire to resent oppression—

Whatever Advice you may choose to give I assure You, by me shall be used according to your directions—

J. G. WRIGHT

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen F. Austin St Felippi

FRANCISCO MEDINA TO AUSTIN

Goliad, October 5, 1832.

See Calendar.

JONAS HARRISON TO GOVERNOR OF COAHUILA AND TEXAS

San Felipe, October 6, 1832.

See Calendar and Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 507.

AUSTIN TO E. R. WIGHTMAN

D^r SIR,

Mr. Hoit informs me that you wish me to instruct you where I wish the blocks located that I shall be entitled to take in Matagorda I have not time to go there, and must request that you will locate them for me— I shall be satisfied with your selection, I want nothing but a fair chance with the rest.

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Oct. 8. 1832

Mr E Wightman

[Addressed:] Mr. E. R. Wightman Matagorda

AUSTIN TO PUBLIC

PUBLIC NOTICE,

IS HEREBY GIVEN, That Mr. Miguel Arciniega has started from Bexar, and is expected at this place, in two or three days, to make a final close of all the Land Business in the Colonies, for which he is Commissioner.

The Coast Colony will also be closed shortly.

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All persons who are included in any of my Colonies, whose land business is not completed, are therefore requested to come forward, in person, and take out their titles.

Those who do not apply by the *15th December next*, will be considered as having forfeited their right of reception, as it is the intention to close the business by that time.

S. F. AUSTIN.

San Felipe de Austin, 9th October, 1832.

AUSTIN TO GENERAL WILLIAM H. ASHLEY

San Felipe de Austin (Texas)
October 10, 1832.

Gen[l] W[m] H. ASHLEY [1]

D[r] SIR, It is long since we have seen or heard of each other by any direct intercourse, but I judge of you by myself when I say that you have not forgotten your old townsman we have spent too many pleasant hours together in Potosi for them to have passed away from your remembrance,

Sam P. Browne and John Rice Jones with their families are here permanently settled, also my brother-in-law, James F. Perry, and several others from Washington County; from them and other sources I have heard of your prosperity and success in private and in public life, which was highly gratifying to me.

My lot has been cast in the wilderness—a pioneer—you may readily imagine that the change was a considerable one for me. I recollect your taste for bear hunting and that I wondered at it, for at that time mine did not incline much to such rude sports, though I also recollect that when you and R. T. Brown and myself were out on the Boons Lick road as commissioners to examine it, he killed a large bear and I snapped at one and killed a cub, and I thought it might be very fine sport—it was very exciting at least. I am not now a good hunter, but I have entered much more into the spirit of the thing than I then did and no longer wonder at your fondness for the sport There is a freedom, a wide and wild and elevated range of thought, as well as of action, in rambling over the verdant prairies, and gentle undulations of Texas, where every living thing you see gives evidence of equal freedom by scampering and bounding before and around you, which persons who have all their lives elbowed their way through crowded streets, know nothing about—I no longer wonder at the attachment

[1] Ashley represented Missouri in Congress, 1831–1837. For a brief sketch, see Biographical Congressional Directory.

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of the savage for his native forests, or at his despair at seeing them felled before the desolating sweep of civilization—desolating indeed to the happiness, and the home of the natives. But so it is—Nature has given to the whites, and to the red man a place on earth, and habit and education, or superior intelligence, or accident, or what you may please seem to have so regulated matters that their interest should run in opposite directions—a shock is, of course, the consequence, and *power* settles the affair, whether justly or not is a question which belongs exclusively to theorists, for the reason that the current of events in this particular can not be stopped. It has flowed on, and onward it will flow, until the indians are swept from existence as a people and amalgamated with civilization.

It is more than eleven years since I entered this country. It then was a wilderness, but it is not so now. We have advanced very considerably and far enough to advance rapidly.

The situation of the Mexican republic at this time is such that in all human calculations the destiny of Texas will depend mainly upon itself. Our political affairs are assuming an aspect of the most intense interest. This fair and highly favored country, in many respects, presents an anomoly in the history of new settlements—that it should have remained unpeopled, unexplored, and even unknown except in name so long—that it should have been redeemed from a state of nature and its advantages developed by individual enterprise alone—that a few pioneers should have resisted military misrule and removed to the west side of the Rio Brazos del Norte all the garrisons of regular troops—that we now sustain the constitution and laws of our adopted country and are true to our duty as Mexican citizens, although the whole nation is convulsed by factions and revolution, the social compact virtually dissolved, and the constitution a mere name, violated as it is from one end of the republic to the other, and morally destitute of power to restrain military usurpations or to bind the confederation together, that events may possibly leave us with the rights of possession to a country of sufficient extent for a nation, and in a situation which will justify our taking care of ourselves without violating any moral or political obligation whatever,—or that we may be driven to attempt a political revulsion for causes which justice will sanction. That Texas should be thus suspended, as it were upon the current of events, all taken together present rather a new, and I think an interesting picture.

The agency which the first settlers have had in developing the resources of Texas, must always afford to them a gratification of the highest character. Humble as the honor may be considered by many who are revelling in the "*horse mill round*" of wealth in

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populous cities, I as one of those settlers, and as a leader of Texas pioneers, prise it very highly. This country is much more valuable than was ever supposed. I have seen the best part of North America from Boston to the City of Mexico, and I have no hesitation in saying that Texas has more advantages in fertility of soil, climate, and locality than any section of the country I have ever seen. I am well aware that the mere idea of a wilderness carries with it in the minds of many, the frightful picture of savages, wild men and beasts, and barbarism, but those who associate those ideas with the population of Texas, do us an injustice and deceive themselves.

We have just had a convention of all Texas, native Mexicans and foreign settlers—all united as one man.[1] We have asked for a State government and a repeal of the laws restricting emigration. What will be the fate of our application I know not. It may be said that we are too few for a state. To this it may be replied, what cannot or will not determined enterprise effect? In December 1821 I arrived on the Brazos River with about 20 families in the center of a wilderness, surrounded by hostile indians and far remote from all resources. We were then called madmen and our total destruction was predicted. Those 20 have grown to many thousands. The idea of a State *at this time*, is much less bold than was the idea of success *at that time*, with so feeble a beginning.

We have done our duty faithfully as Mexican citizens, and will continue so to do. Whatever may be the view which the Mexican government may take of the past, we can with honest truth say, that our consciences are clear. Should the future drive us into an attitude of hostility in defense of what we have so dearly earned, the public opinion of good men, I think, will acquit us of all wrong—we shall *then* expect that the sympathies which cheered the struggling Greeks and Poles—that sanctioned the independence of Spanish America—that applaud the liberals of France, and the reformists of Great Britain, will also cheer the humble watch fires of our undisciplined militia, and if necessary soon swell their ranks to a respectable army. The settlers of Texas are disciplined in toils and privations, in hard enterprise and contempt of danger, in constitutional principles and in honest industry, but they are untrained in the art of regular warfare—they have never been the tools of oppression nor the engines of destruction. The sons of the North may be buried in Texas, but they cannot be driven from it—neither do I think such a thing will be attempted—it would be a blind and mistaken policy This country, as a state of Mexico, would prosper—it would be of great service to the nation, and add much to the

[1] The journal of this convention, Oct. 1-6, 1832, can be found most conveniently in Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 475-503

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national strength and resources—it is not our interest to separate if such a thing can be avoided, *unless indeed we should float into the Northern Republic with the consent of all parties, ourselves included.*

Perhaps the nullifiers on one side and the spirit of revolution on the other, may split matters into fragments and leave us to ourselves here in the centre.

Whatever may be the fate of Texas, it must always excite the interest of those who have seen it, for it is a very favored country.

I have scribbled you a long letter, with all the careless freedom and frankness of an old acquaintance. I think you must feel some interest for this country and for your friends and countrymen who are in [it] and I am certain *you will do us all the good* you can. Write to me on the subject. Has this out-of-the-way section ever occupied any place in the attention of the magnates of Washington?

If you answer this I shall think you are willing to renew our old acquaintance and will continue to give you the *Texas news.*

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Gefatura del Departamento de Bejar.

Por el ultimo correo ordinario transcrivi al E. S. Gobernador del Estado el oficio de V S. de 20. de Septiembre popo. por el que renuncia el empleo de Coronel del Batallon de esa Municipalidad que se le confirió en 6. de Abril del año de 1829; mas como el articulo 11. del reglamento de la Milicia Civico no designó la autoridad á quien compete la admision de las renuncias á que se refiere, con motivo de la que V S. hace, he dirijido á la Superioridad la consulta que corresponde, y en el entretanto se sirve resolver, entiendo debe V S. continuar en el ejercicio de su empleo: lo que digo á V. S. p^{a} su intelig^{a} y en contestacion á su citado oficio.

Dios y libertad Bejar 10. de Octubre de 1832.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

Sor Coronel del Batallon de Sn. Felipe de Austin

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bejar 11. de Oct^{e} de 1832.

Sor Dn ESTEVAN AUSTIN

MI ESTIMADO AMIGO: Por la adjunta copia sacada de otra q recivi hayer del Saltillo, tendrá V. el disgusto como yó, al saber la derrota que ha sufrido el ejercito del Gral. Moctesuma por las fuerzas del

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Gob^no^ mandadas por Bustamante. Este acontecimiento sencible para todos sean del partido a q pertenescan, á empeorado la justa causa á q. por convencimiento nos hemos aderido, por q. la revolucion deve dilatarse mas, no siendo facil calcular su termino.

El articulo 41. del Reglam^to^ de la Milicia [civi]ca no espresa la autoridad a quien corresponde admitir la renuncias de los oficiales, y por esta duda q he consultado al Gob^no^ digo á V de oficio q entiendo deve continuar en el ejercicio del empleo de Coronel q ha renunciado.

Espero como V. me anuncia se procedera contra los York cuyos hombres por las criminales depredaciones q han cometido deven ser castigados.

La prudencia me ha aconsejado no reclamar al Ayuntam^to^ de esa Villa la desatencion he inpolitica conducta que ha observado con la Gefatura atropellandola nada menos en el hecho de convocar y Celebrar una junta del Departam^to^ por medio de representantes ó comisionados, sin abisarselo previam^te^ y obtener su consentimiento. V. mi amigo deve convenir en que se la ha faltado, q el Ayuntamiento ha obrado fuera de la orvita de sus facultades y q la junta no es legal. Por esto no entienda V. que yo esté en [contra de los] objetos que se iniciaron á este Ayuntamto debia ocuporse, todo lo contrario, desearia haber podido cooperar legalm^te^ en lo q hubiera estado en mis limitados alcances; soy vecino de Tejas, tengo el mayor interes por la seguridad y toda clase de mejoras q. puedan adelantar por las vias legales á este paiz y atodos sus abitantes, no obstante q segun he entendido, yá en el concepto de algunos de esos colonos, no soy el mismo Ramon Musquiz que hera enlos años de 830. y. 31.

Los acontecimientos delo interior complican mas y mas la suerte de Tejas q por su localidad y distintos intereses demanda la espedicion de leyes resoluciones ú ordenes del Gob^no^ Gral. y del particular del Estado análogos asus nesecidades, puesto q estubiera sistemado.

Mi salud es yá buena y deseo [q^e^] la de V. se mejore asi como el q. no haya falta en su benida a esta al regreso de nuestro amigo Arciniega.

Agame favor de presentar mis cumplimientos á Dn. Samuel en Union de su familia y q V. mande á su afmo. amigo y servidor Q. S. M. B.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubrie]

JOEL R. POINSETT TO AUSTIN

Charleston 14 October 1832

MY DEAR SIR

I yesterday received your letters of the 13 and 29 August and am very much indebted to you for this mark of your kind remem-

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brance as well as for the intelligence they contain— I am really sorry to find that Mexico should continue to be so convulsed even after the arch fiend has left the country— What will Pakenham say now— I did not raise the insurrection this time nor am I in anyway the cause of the revolt in the States— It is inconceivable that he and his friend should have been so weak as to attribute to me what is owing to the character of the people and their ignorance of self government— I dare say you will get along very well with Fagoaga, but doubt whether you will have long to get on with him— He has not I think, talents for the place he fills— You seem in the dark as [to] his predilections and the cause of Pakenham's coolness and even dissatisfaction with the appointment and I can account for both and give you a little secret history, which may be of use to you In Alaman's first reign as Secretary of State, he desired to send this very Fagoaga to London— Victoria objected and Mr. Ward objected; but Alaman who had at heart this nomination addressed himself severally to the President and the british Chargé— To the President he said that he ought to overcome his objections because Mr. Ward had expressed an earnest desire to have Fagoaga appointed to his Court—and to Ward that the President desired this so much that he thought the objections he had advanced ought to be withdrawn—

At length an eclaricissiment took place between the parties— The President apologised and expressed his regret that he could not obligo Mr. Ward in this matter, the other was stupefied— They mutually explained, and agreed that the secretary had sought to serve them both a scurvy trick— Ward called at my house on his return from this interview at the palace He was shocked at the duplicity of Alaman— He then told me, that Fagoaga's predelections were altogether french—that he was a Bourbonite and that it was certain the french ambassador in London would be instantly informed of every thing which passed between Mr Canning and the Mexican Envoy He was right—all the Fagoaga's are french in their predilections—Jose Maria desired the ratification of the plan of Iguala and treaties of Cordova and so did this Sor- D^{n} Francisco— I thank him however for his compliments to our country and sorry I am to say they are not deserved— Ambitious and bad men are exciting the people against the federal government— Calhoun, Hamilton, McDuffie and Hayne have driven our countrymen stark mad and our once loyal and glorious little state is about to disgrace herself and bring ruin upon her citizens— We have used every exertion to check them in their mad career, but in vain— They have gained almost all the elections and will in all probability have a constitutional majority in favor of conven-

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tions— In this hope the Governor has called together the Legislature for monday next— The object is to call a convention of the people and nullify the tariff act— If General Jackson is reelected I have no fears of the result— He will I am sure act with vigour and put down these nullifiers, forever— It is a hard case to stand by and see our city ruined by these men, who are guided alone by their personal ambition— We had a most animated contest and the union party put itself under my guidance, but it had been so mismanaged, that I could not restore it to order in the short time I had the command—not three weeks, We will do better in another year if the contest is not decided by the Sword before that period— In every other part of the United States there reigns the most perfect tranquillity and unparallelled prosperity—Even here if these agitators would let us alone, we are more prosperous than I have ever known Carolina to be— I cannot think of them or write of them with any patience— I will inform you soon of what our assembly of wise men do at Columbia— I cannot doubt of Gen[l] Jackson's reelection—

J. R. POINSETT

AUSTIN TO MUSQUIZ

[From Bexar Archives]

Habiendome conferido el Sor Don Thomas Powell poder judicial para arreglar los asuntos é intereses que tiene pendientes á causa del embargo que se hizo en el año de 1826 de unos efectos que introdujo por Labaca en la Goleta Escambia en el referido año; Y habiendome significado el mismo señor que ha recibido de varias personas noticia que existe alguna cantidad de dinero en deposito en esa Capital, He estimado por conveniente ocurrir á V. S. para que se sirva informarme si es efectivo que hay caudales en deposito en esa, ya en los fondos del gobierno, ó en poder de persona privada que pertenecen al citado Sor ó destinados á ser entregados al mismo. Para que con la respuesta de V. S. pueda tomar los pasos que sean conducentes á traer á su fin el referido negocio.

Dios y Libertad Villa de Austin á 15 de Octubre de 1832

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor Gefe del Depart[o] C Ramon Musquiz

ADAM BEATTY TO AUSTIN

Washington, Ky., October 16, 1832.

See Calendar.

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JOHN AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

Brazoria, October 17, 1832.

See Calendar.

ROBERT CRITTENDEN TO AUSTIN

Little Rock, October 18, 1832.

See Calendar.

COLLECTIONS FOR AUSTIN

A memorandum of Cattle Collected of [for] Col. S F Austin out of the stock that sd. Austin bought of Rabbs

May 1st 1832	one brindle steer which had been worked some little which steer I sold to J. Parker	$25 00	
	one three year old steer which sold to Parker at 10	10 00	
June 1st	one white steer which I sold to James Cox	20 00	
	one old cow that runs at A Castleman	10 00	55 00
Oct. 20th	" young unbroke cow that runs at M. Allen's which I sold to Father	10 00	
	one black cow and one 2 year old bull (this cow you got of Kelly Mc.Farland the calf died or was killed last spring) these cattle I let Father have which was valued at 17	17 00	
	The same cows yearling bull which I keep to run with my cattle these bull have no marks or brands but will some times suck the cow and of course they must be yours	7 00	37 00
	one white yearlin which I sold to father of the stock of Rabbs	5 00	
			104 00

[Indorsed:]
A memorandum of Cattle which I collected of Col S F Austin October 1832 By Thos. H Borden

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JOHN P. SHELDON TO AUSTIN

Detroit, Oct. 22d. 1832.

DEAR SIR,

I beg leave to introduce to your acquaintance, Mr. Sam[l] D. Colt, Jr. a young gentleman of Massachusetts. He has spent some months in this Territory, and finding his health poor, and business here not answering his expectations, he determined on going to the delightful region which I constantly praise and often dream of—Texas.

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I regret to say, that after all my exertions and arrangements I cannot get ready to remove my family this fall. It was more difficult than I anticipated to arrange numerous accounts, which had been accumulating for more than twelve years, and to change my little property into money—and I found that I could not depart for Texas, with enough in my pocket to render me independent of contingencies that were very probable. However, I do not doubt that I shall be in a condition to undertake the enterprise next season.

Since my return I have conducted a weekly journal in this city, and have occasion[ally] published articles relative to Texas, which have been well received and copied into other papers. During the coming winter I propose to myself to write and publish several numbers upon the same subject.

The pamphlet, containing the interesting proceedings of the past summer, reached me some weeks since. It has been in great demand among my reading and enterprising acquaintance, and will effect much good for Texas.

Believe me, my dear sir, there has been no disappointment in my worldly affairs, which has caused me more regret, than my inability to carry into effect my intention to remove to Texas this fall. I feel that I shall not rest contented until I am settled for life in that genial climate and delightful country; and every month that I am withheld from the gratification of the predominant desire, I consider as a great and absolute loss.

You will see several gentlemen in your colony in the course of the winter, coming from this portion of the Union; and I should not be suprised if the fame of Col. S. F. Austin, and interest which Texas has excited, will soon cause you more trouble (by increasing your visitors) than you are prepared to encounter.

I should be very glad to receive letters from you often; and rest assured, that any suggestion of yours will receive that attention which my sincere desire for the welfare of Texas and your intimate acquaintance with her interests, cannot fail to secure. I beg, sir, you will, at least, *think* me willing and able to do a little for the good of Texas.

Gen. Mason left his home in this city a few days since, for N. York, whence he will go to Washington. Before setting out for Texas he will return to this place; and in all probability he will not see you until February or March next.

I perceive by a Nashville paper that the Tenesee company are about sending an agent to Mexico, in order to arrange their claims. I also learn, by a gentleman just returned to this place from N. York, that a Mr. Jamieson had been engaged to survey lands for the N. Y. compy in the grants bordering the Trinity, etc.

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If Mrs. Holly is in Texas please give her my respects and best wishes for her happiness. Remember me also to Mr. Williams and other gentlemen who have not forgotten me.

JOHN P. SHELDON [Rubric]

Col. S. F Austin

ANTHONY BUTLER TO AUSTIN

San Felipe Oct 22 1832

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

Will please pay Maj. Jesse Bartlett or order one hundred and fifty dollars being in part pay for building a stable on Col Anthony Butlers tavern lot in this place and charge to a/c

ANTHONY BUTLER
By JNO R JONES *Agent*

Recd. on the within thirty two dollars and fifty eight cents Octr. 22nd 1832

JESSEE BARTLETT

117.42 paid by Perry and Hunter to a/c S F Austin 5 Nov. 1832

PERRY AND HUNTER
JESSEE BARTLETT

MUSQUIZ TO AUSTIN

Bexar, October 23, 1832.

See Calendar.

JOHN P. AUSTIN TO AUSTIN

New York Oct. 25. 1832

MY DEAR COUSIN,

I am in receipt of your kind letters of the 4th of July—from Matamoras—and 29th July, via Natchitoches. The latter when confined to my bed by a severe attack, of a derangement of the Liver and Bowels, from which I trust I have recovered except my Strength, which is fast returning. It kept me housed several weeks, so that I may say for two Months past I have been out the way of news. I have however enclosed brother Henry a letter from friend Treat, giving all the news that has transpired for some time past, both in regard to Mexico and Texas, thus far very favourable, as we have every reason to believe the result will be. I have therefore only to refer you to Henry who will with pleasure Communicate it to you—Genl. Mason, whom I am told reports very favorably of his Mission to Mexico is now here, and the Trustees to the Galveston Bay Compy,

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are only waiting the arrival of one of their members, Mr. Sumner hourly expected from Boston, to have a meeting to determine upon future operations, the result of which, I was in hopes to have obtained in time for this letter, but find will have to defer it for my next, as I find the vessel is to sail in an hours time. From the latest advises from Mexico, Santa Anna's success is now looked upon as Certain—by the best informed here, so desirable for your Colony as well as all Mexico, and more particularly the former, since the late movements there, which I was happy to learn terminated so fortunately—I thank you for the Pamphlet, which reached me from Mobile, giving the details and very satisfactory they must be to all unbiased minds. I hope to get it republished here, in which Case will have the article put in form agreeably to the ideas Suggested in your letter and appended. That part of your letter from Matamoras—which you Suggested, I had published, as you will have seen by the paper Sent you at the time. I got a letter last week from brother Henry giving the painful news of the affliction of his family, in the death of his wife. It is a severe trial for him and I fear much for his own health, but trust he will bear up under it with usual fortitude, when he reflects upon the Situation of his Children, and not suffer himself to be unnecessarily exposed. I know he has a kind friend in you and that there will be nothing wanting on your part to Comfort him— I am told his location on the river is a very unhealthy one, and fear there is too much truth in it. I send him a file of papers, which are equally at your Service. I must Close this Scrawl or be too late It goes pr Schr. Sabine Capt. Brown—She has 16 to 18 passengers. I hope soon to be in receipt of late dates from you—

J. P. Austin

Col Stephen F. Austin San Felipe de Austin Texas.

John T. Mason to Austin

City of New York Oct^{r} 25. 1832

My Dear Sir

I arrived here from Matamoros on the 22 July last at the height of the prevailing epidemic; and found the City nearly abandoned and all business virtually suspended. And it is only within this month that the inhabitants have returned to their homes and things begin to assume their usual aspect. This information, which has doubtless been partially anticipated, will account for the apparent apathy in the land companies, for whose progress I had made arrangements. I am now here for the first time that an assemblage of the company could be had since the cholera, and in a few days they

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will have organised their plans of operation, and go to work to introduce settlers. It is more than probable I shall come on to Texas as early as practicable to fix resident agents on the respective grants, and get the colonization fairly under way. But whether I undertake this or not, it will not change my determination to visit your country this winter; and I hope to see you at St. Felipe in December at farthest.

I am fully persuaded the Galveston company will go on with spirit, and you may expect from them a full cooperation in all your views. Your movements in Texas I have learnt with no little interest, and see you have taken the first step for a change in your government,—declaring in favor of a seperate State. This doubtless can be readily effected so soon as quiet is restored to the Republic. The news here is that Bustamente has been completely routed by Montesuma, and is a fugitive. Padraza has returned, at the repeated solicitation of Santa Anna, and by his resuming the Presidency will end the contest and restore the constitution. We are on the eve of our Presidential election, and Jackson must be reelected by an overwhelming majority. The goubernatorial elections of Ohio, Keny and Pensa—have been Jackson—ohio by an immense majority—

I hope to see you when I visit your country, because I have much to say to you, and many important subjects to submit to your consideration deeply interesting to us both and to the country. Should you return to Leona Vicario before I arrive or be absent leave a letter saying what will be your movements.

I think it more than probable you have been induced to forego your inclination to retire from public life and will be found at the Legislature in January— much to my disappointment, it is said that Bravo has been chosen President—should our old friend Graves be with you assure him of my cordial remembrance, and accept for yourself my most friendly regards

JOHN T. MASON

P. S. I sent your letter to R[d] Hawes on my arrival: but have heard nothing from him, I have not been in Keny. I hope the Governor has appointed a commi[ssioner] for these grants: if not please have it done as early as practicable. My expectation was you would return to Saltillo and have this done when there—

[Addressed:] Colonel Stephen F. Austin St. Felipe de Austin Texas

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ELIZABETH DOOLEY TO AUSTIN

Lafayette County, November 1, 1832.

See Calendar.

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R. R. ROYALL TO AUSTIN

Caney, November 2, 1832.

See Calendar.

ANTHONY BUTLER TO AUSTIN

San Felipe Nov. 3rd. 1832

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

Will please pay William Williamson or order one hundred and fifty dollars being in part payment for a frame house for Col Anthony Butler.

ANTHONY BUTLER
by JNO R JONES *Agent*

William Williamson
Stephen F. Austin's acceptce. $150.—due
Recd. Payment Nov. 3, 1832 N TOWNSEND

J. M. EVANS TO AUSTIN

Colorado, October 4, 1832.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Nov. 4. 1832

Dr BROTHER.

After much perplexity I have finally closed the division of the Peach point tract, and take the lower half, you will therefore chuse your situation below the division line which Borden will run. I shall divide the point into two tracts and you will take the upper one adjoining to the division line—that is next below the division line—you will lay off your tract in the following manner— Run two thousand varas from the division line down the point and then run to Jones Creek paralel with the division line and up Jones Creek to said line. This gives you 2000 varas front on the Prarie, and the same on the creek, and it will leave me a situation below you at the point—this arrangement is final.

There are so many disposed to make trouble and intermeddle, that there is but one way to do in this country to avoid trouble, which is to let no one know any thing about your affairs and never say one word to any one, about them—and particularly, say nothing to Westall or any of your neighbors—they do not harmonize amongst each other, and are jealous of each other and of every thing.

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Borden will run off your tract so that I can make the deed. I heard yesterday from Emily, they were all well.

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr James F. Perry

AUSTIN TO EMILY M. PERRY[1]

Brazoria Novr 5. 1832

Dr SISTER,

I believe I have nearly got through the troublesome business of settling my affairs with the Hawkins estate and I have in this settlement given up at least one fourth of what I was entitled to, in order to have it finally finished and off my mind.

Mr Perry is going on very well and will soon have some cabbins up, I have a situation joining him so that after a while we will be near together, within half a mile, and I hope shall yet enjoy some peace in each others society—it distracts *me* to see you unhappy—everything has turned out differently from what I expected when I first wrote to Perry to move, the prospects were then very good and the country in peace, but if you were satisfied I should not be at all discouraged at the present state of things—this country must prosper in the end, it cannot be otherwise—this year has been bad—unusually wet, and filled with trouble, but next year will be much better—this world is all trouble, or not so bad, just as we chuse to make it—*content* is everything.

STEPHEN

THOMAS M. BLAKE TO AUSTIN

Bay Prairie, November 6, 1832.

See Calendar.

ANTHONY BUTLER TO AUSTIN

Col S. F. AUSTIN

Will please pay John Brown or order twenty one dollars 87½ for brick received of him for Col Anthony Butlers use

ANTHONY BUTLER
by JNO R JONES

Nov 6 1832

Stephen F. Austin's Acceptce. $21.87½

JOHN BROWN

Recd. Payment Nov. 6, 1832

N. TOWNSEND

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[1] Original in possession of Mrs. E. L. Perry.

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JOHN P. SHELDON TO AUSTIN

Detroit, Nov. 7, 1832.

Dr Sir,

The Bearer of this Dr. S. Denton is on a visit to Texas to find a beautiful spot and a congenial atmosphere, on which and in which to spend the remainder of his days with an amiable wife whose constitution is too slender to bear our northern winds much longer.

Please direct him in his examination of your delightful country, and I will, I trust *next year*, repay the obligation personally.

I wrote you, recently, by Mr. Colt, therefore will not now trouble you with a long letter.

There will be no difficulty in making up, even in this distant land, a party of 10 or 20 families for Texas.

Forgive me, if I once more request letters from you—they will be absolutely necessary for me, as I am a thousand times questioned about the prospects of settlers or emigrants from our States.

Jno P Sheldon [Rubric]

Col. Stephen F Austin.

SMITH AND STILLMAN TO AUSTIN

Matamoras, November 12, 1832.

See Calendar.

JOHN STRYKER TO AUSTIN

Matamoras, November 12, 1832.

See Calendar.

JOHN P. SHELDON TO AUSTIN

Detroit, Nov. 12, 1832,

Dear Sir,

I have the satisfaction of introducing to your acquaintance Mr. Robert Le Roy, (a connexion of mine) and Mr. E. Comstock. They are young men of the strictest probity, of the most exemplary habits, and possessing enterprise and industry so as to render them an acquisition to your colony, and to ensure to themselves an enviable independence. They are but the pioneers of several families who will leave this part of the U. States next season for Texas, and they wish to find a place which will justify them in erecting a saw mill and other works, and which will warrant the formation of a neighborhood of fifteen or twenty families. With the families, (which will be formed into an emigrating company) it is my intention to be

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numbered—indeed, it is from my advice and representations, that the plan has been adopted—consequently, you must be aware of my solicitude respecting the location of the contemplated settlement. I was much delighted with the district of country in the vicinity of Brookfield's, but am not certain that water power of sufficient magnitude can be had without it is found some 10 or 15 miles from him, in some of the bends of the Colorado. A water power and timber would be desirable. The former, I was told, is abundant in the interior as far as your most northern grant—please direct the young men to those parts where they will be most likely to find what they desire, and also tell them what the advantages are for industrious agriculturists and stock raisers. These young men are a sample of those that will emigrate next season; and are such as will do, each of them, more actual labor, either as merchanics or agriculturists, than three or four men, black or white, that have been reared with southern habits—they are just such as I know you wish to see Texas filled with—and just such as your glorious country deserves. I am more and more impressed with the correctness of your views, as expressed to me, relative to the destinies of Texas, and the proper policy to be pursued.

Mr. Le Roy and Mr. Comstock will inform you of the extent of the desire to emigrate to Texas, among the people of the county in which they live—the feeling is spread far even in this new country, from even the slight information which has been diseminated among them. What then could not be done in the eastern and northern states, in the way of forming emigrating companies, if proper measures were adopted?

I feel, sir, that I have embarked in an important business, (the arrangement and formation of an emigrating party) and it would always be a source of regret to me, to be instrumental in deceiving the hopes or just expectations of any one: for this reason, sir, I feel that every particle of information from Texas, at all affecting the interests and well-being of the settlers, will be of high importance. I assure, you, sir, that those who emigrate with me shall not have it to say that I withheld or misstated any thing in my power to communicate, and important for them to know.

By the latest information which has reached me from Mexico, I perceive that Santa Anna has met a reverse in the defeat of Moctezuma—and that he himself is in somewhat a critical situation. Tell me, sir, should those against whom Santa Anna took up arms, prevail against him, will they dare attempt to be avenged on those of Texas who have declared in his favor? Or will they dare attempt to narrow the privileges of your colonists, from the disposition which they have manifested to abrogate the abominable law to pre-

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vent emigration, and the desire which they have expressed to be a sovereign state of the Republic? For myself, I am certain that, let the civil commotion terminate as it may, the people of Texas need not, from that result, be subjected to any loss, or have their prospects of rapid advancement in wealth and importance, much impeded—so sure am I that the dominant party in Mexico, *must* be aware of the strength, the spirit, and the resources of the people of Texas. At all events, you would oblige me much by letting me know your views, so that I can have it in my power to reassure those who may feel fearful about the peace of the Settlers.

You may rest assured, sir, that the families who will compose the emigrating party to Texas will be just such as you will rejoice to see—respectable, intelligent, and industrious such as you find always among the most valuable citizens of our villages in N. York or Pennsylvania: for they will for the most part be people from the states who have removed here, and find the winters too rigorous. All our farmers indeed, appear to be sighing for your genial climate and rich meadows and soil.

Should you happen to see Doct^{r} N. Labadie, of Anahuac, please inform him that his mother and connexions are well, and wish very much to receive a letter from him.

Give my best wishes to Mr Williams and other gentlemen of my acquaintance and beleive me, sir,

Col S. F. Austin

Jno P Sheldon [Rubric]

Archibald Austin to Austin

New York, 13 Novr 1832.

My dear Sir,

Allow me the pleasure to Introduce to your acquaintance Miss McManos, who has had it in contemplation for some time past to proceed to Europe, for the purpose of pointing out to her Friends, the most eligible part of this Continent, for them to migrate to, and of whose views I have already given my Brother Henry a partial Idea of, and refer you to her for particulars, She having determined on visiting your Colony, ere she embarks for Europe, for the purpose of obtaining the requisite Information about the Country, to enable her to communicate from personal observation, the inducements it may offer for her Friends—and also to make such arrangements with you as may be practicable, in regard to a Location—

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You will please give this Lady the Information she is in persuit of and pay her such attentions as a Lady and a Stranger may require in a new Country—

This Ladys mission is an important one, and I hope it may be consider'd mutually advantageous, to adopt means to cause it to be crowned with success—

ARCH AUSTIN

Colo S. F. Austin Sn. Filepe de Austin Texas,

Please consider Mr McManos who accompanies his Sister as included in my Letter of Introduction, he will probably remain in the Colony if he finds it to his advantage

A. A.

S. RHOADS FISHER TO AUSTIN

Matagorda, November 14, 1832.

See Calendar.

ANTHONY BUTLER TO AUSTIN

Col S. F. AUSTIN

Will please pay Lemuel Crawford or order fourteen Dollars forty five cents for work in building a brick chimney burning lime etc.

Nov. 14th 1832.

JNO R. JONES

for Col. Anthony Butler

for ANTHONY BUTLER

AUSTIN TO RAMON MUSQUIZ[1]

San Felipe: November 15th 1832

MOST ESTEEMED FRIEND. I agree with the sentiments expressed in your appreciable letter of the 8th inst. just received: "He is to be pitied who has the misfortune to be at the head of public affairs, in revolutionary times;" Indeed, be [he] a righteous man, or an angel, he cannot escape the attacks of some party or individuals— A rule we should always follow, is to do our duty, without minding what may be said: I on my part have always wished to follow this rule, and my conscience is at rest: I found myself on several occasions in rather a critical situation, but the polar star that has always guided me, was to promote the true interests of the Nation and Texas, and I can say that as far as I was able, I complied with

[1] From Translations from Bexar Archives in Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

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my duty. With regard to the meeting, it did not originate with me, but I believe some good will result from its action; the public is satisfied, and we have enjoyed more quiet than heretofore.

As to your communication to the Ayuntamiento in relation to the meeting, I believe that it would have been better, not to have written it, "*Revolutionary times are not like peaceable times.*" Colonel Bradburn could with the least prudence, have avoided all these evils: I tell you candidly that in my opinion, it would be very impolitic to translate, and print your communication. I shall not do so. The Ayuntamiento may do as they please: In times like the present, any measure is bad, that tends to irritate, and produce excitement,—any measure is good that tends to soothe, and to preserve order and peace.

I have but little hope of obtaining anything from the Government of Mexico; there is little probability that we may have a stable and peaceable government, for some time yet, and I believe that Texas is lost if she takes no measure of her own for her welfare. I incline to the opinion, that it is your duty as first Magistrate, to call a general meeting to take into consideration the situation of the Country. I do not know how the State, or General Government can presume to say that the people of Texas have violated the Constitution, when the acts of both Governments have killed the Constitution, and when the confederation itself has hardly any life left. I cannot approve the principle, that the people have not the right to assemble peaceably and honorably to represent their wants. In short, the condition of Texas is bad, but we may fear to see it still worse.

I am settling up all my business and in April I will go to the North for six months or one year. There is little to be hoped for in Texas. I wish you would let me hear the news, and tell me if the Constitution is dead, or alive, if an election for President shall take place, and what hope there is for a peacable settlement of the affairs. In the meanwhile please to give your orders to your affectionate friend

S. F. AUSTIN

J. M. LOPEZ TO JAMES BOWIE

Victoria, November 16, 1832.

See Calendar.

WILLIAM P. HARRIS TO AUSTIN

San Felipe, November 17, 1832.

See Calendar.

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Austin to James F. Perry

Dr Brother.

A Mr Oddy, a very respectable man of family, wishes to rent or buy the house and lots where Chrisman lives—he wants possession the first of Janry. I have told him he could have it or rent provided you had not promised it, and I knew of no promise—send your terms to Fletcher without any delay, as Oddy wishes to become a certainty—I do not know if he has money to pay for it—what do you rate it at—or do you wish to sell—write to Fletcher what to do.

No news of any importance, I think I can arrange my affairs to go to the U. S. in april

Novr. 17 1832—

S. F. Austin

Man hung yesterday for murdering a negro—

Israel McGready to James F. Perry

Potosi, Missouri, November 17, 1832.

See Calendar.

George Tennille to Austin

November 20, 1832.

See Calendar.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz [1]

En cumplimiento del oficio de V. S. fecha 17 de Agosto del año p° p° incertandome el del Exmo. Sor. Gobor del Estado de fecha 14 de Julio del mismo año y encargandome formar una lista del numero de familias extrangeras que existen diseminadas en varios puntos sin titulos legitimos de posesion, tengo el honor de manifestar á V. S. que, aunque me he dedicado con el mayor empeño para formar una lista exacta de las dichas familias, no he podido verificarlo, por lo muy esparcido y las dilatadas distancias en q° se hallan establecidas: pero si, puedo decir, que por los datos q° he podido adquirir llegaran al numero de cuatrocientas mas ó menos.

Un numero considerable de estas familias me han solicitado ser admitidas en la empresa de colonizacion que tengo contratada con el Gobno en compania con D. Samuel M. Williams mas como para acceder á estas solicitudes se necesita la previa aprobacion del Gobno no se ha podido admitirlas, aunq° es muy notable las grandes ventajas

[1] Appendix to Empresario Contracts, vol. 54, p. 174, General Land Office of Texas.

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que resultarian de esta medida, tanto por el establecim^to^ permanente y legal de un numero considerable de pobladores utiles, como por la poblacion del pais arriva del camino de la Bahia, llamado del medio, parte de la dicha empresa donde se puede colocarlas con ventajas, asi formando una antemuralla contra la entrada de los indios que hostilizan á las fronteras de las colonias y á Bexar y La Bahia.

Por tanto en el caso de que se servira el Gob^no^ aprobar esta medida, los dichos empresarios Austin y Williams ofrecen recibir en su empresa de colonizacion, cuantas de las referidas familias que solicitasen voluntariam^te^ ser admitidas, en el concepto de que han de entrar como parte de las ochocientas familias contratadas por los dhos empresorios, y han de sugetarse á las reglas y condiciones establecidas para las demas familias de la dicha empresa á fin de ahorrar confusiones y competencias,

En el caso de que se servira el Gob^no^ mandar que se lleve á efecto esta providencia seria muy importante nombrar á un comisionado desde luego para la dicha empresa de colonizacion de Austin y Williams, á fin de dar principio á lo colocacion de las dichas familias, y así estimularlas á establecerse en el interior del país, que tanto importa poblar para contener á los indios, é interim no presentarse el comisionado seria muy conveniente autorizar al alcalde de Austin p^a^ posesionar á las referidas familias.

Todo lo cual tengo el honor de poner en el conocim^to^ de V. S. para los fines que puedan convenir, y en contestacion de su citado oficio protestando á V. S. mi muy alta consideracion y respecto.

Dios y Libertad. Villa de Austin, 20 de Nov^bre^ 1832

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor. Gefe del departam^to^ de Bexar C. Don Ramon Musquiz

CALL FOR A CONVENTION

CIRCULAR

To the Comisario of the Precinct of or the Sub-Committee of said District:

YOU are hereby requested to hold an Election in your Precinct, on the last Saturday and Sunday in December next, for the purpose of Electing FIVE DELEGATES, to meet in Convention in the Town of San Felipe de Austin, On Monday, the 14th day of January next.

The object of this call, will be sufficiently explained by the accompanying Report of the Committee appointed by a meeting of the People of this place.

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Should the Comisario, from any cause, be unable to hold the Election, any Member of Your Committee, together with a Citizen, are competent to hold the Election. The returns to be made as soon as possible after the Election.

GIVEN under our hands, at the Town of San Felipe de Austin, this 20th day of November, 1832.

AT a numerous meeting of Citizens, at San Felipe de Austin, convened for the purpose of expressing their sentiments in relation to the then pending execution of *Delaney*, Mr. IRA INGRAM availed himself of the opportunity, to introduce a Resolution, which led to the following REPORT:

Mr. Chairman:—The Committee to whom was referred the resolution relative to the "expediency, or inexpediency, of calling a Convention of the people of Austin's Colony, for the purpose of framing a Provisional Code of Criminal Jurisprudence, and for the further purpose of providing for the correction of abuses, if any, in Civil proceedings"; having had the subject of reference under consideration, and having given it all the attention which the short time allowed for reflection would permit—REPORT—that they deem the call of such a Convention not expedient only, but vitally imporant to the protection of our dearest rights.

Your Committee have long witnessed, and have long lamented, in common with their Fellow-Citizens of the Jurisdiction, the tardy and tiresome progress of criminal proceedings in our Courts—they have witnessed the impunity of the guilty, and the total want of protection for the innocent. The laws which ought to be inforced, if any such there be, are locked up in a language known to a few only, and, therefore, for all practical purposes. utterly beyond our reach. The Tribunals, too, whose duty it is to administer the law, are, if possible, of still more difficult access.

Superadded to these considerations, which, of themselves, must always weigh heavily with an intelligent and increasing population, we are at present involved in the uncertainties of the Civil War now raging in the interior of the country. The excitements and political agitations, always attendant on belligerent operations, necessarily produce delay in all countries, and in all times; and operate on us, at the present crises, as a total denial of the administration of justice.

The accurate observer, on taking a survey of our situation, must pronounce the decisive opinion, that we are without *remedy* for wrongs; that we are without *redress* for grievances; and that we must remain without them, until they are provided by the deliberate, and *declared will* of a majority of the people, assembled by delegation, in Public Convention.

Your Committee are of opinion, therefore, that such Convention should be called with as little delay as possible, for the purpose of recommending, or of framing a Criminal Code for trial and final disposal of those charged with offences, and with crimes; and for the purpose of adopting such measures as in their wisdom, may be necessary to carry the system into full, complete. and immediate operation.

Your Committee would also recommend, that, such Convention institute a full and thorough investigation of abuses in the administration of justice in civil proceedings; and that they apply such remedy, or remedies, as may be

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necessary to afford relief for past wrongs, and to prevent, if possible, the occurrence of others hereafter.

And they further recommend, that a call be made by the First and Second Alcalde, or by either of them, on the Comisarios, or Sub-Committees of each Precinct throughout the Colony, to hold an election, or cause one to be held, at as many different places as may be necessary for a full expression of public sentiment, for the election, of five Delegates from each Precinct, on the last Saturday and Sunday of December next; to meet in Convention on Monday, the 14th of January, 1833, in the Town of San Felipe de Austin.

And your Committee recommend also, that a copy of the proceedings of this meeting, signed by the Chairman and certified by the Secretary, be circulated to all the Comisarios, or Sub-Committees; and that they be requested to furnish a copy of the same to every citizen called by them to hold a poll.

San Felipe, 13th November, 1832.

IRA INGRAM, *Chairman*,
LUKE LESASSIER.
WILLIAM H. JACK.

AMENDMENT.—Moved, seconded and carried—that this report was adopted by the meeting with the amendment that the members of the Ayuntamientos of the Municipalities of Austin and Brazoria, be considered as members ex officio of the proposed Convention.

W. McFARLAND TO AUSTIN

Ayish Nov 22. 1832

Col S. F. AUSTIN

Dr SIR; that purity of sentiment evinced in your letter—and denying that distinction that public opinion was willing to give is in an instance of self denial—*not ordinary.*

I am truely sorry that you declined standing a poll.

You very modestly expressed yourself as to your military Capacity— common observation often Justify the belief; that those; best qualified pretend least.

That the fate of Texas will depend upon the people themselves but little doubt; and of the efficiency of our Militia as little.

I think that we have reason to fear that our constituted authorities have not felt sufficient strong the impressions of freeman: so common and almost inherent to people born in U. S. to extend freely those rights, which the habits and education of Americans have taught them that they have a right to demand and short of which will never be satisfyed.

The habits and political arangments of Mexicans; are of a character calculated to produce a fear that nothing *but fear;* will prompt them to extend to the people of Texas the exercise of equal rights.

Had you continued to be a condidate; you would have recd a common support; with us.

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I will thank you if you please to give me the names of all the Empresarios their limits and places of residence, their agents and their residences.

Do you think that there is any reason to believe that the President of U. S. will force the line to snow river.

Has the law or laws, regulating the duties of Alcalda, been translated or printed if so will you please inform my son how to procure them.

W. Mc,Farland

Silas Dinsmore to Austin

Matagorda, November 28, 1832.

See Calendar.

Perry and Hunter to Austin

Recd. on a/c Mrs. Sarah Gilbert and Preston Gilberts Notes Geo. Tennell's ord. on S. F. A		$60.00
Brand F 1 Blk. Steer. 3 Years old		10.00
" " 1 White Red Ears		10.00
" " 1 Blk and White		8.00
" " 1 Red and White Muly		5.00
" " 1 White and Blk Speckled Bull		6.00
" " 1 " " " " "		6.00
" " 1 Red Cow Wide horns		9.00
" NR 1 Red and White Cow and Red Calf		10.00
		122.00
Mrs. Gilberts Note	93.00	
" P. Gilberts "	40.94	133.94
Settled by us and cr. to S. F. Austin		11.94
Nov. 29th 1832		P and H

Anthony Butler to Austin

San Felipe Nov 30th 1832

Col S. F. Austin

Will please pay Lemuel Crawford or order thirty eight dollars for work done on Col Anthony Butlers building in this place, which charge to a/c

Anthony Butler
by Jno. R. Jones, *Agent.*

Pay Jno. R. Jones or order for value recd Dec. 1st 1832

Lemuel Crawford

Recd. Payment in full Jany 13th 1833.

Jno. R. Jones

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JONAS HARRISON TO AUSTIN

District of Teneha, Texas,
November 30th 1832.

DEAR SIR,

Your letter of the 18th, current came [to] hand late last evening. The one you mention as giving an account of our "political situation," has not been received, nor any other except the one of the 18th.

Rumor is busy with her thousand tongues, but we know nothing of the interior, not even whether Mr. Wharton is gone or not.[1]

Our military elections are in a very unpleasant situation, and the sub committee of this district have wrote to the Chairman of the central committee on the subject; but we are fearful that he has not as yet received the letter.

I am told that there is an opportunity of forwarding this letter by a Mr Burk provided it is at the Big Road by twelve of the clock to-day, but for this I should have taken your letter down and conversed with some of the principal citizens in the Aysh District on the subject of it before I wrote you an answer. But as it is, I will with pleasure give you my opinion fully and frankly "that I think the Americans in these three districts would gladly embrace the project of uniting with the people of Bexar and the rest of Texas in forming a provisional government on the basis that Texas is a part of the Mexican confederation, and will so remain and that we are all Mexicans and will rigidly procet [protect] all the rights and interests of Mexico."]

The idea of a separate, distinct, and independent government I do not believe exists in the mind of any man of common sense in the district. Nor do they want to belong to the United States of the North, there are some fiew exceptions to this last opinion, but not many, scarsely one to ten.

They have come to the country to participate of the benefits of the Mexican Independence, and of their liberal policy in regard to land, and they wish to continue so. The idea of Texas being independent and forming a nation is absurd. The very expenses of supporting the Government could they have it, would render them the most oppressed people. Besides their weakness would invite aggression.

They want a provisional Government—they want a judiciary—the present system is little or no protection to their persons or property.

I will write you more at large on this subject, but at present am in such fear of loosing the opportunity of conveyance, that I am not able to write as I other wise would.

[1] William H. Wharton was elected by the Convention of October, 1832, to take the petitions of the Convention to the government of Mexico. For the Convention, see Barker, *The Life of Stephen F. Austin*, chapter XIII.

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I hope you will continue to write and give me an account of the political complection of the interior.

Be pleased to direct your letter to me at Teneha to be left at Mr Philip Sublet's Big Road. Ayish District.

Be so good as to present my respects to Mr. Williams.

J. HARRISON

Colonel S. F. Austin

AUSTIN TO MUSQUIZ[1]

Goliad November 30th 1832

MOST ESTEEMED FRIEND.

I left Austin on a visit to your City, arrived here yesterday and continue on my way tomorrow. The Ayuntamiento of Austin held no meeting owing to the sickness of its members, since the Alcalde received the communication about the convention and committees: for this reason they have not answered it, I believe that their answer may be delayed somewhat: In the mean time, I see no difficulty in placing the affairs on a footing, that would secure union and harmony throughout Texas. It seems that there is at Bexar a uniform agreement on the *substance* of the representation, only some disagreement on the *manner* of representing. If it is so, it will be easy to settle the difficulty: let Bexar take the lead in the matter. In short, the main object of my visit is, to see if there is any means to avoid a dissentment with Bexar, and the balance of Texas. This journey is rather troublesome to me, owing as well to the bad condition of the roads, as to the danger of Indians, and the loss of time from my private business, but we wish to see harmony prevail in Texas, as it exists already in substance. The forms are of little importance, and ought not to breed discord, though I believe it will not be difficult to satisfy all parties, and to obtain a unity of action. I shall be with you, a few hours after these lines reach you.

S. F. Austin.

Ramon Musquiz.

ASA HOXEY TO ROBERT M. WILLIAMSON

Montgomery Decr. 2d. 1832

ROBERT M. WILLIAMSON, Esqr.

Dr. SIR Your esteemed favour of Nov 1st has come to hand, It gives me great pleasure to find that you are so faithfull to your promise of detailing the various affairs of our adopted country— Such is the difficulty in winding up a ten years unsettled business that it will be impossible for me to leave the United States before

[1] Translations from Bexar archives in Nacogdoches archives, Texas State Library.

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September next I allso will have to make a trip to Virginia for the purpose of adding to my stock of Slaves which will take up so much of my time that I cannot Start sooner than the period mentioned You may look with a great deal of certainty for many of your old acquaintances in Texas next Spring the Spirit for emigration to that Country is very great and thousands would go but for the terrors of a Mexican government these idle fears I have endeavored as much as possible to allay and I belive with much success except with some of the more timid. You mentioned in your last letter that you belived Mexican grants of Eleven leagues could be procured for a reasonable sum if so you will perceve by the enclosed proposition that Mr Edward Hanrick George Whitman and myself are disposed to procure some of them the Selections of which will be left entirely to your own discretion and should you be disposed to take up with the proposition I feel satisfied that we will be well pleased with your selections In consequence of the disturbances in Texas the Messrs Prichards have declined their journey untill another year Mr Beard and Thompson have started to Texas and no doubt will arrive ere this

The Political news of the United States is that Jackson has been re-ellected President by an overwhelming majority— South Carolina has nullified the Tariff acts; which is to take place in February next, provided Congress does not abandon the protection system by that time and in case of any interference on the part of the united states to enforce the laws She has declared her determination to Secede we expect stormy times in the United States. perhaps civil war which God avert Your brother Michael Williamson died a few weeks ago and Col Peacock has taken home his widow and children—

Asa Hoxey

[Addressed:] Robert M. Willaimson Esqr. San Fillippe De Austin Texas Mexico (Via New Orleans)

Henry Morse to Austin

Brazoria, December 2, 1832.

See Calendar.

Austin to Samuel M Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Bexar 6 December 1832

S.M.W.

Dr Sir, I arrived here on the 3 inst.—yesterday there was a meeting of the principal citizens—that is the Chief—Erasmo [Seguin]—

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the Navarros—Col. Elosua—Balmaceda—Flores—Garza etc, and I gave them an exact discription of the evils that are retarding the progress of Texas. Stated in plain terms the necessity of separating from Coahuila, and the desire of the people generally to do so—and said everything I could to induce them to concur in taking that step at once.

The matter was discussed and talked over with great calmness and interest. There was not a dissenting voice as to the necessity of a remidy and all agreed that a separation from Coahuila was the best, but they thought it precipitate to take that step before any representations of our grievances were made to the Govt. This they considered a necessary preliminary step. Finding that they would not agree to go into the meas[ure] [before] the intermediate step of representing had been resorted to, I urged the absolute importance of proceeding immediately to take that step, by the Ayuntamto of this place—that *All* the grievances should be plainly and firmly stated, and that the remonstrance should terminate with a positive declaration that if our grievances were not fully redressed by the first day of March next, Texas would then proceed immediately to organize a local Government—they agreed to this, but thought March too short a time and April was proposed and I think will be agreed to.

The conference was unofficial, of course,—it lasted from nine A. M. to 2 P. M.—they were unanimous, and I have full confidence that what was agreed on will be carried into effect.

The Ayuntamto is now in session on this matter to appoint a committee to draw up the remonstrance, and I am of opinion that the [most impatient man?] in Texas, will have no reason [to say that] it is *too mild*. They called on [me to] furnish the heads—besides those [acted] on by the convention, I have given [some?] others, including the whole system of the local administration—of colonization—of the militia—all the violations of the constitution—the insults offered to Texas, by the outrage on her representatives in Sept. 1830—the law No. 50—the retail law, the insult offered to the Lieut. Gov^{r} by calling a judge to exercise the government etc, etc, usurpations—the neglect of the Govt. towards the people to the east of my colony and in La Bahia etc.

The object is to form a list of all the insults offered to Texas, and all her grievances and to *demand*, full satisfaction. If it is not granted, Texas can *then* say to Coahuila and to the world—we were insulted and oppressed—we asked redress—it was refused, and we have redressed * * * [If I succeed] in getting this Ayto to [pass] this remonstrance, as I have pro[posed] and as was agreed to in the conference [yester]day, it will place Texas on much better ground than to go into the measure now, and it will unite this place

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and La Bahia firmly with the balance of Texas, for they will be so compromised that there will be no backing out, even if they wished to do so; which they will not, for they are as anxious for a separation as we are, but wish to show to the world that they are *right*, and stand on just ground in case force must ultimately be resorted to.

I will return as soon as this matter is concluded.

Ramon Musquis, after all, is one of the best friends to Texas and the truest that lives in this place and he deserves the confidence of the Colony and of all Texas.

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Arciniegas family are [well] Some one stole five dollars of the money * * *. I paid it to make it $40.

Committee: Angel Navarro, Cosiano of the Ayto., Erasmo, Balmaceda, and Antonio Navarro.

JONAS HARRISON TO AUSTIN

District of Tenaha, Texas,
8th December 1832.

DEAR SIR,

I received your letter of the 18th ult. on the evening of the 29th, to which I made a hasty answer early next morning. Since which, I have been to the Big Road and showed it to members of the most respectable citizens of the Ayish District.

They all heartily concur in the sentiments expressed in the letter, and most ardently wish that the project may be carried into execution. They want a local Government—they want a judiciary proceeding according to the principles of the common law, so far at least as respects the mode of trial, and one, that will protect their property and persons.

There is perhaps no person more dangerous in the formation of a new government than a mere theorist. The principles in the State Constitution are in the main excellent; but the thread is too fine spun— Much is lost in detail— It resembles the works of the famous Abbe Sieyes.

Philosophers and Speculatists may admire liberty for its own sake; but that liberty which the mass of mankind understand—the free institutions which they love and would die to defend, must, with its other blessings promptly afford them security of property, character, and person. Look at our situation under the present constitution and the state's laws as organized among us. To say nothing of assaults and battery, Slander, Libels, Larcenies in every sense of the word, and there have been about twelve men killed among us

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in a few years and not a person judicially punished for any of these offenses. But to return.

They deprecate the idea of being *independent of the Mexican Republic*. Their sole wish is to be *dependent on it*, and to afford it all the support and protection in their power—to protect all its rights and interests, and in return to participate of all its benefits and advantages, and particularly of its liberal policy in relation to its lands. Neither do they wish, nor could they consent to become a part of, [or] belong to the states of North.

The system of the land sales in those states has long been a subject about which a feverish sensibility and rather a rude spirit of domination has generally prevailed. If the Government there would in time have radically changed it, and checked the progress of what every one individually pronounced an evil, but which sometimes the executive, and always a majority of both houses of congress, adheared to with [the] grasp of a dying man, and refused to consider, we had most of us never seen Texas. Establish a liberal local government— Procure the repeal of the obnoxious prohibitory emigration law. And if it be true what some say, we shall soon see its effects in more than one district, in some of the old states of the North. This united with the cold there, will it is said make the elements of depopulation, poverty and weakness too evident to be resisted. And herein are the causes, among others, why enterprising and industrious labouring freemen, the life blood of any country, will abandon the places of their nativity, in greater numbers than we would ordinarily anticipate. It is true their land system has of late been somewhat softened; but the very effort showed it never could be radically changed. Let those there who wish it, adhear to that policy—that foolish pride, which rejects experience, and continually gathers to itself fresh absurdities to feed upon, with that spirit of boasting and blindness to decay, that was so strongly evinced in the debate on that subject. Texas will profit by their obstainacy.

If another convention is called I think that two delegates from each district or precinct would be quite sufficient. And, that funds ought to be provided to pay their expenses. Say two dollars per day. And, that the state be bound to reimburse it. Otherwise few delegates, I think will go from the Red Land. Riches and poverty are relative terms; but we have very few *relatively rich* men. A convention to form a local government ought to be open to the whole population. Strange as it may appear to those that are in the habit of handling money there are in these districts many good citizens—very good livers—men of property—who do not handle five dollars in a year. I do not know how it was with others; but

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to the late convention, I was gone, twenty seven days, and expended about fifty dollars, and lost a valuable horse; none of those just mentioned persons could bear this and I am as poor as any of them. I was as economical as the case would admit of. And what may surprise you my losses in going to the late convention are more than I shall make in a year. For myself, I do not expect to go if there is a convention; but I mention my own case to show that the expences of the delegates ought to be paid. Why should a part of society labor for the whole and find themselves? The corporations or wealthy citizens ought to advance these funds.

Your early notice to us, of this subject, is another evidence of the good feelings and kindness you hold to the citizens of the Red Land, which they duly appreciate.

Be pleased to direct your letters to me at Teneha to left at "Mr. Sublets, Big Road Aysh District". Present my respects to Mr. Williams

J. HARRISON

Colonel S. F. Austin

WILLIAM J. RUSSELL TO AUSTIN

Brazoria, December 11, 1832.

See Calendar.

ANDREW SCOTT TO AUSTIN

Scotia, Pope County Arks Territory

Dec^{r}. 11th 1832

Col. S. F AUSTIN

D^{r} Sir, My friend and neighbor Col. James W. Robinson, will hand you this, I had hoped for some time past to have the pleasure of presenting him to you in person, but unforeseen circumstances has prevented this,— I shall however be with you between this and March next—

Col. Robinson is a practitioner of law in our country, in which profession he is well grounded, but Arkansas at present holds out but few inducements to the lawyer, for previous to the entrance of Col. Robinson there were supernumerary numbers of that profession, he therefore visits your Colony with a view of making it his future residence should it hold out to him sufficient inducements, he leaves in my neighborhood his wife and one child, for whom he will speedily return should he meet with flattering encouragement in Texas— Anything you may do to advance Col. Robinsons interests, or promote his comfort, you will find him worthy of—and be assured it will

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afford to your old friend much gratification.—Mrs. Scott Joins me in respects to yourself and your Sister—

ANDREW SCOTT

ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN TO AUSTIN

Cany Dec 17th 1832

DEAR SIR

I have omited to write on your first return, thinking you much harrassed in business of the Colony, and since thinking to have been there before this time, and am aware that my interest requires me to be there; now that all are geting their deeds, I might make some Collections for I have made my surveying business less profitable than any other as so Small a portion of them are taken and many who have gotten their Deeds live at a distance and still are oweing if You will get any in and retain it in your own hands it will much oblige me, I requested Mr Williams to do so but he neglected it, I then appointed Mr Veeder an Agent to Collect from whom I have no account, An Accidental fall dislocating my shoulder and breaking almost all the bones in my body, has prevented me from being active in my business, and finally left me disabled, But I intend shortly to be at San Felipe when I want to get a Copy of all my deeds, which I have not and Settle with you and Mr Williams and prepare to take my exit, I often am surprised how you get along with all the *troubles* attendant on your Colony business, *not the official*, But the *harmonising*, such a heterogenious, mass of which your Colony is Composed, You write me to recommend a quarter for Mr Thos. Fletcher I would recommend a number of prairie quarters but the best with due portion of Timber is that Surveyed for John Cronkrite on the main branch of Prairie Creek adjoining L. L. Veeders. I surveyed it to suit him and is a good one, there is adjoining Doct Cronkrites unsurveyed land on Mestango Creek which would be supurb quarters, and one below Allsburys Survey on the San Burnardo was [near] the Mouth another tolerable quarter unsurveyed,

I made Choice of several Blocks of the Matagorda Town for you which when I see you shall be explained, as they had voted the proprietors to make choice of 4 Blocks to each share while I was sick and located I expostulated, that it was unfair for any one to choose all his first to the exclusion of the absent and obtained leave to select out of those Blocks which were locked up in reserve for future disposition, with which I was satisfied as I chose those in preference to those they had Selected

E R WIGHTMAN [Rubric]

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JOHN A. WILLIAMS TO AUSTIN

Pine Bluff, [Texas] 18 Decbr. 1832

Col. S F. AUSTIN :

DEAR SIR. your friendly communication of the 20th of November last has been rec[d] and duly considered, and here I must acknoledge myself under many obligations for the pains you have taken to convince me of the propriety of the course you have advised. But your reasoning appears to me some what deficient. "Our political machinery with that of the whole Mexican nation," you suggest "is quite disjointed" I am not aware of the disolution of the State Government and if dangers threaten it, it is our duty as faithful citizens to preserve that govt, which affords us protection so long as it is worthy of support, you say that you are a "Mexican Citizen and as such have endeavoured to do your duty faithfully, and will continue to do so while you keep your senses and can do any thing" Why then advise me to violate my duty, by the performance of an act expressly prohibited by law, and which you as a "Mexican Citizen" in obedeance to your duty as such, could not, and I presume would not perform, You say the late "convention terminated very hapiply, it tranquilized, harmonized, and united all—very important results in troubled times" Be it so, I am hapy to hear it, But there was nothing to harmonize and tranquilize. The people of Texas were at that time, for ought that I know perfectly tranquil, perhaps more so than they are at present, The Political Chief in particular in his official communication of the 7th of Novbr last addressed to the Ayunto of Austin, of which I have a copy, expresses himself in terms which cannot be mistaken whereby he disapproves in argumentative and pathetic language the measure taken by that "harmonizing" Convention. In this jurisdiction the people (unless I am very much mistaken) are not content with the course marked out by the San Felipe Convention, so far as we have been verbally informed of their resolutions, for I must acknoledge that our worthy conventioners have not served us with a copy of these important rules of action which (it is suggested) we aught implicitly to obey, "any law to the contrary not withstanding"

You say that your standing "Moto has been fidelity to Mexico" that you have been "faithful to that Moto" you believe that it has always been, and now is, the standing Moto of all the people of Texas" and I believe it too. and I believe further, that if all the people of Texas were consulted, and made to understand the subject in its proper light, and then the main Question put. Shall we obey the laws of the Country we have adopted, or shall we not obey them, and yeald obedeance to the Junto of San Filepe? I believe Sir that you would find an over whelming Majority in the affirmative.

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The question proposed is the true question which unavoidably results from your communication. The communication from the Political Chief and copies of law there with inclosed is conclusive evidence (if evidence is necessary to prove that 2, and 2, make 4) that by yealding obediance to the law we must disobey the resolutions of the convention where they contravene the law, and if they injoin no more than the law had preveously provided for, then they are wholly useless— You say the basis you go upon "is that the good sense of the people will make them do right" and again "give them a little time and they will do right." and I go on the same basis nearly, but reather a little further. I would say if it were necessary that "the people" have done no wrong, that they need not that little time as you have suggested, to make them do right. but that the errors (if any) has been commited by their Delegates in the San Felipe convention, and now to cover their retreat from an untenable position you would advise me and the people of Trinity to commit ourselves, to lessen the responsibility of our delegates, and in order to opperate on our fears we are told the people will not submit to "*Direct opposition*" that it "excites them" and that an excited people like an excited individual *are dangerous*—This, it must be confessed is strange language to come from a gentleman so prudent, and so sincere, as I have heretofore found you, and so fond of social intercourse and perfect union—but if it is intended for any thing more than a Bugbear, as I really understand it, I shall rely upon the "good sense of the people" as you have it, no doubt purely, ad captandem Vulgus, yet as it is a precious coin from your own Mint you will surely allow me to give it circulation, But who is it that has directly contradicted the will of the people and thereby incurred the danger you anticipate, If you allude to me, you are very much mistaken, for the people of this jurisdiction to whom I consider myself responsible for my official acts. perfectly concur with me in opinion, (To wit) to perform any act either judicial, or extra-judicial in organizing the Militia according to the new System is deemed to be an infringement of the law of the state. and the fact that the Political Chief, has by a special mandate interdicted the whole of the proceeding of that convention as being unauthorised, illegal, and an attempt against the Sovreignty of State, is ipso facto, sufficient to prevent us from recognizing the proceeding of that convention as having any Vallidety or binding force—

True it is, that the people of Trinity in conformity to the official communication from the Alcaldes of your jurisdiction, did cooperate in the formation of the convention, But our delegates, while in convention, exercised a power that was never delegated

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to them, neither in express terms, nor by implication, But suppose we had have delegated to them all the power, severally, and collectively that we might have exercised in our own proper persons, Still that power exercised to its utmost extent, would have been far insufficient for the purpose of legislation nor do I suppose that the members of the convention thought that their resolutions would supercede law—yet according to your strange system of reasoning, it would seem that these very resolutions are at least equal to a Statute passed in due form by the legislative authority of the State. and that we ought to organize the civil Militia of this jurisdiction according to the Dictum of a voluntary association of men, Without a shadow of law or constitutional right to give vallidety to their proceedings.

But we have gotten into a difficulty, and it is our business to get out of it, in the safest manner, and as you have been my occational and prudent adviser for many years I feel it my duty to give every assistance in my power to evert the danger you anticipate (To wit) *disunion* Which in my humble opinion is only to be effected by a prudent course, a strict adhearance to our duty. If we have imprudently adopted any course likely to bring us in Collision with the Mexican govt. let us abandon it, and apoligize for the blunder, This is more wise and more honourable, than an obstinat adhearence to error. beside we have nothing to gain by a civil war, but every thing to loose.

Remember your excellent *Moto*, *fidelity* to *Mexico* Remember the resolutions of the people of the jurisdiction of Austin in favour of the plan of Vera Cruze— remember the resolutions of the Ayuntamento of Liberty on the same subject in which the people of Austin and the people of Liberty were in *perfect Unison* by these solemn declarations, Our fortunes, our lives, and most sacred honours, stand pledged for our fedelity, These declarations have gone fourth to the world and are now spread on the Journals of our native country, of Mexico, and perhaps of urope, shall we now give ourselves the lie, and call the world to witness our want of veracity, by a willful and open violation of the law that we have thus publickly and solemnly promised to obey, No Sir, the good sense of the people (as you have repeatedly and emphatically expressed it) will prevent it. And if ever we are driven to the dreadful alternative of civil war it will not be by a voluntary act of the people, But by shortsighted, aspiring ambitious politicians, who through their zeal for popular distinction have, or may mistake their own imbecile policy for that of the public will. The public will can be nothing more than the disire of each individual to promote his own private hapiness conjointly with that of the whole

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society, or body politic The interest of the whole society being obligatory on each of its members. Can it be to the interest of Texas to disolve the legal political bands that unite us as one society? Will not the violation of one law with impunity lead to the violation of another? and will not a continuation of this course lead to another disregard of all law? save that of physical force—perfect and direful Anarchy—humanity is shocked at the idea. "He who without reason exposes the people to the horror and miseries of civil war where they might enjoy an honourable and salutary peace, what guilt does he incur, or reather what a series of crimes does he commit? The slaughter of men, the pillage and devastation of provinces are his crimes he is accountable to god, and responsible to man for every person that is killed." But my worthy friend, this severe sentence is not point[d] at you, nor no other man by those who would wilfully involve these infant colones and once holy and tranquil people in the miseries of civil War. No Sir, I would reather beleive that you are labouring under real, or imagenary duress than to believe that you were serious when you request to "let the organization go on by the election of officers as ordered by the convention" and to "trust to time and reason to correct etc". and thereby urge me to betray my trust and violate the sacred obligation of the oath I have taken as an officer of this State. and for What? because the convention in the plentitude of unorthorized power had imprudently adopted a measure which was wrong, ab initio. and I must therefore, caray it into effect in this Jurisdiction, as being the only person duly authorised to legalize an illegal act;

Permit me to inform you Sir, that I do not know of five men in this Munesepalety favourable to the plan you have so warmly espoused and if I was to order the election it would be disregarded there would be no organization. This is my opinion, but if I am mistaken or have neglected my duty—a few days will bring another Alcalde into office and he will correct the blunder if any has been commited.

JNO. A. WILLIAMS [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col Stephen. F. Austin San Filipe de Austin—

A. C. AINSWORTH TO AUSTIN

Montgomery. Alabama. Dec. 19th. 1832

HON SIR,

I have been requested by a number of respectable Planters in this vicinity, to solicit from you by letter, such information as prudent minds deem necessary, before determining on an emigration to your

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Colony—this request I hope will be an ample apology for the freedom I take in addressing you—

The inquiries I am asked to make, are simply these—

1st. What is the precise *quantum* of land, which a *planter* may depend on receiving as an inducement to become a citizen of Texas?

2nd. Will he be allowed to *select* pieces or parcels of land, from any Section not otherwise disposed of?

3rd. The *expense* requisite to *secure* to himself, a *legal* and *indisputable title* to such land, as under the *established provisions* he may take?

4th. Can a man, bringing *Capital* into the country purchase land, *adjoining* that, granted by *Government?*

5th. What distinction is made, as regards *quantity* of land, between planters *with*, and planters *without*, families?

6th. Do your laws affect the *tenure* of *Slave* property—if so, what is best method of avoiding such *inconvenience*:

7th. Must a *planter*, previous to opening land sufficient to afford subsistence for his *family*, pay for food, clothing and other necessaries, an *extravagant* price?

8th. Have you *good schools for the education of children?*

9th. What is the cheapest, most expeditious and *secure* route from Alabama to your Colony—and can *wagons* pass conveniently from *here*, there?

10th. Are its *soil* and *climate*, as rich and good (in your opinion) as the soil and climate of Alabama or Mississippi?

The many extravagant and *contradictory* accounts of Texas, now afloat in this country, are cause of such *particularity* in my questions—for the sake of those Planters who have employed me to conduct this correspondence, I hope you will [be] able to glean time sufficient from the duties to which doubtless you are pressingly called, to answer them *fully*— the facts, which in their behalf, I seek to obtain, were they generally understood, would bring your colony an accession of some of our most *sturdy* and *valuable* Planters—good husbands—good fathers and as a consequence, *amiable members of society*—Though it is not connected with the questions asked above, I would for my *own* information enquire, whether the friends of Texas can look with much certainty to a period when the Government of that Province shall assume a different—perhaps an independent form—such a change would be prodigal of influence and importance, and do more than any other measure perhaps, to awaken the world, and particularly the U. States, to the value of its natural resources and probable merit of its political institutions—Should my enquiry meet your approbation, your views on this, as

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on the other subjects mentioned, will be received thankfully, and read with intense interest—

As attorney for my clients, and from the esteem I have for your character,

A. C. AINSWORTH.

P. S. Will you also inform me, what chance (if any) there is in your settlement for a young and persevering *Lawyer?* I am a native of Providence in Rhode-Island—settled in this town—as I am so far from the "household hearth" and home's familiar voices, already, I would not object [to] a compliance with the solicitation of my friends to accompany them (supposing they go) if I can do as *well* even, there, as I am doing now in this place.

Excuse these *repeated* requests, and believe me,

A. C. AINSWORTH

Hon. Austin—

[Addressed:] Honr. Austin St Felippe De Austin Brassora Texas Pr Mr John A Barkley

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THOMAS G. WESTERN TO AUSTIN

Goliad Dec. 21— 1832

Col. S. F. AUSTIN

Sn. Felipe

Dr. SIR/My respects in reply to your esteemed favor of the 6th inst were addressed to you at Bejar on monday last by a private conveyance

Nothing very material has occurred here—the Election for Municipal officers has resulted in Mr. Aldrete, a worthy and energetic man, Alcalde—Jn. Anto Santos Regidor—and Nicholas Galan Procurador

The Chief of department remained here a few days and proceeded to Guadalupe and thence to La Vaca where he is now said to be—our friends here think he is not as warm in the cause as your letter led us to anticipate— I endeavour to persuade them that he is, but that he does not wish to appear too prominent at this particular moment— that the affair may even appear to have originated in and emanated from the Ayuntamto of Bejar and not from him nor with his official coadjutorship—

Mr. Alvan Wetherby will probably hand you this— He is the Gentleman I mentioned to you when here— He visits your City for the express purpose of obtaining land in the litoral Leagues and becoming a colonist of yours—he is a person I much esteem—is a Merchant—will take considerable property into your quarter and in a word is an acquisition to your community— I hope and trust

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you will grant him his request— As for myself I will say nothing— I expressed to you when here my desires and intentions, and leave the rest entirely to yourself confident that you will do or have already done all the requisite and much more than if I were present

Your friends here all join in the warmest expressions of friendship and desire me to present their cordial Salutations

THOMAS G. WESTERN

A person just in from Matam[s] reports that Moctezuma had defeated Bustam[te] at Sn Luis Potosi—

THOMAS M. DUKE TO AUSTIN

Home December 22d 1832

DEAR SIR

I Recd your answer to my letter by Judge Cummins and am much pleased with your Ideas as to the future policy we ought to pursue they exactly coincide with my views of the same and am in hopes that the Inhabitants of Texas will unite and carry into operation the plan you proposed which in my humble opinion from our present situation is the safest course we can adopt.

I Received a fiew days since a letter from Dr. Peebles stating he held in his possession my Note given to you in 1824 for $270—payable in property I wrote to the Dr. immediately on the receipt of it that I should be up about the 1st of next month to see him about it but owing to the present situation of my wife it is entirely out of my power to go up so soon but as soon as posible I shall be up. I know my dear Sir that you have been indulgent with me as regards the payment of the note and would have paid it long ere this if every thing had gone on prosperously with me but you are well aware that the section of the country I reside in has laboured under more embarrassments than any other in this colony and owing to the bad crops we had last season it would put me to a great deal of Inconveniance to have to pay the note now In twelve months more I am satisfied I can be able to pay it without any Inconveniance when I gave the note to you my Dear Sir if you recollect you told me that when it was conveniant for me to pay it to do so and for that reason and its not having been perfectly convenient is the reason that I have not made arrangements for paying it in fact I have no property I can spare to settle it with except Land and as soon as I can sell some I will most undoubtedly pay it if you will have the goodness to speak to the Dr. for me or if you can make any arrangements with him relative to the note. I can assure you my Dear Sir that in Twelve months at farthest the note will be paid and place me under

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still further obligation to you—you will please write me as soon as posible what arrangements [or] calculations I have to make

THOS M— DUKE [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Coln. Stephen F Austin Town of Austin

J. M. PENNINGTON TO AUSTIN

December 24, 1832

See Calendar.

D. W. ANTHONY[1] TO AUSTIN

Austin, Decr. 26th [1832]

DEAR SIR:

I had hoped to find you here, or at least that you would have arrived during my stay, as the principal object of my visit was to obtain a title to the lands I have selected, etc.—which it seems could not be effected without your presence.

If it be beyond the reach of your power and option, to extend the quantity of land to more than ¼ of a League, will you have the goodness to assist me in obtaining a grant from such authority as is requisite, if you think an application for that purpose would not be fruitless. I perceive that either a discretion has been confided to you, or else by means of petitions etc, great inequality in the quantity of lands granted to different individuals has been effected, and I hope if there be any such capacity, either which you have, or may be obtained to increase the quantity of land which I may be entitled to receive, that you will not be reluctant to aid me in its acquisition,—

I have had the pleasure of seeing your letter of 20th inst. to the Central Committee, with the contents of which communicating the result and success of your visit to Bexar, I am highly delighted.[2] I sincerely hope you may not be deceived in the constancy and firmness of the people with whom you have been in conference.

I am much pleased with the state of feeling prevailing, and the prospect of effecting the great objects we have proposed for ourselves—but I do not see much harmony in the design of a remon-

[1] Anthony was editor of The Constitutional Advocate and Brazoria Advertiser, published at Brazoria. For some account of him and his paper see an article by the editor in The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXI, 137–139.

[2] On Dec. 19, 1832, the ayuntamiento of Bexar adopted a strong address to the State Congress explaining the inconveniences which Texas suffered from its union with Coahuila and outlining a plan of reform. The ideas and phraseology are strongly suggestive of Austin, and it seems evident that he had much to do with its adoption. For a copy see Vicente Filisola, Memorias para la Historia de la Guerra de Tejas, I. 272–293. This note was written before Austin to Williams of December 6, 1832 (which see), was discovered.

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strance, which must include the idea of submission on conditions of redress, and contain the request of the people to govt. to grant a mitigation and redress of grivances—and at the same time that there should be going forward a solm and firm determination of the same people to form a separate government and remedy the evils of which they complain,—and without any intention of turning back, or giving up that determination. Such I understand to be the actual state of things. The Central Comt. have ordered a positive and unconditional call of a convention. The people with whom you have been in communication have remonstrated, and expect the same thing to be performed by the people and Authorities of the whole country. Should what is complained of be listened to, and acted upon favourably by the present state Go[vt] how will we stand, or how will we proceed? I hope you, and all of us will not be unable to solve the dilemma, when it presses itself upon us. But at present it has not a very seemly, or very sincere appearance. Let us make the good of our country our motto, and our highest maxim.

I shall be glad to hear from you, which I should at any rate expect, as soon as you return. I look for Grayson every day, having lately heard from him, and with him I expect my brother, etc. Their land affairs too, I hope you will not forget.

D W ANTHONY.

[Addressed] Col. Steven F. Austin San Felipe

HANSEN ALLSBURY TO AUSTIN

Augusta, Maine, December 29, 1832.

See Calendar.

JAMES RAMAGE TO AUSTIN

Brazoria, January 2, 1833.

See Calendar.

JAMES F. PERRY TO FERGUSON, JONES, AND CAMPBELL

Brazoria, January 4, 1833.

See Calendar.

W. S. BROWN TO JAMES F. PERRY

McNeels Landing, January 8, 1833.

See Calendar.

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JOSÉ ANTONIO DE LA GARZA TO AUSTIN

Bexar, January 10, 1833.

See Calendar.

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO GOVERNOR

Gefatura &ª
N.º 1.º

EXMO SOR El Ayuntam^to de la ciudad de Bejar en oficio de 22 de Dic^e ultimo me dice lo siguiente

(Este Ayuntam.^to despues de haberse ocupado detenida y seriam^te examinando el interesante y ardo negocio de q VS. tubo habien darle conocim^to &ª) Que acompaña una representacion[1] dirigida al H. Congreso sobre poner de manifiesto el estado lamentable de las poblaciones de Tejas por medio de una recapitulacion de todas causas q han originado el atraso en q se encuentra, y manifestando las medidas q en su concepto ha creido convenientes para cistemar la administracion publica en todos sus ramos, mejorar la emigracion de los pobladores extrangeros, impulsar la poblacion interesante de Mejicanos, proteger la agricultura, pastes y comercio &ª

Y tengo el honor de transcribirlo a V. E. y de acompañar la representacion de q trata el preincerto oficio, a objeto de q. teniendo en consideracion la imperiosa necesidad q ha obligado ha aquel Ayuntam^to á ocuparse de los diferentes asuntos q apunta, se servirá pasarla á la resolucion del H. Congreso si posible es sin perdida de tiempo y con la recomendacion y apoyo que estime de Justicia; pues asi lo exige el Estado angustiado que ha reducido á este Departam^to a una cituacion que no podia imarginarse devido al desorden que produjo la revolucion y que ha sido la causa primordial, p^r q se ha inbertido el orn constitucional en las nuevas poblaciones.

De ante mano tengo informado y V E debe estar satisfecho de la juiciosa conducta q ha observado el Ayun^to de Bejar, asi por haber resistido con dignidad alg^s exitativas ó sugeciones del de Austin para q^e se adelantara a los supremos poderes del Estado en pronunciarse a favor del plan de Veracruz, como por haberse negado á cooperar de ningun modo a la junta ó convencion q se tubo en aquella Villa y escusandose á coincidir de ninguna manera con sus acuerdos; y si se ha encargado de representar al H^l Congreso poniendole de manifiesto el cuadro lastimoso q en la actualidad, contiene la esten-

[1] A copy of this memorial is printed in Filisola, Memorias para la Historia de la Guerra de Tejas, I, 273–293. Compare Austin to Williams, Dec. 6, 1832, Western to Austin, Jan. 19, and Anthony to Austin, Jan. 20 and 25, and Feb. 8, 1833.

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cion q ocupa este Dep^to^, á sido bajo de dos aspectos: primero poner de manifiesto los males mas remarcables indicar los remedios q. puedan aplicarseles, y el segundo impedir p^r^ este medio la separacion de Coahuila de hecho segun la disposicion en que estan p^a^ hacerlo las nuevas poblaciones de extrangeros, que bien sea porque yá es insoportable entre ellos mismos la falta total de Admn. de justicia y la de todos los mas ramos publicos, ó yá p^r^ q quieran aprovecharse de las circunstancias prevalidos de la superioridad con que se consideran en todo respecto de los mejicanos; pero en lo que no cave duda és, q ha pretesto de q no tienen Gob^no^ se ha generalisado entre ellos la opinion de separar a Tejas de Coahuila y formar un Gob^no^ provicional; y de aqui es q el Ayuntam^to^ de Bejar persuadido de que habiendose relajado los resortes del respeto a las leyes y subordinacion a las autoridades entre los estrangeros pobladores, y de q p^r^ ahora no se cuenta con ninguna fuerza ficica competente para hacerlos entrar al orden, creyó que el unico recurso prudente q podria adoptar para preservar a este Departam^to^ de la ruina a que lo precipitan, prolongar la union con Coahuila y evitar q se pierda aun p^a^ la federacion, és el dé p^r^ la prerrogativa de ser el de la capital, husar del derecho de peticion p^a^ representar, contando con el doble apoyo de la justicia q está de parte de cada uno de sus reclamos; y por lo mismo, omito entrar en la minuciosidad de hacer ninguna digrecion ásia [hacia] ellas; mas la penetracion de VE. q. está al alcanse de todo lo q mejor conviene al vien estar del Estado; y la sabiduria del H. Congreso, estimaran en el precio q es devido; la sinceridad, sana intencion y buena fé q han sido el Norte que ha seguido el Ayuntam^to^ de Bejar, animado de los deseos mas puros p^r^ q se ponga termino a los males que afligen á este paiz que tanto interesa á la Nacion conservar.

Dios & Guad^e^ Victoria 10 de Enero de 1833—R M.—Exmo. Sor. Gob^or^ del Estado &^a^

Samuel M. Williams to E. St John Hawkins

Mr E. St. J Hawkins
To Samuel M Williams Dr.

To Stamps for Original Deed S. F. Austin to you 1 st 6 2 sheets each 6 ¼ ¢	6.12½	
To do for Copy 1st 1^st^ for 2 6 ¼ ¢ ea	1.62½	
		7.75
To fees for Writing original and Copy		15.00
		$22.75

15 January Rec payt

Samuel M Williams

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W. S. Parrott to Austin

Mexico. Jany 16th 1833.

S. F Austin Esq.

My Dear Sir, Your welcome favour of the 12th Nov. came to hand last week. it was no doubt delayed owing to the Suspension and disorder of our mail arrangements; I regret that my time is so much taken up at this moment as to deprive me of the pleasure I would have in replying fully to your interesting letter, but as our correspondence will become more regular in future, I will find leisure to enter upon details. Chambers I consider has treated me ill not having replied to any of my letters Since he received his books; nor has he paid even to my correspondents in N. orleans their value as he promised to do when he gave the order. With the plan of zavaleta, hostilities have ceased; but the amalgam I fear will, not give us a permanent peace; all appears to be quiet but not solid; Some of the States, will not Subscribe to the plan, others have; Genl. Pedraza is however of opinion, that all will go right; my opinion is that the 4th of april next will not pass by without, a noise In relation to the 11th Arto, of the law of the 6th of april 1830; there are thousands here who are interested in its repeal. Strong remonstrances will therefore be made; and the Executive is Strongly indisposed against the Said law, and in order to prepare the way for its repeal I will manouvre with the liberal presses, and if I have time will translate and have published, Some paragraphs of your letter, as written by a *Texano*. I Sometimes dabble in politics; but my commercial occupations rarely give me time to think of any thing else but *business* While you remain in the country, write me and When in the U. S. I hope to hear from you; I will Send you Some of the most interesting Numbers of the Phoenix. The *Registro* is dead; The friends of the constitution are trying to revive it.

W. S. Parrott [Rubric]

(P. S.) Genl Mexia Sends you his remembrance We will work together for the repeal of the law in question. Genl. Filasola goes to Texas as comandant gral. he is interested in the peopling of Texas He has a grant near the red river abot which we have had several conversations He will go to Matamoras by land from thence by water to Matagorda and Galveston

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Sylvanus Hatch to Austin

January 17, 1833.

See Calendar.

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THOMAS G. WESTERN TO AUSTIN

Goliad Jan. 19– 1833

Col AUSTIN

D. SIR, I hasten before the Mail closes to communicate to you the import of A letter I have this Moment recd. from My friend at Mexico dated 26 ult.

"Gen. Pedraza with all the armies combined, now at Puebla and its vicinity will commence their March to Morrow on the road to This Capital, they amt. to 13000 Men and will come in without opposition—President Pedraza was Sworn in and proclaimed as Such Yesterday in Puebla— An order has been Made public that when he arrives within Six leagues of this City every Military officer here must present himself on pain of losing his rank and pay— Something Similar for all empleados— We consider the war at an end."

The Ayuntamiento of this Town forward by this Mail to that of yours Copy of the Remonstrance Made to Congress in Sequence to that of Bejar, it touches Stronger that its preceder[1] on the division of the State and other topics and I think you will be pleased with the language used and the terms it is couched in and hope it will meet your ideas. Be pleased to favor me with your opinion on it as a whole—

THOMAS G. WESTERN [Rubric]

IRA INGRAM TO AUSTIN

Matagorda Jan. 20th 1833.

Colo. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN,

SIR, Your letter of the 14th inst., was handed me *late*, last evening. Of the letter which you mention, as having been written from La Bahia, I know nothing; never having seen, or heard, of such a letter, till I perused yours from San Felipe, of the date above quoted. As to the letter from *this* place, of which you speak, as having seen at La Bahia, and which you say you "burnt;" unless it was one written by myself, signed by me, and *no* one else, addressed to Mess. Leving, Morehouse, and other Americans, resident, as transient, in that place, I must also remark, that I know nothing. If it was my letter which you saw, and which you "burnt," as it was addressed to *all* the americans there, it became, as soon as received by them, their *common* property, and if they thought proper to destroy it, the act of doing so, furnishes no just cause of complaint on *my* part.

[1] See Musquis to Governor, Jan. 10, 1833. No copy of this document has been found.

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I have only to regret, that, as it may be called in question at a future day, and that, as the letter *itself*, in such event, would be more *true* to the motives of its author, better evidence of its tendency to prevent, or to promote discord, than the confused, or the perverted recollection of fallible and mutable man, its preservation, without doing an injury to *any* one, might have served hereafter, as a shield to the writer, against the iliberal and censorious attacks of more than one man, in times of high excitement.

The letter was ocasioned in part only, by the threat and visitation of the pretended collector of Goliad, to this town, for the avowed purpose, of collecting duties, searching for, and seizing goods, said to be deposited in the warehouses of this place.

It was occasioned *principally*, by an occurrence which transpired previous to the communication of that threat.

The rights of an American citizen—of *one* who had violated *no* law;—rights, the protection of which, had been solemnly guarranted by treaty—had been invaded, insulted, spit upon, and contemptuously trampled in the mud. In doing this, the *rites*—the sacred rites, of even savage hospitality, had been denied and insultingly refused. Divested of his arms—his papers—travelling apparel; forcible possession taken of his horse, and thus deprived, for a time, of the means of transporting himself to any christian habitation—oppressed by disease; weak, and emaciated, suffering the paroxism of a fever, he was thus detained for hours in the open prairie, in a state of painful suspense which none can know who have not felt it; and which, it is sincerely hoped, may *never never* again be felt, even by a barbarian, in a *land* professing christianity, and calling itself civilized. Treated as an *indian*, and *told* that he was *one*, put in charge of beings, far less humane than the Arab of America, he was made to suffer the double torment of present deprivation and Misery, and a threatening prospect of the future, if possible, still More alarming.

These are some of the amiable proceedings, these are a *part* of the tantalizing and disgraceful doings of *Men*, calling themselves officers of the law, and guardians of the public interest.

Oh, liberty! Oh, humanity! Oh, pity!! *When*, and *why*, did the thunder sleep? Why was it reserved, why permitted, a "law-despising," unprincipled, and merciless banditti, thus to outrage, a pupil, of the school of Washington?

But to proceed—My object in writing to the Americans in Goliad, was, to let *them*, and through *them*, the selfstyled authorities of that place, *know* the determination, the unanimous, the individual, and the collective *determination*, of the people here, in case of an attempt,

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by them, to carry their *threat* into execution. I thought, that, by doing so, the effusion of blood, Might be prevented.

Furthermore—the convention, considering there was no adequate power in that body, or *elsewhere* in the county, as we were then situated, to interfere with the *cargo*, consented, and recommended to tax the flag *only;* Not pretending to extend their authority beyond the collection of the tonage duty.

This was the basis, or foundation of the resolution taken by the people *here;* and if an observance of any part, or portion of the proceedings of the convention, was either lawful or innocent, then their proceedings were lawful, were innocent, were patriotic!

IRA INGRAM [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Jany 20. 1833

Dr BROTHER

I am anxious to hear how Emily is satisfied at your new home and how you are getting on. I do hope you are all satisfied.

I am trying to worry through [a very] troublesome business, and if I could sell some land so as to raise about $2000 I could get along untill next fall. I owe a balance yet to Hunter on acct of what was paid to Tennille out of the store which he says he must have next month as he is going away. The balance due is $1600. I will sell any land I have to get rid of that and some other debts that are harrassing me. I mean to wash my hands of the politics of Texas and try to settle myself along side of you. I will send down your deed for the place where you live. I have extended the tract to the river so as to give you a front of 2000 varas on the river—farewell.

S. F. AUSTIN

[Addressed:] Mr. James F. Perry Peach point below Brazoria.

D. W. ANTHONY[1] TO AUSTIN

Brazoria, Jan 20th 1833.

Dr SIR—Your Note by the hands of Mr Bradly was recd. together with the Bexar Remonstrance[2]—but instead of the English copy which you mention was Made, and which I presume you intended for the paper, the Original and the Spanish Copy for publication

[1] Anthony was editor of the Constitutional Advocate and Brazoria Advertiser. See "Notes on Early Texas Newspapers," by the editor in Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXI, 137–139.

[2] See Musquiz to Governor, Jan. 10, 1833, and Anthony to Austin, Jan. 25 and Feb. 3, 1833.

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came down—No doubt by mistake— At any rate, as it will be very gratifying to Many of the people to See the Translation, I hope you will do Me the favour to Have it forwarded as Soon as possible.

I think with you in some degree in regard to the idea of a State Govt., but the truth is I have as well as your Self been driven by the current—and think there is no policy worse for the Country at present than a wavering one. To faulter and fall back, will occasion distrust both at home and abroad. When the Measure was put on foot, I was absent or a notice of the Meeting in this place would have been omitted, as that was a bare agitation of the Subject which in propriety ought not to have been published. However, it was done, and Seems to have popularity. To the brief notice first taken of it, I thought it best to add a full account of the Course taken by the Central Committee,[1] and to accompany it with Some general remarks of commendation, as the step Seemed so far taken as to occasion the danger of a serious division of the people on the Subject, if opposed by any party.

It is unnecessary to Mention to you how important it is to Keep the people United upon leading Subjects—for tho the objects at which they aim May Not lay So directly in the road to prosperity and advancement, Yet will they reach it Sooner than they would by other Means of good counsel, but upon which they are divided. It will not do to consider Subjects like this abstractly—but we must take all the attending circumstances, no Matter how Minute, and determine between alternatives. I have not intended by these observations to convey the idea that I look upon the subject of State Govt. to the Extent you Express it, as wild and premature, or as a mere Scare Crow. Not at all—I only regret the precipitate course of the Committee, in not Suffering the Remonstrance to go, as it seems you had intended, unattended by any public act of ours calculated to create a doubt as to our Sincerity. And in case the requisitions of the remonstrance, or the principal objects of it, should be complied with on the part of the present Government (for which Event there Seemed to be now no provision in the public arrangements) I should undoubtedly have decided for a postponement of such a Measure as that now adopted. But with a continuance of the present State of things I think you, nor any reflecting man cannot for a Moment, but be dissatisfied.

I got a letter from our friend Grayson in which he desired to be mentioned to you in terms of particular respect. If you should not come down as you Spoke of doing, I think I shall go up to St Felipe

[1] The central committee had been created by a convention in October, 1832, to correspond with local committees concerning the interests of the Province, and with power to call a subsequent convention. The journal is in Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 477–503.

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the last of the week, on the Subject of land, my brothers having come to hand.

Excuse any incoherence, as I write in a hurry to Send by Mr. Baird.

D W ANTHONY

[Addressed:] Colo. Stephen F. Austin San Felipe de Austin

M. A. BRYAN TO JAMES F. PERRY

San Felipe, January 20, 1833.

See Calendar.

JAMES WHITESIDE TO AUSTIN

Coles' Settlement, January 21, 1833.

See Calendar.

THOMAS POWELL TO AUSTIN

New Orleans, January 21, 1833.

See Calendar.

STERLING MCNEEL TO AUSTIN

Brazoria, January 25, 1833.

See Calendar.

D. W. ANTHONY TO AUSTIN

Brazoria, Jany 25th 1833

DEAR SIR—

Your favr of the 22nd inst. by Maj. Reynolds was handed to me last evening, and I have a convenient opportunity to reply. I must thank you for the hints, that that as well as the one previous, contained; and assure you I have valued your counsel in all instances very highly, and have never disregarded it if it did not correspond fully with my own judgment for I have been able to allow your knowledge and Experience their proper weight in matters where they render you more competent to decide than I could for a moment presume myself—and I have never been made to doubt the correctness of your motives. I must therefore insist that you let no occasion pass to afford me the benefits of your advice, for if I do not strictly adhere to it, rest assured it will be always a guide. I have a task of much difficulty and great responsibility to perform, and am

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destitute of aid or counsel but that I receive from you. The politics of the country, as you justly remark, are in rather a tangled condition, and that very circumstance makes my track more difficult to discern; for how to preserve consistency with some settled system of opinions, when there is not a standard by which those who are actually managing the machinery, are guided, is a source which furnishes matter to Exercise the ingenuity even of an Experienced diplomatist, rather than to Employ the raw and unskilful hand that is literally compelled to wield it alone.

For the sake of appearing united, and by that very means producing union, I have Endeavoured to give to Every measure broached and acted upon in a way that it might have an influence on the main current of our affairs, such a face as would not disgrace us by Exposing our situation, agitated with dissention, and rendered contemptible by division and inconsistency. It has been my leading wish, to Keep up a belief of unanimity on all important points, and to bring as large a volume of the public mind to the support of whatever course the Central Committee should adopt, as it would be possible to do. This idea is very material abroad, and is the only foundation of confidence intertained of the redemption of the country—if smothered or rendered doubtful, the population of the country will be checked, and all its hopes darkened. You say the tone of my paper has been rather anti Mexican, and that I ought to change it. I do not think I have said any thing that should wound them as a people—on the contrary I have when speaking of the liberal party always puffed them. To be sure I have not said much about them, for I know too little to Enable me [to] say any thing in their favour, that would not be inconsistent with our own acts and declarations. As to the mere tone of the paper, it is not so Easy to change without the detection of inconsistency as might be thought. The tone of the paper has been caught from, and formed by the events that have occured, and the circumstances and necessary feelings which surround us—and some occurence or new event must serve as a hinge upon which to turn even the tone of *my* remarks from the general tenor of our conduct. If *communications* were introduced not too much varying in substance from the drift of the public feeling, or the expectation, or rather belief of what that is, abroad, invested with such a glossy colouring of true and loyal Mexicanism as to answer the purpose you desire, I could yield better to that, than to no obvious cause, in departing from what has at least appeared to Chime with the united feelings of the people. I dropt you a few hasty remarks a day or two since, in reply to your letter by Bradly which with these, will inform you how I feel disposed on the subject of our politics. Without consistency we have no influence—Without influence we can do no good.

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Grayson has not yet come, but I have reason to expect him every week. Dr. Archer is at the mouth of the river on a health expedition. I hope they may be of some use to us in the work we have before us, as you suggest.

In relation to the correction of the proof sheets of the Remonstrance,[1] I have to answer that you will either have to come down for that purpose, or leave it to me and Cotton, for Eckle is sick. The translation cannot be well made here, and I shall therefore expect the one you made. Wherefore do you wish it copied? your hand writing is very plain.

When shall I come up on the subject of land? or will it be necessary at all. I shall send my brother up before the Commissioner leaves—I have two here just from the College walls, and will make useful Citizens of them by learning them to print a little—You must give them a piece of land, for that was the promise upon which they came. On the subject of P Green, *he* wishes to know, if a petition could not be sent down to him to sign which would answer the purpose without his presence?

DW ANTHONY.

[Addressed:] Col. S F Austin San Felipe.

AUSTIN TO EMILY M. PERRY

I will send 200 or 300 peach trees by a wagon that is to leave here in four days. Send up to John Austins after them and dont neglect them and get pomegranetes from John and oranges attend to fruit at once and go to work as tho. you expected to live there always. Save the live oaks round the yard and the Pecan trees—you dont say how [you] like the place

[Addressed:] Mrs Emily M Perry Peach Point Care J. Austin.

AUSTIN TO EMILY M. PERRY

Jan^{y} 26 1833

D^{r} SISTER,

I rec^{d} yours of 20— I scarcely know what to do as to the Little rock business. The whole truth as it and other matters [stand] is as follows— I bought a large am^{t} of new madrid claims of G. Tennelle for which I gave him my notes—one of those claims was laid on Little Rock in company with O'Hara— I sold all the claims to Bryan and gave him a deed— I took an instrument from him by which he agreed to pay Tennelle—that paper I left in his desk at long Prairie

[1] See Musquiz to Governor, Jan. 10, and Anthony to Austin, Jan. 20 and Feb. 3, 1833.

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as I had no safe place to keep it, and it disappeared so that I never saw it again— he transfered the claims to H. Elliott and there is nothing to show that there was any agreement between them— Ashly no doubt knows all about it and if he is an honest man will settle the business right—if he is not, it will be difficult to do anything with it. I have paid Tennell over seven thousand dollars, I think,—also I have paid Butler about six thousand dolls. all within two years or nearly all— It will take about $4000 more to clear me of debt— I have directed John Austin to sell land for what it will bring to raise $1600 for Hunter balance due on what was paid Tennelle out of the store— I did not wish to sacrifice land for I wanted to give a large tract to each of your children—but it is all a folly I am only worrying myself to death

I certainly thought and now think that your removal to Texas will make your children all independent which they would never have been in Missouri— * * * I have been offered 5 doll[s] an acre for 1000 acres joining Perry and I could get 8 by giving a credit on a part—but I wished to go there and live along side of you. If however you are always holding up the dark side of the picture to me, I fear that all my prospects of comfort will be ideal. * * * The tracts you now live on will make as good a farm or plantation as any in Texas— It has a good situation on the river also—is in a good neighborhood—convenient to the sea, to the river, to market will do for stock and planting—takes in part of jones Creek—has plenty of timber and prairie I always wanted Mr Perry to settle there, but could not get him to go and look at it— The place on Chocolate will always be a good stock farm and may be kept up I do not see that you have had more trouble [or] even as much as most of the settlers in Texas—A new country cannot be settled without trouble

As to the settlers being ungrateful etc. which you speak of—all that is nothing— They are always in a fret about something—it is so all over the world—one day they curse and the next they praise. In the end they will be *just* and if I merit a reward from them, they will give it—

The settlers of this colony will never forget me nor be long ungrateful to me. Of this you need not have any doubt. A man who has no enemies is a contemptable being, for he is not of sufficient consequence to excite envy or jealousy so that you may set your mind at rest as to that matter— These settlers will never forget the man or the family who has made their fortunes. Cousin Henry ought never to have moved to Texas and I hope never to see another city raised family coming to this country—he has the foundation of a future laid, but I fear it will do him no good.

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I am surprised to hear you say that we shall never live to realize anything from my labors— Is it nothing to have paid off nearly all the old debts—to have given a credit to the name of my family by settling this colony that will be permanent and honorable for ages to come— Is it nothing that you are now permanently settled with the certainty that your children will not enter the world penniless— Is 5 dollars an acre for land nothing— a tract was sold a few days since near Perrys league west of the Bernard for 1.25 for acre, and not better land than his— you let trifles have too much influence on you— a punchin hut, or an indian camp is nothing, a mere trifle, when it is to be only a stepping place to get into a comfortable home and farm for life— If I had the power of a magician to build Palaces I would not do it, * * * but when I have done all I can, you ought to have more consideration for my feelings, when you know they are more sensative than they ought to be to get through this rough world— your brother

STEPHEN

G. EDWARDS TO AUSTIN

Attica Seneca County Ohio Feby. 1st 1833

Col. AUSTIN.

Sir, myself with many of my neighbours, are verry desirous of getting some information from you, respecting your country; we wish you to be verry minute in your description of the climate, soil, and productions; also the seasons, wether they are in extremes, wet or dry; the state of your market, and general prices of your produce, and particularly if you grow wheat, and how many Bushels per acre, we also wish to know the terms that we can purchase the land on, and the extent of your collony, and wether some 40 or 50 family's would be acceptable; we also wish to know the convenience of your mill priveleges, and general extent of your water power; also the different kinds of wild animals, particularly if the wild horse and cattle abound in such numbers as is reported here, and wether sheep are healthy there, learn us the state of literature, the present state of your government, and the disposition of the natives toward your colony; also wether your waters abound with fish, oysters, clams, etc, and their qualities, wether your climate agrees with the notheren people; also if the necessary articles of husbandry can be easily obtained there, and if not, where they can be on the best terms, finally, we wish you to inform us of all the advantages, and disadvantages, and future prospects attending your country, we have proposed sending two men as agents of our little colony, to explore and make the necessary observations respecting your country, and on the receipt

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of your answer, we can judge wether it will Justify us to do so or not, if so, please to propose the rout they had better take for safety, economy, and expedition,

G. EDWARDS

JAMES F. PERRY TO ISRAEL MCGREADY

Peach Point, February 3, 1833.

See Calendar.

D. W. ANTHONY TO AUSTIN

Brazoria, Feby 3d 1833—

DEAR COL.—

Let this serve to introduce to your acquaintance, my brother Henry Anthony who wises to become a Mexican Citizen.— He visits San Felipe for the consequent donation of land which I assured him he would get by so doing.— My brother Jacob who has been here for some time is not well enough to go up at present and I therefore send the certificate of his having taken the constitutional oath etc. and also his name to a blank for a petition which I believe or hope will answer the same purpose as if present.— I do not send you the *Cash* required on those occasions, but you can either draw on me immediately or wait a short time when it will be more convenient. I send you the proof of the first form of the Remonstrance in Spanish which has been waiting a week for correction. If this should be sufficiently correct, I suppose the other part can go to press without being sent to San Felipe, as it is important they should be printed immediately. The balance will be in type by the return of my brother.

The Bexar Remonstrance (Translated)[1] gives great satisfaction here. You will see from the paper, what I have said on the subject of holding the convention at San Antonio. I hope I shall hear from you frequently and soon—

D. W. ANTHONY.

[Addressed:] Col. S. F. Austin San Felipe.

D. W. ANTHONY TO AUSTIN

Brazoria, Feby 4. 1833

DEAR COL.

Mr. Patrick Green, who you will recollect has been in the colony four or five years, and thro' ignorance and poverty has failed to

[1] On the Bexar remonstrance see Musquiz to Governor, Jan. 10, and Anthony to Austin, Jan. 20 and 25, 1833.

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procure a better location of land than can now be made, appealed to me to assist him in getting him a donation, and in clearing it out of the office. I therefore entered his name on a league next to Graysons on the Caronkoway, which he now visits San Felipe to obtain a title to. I promised also to furnish him with the means of payment which I had with me when I was in San Felipe last, for that purpose; but am at this time without. You will please have the goodness to let this form no obstruction to the issuing of the title, as I have assured Mr. G—— it should not, and I will forward the money in two or three weeks, or make payment when I shall be in San Felipe in the course of the month. I will send you the Spanish Copy of the remonstrance next week, as correctly printed as we have the means of doing, for I am afraid it will not do to wait longer for corrections—without losing much of the effect its circulation will have.

Let me hear from you as to the present aspect of our political arrangements.

D. W. ANTHONY.

WILLIAM H. SKERRETT TO AUSTIN

Chillicothe February 4th. 1833

Col STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

DEAR SIR You will be pleased to pardon me for troubling you, but I have just received an anonimous letter dated "Mouth of the Brazos 22d. December 1832" which purports to have been written by some person who feels interested in my wellfare but they either designedly or neglectfully sent the letter without signing it— In which they inform me that Capt. J. B. Bailey is dead and in consequence thereof my business left in his hands is in a bad condition—

Deeming it advisable at all times to apply to the fountain head, I have taken the liberty of addressing this to you, and hope you will not think it too much trouble to reply immediately— I wish to ascertain if Bailey is dead, and if so, would you be pleased to enquire and inform me the situation in which he left my business—also would you be pleased to advise in whose hands I had better place it, or whether I had better come down myself the latter I know from experience would be the better course, but at present it would be attended with great inconvenience and sacrafice to me, and I would rather suffer loss there, than here at present, unless the sacrifice would be too great there, I had hoped to have been down in the spring of 1828 but was prevented by suits—since when by a succession of ill chances I have not been able to get off— since my return from Texas I have lost a brother-in-law-Sister-in-law and Mother-in-

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law by the death of the former my family has been increased 1 boy and three girls—and in the same time my wife has presented me with 2 girls and 1 boy— So you see when I do come down, I shall come in considerable force in point of numbers, though not in military strength—and I am determined to come down and settle in that country yet, so soon as I can make my arrangements to close all my business here, which I hope to be enabled to do in all this year

When I do come you I think will find me a different person in many respects from what I was when you last seen me— it has been a great source of regret to me the manner in which I conducted myself while there— had I attended to my business as I ought to have done while down I might have left it without any difficulty or trouble about it at this time—but the fact is I cared little about the world or any person in it at that time—I had been harassed and defrauded by some of my relations, and by some who ought to have been my best friends—and who professed themselves as such— I therefore cared little what become of myself or anything else—but I have since thought and learned better things— Dear Sir yo[u see] I have a large family and had hoped that the [land I purc]hased in Texas might be beneficial to [them and] * * * * to me— I therefore do now hope that [it] * * * may not be wrested from me— I had sen[t] [Bailey] * * * a full power of Atty. to do and act as he thought most advisable for me investing him with all the powers that I myself possessed— you perhaps think it strange that I put my business in his hands—but I knew that he felt a very warm friendship for me—and would make every exertion in his power to serve me— I wrote by Mr. J. P. Fessenden last fall and sent a package by him to Bailey containing sundry papers of value to me,—Fessenden promised to write me immediately on his arrival since when I have heard nothing of him— will you be so good as to inform me whether he has arrived in the colony and if he has taken charge of the packet designed for Bailey I had every confidence in Bailey—and in his letters he states that when I come down, I will find every thing done that lay in his power for me, and whether he is dead or alive I should find it done for my interest and benefit and not his—

Dear Sir by devoting some attention to this business you will confer a lasting favour, and possibly it may one day be in my power to reciprocate— WM. H. SKERRETT

OLIVER P. JACKSON TO AUSTIN

New Orleans February. 10th 1833

SIR:

I presume to address you on a subject which has occupied, more or less my attention for the last two years, viz, a permanent residence

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in the Texas Country. Circumstances have prevented me from carrying my wishes into effect thus far, and being now at N. orleans where I have been residing for the last three months, my wishes strongly combining with the facility of reaching the Spanish Country, prompt me to carry my desire into effect. When I left New York where my life thus far has been passed, to visit this place, I was induced to believe from representations made me, that I should find a lucrative practice in the profession of the Law in this city. Altho I may not perhaps have given it fully a fair experiment, yet a strong desire to live in a climate less fatal, and a country, less expensive, as my means are limited, induce me to seek Texas as a country more congenial in most respects to my wishes, and I flatter myself to my future prospects in life also. Had I have determined upon settling in your country, when I left N York, I should have brought to you introductory letters from your cousin, I believe, with whom I am well acquainted, having boarded with him upwards of a year—I mean the Mr. Austin, who is with a Mr. Harmony, a Spanish Merchant of N York— Mr. A. has told me that he intended settling in the Texas soon himself. Mr. Meigs family of N York, (whom I have often heard speak of you and Cap. Austin,) I am intimately acquainted— I presume you were formerly acquainted with my Father, Amasa Jackson, who married the daughter of Oliver Phelps of Suffield, Connecticut. My Father was for many years a Merchant in New York, and became unfortunate a short time before his death which happened about seven years ago. Should your answer to this communication be at all favourable, so as to justify my visiting your country, I will endeavor to visit it immediately, and will bring with me from this place such letters as will be satisfactory to you. I have mentioned the above, thro. fear that you may [receive] many applications of this sort, from worthless persons, as the idea is somewhat prevalent that the Texas is resorted to by those, and those only from the U States, who are ruined in property and character. To be candid with you Sir, I would say, that I am poor—, willingly, ardently willing to engage in any honourable occupation for a livelihood. Misfortune has hitherto attended my steps, and being yet in the meridian of life, I am very solicitous in your new and rising colony, to lay the foundation for future success and happiness. If you can afford me the least gleam of hope, I will embrace it with eagerness and will endeavour to the extent of my limited ability to promote the interests of your flourishing colony in every practicable manner—

May I then request you, Sir, to address me at this place as soon as may be practicable, imparting to me such information in reference to my locating in your country, that I may act upon it with due deliberation. Naught, but the most serious obstacles will prevent me

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from becoming a resident of that land, so that I feel myself prepared to suffer many trying inconveniences. I have attended to my profession, which has been that of the Law, tho I have had in the last few years experience in mercantiling pursuits— I am now engaged in the profession of Law in this place. I shall await the recpt. of your Letter with some impatience, and I must again beg you to excuse the liberty— I have taken in troubling you on this subject.

OLIVER P. JACKSON

[Addressed:] Col. Stephen Austin San Felippe Texas.

CHARLES W. WEBBER TO AUSTIN

Columbia Tennessee
February 15th 1833.

DR. SIR

This letter will be handed you by my friend Col. William K Hill of this place, he is on a visit to Texas for the purpose of making a permanent location for himself and family; You will find him a gentleman of intelligence, and every way worthy of your attention and friendship, he has been for several years clerk to the Senate of this State And discharged his duties with approved ability and skill;

My name may almost be forgotten to you, but I anticpate it will call up some pleasant recollections of days long gone by, days that were probably the happiest of our lives, for it is true that the days of our boyhood are freer from care, pain, disappointment, and regrets than those that succeed them—

I well remember the thoughtlessness and gayety of your life when boarding at my fathers in Kentucky and going to school to old Wilson; you were then happy, particularly so when you had your flute in your hand, and seemed not to care for the future, Your pursuits, thoughts, feelings, and all, are now changed; Whether your pleasure or happiness may have been promoted by the vicissitude— or not you can easily answer. But enough of moralizing. I see from the papers of the day that you anticipate a convention in Texas, and intend probably to declare yourselves Independent of Mexico. I heartily wish you may succeed in the attempt and be enabled to maintain that Independence— If you should succeed and establish a *liberal* Republic, thousands in the West would immediately become citizens of it.

I have long had a great desire to settle in Texas, but am restrained from doing so by reason of the form of the government principally, I most cordially wish you health, happiness and prosperity,—I should be much gratified to receive from you a detailed statement of the views and objects of the citizens in having a convention and

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declaring themselves Independent, is it any part of their object to connect themselves with the United States, or do they intend to form a seperate Independent government unconnected with any other. Will you please answer me.

CHA^{s} W. WEBBER

[Addressed:] Stephen F. Austin Esq. Province of Texas

——— TO AUSTIN

New York, February 20, 1833.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Feb. 24, 1833

D^{r} BROTHER

Hunter has a very valuable mulatto man, he wants to sell him asks six hundred dollars I think him very cheap and if you have any means in Missouri or can make any trade with Hunter to get him I think he would suit you very well— he is a slave for life as he was brought into the country by old Best before the time for bringing them in expired— he would suit you very well indeed— perhaps you can make some arrangement to get him, try and do it—

I am sorry you have lost so many goods I think that farming or planting is much the safest business in the country.

I will be down in a few days

S. F. AUSTIN

[Addressed:] Mr James F. Perry Peach point Mr Hunter

RAMON MUSQUIZ TO ALCALDE OF SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN

Gefatura del Departamento de Bejar

Por. noticias extra oficiales he sabido qe. por dispocicion de el Ayuntamiento de esa Villa en el año anterior y por medio de un Comicionado p^{a} precidir las Elecciones se nombró Ayuntam^{to} en la nueva Municipalidad de Brazoria, de conformidad con la ley, del Estado No. 196. de 28 de Abril del año popo. no obstante q el Gob^{no} no comunicó ningunas medidas; y siendo notable q. aquella dispocicion y sus efectos no se haya dado hasta ahora conocimiento ha esta Gefatura, encargo á V. lo haga remitiendome en copia el acuerdo que la motivó y las listas respectivas; a fin de que siendo reconocida

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aquella corporacion, se ponga en comunicacion con el Gob^no^ de que deve depender inmediatamente.

Dios y libertad Bejar 26. de Feb^o^ de 1833.

RAMON MUSQUIZ [Rubric]

Ciud^no^ Alcalde dela Villa de S. Felipe de Austin

JOHN D. MARTIN TO AUSTIN

Memphis, Tenn., March 2, 1833.

See Calendar.

W. S. BROWN TO JAMES F. PERRY—BILL OF LADING

New Orleans, March 2, 1833.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN IN ACCOUNT WITH MCKINSTRY AND AUSTIN

Col Stephen F. Austin

T. McKinstry and Austin dr

1832			
Febuary 3	To Cash paid Simon		$1. 00
" "	" Cash paid Charles H. Bennett		6. 50
	" Paid your order in favor R. M. Williamson		50. 00
	" " " Note to E. Andrews for 48$ and Interest		52. 80
April 17	" " George Tennell		140. 00
" "	" " George Tennell		60. 00
" "	" " M. T. Hines for relinquishing Lot		9. 00
" "	" " A. G. Reynolds for so much endorsed on J. R. Phillips Note in your favor		10. 00
" "	" " Your Subscription for Cannon		10. 00
" "	" " Horse to M. Muldoon		40. 00
August 4	" George Tennell order on you		133. 00
" "	" Cash handed you at San Felipe		10. 00
" "	" Brigham for clearing 10 Acre field opposite Brazoria		100. 00
	" Brigham for chickens and Sent to Col. Mexia		15. 50
	" 4 Orders drawn by Hawkins handed you		236. 50
	" Paid Sayre and Nixsen am't your a/c		10. 50
	" " C. W. Anthony for printing H. Bills		20. 00
Oct 27	" Cash from money sent Williams		30. 00
	" Paid A G and R Mills for Pumps and Socks		3. 25
	" " Thos H. Borden for last Surveys		180. 76
	" " Alexander Graves		114. 00
			$1232. 81

Credit

	By this Amount due you on Sales	
1831	New Town of Brazoria	622. 77
Novr 29 "	Edwin Waller recd from him	64. 00

Dr New Town of Brazoria in Account with McKinstry and Austin Cr

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1832			
January 6	To E Hawkins purchase at Sale		$432 00
	" J. F. Perrys purchase " "		141 00
	" Henry Austin's purchase " "		1342 00
	" Lots No 5 6 7 and 8 in Block No 33		72 00
	" Block No 42 and 43		103 00
	" paid Old Town of Brazoria ½ proceeds of Lots No 5 and 6 in Block No 32		165 00
	" paid Bailey for Cutting Road to Bells		66 67
	" E. H. J. Hawkins in full for his share of Lots sold 6 Jany 1832		718 76
	" Balance transferred to credit of Stephen F. Austin in his private a/c		622 77
			3663 20
1832			
January 6	By Nett proceeds Sales Lots		$3663 20

E. E. Brazoria 1st. January 1833— McKinstry and Austin

Decr 5	" Henry Smith " " "	65. 00		
Jany 6	" Henry Smith " " "	25. 00		
" 21	" C. D. Sayre for lots 1 2 7 8 in Block 36	100. 00		
" "	" By Edmund Andrews recd from him	40. 00		
	" Hensley recd from him	18. 00		
	" Brigham recd " "	65. 00		
	" P. R. Splane " "	45. 00		
	" E. Anderson " "	10. 00		
	" Wm Harris " "	15. 00		
			$1069. 77	
	Balance due McK and A March 3rd 1833		$163. 04	
To Amount brought forward			$163. 04	
" Miguel Arcinega for balance his a/c			68. 18	
			$231. 22	

Austin in account with Perry and Hunter

Col. S. F. Austin
In a/ with Perry and Hunter

1833			
Jany 11	For Ballance on a/ rendered		1654. 09
Mar.	" Collecting 1670$ at 5 prct		83. 50
			$1737. 59
	Contra	*Cr*	
By house Rent 14 Mo @ 10$		140. 00	
By Cash Recd. of J Lester		3. 00	
By Amt recd. of Frank Lewis		16. 25	
By Cash recd. of J. Lester pd Note		7. 00	
By Amt Recd. of Ducase		82. 00	
By Amt " " W Neu		15. 00	
By " " " Jno. Austin		1000. 00	1263. 25
			$474. 84

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Recd. Draft on Messrs McKinstry and Austin for the above Amt Four hundred and seventy four and 34/100 Dollars—
Mar. 22. 1833

WM. W. HUNTER

JOHN G. ROWLAND TO JAMES F. PERRY—BILL OF LADING

New Orleans, March 22, 1833.

See Calendar.

T. J. WINSTON TO AUSTIN

Peach Creek, March 24, 1833.

See Calendar.

W. S. PARROTT TO AUSTIN

Mexico, March 25, 1833.

See Calendar.

JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA TO AUSTIN

Mexico 27th. March 1833.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Esqre.

MY DEAR FRIEND. I take the pen in my hand to direct a few lines to Texas: which part of the Republic I so much cherish and in which fate I am so much interested.

As I told you in my previous letter, I am in the Senat of the Union for which station I was named by two States though the valid election has been that of Mexico by reason of vicinity. You and the other friends in Texas may have no doubt that *Jose Antonio Mexia* will employ all the influence that he may have, in favor of those Colonies as well as to take away and destroy all the hinderances which were opposed to their improvement and prosperity by the mean and low of Bustamente's administration.

So soon as the ordinary sesions of the Congress may begin I intend to try how a law of colonization may be issued as liberal as possible to promote by these means the increase of the population in Texas and its future happiness. Perhaps some memoranda that you should send me, would be useful to get myself perfectly instructed of such measures as might be adopted for the attainment of our desirable object. You know, better than any other person whatever, what

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Texas wants, and of course you can give me better than any body else such light as may be necessary to obtain a favourable result.

Padre Moldoon presented himself to me a few day ago saying that he came as Commissioner from you and the Colonists, to ask for the derogation of the Law of 6th of April. Perhaps the circumstances are not at present the best for him to obtain a good despatch, nor do I believe indeed, that you have commissioned him for any thing.

You may consider me, my friend, as interested in the welfare of Texas as any of its inhabitants, and you may believe that I am very sorry that my political affairs prevent my going to begin my farm at Atascosito or my house at Brazoria.

Geo. Fisher wished with such ardour to go to his destination in Anahuac, notwithstanding that I tried to persuade him not to do such a thing, that at last I had to give him a letter for your. He is gone, but I think Filisola will not let him pass farther than Matamoras because he told me before going that he would not permit him to enter Texas.

Filisola is the best chief that you could have wished— Treat him with the same frankness with which you have treated me, and let all persons of some consideration in your colony be his friends.

Our Santa Anna has at last been elected President by the votes of 16 States out of the 20, of which the Union is composed. The Vice President is Don. Valentin Gomez Farias by the votes of 11. States. Santa Anna, it appears, is determined not to admit the Presidency but the Congress will not admit his resignation and he will have to come up to the Capital for his inauguration.

I would wish that a commission might come from Texas composed of individuals from all the colonies, to which I would join here as member should I was named for it, to present to the General the most cordial compliments and good wishes, as well for the triumph attained by him against tiranny as for the good election of the Republic choicing him for his first magistrate.—You are well aware that a public testimony of this nature would be of great convenience and perhaps useful to all interests. It would be desirable that you should come with the Commission—

Pray write me by every opportunity and have the goodness to give direction to the Inclosures. Do not forget that you promised me a piece of land in your Colony and that a promise is a debt.

My compliments to our common friend Williams and to Don. Juan your Brother. and consider me always

Your affectionate friend

José Antonio Mexia [Rubric]

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R. R. Royall to Samuel M. Williams

April 1, 1833.

See Calendar.

Outline of Address

MEMORANDUM—

1—A short general view of the political situation of the whole Mexican republic in November last—all in revolution and so disorganized that it was not known in Texas whether any legitimate government existed. Also a view of its present situation so far as is known and the tryumph of the liberal party by the success of Santa Anna and the pacification under the plan of Zavaleta.

2—A short view of the situation of Texas at that time owing to the revolution in Mexico and the danger of falling into anarchy for the want of adequate local govt. and the consequent necessity of doing something to preserve the public peace and order.

3—Its present situation as to the administration of justice and all the departments of the local government. The distance from the present seat of government its disimilarity from Coahuila in climate productions, situation, etc, etc.

4—A general recapitulation shewing the necessity of a State government to protect the rights of the natives, as well as those of the people of Texas.

5—As to the *manner* of applying for admission as a state of the Mexican confederation—quote the law of 7th May 1824, as the basis of the right to petition for a state government and conclude with the opinion that such a petition should be made accompanied with the project of a constitution to be drawn up in strict conformity in the national constitution—etc, etc.

[Stephen F. Austin]

Address of Central Committee to the Convention [1]

Gentlemen of the convention,

The central committee of safety and correspondence which was established by the late convention, and by whose request the present convention has assembled, beg leave to offer their sincere congratulations on your arrival at the theatre where you are to exercise the

[1] This address was written by Austin for the Central Committee appointed by the convention of October, 1832. It was presented to the convention of Apr. 1, 1833. A slightly different draft exists in the Austin Papers.

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high and important duties which devolve upon you as the representatives of the people of your several districts.

Believing that your deliberations will be fraught with important results to the interests of our common country, the committee deem it a duty they owe you, as the delegates of the people to make a brief exposition of the reasons which have operated on them in calling this convention, and in doing this, they wish it to be understood, not as attempting to dictate to this convention the course it should pursue in the least degree, nor to prescribed limits to its action, but to give a satisfactory explanation to you, and through you to the great body of the people of Texas, of the causes which have impelled them to the exercise of this responsible duty.

The situation of Texas, is such as to give rise to great anxiety and even alarm in the heart of every person who inhabits it, or feels any interest for its prosperity or welfare.

The whole of this country, with the exception of the small towns of Bexar and Goliad, has been settled and redeemed from the wilderness within a few years by the enterprise of immigrants who removed to it in consequence of the express and earnest invitation of the Government, contained in the national and state colonization laws. Those immigrants have uniformly evinced their gratitude to the government and nation of their adoption for all the acts of kindness and liberality that have been extended towards them, and they have faithfully performed their duty as Mexican citizens, and fulfilled the intention and spirit of the colonization laws, by settling the country, defending it from hostile indians, or other enemies, and developing its resources, thus giving value and character to a large section of the Mexican territory which was before wild and almost unknown. They have introduced agriculture and the usefull arts and commerce, and if as has been said by a celebrated author "that man deserves well of his country who makes a blade of grass grow where none grew before", how much more do the people of Texas deserve from their country who have so materially added to the national grandeur, phisical force and resources. The people of Texas ought therefore to rely with confidence on the government for protection, and to expect that an adequate remedy will be applied to the many evils that are afflicting them.

The invitations in virtue of which they came here, and the guarantees of the constitution and laws, evidently contain a pledge on the part of the government, that they should be governed in accordance with the spirit of the free political institutions of the Mexican republic, and in the manner best adapted to the local situation and necessities of Texas. The *right* of the people of Texas to represent their wants to the government, and to explain in a respectfull man-

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ner the remedies that will relieve them cannot therefore be doubted or questioned. It is not merely a right, it is also a sacred and bounden duty which they owe to themselves and to the whole Mexican nation, for should evils of great and desolating magnitude fall upon Texas for the want of competent remedies, the people here would have cause to accuse themselves of neglect for not making an effort to procure such remedies, and the government would also have cause to complain, that a full and frank and timely representation had not been made and a remedy solicited.

It is very evident that these considerations have influenced the people of Texas in all they have done up to the present time. They have been governed by the desire to do their duty faithfully to the Mexican nation and to themselves. In the discharge of this duty the people and civil authorities of Austins Colony made a respectfull and humble petition to the General and State governments on the 18 day of Feby 1832[1] setting forth the evils that were afflicting this country. The inhabitants and civil authorities of Bexar, the ancient and present capital of Texas, also made a very able and energetic represention on the same subject on the 19th of December last,[2] Numerous other representatives have been made at various times by all the Ayuntamientos of Texas, and on the first of October last delegates of the people of Texas met in convention at this Town and unanimously resolved that it was expedient that the political union between Coahuila and Texas should be dissolved and that Texas should be organised as a separate State of the Mexican confederation as soon as the approbation of the General government to that effect could be obtained. That convention accordingly memorialised congress on the subject, and elected an agent to go to Mexico in order to forward the views of the people of Texas in obtaining the sanction of the general government. But the continuation of the intestine commotions which have raged within the bosom of the Mexican republic for more than twelve months past, and which threaten'd a total overthrow of the established institutions of the country, prevented the memorial from being presented in accordance with the intentions of the October convention.

That convention adopted many other memorials and resolutions, amongst the most important of which was the provisional organization of the militia, as a precaution against contemplated attacks upon our exposed frontier by the many tribes of hostile indians who inhabit the northern and western parts of Texas; and the establishment of the central and sub-committees of safety and correspondence throughout the country all of which were rendered inoperative

[1] Above, Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin to the Federal Government.
[2] For a copy see Filisola, Memorias para la Historia de la Guerra de Texas, I, 273–293.

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by the decree of the governor of the state of Coahuila and Texas, who declared the proceedings of the convention null and void, and ordered the several committees to dissolve.

At the time when this committee determined to convoke the present convention, they took an impartial survey of our federal relations and of our local affairs.

They beheld the Mexican confederation torn and broken asunder by political parties each of which sustained its pretentions to the supreme executive power of the nation by force of arms. Civil war raged in every part of the Mexican territory and in looking upon the face of the nation nothing was to be seen but confusion and bloody discord—Brother contending with brother in deadly strife for mastery in political power. They saw that the constitution of the republic, that instrument which they had been taught to look upon as the sacred charter of their liberties was alternately violated and set aside by all parties, and that all the constitutional guarantees were merged for the time being in military power. They saw the constitutional period for the election of President and vice President of the nation and of members of Congress, pass by, and at least one third of the states refuse or neglect to hold the elections. The future presented the gloomy prospect that the days of constitutional freedom had been numbered to the Mexicans, and that we should ere long see the waves of anarchy and confusion close forever over the wreck of that Mexican republic. The disorganization of the government was so extreem, that even the leaders of the liberal party who have been contending for the restoration of constitutional liberty, and whose cause was espoused by the people of Texas, and generously defended with their blood and treasure, found themselves conpelled to lay aside all the established forms, and to renovate the constitution by violent and unconstitutional means.

The committee turned from this view of our national affairs to that of the local internal situation of Texas which has not materially changed since the last convention. The political system under which Texas has heretofore been governed, tends to check the growth of the country, and to produce confusion and insecurity, rather than to extend protection to lives liberty and property. The unnatural annexation of what was formerly the province of Texas to Coahuila by the constituent congress of the Mexican nation, has forced upon the people of Texas a system of laws which they do not understand and which cannot be administered so as to suit their condition or to supply their wants.

The Alcaldes who are the highest judicial officers in Texas and have unlimited jurisdiction in all cases, are elected annually by the people, and those who are ignorant and corrupt and without re-

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sponsibility are as liable to be chosen as the wise, the virtuous and the responsible. This remark is justified by the fact that the office is without emolument and is extreemly burdensome, and will therefore seldom be sought by those who are best qualified to fill it. In all civil cases there is an appeal to the supreme tribunal of the state at Saltillo a distance of near seven hundred miles from the inhabited parts of Texas. There are but few men in Texas who are qualified to prepare cases for the supreme court and when appeals have been taken they have generally been sent back several times to be reformed so that decissions in such cases are seldom had. It has become proverbial in Texas, that an appeal to Saltillo is a payment of the debt. It amounts to a total denial of justice especially to the poor, and this is the frail tenure by which the most important rights of the people of Texas are suspended.

The manner of trying culprits for high criminal offences is such that it amounts to no tryal at all. The tryal by jury is not sanctioned by law, and the rights of the accused are committed to an alcalde who is ignorant of the formulas of the laws, and of the language in which they are written who prepares the cause for the judgment of the supreme tribunal in Saltillo, thus the lives, liberty and honor of the accused are suspended upon the tardy decission of a distant tribunal which knows not nor cares not for his suffering, and the rights of the community to bring offenders to speedy and exemplary punishment are sacrificed to forms equally uncertain and unknown. The formula required by law in the prosecution of criminals is so difficult to be pursued that most of the courts in Texas have long since ceased to attempt its execution. The tryal by jury has been attempted in some of the municipalities, but being unsupported by the sanction of law it also has failed of success. A total interegnum in the administration of justice in criminal cases may be said to exist. A total disregard of the laws has become so prevalent, both amongst the officers of justice, and the people at large, that reverence for laws or for those who administer them has almost intirely disappeared and contempt is fast assuming its place, so that the protection of our property our persons and lives is circumscribed almost exclusively to the moral honesty or virtue of our neighbor.

The people and authorities of Bexar in their representation in December last speaking of the judiciary system in Texas use the following strong and conclusive language.

"In the judiciary department there never has been any adequate organization and it may be said with just cause that in this department there is not and never has been any government in Texas."

Besides the evils which menace Texas for the want of a judiciary there are others of no less appalling effects. This country is in danger of being inundated by bands of northern indians who are

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removing from the east side of the Mississippi to Arkansas on our borders. Also the Comanche, Tahuacana and other tribes of native Texas indians have recently become hostile and are committing depredations on the frontiers. But [it] is unnecessary to enter into details—enough is said in the representation of Bexar by the declaration that there is not and never has been any adequate gov^{t} in Texas.

Judging from the past, it must be considered a vain hope to look to the State government of Coahuila and Texas for a redress of grievances, or a remedy of wrongs. We have twice beheld the mortifying spectacle of the corrupt mob of the Capital driving the legislature by force to adopt measures, unconstitutional in themselves, insulting to the inhabitants of Texas, and disregardful of their rights, The general neglect of the state Legislature of all the important interests and rights of Texas and their repeated violations of the constitution are very clearly and energetically set forth in the Bexar remonstrance of last December. There seems to be no cause to expect any favourable change towards Texas in the politics of Coahuila. But even supposing there were the legislature that would suit Coahuila would be pernicious in Texas. No organization can be devised under the constitution of the State of Coahuila and Texas that would suit the two extremes, separated as they are more than 400 leagues, a great part through a wilderness that cannot be passed without imminent danger from hostile indians, The dissimilarity of habits occupation and language also present still greater difficulties than the distance. These difficulties are hard to reconcile for the reason that the state constitution requires that all general laws shall be the same throughout the whole state, There cannot therefore be any organization of the judiciary for Texas materially different from that of Coahuila.

In this state of things the committee considered themselves bound by a solemn duty to call on the people of Texas through their representatives to meet in general convention with full powers to deliberate on the present distracted situation of our infant country and to adopt such constitutional measures as in their wisdom they may deem necessary In exercising this highly responsible duty the committee did not act unadvisedly or without the most mature deliberation, and they did not call this convention untill they were satisfied that a large majority of the people of Texas were in favor of applying for a well organized state Gov^{t} as the only remedy for existing evils.

The law of the constituent Congress of 7 May 1824 evidently contemplates that Texas should form a separate State The 2^{d} article of that law is in the following words as translated "Coahuila and Texas shall also form another state, but so soon as the latter is

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in a situation to figure as a separate state, it shall inform congress thereof for its resolution."

The right which this law confers upon the people of Texas to inform congress when they are in a situation to figure as a State, and to apply for admission into the Union is certainly very clear and unequivocal.

What method may be the best to obtain a remedy for the many evils which afflict Texas, can only be determined by the wisdom of the convention. Trusting that your deliberations will be conducted with that zeal for the public welfare which the common good of our adopted country requires and that they will tend to that happy issue which all so confidently anticipate, the central committee take leave of the convention by depositing the power which they have exercised for a time in the hands of those who gave it.

AUSTIN'S DRAFT OF PART OF CONSTITUTION OF 1833

April 1, 1833.

See Calendar.

WYATT HANKS TO AUSTIN

District of Ayish
April 2 1833

Col S. F AUSTIN

DEAR SIR, You will please pardon my not answering your very welcome communication at a more early date—

The apol^{y} offered is absence—as on the arrival I was absent from before the reception of the letter until 2 days since—where I am about establishing mills and other machinery.

The extreme season of high water prevented my going as a member until 2-day Since when an unexpected call prevents the possibility of going on There is a member of our Eastern delegation going on and it is hoped that the present meeting may be able to meet the emergencies of this eventful crisis—

W. HANKS [Rubric]

[Address:] Col S. F. Austin San fillipe De Austin. Texas Pr. Mr. Wm English.

AUSTIN TO NATHANIEL COX

San Felipe de Austin April 2d, 1833

Mr. N. Cox

D^{r} SIR. I recd. your esteemed favor of 1 ult. recommending Doctor Spaulding It will give me great pleasure to do any thing in my

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power to promote the views of the Docter. He stoped at Matagorda and I have not yet had the pleasure of seeing him.

It is highly gratifying to me that you and Mr. Sanders approve of my conduct in relation to the settlement of the business of our mutual friend J. H. Hawkins' estate.

After the many years of labor and hardships and perplexities I have undergone in this country by which I have secured a handsome fortune for the heirs, I was not prepared to receive censure from any of them, because I thought that I did not merit it. Edmund, I fear, received incorrect impressions from some persons who are unfriendly to me, but I think they are removed now and that he is very well satisfied.

It would be gratifying for me to receive assurances from Mr. Haws, and from Geo. N. Hawkins that they were satisfied with the settlement and with my conduct I have always viewed J. H. Hawkins more like a brother than any thing else. I am however well aware that it is very difficult for persons at a distance, who live in a well organised community to form a correct idea of the trouble, or labor, or difficulties of doing business in this country of the kind I have been engaged in.

Your approbation is very gratifying indeed for I prise your opinions very highly.

I am endeavoring to close all my affairs and totally withdraw myself from public matters or *politics*—it is not so easy to do, as at first appeard.

Our convention has met and will no doubt apply to the national congress for the admission of Texas into the mexican union as a State. I think the application will be granted. I believe it is very necessary to save this country from ruin. We are now able to sustain A State Govt. and no country ever required one more than this.

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

Arbitration Agreement—Averting a Duel

San Felipe, April 3, 1833.

See Calendar.

Resolutions Against African Slave Trade[1]

Convention Room, San Felipe De Austin.
Thursday, April 4, 1833.

On motion of David G. Burnet, it was

Resolved; That, whereas it has been reported to this Convention, that a vessel under foreign colours has recently arrived in, and de-

[1] A clipping from the Texas Republican, June —, 1835. The journal of the convention was never published and is not available.

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parted from the Bay of Galveston; that she came direct from the Island of Cuba, and was laden with negroes.— And whereas it has also been stated, that these unfortunate beings are recently from the African Coast, and speak only their vernacular tongue. The Convention do hold in utter abhorrence all participation, whether direct, or indirect, in the African Slave Trade—that we do concur in the general indignation which has been manifested throughout the civilized world against that inhuman and unprincipled traffic. And we do, therefore, earnestly recommend to our constituents, the good people of Texas, that they will not only abstain from all concern in that abominable traffic, but that they will unite their efforts to prevent the evil from polluting our shores; and will aid and sustain the civil authority in detecting and punishing any similar attempt for the future.

Resolved, That the Island of Cuba, as pertaining to the Kingdom of Spain, is an enemies country, and by necessary consequence, all commercial, or other intercourse with it, or its inhabitants, is an infraction of our most sacred duties as good and faithful citizens of the Mexican Republic.

Therefore, This Convention would advise, and enjoin upon all the good people of Texas, that they discountenance by all possible means, every attempt to fix upon the moral and political character of our young community the odious epithet of treason, or the still more detestable stigma of Piracy.

The Convention feel a proud satisfaction in believing that the late shameful violation of law, and of every patriotic duty, was perpetrated by transient foreign adventurers.

On motion of Ira Ingram, seconded by Thomas Hastings.

Ordered, That the resolution, relative to the introduction of African negroes from the Island of Cuba, or elsewhere, and relative to the prosecution of commerce with the Island, be signed by the President and Secretary of this Convention, and be published in the Texas Advocate, and transmitted to New-Orleans for publication in the papers of that city; and also to the several presses of Mexico, for publication throughout the Mexican Republic.

W. H. Wharton, *Chairman.*
Thos. Hastings, *Secretary.*

Samuel C. Hirams to Austin

Harrisburg, April 10, 1833.

See Calendar.

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The Convention to Congress

Al Congreso General de los Estados unidos Mexicanos.

Señor—Los habitantes de Texas por medio de sus representantes electos reunidos en convencion, se acercan con el debido respeto al Congreso Nacional y le presentan esta peticion suplicando se disuelba se derogue y cese para siempre la union que se establecio entre Coahuila y Tejas, [A translation of this document is printed in Yoakum, *Texas* I, Appendix VII, pp. 469–482. It is undated and signed by David G. Burnet, chairman of committee. The copy in the Austin papers is dated Austin, April 13, 1833, and is signed by "Tomas Hasting, Secretary, Davit [sic] G. Burnet, President of the committee, Guillermo H. Wharton, President of the Convention."]

Notes for Petition to Remove Restrictions on Immigration

[April 13, 1833]

Memorandum of points for a memorial to the general Gov[t] asking for a repeal of the 11 article of the law of 6 April 1830—

To mention, generally, the wilderness state in which Texas was at the time of the Mexican independence—the difficulties, privations and hardships which the emigrants have undergone in settling this country— The advantages which the nation has gained, without the cost of one dollar by an augmentation of physical force for the protection of the frontiers against hostile indians or other enemies, by the progress of agriculture and by the introduction into the Mexican territory of the culture of cotton as an article of exportation to foreign countries, thus supplying a great staple commodity which may be recevd along the whole coast, of the Gulf of Mexico, in sufficient quantities to pay for all the imports without the necessity of sending out one dollar The rich products of the mines would then remain, and circulate freely through the country— It only needs a calculation of the annual produce of the mines for ten years to form an idea of what the wealth of Mexico would be, even in that time, if the agricultural productions, were sufficient to pay for the importations.

[Stephen F. Austin.]

Petition for Repeal of Restrictions on Immigration

Al Congreso Federal de Mexico.

El Pueblo de Tejas mediante sus representantes, reunidos en una convencion general, con el objeto de ecsponer sus necesidades y agravios al Congreso de la confederacion respetuosamente dice.

Que miran con el mas vivo sentimiento la ecsistencia y efectos del articulo 11 de la ley del 6 de abril 1830 una Ley de esta naturaleza particularmente dirigida hacia los ciudadanos de la republica de donde emigramos induce a temer que una sospecha de nuestra fidelidad fue la causa de su creacion.

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Confiados sinembargo, en la justicia de la nacion, y en la pureza de intencion con que somos y siempre hemos sido movidos, como tambien en la identidad de interes ecsistente entre los estados de Mexico y sus colonias en Tejas, vuestros memorialistas confidencialmente anticipan su pronta derogacion En apoyo de nuestros derechos a la indulgente y soberana consideracion del Congreso General de la republica citaremos los siguientes hechos.

Los productos de agricultura y de manufactura valen casi un ciento pr. ciento mas en las plazas de Megico, que en las de los Estados Unidos del Norte. nuestro interes pues, como pueblo mercantil y agricultor la liga mas fuerte de la sociedad es diametricalmente opuesto a cualquiera convulsion o cambio de situacion que pudiera privarnos de aquella preferencia en el mercado Megicano, a la cual como colonos evidentemente tenemos todo derecho.

Esta Ley si se permite obrar, destruye el proyecto original de la Republica megicana, relativo a la poblacion de Tejas. En 1823 el Congreso de la nacion convidó a las ciudadanos de los Estados unidos del norte a poblar las fronteras, y como aliciente ofreció una liberal donacion de terreno a cada familia; el presupuesto objeto del Gobierno era habitar el desierto y someter el pais a los mejores intereses de la nacion. era entonces desconocido al hombre civilizado, era la mansion de los rapaces y hostiles indios. De luengas tiempos ostruyeron la estension de la poblacion megicana, embarazaban sus establecimientos fronterisos, y los escluian de toda participacion en el comercio del norte, y a veces amenazaban su despoblacion. en este estado tejas fue no solamente inutil, sino un peligroso colgajo de la Republica. Presentaba un flanco desnudo al invasor, y estaba a la merced de un enemigo forastero sin adecuados medios de defensa contra las incursiones de los indios hostiles, la atencion de vuestros politicos se dirigió a la adopcion de medidas para su proteccion y reposo. Si la Politica liberal de 1823 huviese sido vigorosamente sostenida, si ningunas restricciones mortiferas huvieran sido impuestas pr. subsequentes legislaturas, Tejas a estas horas huviera desplegado las orgullosas hazañas de una legislativa sabiduria y el gobierno huviera disfrutado ya los placenteros efectos de su munificencia y liberalidad

Colonias fueron concedidas; y los norte americanos fueron los primeros a hacer frente a los peligros y a las privaciones que acompañaban la aceptacion de la liberalidad del Gobierno. Los nativos megicanos desinclinados a disputar con los salvages la posesion de un desierto inconquistado, rehusaron su participacion

La España no habia aun cesado sus hostililades; Los gabinetes de Europa escandalizados pr la ereccion de sistemas republicanos anatemizaron vuestra gloriosa lucha a favor de la mas justa independencia! Pero la Republica del norte atrevidamente defendió

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vuestra declaracion, reconoció vuestra independencia, y os dió admision a la comunidad de las naciones. Muchos de sus hijos sostuvieron vuestra causa; heroicamente ayudaron la espulsion de vuestros tyranos y gozosamente celebraron con los amigos de la libertad por todo el orbe la consumacion de la emancipacion megicana. Las puertas de la emigracion estaban entonces abiertas. Confiados en el honor, la ofrecida liberalidad, y empeñada fe del Gobierno megicano, muchos de los que havian peleado en las filas de vuestros ejercitos se establecieron bajo las provisiones de vuestras leyes en una silvestre frontera de la tierra qe. voluntariamente se ofrecieron a defender. Adquirieron un caracter sin rival para las atrevidas empresas y lucharon cara a cara con los barbaros p. la posesion de los bosques de Tejas! Triunfaron—el salvaje ha sido rechazado, Estensos establecimientos, campos cultivados, y una poblacion emprendedora, son los frutos de vuestra liberalidad, y de la incansable perseverancia de los colonos.

Que es lo que hemos hecho para manchar este fiel retrato de lo pasado, y para acarrear las tisicas restricciones del Gobierno en lo futuro? a que epoca de nuestra historia pasada podemos referirnos para merecer ó la falta de confianze, ó la hostil propension tan emfaticamente proclamado al mundo en el articulo 11 de la ley de 6 de abril 1830? En que punto de vista pone a los colonos de Tejas? ¿no nos pone en el mas sospechoso y odioso termino? no tacha a neustros paisanos, como desmereciendo la confianza de cualesquier gobierno? Y havremos perdido nuestros derechos? Nuestros hechos havran provocado este justo castigo por nuestras aberaciones de la senda del deber hasta aqui? O se teme, o se sospecha que llegaremos a ser peligrosos en adelante? de lo pasado a lo menos no tenemos ningun reproche, es materia de la historia ya, y la bella fama de los americanos ciertamente no perderá en los detalles historicos. pr. la parte que han tomado en la redencion de Texas de un embrutecimiento salvage a un estado civilizado Para lo futuro nuestros hechos pasados son la mejor garantia que podemos ofrecer. El interes de Texas es el interes de Mexico. El uno es necessario al otro. Ya menos que se nos tengan por tan poco prudentes como hacer la guerra a nuestros mejores y mas caros intereses cualesquier otro cambio que no fuere la derogacion del articulo arriba citado acompañada con las otras ventajas garantizadas por las leyes del Congreso, seria deplorada como la mayor desgracia que pudiera gravitar sobre nuestra naciente sociedad.

Sentimos y profesamos la mas sincera adhesion al Gobierno de nuestra adopcion. Sobre estas observaciones descanza nuestra causa, animados con la esperanza de una correspondiente magnanimidad en las delegadas autoridades de la Nacion para quitar todas las travas a

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nuestra prosperidad—aliviarnos especialmente de la embarrazosa y perniciosa Ley del 6 de abril, y restaurarnos al pleno Gozo de las prometidas prerogativas de las Leyes de Colonizacion—San Felipe de Austin 13 de Abril 1833

WILY MARTIN
Presidente de la comision
WM. H. WHARTON
Presidente de la convencion
THOMAS HASTINGS
Secro de la convencion

AUSTIN'S INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE CONVENTION[1]

San Felipe de Austin abril 13/833

A ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.

Vmd. ha sido nombrado por una convencion de vuestros conciudadanos á la alta confianza de presentar al Congreso general megicano los Deseos y Pretenciones de Tejas para ser admitida como Estado separado.

Al confiar á Vmd. este interesante cargo la Convencion le da esta seguridad de su plena conviccion q[e] Vmd. contribuira con sus estremos esfuerzos para efectuar los objetos de su mision. Pero hay ciertos puntos importantes sobre los cuales es menester que V. esté formalmente instruido de las miras de la convencion y de vuestros conciudadanos.

Puede suceder que el Congreso general piense que un gobierno territorial sea mas analogo a la situacion y circonstancias de Tejas; sobre este asunto la Convencion encarga que Vmd. esplicitamente entienda que un Gobierno territorial no es el objeto de su mision; que no puede satisfacer los pueblos y que resultara solamente en la substitucion de un mal por otro dejando a la ecsperiencia futura y futuros sufrimientos de Tejas determinar cual de los males es mas fatal a su prosperidad.

Vmd. pues resistira respetuosa pero decicicam[te] todo paso que tienda a imponeros la forma de un Gobierno territorial.

Puede ademas suceder durante su conferencia con el Congreso federal que uno ó mas articulos de la constitucion (Copia de la cual le entregamos) sean reparables por aquella Asamblea: En tal caso si la objecion fuese de poca importancia y no involviere los mas caros intereses de Texas, ó los imprescriptibles derechos del pueblo, le autorizamos aceptar tal modificacion ó mudanza sugerida por el Congreso.

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[1] University of Texas Transcripts from Department of Fomento, Mexico.

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Mas en el empeño de este Deber Vmd. deve llevar constantemente en su memoria que sus conciudadanos han depositado en su integridad y en su talento una alta y santa confianza, y que V. guardará la mayor cautela para no comprometerse en este punto. Deve tambien aceptar tales modificaciones ó altercaciones condicionalmente y trasmitirlas á la Comision central.

Llegando Vmd. claramente a entender que el Logro de nuestro grande objeto á saver, la admision de Tejas como Estado de la Federacion megicana es inasequible participará lo mas pronto posible este hecho a la Comision central y volverá cuanto antes al seno de sus conciudadanos.

Y ademas le encargamos corresponder regularmente con la Comision central y avisar de tiempo en tiempo con el mas breve despacho por toda oportunidad de sus adelantos en su alta y importante mision. William H. Wharton presidente de la convencion. Thomas Hastings. Secretario de la Convencion.

Es copia de mis instrucciones de la convencion de Tejas.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN. (Rúbrica.)

GEORGE FISHER TO AUSTIN

Monclova 16th April 1833.

Col. S. F. AUSTIN.

San felipe.

DEAR SIR. Enclosed I transmit you a Copy of a letter from our mutual friend Gral Jose Anto: Mexia directed to you; original of which I shall keep until I shall have the oportunity of handing to you personally. From this letter you will discover how erroneous an opinion you have formed of my going to Mexico and which upon the bare supposition of the "*on dits*" from Matamoros you admitted as a full fact, according to the contents of the *Post Scriptum* to your letter of 4th Oct. 1832 directed to your corresponsal in Mexico, and of which likewise I acompany you a copy with the note in which I received a Copy of said P. S. that you may see in what a miraculous way it came to my hand, and to prove that no thing however secret it may appear or be treated with will remain for ever unrevealed.

I think my dear Colon[1] that I had reason to expect to be treated by you better than you have done, especially when yourself solicted and I acquiesced in the presence of our Mutual friend Dr Mauricio Hebenstreit in Matamoros, a reconciliation, and burrying into oblivion the past reciprocal acts of recrimination, at whose table we dined on said day. I was expecting and believing that from that moment a new era comenced to exist between us, and that in future a most cordial disposition towards the interest of Texas and

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the best understanding between us was to commence. But low behold what must have been my feelings at the receipt of the letter of which under No. 2 I send you a copy.? I ask what would have been yours? and what supposition could you form, upon the investigation that said letter was directed to Mangino. With what view and intention? My dear Sir do not believe that I am of yesterday and that I cannot *guess* at things if you do, you are sadly mistaken.

It is very well known to you and to you only, that had I been disposed, I could and can yet shake the foundation of your Colony, and your individual welfare, you also know that I had more than sufficient reasons for doing so, for you very well know that you was the Instigator and promoter of all the mobs against me in Tejas, that I should have had no difficulty with no person but lived in perfect peace and quietness in Tejas, with my family. The unjust persecutions put on foot by your associates through your instigation have destroyed that peace, have ruined my interest, have kept me separate 3 Years from my family, and their happiness destroyed, My defenseless and abandoned children cry unto heavens for vengeance for such acts of injustice. I alone possessed more than a comon share of patience and forbearing have said nothing to justify myself of the many foul charges alleged against me, and why? is it becose it is not in power? No, it is because I would not [s]trew firebrands into your colony altho you charged me with it in your letter directed to Col. Bradburn from Brasoria on the 24th Dbre 1832. You know very well that you have done me infinite injustice and have ruined my and my families happiness and fortune, and yet when I am ready and willing to forbear and to forgive at your own request in presence of our mutual friend, you are still, after agreeing to it, disposed further to persecute me,—Is this just? is it generous? is it noble Do you suppose that you can keep me in that way out of Tejas, upon which country I have as much right and claim as you or any other man has or can have You are mistaken. I never shall give up my claim on Tejas, and not even the assasins dagger will intimidate me to return and live there, in any vocation or under any circumstances.

To injure Tejas and to slander the Caracker of the inhabitants I not need to go to Mejico it is the last place where I would go to— You ought to know that in Matamoras in 1830 and 31. I had the management of the printing press, which I can get again at any time. should I wish it.— What better medium than this to injure Tejas and slander its inhabitants. Did I ever say any thing in that paper injurious to Tejas? Did I ever defend my own cause when I could do it? Why? Because I did not wish to reveal certain things, and persons compromitted. But can I forever forbear

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new persecutions, and torments? You offered to me peace at Matamoras, I accepted, I run a dense vail over the past, you have broched and opened the half healed wound. Will you quit, or will you continue? Will you have peace or war? You can have either, I leave it to your own choice and discression. You have persecuted me, you have ruined me, you can finish your work, and I will mine with subscribing myself.

GEORGE FISHER,

[Inclosures]

No. 1.

Sor. Coronel D. Estevan Austin—Mejico Marzo 11. de 1833.—Mi muy querido amigo,—Hoy sale de esta capital D. Geo. Fisher á encargarse nuevam^te^ de su antiguo destino en Galveston por disposicion del gobierno. Yo me guardaria bien de recomendarlo á V. si su conducta aqui no hubiera sido la de un celoso partidario de la rebolucion nacional que ha terminado y en la que prestó servicios importantes. De ello tiene documentos y por ellos ha ganado la confianza de los patriotas.—

Con respecto á nuestro querido Tejas su porte ha sido el mejor, pues lejos de calumniar ha defendido á sus habitantes de algunos ataques injustos que les han querido dár los enemigos conocidos de su prosperidad.—

Fisher me ha dado palabra de cultivar la mejor armonia con V. y con todos los colonos y manejarse de modo que por su parte no haya motivo de recordar disgustos pasados. Si fuere asi, como lo espero, me prometo que V. interpondrá su poderoso influjo para que todos esos amigos le guarden las concideraciones á que es acredor, supuesto qe. lo pasado fueron meras equivocaciones y compromisos que produjo la conducta de Terán y Bradburn.

En fin amigo, Fisher hablará con V. y en la calma yo jusgo qe. todo se arreglará como se lo pido á V.

El dia 20. debo empesar en mis funciones de Senador y tanto en el Senado como en cualquiera otra parte puede V. disponer de la buena voluntad qe. le profesa su afmo. amigo.—J. Antonio Mejia.

No. 2.

Sor. D. Jorge Fisher.—Casa de V. Enero 15. de 1832. [1833]—Estimado amigo—Seria faltar á los vinculos de la amistad si no copiara á V. á continuacion aqui, una carta del Sor. W. Keene dirijida al Sor. D. Rafael Mangino, la que por una casualidad vino á mis manos. Y impuesto V. de su contenido conocerá quienes sus amigos y hará el uso qe. á sus fines particulares le convenga.—"Mejico á 27. de Nov^re^ de 1832—Muy Sor. mio y amigo. Refiriendome á la conversacion qe. yo tube con V. el otro dia, respecto a Jorge Fisher, de Tejas, lo considero justo remitirle á V. la adjunta copia del P. D. de la carta del Coronel Austin, del propio pais dirijida á su corresponsal en esta capital, á fin de que V. vea en su traducion; que se pueda sacar por medio de algun confidencial de V.; lo fundado de mi vituperacion del caracter de Fisher, pues mirando el buen nombre de un hombre con su mas sagrada propiedad, no puedo consentir en bulnerarlo, sin hallarme apoyado en los fuertes indicios, á lo menos de su Criminalidad.—Disponga V. de su antiguo amigo y S. S. q. b. s. m.—R Keene ———

P. S. extracted from a letter of S. F. Austin to a Gentleman in Mexico under date of Oct: 4, 1832.—

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"I understand from Matamoros that Geo: Fisher has gone to Mexico to slander Tejas. That man does not merit the confidence of the Government nor of any one. On his first arrival here he said more to create a bad impression on my mind against Alaman, Fagoaga, Tagle, and others, whom he called *Escoceses*, than I ever heard from any other source. He has been a Guerrero man, a Zavala man, and an acordada man etc a Jalapa, etc a Bustamante and other sorts of man; as the case required. I fear he is a bad man. At Matamoros he told me that General Terán was to blame for all the difficulties about the Custom House, that he only obeyed orders. To others he said diferently. Such a man can do nothing but harm in this or any other country where he is listened to."

Aunque firmó el mismo Keene esta post data la tachó toda su firma despues.— Quedo de V. como smpe su affo. amigo y sego. Servr. Q. B. S. M.—M. M. Zires.

NOTE BY THE SUBSCRIBER

On my arrival in Tejas I never mentioned the name of Alaman Fagoaga and Tagle, to Col: Austin as bad men or to create bad impressions, and the last one I do not even know and much less could I say any thing against him. I always was and will be a Guerrero man, or of that party, because they are the Democrats of this country.— I never was a Jalapa nor Bustamante man, otherwise Gral Teran would not have applied the 4th. Artº of the plan of Jalapa against me, suspending me from my office barely because my appointment was made by Guerrero.— At Matamoros I never told other wise and never will, but that I acted under the orders of Gral Terán, and the difficulties arrising from the Custom house affairs were through Col: Bradburn, Col Austin and others who interpreted the law in a different mode, and wanted the people to believe that I had discressionary powers granted to me, and that I was abusing of them and only acted by caprice, malice or revenge.— Let these charges against me be substantiated before the competent tribunals and then it will be seen how I acted and in virtue of what orders.—altho I could have done great deal of harm, had I been malicious enough or revengefull yet I never have done any nor will do it to the people of Texas.— A mans character may be slandered he may be persecuted and ruined, and sacrificed yet time will reveal the truth and the instigators and promoters, what will ultimately gain by such proceedings?

Monclova, 16th. April 1833.

JORGE FISHER. [Rubric]

JOHN BROWN TO AUSTIN

yo John Brown vecino de la villa de Austin digo que he recibido la cantidad de ciento y un pesos en dinero del ciudadano Estevan F. Austin para el alquilo de me carro de cuatro ruedas y tres yuntas de bueyes que fueron empleados para llevar flete del 12º Batalion[1] en su marcha desde el rio de los Brazos hasta la villita de Guadalupe Victoria. Doy esta al Sor Austin como constancia que el me pago la dicha cantidad de su propio bolsillo en el servicio de la nacion.

Villa de Austin 17 de Abril 1833.

JOHN BROWN

[1] This was Piedras's command, driven from Nacogdoches in August, 1832.

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Yo Santiago Bowie certifico que me consta ser cierto que Don Estevan F. Austin pago la cantidad de ciento y un pesos al arriva mencionado John Brown para su carro y buyes empleados en llevar flete del 12°. Batalion desde el rio de los Brazos al Guadalupe y que yo hize el trato con el al efecto a pedimento de los oficiales del dicho Batalion 12°.

villa de Austin 17 de abril 1833.

JAMES BOWIE [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. AND EMILY PERRY [1]

April 19. 1833

Dr BROTHER AND SISTER,

I send you Simon and wish you to keep him at work on the farm untill I return He is a good field hand and will help out very much with the crop.

I have some steers and work oxen on peach creek. They run at or near Isham Phillips. Mr. Mathis wants to buy one of the work oxen. Also near Slaughters on the Bernard there are some, and some at Rabbs place. They are all of the Rabb stock and I believe are branded with my brand. Send and get them or sell them. They will do for beef. There are some cows among them. Your mule is in the prairie below here with Urbain's horses and I have a mule in my brand on the same range. I sold the horses I had at Coles to S. P. Brown. There is a number of head of cattle in the prairie that Hunter collected for me. Fletcher has the list of them $122. worth—all these scattered cattle ought to be got together and taken to peach point or they will be lost. There is 100 head or more. Have them collected and take them below or sell them. I think you could get James Baird to collect them.

I leave my business with Williams and have authorized John Austin to sell the lots in Brasoria and a labor at the mouth of the river etc. I have three eleven league grants in the name of Aguirre and Vega that I bought last year. They are in Williams hands. Also Juan Antonio Padilla contracted three leagues of his grant to me in payment of about $2000 that I let him have three years ago.

John P. Coles is to make me a title for three leagues and a half of his tract fronting on the Brassos. It is first rate bottom land just above the Yeagua.

I have paid off Anthony Butler in full and got James Whitesides receipt against the two notes of mine that Butler has—the other notes

[1] From a photostat copy. The original is owned by Judge Norman G. Kittrell, Houston, Tex.

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I took up. I have also paid off George Tennelle in full and Hunter and leave no debts that are pressing, nor any, of any amount due to any one. One of the Tennelle notes is yet out in the U. S. he passed it away before he came here. I also Owe $400 to Lovelace in Ouchita that I borrowed in 1821. There is a debt of about $400 due by my brothers estate to the Estate of Luciano García in Tamaulipas for a cavallarda of mares—I am bound for this debt. I think that $4000 will now square me with the world including interest.

This trip to mexico interferes very much with me—in two months more I could have closed all my business and gone to work below improving a farm and I intended to do so, and have settled myself along side of you permanently—I shall now spend the whole summer away at least. It is a great sacrifice indeed. I also expect that this trip will cost me about $2000 or 3000 at least which of course will never be refunded. But if I can succeed in getting a State Govt and the 6 of April law repealed I shall be well paid and perfectly satisfied. If I fail I shall loose my time and money and risk my health and life, and get repaid (very likely) in abuse and illiberal reflections. This however is all quite natural—so it is with all who serve the Sovereign people. they are the hardest masters on earth.

Should troops be stationed at the mouth of the river it will make money plenty and a sale for provisions which will benefit the country—tho I hope but few will be sent for I fear they can not harmonise with the people. I shall try and keep them away if I can. The officers are generally very polite and gentlemenly men and if they spoke English there would be no difficulty with them.

I enter upon this mission with great anxiety for I am convinced the welfare of Texas depends on success. We cannot do without a State govt. any longer. It is impossible. the events of last year have so completely disjointed matters that nothing but a State gov. will set them right again—and a state we must have. If every thing had remained quiet untill now our chance of success would have been better, but as the current is in motion it must flow on, and if we cannot get a state by peaceable means, I shall *then* unite with the *hottest* to get one by other means. If we are to have war, we must all go together. there must be no divisions amongst us, but I hope that calamity will never fall upon Texas. Tell McNiel and Westall that when I return with the state approved they must give a *State frolic.* The girls must not get married untill then. My love to them and to you all. Farewell.

S. F. Austin

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AUSTIN TO HENRY AUSTIN

Copy of a letter[1] from Stephen F Austin to Capt. Henry Austin Dated San Felipe de Austin April 19th 1833:

To Capt. H AUSTIN

DEAR SIR—I leave to-morrow for Mexico on the state Government mission— I go with considerable—I may say—strong hopes of success— The course taken by the convention, is the true one I think— The memorial for admission as a state[2] is respectfully [sic] and dignified and based upon the law of the 7th May 1824, and I can see no just reason why any offence should be taken [to] it by the Government, nor why it should be refused— Texas can not do any longer without a Government—things have been so disjointed ever since the military authority began to interfere with the civil, and with citizens, that nothing can set them to rights again but a state Government— I approve fully of the application for admission as a state and I think it will succeed— The consequence of a failure will no doubt be war—

Texas can not evidently get a[lo]ng without a Govt. and if there should be no means of obtaining one with the approbation of congress she must form one of herself in the best way she can. I have always been opposed to hasty and imprudent measure but if our application fails, I shall say we have exhausted the subject so far as it can be done by mild steps, and that a totally different course ought to be adopted, for we can then take a firm stand for rights that were respectfully petitioned for and unjustly detained— The sum and substance of the whole matter is that Texas must have a state Government nothing else will quiet this country or give any security to persons or property, and nothing else will be agreed to [by] me as the representative of the public wishes— I think I shall succeed— I was opposed to putting our Govt. into operation until we first obtained the sanction of congress Such a step could not have been justified on solid grounds, but if *after* our application we get no remedy, I shall advise an immediate organization under the law of 7th May 1824, and a second application for admission, *as organized*— That also failing we shall have to do the best we can—I say that I shall advise this—I mean in case the situation of the country continues to be as it now is—for at this time we are in *anarchy* and there will be no middle course left between total ruin and an immediate organization—if our application should fail—

There is a rumor, and it appears to be well founded, that the most of the army are to be sent to Texas, for the purpose of getting them

[1] Copy by Moses Austin Bryan. In file of Aug. 27, 1829.
[2] See note above, convention to Congress, Apr. 18, 1833.

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out of the way so as to prevent future revolutions in Mexico—it is said they are not sent with any unfriendly feelings to the people of Texas &c— This is what letters from Mexico say. now if a considerable army is sent here, no matter with *what feelings* the result will be a collission—that is if they attempt to Govern in a military way In this event the whole country ought to unite at once and expel or kill the whole of them— It is not a correct or a sound course of policy for the Govt. to make Texas the recepticle of her disorderly troops— But every care and prudent step should be adopted to avoid any collission, and the first aggression must not be on the part of the people—and above all things there must be no opposition to the collection of duties, for that is a right which the Govt. has— Let us violate no law—nor any just rights of the nation and adhere closely to the principle of seeking a peaceable remedy, *that failing*—I am then ready for war or any thing— So soon as I am convinced that there is no hope of success I shall return as quick as possible by water—I will try and keep the troops away if possible— No man in Texas has been more in favor of peace than I have—

The old settlers and all persons will suffer much by a revolution, or a war—but if there is no other remedy, I am for going into it fully, and united, make a business of that at once— I however think there is no danger— I believe we shall be admitted as a state and that all will go on smoothly

This is my last effort to serve Texas, if I succeed I shall be happy, and will try to enjoy some comfort in future and have nothing to do with politics or public business— If however I fail, and war is the result, I will take a hand in that, and enter the ranks as a soldier of Texas

I pay my own expenses, and expect the trip will be costly—but I do it freely and cheerfully and shall consider the money and labor better employed than any I ever spent in my life— Please remember me to Doct. Phelps and family, Hall, and all your neighbors and assure them that no effort shall be spared on my part to get a state Govt. and to keep away war and revolution from Texas— but if they *must* come, I will take my full share and stand by the settlers to the last— Love to your dear children and may heaven bless you all— Affectionately your cousin

S. F. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO MRS. MARY AUSTIN HOLLEY[1]

[April 20, 1833.]

I do not know that, in the whole course of my life I have so sensibly felt the extremes which ardent and sanguine temperaments

[1] Copy by Mrs. Holley.

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are liable to, as during the last eighteen months. When you were here we permitted our imagination to ramble into futurity with untiring, and more than full grown wings. The result has been what calm and calculating judgment would have foreseen—an unnatural flight, and consequent disappointment. Well, so be it. I had rather at least be capable of being moved by bright visions, never realized, than to pass through the world without being touched by the recollection of the past, the events of the present, or the anticipations of the future.

The calamity which Henry has suffered by the loss of his wife, and by sickness is truly distressing. I am convinced from numerous examples that persons raised in cities ought never to remove to a new and thinly settled country. It is a total change of *element*, and a corresponding change of habits, ideas, and customs must take place, or disappointment and discontent will surely follow. The wild garb of nature may delight and enchant at first, because it is new; the foliage the vines and the forest are pleasing images to those who have always looked upon brick walls and paved streets, but it is the pleasure of novelty and soon vanishes. Henry's health, and that of his family have very much improved, and also his spirits. I think, after this summer we shall get along much better.

Our political affairs have been somewhat agitated during the past year. But their course though often much too wild and rapid, and too impulsive, has been tending towards the prosperity, and permanent tranquility of the country. Every thing has now settled down on one fixed basis. Texas needs a *State Government* and *is determined to have one.* We have lately had a Convention and asked of the general Congress admission into the Mexican Confederacy as a State separate from Coahuila. This request is accompanied by a Constitution as an evidence that we wish for nothing contrary to the National Constitution. I was appointed by the Convention to take on our application for admission as a state; and depart tomorrow morning on this responsible and important mission. I go by land, and expect to be in the City of Mexico in about a month.

I have great confidence of success in procuring the approbation of Congress to the measure. It was originally united to Coahuila provisionally and the law that joined them says, "*So soon as Texas is in a situation to figure as a State she shall inform Congress thereof for its resolution.*" So that we are acting by authority, and in virtue of the express mandate of the law, for we only inform Congress that we are in a situation contemplated by said law, as it requires us to do, and ask for admission as such.

Should this application he refused it will be the greatest error ever committed by the Mexican Government. Texas is now in the budding, and impulsive vigor of youth, and a wise direction of its

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energies will make it one of the most efficient, faithful, and devoted states of the Union. But, under disappointment it will be an unmanageable and wayward child. For young as it is in some respects, it is far advanced in energy of character, and an unbending determination of purpose. In short, *Texas is determined to have a state Government.*

There is a decided opposition to seperating from the Mexican Confederacy. The people do not desire, and would not agree to it, if they could get a State Government, but anything would be better than to remain as we are, for we have no government that deserves the name of one.

If I succeed in this mission I intend it shall terminate my participation in public matters. I have contributed very much to the settling of the Country, and if I am now successful, I shall be contented, and think I have done my part. Where, a few years since, the primitive solitude of nature was undisturbed, a grand Theatre has been erected. I have no desire to enter upon the stage as an actor. But, I must confess, I have done calculating for the future. Before this I fully expected to have been settled on my farm quite snug and comfortable. Instead of which I am on the *wing* for twelve hundred miles, on a mules back (not a pegasus) over plains and mountains, to the City of Montezuma, farther from all hopes of farm and home than I ever was.

Henry informs me that you intend spending the summer in Kentucky. I think this a good plan. In the fall, or winter come and pay us a visit and look at your league of land so as to keep up your domicil in Texas, for you know you are only temporarily absent. I enclose a certificate that may be of use in case it should ever be made a question whether you were domiciliated or not.

I hope to be back in four months. It is probable I shall return by water, and as it is doubtful whether I can get a direct passage from Vera Cruz to Texas I shall have to come by way of New Orleans. Farewell—

S F AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO PERRY[1]

April 20. 1833.

J. F. PERRY—

Of the three eleven league tracts I mentioned one is located on the east side of Colorado at the foot of the mountains above Tannehill it was surveyed by S. P. Brown—has a good deal of rich land, and fine pasture for sheep and horses and is well watered with

[1] From a photostat copy. The original is owned by Judge Norman G. Kittrell, Houston, Tex.

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springs. very healthy—it takes some rough mountain land, wild scenery etc. I intended to keep this place permanently and make a mountain retreat and a large sheep farm of it. There is sign of minerals on it.

Ten leagues of one of the other tracts is on the west of Colorado opposite to the above, and runs from Union [Onion] Creek up—surveyed by T. H. Borden. The other 11 League tract is to be, or has been located by Frank Jackson [Johnson?] in the upper colony.

I make these memorandums for you in case I never return. As to the notes due by the settlers, if I can raise enough out of them to clear off all my debts and pay my expenses so as not to sell any land for those purposes it is as much as I ever expected. The land that Williams and Henry Austin and H. Chrisman have cleared out is not any of it to be collected from them, that is, none of that part of the payments that is coming to me. If anything is left out of those notes I intended it for a school on my league in Coles settlement on the plan of an academy. I have a settlement to make at Bexar with the executor of Saucedo on a/c of fees of the Baron de Bastrop as commiss^{nr} and shall owe him considerable on that business I expect.

The Hawkins business is all settled and finally done with.

I made an arrangement with John Austin and Williams as to the upper colony above the San Antonio road, and what is made out of that colony is to be equally divided between us three. Williams is to attend to the business but nothing is to be done contrary to law or to the true interests of the country. That is, there is to be no kind of wild speculation. My object in this is more to have the business attended to and that wilderness country settled than to make a speculation.

I think I shall get back in about four months, and I hope sooner. And I shall then close all my affairs and settle myself and get a wife and be a farmer. I should like to save and realize enough to found an academy up in Coles settlement and intend to do so if I can, but unless land sells high I shall not have the means. My expenses are so much more than anyone thinks they are and there is so great a sacrifice in the most of the payments that I get from the settlers that I am always hard run and without money or means that can be used.

I wish you to spare no pains or care in having little Stephen my brother's son well educated. There will be enough out [of] my property to educate him and Guy in the best manner possible. I wish them to have a finished education and to study law so as to take care of the future interests of the family. There are so many sharpers in this world that every large family who have much property

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ought to have at least one lawyer. They must learn Spanish and french and send all the children to dancing school. Joel ought to be brought up for a planter, and Austin for a merchant. Your Stephen and Henry are too young yet to say what they are best calculated for. All this is in case I never return, for I calculate to attend to all these things myself in person.

I shall owe H. Chriesman for surveying and I wish you to settle his claim on account of what he owes on the Books of Perry and Hunter. He is to select and survey a five league tract for me up on the waters of the Yeagua. Coles settlement is now the most populous in the colony and land is rising very fast and will be worth as much there as in any part of the Colony, for that Country will be thicker settled than any I know of. Your two leagues there are very superior in point of soil, timber and water, and *salt* in quantities can be made on the back part of your mound league and the adjoining tracts north of the Yeagua. You have no idea of the value of that land of yours up there, and if we get a state government as I have no doubt we shall this fall, land will rise at once very high. Land at the rates it can be had now is better property than debts scattered over the country. It has taken all I can raise for my expenses to Mexico and I cannot arrange to settle Chriesman surveying account in any other way than in payment of the debt he owes you. I will pay it to you in land that will yield a better interest than the money would. I have also agreed to aid H. Austin in paying his surveying a/c to Chriesman. Henry is in distress and needs aid. A few years, or I think one year more will set everything right, and give value to our lands so that we can put everything easy and settle ourselves on farms without having much to do with the bustle of business.

I have the *Tomahawk* that Father had with him in his first trip to Texas in my trunk. I wish it preserved and its history not forgotten. It *blased* the way for North Americans to Texas. When Stephen F. Austin is of age I wish it given to him with an explanation. I have also carried it in most of my exploring trips in this country in early times. The recollections connected with it are very interesting to me.

Chambers has agreed to pay the within order to you. He ought to do it as it is money lent.

I have just heard of of the Colera at the mouth of the river and that there have been 5 deaths—dreadfull indeed—how I tremble for you all—pray be carefull and use all possible precautions—if you were over on the bayou you would be safer I think— I have my *will* in my writing desk.

S. F. Austin.

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AUSTIN TO J. FRANCISCO MADERO[1]

[San Felipe de Austin,
About April 20, 1833.]

Con solamente dos medidos Tejas quedaria contento—jueces que intiendan el Ingles aunque sea en clase de provicionales y el juicio por jurados. Los colonos paguarian gustosos sus jueces con tal q^{e} se les dé el derecho de nombrarlos. Un gobierno republicano sin poder judicial adecuado es infinitam^{te} peor q^{e} el absolutismo mas despotico, por q^{e} en esto hay por lo menos pronto despacho de un modo ú otro— El que tiene un pleito en Tejos es pronto si sale de el en diez años bajo el sistema actual. Devo hablar a V. con franqueza y lo mismo digo q^{e} los habitantos de Tejas *han de tener* estado separado y no cabe en las cosas posibles considerar el orden seis meses sin una de estas dos cosas. De estas dos cosas q^{e} conviniene mas a Coahuila y a todo Mejico es erijir a Tejas en estado.

[ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.]

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

D^{r} BROTHER

I have a good many clothes in my trunks—the most of which will do For the boys—take care of them all and give to Austin or Joel such as will suit them.

They ought to be all taken out of the trunks they are in and put in another, that has no papers in for they are now all mixed up with old letters and papers none of which must be lost

S. F. AUSTIN

April 21, 1833

I send a horse and saddle and bridle by Simom I wish you to keep or sell the horse he is a good one— Keep the saddle and bridle yourself for your own use

S. F. AUSTIN

I have three swords one Silver mounted—one metal scabbard and one dress sword—

S. F. A

I have this moment recd. information that new disturbances have broken out in Mexico and that the troops who were ordered to Texas have been recalled to Mexico— I think this news is true so that nothing is to be feared from troops— I will write from Bexar the particulars should this be true as I suppose they will know there.

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[1] Quoted by Madero to Veramendi, May 13, 1833. University of Texas transcripts from Department of Fomento, Mexico, Legajo 7, Expediente 57.

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Take care of the cholera and keep all quiet here at home and there is no danger from Mexico— At least you shall all have timely notice before it can reach you, if there is—

S. F. A.—

Hunter took my saddle bags and never returned them— I wish you to take care of the bridle that Simon has as I like the bit—it is a good one— Williams rides down the little Grey—he is a favourite— I give him to Emily for her riding horse and she must not let any one else ride him nor have him abused— he is fresh shod and I intended to have taken him with me— he is a good horse—

S. F. A

[Addressed:] James F. Perry

Austin to James F. Perry

April 22. 12 o'clock A. M. 1833.

J. F. Perry

There is, I am told, some uneasiness that I shall [not?] insist on the approbation of the constitution as formed by the late convention— I shall try and get the law of 6 April 1830 repealed and *a declaration that the people of Texas may legally convene in convention to make a constitution*— This much I expect to effect and no more— It is very evident that no act of mine can bind the people of Texas— What I do, if anything, shall be subject to their approbation of course—no one need have any fears that I will compromise Texas improperly— The interest of Texas is my interest— Unfortunately we have some *personal parties*, amongst us—but this is an evil that will correct itself in time— I will write you all frequently—have confidence in me, untill you see what I do and then approve or punish as I merit—

I start in five minutes.

S. F. Austin

P. P. Borden to Austin

April 30, 1833.

See Calendar.

Austin to Political Chief[1]

Ynvitado por V S. p[a] hacerle una esplicacion detallada de los efectos que ha causado la Cholera Morbus que ha aparecido en la

[1] From Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

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embocadura del Rio de los brazos del 1° al 12. del mes de Abril p° p° segun he manifestado vervalm^te devo decir q p^r respetidos y veridicos informes se supo en la Villa de S. Felipe de Austin distante 30 leguas de la costa que de veinte y tantos colonos N. Americanos que son los que habitan en el punto donde entra el Rio de los Brazos al Seno Mejicano, han sido atacados once ó dose de ellos de la citada enfermedad de los cuales habran muerto siete p^s el dia 16. del citado Abril, en cuya fha. ya havian bajado a aquel punto de la Villa de Brazoria dos Medicos que en los Estados Unidos tomaron bastantes conocim^tos practicos de dha. enfermedad. Los sintomas con que se ha presentado esta enfermedad son en todo iguales a los que se nos han comunicado por noticias de Europa, y por los periodicos de la Republica ultim^te; siendo de notar unicam^te que no se puedo ni remotam^te presumir que esta peste se nos haya comunicado por contagio, en vista de q en los veinte dias anteriores a su aparicion no habia arrivado a dho. punto ningun barco; Ha sido tambien digno de observar q la infancia y aun la juventud hta. la edad de 13 á 14 años han sido enteram^te esentos de este mal a lo menos hasta la espresada fha.

Todo lo que he creido conveniente informar á V S. p^s q. de ello haga el uso que le convenga.

Dios y libertad Bejar 3. de Mayo de 1833.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

Sor. Gefe Politico int° de este Departam^to

AUSTIN TO LUKE LESASSIER

Bexar May 6. 1833

D^r SIR.

We arrived at this place on the 29 having been detained by excessive rain, and high waters.

Don Erasmo Seguin was absent at his plantation thirty miles below this, where he arrived only a few days since from Matamoras. I lost no time in sending for him, but the high waters prevented his reaching here untill the 3^d inst. I communicated to him, his appointment as one of the mission to Mexico, and laid before him the memorial, which was translated with the aid of Carbajal and Balmaceda.

The principal citizens of this place have held meetings on the evenings of the 3d, 4th, & 5th instant to discuss this subject At the meeting on the 4th it was decided that a memorial should be sent to the state govt. asking for the removal of the seat of government from Monclova to this place, Don Erasmo being the only one who was in favor of memorializing the General Congress for the separation and

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State Govt A number of the others were in favor of saying to the Legislature of Coahuila and Texas, that if the seat of Govt. was not removed to this place, Texas would then separate— This meeting adjourned after 12 oclock at night, to meet the next evening At the meeting on the fifth the only question to be decided was the manner of memorializing the state Govt for a removal of the seat of Govt, as had been agreed to on the 4th the late law of the state legislature regulating the "right of petitioning" was examined, and construed to mean that neither the Ayuntamiento nor the citizens in mass could petition, and that the memorial must only be signed by three persons at most in the name of the people This construction I contended was erroneous The law says that, none but the supreme powers of the state can represent the will of the people, and prohibits corporations or public meetings, or individuals from taking it upon themselves to say what is the will of the people etc (See the law in alcalde records) The true meaning of this is, as I think, that no corporation or persons can petition in the name of the people, without first consulting them, by calling them together However it was decided that the law prohibited the Ayto from petitioning or from calling the people together to petition, and that only three persons could petition The next question was, who would do it? Only one man (Balmaceda) was willing to sign as one of the three, so that the meeting broke up without doing anything or coming to any definitive conclusion I believe that if the state Govt is granted the people here will be well satisfied, but I do not believe they will take any part whatever in favor or against the measure. I considered it my duty to use every exertion to procure their co-operation, and have done so. The most that can be expected is, that they will not oppose it The fact is, that the movement last summer against this place, from the colony has produced a much deeper impression than I was aware of untill now it has neutralized many who before that were openly warm friends and it has made some decided enemies to the colonists

Don Erasmo Seguin cannot go on the mission, I am convinced that no unfriendly feelings deter him—but his private affairs will not permit his leaving home.

Nothing was done, of course, as to the appointment of another to go in his place.

The reports about new disturbances in the interior, and that Genl Filisola had returned with the troops that were ordered to Texas, are all incorrect and unfounded The Genl arrived at Matamoras on the 24th ulto as we learn by letters recd. here last night.

Santa Anna was elected president and Gomez Farias vice president by large majorities and they have entered upon their respective offices All is quiet, so far as I can judge from Genl Filisola's com-

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municatiions, and also from his general character I have confidence that he will be the friend of liberal principles, and of Texas I leave here to-morrow or next day for Goliad and thence to Matamoras, and shall see the Genl as soon as possible The rains have been very excessive in this part of the country and all travelling has been suspended for the last week, but there is now a prospect of good weather

The legislature of the state was to have adjourned on the last day of April.

Mr. Sawyer arrived from Monclova a few days since and brings information that Fisher was there on his way to Matamoras He has been continued in the office of Collector of Galveston, as I am informed by Sawyer, who says that he speaks favourably of the Colonists etc etc

I will endeavor to procure their co-operation at Goliad and write from there

S. F. Austin

N. B. You must make up your mind to answer regularly the correspondence of the chief of Department or be fined and probably totally ruined. You can at least acknowledge the receipt of his official letters, even if it is in English.

To L. Lesassier Alcalde of Austin

Political Chief to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin[1]

Gef. Polca. &a

Ympuesta esta Gefat[a] de mi interino cargo de la comunicacion q. V S. le ha dirigido con fha. 18 del p° p° transcriviendole la q. con la misma le ha dho el Ayuntam[to] de esa Villa al de esta ciudad en solicitud de q. acuerde y se adhiera á la representacion q. la convencion q. p[r] fin se reunió en aquella ha resuelto elebar á los Supremos Poderes Federales, con fin de separar á Tejas de Coahuila erigiendolo en Estado separado, apoyado en la ley y demas razones q. en ella hace valer. ha resuelto decirle en contestacion. Que la Autoridad q. ejerce esta Gefatura consecuente á los fundados rasones q. desde su principio la determinaron á desconocer á dha. convencion, y reprobar todos sus actos aun cuando fueran apoyados en la Just[a] de sus pedidos, p[r] q. asi lo exije la devida obediencia á nuestras leyes q. tienen espresam[te] prohividas semejantes reuniones, y el inquestionable respeto á las Autoridades legitimam[te] constituidas sin cuyo conocim[to] se ha llevado al cabo esta aun haviendo procedido ordenes muy terminantes en contrario: vuelvo á decir: q. atentos estos principios, no puede ni deve, secundar dha. representacion, principalm[te]

[1] From Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

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en la actualidad q. ya se encuentra con vases prefijadas p[a] arreglar el derecho de peticion p[r] el Decreto del H. Cong[o] del Estado en 1° de Mzo ultimo;[1] y p[r] q entiende q puede casi asegurarse q. la Poblacion Mejicana de Tejas, y aun alguna de los colonos, no estan en consonancia, p[r] lo menos en cuanto al modo en q. se ha pedido, resultando en consecuencia no poderse asegurar en esta la voluntad del pueblo de Tejas, ni menos q. este aprueve con tanta anticipacion, precipitacion, falta de datos, y sobre todo de representacion legal, se haya formado un catalago de constitucion q. desde ahora podremos convenir en q. no podra ser aprobada jamas, jamas, á no ser p[r] una de aquellas monstruosidades q. se suelen ver de tarde en tarde en los sucesos politicos, y cuyas consecuencias pesarian mucho en todos tiempos sobre los Mejicanos.

En fin mucho havia q, decir á mas de lo mucho q. ya se ha dho. en contra de los procedimientos de la convencion q. se ha formado en esa Villa; pero, vaste p[r] ahora concluir con repetir á V. S. q. estos procedimientos acaso podran ser de irreparables trasendencias p[a] esos Colonos q. con tanta generosidad han sido admitidos, p[r] la Repub[a] de Mejico, y cuyos estravios se han procurado enmendar apurando primero todos los medios de lenidad y prudencia q sugerio el deceo de la quietud publica, y todas las demas sentim[tos] de un Gob[o] paternal y bondadoso q. los ha dado repetidas pruebas de serlo. Con todo lo cual creo contestado el sitado of[o] d. V. S

D—[s] &. Bejar Mayo 9 de 1833.

Al Ayuntam[to] de la Villa de Austin.

Political Chief to Colonel Elosua.[2]

Gefatura politica del Departam[to] de Bejar.

Aunque de una manera estraoficial, entiendo ha tenido V. S. conocimiento de las pretensions de las Colonias de este Departam[to] p[a] proporcionarse un Gobierno local q[e] con inmediacion las rija; ya sea erigiendose en Estado separado de Coahuila, ó de otra manera en que se lograse aquel objeto. Para este fin se propusieron reunir una Junta ó convencion en la Villa de S. Felipe de Austin formada de representantes de todas las municipalidades de que se compone el Departamento, y al efecto han precedido repetidas invitaciones al Ayuntam[to] de esta Ciudad, el de Goliad y Nacogdoches (cuyas poblaciones como VS. muy bien sabe se componen casi en su totalidad de Mejicanos) con el fin de que embiasen á la expresada conven-

[1] For this law see Decree No. 212, Gammel, Laws of Texas, I, 815–816. The language is confused and ambiguous. Article 3 provides that petitions shall be signed by not more than three citizens, and the interpretation of the Mexicans at Bexar was that a convention to frame such petitions was illegal.

[2] From Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

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cion sus respectivos Diputados y secundasen las pretensiones de las Colonias; á cuyas solicitudes constantemente se han denegado tantos los Ayuntamientos expresados como esta Gefatura; y el Gobierno Supremo del Estado á quien se ha dado conociemiento pleno de todos estos sucesos, a reprovado semejantes pretensiones principalmente en cuanto al modo en que se han querido representar, Por medio de juntas o reuniones desconocidas y aun reprovadas por nuestras leyes. Esto no obstante y a la sombra del desquicio universal que sufrio la administracion publica en todos sus ramos en consecuencia de la revolucion q^{e} agito la Republica p^{r} todo el año p^{o}p^{o}, tuvo por fin su verificativo la mencionada convencion en Abril pp^{oo} sin la consecuencia de los representantes de las Municipalidades q^{e} he expresado y sus deliberaciones se encuentran comprendidas en la copia del oficio q. el Ayuntam. de Austin ha pasado a esta Gefa. - y tengo el honor de incluir á VS.

El Empresario de aquella Cononia Estevan F. Austin q^{e} ha sido comisionado para elevar la representacion de la convension a los Supremos Poderes de la Nacion; a estado aqui en estos dias en pretension de ecsitar por ultimo a las Autoridades Politica y Civil p^{a} q^{e} se fundase este pedido; Mas estas, consecuentes a los principios q^{e} han regido su comportam^{to} acia este negocia ahora menos q^{e} nunca pudieron obsequiar esta invitacion p^{r} hallarse con una ley recientem^{te} expedida p^{r} la H^{e} Legislatura del Estado en q^{e} se arreglan las bases del dro. de peticion; Y aunque se tentaron los arbitrios que parecieron mas legales p^{a} inculcar la opinion de este vecindario p^{r} medio de una junta amistosa q^{e} al efecto se reunio, el ultimo resultado ha sido q^{e} si bien estos vecinos Mejicanos p^{r} naturaleza desean al nivel de los Colonos q^{e} huviese en Tejas un Gob^{o} local adecuado p^{a} regularizar su administracion en todos los ramos, medio p^{r} sin duda el mas analogo p^{a} conseguir su prosperidad y engrandecim^{to}, y el remedio de los males sin cuenta q^{e} han afligido desde su fundacion á estos Pueblos; sin embargo, no estamos ni hemos de estar acordes en el modo en q^{e} lo han solicitado, y aun cuando aquel objeto principal se huviese de conseguir deberia cimentarse bajo ciertas bases q^{e} descubriesen con entera propiedad la voluntad de todo el Pueblo de Tejas y garantizase a sus habitantes los dros. q^{e} la naturaleza la constitucion y las leyes les tienen concedido.

Me ha parecido convent^{e} poner en conocim^{to} de VS. todo lo expuesto sabedor de q^{e} el repetido C. Austin en su transito p^{a} Mejico intenta tocar en Matamoros con el fin de hablar sobre este mismo negocio al E. S. Com^{te} Gral. de estos Estados, p^{r} si V. S. creyere conducente elevarlo todo a su Sup^{or} conocim^{to} en razon de lo que pueda importar p^{a} q^{e} S. E. se oriente en este negocio q^{e} es de bastante gravedad y en el entretanto p^{r} los demas conductos q^{e} comunican con su Autoridad recibe los detalles q^{e} puedan darle una idea exacta y

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completa de todos estos sucesos. Y yo al tener el honor de hacerlo con V. S. en esta vez, aprecio la ocasion q[e] se me presenta de reproducirle toda mi considerac[n] y distinguido aprecio.

Dios y libertad Bejar Mayo 9 1833.

MANUEL XIMENES

Sor. Com[te] Pral. Coronel
D. Ant[o] Elozua [1]

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Bexar May 9 1833

D[r] SIR,

The legislature adjourned on the last of april and Madero will soon be on (as he says in a letter to a person in this place). I wrote to him from here and informed [him] that you would be at home the last of this month, by which time I think he will be on.

I owe something to Don Erasmo [Seguin]—he refused to receive pay for the time my brother staid here, and I have always staid here in my visits to Bexar and he never would receive pay—he has planted cotton and wants a gin. I wish you to make arrangements to get one for him on my account—not of the largest size, a strong gin of the common kind would suit him better than any other for it would be easier kept in order. I wish you to write to him on the subject.

The people here agree in *substance* with the rest of Texas but differ as to the manner, and will express no opinion for, nor against.

I leave tomorrow for Goliad and Matamoros, the whole country here is inundated by excessive floods of rain. The indians have killed two men within the last two days—one within three leagues up Salado the other at Arroyo Hondo beyond Medina.

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

S. M. Williams

POLITICAL CHIEF TO GOVERNOR [2]

Gef. Polca. &.

No. 78

E. S.

Por la copia mandada bajo el n[o]. 1. se impondra la Superioridad de V. E. del final resultado q. ha tenido la convencion ó Junta gral.

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[1] Elousa was the military commandant at Bexar.
[2] From Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

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proyectada en la Colonia de Austin q. pr. fin se celebró en 1o. de Abril ppo sin haver concurrido á ella ni de esta Municipalidad, ni de la de Goliad; y aun q. pr. la numo. 5. se infiere q. vinieron representantes de la de Nacogdoches, á la menos aquel Ayto no cooperó á ello, y antes bien se manejó en este delicado asunto con la prudencia y dignidad q. acaso no eran de esperarse, atendidas las criticas circunstancias en q. ciertamte. se encuentran aquellas Autoridades, y todos sus vecinos Mejicanos como en ella misma se demuestra.

Por los nums. 2 y 3 se enterará igualmte. V. E. de lo q. se contesto pr. esta Gefata. al Ayto. de Austin y al de Gonzalez, y de lo q. parecio necesario prevenir al de Goliad pa q. evitase una sorpresa al recibir iguales invitaciones q. el de Gonzalez pa secundar las pretensiones del de Austin y como q. el C. Esteban Austin q. fué nombrado pr. la convencion pa asercarse á los Supremos Poderes Federales á entregar las mencionadas solicitudes, manifestó en su transito pr. esta Ciudad la resolucion en q. se hallaba pa. hablar de paso en Matamoros con el E. S. Comte. gral. de estos Estados sobre este mismo negocio, crei muy conveute. dar conocimto. de el, aunq. en estracto, al S. Comte. principal pa. q. S. S. lo elevara al de aquella Autoridad pa los fines q. se indican en la Copia No. 4.

La invitacion q. el Ayto de Austin ha hecho ultimamte á esta Gefa y al Ayuntamto de esta Ciudad solicitando se adhieran y secunden las representaciones q. ha formado la convencion y se comprende en la copia no 1. fue traida pr el C. Estevan Austin en persona, quien practico cuantos medios estuvieron en su no comun alcance pa errancar la cooperacion de estas Autoridades, tratando pr ultimo el advitrio de reunir estraoficial y pacificamte a los vecinos de mejor nota pa q. si se encontraban adictos al proyecto lo secundasen, y corroborasen q. esta era la voluntad y opinion de todo el Pueblo de Tejas; pero felismte ni los funcionarios publicos ni los vecinos q. se reunieron discreparon a lo menos en cuanto a reprobar el modo y conductos pr donde se has pretendido separar a Tejas de Coahuila, y en cuanto á no poderse asegurar de un modo positivo como seria menester pa realizar tal separacion, q. Tejas tenga ya los elementos de poblacion riqueza actual y efectiva y hombres aproposito pa sistemar un gobierno bastante pa regirse pr si sola; resultando pr ultimo q. en las diversas reuniones q. se tuvieron nada en suma se acordo ni reconvino, y en consecuencia no se dio una sola plumada sobre este negocio, q. afuera de paños calientes, como suele decirse ha tenido un feliz desenlace pr ahora sin comprometer la tranquilidad del pais, ni ajar el decoro de nuestras leyes y Autoridades.

La situacion en estas S. E. es a toda luz mui comprometida en todos los Pueblos del Departamto principalmte en los q. la poblacion es en todo ó lo mor. parte de Mejicanos, y en una porcion de asuntos,

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qe acada paso se ofrecen en los diversos ramos de administracion publica, q. tienen intima relacion con esta situacion politica los encargados del cumplim^to de las leyes no atinamos con lo q. deva hacerse a vista de los ningunos recursos q. tenemos p^a hacernos obedecer, como esta sucediendo á los de Nacogdoches y demuestra la copia n° 6. ácuyo contenido no encuentra q. decir con entero acierto esta Gefata. en el correo proximo venidero q. deve contestarle sobre el y el de la num° 5. La Suprema Autoridad de V. E. con sus mejores luces y como depositario del Poder Soberano Ejecutivo del Estado espero se sirva acordar sobre estos particulares las providencias q. mejor convengan, y aprobar las q. p^r mi hta. abora se han tomado provisionalm^te puesno ha sido otro mi objeto al dictarlas q. el evitar p^r todos los medios posibles se llegue á berificar un rompim^to q. deficilm^te y a costa de muchos sacrificios se podrá contener, despues de haber causada males irreparables.

D^s & Bejar Mayo 19, de 1833.

M. T. E. S.

E. S. Vice Gob^r del Estado.

Political Chief to Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches

Bexar, May 23, 1833.

From Bexar Archives. See Calendar.

Austin to Filisola [1]

Exmo. Sr.—Siendo electo por la mayoría del pueblo de Tejas su comisionado, para representar sus necesidades y situacion peculiar al supremo gobierno general mexicano, he venido á este punto en mi tránsito á la capital, para presentarme á V. E. y manifestarle el verdadero estado de las cosas en Tejas, lo que parece ser de suma importancia á los intereses nacionales, para corregir las impresiones alarmantes y equivocadas que entiendo han originado de informes exagerados, ó de rumores abultados y falsos.

La tranquilidad pública no está alterada en Tejas: no está en peligro un palmo del territorio mexicano en aquel pais: no hay reuniones para resistir las tropas mexicanas: no hay deseo ni opinion en favor de separar á Tejas de la federacion mexicana, como entiendo se ha dicho por los rumores aquí.

Tejas padece de la falta casi absoluta de una organizacion adecuada de su gobierno local. Basta leer la representacion del honrado ayuntamiento y pueblo de la antigua capital de Tejas, la ciudad de Béjar, para demostrar este hecho. En el ramo judicial apenas existe

[1] From Filisola, Memorias para la Historia de la Guerra de Tejas, I, 347–353.

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gobierno, y de consiguiente se carece de aquel arreglo y sistema en la administracion de justicia, que es de tanta importancia para la seguridad personal y de propiedades.

Los males, resultando de esta causa, que los habitantes de Tejas están diariamente palpando, les han impulsado á formar una representacion al congreso general, solicitando que se erija Tejas en un Estado de la federacion mexicana, conforme a la ley de 7 de Mayo de 1824, y se me eligió para ir á la capital de México sobre este negocio.

Se formó la dicha representacion por una junta ó convencion, compuesta de delegados de la diferentes partes de Tejas, menos Béjar y Goliad, que se reunieron en la villa de S. Felipe de Austin, el dia 1.° de Abril próximo pasado; y luego que la concluyó, se disolvió la dicha convencion y cada uno se retiró a su casa. Con respecto al modo en que se ha procedido por medio de una convencion, debo decir, que si fué un error ó un modo desconocido á las leyes, este error ha resultado mas bien de las costumbras que se observan en los paises de procedencia de la gran mayoría de los habitantes de Tejas, y de las circunstancias críticas en que se hallaron en el mes de Diciembre, cuando se llamó la convencion, que de algun deseo ó intencion para infringir las leyes ó para proceder de un modo estrepitoso. Es costumbre, y la práctica diaria en los Estados-Unidos del Norte y en Inglaterra, tener reuniones ó convenciones del pueblo, por medio de delegados, para formar representaciones al gobierno.

El derecho de tenerlos en aquellos paises nace del principio fundamental, que la voluntad del pueblo forme la norma mas segura para dirigir las deliberaciones públicos, y que esta voluntad debe ser espresada en la manera mas directa y sencilla, no siendo con estrépito ni irrespetuosamente.

Es tambien de advertir, que en fines de Diciembre, cuando se llamó la convencion, hubo una alarma general en el pais, á causa del levantamiento de los indios sobre la frontera; y que fué necesario como medida de alta política, llamar una convencion á fin de dirigir la opinion pública y calmar los temores de los que vieron la próxima desolacion de Tejas, por los indios ó por la anarquía, sea que fueron ilusorias estas alarmas ó no, el influjo fué lo mismo. Bajo tales circunstancias, me parece que *las intenciones* del pueblo de Tejas que eligió delegados, mas bien que el *modo de proceder*, es lo que se debe averiguar. Estas intenciones han siempre sido y son puras y sanas. Todos los deseos de los habitantes de Tejas se reducen al solo punto de obtener, por las vias legales, una organizacion de su gobierno local, adecuada á la situacion y á las necesidades de aquel pais, y al fomento de su poblacion y agricultura, por la emigracion de familias

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capitalistas y honradas de cualquiera pais ó nacion que esté en paz con esta República; y desean cimentar union con México por lazos políticos que sean tan fuertas é indisolubles, como lo son los que resultan de la naturaleza de sus productos, su comercio de cabotaje y del interior, su situacion geográfica, y en fin, de todos los intereses mas principales en que estriben su prosperidad y bienestar. Es incuestionable que todos éstos los ligan á la federacion mexicana, y que no es el interés de Tejas separarse, aunque tuviese libertad y potencia para hacerlo. Sus intereses particulares son íntimamente enlazados con las bases principales de la prosperidad nacional mexicana.

Estas son la agricultura y las minas. Era política del gobierno español sofocar la agricultura en México, de modo que nunca habia un sobrante de productos para esportar. El revés de esta política es lo que conviene á México: sus costas dilatadas abundan en tierras feraces, y gozan de un clima á próposito para todos los frutos de mas valor para esportar á paises estrangeros, como azúcar, añil, algodon, cacao, &c. Basta un cálculo muy sencillo y evidente al primer golpe de vista, para demostrar las ventajas que resultarían á la nacion, si estas tierras de la costa fueran bien cultivadas; porque sus productos agrícolas serian suficientes para pagar las importaciones, y de consiguiente cesaria la necesidad de la estraccion de los metales, y los productos de las minas quedarian en el pais por el curso natural y el equilibrio del comercio: el resultado en pocos años seria un aumento de numerario en todo el territorio mexicano, desconocido en otra nacion cualquiera del mundo. ¿Y se puede suponer que seria el interés de Tejas separase de una nacion tan profusamente dotada por la naturaleza de todos los elementos naturales para la riqueza y prosperidad? Todo hombre codicia el oro y la plata: todo hombre siente un amor propio para pertenecer a una nacion rica, próspera y feliz. Estos deseos se llenarán en los tejanos, estrechando su union con México, y contribuyendo con la energía emprendedora que les caracteriza, al fomento de la gran base de la riqueza y prosperidad nacional, que es el cultivo de la costa.

Solo en las colonias de Tejas establecidas por mí como empresario, las esportaciones de algodon en este año llegarán á sesenta mil arrobas de algodon despepitado y limpio: hay treinta máquinas para despepitar, dos molinos de vapor para aserrar maderas, y varios de agua; pero estas ventajas son ilusorias, y perdidos son los trabajos penosos de muchos años que ha costado redimir aquel pais del despoblado y de los bárbaros, si ha de quedar espuesto á los horrores de la anarquía por la falta de un gobierno local adecuado á su situacion y al carácter de sus habitantes. Estos desean ser gobernados conforme al espíritu del sistema federal adoptado por la República Mexicana; y si en haber querido espresar este deseo al congreso general por una

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representacion sumisa y respectuosa, el pueblo de Tejas ha cometido un error, pareceria que los cometen todos aquellos que piden ante el gobierno lo que la ley y el derecho les permiten solicitar.

Suplico que se sirva V. E. impedir todo juicio ó medida definitiva respecto á los asuntos políticos de Tejas, hasta informarse por medios seguros, y particularmente hasta comunicar con el gefe político y los ayuntamientos de Tejas. Para la mejor aclaracion de esta materia, y á fin de dar una idea la mas exacta de las cosas de Tejas que puedo, como creo ser mi deber, diré que hay divergencia de opiniones sobre *el modo* que se adoptó para conseguir los remedios que se desean; pero creo todos están unánimes en la opinion de que es indispensable poner algun remedio á los males que resultan de la falta de tribunales de justica, y de una organizacion adecuada del gobierno local. Si es que se ha errado *el modo*, á causa de las circunstancias peculiares del tiempo, bastaria una indicacion de parte del gobierno, de las vias legales que se deben seguir; y estoy bien seguro que el pueblo de Tejas corregirá cualquier error que haya cometido en este particular.

Me aprovecho de esta ocasion para presentar á V. mis respetos, y la seguridad de la fidelidad inalterable del pueblo de Tejas á la constitucion y á la integridad del territorio de la República Mexicana á que pertenece.—Dios y libertad. Matamoros, Mayo 24 de 1833.—*Estévan F. Austin.*—Exmo. Sr. comandante general de los Estados internos de Oriente, D. Vicente Filisola.

Ayuntamiento of Gonzales to Political Chief[1]

Ayuntamiento Gonzalez.—N.° 9

Con esta fecha digo á V. S. lo que sigue:

Es muy verdad que este Ayun.^to^ ha recivido en devido tiempo las dos oficiales comunicaciones de VS. la uno con fecha Bejar a 3. de Marzo pp.^oo^ y la otra a 7 del mismo mes reprobando como ilegales los prosedimientos q el Yltre. Ayun.^to^ de la Villa de San Felipe de Austin, en fha. 8 de Feb.° pp^oo^ manifestó a VS. querer tomar en relacion a la formacion de una convencion de delegados con el fin de erejir este Departam^to^ de Tejas en un Estado separado de el de Coahuila, la q se verificó en esa Villa en los dias 1.^ros^ de los subsecuentes meses de Marzo y de Abril en directa contrabencion de los consejos y ordenes anteriores de V S. desaprovando dha convencion bajo sus basis q en ellos se espresa, y como que puede suponerse q de estos errados principios resulta necesariam.^te^ q

[1] From Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

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quanto se ha hecho posteriorm.te supuestos siempre los mismos ilegales transitos con relacion a la legalidad de la formacion de la referida convencion queda nulo, ó a lo menos dudoso actuado pues p.r la consideracion de tales antesedentes, como quedan espuestos en los referidos oficios de V S. y en cumplimiento de sus deveres este Ayuntam.to en sesion ordinaria del 27. del presente mes, ha acordado exponer a V S. q. en cuanto al haber adoptado y hecho suya la representacion del Ylust. Ayuntam.to de la Villa de San Felipe de Austin con fha. de 18 de Abril pp.oo en q. se solicita la ereccion de Tejas en un Estado separado de el de Coahuila, a la formacion de la Constitucion q en ella se espresa, y al haber diputado al Ciud.no Estevan F. Austin para ir a Mejico sobre este asunto, lo ha hecho sin tener la mas minima intencion de contravencion al espiritu de las leyes, suponiendo de buena fee q las medidas previam.te adoptadas p.r el referido Yltre. Ayuntam.to de Austin pa la convocacion de dho. objeto, habian sido tomadas en conformidad con lo q. esta dispuesto por las leyes; y en esto este Ayuntam.to confieza haber cometido un yero el qe ha sido causado por no haber entonces tenido en su disposicion una persona verzada en ambos idiomas p.a haber trasladado previam.te las referidas oficios de VS. del 3. y 7. de Marzo p.o p.o

Y por tanto este Ayuntam.te se retrata anulando cuanto tenga hecho q sea contrario a las leyes asi del Estado como de la Nacion en sancionar y adoptar la representacion originada en el Ayuntam.to de San Felipe de Austin; pues solo ha sido su intencion peticionar de los Supremos poderes por medio de tramites que suponian legales pa q. se tomasen medidas no contrarias a las leyes, para construir este Departam.to en un Estados separado de el de Coahuila y declara asi mismo este Ayuntam.to que solo en este sentido sancionará y adoptará no solo las dha. representacion del Y. Ayun.to de San Felipe de Austin sino cualquiera otra de esta naturaleza q. en lo futuro podria establecer bajo semejantes bases profesando exactam.te y cumplida obediencia á las leyes grales. y particulares de la patria q han adoptado las cuales han jurado observar.

Lo que tengo el honor de participar a V. S. de orden del Ayuntam.to suplicando se sirva V S. elevarlo a los supremos poderes pa los efectos correspondientes.

Dios y libertad Villa de Gonzalez a 27, de Mayo de 1833.

J. B. Patrick, Alcalde—Juan Franco Bucheti, Srio interino. Al Sor Gefe del Departam.to de Bejar.

Es copia Bejar Jun.o 26 de 1833.

J. Maria Balmaceda [Rubric]

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AUSTIN TO FILISOLA [1]

[Matamoras, May 30, 1833.]

EXMO. SR.—En la nota que tuve el honor de dirigir á V. E. con fecha 26 del presente, manifesté la verdadera situacion de las cosas políticas de Tejas, y que la convencion habia formado una representacion al congreso general solicitando que se erija Tejas en un Estado de la federacion mexicana, encargándome con la comision de ir á la capital de México.

La contestacion que se sirvió V. E. dar á mi referida nota, con fecha 17, me ha llenado de satisfaccion, y está enteramente en consonancia con el concepto que los habitantes de Tejas han formado de los distinguidos patriotas que se hallan al frente de la República Mexicana.

Permitame V. E. repetir y reiterar la declaracion, que los tejanos no desean salir del sendero de las leyes. Siempre tienen fijada la vista en la *constitucion*, como el único verdadero norte para dirijirlos, y la única áncora segura para afianzar todos los derechos mas sagrados de la sociedad.

La constitucion del Estado de Coahuila y Tejas declara, en su artículo 26, que el objeto del gobierno del Estado es la felicidad de los individuos que lo componen, puesto que el fin de toda sociedad política no es otro que el bienestar de los asociados.

Los que solicitan Estado en Tejas, han creido que la sociedad política que existe en aquel departamento y en Coahuila, no puede llenar para lo futuro el fin indicado, ni afianzar el bienestar de los asociados.

Las razones en que se fundan van espuestas en la representacion de la convencion, y en la del ilustre ayuntamiento y digno pueblo de la ciudad de Bexar. De consiguiente, han pedido que se disuelva esa sociedad política, y creen que el derecho de pedirlo del congreso general en derechura, está concedido por el atrículo 2° de la ley de Mayo de 1824. Igualmente creen que su pedimento, ademas de ser authorizado por la citada ley, está en consonancia con el espíritu y el objeto del sistema federal adoptado por la nacion. El párrafo del discurso dirigido por el congreso general constituyente á los habitantes de la federacion, que empieza con las palabras: "*La República federal ha sido y debió ser el fruto de sus discusiones*," y concluye con las "*de hombres libres*," esplica con mucha claridad los objetos y ventajas de este sistema; y el artículo 11 de la constitucion federal concede a cada Estado un diputado, por pequeña que sea su poblacion. De modo que los habitantes de Tejas creen que no se han desviado en

[1] From Filisola, Memorias para la historia de la Guerra de Tejas, I, 355–359.

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su peticion del sendero demarcado por las leyes y la constitucion; y les seria muy sensible el haber desmerecido en la opinion pública, porque han deseado mejorar su suerte, solicitando que se organice su gobierno local.

Es preciso convenir que los elementos de Tejas para formar Estado son algo limitados, pero este mismo hecho prueba la necesidad de alguna mejora; porque es muy evidente que aquellos habitantes nunca desearian encargarse de los gastos de la administracion, si no hubo una necesidad imperiosa y urgentísima.

He considerado necesario hacer estas reflexiones para la mejor aclaracion de las intenciones de los que han representado y de los principios que les han regido, fiando de la conocida liberalidad, justicia y filantropía de los dignos miembros que componen los supremos poderes y las cámaras de la federacion para calificarlos.

He entendido que el gobierno del Estado de Coahuila y Tejas, ha mandado comisionados á Tejas sobre este asunto. Igualmente he visto por el Telégrafo, que las cámaras del congreso general deben cerrar sus sesiones en este mes, y de consiguiente que no estarán en sesion al tiempo de mi llegada á Mêxico; y como la representacion solicitando que se erija Texas en Estado, está dirijida al congreso general, nada adelantario con mi viage a México por ahora. Ademas de esto, seria interesante saber el resultado de la comision á Tejas, porque puede ser que con su informe se dé una direccion á este negocio, que esté en armonía con las autoridades del Estado, como es de esperar, cuando los señores comisionados se impongan de todas las circunstancias.

Estoy bien seguro que represento la verdadera voz de Tejas, cuando digo que no desean otra cosa que las reformas en su gobierno local, que son indispensablemente necesarias para conservar la tranquilidad y promover la prosperidad de aquel calumniado pais. Calumniado, porque los mismos esfuerzos que hacen sus habitantes en obsequio de su propio bienestar y del bien general de la República, para afianzar la tranquilidad pública sobre bases permanentes, y estrechar los lazos que lo unen y deben unirlo para siempre á la federacion mexicana, están calificados, por rumores abultados, en actos de rebelion y desobediencia; semejantes rumores, aunque puedan tal vez fundarse en una ú otra cosa, que al parecer era exaltada ó fuera del órden y curso ordinario de los asuntos, no tienen fundamento ninguno en verdad o en sustancia. Muchos acontecimientos de igual carácter, resultando de las circunstancias, han pasado de la última convencion en todas partes de la República; pero han terminado felizmente para la nacion, porque los objetos eran sanos y patrióticos. No hay motivo para dudar el mismo resultado en Tejas.

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Por las razones que van espuestas, me ha parecido que seria mas útil regresar á Tejas por ahora; y con tal motivo, paso á las manos de V. E. la representacion original de la convencion, suplicando se sirva V. E. elevarla al Exmo. Sr. vice-presidente de la República, para ser presentada al congreso general en debido tiempo.

Igualmente acompaño copia de la representacion del ilustre ayuntamiento de Béjar, á que me refiero en esta comunicacion.

Espero que se sirva V. E. comunicarme el recibo de la representacion para el Exmo. Sr. vice-presidente, para satisfaccion de mis comitentes.

Igualmente espero que se sirva S. E. el vice-presidente mandar publicar la representacion por la imprenta, para conocimiento del público, y á fin de corregir las ideas equivocadas que existan respecto de las pretensiones del pueblo de Tejas. Permítame V. E. reiterar las protestas de mi consideracion y respetos.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches[1]

Matamoras 30th May 1833

The public was very much agitated in this place by false reports and rumors from Texas—but they have been removed by the statement of facts which I have laid before his Excellency the Commandant General Don Vicente Fillisola who assures me of the paternal intentions of the Govt towards the People of Texas. There never has been any cause for doubt that such are its intentions—all the vague rumours that have been circulated as to the marching of a large Army to Tejas with hostile views are utterly false. The Genl has ordered the reestablishment of the Custom Houses and the military Garrisons, and will do so for the purpose of protecting the public Revenue and stopping the scandalous contraband that has been carried on in Tobacco from the Ports of Tejas. I have assured him that he will receive the support of the Colonist in sustaining the Revenue laws and that they would do their duty faithfully as Mexican Citizens.

I have pledged my honor for the Truth of this declaration and have full confidence that the People of Texas will not forfeit the pledge I have made but will by their acts prove its correctness and that the revenue laws can be enforced without the aid of large military Garrisons.

Mr. George Fisher will leave here shortly to enter upon his duties of Collector of Galveston Bay with only sufficient number of Troops for necessary Guards etc.

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[1] From Nacogdoches archives, Texas State Library. There is a Spanish copy in the Bexar archives. It is uncertain whether the original was in English or Spanish.

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Whatever Ideas and opinions may have heretofore existed as to Mr Fisher they should now be consigned to oblivion and forgotten. He returns as an officer of the Gov^{t} and as such it is the duty of the People to respect and sustain him. I will also observe that I have investigated very minutely all the past transactions in which he was concerned and have formed the opinion that the excitements which unfortunately grew out of them were produced by misconception and suspicion too hastily entertained and not from intention to do wrong or injure any one. I believe there were misconceptions on both sides and probably as much on one part as on the other—Mr. Fisher will make a usefull collector his knowledge of the English language will give more facilities in his intercourse with the people than could exist with a collector who was unacquainted with that language. I therefore particularly recommend the utmost harmony and that he be sustained in the discharge of his duties by all, regardless of the clamour of a few Transient Traders who would involve the honest farmers in difficulty with the authorities if they could increase their own profits thereby.

The political events of the past year necessarily produced a temporary and partial disorganization in the regular administration of the Gov^{t} all over the nation which as a matter of course extended to Texas everything is now settled down again upon the constitutional basis and the regular operation of the laws and of all the legal authorities has been restored. The temporary and provisional measures which the peculiar exigencies of the times may have rendered necessary to pursue the public tranquility and protect persons and property are consequently ceased all over the nation and I have assured the Com^{t}. General that they will also cease as a matter of course in Tejas. I therefore particularly recommend that what ever temporary deviation of the Militia or in any other matter should be corrected without delay and everything restored again to the legal basis as has been done all over the nation. The Gen^{l} Congress adjourned on the 20th of this month and as there will not be another regular session untill January next—my Journey to Mexico was rendered measurably useless. I have also been very much debilitated by Dysentary or *Cholorina* which prevails here. These considerations determined me to postpone my trip to the Capital for the present and I forwarded the memorial of the convention through the Com^{t} General. Since then my health has improved and an opportunity haveing very unexpectedly offered of a passage to Vera Cruz by sea I have concluded to embrace it and shall depart in a few hours.

I will close by assuring you that I have the most unlimited confidence in the patrotism liberality and Justice of the Gov^{t} and I rely with full confidence upon the people of Tejas to sustain firmly all the authorities both federal and State and to obey the laws strictly.

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By so doing they will procure a State Gov[t] and keep away large and unnecessary military Garrisons and obtain everything that a reasonable people ought to expect or a just and liberal Gov[t] ought to grant.

I recommend that the people of Tejas should be mild calm and firm in favour of making a state of Tejas by legal and constitutional means and by no other.

To the Aym[t] of Nacogdoches.

S. F. AUSTIN

A true copy of the original. Nacogdoches 10 july 1833

ADOLFO STERN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO WILY MARTIN[1]

Matamoras, May 30, 1831 [1833]

Capt. WILEY MARTIN:

On my arrival here, things wore rather a bad aspect, but they have totally changed for the better. It was believed that Texas had declared independence, and that John Austin was organizing an army to fight the Mexicans. I am told there is also some excitement in Mexico, and that the State got all excited, and have sent commissioners to Texas.

The Com. Gen'l Filisola, is a blunt, honest, candid and prompt soldier. He has been over thirty years in service; has been Com. Gen'l. at various times, with important powers entrusted to him,—and what is rather uncommon, he has not made a fortune. His principles are liberal and republican, and he wishes that the practice of all the authorities should conform with the true spirit of the Constitution and the laws. Says that there is a great want of moral honesty, and great abuses in the revenue. He is the friend of the farming and agricultural interests—a decided enemy of smugglers and lawyers, for he thinks they demoralize the community by placing temptations before weak or avaricious persons etc. He will be unpopular with all who wish to make money by evading the law. He thinks well of the idea of making a State of Texas, and has a good opinion of the Colonists in general, but believes they have more enemies amongst themselves than any where else. The reason he thinks so is, that he says a quiet and prudent course is the best for them and a rigid adherence to all the laws, so long as they are in force, etc. They are gaining yearly, and the republican principle[s] they have been accustomed to, are also gaining all over the nation, so that a little patience will place all right without any difficulty etc.

[1] Clipping from Richmond [Texas] Recorder, May 6, 1854.

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He has orders to reestablish the custom house and garrisons, and is compelled to do so. The former will be done, the latter, probably not until fall; and I am of opinion not to the extent then that was contemplated a month ago.

Geo. Fisher goes back as collector. I assure you that he is now a new man, it is the interest of the country to sustain him, and I request my friend, that you will unite in support of what I recommended on this, and all other matters in my letter to the Ayuntamientos.

The quantity of tobacco that has been smuggled from the ports of Texas, has made a great noise all over the nation, and the violation of the custom house laws in Texas, are made a pretext for similar violations elsewhere. The enemies of Santa Anna are making a great handle of these Texas matters, to injure him and destroy his popularity. They say he has lost Texas, and is the cause of the destruction of the public property there, the ruin of the forts, and the insults which it is reported the Mexicans have received there, etc.; and that he is now unwilling or unable or afraid to punish such acts of outrage, etc. Much is said by his enemies on the subject.

I am told that Santa Anna and his friends are very much enraged at the colonists, and blames them for the Anahuac expedition; says they had some cause to complain, but they went to work in so headlong and passionate a manner to get redress, that they placed themselves in a worse situation than they were before, because they put weapons in the hands of their enemies, and injured and mortified their friends.

Amongst other things, it is reported that there are a number of American Generals in Texas, who are inflaming the people against the Mexicans, and that the common talk is about independence, fighting, and abuse of the Mexicans, etc.

It is also reported that the alcalde and the ayuntamientos of Austin treat the State authorities with contempt, and do not even acknowledge the receipt of the official correspondence, and never pretend to answer it, or comply with the laws. Amongst so many rumors and lies, it is not to be expected that I should escape. It is reported that I was the author of the Anahuac expedition, and of all John Austin's acts.[1] The Santa Anna party are irritated at that expedition for they say it put the current in motion and was the cause of all that passed. I am told I shall be roughly received by Santa Anna at first. This I do not believe, for nothing could be more unjust than to accuse me of being the author of that expedition. However, all this can be corrected and placed on its true basis by a statement of facts; for I believe the irritation has proceeded more from the handle

[1] The attack on Bradburn at Anahuac in June, 1832, leading to expulsion of all garrisons from the colonies during July and August.

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or pretext it gives the enemies of Santa Anna to abuse him, than from a belief that there was no cause for complaint.

You could not have a correct idea of how matters stood, unless you were informed of all these reports and sayings, and for this reason I have mentioned them.

I think it best to harmonize with the State commissioners so far as it can be done, without yielding the principle of a State Government.

I am told that Coahuila would consent to the separation, if the money now due for land already granted was secured to Coahuila, they say that Texas has paid nothing as yet, to defray the expenses of the State etc. For my part, so far as I am interested as a citizen of Texas, I am willing to yield this point and to pay to Coahuila all that is or may be due for all land where titles are actually issued. This would not include the floating eleven league tracts not located, nor lands in colonizing contracts not settled, but would only embrace all where the possession was actually given and the title issued before the final separation.

That money is a mere trifle compared to getting a State, and I can assure you it will be very difficult to get a State without the consent of Coahuila, and very easy to get it with her consent.

I merely make the suggestion to you of harmonizing as much as possible with Coahuila, for if the State Government should apply to the General Government, or to the other States for aid to inforce its laws in Texas, the General Government would hardly dare to refuse it in the present critical state of things.

The general congress has adjourned and probably will not meet again until January next, so that my trip to Mexico was rendered measurably useless, and having been very much debilitated by a dysentery, or Cholarina, that is prevailing here, I had concluded at one time to postpone my trip for the present and I forwarded the memorial to the President through the commandant General by mail, so as to remove the bad impressions that existed in Mexico. I have this day heard of a vessel that is unexpectedly to be sent to Vera Cruz, the schooner Comet, and I shall embark on board of her and take the stage from Vera Cruz to Mexico. I am illy calculated at this time to stand the trip by land, and I believe that it would lay me up in this hot, dry country perhaps for the whole summer.

Nothing definite can be done about the State question, until Congress meets in January, unless there should be a called session, and they are always convened for special objects, and by the constitution nothing can be done in them but the special objects for which they are convened. So that all I can do is to talk with the President and Ministers and correct lies and false reports etc., and pave the way. I think I shall return in August, but if it appears to be necessary for me to remain until January, I shall do so.

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The basis of my policy, so far as I had any thing to do with Texas matters, up to last July the time when I returned and found all in confusion, was this—never to put the interests of the settlers at hazard, and to rely more upon the regular and natural progress of things for remedies, than upon efforts to force them prematurely.

The settlers have earned what they have got too hard, and by too many years of hard labor and privation, to jeopardize all hastily—a war with the nation will be ruinous to them, for they will be destroyed and overwhelmed, eaten up by those who come from abroad to aid them in fighting their battles. They have more to dread from such friends, and from Indians, than from the whole Mexican nation.

Had I been an ambitious military leader, the reverse of this would have been my policy, and I would have aroused and led on the settlers, and inflamed them into a war and then made use of them (as all military leaders do of the people) to build up my own fame as a chieftain, success would have deceived the most of them and made me a great man, nominally. For I think that true greatness consists in doing the most good, and not in acquiring the most fame—when I entered Texas I laid it down as a fixed rule of action, to conquer that country with the axe, the plough and the hoe. Silently and gradually my ambition was to benefit all, and make use of none as mere instruments to build up myself and a few chosen band of leaders. Every military leader must of necessity be surrounded by a set of *leeches*, who must be kept fat, and whose ambition must be gratified, and whims satisfied. All this is done by using the people as tools, or rather as food to glut upon.

I am the friend of farmers. The plough is my favorite weapon for conquest, and I *am not* the friend of the useless dupes in society. I look upon the most of military and professional men as useless. I speak in general of the masses as we find them.

Also, I have pursued *concilliation* as a system; both in the colony and out of it. I did so because a small spark kindles a great flame, and such flames always injure the farmers and working classes. Besides this, a *child* is easier destroyed in a conflict than a full grown man. My policy has displeased the ardent spirits in my colony, but I still think it was the correct one; and I see no necessity for abandoning it and adopting the reverse as a basis. Though, if it is abandoned, I shall go into the opposite extreme, and adhere to it as fully, and as obstinately, as I have to the system of concilliation, and perhaps much more so than some of those who are easily excited, and talk much about fighting.

Upon the whole, I think we have all got along wonderfully well, considering all things; and I have the fullest confidence in the most favorable results.

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I have been adverse to the principle of slavery in Texas. I have now, and for the last six months, changed my views of that matter; though my ideas are the same as to the abstract principle. Texas *must be* a slave country. Circumstances and unavoidable necessity compels it. It is the wish of the people there, and it is my duty to do all I can, prudently, in favor of it. I will do so.

I think the General will send on Fisher with a few men by land. He is *compelled* to re-establish the customhouses, and I advised him to rely on the colonists to enforce the revenue laws. I am of opinion decidedly, that if Fisher's reports are favorable, there will not be any garrisons sent to Texas except on the frontiers.

It would take a sheet or two of paper to tell you the extent of the injury that was done to all Texas by the departure of Dudor [Duclor] from Brazoria.[1] He was a Santa Anna officer.

When I look back, I am really mortified at some things. In the first excitement at Brazoria, Samuel Sawyer was a leader, and a great man—a right-hand man of J. B. McKinstre. Also, in Matagorda bay, one John Colbourne, who was concerned in the Boston packet, took a part in insulting the customhouse. Now, this Colbourne went to Mexico and cheated Mr. Parrot, an American merchant out of $3,500, by a forged draft in company with Girard. And yet the *farmers* were ready to fight all Mexico to favor the smuggling operations of such miserable scoundrels. Mr. McKinstre was the principal cause of Dudor's [Duclor's] leaving Brazoria, and he has done as much harm to Texas as any man in it. If the industrious men of the country will suffer themselves to be made the mere tools of peddling traders and hot-brained madmen, they will deserve to suffer.

Fisher ought to be sustained, and I hope all the past will be totally forgotten. See John Austin on this subject. As to Fisher, the fact is there were faults all round, on both sides. Farewell.

S. F. Austin.

Austin to John Austin[2]

Matamoras May 31. 1833

J. Austin Esq^{r}
Brazoria.

D^{r} Sir. This will be handed to you by Geo. Fisher, the Collector of Galveston, who returns to Texas as an Officer of the Govern^{t} to establish the Custom House.

I have assured him, that he will receive the support of the Colonists in sustaining the Revenue Laws, and Collecting the duties.

[1] See Francisco M. Duclor to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin, Sept. 27, 1832.
[2] Copy by George Fisher in Lamar Papers, Texas State Library.

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There is too much good sense in the *farmers*, and *regular Merchants* in that Country to suffer themselves to be envolved in difficulties by transient Pedlars or Traders whose only object is to increase their profits at the cost of those who may be weak or vile enough to aid them.

As regards the Past, and any bad feelings which may have existed about the transactions in which Mr Fisher was concerned—I think they should all be buried in everlasting oblivion and forgotten. "The Soveraign Mantle" of the Nation has been thrown over all former excitements in every part of the Nation. The same should be done in Texas, and I have no doubt it will be, and that Mr Fisher, as Collector of Galveston will receive the unanimous support of the farmers and regular merchants.

S. F. AUSTIN

A true copy of the original, in my possession, which I hereby certify.

GEO. FISHER.

AUSTIN TO OLIVER JONES AND OTHERS[1]

Matamoros May 31. 1833

Messrs Oliver Jones.
F. Johnson
J. B. Miller,
L. Lessassier
W. H. Jack
S. M. Williams
} San Felipe de Austin

GENTLEMEN: This will be handed to you by Mr. Geo: fisher who returns as Collector of Galveston, and I particularly recommend that all former excitements relative to any transactions in which Mr Fisher may have been concerned, should be totally forgotten, and that he be sustained firmly in the discharge of his duties, as I have recommended in my letter to the Ayuntamiento.

S. F. AUSTIN.

AUSTIN TO MCNEIL AND WOODSON[2]

Matamoros 31 May 1833

Mrss. McNeil and Woodson
and
D. G. and R Mills— Brazoria

GENTLEMEN. This will be handed to you by Mr. Geo.: Fisher, who returns as Collector of Galveston, and I particularly recommend

[1] Copy by George Fisher in Lamar Papers, Texas State Library. The same letter went to Wyly Martin, of the "Fort Settlement, near San Felipe de Austin."

[2] Copy by George Fisher, Lamar Papers, Texas State Library.

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that he be firmly sustained in the discharge of his duties, and that any excitement which may have existed heretofore may be totally forgotten, and buried in oblivion.

By following this recommendation you will benefit the interest of the *farmers* and *regular Merchants* and materially oblige your friend

S. F Austin.

A true Copy of the original, in my possession, which I certify.

Geo. Fisher.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Matamoros May 31. 1833

Dr Sir, I have unexpectedly met with a passage to Vera Cruz and sail tomorrow—the trip by land would have been severe on me at this hot season and I am rather weak from a dysentery—tho it is getting better. I refer you to my letter to the Ayto. as to news etc.—all goes well here now, but a darker squall than seemed to be gathering when I arrived, I have not seen lately. The prospects are all changed and they now are bright. Fisher is reappointed and goes on soon with only a few troops. I expect he will go by land through San Felipe, and I particularly recommend that the past be forgotten—he is an officer of the Govt. and he will now get on very well and be usefull to Texas—of this I have no doubt.

I hope you will have the office business attended to and the surveys regulated and all other matters—also the title for the tract that Brown Surveyed at the foot of the mountains east side of Colorado—both the ones on the other side can be taken by Valle or not just as you please.

Write me to Mexico, care of Wm. S. Parrott so that he can take out the letters and keep them untill I arrive.

remember me to Mrs. Williams

S. F. Austin

Mr S. M. Williams San Felipe de Austin Mr. Brown

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

The draft on Hebenstreit from Reynolds was neither accepted nor protested. Hebenstreit was absent and I left the draft with Mr Toler, with directions to collect it, or if it was protested to send it to you.

I wish all things to harmonise with Fisher when he arrives—he will *now* be usefull to Texas, and all the past ought to be forgotten, be particular as to this point.

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Don't forget the *strange order*, that Arcia. [Arciniega] recd. about the records—keep an [eye] to all that.

You are engaging in one business [before the?] other is finished and may spoil [everything?] rush the records of the office . . . the testimonios and surveys etc then give it up in toto and go to the merchants occupation, but finish first and keep clear of land jobing. I am of opinion that the upper colony will totally ruin *me*, in fact I have but little doubt of it, for such men and [as] Bowie etc will lead you and John too far into speculations B F. Smiths cursed foolish trip has done great harm and I am sorry he ever came to Texas—keep clear of all speculations for the future, they are a *curse* to any country and will be a very *sore curse* to me individually. I believe they will ruin me if they have not already done it—cursed be the hour I ever thought of applying for that upper colony.

Matamoros, may 31, 1833

S. F. Austin

If the wind permits I shall sail tomorrow in the comet for vera cruz.

N. B. I have unlimited con[fidence in] Felisola—he is a good and . . . man and can be fully re[lied on].

S. F. Austin.

Ayuntamiento of Gonzales to Political Chief[1]

Ayuntam^to^ de la Villa de Gonzalez

No. 10

Hoy á las tres de la tarde consiguiente al haver recibido p^r^ estraordinario las comunicaciones de V. S. con fha. 17 del presente mes, se combocó el Ayuntam^to^ de esta Villa sobre el asunto de las mismas y ha acordado hacer presente á V. S. q. ya se havia retratado de lo q. havia hecho en haver adoptado las representaciones del de Austin: la dicha retractacion q. acompaño á V. S. ha sido hecha en el dia de su fha., pero p^r^ mera inadvertencia no se havia remitido á V. S. con las ultimas correspondencias; lo q. se servira V. S. dispensar; y este Ayun^to^ dice ademas q. con obsequio de la candida invitacion de V. S. diputará dos personas acreditadas q. iran dentro de cinco ú ocho dias contados desde esta fha. á esa de Bejar con el fin de recibir respetuosam^te^ informaciones generales sobre nuestra actual situacion con relacion á lo q. ha sido hecho hta. ahora en los referidos asuntos.

Lo q. de orden del Ayun^to^ digo á V. S. en contestacion á las referidas estraordinarias comunicaciones de V. S.

Dios y Libertad Villa de Gonzalez á los 22 dias del mes de Jun^o^ de 1833.

[1] From Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

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J. B. Patrick, Alcalde—Silas Fuqua, 1er Regidor—Juan Franco Buchetti Secretº interino

S. Gefe del Departamtº de Bejar

Es copia Bejar Junº 26 de 1833.

J. Maria Balmaceda [Rúbric]

Austin to Minister of Relaciones [1]

Exmo. Sr.

Habiendo salido de Tejas pª la Capital comicionado pª presentar al Supremo Govierno de la Nacion una solicitud dirigida pr los Habitantes de aquel Departamento á las supremas Camaras de la union, me presente al Sr. Comandante Gral. de los Estados de Oriente D. Vicente Filisola en matamoros manifestandole pr medio de una nota oficial fha. veinte y seis de Mayo, los objetos de mi Viaje; este Sr. bien enterado de los asuntos qe me conducen me permitio seguir mi marcha hta. concluir mi Comicion; mas habiendo sido atacado en ese mismo tpo. pr una enfermedad, pase á manos del citado Sr. Comte gral la solicitud original con objeto de q. se sirbiera dirigirla al Supremo Govierno, pª mis enfermedades no me permitian hacerlo ya en persona. Posteriormte restablecido ya de mis males y deseoso de poder seguir mi Comicion me embarque pª Veracruz trallendo un amplio pasaporte del citado Comandte gl y desembarcando en aquel punto el dos del presente pase en el acto á presentarme al Sr. Comdte gral. de este Estado D. Ciriaco Vazquez, quien en mi segunda entrevista (pª la q. me cito en la primera) me dijo podia emprender mi marcha cuando gustase, lo q. verifique efectivamente el sinco; pº como pr la inseguridad del Camino me detube en este punto, el nuebe me fue intimado arresto pr el Sr. Comte Militar y de ordn de Sr. Comandte gral. á cuyo efecto fuy puesto en Banderas del Batallon Actº de tres Villas, y el Teniente de artllª D. Demetrio Chavero q. marcha de ordn del supremo gobierno a la Capital y q. ha venido en mi Compañia desde Matamoros tambien ha sido comprendido en la ordn

Nuestros pasaportes no fueron anotados en Veracruz y segun se nos ha dho. esta es la sola causa pr q se nos detiene en prision mas como el Sr. Vazquez tubo dos veces en sus manos estos sin hacerlo y solo si nos ordeno de palabra qe siguieramos cuando gustasemos creimos q esto seria bastante.

Los grandes atrazos q. en virtud de no poder concluir mi Comicion con la actibidad q. requiere, (y los perjuicios en lo particular yo sufro principalmente en mi salud quebrantada pr dos años de tareas y trabajos q. hé tenido pª cambiar una parte del territorio del Estado

[1] University of Texas Transcripts from Archives of Department of Fomento, Mexico.

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de desierto, al floreciente en q. hoy se halla) sufren una gran parte de los Ciudadanos de la Republica, me hacen molestar la atencion de V. E. á fin de q. enterado de mi cituacion se sirba hacer q. sea puesto en libertad, ó Al menos se me permita llegar hasta la Capital á donde á la vez q. pueda llevar al cabo mi Comicion, estoy pronto a responder a los Cargos q. el Sr. Vazquez quiera hacerme en caso de q. los halla.

Tengo el honor de ofrecer á V. E. con este motibo las sinseras protestad de mi afecto y respeto.

Dios y Libertad Jalapa Julio 11 de 1833.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN. (Rúbrica)

Exmo. Sr. Ministro de Estado del Despacho de Relaciones.

AUSTIN TO MCKINSTRY & AUSTIN

Col Stephen F Austin

To late firm of McKinstry and Austin

Feb	18	To cash paid Negro Simon		$1 00
"	"	" 4 Lots in Block No 36		100. 00
"	"	" Sundry Lots purchased by E Hawkins		432. 00
"	"	" 2 Lots purchased by J. F Perry and M T Hines		141. 00
		Only one found on a/cc sales		
"	"	" Paid Charles H. Burnett		6. 50
"	"	" Paid E. Hawkins & Co. Note and Int't		52. 80
"	"	" Paid your order in favor Williamson		50. 00
April	7	" Cash paid George Tennell		140. 00
"	"	" Cash paid George Tennell		60. 00
"	"	" Cash paid M. T Hines		9. 00
May	9	" Cash paid J R Phillips		10. 00
"	"	" your Subscription to Cannon		10. 00
"	"	" Horse to Padre Muldoon		40. 00
Augt	4	" Paid your order to George Tennell		133. 00
"	28	" Cash to self		10. 00
Sept	1	" Paid Asa Brigham		115. 50
"	28	" Paid Wm T Austin		159. 50
"	"	" Lots No 5. 6. 7 and 8 in Block 33		72 00
"	"	" Block No 42 and 43		103 00
"	"	" E. Hawkins		97. 50
Oct	13	" Paid Sayre and Nixson		10 50
"	20	" Paid D. H Anthony for Printing		20. 00
"	27	" Cash to Self		20. 00
1833				
Feby	20	" Paid Thomas H Borden		180. 76
"	"	" Mr. Graves		114. 00
"	"	" A G. and R Mills		3. 25
"	"	" Paid Lots No 5 and 6 in Block 32		165. 00
"	"	" Paid E Hawkins		718. 76
"	"	" Balance of Arcieniagas a/c		68. 18
"	"	" Paid for Drawing Paper		9. 00
				$3052. 25

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1833		Amt		$3052. 25
February	20	To Paid E Hawkins		1344. 56
"	"	" " McNeal and Woodson on a/c Arcienaga		485. 73
"	"	" " A G and R Mills on a/c Same		46. 66
"	"	" " A G and R Mills on a/c Self		23. 00
"	"	" Commission on Sale Lots		111. 25
"	"	" Paid for advertising Sale of Lots		7 00
"	"	" 1 lot on Block No 41		22 63
July	15	" Paid Perry and Hunter on a/c your draft		100. 00
"	"	" Lots, 1. 2. 3. 4. 8. 9. 10. 11 and 12 in Block 34		149. 00
"	"	" Lots No 3. 4. 9. and 10 in Block No 33		67. 00
"	"	" Amount Eliza M Austins a/c		117. 62
				$5526. 70

Credit

1831				
November	19	By our note in favr Waller	$64. 00	
December	5	" 2 Notes of H Smith	65. 00	
1832				
January	6	" Henry Smiths due Bill	25. 00	
February	2	" 4 Lots in Block 36 to Sayre	100. 00	
April	1	" E Andrews Note	40. 00	
May	15	" Your proportion of Note	18. 00	
Sept	2	" 2 Notes of A Brigham	65 00	
Decr	4	" Recd of P R Splane	45 00	
"	"	" E Andrews	10. 00	
Febry	10	" Will Harris Note	15. 00	
March	7	" Not No 3 and 10 in Block 35 " Amount Sale of Lots 20	45. 00	
		February	2830. 00	3322 00
				$2204. 70
		Amt due McKinstry	$778. 53	
		" " Austin	1406. 17	
			$2204. 70	

Samuel Crawford to James F. Perry

Samuel Crawford
To James F Perry

1833				
Jany	4	To 1 Gall Pecans		50
		To Medz pr order		3. 50
April	14	To 3 yds Domestic 25		75
		1 Handkf		38
				$4 13

Samuel Crawford
To Perry and Hunter

1833			
July	20	To Cash pd W. C. White and Co for 1 BBl. whiskey Best. Damage not finishing his chimney	$25. 87

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JOHN P. COLES TO ANTHONY BUTLER[1]

15th July 1833.

Dear Sir

Co[l] Austin goes to Mexico with an application from the people of Texas, for a state sepperate from Couhala, the application is made by a Convention of the people of Texas, and in reference to a decree of the Constituent Congress of the Mexican Federation under date of the 7th May 1824. If this application should fail an Effort will then be made as the Constitution provides, as we believe that we have a constitutional number of Inhabitants to Entitle us to that privaleage. Co[l] Austin's sincerity in this matter is much doubted by many people in Texas I hope however that Austin will not forget himself and his Friends He is Closely watched and his future prospects depend greatly upon his Conduct in this matter.

If he succeeds he will do well for himself and If for the want of proper Exertion on his part the application should fail Co[l] Austin will be a Ruined man in Texas.

If you have it in your power to aid the object of Texas in ther application to the Mexican Congress you will Confer a favour on all by givin[g] your aid. Nothing but a State Government will save Texas and that would soon make it one of the most flourishing State[s] in the Republick.

JNO P COLES

[Addressed:] Al Señor Coronel D Antones Butler Ministro de los Estados Unidos de America en Mexico

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AUSTIN TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE[2]

City of Mexico, July 24, 1833.

To the Central Committee:

My letter from Vera-Cruz, dated 3d instant, informed you of the many untoward circumstances that retarded my journey to that place. When I wrote from Matamoras, on the 30th May, I expected to have reached Vera Cruz in Six days, and this place in six or seven more. I left Vera Cruz on the 5th in the stage, and arrived at Jalapa on the 6th, where I received information of the siege of Puebla by Arista and Duran—and that the road was occupied on both sides of the city of Puebla by their troops, and all communication with Mexico cut off. On the 8th I was told that the stage was allowed to pass the lines, though the danger of robbers was great—and I intended to have proceeded in the stage on the 9th. But on

[1] This letter was recently acquired by the University of Texas. Whether Butler ever received it is uncertain.

[2] From a handbill printed at Brazoria, Oct. 3, 1833. Texas State Library.

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that day a new and unexpected difficulty arose—my passport was from the Commandant General, D. Vincente Filisola, and it was therefore necessary to present myself to the military authorities on the road. At Vera Cruz I called twice (on the 2d, the day I landed, and on the 3d) on the Commandant General of that place, and exhibited my passport. He told me verbally I could proceed on my journey, but did not endorse my passport. Owing to the want of this formality, I was detained at Jalapa by the commandant, and could not proceed until I sent to Vera Cruz, so that I did not reach this place until the 18th inst. Puebla was heroically defended by Gen. Guadalupe Victoria, with the militia of the city, hastily collected for the purpose. The regular troops had all gone over to the other side previously, and left Victoria without any resources except the patriotism of the people of Puebla. With the militia he defeated Arista and Duran in their attempt to get possession of the city; and they retreated to the vicinity of this city. They are now within four leagues, on the retreat, in the direction of Querétaro. Santa Anna is in close pursuit of them, and no doubt is entertained of a speedy termination of the crusaders and the final triumph of the liberal party. I presume you have seen the plan of Arista and Duran—its basis is Religeon and a large standing Army. They will fail in toto, and the result will be another triumph for Santa Anna and a complete dissolution of the aristocratic party and influence.

I called on the Ministers on the 19th, and they appointed the 23d (yesterday) to have an interview on the subject of my mission. I also called on the Vice-President; my reception was truly kind and friendly, particularly in the interview yesterday with the two Ministers of Relations and Justice, Garcia and Arispe. They were fully informed of the objects of my Mission by my communication from Matamoras through the Commandant Gen. and had received the memorial of the Convention which I forwarded from that place. I explained at large and with some detail the situation of Texas and the necessity of erecting it into a State. The leading points on which I rested our claims were:

First—The wish of the people and their declaration that they possessed the necessary elements to sustain a State Government.

Second—The natural right of Texas to occupy its station alongside of its sisters, the other States of the Confederation. It has always been a distinct member of the Mexican family and as such fought for the Independence, etc., and its being for a time under age did not in any manner weaken its rights now that it was in a situation to enter upon them, etc.

Third—The law of the 7th May, 1824. I positively denied the right of Coahuila to approve or disapprove of our separation. I

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also stated that Texas did not, and would not, recognize the principle that it was necessary to apply to the other states of the confederation for their approbation. We were now entering upon a natural and imprescriptable right, which belonged to us before the formation of the Constitution, and one which the provisional union with Coahuila did not, and could not, weaken in any manner whatever, etc.

Fourth—The duty and the interest of Texas to cement and strengthen its union with the Mexican confederation—the indirect union as an appendage of Coahuila being very precarious, and liable to be broken at any time.

Lastly—The right and the duty of every people to save themselves from anarchy and ruin! On this last point I enlarged very much, as I also did on the 4th. I distinctly stated as my opinion that self-preservation would compel the people of Texas to organize a local government, with or without the approbation of the General Government—that this measure would not proceed from any hostle views to the permanent union of Texas with Mexico, but from absolute necessity, to save themselves from anarchy and total ruin. How such a measure would affect the union of Texas with Mexico, or where it would end, were matters worthy of serious reflection.

I will give the answer of the two Ministers, Garcia and Arispe, as nearly verbatim as I can recollect. I do not pledge myself for the accuracy of the words, but I do for that of the substance:

This Government will examine the pretensions of Texas to become a State of this Confederation, with the most friendly disposition towards the people of that remote section, and in conformity with the broad and liberal principles of the federal system, adopted by the Mexican Republic. We wish to see every portion of the confederation governed in accordance with these principles, and of those of the age in which we live. We admit that Texas has just cause to complain of the Legislature of Coahuila. The people of Texas may therefore expect that their application will be considered, and their just requests granted, so far as it is within the Constitutional powers of the Government to grant them.

The interview was long, and frank. I was requested to put my ideas in writing. They are pretty much all embraced in the Memorial, but I thought it would be better to condense them under separate heads or points.

So soon as I get the Constitution translated and a new translation of the Memorial (the first being defective) I will lay the whole matter before the Government.

I believe that Texas will be a State of this Confederation with the approbation of this Government before long. I form this opinion from the information of many persons of influence, all of whom confirm the friendly disposition expressed by the Ministers. Should I be incorrect in this conclusion there will be but one course,

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one remedy left, and that is for Texas to adopt the alternative I informed the Ministers self preservation would compel it to adopt. The people therefore must organize without any more applications or delay.

It is pretty well known in Texas that I have pursued conciliation as a system; some think I have adhered to it too long, and too obstinately. I do not think so, placed under the circumstances I was. However, this is a mere matter of opinion and is of no consequence. My conciliatory course has not compromised any of the rights of Texas; on the contrary, it has settled that country, and in times past saved it from many evils. Clamors and importunities could not force me from my old rule. You ought, therefore, to believe that my judgment is now convinced that Texas, in this question of right to become a State, must be uncompromising. I am placed in a situation here to form a more correct opinion as to what course will be best calculated to secure the prosperity of Texas, and its permanent union with Mexico, than I was in that remote section.

I therefore reiterate the opinion, and I place it on the footing of a recommendation, that should our application be refused, Texas ought to organize a local government with as little delay as possible—but always on the basis that it is a part of the Mexican Confederation, a younger sister who adopts this mode of entering upon her rights, now that she is of age, because unnecessary embarrassments are interposed which are unconstitutional, unjust, inexpedient and ruinous.

I also recommend tranquillity and obedience to the laws—these are the first duties of a citizen. Wait for a definite answer. The moment I get one, or am convinced that delay is the object, I will leave here and hasten home to unite in executing the recommendations I have made.

Your Fellow-Citizen and Obedient Servant.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Mexico July 30. 1833

Dr BROTHER,

I refer you to my letter to the committee for news as to my mission, and will only state I have very strong and well founded hopes of complete success—I believe that Texas will be a state in a short time with the approbation of the Govt. But if our application is refused I shall be in favor of organising without it I see no other way of saving that country from total anarchy and ruin—I am totally done with concilliatory measures, and for the future shall be uncompromising as [to] Texas matters.

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Why do you not write me? I expected to have recd. letters here—none from anyone—I am uneasy very much so indeed—I heard a bad account about overflow and cholera but hope it is incorrect—I had a wretched trip. *One month* from Matamoros to Vera Cruz in a little schooner—ten days on short allowance of water—none but salt provisions—and sea sick all the time. But I am well now. Padre Muldoon sends his respects to every one—he does all he can for Texas

Love to the children and Sister and your neighbors.

STEPHEN

[Addressed:] Al sor Don James F. Perry San Felipe de Austin Texas

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AUSTIN TO MINISTER OF RELATIONS[1]

Ecsmo Sor.

Como representante elegido por una Convencion del Pueblo de Tejas, tengo el honor de presentar á V. E. original del proyecto de constitucion[2] formado por la espresada convencion como mejor aclaracion de la representacion de Tejas solicitando que se le erija en estado de la Federacion Mejicana.

En el caso de que se considere necesaria mas aclaracion de las bases en que Tejas funda su derecho de ser estado estoy pronto a darlas.

Suplico a V. E. se sirva acusarme el recibo de la representacion de la convencion de Tejas que remiti por conducto del Ecsmo. Sor. comandante gral. de los Estados de Oriente C. Vicente Filisola, y del proyecto de Constitucion que acompaño y que V. E. se digne señalar un dia en que yo pueda tener la gracia de una entrevista sobre este asunto que por su naturaleza urge el mas pronto despacho.

Dios y Libertad 1° de agosto en Megico del año 1833.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN [Rúbrica].

Ecsmo Sor. Ministro de
Relaciones C. Carlos Garcia.

[Inclosure]

AUSTIN TO MINISTER OF RELATIONS[3]

For the better explanation of the representation of Texas, soliciting that she be admitted as a state of the Mexican Federation, I present the following bases on which are founded her rights to be a state.

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[1] University of Texas Transcripts from Archives of Department of Fomento, Mexico.

[2] A copy of the Constitution in English is printed in D. B. Edward's The History of Texas, etc. (1836), 196–205. The Spanish copy accompanying this letter is omitted.

[3] University of Texas Transcripts from Archives of Department of Fomento, Mexico. The translation is by Mrs. Margaret Kress, instructor in Spanish, the University of Texas. A statement of the resources of Texas is omitted. It can be found in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, October, 1924, XXVIII, 118–121.

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1st. She possesses sufficient qualifications, and the people of Texas have manifested their desire to be a state.

2nd. The natural right that she has always had of organizing herself as a state, and of occupying her rank as such, at the side of her sisters the other states, on account of having been a distinct province at the time of the independence.

3rd. The guarantee of the law of May 7, 1824.

4th. The right that is guaranteed to her by the system adopted by the Mexican Republic, of promoting her welfare, and of securing her interior prosperity and tranquility by an adequate organization of her local government.

5th. The duty, and the interest of Texas, of cementing and assuring her permanent union with the Mexican federation.

6th. The right that all people have of saving themselves from anarchy and from utter ruin.

Explanation of these bases

1st. The declaration of the people of Texas that they have the elements sufficient to form a state, and the fact that they are ready to be charged with the expenses and responsibilities of the interior administration is proof that they are in a condition to figure as a state, because it is very evident that they would not have solicited such a thing if they were not satisfied of their capacity physical and moral, to sustain the administration and to fulfill all the duties of a state. For a better explanation of this point I refer to the statistical report which is hereto attached.

2nd. The provisional union of Texas with Coahuila by the law of May 7, 1824, was without the formal or cordial consent of the people of Texas, or of her deputy in the general constituent congress; and that union could not destroy the natural and primitive right of Texas to organize as a state when in the opinion of her inhabitants their necessities might require it.

The natural rights of Texas in this particular are recognized in the said law by the fact that the union with Coahuila is *conditional* and *provisional*, and not *positive* and *permanent*.

Texas does not recognize, nor can recognize, that she has to ask the approbation of three-fourths of the states of the federation, in order to be admitted as a distinct member of the Mexican family. This right always has belonged to her and does belong to her and if the exercise of the right has been postponed until now it has been by voluntary consent of her inhabitants, and not because they have believed, or believe, that their union with Coahuila has weakened it in the least particle. It is a natural right, and as such it is imprescriptible, sacred, and inviolable, and cannot be destroyed except in case the people of Texas should abandon it, and this they have never done.

Texas does not admit the principle that Coahuila has a voice or consent in the question of her right to be erected into a State; nor can she ask of Coahuila as a favor what belongs to her by right and by justice.

Texas does not desire a hand's breadth of the territory of Coahuila. If there is a doubt concerning the division line of the old provinces of Coahuila and Texas, or other peculiar questions, they must be settled between those two states in a friendly manner or in conformity with the laws governing such cases.

3rd. The law of May 7, 1824, is very clear and well defined, and recognizes the natural right of Texas of erecting herself into a state, and concedes to her the privilege of manifesting to the general congress her desire to be a state, when in the opinion of her inhabitants she has the elements to figure as such. That law does not contain the provision of asking the approbation of three-fourths of the states before congress shall consider the petition of Texas to

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be admitted as a state; and Texas considers herself in the same situation as to the formalities of her admission as was occupied by Nuevo Leon, Durango, and Chihuahua in their time; with the difference that there is a guarantee, a solemn contract between the nation and Texas that she will be formed into a state when she possesses the qualifications to figure as such.

4th. The glory of the federal system consists in the fact that no other form of government invented by the wisdom of men, has been able to meet the local necessities of each angle of an immense country, and at the same time to unite the physical and moral force of all parts in a national center in order to work in mass, in defense of their liberty and independence.

The objects of this system are clearly defined in the paragraph of the discourse directed by the general constituent congress to the Mexican people, which begins with the words, "The federal republic has been and ought to be the fruit of their discussions," etc. These same principles are recognized in Article 26 of the Constitution of the state of Coahuila and Texas, which says, "the object of the government of the state is the happiness of the individuals who compose it, understanding that the end of all political society is no other than the welfare of its associates."

The petition of Texas is sanctioned and supported by all these fundamental principles, because it is very evident that Texas cannot be governed by Coahuila, and consequently "the welfare of the associates" imperiously demands that she be made a state.

5th. The inhabitants of Texas desire to cement and strengthen their union with the Mexican federation, and it is their most important interest and their duty to do it.

There is no individual in Texas who is not convinced that the greatest misfortune that could happen to him would be the separation of that country from Mexico; neither is there any one who does not know very well that her union indirectly by means of Coahuila is in the highest degree precarious and liable to be broken without great difficulty.

It is known by certain things, positive facts, *that Coahuila cannot govern Texas; and the latter cannot remain, and will not remain in harmony or quietude united with the former.*

Another truth is, *that it is useless to try to subject or regulate Texas by military force.*

That country has to be governed by moral force, and her union with Mexico strengthened and established by the principles of the federal system, and those of the century in which we live.

In conformity with these principles the object of the government is, *the happiness and prosperity* of the people, and "*the welfare of the associates.*" If these objects are fulfilled in Texas, she will be united to Mexico by bonds much stronger than those which could result from an army of fifty thousand men.

Interest is the most powerful bond that operates upon the actions and desires of humanity. By the application of this fundamental principle to Texas, all erroneous ideas vanish in a moment, and also the false rumors that may have existed concerning the danger of the Mexican territory in that country.

The interests of Texas are, *to cement her union with Mexico, and to have a local government as a state of this* federation.

These interests are the natural bonds that unite and always will unite Texas to the Mexican federation. But the last is of so much importance, and so indispensably necessary to the "*welfare*" and "*happiness*" of that people, that it cannot be omitted or delayed. Consequently if there were no way of

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obtaining it without breaking the bonds of the union with Mexico, it would then be the interest of Texas to attempt her separation.

This point has been discussed and examined with much frankness in Texas; and the opinion is formed and established upon very solid, unalterable foundations, because it has been the result of much reflection; that opinion is, that it would be a misfortune to be separated from Mexico, but *that it would be a greater misfortune not to be erected into a state*, so as to be able to organize her local government. There are well founded fears that Texas may have to suffer the first misfortune in order to save herself the last; and these fears have had a dominating influence in the desire for separation from Coahuila, for the purpose of reconciling with one voice all the local interests of Texas with her permanent union with the Mexican federation.

I have said, and I repeat it, *it is not the interest of Texas to separate herself from Mexico, even if she had full liberty to do it.* If the Government should wish to know the reasons on which this opinion is founded, I will present them in a separate paper, and in the same I will demonstrate that the true interest of Coahuila and of all the republic demands that Texas should be made a state without any delay.

6th. This is a dark and very gloomy point. Texas is to-day exposed to separation from Mexico—to being the sport of ambitious men, of speculators and reckless money-changers, of seditious and wicked men, of wandering Indians who are devastating the country, of adventurers, of revolution, of the lack of the administration of justice and of confidence and moral strength in the government. In short, for the want of government that country is already at the verge of anarchy.

If one proceeded in accordance with the laws of the state of Coahuila and Texas, a respectable man would not be safe either in person or property; nor would the capitalist be secure in his capital. If crime is punished, it has to be done *extrajudicially* without paying attention to the laws and forms established, and this affords a dangerous example to society and a subversion of the moral strength which the government and the laws ought to have. On the other hand, if crimes go unpunished, the vices are unbridled and all the safeguards of society are destroyed.

For a long time the people of Texas have rested in regard to their personal security and that of their property, rather upon the virtues which exist in the honor of the mass of the people than upon the administration of the laws.

To suppose that such a state of affairs can continue would be to venture much; in short, it would be to suppose an impossibility.

If the only radical remedy which these evils admit is not applied without delay, that of establishing Texas as a state, it will fall into anarchy; and whence it will go from that is not in the power of man's judgment to say, or what injury will result to the frontiers of Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas, for it is very certain that the Indians will take advantage of the occasion to begin hostilities and depredations, and thousands of adventurers will be set in motion.

A state of anarchy in Texas would also cause confusion upon the frontiers of Louisiana and Arkansas; and in such case the probability is great that the government of the north would take posession of Texas in order to preserve order upon their frontiers as it did in the case of the Floridas.

All this and incalculable other evils would be avoided by establishing Texas as a state.

I cannot imagine anything more urgent for the exercise of extraordinary powers than this, since by its exercise in this matter the integrity of the

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territory may be preserved, Texas and her inhabitants may be saved—and a new and strong column may be raised to sustain the great edifice of the Mexican federation.

In view of what is set forth in this paper and of the representation of Texas, I beg that Your Excellency, the Vice President, may be pleased to make use of the extraordinary powers to decree that Texas shall form a state of the Mexican federation, and that she may proceed without delay to organize as such.

Mexico, August 1, 1833.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

To His Excellency the minister of Relations, Don Carlos Garcia.

AUSTIN TO MINISTER OF RELATIONS [1]

EXMO. SOR.

Conforme lo que manifesté á V. E. de palabra en la entrevista del dia 23 del p° p° mes, tuve el honor de presentar á V. E. un papel con fecha de ahier que comprehende las ideas principales que espresé entonces, respecto á la situacion critica de Texas, y de su solicitud para ser reconocido como estado de la federacion mexicana.

Deseando poner en el conocim^to^ del Gob^no^ con toda franqueza todas las luces posibles respecto al asunto tengo ahora el honor de acompañar copia de las instrucciones que me ha dado la convencion de Tejas sobre el particular.

Permiteme VE. repetir la idea que espresé en el espresado papel de ahier, que este asunto por su naturaleza demanda pronto despacho y que seria un bien general a la nacion y a Tejas, usar de las facultades estraordinarias para despacharlos sin demora.

Me aprovecho de la ocacion de presentar a V. E. los respectos de mi mas alta consideracion.

Dios y Libertad Mexico 2 de agosto 1833.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN. [Rubric]

Exmo Sor Ministro de Relaciones C. Carlos Garcia.

AUSTIN TO JOHN AUSTIN

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Mexico Augt. 6. 1833

D^r^ JOHN,

I rec^d^ yours of 24 June by last mail—hope to get another letter soon—this is the only one I have rec^d^ since I left. Has Williams returned—or is there no one there who remembers me so far as to

[1] Ibid.

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drop me a line to say that the few ties that are left to bind me to life are still alive you say they have been sick (my sister and family) but you say nothing of Stephen or anyone else.

I think the decision of Congress will be in favor of a State, but I fear they will send it to the other States for their approbation, this will cause some delay, tho my friends here think it will be dispatched by the first of January.

I have had a hard trip so far and have more difficulties to work through here than you can well form an idea of—but I hope to get along and that Texas will be a State of *this*, or the *U. S.* republic before another year, for I am so weary, that life is hardly worth having situated as we now are.

The vice President and ministers profess great friendship for Texas and say that their measures will be very different from the last administration. I think they are sincere—but time will show. There are conflicting interests—or what are supposed to be so by some persons, that I fear will do harm—one article in the constitution which in reality means next thing to nothing I fear will do some harm.

Send word to Emily that I am well.

The cholora is at hand and very fatal. So I bid you farewell in case this should be the last.

S. F. A.

To John Austin

[Address:] Al Sor Don Samuel M. Williams San Felipe de Austin

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Austin to Minister of Relaciones[1]

E. S. En desempeño de la comision q. me confirio la convencion de Tejas, tengo el honor de presentar á V. E. la representacion hecha por la misma convencion solicitando q. se derogue el articulo 11. de la ley de 6. de Abril de 1.830.[2] Respecto á este asunto permitame V. E. llamar la atencion del Gob^no^ á la representacion del Ayuntam^to^ de Austin fha. 15 de feb^o^ de 1.832.[3] y la del de Bejar fha. 19. de Diciembre del mismo año[4] y á la iniciativa de la Legislatura del Estado de Coahuila y Tejas de este año, todas solicitando la derogacion de la citada ley. De mi parte solo añadiré q. la operacion del citado articulo es en sumo grado ruinoso, pues há impedido la emigracion de familias honradas y capitalistas, sin estorbar en lo

[1] Ibid.
[2] Above, Apr. 13, 1833.
[3] Above, Feb. 18, 1832.
[4] Copy in Filisola, Memorias para la Historia de la Guerra de Tejas, I, 273–293.

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mas minimo la de gentes de otra clase. La esperiencia há demostrado q. es casi imposible poblar á Tejas esclusivamente por mexicanos y europeos y de consiguiente los antiguos habitantes y pobladores q. han redimido aquel pais del despoblado se hallan en el dia sin esperanzas de sacar algun provecho de sus trabajos ó aun de poder vivir en tranquilidad, pues la poblacion de indios errantes y hombres sueltos se está aumentando con rapidez, sin q. haya poder en el humano p^{a} impedir su introduccion por ahora. El resultado natural de esta y otras restricciones y males q. sufre aquel pais, há sido un descontento y falta de confianza general, un desaliento q. aprocsima ya, á la desesperacion; por q. los hombres de juicio no pueden ver otra fruto de sus trabajos pasados, q. el de sus sufrimientos continuados y ruina. Los habitantes de Tejas han creido q. las medidas restrictivas adoptadas desde el *plan de Jalapa* respecto á aquel pais, eran parte del sistema general de politica retrograda de la adm^{on} que dimanó del citado plan; y por lo mismo tiene la mas ciega confianza q. serán derogadas por la actual adm^{on} y Congreso liberal y republicano, cuyo objeto es la felicidad de los pueblos y el adelanto de todas partes de la Federacion. Suplico pues, q. se sirva S. E. el V. Presid^{te} dar la direccion á este asunto q. estime conven^{te} p^{a} su pronto y favorable despacho; al mismo tiempo tributando á V. E. los respetos de mi consideracion y aprecio. Dios y Libertad. Mexico 12. de Agosto de 1833: Estevan F. Austin. E. S. Ministro de Relaciones C. Carlos Garcia.

Es copia.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Mexico Augt. 14 1833

D^{r} Sir,

I know not whether I am writing to a living or a dead man, for I have never heard whether you have returned, or are on earth, or under it. I hope the former.

I think that a little patience will put all Texas matters on a solid basis. I believe the 11 article of the law of 6 April 1830 will soon be repealed. The State question must take the round of the other states as the constitution prescribes. It was my duty to sustain the ground taken in the memorial and I did so to the last, but that question is decided and it must go the round.

By this mail the newspapers go on to all the Ayuntamtos free of cost. I have applied for a mail from Nacogdoches to Sabinas and from Matamoros to Goliad and from San Felipe to Brazoria and

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Liberty. The subject of aduana and derecho is also under consideration. You will not forget that the titles for my 11 *sitios* must be finished before October or they will all be lost.

The cholera is very bad here, and so far as the *premonitory simptons* extend, I am now in a fair way to get rid of Texas and all of her troubles. Farewell

S. F. AUSTIN

S. M. Williams.

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Mexico Augt. 21. 1833 wednesday

Dr Sir,

Yours of 13 July came to hand yesterday via vera cruz—it was a relief to me for I began to think the cholera had taken you off. I recd the two letters of credit on E W Gregory of one thousand dollars and have not used them yet, but expect shall have to do it in part, at least.

What are considered promonitory simptons of cholera gave me warning since monday of last week. I was then much engaged in trying to get the 11 article of the law of 6 april before congress in a favorable shape and it was to have been sent in on wednesday, but the cholera prevented a meeting and has done so ever since on that day I fatigued myself very much indeed. This brought my simptons to a crisis, for I was taken about 3 o'clock P. M. with excessive purging of a whitish mucos character, great pain in bowels, cold feet, legs, hands, etc, pains over the body—no cramps—moderate vomiting—this was evidently the first stage of this desease and would probably have passed into the collapse in a short time. It was at this moment I closed a few lines to you by the last mail and applied cholera remidy—in about ¾ of an hour I was releived by a fine perspiration which I think saved my life, for others have died in less than one hour whose simptons were similar to mine. This desease prostrates the strength to a most astonishing degree. I find that I sensibly feel the effects of the billious attacks I have had in Texas and the quantity of calomel etc I had to take—my stomach is so debilitated that I have to diet with great caution to avoid a relapse.

I think I shall go out tomorrow to Tacubaya—two leagues, where Genl Mason—Butler and many others have retired some time since—

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all kind of business is suspended. I must wait untill the cholera subsides. I fully believe that 11 article of law of 6 april 1830 will be repealed in a few days after business is resumed again and the state question I think will be placed on favorable grounds and will also succeed—tho I may be deceived.

Sterling Robinson [Robertson] has presented to the State Gov[t] a long memorial about his business in which there are depositions taken before Chrisman to prove that he introduced a great number of settlers which I took away from him etc. how he could get men to state such falsehoods or agents to advocate and arrange them I am at a loss to imagine—it has really surprised me—it seems that I shall never learn to suspect mankind or to know, untill I am driven into mysanth[r]opy.

As to the man you talked with at orleans who said he would take a different course and induce his brother to do so—I can only say that God can certainly change the negro to a white man, but that is a miracle not common in our days. what I mean is that envy, jealoucy, malignity when once deeply fixed in the human heart and fostered by boyish and silly vanity, are not easily rooted out, nor easily controuled.

The holders of 11 L. grants ask three four and even $10000 for them—que tal—many of them will be lost for october is the limit for the locations. I am anxious to secure the 11 L tract surveyed by Brown east of colorado foot of mountains, do not neglect this and put it in the name of Jose Maria Aguirre in preference to the others—attend to them all, I want that place to get out of trouble for I mean to go and live there—it is out of the way and will do for an academy scheme with which I can amuse myself and do good to others. I have not seen Gen Mexia he is with Santana—Zavala is at Toluca, has only been a few hours in Mexico since I arrived he will be in after the cholera is over. Mexia is the most firm republican there is in this country and I believe one of the most honest and best men in it—they are both friends of the state question. Don Victor has been more bitter than anyone I have heard of—he is now much softened down and is not a violent enemy. He is a decided friend to the repeal of the april law.

Close all the important colony business as quick as possible, and keep clear of speculators, they are friends just so long as is necessary to get a hold on one, by which ruin or disgrace can be brought on and no longer—caution John against all speculators and take care not to involve me or my name. I had rather herd with vermin than with that class of human beings. Write to Perry that I am

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well—and think that I am cholera proof. I hope they may be fever proof this year, but I tremble for them after the overflow—they ought to go to chocolate bayou. No one writes to me. I know not whether you are all dead or alive. I got one letter from John late in June—this is the only one—how is little Stephen and Henry Austins family and my sister and how is Perry getting on at peach point and a thousand things that someone might write me.

I hope Sarah and children are all well and all goes on harmoniously. I shall spare no labor on this trip, for it is my last—others are desirous to take the lead and I am quite anxious they should. I confess that I am tired of abuse which I never have merrited, and do what I may I expect nothing else from one set in Texas, tho they are poor devils, unprincipled, brutal and ungenerous and ungrateful—with all the errors and infernal spanish prejudices and ignorance of these people, I cannot help but feel a great anxiety for their welfare and prosperity—they wish to be free and to be like the rest of the civilized world and I think it is more noble to try and aid them and encourage, than to abuse and ridicule. Do try and soften some of our *rough boys* as to the Bexar people. I assure you that all Texas is greatly in debt to Bexar for the remonstrance of 19 Decr last—that paper was reprinted here and has had more weight in favor of Texas, than all that has been done or said. I doubt much whether the memorial of the convention would have been even looked at, had not the minds of Govt. been prepared by the Bexar representation. It came from *natives* and is believed. I was fully aware of all this—an therefore wasted so much time and pains to effect that object for which some of our *boys* abused me—vaya. I hope soon to be once far in beyond their reach—two trips to Bexar in the dead of winter exposed to rain and indians, and a trip to Mexico all on my own expense, and get brutal slander for pay—none but a fool, a poor devil would continue to serve people who treated him in that way, or would suffer others to do it. I will however do my duty and serve them faithfully, at the risk of life and all I am worth. I have undertaken to do it and I will do it—but for the future I will try and look to my own comfort a little more and keep myself free from such enormous responsibilities which none but an honest and liberal man can comprehend or appreciate. I ought to despise my slanderers and do despise them, but it sours me with human nature. I am too apt to run into extremes. I followed conciliation to a great extreme from a sense of duty to the settlers—and I am not in danger of falling into its opposite extremes.

[Stephen F. Austin.]

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Austin in Account with Washington Hotel

Col. Austin

1833 To Washington Hotel Dr.

July	16	To Cash pd postage of a letter	$0.	2
	23	" 1 Bot Madiera	2	4
	"	1 Glass brandy	0	1
	"	1 do do	0	1
	29	1 Bot Ale	"	3
	"	Rent of room No. 2 from July 19th–23d is 5 days@ 6½ Rs	4.	0½
		Rent of front Sala from 24th to 31 July is 8 days@$1 is	8.	0
	"	Board from July 19th to 31st is 13 days@$9 per week	$16.	5¾
	"	2 Glasses Spts (26)	"	2
	"	6 Segars (27)	"	1
	"	1 glass (28)	"	1
	"	1 do 29	"	1
	30	1 do		1
	31	1 do		1
			$33.	11¼
Augt	4	To 1 Glass brandy	"	1
	5	" 1 do do	"	1
	6	" 1 do do	"	1
	8	" 1 do do	"	1
	9	" 1 do punch	"	2
	12	1 Bot brandy	1	4
		1 Glass do	"	1
		1 do do	"	1
		Amt carried over	$35.	4¼
1833		To Amt brot over	$35.	4¼
Augt	12	To Brandy Sling	"	2
	"	" 1 Glass brandy	"	1
	13	" 1 do do	"	1
	16	" 1 mint Sling	"	2
	19	" 1 Glass brandy	"	1
	21	" 1 Glass brandy	"	1
	22	" 1 Mint Sling	"	2
	"	" Board from 1st Inst to 21st inclusive is 3 weeks@$9	27	
	"	" Lodging and lights from 13th to 21st is 9 days 6½	7	2½
			$71.	0¾

Recd. this above in full Mixico Augt. 22d 1833

H J Offutt and Co

Col. Austins Bill
Amt $71, 0¾
Augt 22d 1833

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AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Mexico Augt. 28. 1833

Dr Sir.

I fear that your detention in mobile will do some harm—you know that in October the time expires for locating grants—have all that attended to and take care not to forget Padillas. I have three leagues out of his which I do not wish to loose—also attend to my title for the balance of my premium land.

The cholera is abating but there has been no session of congress since the 14 and it is expected there will [be] no business done until next month. It is said that upwards of 16.000 have died.

The revolution is not yet ended. Arista has possession of Guanajuato and there are a variety of reports about the progress of the Crusade party, but I do not think they can succeed. The civil war may probably be protracted sometime.

I can say nothing definite as to Texas matters—they are all before congress but when there will be a session I know not—neither is there any certainty at all, what congress will do as to Texas. I have strong doubts on the subject.

Tadeo Ortiz has been sent to the U. S. by Government on some misterious mission, but what it is I cannot tell—some say it is to take Poles, or Germans or somebody else to Texas to dam out the north americans—stop the mississippi river with a dam of straw—he told me he would be in Texas in Novr. and I think he is friendly to the people there and liberal in his ideas etc nothing of much interest has transpired since my last—all is suspended by the cholera—all is melancholy with *death* and *civil war*. I am better but debilitated

S. F. A

Do not neglect the tract that Brown surveyed east of colorado foot of mountains—one of H. Austins is not yet located. Close all up as fast as possible—no one can tell what is ahead.

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Mexico September 5. 1833

Dr Sir,

I am in better spirits as to the result of our Texas matters, than I have been in since my arrival—a material change has been effected in the minds of several leading men on that subject and I now think that there will be no material opposition to the repeal of the 11

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article of the 6th april law. The duties I think will be suspended in toto for one year at least and perhaps longer, or if this is not done, there will be an important modification. I shall also succeed fully in the alterations of the mails which I have proposed and the 11 article of the april law will be repealed.

I have confidence in the result which I now anticipate, because this matter has been the subject of *much* and very mature deliberation, and the conclusions which I think the govt. and leading men in congress have come to, are therefore not hastily formed and may be relyed upon with the more confidence for that reason. Upon the whole I am of opinion that my trip to Mexico in 1833, will do as much, and perhaps more good for Texas, than my trip in 1822 did—the latter laid a foundation to build upon, the former [will] raise the superstructure by removing the obstacles that have impeded its progress, and Texas will then become a State of this republic, in harmony with the constitution and with the other states. But should the *invaders* succeed the aspect will be changed. Texas has not much to expect from the *army* or the *church*. I have unlimited confidence in the vice President Gomez Farias, and I think that Texas will have cause to remember him with gratitude. Nothing is now wanting but a meeting of congress to dispatch all favorably. These matters were not sufficiently matured and understood, for congress to act *safely* on them untill within a week past, so that upon the whole, the cholera has done no harm in preventing the meeting of congress. *There is nothing like patience and perseverance.*

The representations from Gonzalez and Trinity published at Monclova against the state, have had a good effect. I used them to show that the people were disposed to submit to Govt. and did not wish to drive, or force measures, because they had confidence—that Govt. would do what was right and just etc. I was told that this confidence was not misplaced etc. remember that october is the limit for locating grants—don't neglect that business. Don Victor is very uneasy about his business—don't neglect it—he is now a warm friend to Texas—don't forget Padill[a's] [gra]nt—also H. Austins one league.

I suppose that I am tota[lly] forgotten in Texas. I have only recd. one letter from there since I started—that was from John dated 24 June.

There are still some cases of cholera tho. not many—my health is good—write to Perry and Phillips the contents of this and remember me to all persons, for I wish well to everybody in Texas.

S. F. A.

I refer you to my letter to the Ayuntamiento.

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AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Septr. 11 1833

I have nothing important to say, more than what I have said in my letters by last mail, except that my opinion is strengthened since then, that the 6 of april law will be repealed in ten days after congress meets. It is expected there will be a meeting next monday (this is wednesday). In fact I now have very little, or rather no doubts at all on this question. The mails and the reduction of duties will also be done, and the State matter will be sent to the other States in a favourable shape to be speedily and favourably dispatched—so say the most influencial men in congress and in the Govt.

The revolution is not over and God knows when it will be—I fear not very soon—tho something decissive must take place shortly for the two armies are in the field again and near each other. The cholera is nearly over—20.000 dead in this city as is said I think about 18000—it was horrible. Don't forget that october is the limit for locating grants—remember Padilla and H. Austin and Victor Blanco and collect my dues, give the notes to Perry

S. F. A.

Al sor Dr Samuel M. Williams administrador de correos en
AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Mexico Sept. 11 1833

Dr BROTHER

I have nothing particular to say, more than what I informed you of by last mail. The cholera has abated, but there is not yet a majority of members in this city so that there will be no meeting of Congress for a week or ten days yet.

I think I shall succeed in getting the 11 article of 6 april law repealed—the establishment of weekly mails from Monclova to Sabine, from Matamoras to Goliad and from San Felipe to Brazoria and Liberty

The duties on Importations will be reduced and probably suspended, for a time in toto, tho the latter is not yet certain.

The State question must take its course as prescribed in the constitution and be sent to the other States.

The revolution is not over and God knows when it will be. I have great confidence in the vice president Gomez Farias, If the heroes of the + [cross] get the upper hand it is difficult to say what they will do as to Texas matters and it is very probable there will

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be a breaking up of the Govt. But there is no prospect that they will succeed at present.

In October the time expires for locating grants. See that Williams attends to all that business and also to Padillas—dont neglect this. Also try and collect something on the notes due me. I shall spend about 2000 Dollars or probably 2,500 on this trip and as I am laboring for the common good no honest man will refuse to pay what he justly owes me.

Were it not for you and Emily and the *Old Settlers* I doubt whether I Should not remain here for a year or two—that is unless the revolution continues, for then no one will be safe here.

I have recd. *one* letter from Texas since I left there. from John dated in June—I have written every mail since I arrived here, I hope the family are all well at Chocolate Bayou. I have more confidence of health there than at peach point I do not know whether Williams has returned—or not—he was to have left Mobile about the middle of July as he wrote me from there. Tell John to keep clear of land speculators. I had rather herd with devils than with that class of mankind.

I am unhappy that I do not hear from you—how are the children—what kind of a crop—how is Stephen (my brothers boy) and your neighbors and a thousand things,

My health is good at this time

farewell S. F. A—

There were 43000 sick here at one time The deaths I believe have been about 18000. I have never witnessed such a horrible scene of distress and death. The common people in a part of the state of Puebla got an idea that the water was poisoned by the foreigners and they massacred seven frenchmen in one village—all the foreigners in that place. Remember me to H Austin and Phillips and his wife and to your neighbors—tell Henry that he must not neglect to locate his other League of land before the time expires.

I cannot tell when I shall get home I intend to persevere to the end and effect what I came for if I can regardless of time or expense.

S. F A.

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Mexico October 2 1833

Dr Brother,

I am so much afflicted by accounts of the deaths by cholera in Texas that I can scarcely write anything. I have heard of John Austin, his wife and child and of my [dear?] sister's daughter Mary. . . . Cap. Martin. Good God what a blow. And whether it has taken

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you all off is uncertain. I am too wretched to write much on this subject or any other.

I left with Williams a great number of deeds signed by me so that he might furnish all the titles of the . . . colony. Take possession of them and of all my papers. Should these blanks fall into bad hands they will make any use of them they please.

I will try and get home as soon as I can. There has been no meeting of Congress since early in August until a few days since, so that nothing is done. I shall wait but a short time longer. I am tired of this government. They are always in revolution and I believe always will be. I have had much more respect for them than they deserve. But I am done with all that. You do not write to me [no one] writes to me. farewell

S. F. AUSTIN

[Addressed:] Al Sor J. F. Perry del Comercio San Felipe de Austin

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AUSTIN TO AYUNTAMIENTO OF BEXAR[1]

Numero 2. En el oficio q^e^ diriji á V. S. fecha 14 de Agosto procsimo pasado espresé la opinion q^e^ los asuntos de Tejas tendrian un resultado favorable. Desde entonces há habido muy pocas sesiones del Congreso á causa del Colera. Los Acontecim^tos^ de la guerra Civil tambien han embarazado todos los negocios públicos, de modo q^e^ hasta ahora nada se há hecho, y tengo el sentimiento de decir q^e^ en mi opinion nada se hará, y q^e^ es dificil formar idea del resultado de la Guerra Civil. En este estado de cosas, recomiendo q^e^ todos los Ayuntam^tos^ de Tejas se pongan en comunicacion sin demora ninguna á fin de organizar un gobierno local p^a^ Tejas en clace de estado de la federacion mejicana, fundado en la ley de 7 de Mayo de 1824 y de tener todo preparado p^a^ verificarlo en union y armonia, luego q^e^ se sepa q^e^ el Cong^so^ general há recusado su aprobacion. Este paso es de indispensable necesidad como medida preparatoria, por q^e^ ya no hay duda q^e^ la suerte de Tejas depende de si mismo y no de este Gobierno, ni la hay en q^e^ si los habitantes de Tejas no toman todos sus asuntos en sus propias manos, eso pais está perdido. Y estoy firmemente persuadido q^e^ la medido q^e^ recomiendo es la unica q^e^ se puede adoptar p^a^ salvarnos de la anarquia y de la ruina entera. En tal Concepto espero q^e^ no perderá V. S. un solo momento en dirijir una comunicacion á todos los Ayuntamientos de Tejas, ecsitandoles á reunirse en la media de organizar un gobierno local independiente de Coahuila, aunq^e^ negace el gobierno gral. su con-

[1] University of Texas Transcripts from Archives of Department of Fomento, Mexico. See also Austin to the Ayuntamiento, Nov. 18, 1833.

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sentimiento. Dios y Tejas Mejico 2 de Oct^{e} de 1833. Esteban F. Austin. Ayuntam^{to} de Bejar.

Es Copia de su orij ^{l} q^{e} ecsiste en el Archivo de la Sria. de mi cargo de donde se mandó sacar por disposicion del Ecsmo. Sor. Gobernador Monclova y Marzo 18 de 1834.

J. Miguel Falcon. Srio [Rúbrica]

Austin to James F. Perry

Mexico 23 October 1833.

D^{r} Brother,

It gives me much pleasure to inform you that the decree repealing the 11 article of the law of 6 April 1830 passed the chamber of deputies yesterday almost unanimously, and was discussed today in the senate and two articles were approved (there are three articles in the decree) when the senate adjourned. There was strong opposition in the senate on the ground that the Govt. of the U. S. would take Texas if any more were alowed to come in from that nation and many other very foolish and absurd objections, but the majority were in favor of the law and I am told there is no doubt the other article will pass tomorrow

Genl. Santana is expected in the city in three days and after he arrives I will try (a final tryal) on the state question. I told the vice President the other day that Texas must be made a state by the Govt. or she would make herself one. This he took as a threat and became very much enraged—however when he understood that my object was only to state a positive fact which it was my duty to state, he was reconciled. I had told him and the ministers the same thing ever since I came here. The fact is this govt. ought to make a state of Texas, or transfer her to the U. S. without delay and there is some probability at this time that one or the other will be done. A short time now will determine this matter in some way No one writes to me from Texas I hope you have taken possession of all my papers desk etc that is if it be true as reported here that Williams is dead, which I hope to God is not the case. I left blanks signed to close the coast colony and should they fall into bad hands an improper use might be made of them— take possession of them all—

I have had to draw on Orleans for one thousand dollars. This trip will cost me very dear, but I care nothing about that if *either* of the two events above mentioned can take place, or if any good results to Texas and its inhabitants— all my desires and ambition are limited to the sole object of benefiting that country—tho I must confess that some of the good folks there irritate me very much sometimes with their personal animosities and jealousies—but it is of short duration.

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Love to my beloved Sister and all the children and to your neighbors

Your brother S———

I have written every mail since my arrival here on the 18 July—

[Addressed:] Mr. James F. Perry Merchant San Felipe de Austin Texas

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W. S. Parrott in Account with Austin

Mexico, Oct'r 23d 1833

W. S. Parrott

To S. F. Austin, Dr.

Draft favor Franco Pisarro Martinez	$709.09
do do E. G. Carvajal	290.91
	$1,000—
Sold at 10% premium	100.
	$1,100 —

for confirmation, see File of McKinney and Williams accts—

[Indorsed:] W. S. Parrott Drafts sold him Mexico, Oct'r 23d 1833

James F. Perry to Austin

Peach Point 26th Oct. 1833

Dear Brother

Your letters of the 30th of July—the 5th and 11th of Sept. dated at Mexico came to hand two days ago it gave us verry great pleasure to receive them and to hear of your good state of health, as we had heard through Williams that you had wrote him you had at the time you wrote all the premonetary simptims of the Cholera and as it had been very fatle here scarsely any who was attaced with it that recovered. We was very much alarmed for your safety but kind providence has preserved you to us and to the Colony—Which still needs your Guardien hand to guid them through.

To give you an account of the over flow Cholara, Fevers and deaths in the colony I presume would be unnessary as I expect Mr Williams has given you full acts. We would have wrote you long since but did not think our Leatters would reach you as When you left Matamoras you expected your stay in Mexico would be very short we will now give you a short act. of the sickness and deaths in our emediate neighbourhood on your return you will find a great vacuam in this part of the country. but before we say anything of the neighborhood we will give you some account of our own famales sickness. Our famely has not been entirely clear of sickness since June and part of the time scarsely enough well of either servants or whites to wait on the sick and at the worst of our sickness there was not a Physician could be had or a neighbour to call to see us Emily was verry low indeed I scarsely thought she could recover. But it

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was the will of providence to save her to her famaly and friends but our dear little Mary it was her lot to be taken from us. She was sick only five days. With the fever and was called of very sudenly and verry unexpectedly. She died on the 4th august. We feel and regret her loss much— the balance of the famaly are now generally in tolarable health. Some of them have still slight chills and fevers but we hope they will soon ware off as the weather is getting quit[e] cool on the 21st we had a heavy white frost which is considered very early here.

With regard to our crops and improvements we have done verry little since the middle of June as the Blacks were all sick as well as ourselves we made a good crop of corn and pumpkins about 8 or 900 bushels of corn and plenty of pumpkins. We planted 13 acres of cotton the last week in June which bid fair to do pretty well but the early frost has injured it much as it had not commenced opening we do not expect much of a crop cotten is now a fine price in N. O. from 16 to 18 cts. There is fine cropes in this neighbourhood and I am told all over the coloney where the overflow did not injure it the season has been very wet at least untile about the middle of September (since prety dry) together with the over flow is the reason, assigned for sickly season, this low country has been visited more severely with sickness and deaths than the upper but that has not bean entirely clear. there has been recently a good deal of sickness at San felepe and above and a good many deaths in our neighbourhood we have lost old Mr McNeel (fever) Mr. Westall, James and Emeline (cholera) and Mr Munson (fever) which leves a very considerable vackancey here in Brazoria our friend John austin both his children Mrs Wm austin—Anthony the printer, Bradly and a number of negroes all died at Westall with the cholara. there was six or seven corps there at one time before they could be buried as the neighbours were afraid to approach them a great many more of your acquantances you will find gon among them are Doctr Cox and counsel. counsels wife and child. Jno Cox on the Bernard and a number of others not recolected it is said there was 80 persons died at Brazoria in the course of the summer and Velasco was nearly depopulated by the cholera.

Since you left I wrote to Missouri for a Mr Alex Somervill a man I have been acquainted with for many years and in whom I have full confidence he come in may and Austin and him have been in charge of the store since I gave him an interest as I thought it best. Austin was at school most of the summer learning Spanish and says he has improved a great deal. they have sold a good many goods as they had the best assortment in San Felepe Mr S. is going in a few days to N O to get a few goods to replenish Joel and Beared are now gone to collect your cattle as it is the first oppertunity we have had all sumer in concequence of the wet season the heat and the flies.

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Col Philips has been laid up all summer with his sore leg. fever etc Mrs. P. is well the last acts. We have Mr Pilgrim Teaching here Stephen F. Austin is going to school from his grand mothers he is a smart boy and Mr. Pilgram says he will learn well Guy Steph and Eliza are going and as soon as Joel gets done writing some accounts I have him to do, I will send him. Lavinia wishes to be kindly rememberd to you she leves for the U. S. in a few days, Simon is well and has been a good boy.

[J. F. PERRY.]

AUSTIN TO AYUNTAMIENTO OF NACOGDOCHES[1]

El articulo 11 de la ley de 6 de Abril 1830 esta derogado, y los asuntos politicos de Texas y de toda la republica han tomado un aspecto muy favorable y alagueño.

El Congreso gral ha hecho mas para la causa de la verdadera libertad en los ultimos diez dias que todo lo hecho antes en los ultimos diez años.

Dios, Libertad y federacion. Mexico 30 de Octubre de 1833.

Ayuntam^to^ Nacogdoches. ESTEVAN F AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN IN ACCOUNT WITH WASHINGTON HOTEL

Col. S. F. Austin

1833		To Washington Hotel Dr.	
Sept.	30	To Amt of acct to the date as per acct	$90. 7½
Oct	2	To 3 Segars	" 1
	4	To 1 Glass brandy	1
	"	To 1 do do	1
	5	" 1 mint sling	2
	"	" 1 Glass bounce	1
	6	" 1 do brandy	1
	"	" 1 Cocktail	2
	7	" 1 Glass brandy	1
	7	" 1 Bot wine	1, 2
	10	" 1 Cash on a/c	10
	11	" 1 Cash on a/c	10
	12	" 1 Bot wine	1, 2
	13	" 1 Glass brandy	1
	17	" 1 Bot Madeira	2, 4
	17	" Mint Sling	" 2
	21	" Cash pd your Subscription to Mrs David	2
	22	" 1 Bot wine	1 2
	"	" 1 Glass Sling	" 2
	23	" 1 do brandy	" 2
	26	" 1 do do	" 1
	"	" 1 do do	" 1
	"	" Cash on a/c	3
	"	" do do	7
To amt Carried over			$131. 3½

[1] From Nacogdoches Archives, Texas State Library.

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1833	To Amt Brot over	$131. 3½		
Oct 28	To 1 Glass brandy	" 1		
31	Cash on a/c	30		
"	Board from 1st to 31st Inst is 4 weeks and 3 days @$9	39 7		
	Room rent from 1st to 31st Inst is 31 days @$06½	25 1½		
				$226. 5
1833				
Augt 28	By cash in copper $0. 4			
Oct 2	" cash deposited	90. 4		
				90. 4
	Balance due W Hotel			$136. 1

Recd Nov 8th 1833 from Col S F Austin his order on W S Parrott for the above Balance

H J Offutt & Co.
W Jno Black [Rubric]

Ayuntamiento of Bexar to Austin[1]

The honorable ayuntamiento of this town, being advised of the official letter which you directed to it, dated the 2d of the month just passed, has seen with the greatest regret and surprise the exciting plea which you make to them that not a moment be lost in directing a communication to the rest of the department and treating with them in order that Texas may separate from Coahuila and establish a local government for itself, even though the general government refuses its consent. It is certainly very regretable that you should breathe sentiments so contrary and opposed to those of every good Mexican, whose constitution and laws prohibit in a positive manner this class of proceedings, as you very well know, and when the ephemeral support which it is believed to have in the general law of the 7th of May, 1824, is entirely apparent to the most moderate political capacity of the country. Thus it is that this corporation neither can nor ought, nor even wishes, to follow your suggestion, and it begs that you cease writing to it in regard to this matter, because you know very well what these communications render one liable to, considering the laws and orders of the state which must be obeyed, and which up to the present time there is no reason to violate in so brusque a manner as you propose—especially as there is wanting any reasonable ground which could be sustained, once the enterprise were begun.

[1] Copy in Bexar Archives and in Transcripts from Archives of Department of Fomento, Mexico, University of Texas. The translation is in the main the work of Mrs. Margaret Kress, of the department of Spanish of the University of Texas.

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Much has already been said in what has been written concerning the separation of Texas from Coahuila, and much more that you heard here personally, showing you clearly that we have none of the elements, physically and morally, for sustaining a local government. It is beyond all doubt, therefore, that this project neither can nor ought to be entertained by any citizen of Coahuila and Texas who recognizes the interests of his country and of himself.

In conclusion, this corporation entreats you, inasmuch as the state of revolution in which the colonies of this department, especially that of which you are empresario, have been placed since last year seems about to be terminated by the measures of leniency and prudence which the supreme government of the state has lately decreed, that you bethink yourself and do not provoke a new motive for disturbance, which, as you will see if you clearly examine it, must be more injurious to the colonists than to any one else, and particularly to yourself. We desire the progress of this country, and with it our own and that of the colonists established in it, our co-laborers for the attainment of the desired end. But we desire that this be attained by legal and peaceful measures which shall not jeopardize the tranquillity of the department, and that we may assure to ourselves and to our children forever the possession of the properties that we acquire in it; and there is no doubt that the measure which you propose is exceedingly rash.

God and Liberty.

Bejar, Oct. 31, 1833.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Mexico Novr. 5—1833

D^r^ Sir.

A number of cases occurred here during the Cholera of persons who died, were taken to the grave and then came to life again—one man, rolled up in a blanket was thrown into a pit with many others, lime was first spread over them. It operated on this man so as to stimulate him to life again—he got up and walked home. His appearance there could not have caused a more sudden and agreable surprise, than the sight of your letter of 17 sept. did to me. Col B. [Butler] rec^d^ letters from C. [Coles?] and W. [Whiteside] stating in the positive that you and Cap Martin were dead. Doctor Rivers wrote the same from Monclova so that I had no doubt of it. I really congratulate you and Sarah that they were mistaken.

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The law repealing the 11 article of 6 april 1830 passed both houses ten days since, and I understand has been approved by the president but it is not published yet—presume it will be in two or three days.

I think that all the Texas matters will be satisfactorily arranged in a short time. I shall remain here as long as anything is undone,—if there is a prospect of doing any good by it. I think something will be effected in the mail and customhouse arrangements. It is said that Zavala is to be minister of State, and some speak of Gen[l] Mejia for the war department. I believe there will be a change of ministers in a few days.

I have had two interviews with the President Santana. He speaks very friendly about Texas. I am of opinion that if you all keep quiet and obey the state laws that the *substance* of all Texas wants will be granted. The appearance of things is much better than it was a month or even two weeks ago.

Bustamante, Arista and a large number of the banished, about 300 left here a few days since for vera cruz to embark—they were banished for life.

Congress have repealed all laws that gave power to judges or civil authority to enforce the collection of *diezmos*, or to compel nuns or monkes to remain in convents contrary to their will—so that it is now a mere matter of *conscience* to pay tythes or stay in a convent, several nuns are out already— the whole system as it existed is undergoing a change desean tumbar lo gotico, y fabricar conforme a lo moderno.

No 11 league grants can be had now for any price within reason—*not one.*

I wish you to reflect on the awkward situation your affairs as well as mine would have been left, if you had actually died—and try and close them all so as to run no more risks for the future. Luke writes that all will be content with sending the State question to the States. This remark of his displays more common sense than was in the fashion when I left. I got a letter from Coles the last of september of an opposite character which had a very bad effect. It has taken almost ever since to remedy the evils proclaimed by it. what I mean to say is that it irritated me and I *acted* under that influence—but all is smooth again.

D[n] Victor Blanco is a good friend—he rejoices much that you are not a ghost, and wishes you to be very attentive to finish *all* the titles for which you are agent which I hope you will do and write to him.

I doubt whether I shall return now I will stay as long as anything is to be done for the good of Texas. The sacrifice Luke speaks of (as a main thing) is with me a secondary affair. I would sacri-

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fice my property and life to serve Texas and the substantial settlers, the farmers and working men—but I would not willingly do that much for men who would cut me, if they could. I have drawn on N. O (Beers, St John and co) for one thousand dollars on the letters of credit you sent me. I think I shall not need any more.

Get the titles from Padilla (3 leagues) and make the transfers of the Aguirrie tract for as they now stand your death would loose them, as you will see by examining the subject. The tract that Brown surveyed east of colorado I wish to keep and will not part from at present. Also close the Cole business and in fact all other matters and be ready for *anything* that may happen.

My present opinion is that *all* will result fortunately (that is if you all keep quiet at home) but in these ticklish times, almost every day brings in unexpected change of some kind.

I fear much difficulty about the state from *one* quarter, and I have just been told that an effort would be made from *that* source to make it a territory under the plan of the territories in the U. S. I replyed that I should protest against it, and told the President so or rather showed him my instructions on that point—besides this, there is no constitutional power in congress to make it a territory. To be more plain I am just now informed that Za. [Zavala] is in favor of a territory tho he told me the reverse not two days since. I told him I should protest against it. Since then he has not said anything to me about it.

[Stephen F. Austin.]

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Antonio

Desde mi ultimo oficio fha 2 del presente mes los negocios publicos han tomado un aspecto mas favorable.

Por la capitulacion de Arista en Guanajuato ya se ha considerado p^{a} terminada la revolucion, y el congreso se ha dedicado a las grandes reformas que se necesitan para quitar las anomalias monstruosas q. han ecsistido en la practica y derecho en su administracion del gobierno tan opuestas y contradictarias al sistema republicano federal.

La camara de diputados se ocupa actualm^{te} con la ley de 6 de abril de 1830 q. tanto ha perjudicada a Tejas. La comicion presentado su dictamen en fabor de la derogacion del articulo 11 de la citada ley y su discusion está señalada p^{a} el dia de mañana.

No se puede mover el asunto de la admision de Tejas de la federacion en clase de estado h^{ta} q. se concluya el de la ley de 6 de abril.

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En la semana espero una resolucion final de todos los asuntos de Tejas.

Concidero dudosa la resolucion sobre la cuestion del estado y por lo mismo reitero la opinion espresada en mi ultimo oficio, q. todos los ayuntamientos deven ponerse de acuerdo para organizar un gob^no^ local bajo el art^o^ de la ley de 7 de Mayo de 1824, luego q. se sepa la resolucion del congreso sobre la materia.

Dios y Libertad y Federacion, Mexico, 16 de Octubre de 1833. Ayuntam^to^ de Bejar.

ESTEBAN F. AUSTIN.

Es copia Bejar Nov^e^ 18 de 1833. J. Maria Balmaceda srio. int^o^.

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Mexico Novr. 26 1833

D^r^ SIR.

The law repealing the 11 article of the law of 6 april 1830, was passed by both houses, as I informed you in former letters, but, unfortunately it was not sent to the executive untill the day of Santanas entrance into this city from Guanajuato. Gomez Farias went out that day and the *hero* went into the presidential chair—he retained the law 9 days and returned it on the 10th to congress requesting that its operation should be suspended for six months. This was unanimously agreed to by both houses, and the law was finally published on the 21 instant so that the repeal does not take effect untill the 21st May next.

I think it doubtfull whether my letters reach Texas, I will therefore merely say that I leave in about ten days for home by land—perhaps I shall go on with Gen^l^ Pedro Lemus who is appointed Com^nt^ Gen^l^ in place of Felisola. Mejia has the command in chief in the South where the civil war [is] Still raging tho I think that Mejia will soon terminate it. he is in the direction of Acapulco. and Gen^l^ Victoria is in Oaxaca.

Texas matters are all right. nothing is wanted there but *quiet*. No troops go with Gen^l^ Lemus—Santana hung up the State question and wished to have Texas made a territory, and I believe that I have been the means of preventing it and that question is also hung up. This has made me *a goodly number of enemies* here who wished for a Territory—*nada importa*—all will go right. Close up all pending matters. It is now very important to harmonise with Bexar. Keep this in view. I shall be at home soon.

[STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.]

[Addressed:] Don Samuel M Williams San Felipe de Austin Texas.

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CARLOS GARCIA TO AUSTIN

La esposicion q. dirigieron los Colonos de Tejas al Congreso gral. pª q. aquella parte del territorio Mejicano se ingrese en Estado absolutamente independiente del de Coahuila, se pasó ála Cámara de Diputados con fha. 21. de Agosto último recomendándoles la importancia y prontitud del despacho de este negocio. Asi se ha manifestado á V. en esta Secretª, y sele ha instruido delas providencias q. ha tomado el Gobierno en obsequio de aqª Colonia.

Entre otras ha sido escitar al Gobº del Estado áfin de q. procurase á los Colonos todos los goces á q. sin duda son acreedores como cualquier Megicano, asi en lo civil como en lo criminal, y á este fin se les indicáron los medios q. debian ponerse en práctica pr. la mas recta y mas cómoda administracion de Justicia en uno y otro ramo, siendo uno de ellos el establecimiento de Jurados, todo de conformidad con la solicitud delos mismos Colonos, sin q. por parte del Gobierno haya podido hacerse otra cosa, pr. no estar en sus atribuciones. Por q. toca al Congreso está V. impuesto delas Ley q. ha tenido á bien espedir derogando el artº 11. dela de 6. de Abril de 1830, y previniendo q. esta derogacion no comience á tener efecto sino hasta pasados seis meses de su publicacion.

El E. Sr. Presidente me manda hacer á V. esta comunicacion pª q. como Encargdo de promover el favorable despacho delas solicitudes delos Colonos pueda instruirlos del resultado q. hasta ahora han tenido, en concepto de q. estando el supº Gobº dispuesto á favorecer sus pretenciones en todo aquello q. diga relacion al fomento de aquella Colonia, y á espeditar la administracion de Justicia, puede V. asegurarles q. apoyará y empleará todo su influjo con este importante objeto, y q. en consecuencia continuen promoviendo todas las mejoras y reformas conducentes asi pª q. Tejas pueda formar un Estº ó territº dela Federacion, como pª asegurar entre tanto el buen órden de su administracn interior.

En cuanto álas demas solicitudes q. V. ha promovido sre. establecimtº de correos, y baja ó estincion de dros. de algª articulos, se han pasado ála Sria. de Hacienda y por ella deberá V. estar impuesto dela resolucion del Supº Gobº u como creé este Ministerio sele ha instruido por aquel conducto del estado de este negocio.

Dios y Libertad. Megico Dicre. 7 de 1833.

GARCIA [Rubric]

Sor. Coronel Dn. Estevan Austin

88370—28——65

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Austin in Account with Washington Hotel

Col. S. F. Austin

1833		To Washington Hotel Dr.		
Novr.	1	To 1 Bot wine	$1.	2
	16	" cash lent	3.	—
	"	" 1 Bot wine	1.	2
	"	" 1 Glass tody		2
	20	" 2 Glasses Whiskey		2
	22	" " Glasses		2
	23	— 2 Glass brandy		1
	"	— cash lent	2.	—
	24	— 2 Glasses		2
	25	— 2 do		2
	"	— cash lent	2.	0
	27	" 3 Glasses		3
	"	" 1 Glass tody		2
	"	" 2 Glass spts		2
	29	— 2 do do		2
	30	— 1 Glass Ale		1
Decr	1	" 1 Brandy Sling		2
	2	" 1 Glass brandy		1
	—	— 2 Glasses do		2
	4	— 2 do do		2
	5	— 1 Glass brandy		1
		1 Bot Ale		3
		2 Glass		2
		Keeping one horse 2d inst	0.	4
		do do 2 horses from 3d to 5th inclusive is 3 days	$1—	3
		Stable room for 2 Horses from 6th to 9th inclusive 4 days 1/each beast per day		1
			$18.	2
1833				
Dec	9	To Mule from 8th to 9th inclusive 2 days	0.	2
	"	Board from Nov 1st to Decr 9th inclusive is 5 days $9	50.	1¼
	"	Room rent for Same time 39 days 6½ Rs	31	5½
			$100.	2¾
Dec	10	To 1Bf		4
Mo. Dec 10 1833			$100.	6¾

W J Offutt y co
pr J Ripley

[Endorsement by Austin:]
Paid by a note favor of Ithaman Whiting payable to J. W. Breedlove N. Orleans April 1 next

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Perry and Somervell Accounts

New Orleans December 9th 1833

Messr Perry and Somerville

Bot of La Villebeuvre & Walton

17 Magazine St.

J F Perry	1 Box Codfish	2.	
Brazoria	1 D. John Tone Wine 5 gs @ 1.50 d. John 1$	8. 50	
Texas	1 Bbl Loaf Sugar 132 @ 17	22. 44	
	1 do Brown do (best) 219 .8	17. 52	
	1 Box Impt Tea—13 106¼	13. 82	
	1 Bbl Molasses—36 @ .30	10. 80	
	1 do No 1 Mackerel	8.	
	1 Bag Coffee (old) 1.57 @ 16	25. 12	
	1 Bbl Whiskey 38 gs @ 33	12. 54	
	drayage to Sabine	. 50	121. 24
P & S	6 Bags Coffee 1024 lb @ 14½	148. 48	
San	6 Bbls Sugar 1382 lb @ 7¾	107. 10	
Felipe	2 Boxes Impl Tea ea 13.26 1.06¼	27. 64	
Texas	1 do Starch 30½ @ 13	3. 96	
	1 K Shot asstd 12 @ $2	24.	
	2 Bbls Rice (228–243) 471 @ 4¼	20. 02	
	drayage to Sabine	. 75	331. 95
			$453. 19
	By Calvert and Mills note	313. 34	
	less 8%	25. 04	
			288. 30
			$164. 89
	Recd on a/c	-----	114. 89
			$50. 00

New orleans Dec. 9 1833

Messrs Perry and Somerville

Bot of Hotchkiss and Co.

4 Cobbs Reader No 1	1/1	. 50
5 " " " 2	1/6	. 95
5 " " " 3	2/	1. 25
4 Emersons Arithmetic No 1	2/	1. 00
4 " " " 2	3/	1. 50
5 Woodbridges Geo and Atlas 8	/	5. 00
6 Elementary Spellings 14	/	. 87
2 Bible Questions 2	/6	. 63
1 Coopers Surgical Dicty		6. 75
1 Johnson on Tropical Climates		2. 00
1 Broussais Phisiology		3. 50
½ Gro Almanacs		3. 00
1 doz Websters Spellings 8/		6. 00
1 Traductor Espanol		1. 25
Box		. 25
		34. 44

Recd payment

Hotchkiss and Co

pr A B McLeod

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New Orleans 9 Decr 1833

Messr. Perry and Somerville

Bought of Victor David

no	1	1 Card Pocket Knives			5 50
"	2	1 do Dirk do			15
"	3	3 doz Pocket do	2 25		6 75
"	4	2 " Do Do	2 75		5 50
"	5	1 doz Do Do			3
	6	1 " Do Do			3 50
	7	1 " Do Do			3 50
	8	1 " Do Do			3 75
	9	¾ " Do Do	6 00		4 50
	10	10/12 Do Scissors	5 00		4 17
	11	1 " Do			4 50
	12	1 " Do			8
	13	1 " Do			1 50
	14	1 Case Razors			3
	15	6 doz Pocket Kns	1. 25		7 50
	16	2 " Butcher Kns	1. 25		2 50
	17	1 " Do ea 4 00 and 7 00			11
	18	½ " Socket Chisels ea ½ 3.25 ¾ 3.75 1 4 00 1¼ 4 25 1½ 450 1¾ 525 2 600			15 50
	19	1 " Trunk Locks			1 25
	20	1 " Do			1 50
	21	6 Setts Bed Castors 3			2 25
	22	1 doz Norfolk latches			1 25
	23	2 Cards Spurs	3 00		6
	24	1 Do			4
	25	1 dz Tind Snaffle Bitts			1 25
	26	1 " Plated Do			7 50
	27	1 " Do Do			11
	28	½ " Do Do			5 50
	29	½ " Do Do	6 00		3
	30	1 " Do Do			6
	31	1 " Do Do			5
	32	1 " pr Tin[d] Stirrups			1 75
	33	2 " " Plated do			18
	34	½ " " Do Do	9		8 50
	35	½ " " Brass Do	17		7 50
	36	½ " " Do Do	15		6
	37	½ " " Do Do	12		5
	38	1 " Mill Sawfiles			3
	39	1 " Hand Sawfiles			1
	40	1 " Pit Saw do			2 26
		over			$217. 17
		Amt. Forwd			$217. 17
	41	½ Gro Hand Sawfiles	10 50		5 25
	42	1 Gro Do			9
	43	1 " Pearl Studs			3 50
	44	2 doz Silver Bases	3		75
		1 Bdle Violin Strings ea 125 and 150			2 75
	45	1 Bunch Garnet Beads			75
	46	14 do fancy Do	4/		7
	47	10 do do do	2/		2. 50

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no 48	5 m Percussion Caps	6/		3.	75
49	⅙ doz Razor Hones	8		1	33
50	1 Gro Coal Buttons			1	75
51	2 " Wood do	6/		1.	50
52	1 " Jews Harps			2	25
53	1 " Spectacles			2	25
54	½ doz Hammers	4	50	2	26
54½	½ " Hand Axes	9	00	4	50
55	1 Gro Suspender Buttons			2	50
56	2 doz Brit[a] Tumblers	1	50	3	
57	8 " Glass Knobs	1	25	10	
57½	6 " Wood do	6/		4	50
58	½ Razor Straps	6/		3	
59	10 m Needles	5/		6	25
60	1 Gro Bed Caps			2	50
61	1 dz Brass Butts			1	12
62	1 dz Do			2	25
63	1 Curtains Rings				75
64	½ dz Silver Pencil Cases	9	00	4	50
64	½ 1 Gro Lead for Do			1	50
65	1 doz fine Steels			2	
66	6 " Boxes Hooks and Eyes	1	00	6	
67	2 Primers	1	75	3	50
68	1 doz Gun Locks			12	
69	1 " Do			10	
70	¼ " Stock Locks	3	25		81
71	¼ " Do	3	75		94
72	½ " Do	33	75	1	88
73	6 " fine Tooth Combs	1	50	9	
74	6 " Side Combs		44	2	64
75	2 " Tuck do	1	25	2	50
76	2 " Dressing do	1	25	2	50
	over			$363.	89
	Amt forwd			$363.	89
77	1 doz horse Combs			1	
78	1 Gro thread Escutcheons			1	75
79	1 lb mix[d] Pins				63
80	1 Doz Wallets ea 8/ and 1 50			2	50
81	1 " Commode Handles ea 6/ and 28/			1	75
82	1 " tooth Brushes ea 5/ and 8/			1	63
83	1 " Shaving Do			1	37
84	1 " Hair Do			2	50
85	½ Gro. fish Lines	4	50	2	25
86	½ " Do		12	6	
87	½ " Playing Cards		22	11	
88	1 Doz Cork Ink Stands			1	
89	½ " Horse Brushes	3	25	1	62
90	50m Cut Tacks	1/		6	25
91	½ Gro Pocket Lights	6	00	3	
92	1 m Marbles			1	25
93	1 Nest Sugar Boxes			2	
94	2 dz Jap[d] Candlesticks	1	50	3	
95	½ " Crop Whips	10		5	

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no 96	½ " Do	7		3	50
97	½ " Do	8		4	
98	½ Gro Pasteboard	8		4	
99	1 Ream Letter Paper			3	50
99½	3 grs Sand Paper	2/			15
100	3 Reams Writing do	3 75		11	
101	2 Do Do	4 00		8	
102	1 Do Do rules	5 25		5	25
103	3 Ledgers	3 00		9	
104	3 Day Books			3.	75
105	½ doz Do	18		9	
106	1 " Blank Books			3	75
107	2 " Childs first Books	100		2	
108	1 Nest Waiters			6	
109	15lb Block Tin	2/		3	75
110	2 Bags Buck Shot	2 25		4	50
	2 m. quilts	2 50		5	
	2 Broad axes	28½		5	75
	½ dz Humting Flasks	4 50		2	25
	110 Hooks and hinges	9½		10	45
	3 doz no 6 Platts Axes	14		42	
	over			$571.	34
	Amt forwd			$571.	34
1 doz Sht Hadl frying pans				2	75
1 " Ink				2	
6 no 3 Corn Mills		3 50		21	
105lb Copperas		4½		4	72
½ dz ea Smooth 10 Jack 10.50 and fore planes 16				18	25
2 Girths		2 75		5	50
1 " Sursingles				3	75
6 Saddles @ 5$ and 4 D		7 00		58	
1 doz Wire Seives				4	50
4 Coils manilla Rope 57 lb 18				10	26
½ dz Wash Basins		4 00		2	
1 " Tin Pans $5 and 2 dz do		1 75		8	50
1 Gro Tin Cups $8 and ⅓ Gro do 6$				10	
1 dz Blow Horns				2	50
1 " Snuff				3	50
2 Nests lamp Kettles		2. 00		4	
1 doz do ea 2.50 and 2.75				4	25
2 reams Wrapping Paper		1 00		2	
1 Do Do				1	75
2 Saucepans ea 1 2 5 @ 3/, 45, 62				2	90
4 Do ea 3 4 @ 50, 56				4	25
2 Tea Kettles No. 1		112½		2	25
½ doz floor Brushes		6 00		3	
1/2 W. W. Brushes				1	75
1 Cart briddles				11.	00
3 Saddle Bags 2 50 and 6D		3. 25		27	
1 dz Bridle mounting				7	
1 " Stirrup Leathers ea 5.6.7 $				18	
1 " Wool Cards				5	
1 " Cotton do				7	

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24 Plough moulds 295 lb —	6		17 70
2 Bars 1½ in flat Iron 66 lb	4½		2 97
6 " ¾ and 1 In Do 134 lb	6		8 04
1 Bdle Hoop Iron 56 lb	8		4 48
1 dz Horse Collars			12
3 Boxes Glass 8 and 10	3 25		9 75
½ Gro Cow Hides	9 00		4 50
1 Bar Eng. Bl[d] Steel 48 lb	16		7 68
1 Bar Cast Steel 13	2/		3 25
1 Jug 2 Gs Copal varnish @ 4$			8
Packages and Porterage	912. 09		4
			912. 09

Rec'd payment By their note at 6 ms

V. David

New- Orleans, December 9th 1833

Mr Perry and Somervell
Bought of Rees & Every
No. 10 Charters-Street

1 Doz Tort, Side Combs no. 6	6. 00
1 " " " " no. 2	5. 00
2½ " " " " no. 3 @ 3	7. 50
½ " " " " no. 4 @ 3.50	1. 75
1 " Spanish side combs No. 1 ¢62½ No. 2 ¢75 No. 3 85½	4. 55
	24. 75

Receved payment for Rees and Everly

F. Loutret.

New Orleans Dec. 10. 1833

Messrs Perry and Somerville
Bot of William Frost

50 p Boys Brogans	29. 16
1 doz Heeled prunellas Shoes	11. 50
1 " Spring Heeled do	12. 50
1 " Socks	3. 37
1 " Boys Cloth Caps	1. 75
	58. 28

Rec'd Paymt

William Frost
pr. J. H. A. Frost

Mess Perry and Somerville
Bought of Bliss and Whittemore

8 Bunches Gilt Beads @ 50	1. 50
1 Do Do Do	1. 50
1 pr Silver Spectacles with Extra Glasses	4. 00
250 needles @ 75 pr 100	1. 87
Dolls	8. 87

New Orleans 11th Dec 1833
Recd Payt

Bliss and Whittemore
pr O. T. Lillie

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AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Monterrey Jany 12 1834

S. M. WILLIAMS.

On my arrival at Saltillo on the 3 inst. I was arrested by the Com[t] General on an order from the Minister of War directing that I should be sent back to Mexico to answer an accusation, made, as I understand, by the Govt. of the State of Coahuila and Texas. I leave in a few days for Mexico under an escort as a prisoner. My treatment is very good and I have no cause to complain on that score. I feel under obligations to the Com[t] Gen[l] Don Pedro Lemus, and to the Gov[r] of this State Manual Maria Llanos, also to Col Ugartechea who is the Commandant at this place. They have all treated me in the kindest manner. Lemus expects to visit Texas, and if he should, and I have one friend left in that country, or if there be one out of the thousands whose fortunes I have labored to make, who wishes to do me a favor in return, I request that friend, or that *one*, to be the friend of Gen[l] Lemus for my sake.

I presume that I am arrested for writing the *oficio* to the Aytos. of Texas dated 2[d] of October last. I made some enemies in Mexico for opposing a territory, but I do not believe they have had any hand in my arrest. It has been intimated to me that some enemy, I know not who, had accused me of designs to unite Texas with the U. S. of the north. Such an accusation is false and I disregard it. I have said openly to all persons in Mexico, and to the Govt. itself, that I was of opinion the local Govt. of Texas ought to be organized, or that country ought to be transfered to the U. S. for situated as it now is, it is liable to revolutions and anarchy which may do much harm to the frontiers of both nations, and finally loose Texas and ruin the poor and honest settlers who have labored in good faith to redeem it from the wilderness and make it a valuable portion of the Mexican republic. The real fact is that at this time Texas does not belong to Mexico, nor to Coahuila, nor to the settlers who have redeem'd it—it belongs to them in justice and in right that is to the Mexican republic and to the inhabitants of Texas—but in point of fact, it belongs to demagogues, pettyfoggers, visionary speculators and scheamers, to indians to anarchy and discord and confusion—to comprehend all in one word—it is without Government.

I hope there will be no excitement about my arrest. All I can be accused of is, that I have labored arduously, faithfully, and perhaps at particular moments, pationately, and with more impatience and irritation than I ought to have shewn, to have Texas made a State of the Mexican Confederation separate from Coahuila. This

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is all, and this is no crime. But should it be considered otherwise, it will not take me by surprise. Ever since I returned from Bexar a year ago last Dec^r and found the Convention called in my absence, I have consider'd myself as suspended over the altar of sacrifice. That measure placed me in an awkward position. It compromised me in the highest degree with the people and authorities of Bexar, on the one hand, and with my friends at San Felipe on the other. for altho I had agreed to the calling of a convention before I went to Bexar, I did not expect it would have been done in my absence. I went there to consult with the authorities of that place. I considered that very great respect and deference was justly due to them as native Mexicans, as the capital of Texas, and as the oldest and most populous town in the country. And I knew the importance of getting them to take the lead in all the politics of Texas, besides this, I was personally attached to those people as a sincere friend and wished to act in concert with them. I wished the convention to meet in Bexar, but at that time it was death to any man's popularity to speak in favor of the Mexicans. These things are all pased and had best be forgotten—probably I have no just cause to blame any one but myself for in some things that occured then I was a mere *passive actor*, when I ought to have been a firm and unbending *director*. My object was to smother the party spirit and violent and ruinous divisions which I saw brewing in the colony; and as my friendship for the Mexicans and opposition to violent measures was to have been used by my enemies, (who were in fact also the only real enemies to Texas) as the kindling materials, the oil and brimstone to set the flame of discord and confusion ablazing, I thought it best to deprive them of the kindling matter by a passive course. I mistook the means, and committed a great error, but I have learned this lesson in politics, that there is no medium with envy and party spirit, between victory and defeat.

I was always in favor of the State question, but I feared, especially after my trip to Bexar, that it would not succeed unless the people of that place took the lead, and it was arranged for them to do so. The representation and remonstrance of 19 Decr. was the first step, and would have led to all the others, and Texas by this time would have been a State or nearly so, and the discord that I fear has arisen between Bexar and a part of Texas would have been avoided. All was defeated and deranged and Bexar was offended and turned against a measure that it was in favor of. So much for party spirit and envy, or rather for opposition to Austin because he was Austin—he, must be suspected and watched—*he*, who has labored so many years regardless of personal fatigue or responsability to build up

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Texas, settle it and make the fortunes of its inhabitants—bien, muy bien. Such is human nature and such it will always be—I am tired of it and for the future wish to have as little to do with mankind or their affairs as practicable.

If I thought my advice would have any weight, I would say to Texas, you must all harmonise with Bexar and Goliad, that is with the Mexican population. If they petition for a State or a Territory and are seconded by the rest of Texas, the petition will be granted, and I am equally certain that no petition of this kind will succeed that is opposed by that population.

If a victim is required by the Gov^{t} I, of course will be the man, for those who have really contributed to precipitate these matters occupy too small a space to be noticed by the Government.

I wish you to send me a certified copy of the representation made last year by the Ayto. of Goliad. I have that of Bexar and need the other to shew that the Mexican population complained even more than the other. Send it under cover to W. S. Parrott and direct all letters for me to him.

The Aytos. of Texas, if they wish to do me justice might state to the Gen^{l} Gov^{t} what they know of my character and conduct. I do not ask it, if it is done I wish it of their own accord. Such a thing from Bexar would have weight. I must request you to provide me with the means of living in Mexico. I used one of the bills of credit that is one thousand dollars—can I use the other? I can sell bills on Orleans in Mexico for 10 pr. ct. I sold to Parrott—I recd. nothing for any of the claims on Matamoros but am promised something. I presume I shall be five or six months and perhaps a year in Mexico, or I may be sent back to the State Gov^{t} who have demanded me of the Com^{t} Gen^{l} for what purpose, whether friendly or hostile, I know not. No man has benefited this part of the nation more than I have—in a few years more the frontier of Coahuila will be safe from the indians

Remember me to my friends if I have any and to your wife and the old settlers

S. F. Austin

Evidently the Label of a Package

In dry weather the bed must be watered, put them out of the reach of overflow—protect them in the winter—they are delicate when young hot sun in the middle of the Day is hurtfull

Seeds of the Mexican Cipress (Seepress) a beautifull tree very tall & slim in shape like a lombardy poplar and in foliage like a

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cedar—to be sown in a bed like red pepper & transplanted the third year. I wish S. M. W. to be very carefull and try to raise and preserve these trees for me

[S. F. AUSTIN.]

AUSTIN TO LLANOS[1]

Monterrey, January 14, 1834.

Señor Don RAFAEL LLANOS.[2]

MY DEAR SIR: In times of political disturbances like those of the past year it is difficult to have any relations whatever with political affairs without becoming entangled in some way or other, now with parties, now with individuals, now with the authorities. Thus it is that I have fallen into the net, and was arrested on the 3d of this month by order of the minister of war, and depart in a few days for Mexico as a prisoner.

From what I have said to you in our conversations concerning Texas, you will have understood that that country was exposed to anarchy for the want of adequate local government. During the winter of last year there was strong sentiment, in fact, for an organization of the local government, always as an integral part of the Mexican federation.

The energetic representations of the ayuntamientos and towns of Béjar and Coahuila, dated December 19, 1832,[3] demonstrate with sufficient clearness the evils of Texas and the aroused feeling of those towns over the torpor of the population and the backwardness of Texas through inadequate legislation and the neglect of its best and dearest interests. The great majority of the people expressed their opinion in favor of separation from Coahuila, and their determination to so organize if there were no other remedy. The Convention framed the memorial of April 13 [1833][4] to the general government, asking that Texas be erected into a state of this federation, and nominating me to carry it to Mexico. It appears that since then some ayuntamientos have changed their opinion because they believe that the people ought not to have petitioned for erection into a state under Article 2 of the organic law of the General Constituent Congress dated May 7, 1824, without the previous consent of the Legislature of Coahuila and Texas. But they do not mean to be understood by this as being content with their situation. They

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[1] University of Texas Transcripts from Archives of Department of Fomento, Mexico. The translation is by the editor.

[2] Llanos was a member of the Federal Senate from Nuevo Leon.

[3] Copy of the Bexar memorial in Filisola, Memorias para la Historia de la Guerra de Tejas, I, 273–293.

[4] See above.

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desire radical remedies, and only believe that they have mistaken the means to obtain them. Concerning this point, it must be said that at that time (November and December, 1832) Texas was almost in a state of nature as to government—and perhaps one would not venture much in saying that the whole republic was in the same situation,—so that the wisest were divided in opinion whether or not we had a legitimate government, or whether the Constitution still existed.

I did not know of this new attitude of the ayuntamientos until November 5 [1833] at the conference of ministers called by the President, at which you assisted, when Señor Blanco brought it out. I therefore acted in conformity with the instructions given me by the convention in April.

In Mexico I did all that I could to obtain the prompt and favorable dispatch of the petitions of Texas, or busied myself to obtain such things as the repeal of the 11th Article of the law of April 6, 1830, exemptions from the tariff, the regulation of the mails, the payment of the presidial companies; in short, anything to calm and content the people of Texas.

At the beginning of October I was discouraged and irritated by an incident or bad news or a mistake which occurred then, and lost hope and patience, and in that moment wrote to the ayuntamientos of Texas recommending that they consult among themselves in order to organize the local government in union and harmony, in case the General Congress did nothing to remedy the evils of Texas.[1] I had also an other reason which influenced me to make this recommendation: at that time, the result of the revolution was, in the opinion of many, doubtful, and I knew very well that the inhabitants of Texas were decided to revolt rather than submit to the domination of the Church party. In such case it would have been much better for the interest of Texas, of the popular party, and of the republic that it be organized in union and harmony, by agreement and approbation of the local authorities and under their direction than to proceed by means of a popular uprising without the intervention of any authority.

Thus my recommendation was entirely conditional, subject to the developments of the future, a precautionary measure and nothing more. As soon as Arista surrendered and the 11th Article of the law of April 6, 1830, was repealed, I informed the ayuntamientos, and in so doing believed that I had revoked the recommendation made in my letter of October, because it was made under the supposition that nothing would be done.

[1] See letter to Ayuntamiento of Bexar, Oct. 2, 1832.

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I understand that I am arrested for having written that letter of October to the ayuntamientos, and that the governor of the state is my accuser, but I do not know certainly whether this is true or not.

All that I have done in this matter has been public and without concealment. I wrote to the ayuntamientos officially, and not confidentially or privately. I did not leave Mexico until December 10, more than two months after writing the letter. I took leave of the Minister, of the Vice President, and of my friends; travelled in a coach with Deputy Don Luis de la Rosa as far as Lagos; and thence by San Luis Potosi to Saltillo, presenting myself at the moment of my arrival there to the Commandant General. I had started by the most direct road to Monclova to see if it was possible to obtain some laws for Texas in conformity with the recommendations of the general government on the subject. I believe that if I had been able to reach Monclova during the session of the legislature, as I desired, it would have been possible to regulate the affairs of Texas upon a basis satisfactory to Texas, to the state, and to the general government. It would have been very easy to go to Vera Cruz and embark for Orleans, if I had thought that I had committed a crime that deserved punishment. The truth is that the hope of accomplishing some good for the contentment of Texas caused me to go by land, although the trip is much more severe than a voyage to Europe.

In so far as there may be crime in having labored thirteen years, spending a life of weariness, in peopling the wilderness of Texas; in having spent my time and my money in a journey to Mexico to obtain relief from the evils which afflict Texas and threaten its ruin and even its separation from Mexico; in measures to save that country from a violent revolution; in having assisted in establishing the foundations for the prosperity and security of the frontiers of Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas and the advancement of those states in population, industry, and agriculture—in so far as there may be crime in all this, I am a great criminal.

Without population in Texas the frontiers of the Eastern Interior Provinces are worse than nothing, for they are an abandoned field where the Indians may rob, kill, and destroy to suit their fancy, without protection for the wretched people. It would be an enormous expense to maintain garrisons and troops enough to restrain the Indians even in a small degree in deserts so vast.

I have been accused of having magnificent schemes for Texas, and I confess that I have had them.

My friend, I am a Mexican citizen, and as such I shall speak with entire frankness: To suppose that the Mexican nation in its present

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situation, immersed in clouds of prejudice, and backward in everything, can advance rapidly of itself alone and reach the level of other nations without drawing learning, industry, and population from abroad is almost the same as to imagine that the Mexicans of the time of Cortés could have advanced to where they now are without knowing any other people or having had communication with any other nation in the world. The United States of the North were much more advanced at the time of their independence than the Mexicans, and yet they needed learning, arts, and population from abroad. Upon the same policy are based my schemes for Texas, and for all the eastern frontier. It is depopulated; I wish to people it. The population that is there is backward; I wish it to be advanced and improved by the introduction of industrious agricultural settlers, liberal republicans. I want the savage Indians subdued; the frontier protected; the lands cultivated; roads and canals opened; river navigation developed and the rivers covered with boats and barges carrying the produce of the interior to the coast for export in exchange for foreign products, thereby saving the precious metals which are now our only medium of exchange; I wish to take from my native land and from every other country the best that they contain and plant it in my adopted land—that is to say, their best inhabitants, their industry, and their enlightenment, so that the eastern frontier which is now without population and in its greater part almost without government, might present an example worthy of imitation. These are the magnificent, and as it now appears, visionary, plans which I have held for Texas, and for all this frontier; and if there is a Mexican who does not wish to see them realized, I must say that he does not love his country; neither wants to see her emerge from the darkness of the fifteenth century nor shake off the chains of superstition and monastic ignorance which she is still dragging along.

Very little do they know me who believe that I have sacrificed the best years of my life in the wildnerness of Texas to gain a fortune! I have not gained it, and I could have lived in comfort in a settled country. I entered Texas in 1821 an enthusiastic philantropist and now at the age of forty I find myself on the verge of misanthropy, tired of men and their affairs, and convinced that I wished to finish in a few years the work of a century. I have seen the United States of the North make every effort to attract population, knowledge, and capital from abroad for its development. I have seen a wilderness covered with a dense population in a few years, and new states erected where at the time of my birth there was not a single civilized person. I believed that it would be the same with the free and nascent Mexican nation. I see that I was mistaken. Before Mexico

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can develop in that manner she must pay the price by a moral revolution in which shall be overthrown all the customs and the Gothic politico-religious system set up by Rome and Spain to hold the people in subjection like beasts of burden—such a revolution she will have in a century but not in the life time of one man.

You have been my friend since 1821, and I owe you a frank expression of my thoughts. In this letter I have told all my desires and dreams for Texas. I was not born in a wilderness, and have not the patience of the Bexareños and other inhabitants of this frontier who are daily enduring the same dangers and annoyances that their fathers and grandfathers and perhaps their great-grandfathers suffered, without advancing a single step or even thinking of advancing. Death is preferable to such stagnant existence, such stupid life.

I am very grateful to your brother, Don Manuel,[1] and to the Commandant General, Don Pedro Lemus, and to all here for the kindness which they have shown to me.

Please show this letter to Don Victor Blanco and to Don Teodoro Rivarol and tell them that I put their letters for Monclova in the mail here.

I remain your very sincere friend, etc.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.

P. S.—I wish you would also do me the favor to show this letter to Señor Rejon. I should be sincerely sorry if that patriot and eloquent defender of liberty and reform should have erroneous ideas concerning this matter. I understand that the foundation of the political creed of that gentleman is that we should proceed firmly and unwaveringly with the system of radical reforms until the life and habits of the mass of the Mexican people are entirely in harmony with the form of government adopted by the nation. This also is the object of my efforts in the little sphere in which I have worked.

In the United States of the North the government was adapted to established practices. In Mexico the process has been the reverse of this. Here it is necessary to shape habits and customs to the system of government; and it is due to this fact that the nation has encountered so much difficulty in consolidating itself.

Customs are not changed or corrected by theories nor by oral or written preaching, no matter how clearly reasoned and eloquent it may be, without some practical and palpable application to the life and understanding of the mass of the people. I wished to make this application in Texas, and so, progressively, throughout the Rio Grande frontier; at the same time strengthening the political

[1] Governor of Nuevo Leon.

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and economic relations of that remote section of the Republic with the other states by direct representation in Congress, by improved roads, and by interior and coasting trade.

Taking a general and impartial view of the matter, with the government settled, it is very evident that it is not to the interest of Texas to separate from Mexico even if she were free to do so. But on the other hand it is well known that men are influenced more by petty local annoyances or grievances in the present, even though temporary, than by the hope of great benefits in the future. One may call the grievances of Texas temporary, but they are not petty; they are very serious. And it is from this that opinions arise that there is a conflict between the union of that country with Mexico and its progress and happiness. This opinion is erroneous, for nothing is easier than to remove that conflict and remedy the present local evils in Texas by an organization of its local government in conformity with the experience and particular needs of that country—that is, to erect it into a state of the Mexican Federation. Doing this will fulfill, moreover, the object and the principles of the federal system, and will carry forward the important work of reforming the ancient customs of the people which conflict with the system, because there are none of these customs in Texas, and it is not possible to conceive that there will ever be any such.

Men of large conceptions are always exposed to attack as visionaries, ambitious and selfish schemers, deserving of suspicion, or something else, particularly if their plans look to general and philanthropic improvements, because there are few who labor for anything but their personal interest. In the colonization of Texas I have wanted to make a personal provision for myself and for my family, and if he who sows is entitled also to reap the harvest, I deserve it; but at the same time I have wanted to confer upon my adopted country a general benefit by peopling and redeeming from its savage state an important part of its territory.

I have labored in good faith, exposing myself to all sorts of burdens and responsibilities for the good of my country; but at the same time I have duties to the settlers who have emigrated to the wilderness through my influence; and they owe a duty to themselves and to their families—the duty and the right of self-preservation. And if there were no other way to fulfil it but to separate from Mexico and join the United States of the North, or maintain independence, it is very clear that it would then be their most sacred duty to attempt it.

All that has been said by rumor and prejudiced reports about projects in Texas for separation from Mexico is false. There have not been and are not now any such projects. What is wanted there

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is an organization of the interior government in order to avert disorders, disturbances, and divisions which would undoubtedly terminate in a revolution.

I have said and I believe that Mexico should either establish the local government of Texas or sell it to the United States of the North, in order to get some profit from it before losing it, and the Mexicans with whom I have talked and who thoroughly understood the matter are of the same opinion.

ESTEVAN F. AUSTIN.

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Monterey Jany. 14 1834

Dr BROTHER AND SISTER,

The affairs of Texas are likely to cost me much trouble and expense in addition to what I have already undergone since I left home. The state govt. have made an accusation against me of some kind, to the genl Govt. and I was arrested on the 3rd inst. at Saltillo on my arrival there and shall leave in a few days for Mexico as a state prisoner. Give yourselves no kind of uneasiness about this matter—it can do me no other harm that [than] the delay and expense—all I can be accused of is that I have labored most diligently and indefatigably to get Texas made a state separate from Coahuila, and that is no crime, nor no dishonor—it is quite the reverse

I made some enemies in Mexico for opposing a territory, but I have many good friends, who will see justice done me and amongst them, the vice President himself

It is very likely that I may be hammered and pummeled about for a year before I get home again, but I think that good will come of it for Texas. The April law is repealed and before I quit the matter I hope to see some other remedies. I did not like the manner this question was started I wanted Bexar to take the lead—but so it is—you must all now harmonize more with Bexar and Goliad and have union—and no more *party spirit.* I suppose that some of my enemies in the colony will rejoice at what they may think or *hope* will be my ruin—no good man will envy them their joy, nor participate in it.

I have been very kindly treated by the Commandant General Don Pedro Lemus and by the Govr. of this state and Col. Ugartechea and have no cause to complain on that score. I hope when Genl Lemus visits Texas my friends there will remember that he befriended me very much.

I hope there will be no excitement about my arrest—it will do me harm and no good to Texas, that is unless I should be unjustly dealt by, in that case there will be cause for excitement.

88370—28——66

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I have requested Williams to provide me with the means of living in Mexico, it is likely I may want as much as one thousand dollars, tho I do not know.

Collect all the stock you can in claims due me and put them on your farm at Chocolate Bayou, in your own brand—call on Williams for the claims and hire some one to collect them.

When I return I wish to make my home at your home and hope you will have a room or cabbin for me.

I send you some seeds of a beautiful tree in shape like a lombardy poplar, in foliage like a cedar—sow them—in a bed like pepper seed—raise the bed so that the water will not lay on it—water them in dry weather, protect them from frost in the winter when young, and from the hot sun in the middle of the day, by a bush or mat. They will do to transplant the second or third year—take special care of them. I have many seeds and my miniature taken in Mexico by Wm Howard who intends to visit Texas, I recommend him to you very particularly. I cannot send these things to you now. So will give away the seeds and take the miniature to Mexico again.

You have suffered a great affliction since I left in the loss of dear little Mary, and in the sweep made by the cholera—it is dreadfull but without remedy—my good friends John Austin, Westall, and many others are gone. I sympathize sincerely with you all—poor Henry too has his share and more than a share of affliction—it is dreadfull indeed.

Remember me to Mrs. Westall—to the McNiels, and Munson, to Phillips and Eliza, and do not let little Stephen and your children forget me, I hope they will some day be benefited by my labors.

remember me to Henry particularly—I have not received a line from you since I left home

Cotton is worth about 30 cents in San Luis Potosi—the freight from Tampico is from eight to nine dollars a hundred. If you wish for information write to Dall and Drege in San Luis Potosi—Henry knows them

God bless you—farewell—your brother

STEPHEN

It is very rare that a man who labors for the gen[l] good of thousands, or for a whole country, can escape persecution and detraction—no man did more good than *DeWitt Clinton* for the state of New York, but he did it against a torrent of abuse slander and opposition. *Smith*, the father and champion of the infant colony at Jamestown in Virginia was even banished by those whom he had labor'd for. Party spirit and *envy* only see with their own eyes and for their own ends—they are everything that is uncharitable malignant, selfish, anti moral and anti honest—the mass of the people,

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the honest laboring class think of their families and their domestic concerns, and are therefore easily mislead by demagogues and designing or envious men, who only think how to destroy and involve others to build up themselves. It is well known that I have always been opposed to violent measures in Tejas and that I have always been the friend and a sincere one of the Mexicans. *Party spirit* has tryed to make this a crime in me. I wished to smother this spirit because history shows that the most dangerous enemy to new colonies and infant communities is division and discord amongst themselves, and I resorted to conciliating, yielding and passive means to keep down party spirit, when perhaps I ought to have adopted the reverse. Up to 1830 my sistem was not interfered with, and all went well, but since then, all has been confusion—and my enemies have succeeded to their utmost wish in involving *me* in difficulty—had I been as vindictive against *them* as they have against *me*, and called the old settlers and sound part of the people to rally a-round me. I could have easily *crushed* my enemies—but they [would] have been totally ruined, and I did not wish to ruin even the worst enemy I had on earth. They have tryed violent measures and gained nothing but trouble, let them now try peace and harmony awhile and let the country advance in population and resourses. The most favourable reforms and changes are taking place in the Mexican government and people, and a little time will put all right—there will be toleration of religion—Texas will be a state and all will go right—but above all things the colonists must harmonize with Bexar and Goliad. In the beginning of October I lost patience I rec^{d} a letter then from Texas that irritated me, also some things occured in Mexico that soured and discouraged me, and I wrote to the Ayuntamientos a letter which is the cause of my arrest—since then favourable changes have taken place. There is no sort of doubt of the *right* of the people of Texas to take care of themselves, if there be no other remedy—this is very clear—it is more than a right—it is a duty—but evil may be done by precipitation. The evil in these matters is that ambitious and bad men wish for revolution, and they take advantage of a fevered state of public opinion, to hurry the people into it, when it is not necessary—in such cases the *actors* gain, and the *instruments* loose.

As I before said, when I return I will make my home at your house. I will not have anything more to do with public business if I can honorably and consistantly avoid it

I am told that Sterling Robinson has made charges to the state Govt. against me. I think it unkind that such a man as that should be made use of as an instrument by others, to try and ruin me—but all this is in the regular course of things with envy and party spirit.

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Keep yourself totally clear of politics and party and seek happiness within the limits of your farm and the circle of your family and personal friends, and I will join that circle as soon as I can, it is the only place where I expect to find quiet or happiness—

adios

S. F. AUSTIN

the most certain way for letters to reach me is to direct them to *William Parrott, merchant, Mexico,* and send them to Tampico, or Vera Cruz, to be put in the mail there—if there is no other opportunity, send them by way of New Orleans. I saw Baldwin in Mexico and put a letter in the mail here from him to you—he has lost and suffered much.

AUSTIN TO D. W. SMITH

Monterrey Jany 15. 1834

D. W. SMITH [Matamoras]

Dr SIR I enclose you claims to the amt. of Seven hundred ninety six dollrs six reals due me, that is two claims, one of 461.6. and one of 335. for money advanced by me to the troops in Texas, also Fifty seven dolls. three reals due to James Ross of Texas.

Please present them to the commisary and get the money and remit it to S. M. Williams San Felipe de Austin Texas when the genl. arrives speak to him on the subject.

Also I enclose a letter from Danl J. Toler Call on him for the draft on Maurice Hebenstreit and get draft on Mexico in favor W. S. Parrott for my use and enclose it to Mr. Parrott in Mexico. Mr. H. told me in San Luis Potosi, that he would make this arrangement.

I leave tomorrow for Mexico a prisoner on some accusation made by the State govt. Write to me to the care of Parrott.

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

AUSTIN TO GEORGE FISHER[1]

Monterey 15 January 1834

Mr. GEO: FISHER

Matamoros

Dr SIR. The affairs of Texas, which have given me labor and vexation enough for 13 years past, are likely, as it seems to keep me in difficulties for some time to come. The fact is, that during the last year of general convulsions, it has been almost impossible

[1] Copy by Fisher in Lamar Papers, Texas State Library.

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for any one, who occupies any space in Society, to Keep clear of extanglements of some kind. I have been arrested by an Order from the Minister of War, on an accusation made by the State Government, and I leave to morrow, I presume for Mexico.

All I can be accused of is that I have labored diligently and faithfully and with pure intentions to cover the wilderness of Texas with an agricultural and usefull population and to make it a State of the Mexican Republic, separate from Coahuila. This is no crime,—it is quite the reverse.

I have sent some claims in that *Comisaria*, to D. W. Smith, to collect, and as you are the *Comisario* I recommend them for *pronto despacho.*

I am much pleased with the new Comandante General, Don Pedro Lemus, and I recommend him as a man of high honor and liberal principles and a Gentleman.

The letters I wrote to Texas from Matamoros in your favor caused a great excitement there, in many, against me—if you go there you must be very prudent and accommodating as to Custom House matters,—the best way is to let the Custom House alone for a year more, and then go there,—or before as an Individual and remove old impressions. I am getting tired of the whole matter of Colonizing—all work and trouble and no profit or credit, for many of them, that are benefitted by me, abuse me. The Basis of the policy which the State of Tamaulipas ought to adopt should be—*the Country needs population*, and all their laws should tend to encourage immigration to that State, from the interior and foreign countries, especially the latter.

I received one letter from you in Mexico.

S. F. Austin.

A true copy of the original in my possession, which I certify

Geo. Fisher.

Austin to James F. Perry

Monterrey Jany 16 1834

Dr Brother

I wrote on the 14 by mail and sent some seeds of the Mexican cipres pronounced seepres. I now send some more. Sow them in a bed like red pepper seed—raise it so that the water will not lay on it. Water it in dry weather. Take care of the plants. they will do to transplant in two years.

The last year has been one of calamities for Texas, overflow pestilence and conventions. I hope this year may be more favour-

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able and that the people will have no more excitements, and all harmonize amongst themselves, and with the people and authorities of Bexar. Without this, they will not prosper—on the contrary they will ruin themselves.

In a moment of irritation and impatience I wrote an imprudent letter to the Ayuntam of Texas in October last for which I have been arrested and ordered back to Mexico for which place I leave soon as a prisoner. I do not blame the gov^{t} at all for this—my treatment has been very good since my arrest in this place, this matter will cost me some months delay and perhaps a year before I can return to make one of your family as I intend to do if I live to get back. I have written to Williams by mail to furnish me with the means of living in Mexico. I can sell drafts on Orleans [at] . . . [per cent] premium— Write to me under cover to W[S. Parr]ott, merchant Mexico.

The Gen^{l} [Gov^{t} is dis]posed to do everything for Texas that can be done and are friendly and wish the country to prosper. They are willing to make it a State or a territory organized like Arkansas and would do so if it was asked for unanimously by the Ayuntamientos—but no more conventions.

All the people have to do is to remain quiet and let Bexar take the lead in everything.

I hope there will be no excitement on account of my arrest, it will do me harm and great harm to Texas—keep quiet and let me perish if such is to be my fate. I have suffered myself to be drawn into the whirlpool by the excited men and by the party spirit of the time in Texas. Men whose fortunes I have labored to make have been my worst enemies. They can now rejoice and triumph at my difficulties, but no good man will envy them their joy, nor participate in it.

My advice to Texas is, what it always has been remain quiet—populate the country—improve your farms—and discountenance all kind of revolutionary men or principles. If this advice is followed that country will prosper. So long as you belong to Coahuila, obey the laws and the authorities of that State.

I wish all the people well, even my enemies. I have given no just cause for any one to be my enemy but no man can expect to go through with so great an enterprise as the settling of a wilderness, under the circumstances I did, without exposing himself to the attacks of envy jealousy and malignity.

Collect all the stock you can on claims due me and put them in your brand on the Chocolate Bayou place—keep yourself clean of party and of politics and seek happiness within the limits of your farm and the circle of your family and personal friends. I will join [you] in that circle as soon as I can, [and never] leave it.

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Remember me to the ch[ildren] to your neighbours and to Henry and family—to Phillips and Eliza and dont let little Stephen forget me.

Your brother

S. F. AUSTIN [Rubric]

[J. F.] Perry

[Addressed:] Mr. James F. Perry care of S. M. Williams San Felipe de Austin Texas

By Mr. Powel

I send my two miniatures by Mr. Powel for Emily and hope they may arrive safely. Wet will ruin them as they are painted on ivory in water colors.

AUSTIN TO AYUNTAMIENTO OF SAN FELIPE[1]

Monterey, Jan. 17, 1834.

To the Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin:

I have been arrested by an order from the minister of war, and leave soon for Mexico to answer to a charge made against me, as I understand, for writing an officio to the Ayuntamiento[s] of Texas, dated 2d October last, advising, or rather recommending that they should consult amongst themselves for the purpose of organizing a local government for Texas, in the event that no remedies could be obtained for the evils that threatened that country with ruin.

I do not in any manner blame the government for arresting me, and I particularly request that there may be no excitement about it.

I give the advice to the people there that I have always given, keep quiet, discountenance all revolutionary measures or men, obey the state authorities and laws so long as you are attached to Coahuila, have no more conventions, petition through the legal channels, that is through the ayuntamiento and chief of department, harmonize fully with the people of Bexar and Goliad, and act with them.

The general government are disposed to do everything for Texas that can be done to promote its prosperity and welfare that is consistent with the constitution and laws, and I have no doubt the state government will do the same if they are applied to in a proper manner.

It will be remembered that I went to Mexico as a public agent with specific instructions, and as such, that it was my duty to be governed by them, and by the general wish of the people as expressed to me. Also, that when I left in April, the general wish did express

[1] From Advocate of the People's Rights, extra, Mar. 27, 1834. For this paper see the editor's "Notes on Early Texas Newspapers," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXI, 139.

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itself for the separation from Coahuila and the forming of Texas into a state of this confederation. Also, that there was a determination to organize a local government at all hazards, if no remedy could be obtained.

I have in all my acts conformed to this public wish of the people, so far as I was informed of it, and when I despaired of obtaining any remedy, as I did the beginning of October, I deemed it to be my duty as an agent to inform the people so; and believing as I did, that they would organize, I also considered that it would be much better to do so, by a harmonious consultation of the Ayuntamiento[s] than by a popular commotion. These were my reasons for the recommendation given in that officio; also, the result of the civil war was thought to be doubtful.

I understand, and I rejoice to hear it, that public opinion has settled down on a more reasonable basis, and that the most of the Ayuntamientos of Texas have expressed their wish to proceed in a legal manner to seek redress. I ought to have been informed of this change, but I was not, and knew nothing of it to a certainty, untill the 5th of November, so that up to that time I acted under the impressions I had when I left Texas in April. Since then I have not moved the state question.

The past events in Texas necessarily grew out of the revolution of Jalappa, which overturned the constitution and produced the counter revolution of Vera Cruz, which extended over the whole country, and involved Texas with the rest. It is well known that it was my wish to keep Texas, and particularly the colony, out of all revolution, and I tried to do so, but the flame broke out in my absence from Texas, in June 1832, and since then all has been completely disjointed. A current was set in motion by the general events of the civil war all over the nation, and under the circumstances, Texas could not avoid being agitated by it. No one can be blamed in any manner for what has happened since June, 1832, in Texas—it was inevitable—neither was it possible for me to avoid being drawn into the whirlpool. It was my duty to serve the country as an agent if requested to do so; and as an agent it was my duty to obey my instructions as expressed to me.

I have long since informed the Ayuntamientos of Texas of the repeal of the law of April, 1830, and of the favorable and friendly disposition of the government, and by this, I of course rescinded, or annulled, the recommendation of 2d October, for that was predicated on the belief that nothing would be done, and that the result of the civil war then pending was even doubtful, since then all has changed for the better, and public opinion in Texas has become sound, and

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shaken off the excitement that necessarily grew out of the past agitations.

Under these circumstances the prospects of Texas are better than they ever have been. The national revolution is ended, a constitutional government exists, the people are obedient to the government and laws, everywhere. Be the same in Texas, and have no more excitements, tolerate no more violent measures, and you will prosper and obtain from the government all that reasonable men ought to ask for.

The last year has been one of calamities for Texas, floods, pestilence, and commotions, I hope the present year will be more favorable. I request that you will have this letter published for general information, and also the enclosed copy of the answer given to me by his Excellency the minister of relations.[1] You will see by this answer the very favorable and friendly disposition of the general government to make a state or a territory of Texas, and do everything else within its constitutional powers for the good of that country.

I consider my agency for Texas as terminated, but this will not prevent me from doing all I can for the good of that country, on my own individual responsibility.

Respectfully your most ob't sert.,

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN.

AUSTIN TO J. N. SEGUIN[2]

Gefatura Politica del Departam^to^ de Bejar

El Ciud^o^ Estevan F. Austin en Oficio de 17 de En^o^ pp^oo^ escrito desde Monterrey me dice lo siguiente.

" Yncluyo á VS copia de la contestacion que me dio el S. G[arcia] con fha 7 del mes pasado sobre las solicitudes de Tejas, para que se sirva V. S. publicar y circularla afin de que los havitantes queden impuestos de la muy buena disposicion del S^o^ G^o^ para favorecerles en todo lo q. diga relacion al fomento de aquel pais y q. aprueba sus pretensiones para formar Estado ó territorio de esta Federacion siempre en el concepto que han de ir por las vias legales y de conformidad con la constitucion y las leyes.

Supongo q. esta VS. ya impuesto de mi arresto por orn. del Exmo Sor Ministro de la Guerra y que he de regresar á Mexico para responder á mi acusacion hecha, segun entiendo por haver escrito el Oficio a los Ayuntam^tos^ de Tejas fha 2 de Octubre recomendando q. consultasen entre si para organizar un Gov^no^ local *en el caso* de q.

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[1] See Garcia to Austin, Dec. 7, 1833.

[2] From Bexar Archives, University of Texas.

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mucho [no] se haria para remediar los males q. amenazaron aquel pais de la ruina.

Yo no culpo al Govno en ninguna manera por este paso.

Se deve acordar q yo fui á Mexico en clase de Agente publico y q. como tal era mi dever cumplir con mis instrucciones. Ygualmte que cuando yo sali de Tejas en Abril la opinion de la mayoria se espreso decididamente en favor de la separacion de Coahuila y q. se erigiere á Tejas en Estado de la federacion. Ygualmente q. no, hubo entonces una determinacion en la dha mayoria de organizar un Govno local a todo costo si no se consiguiere ningun remedio.

Bien claro que hera mi dever sagrado obrar *como Agente Publico* de conformidad con esta voluntad publica de mis comitentes y de consiguiente, era tambien mi dever informarles del estado de sus negocios.

En Octubre perdi esperansas de conseguir remedios y creyendo q. los pueblos se organisaran, yo dije muy bien q. hubiera sido mejor para coahuila, para Tejas y para la Federacion, q se hiciese tal organisacion por las Autoridades locales q. por medio de un tumulto popular conbocando otra convencion. Asi es q. yo cumpli con un dever como Agente publico, y como Ciudo. Mexicano. De otra parte el Govno tambien ha cumplido con su dever en arrestarme por haverlo hecho afin de averiguar mis motivos. Es de advertir que luego que las circunstancias y los asuntos de Tejas tomaron un aspecto favorable yó lo participé á los Ayuntams y crei haver revocado con este paso la recomendacion de Octe que fue enteramente provicional y sujetos a los acontecimientos del porvenir.

Espero que no habra ninguna exaltacion en Tejas á causa de mi arresto, y a fin de evitarle he escrito una carta al Ayuntamiento de Austin cuya copia incluyo.

Voy acavando mis años, mis esfuerzos y salud para servir aquellos pueblos y arrancarlos de los desiertos, y del poder de los indios bravos. Entré en Tejas en 1821 en la flor de mi vida un entusiasta filantropico, y ahora a la edad de 40 años me hayo a la puerta de la misantropia, cansado de los hombres y de sus negocios.

Deseo q. se sirva VS. circular este Oficio y las copias q. van inclusas á todos los Ayuntamtos de Tejas y al Gobno del Estado y de la federacion."

Y lo transcrivo á VS para su conocimiento y en obsequio del pedido del Ciudo Estevan F. Austin, acompañandole la copia q. se cita en la preinserta comunicacion.

Dios y libertad Bejar 25 de Feb de 1834

JUAN NEPno SEGUIN

Al Y Ayuntamiento de esta Ciudad

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AUSTIN TO PETER AND JOSEPH POWELL[1]

Monterrey, Jany. 18, 1834.

To PETER POWELL and JOSEPH POWELL.

Dr SIRS, Mr. Allsbury has informed that you are at Pilon, and have heard of my arrest. I am arrested by an order of the Minister of War to answer an accusation made, as I understand, by the State Government, on account of my having written to the Ayuntamiento of Bexar recommending that all the ayuntamientos of Texas should consult together as to what ought to be done in the event no remedies could be obtained for Texas, and also in the event that the Arista or military party should succeed, it being somewhat doubtful at that time (2nd of October), how the civil war would terminate.

The genl. govt. could do no otherwise than order me back to Mexicon, to answer to this accusation, coming as it did from the state, neither could the state govt. very well have avoided making the accusation—so do not blame either of them in any manner.

It was my duty, as an agent, acting under the instructions I had to write as I did under the circumstances.

The fact is that the revolutions since the plan of Jalapa, have kept everything so disjointed and so confused all over the nation, that no man who has had anything to do with public business, could avoid being entangled in some way. It was always my wish, as is well known in Texas, to keep the colony and that whole country out of the revolution, but it was impossible. All the measures of the Bustamante administration tended to ruin Texas, and subject it to a military govt. This irritated the people so much that they could not be restrained. They had sufficient cause to oppose military usurpation, but I wished them to keep out of that revolution for it was not absolutely necessary.

The military would have gone away of themselves in a short time. Since then all has been unsettled everywhere and I have been drawn into the whirlpool, unavoidable. It could not be helped.

The disposition of the genl. govt. toward Texas is in the highest degree favorable and friendly and everything will be done for that country that can be consistent with the constitution and laws. It would be made a state or a territory without delay if it was asked for by the ayuntamientos unanimously, but there must be no more conventions and no more wild excitements. The people must keep quiet, obey the state authorities and law, harmonise fully with Bexar and Goliad and with the Mexican population, discountenance all

[1] From a printed copy furnished by Mrs. Mary E. Bell, London, Tex. Since this copy was made Mrs. Bell has given the original to the museum of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas at Austin.

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violent men or measures and speak to the govt. through the legal channels, that is the ayuntamientos and chief of department, as they would speak to a kind and affectionate father, and they will then be listened to and all their reasonable requests will be granted.

I hope there will be no excitement about my arrest, and I particularly request that on your return, you will say that I request of the people there to remain quiet, and not be excited because I am arrested. No injustice or violence will be done me, I have been very kindly and respectfully treated since my arrest. It may cost me some months and perhaps a year delay and great expense but nothing more, and good will finally come out of it for Texas.

God knows the Colony has given me trouble enough. I am wasting away my years, my strength and my spirit to try and make all your fortunes. I have no time of my own, it is all yours, and yet many of you (I speak of the colonists) complain—you lissen to men who are my enemies. If you think I do wrong in anything it is unpardonable and magnified, you get perversed and excited and violent and drag me into difficulties in spite of myself these things however are all inevitable. Upon the whole my Colony has suffered much less from party spirit and division than most new settlements under such circumstances, and it is now entirely safe. The govt. is in favor of Texas and will protect it, and the people are beginning to have too much property and too many comforts at home to risk them by any more conventions or excitements. I think things will now get better and better every day, and that consideration and reason will have more weight than they heretofore have had. If so there will be peace, and prosperity. I particularly request that you will say to the people that I advise them to harmonise fully with the Mexican part of the population. This is very important indeed.

Remember me kindly to everybody. I am as I always have been and will be a friend to Texas and to you all.

S. F. AUSTIN

AUSTIN TO PETER AND JOSEPH POWELL

I send two likenesses of mine which I request Mr Powell to put into the hands of my sister or Brother in law Perry Please take care of them—they are painted on ivory in water colors and wet will ruin them. Mr. Allsbury will put them in a box and they can be put in your trunk edgewise so as not to crack the glass by any weight on it.

S. F. AUSTIN

Mr. Peter Powel[n] and Joseph Powel
Dn. H. Allsberry Pilon.

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M. A. BRYAN TO J. F. PERRY

January 22, 1834.

See Calendar.

M. A. BRYAN TO J. F. PERRY

January 23, 1834.

See Calendar.

M. A. BRYAN TO JAMES F. PERRY

San Felipe de Austin Feb. 1st

DEAR FATHER

There has news arrived that that they have arrested Uncle at Saltillo it is a report but I fear it is to true they intend sending him back to Mexico they accuse him of treason if they make it out that, I am fearfull it will go hard with him, there is a great deal of excitement about it in this place apply to Doct Miller for the news as I send this by him. It is imposible to get teams here the engagements I made has all fallen through it is out of the question to hall they say. I cant say any more as my hands are so cold that I can scearsly hold my pen I send enclosed an order on Walter C White for one hundred and twenty dollars and 29¢ which he will pay you in Brazoria times are dull owing to cold weather

M. A. BRYAN

Jones is going up the Country in a few day with his family goods are very scarse here If you can get yours up now you could sell them right of, ther is scarsely anything to eat in San Felipe

M. A B

I have paid Mr. Townsend the twenty dollars for Slate.

[Addressed.] Mr James F Perry Peach Point Brazos per Doct Miller

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JOHN IRWIN TO ——— CHAPMAN

[February 1, 1834?]

DEAR CHAPMAN

Colonel Austin gave me a draft on Dr. Grant for 200$ drawn by Mr. Parrot payable in Saltillo. as Colonel A was arrested he requested the money to be put in Monterey Dr. G. sent the money there but it could not arrive before Colonel A left. He is now on his way to Mexico and wants the money, in his present situation if

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you can give it to him he will give you an order to receive the same Sum in Monterey

[Dr.] Grant and myself will feel obliged if you can confer this favor.

I write this because Rolan is [go]ne to Parras

Jn° Irwin

Susan Maxwell to J. F. Perry

Spring Mills, February 9, 1834.

See Calendar.

John Rowland to J. F. Perry

New Orleans, February 18, 1834.

See Calendar.

Edmund Andrews to James F. Perry

Brazoria Feby 22d 1834

James F Perry Esq,

Your Esteemed favour under yesterdays date has been received and I have delivered Simon Six Hoes of his own choice. We have no information of Col. Austin since you was here

I have heard that McQueen has gone into the interior to hear [what] was become of him but of this I am not certain Mr Williams Expected now here and we may here something then

I have charged the hoes to you with the understanding you are to pay by crediting Capt H Austin with them

I have not heard anything from Dick yet. Nor have I found any one that is willing to work. I am in hope to make a sale for Capt H Austin to help him out. You I suppose have heard of Hunter Smiths overseer being drowned at Bolivar it happend when Capt H. A was with me—

Edmund Andrews

[Addressed:] James F Perry Esq Peach Point pr Simon

M. A. Bryan to J. F. Perry

February 26, 1834.

See Calendar.

"Extract" of a Letter From Texas

Brazoria, March 7, 1834.

See Calendar.

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F. W. Johnson to R. M. Williamson

Tenoxtitlan 10th March 1834

R. M. Williamson Esq

D. Sir I received yours of the 9th Ult. and avail my self of this opputunity, to write you in answer. I arrived in this place yesterday All in good health. Nothing important in my last tour in the Upper Country.

I shall leave hear as soon as I can get some supplies from the lower country—I can be found on the yegua or its waters.

Mr. Moore will give you a plot of the much desired single league. I have traversed Willis Creek and Vally some twenty or thirty miles. Land good but a scarcity of Timber.

Hoxeys 10 league tract on San Gabriel is not as I could have wished it, the survey takes but little of the River, your Creek runs diagonally through it, the cutting off six leagues has made the tract much less valuable than it would have been, however it is such an error as might have been made by much closer observers than either you or I.

Your friend Doct. Pollard can be accommodated, either in the Brazos or San Andres as he may wish, Mr. Moore will give you or the Doctor such information as we are in possession of, from which you must determine.

I find the Robinson [1] fever raging in this peaceful land, and am informed that it is raging below in a way calculated to alarm the fears of every well wisher of peace and harmony. Is Texas like Mexico destined to *commotions* and *Civil Wars?* I hope not, but fear the result of this damnable contagious poisen emitted throughout the Land by Robinson and his sattelites.

Some efficient measures must be taken to check this mad-man, or means used to quiet the minds of a deluded and distracted people, otherwise confusion and probably its attendant (Blood-shed) must be the result. The cole when properly kindeled may burst out in a flame that will consume Texas.

Much preparation and big talk at this place by the party, I have not yet seen or had any conversation with them but will in a short time.

Give me all the news you have, I have been where I could hear nothing and here what I get is worse than nothing. I am sometimes ready to say that I will turn Hermit, live with the Indians or quit this Hole of Confusion.

---

[1] Sterling C. Robertson, successor to the Nashville Company. His empresario contract had been annulled and his grant reissued to Austin and Williams.

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Present my respects to all the boys and accept the same for yourself.

F. W. JOHNSON [Rubric]

[Addressed:] R. M. Williamson Esq Sanfelipi de Austin. Texas.

SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS TO GOVERNOR VIESCA

[about April 1, 1834]

Señor Don José Mª Viesca.

Mi muy respetado y estimado Señor-Valiendome de la buena fama de U. Sin cualquier merito particular de mi parte me he atrevido molestar á V. con esta representacion en obsequio de su justicia y de mis derechos. Por una persona muy respetable que acaba de llegar de esa he sabido q. se trata de anular la contrata de colonizacion celebrada por Dn. Esteban Austin por si y como apoderado de mi en el año de 1831 cuando nuestro estado se hallaba bajo el digno Gobno de V.[1] no estoy yo al alcance de los motivos puedan existir pª justificar semejante medida, pues no se me ha citado ni noticiado en manera alguna y todo pasa puramente exparte. Se dice que se ha probado ante el Gobno que la compañia de Nashville introdujo un numero considerable de familias y que de consiguiente se debe restituir la contrata á favor de la compañia.

No puedo decir de cierto Señor mio si fue en principios del Gobno de U. ó a fin del del Sor Dn Ignacio Arizpe, en el año de 1827 que la compañia de Nashville mandó una representacion al Supremo Gobno del Estado y el Honorable Congreso, pidiendo la aprobacion del Gobno á favor del traspaso hecho por Don Roberto Leftwich de la contrata que celebró con el Gobno a la dcha.Compañia, y pidiendo al mismo tiempo el privilegio exclusivo de introducir las familias que compusieron la compañia en numero de varios centenares, lo que se les acordaron ahora como es posible admitir que un hombre que dice ser agente de la compania, llegar aqui y sacar de hombres ignorantes certificaciones que emigraron a este pais con el fin de establecerse en la colonia de la Compañia, cuando la misma Compania no quizo admitir dentro desu colonia ningª familia que no habia contratado con ella, y ademas hay algunas personas que han dado certificaciones que emigraron al pais antes que hubo tal contrata con el Sr. Leftwich, es todo un engaño Señor mio Como puedo justificar si el Gbno. me dara lugar llamando al efecto. por cinco años no hubo obstaculo ningº ni ley ni nada para impedir la emigracion de las familias, muy al contrario el Gbno llamando todo el mundo por sus bondadosas

[1] See Calendar, July 2, 1834, concerning Robertson's colony.

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ofrecimientos y todo este tiempo no hizo la compañia movim^to^ alguno para colonizar.

El agente de la compañia el Sr. League residente entonces en esta villa no pudo conseguir la aprobacion de la compañia para progresar con el establecim^to^ de familias que eran deseosos radicarse en la colonia.—No Senor.—El Gobierno, Texas, y toda la poblacion sufrio muchas incomodidades por el despoblado de la frontera, y ahora es de admitirse que se presentan diciendo qe habian introducido tanto numero de familias y hacer esto constante por certificados Vagos bien sabe todo que si tales familias hubieran venido bajo la aprobacion de la compañia que no hubo obstaculo para impedir su establecim^to^ por que desde el año de 1827 hasta despues del termino concedido para la contrata estaba siempre en esta Villa el agente de la Compañia. Y no es de suponerse que si en efecto tuvieron tales familias que no llamaron la atencion del Gob^no^ pidiendo el Nombramiento de un comisionado

Puede el Ciud^o^ Coronel Ruiz que era el Comandante de Tenoxtitlan justificar si hubo y cuantas familias existieron en la colonia unas cuatro o cinco familias que se plantaron alli sin reconocer a nadie.

Despues de publicada la ley de 6 de Abril del año de 1830 y en el mes de Junio del mismo año dió licencia la compañia á Sterling Robertson para introducir cierto numero de familias y en fines del mismo año llego en el pais con 8 á 10 familias y por haber desobedecido las ordenes del Sr Comandante del puesto de Nacogdoches se mando el Gobierno que salieron fuera del territorio de la Republica.

[Samuel M. Williams.]

James Morgan and Nancy Ann Morgan

See Calendar. April 28, 1834.

Austin to James F. Perry

Ex-inquisicion Mexico May 10th 1834

D^r^ Brother.

I improve the first moment that I could write to you since I arrived here which was on the 13 Feb^y^—on that day I was locked up in one of the dungeons of this vast building *incomunicado*, that is I was not allowed to speak to, or communicate with any person whatever except the officer of the guard. I remained in this situation untill yesterday when I was permitted to communicate with persons outside, receive books, writing materials, visits etc and to mix with the other prisoners—there are about 60 of them, all officers

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except two clergymen (Padres) and all men of good families and respectability confined for political opinions in the revolution of the past year. The occupant of my dungeon before me was a Col. who was banished. General Bustamante former vice-President occupied one in July and August last near mine, as I am informed.

You may have some curiosity to know how I am lodged and what sort of a place an inquisicion prison is, about which so many horrid things are said all over the world, and which are no doubt true and probably much worse.

My room is about 16 feet by 13—very high ceiling—two doors, one flush with the outside surface of the wall, the other near the inside surface and within the wall which is about 3 feet thick of large hewn stone—the latter door has an oblong hole large enough to admit a plate—the other is solid, both were always locked and bolted untill yesterday—no windows—a very small sky-light in the roof which barely afforded light to read on very clear days when the sun was high, say from 10 to 3 o'clock—quite free from damp except such as would naturally result from the want of a free circulation of air. There are 19 similar dungeons in this range with the difference that some of them are a little larger than mine, tho most are the same size—they are in the interior of this extensive building and the doors open into an oblong *patio* or open court about 120 by 60 feet which has a varanda or gallery all round it supported by pillars and arches—a fountain of good water from the acqueduct in the centre. This part of the building is one story but is surrounded on every side by other parts of the same building that are two stories and present a solid wall above our range without windows that look into this patio. On two sides of the base of the two story wall before mentioned there are *solederos* or sunning places which are spaces about 14 feet square (one is much larger) ranged along the back of the dungeons and between them and the before mentioned two story wall—they are separated from each other by high walls—each has a door, locks etc—open above for the sun—they communicate with the patio by arched passages.

When I came in each dungeon had its occupant and all were *incomunicado* the same as myself. All the doors were locked and bolted no one came into the patio except the sentinel—all was silent—each one was taken out about two hours the middle of the day and put into one of the *solederos* or sunning places, alone and locked in. In time of the inquisicion the prisoners were covered with a kind of sack or over garment with a mask at the top to cover the head and face, so that they could not be known, even by the guard in going through the patio to and from the *solederos*, nothing of the kind was done with us, we saw each other but could not salute or speak.

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I am told that in the time of the inquisicion there were four other patios or open courts that belonged to the part of the building that was used as a prison—they formerly communicated with each other by obscure passages which are now closed. The entrance into each from the street was always separate as they still are so that if the friend of a prisoner saw him enter one of the outside doors, he could not from that circumstance form any idea of the *patio* or part of the building where he was confined. The *patio* I am in communicates with the street by a narrow dark passage about 150 feet long.

Padre Servando Mier[1] a very distinguished patriot was confined in the same dungeon I am in by the tribunal of the inquisicion in its time, and also by the emperor Iturbide. I visited him here in this room in October 1822, he was a member of congress and was arrested the 20 of August with 14 other members. General Morelos the most distinguished of the generals in the beginning of the revolution, was confined in a dungeon near mine in this range from which he was taken to be shot. In short each of these dungeons has some tradition of the sufferings of some victim of the inquisicion or of the revolution. Since the Independence this building has been used as a prison for political opinions or offences—no one accused of felonious crimes is confined here. The prisoners are well treated.

The first of April all the prisoners were put in communication except myself and four others we remained shut up untill yesterday—our doors are now open from sun rise to 9 o'clock at night—we have the free use of the *patio* and can visit another extensive range of dungeons in the 2^{d} story of the main building which communicates with this patio by a dark passage and much darker stone staircase. From this range there is a passage onto the *asotea* or roof of our range of dungeons which is flat so that we can walk over our dungeons and all around our patio and have sufficient room for exercise I was shewn a dungeon in the 2^{d} story where a man from Guatamala was confined by the inquiscion 30 years he is now living in a hospital of this city and has given some account of the treatment of prisoners in those days of superstition and despotism

I have received no personal ill treatment from any of the officers or guards who have had charge of me since my first arrest up to this day I received such provisions as I needed them through the guard—they were handed in at the hole in the inside door. When I left Monterey the officer of the guard, Cap Manuel Barragan, told me that he would put no guard over me except my word that I would not attempt to escape nor speak or write to any one without his permission. I gave it of course, for I would have returned to Mexico on the simple order of the Govt my conscience told me that I had

[1] Biographical sketch in Bancroft, History of Mexico, IV, 451.

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committed no crime. I was imprudent in urging the claims of Texas that were confided to me as an agent with more determination and obstenancy than was consistent with my personal security or wellfare, but nothing more. I accepted the agency with reluctance, but in good faith and conformed to what I had every right to believe was the general wish of the people so far as the convention expressed that wish. Much good will result to Texas from my sufferings. The state government have been stimulated to apply proper remedies in many things and some of those who would have ruined the country and thrown it into confusion merely from personal feelings and low mean jealousies towards me, are now satisfied and rejoicing and are in favor of peace and quietness, because they think I am suffering— others who were restless and dissatisfied with me and with every thing without knowing why, are more calm and reasonable, and others who were my enemies a year ago, have no doubt had the magninimity to do me justice— this conduct (if it be true as I am told it is) will do them honor and be remembered to their advantage at some future day when all personal feelings have passed away. My own personal friends (and the mass of the honest and laboring farmers are so) have always been in favor of peace and quietness and opposed to turbulence. They have no doubt blamed me for suffering violent men to involve me as I have been. They have seen that I have permitted myself to be thrown into the mire by others whose sole object was my ruin. I was unsuspicious and acted in good faith—the fact is that when a few persons combine to ruin another who is unsuspicious and acts in good faith and with honest intentions, it is very difficult for him to escape.

Thus it is, that those who a year ago were the most anxious for a state and the most turbulent, are now for peace—they have in fact adopted my own principles which allways have been *peace quietness, patience and submission to the laws and no revolutions.* If I ever wandered from those principles, it was because the public feeling was so disordered and things were so disjointed that my opposition would have increased the evils and in all probability caused a great deal of confusion. I yielded from this motive, *and yielded in good faith*, and not to undermine or counteract. Thus my own principles of peace and quietness are now predominant, when had I attempted to have made them prevail by direct opposition to violent measures the reverse would have been the case.

It is very evident that Texas must become a state at some future day and not very distant—all will be in favor of it— the attempt that has been made was premature and totally wrong as to the manner. The particular act that involved me in all this, was the calling of the convention in my absence. I yielded after my return.

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So far as I am to blame in agreeing to those measures I am ready to be censured—they grew out of the situation of public feelings at the time—it would have been worse than useless for me to have opposed them—the only way I could have done it was to enter into the thing in bad faith so as to defeat and counteract. Such a course I did not think was correct or honorable— on my arrival here I could have put the state question to sleep. If I had done so those who now blame me for an excess of zeal would have been vociferous on the opposite extreem. All those things are mere matters of course—in short it is mankind. The only substantial matter in this business that is worthy of consideration is *that much substantial good will result to Texas from my sufferings* and I am content— as to office or public employ you know that I have always been averse to it—I am more so now than ever— I am no office hunter nor no demagogue seeking popularity— I have tryed in good faith to do all the good I could to everybody—as to enemies and friends— the common acceptation of those words amongst mankind in general conveys to the mind the same idea of change, that the word *clouds*, does— not so with true personal friends— of these I shall never want. Such men for example as T. F. McKinney. These are the only kind of friends I wish for.

I have no idea when I shall be at liberty. I think that all depends on the report of Almonte[1] who has been sent to Texas and I presume is now there or on his way back. It is much in my favor that all remains quiet in Texas I was confident that no friend of mine would try to get up an excitement but I feared that my enemies would. Such a thing would have increased my difficulty, for I would have been blamed for it all. My confinement has been very rigid but I am in good health and have borne it with tolerable patience. I had no books the first month, and it was solitary enough—after that I prevailed on the sergeant to go to D. Victor Blanco who sent them—he and Padre Muldoon have been firm and unwavering in their friendship to me in all this business, so has Ramon Musquis and many others in Bexar who have written here in my favor I have never complained of the Vice President Farias—he has been deceived—he has been made to believe, as I am told, that my object was to separate Texas from Mexico and deliver it to the United States of the north, which is absolutely false and without the shadow of foundation besides being a great absurdity. In a moment of irritation I said to the vice President that if the evils of Texas were not remedied the public there would remedy them of themselves— this irritated him very much and my difficulties com-

[1] For Almonte's mission to Texas, see Barker, *The Life of Stephen F. Austin*, 462–466.

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menced. The truth is I lost patience and was imprudent and of course to blame, for patience is necessary in such cases. I hope that no friend of mine will blame the vice President or complain of him. I put on one side all considerations of personal safety or consequences to myself and thought only of suffering Texas and the fevered and excited situation of my constituents—had I erred from a want of zeal or industry or dilligence in the discharges of my duty as an agent, all would have had cause to censure me and my own conscience would have been the first to do it, for nothing can be more sacred than a public agency. My conscience is at rest—as an agent I did my duty, or, only erred from excess of zeal to do it—good has resulted even from that error if it was one. I am suffering but the evils of Texas are remedied— this idea consoles me for my misfortunes and enables me to bear them firmly. Remember me to McKinney and show him this letter also H. Austin and if Mason and Hotchkiss are there remember me to them.

Love to Emily and all the family

S. F. Austin

N. B. I sent you two mineatures from Monterey by Mr. Powel which I hope you have rec^{d}. The small one was taken the beginning of October when things were very unfavourable for Texas and I was not in a pleasant humour of course it therefore has rather a cross or frowning look—the other that is the large one, was taken in November when all was right. Mr Howard who painted them has gone to Texas and I recommend him to you very particularly as a good artist and a very good worthy young man. If Hotchkiss is in Texas remember me to him very particularly—he is an honorable and high minded man—his friendship is valuable for he has no deception—he will no doubt blame me very much for writing the letter of 2d of October don't mind that—I blame myself because it was the imprudent act of an excited impatient moment. If I find that I am to be detained here long, I will send you a power of attorney to sell any of my property you think proper and make titles. I send you an extra-judicial power under which you can act if you think proper—deeds may be wanted for the Brazoria lots and perhaps you may do something with the place at the mouth of the river west side. Do as you please with anything of mine and try and have a room for me at your house.

S. F. Austin

May 10 1834

Mr James F. Perry

I know nothing about the political situation of the country but am told it is very unsettled—some say worse than it has ever

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been—party spirit is more bitter and vindicative—some think there will be another civil war worse than any of the others. These are the rumors which reach us in the *Patio* whether true or false God knows

S. F. A.

Austin's Prison Journal

[See Quarterly of Texas State Historical Association, II, 183–210, January, 1899.]

J. F. Perry to Father Muldoon

May 13, 1834.

See Calendar.

James F. Perry to Austin

San Felipe de Austin 13th May 1834

My Dear Brother

I enclose this to our beloved Pastor Father Muldoon through whose kindness I hope you will receive it knowing your anxiety to hear from us. Emily and myself both wrote to you a short time since by the way of New Orleans which I hope you have rec^{d}. We have not rec^{d} a line from you since you left Montary nor has there been any direct information rec^{d} of you since shortly after you arrived at the city of Mexico. our anxiety on your act. is very great—not through fear of any charges which can be brought against you as we have too much confidence in the Justness of the enlightened officers of the Mexican nation to think that they would treat you unjustly and knowing as we do that you have committed no offence, we fear not a fair exposetion of all your conduct but knowing the many severe attacks of diseas you have had caused from fatigue and exposure, we fear for your health but we still hope you are now on your way home and anticipate the happy moment when we may once more meet. the hour for the arrival of the mail today was looked for here In hopes that some intelligence would be rec^{d} of you but to our mortification not a word came. what can be the cause We cannot conceive. I left home ten days since the family were all well Emily enjoys tolerable health and all that is wanting to make her happy is your return once more the weather has been dry and fair so far and bids fair for a healthy season and good crops. Mr Pilgram still continues with us the children are very well. Stephen F Austin is going to school to him and begins to

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learn fast Col. Philips is in a very bad health it is doubtful whether he will recover. S. M. Williams left two weeks since for New Orleans, everything is going on here smoothly. a fair prospect for crops in every part of the colony and the passage of some Salutary Laws by the Congress of the State encourages us to look forward to prosperity and happiness.

By the last mail the Ayuntamiento of the Jurisdiction forwarded to the Gen[l] Government a petition praying your release and informing them that you had done nothing but what you was expected and instructed to do.

May God bless and protect you and hasten your return to your relatives and friends is the sincere prayer of your affectionat Brother

[James F. Perry.]

Ayuntamiento of Matagorda to Congress

May 17, 1834.

See Calendar.

Ayuntamiento of Matagorda to Governor

May 18, 1834.

See Calendar.

H. F. Spear to Austin

Dedham, May 28, 1834.

See Calendar.

H. Meigs to Austin

New York May 30 1834.

Dear Sir

The moment I learned that your safety was threatened by the Government of Mexico, I endeavored to procure the interference of our Government in your behalf. You will see by the inclosed note from the Secretary of State and the brief indorsement by my brother[1] Forsyth that such interference was made.

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[1] Meigs was Forsyth's brother-in-law. He connected with Austin through his wife, the daughter of Austin's Uncle Stephen.

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I wrote to you several months ago—I wish that you would answer that Letter—and favorably too.

Long life and prosperity to you.

H MEIGS

Col. Stephen Austin

[Addressed:] Colonel Stephen Austin San Felipe de Austin Texas

[Inclosure]

Department of State
Washington, 26th May, 1834.

The Honorable John Forsythe, Senator of the United States.

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you that in compliance with the request in your letter to me of the 19th instant, an instruction of the character suggested by you has been addressed to our diplomatic representative at Mexico.

I am, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

LOUIS MCLANE

The answer to my letter asking interference for your friend Austin

FORSYTH.

[Indorsed:] H. Meigs 1834

JAMES LADD TO AUSTIN

Dover, N. H., May 30, 1834.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO OLIVER JONES[1]

En Inquisicion Mexico May 30th 1834

Mr. OLIVER JONES

SIR I am still in prison and I can form no idea when I shall be at liberty

When I left Texas in April 1833 the position taken by the people was that the evils that threatened that country with ruin must be removed by the Government or the people [would] remedy them themselves and ought to do so as in that case they would have the right to do it. I sustained this position as the agent of the people firmly both verbally and in writing before the ministers and the Vice President and also in my letter to the Ayuntamiento of Bexar of 2nd of Oct. last I represented my constituents as they were when I left them, and as I had right to believe they continued to be; regardless of my personal safety liberty or life, it was my duty so to

[1] Copy by Moses Austin Bryan.

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do—great good has resulted to Texas from my labors, and the noise which this business has made—all the evils complained of have been removed, my conscience is clear, I have discharged my duty faithfully, and for having done so I have suffered five months inprisonment—Three of them in close and solitary confinement locked up in a dungeon day and night, the reflection that Texas would be benefited by my sufferings kept up my spirits and I have borne it all with patience and fortitude, I have understood indirectly from common rumor that those people in whose service I am suffering and have sacrifised so much time and money and fatigue are now calumniating me and rejoicing in my misfortunes, I do not believe this report—a few may do so, but not the mass—not the farmers—the honest and sound part of the community—they have always been correct sound and honest in their feelings intensions, and principles, and I have no doubt that all their sympathies are in my favor I will not calumniate them even in my thoughts by believing otherwise.

In my letter of the 17th January from Monterrey, I requested them not to suffer themselves to be excited on act. of my imprisonment. I did this to serve them, for all kinds of excitements in Texas are injurious to the farming and laboring classes and to the improvement of that country. They complied with my request and I thank them for having done so. I also requested them to be obedient to the state of Coahuila and Texas—they have been so, and for this I also thank them—God knows when I shall be at liberty—I hope soon—a mild and respectful representation of facts from the Ayuntamientos of Texas stating the situation of that country and of public opinion when I left them in April last year, as agent, the position above stated taken by those people which it was my duty as their agent to sustain, and my general character, conduct and services in favor of good order, of the integrity of the mexican territory and of the welfare and improvement of my adopted country, such a representation especialy from Bexar would open my dungeon at any time and would do it now. But perhaps this is to much to be done for S. F. Austin, I did not think that I was doing too much for those people when I risked everything for them.

I understand that the main charge against me is an attempt to separate Texas from the mexican Republic, this charge is false as all Texas can testify, however I do not know what the charge is for up to this day no copy of charges or accusation of any kind has been furnished—neither do I know whether I am to be judged by a military or civil tribunal when informed of the charges against me (and God knows when that will [be] perhaps many months hence) it may be necessary for me to send to Texas for evidence, so that I may linger away years here—the Ayuntamientos of Texas might have saved me all this, I did not ask it but I confess that I ex-

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pected it would have been done, If I am calumniated I consider that it is a duty of the people there to defend me by a statement of facts—an able and clear but short exposition to the public.

I hear from rumor that the state legislature have past a law to sell the vacant lands—such a law is necessary—public sales is the best, and only true basis for a land law, It will benefit the state of Coahuila and Texas greatly and fill its treasury and also benefit Texas—I recommend this system to the ministers here and the establishment of the trial by jury and the minister of relations informed me that he had recommended both to the Government of the state by order of the Vice president.

The aspect of things here indicates a great change or a civil war of some kind, But God knows what, the people of Texas, in my opinion ought to have nothing to do with their family political quarrels and I hope they will not. All you need in Texas is peace, a dead calm, and to make good crops. Remember me to all who remember me, Show this to Capt. Martin, to D. G. Burnett and to Miller—

S. F. Austin

June 2nd I have just heard of the laws past by the state in favor of the local government in Texas the establishment of three departments; judges, trial by jury, land law etc. In short every evil complained of has been remedied—this fully compensates me for all I have suffered I do not regret it; I think it is the duty of the people of Texas, to return thanks to the State Govt, in a public manner through the Ayuntamientos for these laws, and to make a most positive and clear declaration of their attachment and firm adhesion and union to the state of Coahuila and Texas and to the Mexican confederation. This ought to be done—it is due to the state—and it ought to be published in the news papers of the U. S. in order to correct the erroneous opinions, that have existed there as to the intentions or *objects* of the people of Texas,—they have been sound—they asked for a competant organization of their local government and nothing else, and they never had any other object, It was for this I came to Mexico and for this I am suffering—all this might be embodied in the document above mentioned And the people of Texas would thus do justice to the State, themselves, and to me all at the same time. Some of the enemies of Texas are beginning to snear at those people by reporting in this city that they have abandoned me and wished me sacrifised—such an idea is injurious to the character of those people and totally false, and ought to be refuted by a plain, frank, and public statement of facts

S. F. Austin

Mr. James F. Perry

Sir I send you the above letter which arrived here on the 9th inst I have receive[d] your letter, as also Guy's nothing new, there will

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be something done for Uncle to day as there is a colecton [?] of people in town to day Clayton is to be tried for his life

M. AUSTIN BRYAN

In a letter to Sam Williams of similar import to this he used these words "I was *incommunicado regororisimo* from the 13th Feby to 9 May—no book or writing materials & very little light—dreary enough but the idea that Texas &c" Dated ex inquisicion—June 3rd '34

AYUNTAMIENTO OF LIBERTY

May 31, 1834.

See Calendar.

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

Mexico Exinquisition June 3. 1834

S. M. WILLIAMS

On the 31st I drew on the house of Beers St. John & Co. for seven hundred forty seven dollars $\frac{51}{100}$

I have received three letters from you 13 March 13 and 15 April—also information that I could draw on the above house, from Don R. M. [Ramon Musquiz] through his brother-in-law—all that family have been firm and true friends to me in all my troubles and I hope my friends will never forget them

I have heard of the laws passed by the state in favor of Texas I have not seen them except the land law which I approve of very much and of all the others so far as I have heard of them

I think it is the duty of the people of Texas to return thanks in a public manner to the state Govt. through the Ayuntamientos and chief of departments for these laws and also to make a most solemn and positive declaration of their firm adhesion, union and attachment to the state of Coahuila and Texas and to the Mexican confederation. This declaration or document ought to be drawn up in an able manner, concise, but clear and full and it ought to be published in the U. S. in order to correct public opinion there as to the intentions and objects of the people of Texas.

The position taken by them last year was "*that the evils which threatened that country with anarchy and ruin must be remedied by the Govt. or the people would remedy them of themselves and ought to do so, as in the last resort they would have the right to do so on the principle of self preservation.*"

I sustained this position firmly as the agent of Texas before the ministers and the vice president and my letter of 2 October [was based] upon it, and upon the public good and general interest of the

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republic and of Coahuila and Texas by recommending that the constituted municipal authorities should take up the subject and thus prevent popular commotions.

A frank and plain statement of these facts and of the true situation of Texas and the state of public opinion etc all embodied in the document of public thanks to the Govt. above mentioned, would place the whole matter in its true light before the world, and contradict all the calumnies and false reports, that the *intentions* and *objects* of those people, and also my objects, were a total separation from Mexico—such reports are all false. It is also reported here that those people have abandoned me and wish me shot or imprisoned for life, and the enemies of North Americans and of Texas are making use of this calumny both against me and against the people of Texas, for our enemies wish to make out that those people are ungrateful and bad, and they say that if they abandon me they would also abandon the Govt. etc. etc.—all calumnies and false.

I particularly requested those people not to be excited on account of my arrest, and strongly urged and begged that they would remain quiet and faithful to the state of Coahuila and Texas, as I had no doubt the state government would remedy the evils complained of—I thank the people for having complyed with my request. The result has shown that I was right. The evils have all been remedied in a *legal* manner, excitement and commotions kept down in Texas, The people of Texas and the whole state and nation have been served *effectually* and all motives for discontent in future are forever removed. My mission to Mexico—*the position taken by my constituents and firmly sustained by me* here, and my imprisonment and sufferings and the *noise* and *alarm* occasioned by all these things—have materially contributed to bring about this happy result—and I therefore do not regret what I have suffered and the money I have spent. On my part I risked all for those people and to sustain the position taken by them—I now expect that *they* on their part will do justice to the Govt who has remedied all their evils, to me their agent—and to themselves as high minded and honorable men and as true and faithful Mexican citizens.

All this they can do by a public and official document of the character before mentioned combining a statement of facts as to themselves, and as to me their agent; thanks to the Govt for what has been done; and a clear declaration of union and fidelity to the state and to the Mexican confederation.

This will place the matter before the world in its true light, and do justice to all parties and silence calumny for ever—it will also keep ambitious or restless spirits quiet.

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D. G. Burnet would be a good hand to draft such a document aided by Capt Martin, Miller, Jack, Chambers, Jones, Adams, Johnson, Lesassier etc—

My enemies in the low country that you speak of will do me justice—no one can be so base as to calumniate the man who has served them faithfully and is suffering for their benefit—personal feelings are momentary in their influence but *justice* will finally prevail over them. I wrote yesterday to Oliver Jones.

Remember me to Ramon Musquiz particularly—I shall feel grateful to him and D. V^{r} B^{o} [Victor Blanco] as long as I live and hope my friends will—also remember [me] to everybody—let the present happy situation of that country forever bury all personal feelings. *I bury them forever*—and let us all devote ourselves to cultivate the soil, make good crops, and be good neighbors and good citizens— so soon as I can close my affairs so as to get on to a farm I will do so, and it will be a difficult matter to drag me away from it—unless it be to go to a ball or a social meeting of friends. I am done with public matters, that is when I get free from them I mean to keep so—and I mean to get free as soon as I can—

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

You can show this letter to whom you think proper I send it via New Orleans I am in good health I was *incomunicado rigororisimo* from the 13 Feby to 9 May—no books or writing materials and very little light—dreary enough, but the idea that Texas would be benefited and that I had done my duty kept up my spirits and I bore all patiently. I hope that Almonte who was sent to Texas by Govt. has been well received and kindly treated, no friend of mine or of Texas would think of treating him or any other commissioner of the Govt. in any other manner than with attention and politeness. The enemies of Texas, or my enemies might wish to take a different course in order to make confusion and difficulty.

S. F. A.

I sent a power of attorney to my brother-in-law to sell property and I now send a duplicate. I wrote him by way of Orleans 10 May.

Oliver Jones to James F. Perry

Santarosa June 10th 1834

Dear Sir

believing yourself and family anxious to hear something direct from Col Austin, I take the liberty of forwarding you such information as I have obtained.

I this day recd. a letter from Farther Muldoon dated Mexico May 14th, respecting Austin, he writes as follows,—

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You have no doubt have known of Austin's imprisonment in one of the dungeons of the Inquisition since the beginning of february until last week, when he was put in *communication*, although I have been to see him several times during the extreme rigor of his prison, but to obtain this boon, to make use of Priestcraft was of absolute necessity, the Vice President would have suffered him to rot there without once offering him the remotest hope of his enlargement He will soon enjoy the plentitude of liberty.

The farther says he has been living with the president since the commencement of the present year, that he left his country residence on the 17th of apl owing to some new disturbances making their appearences in Mexico and arived at the capital on the 23rd and again took charge of the reins of govt, he is of opinion all things will become tranquil in a short time,—

Sterling Robison agent of the Nashville Company, has obtained the coloney granted to Austin and Williams in 1832, I believe it cost a bribe of about thirteen hundred dollars.

OLIVER JONES

DEAR SIR

This letter was in closed to you in a letter Directed to Williamson I now send you the letter as there is something respecting Uncle, I wrote you yesterday. Roberson has got the colony but he has got it by proveing lies by some interested individuals, but every thing that has been done by Austin and Williams is respected and is to stand good etc I think there will be some difficulty about it yet as they will try to prove that Roberson *had not the Hundred* familys which he has stated to the Government through the Ayuntameanto that he had when the law of 6 April was passed etc which prevented him from fullfilling his contract etc

M. A. B[RYAN]

Austin June 26 1834

[Addressed] Mr. James F. Perry Peach Point politeness Doct Shaw

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CONCERNING ROBERTSON'S COLONY

[July 2, 1834?]

See Calendar.

BELL TO PERRY

Mr. J. F. Perry Columbia July 15th 1834

DEAR SIR

I have understood that they have got a letter at St Philipi from Col Austin givin information of his situation which is more inlarged

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than heretofore but is still in Confinement also requesting the several aumentoes [ayuntamientos] to have a meeting for the purpose of making representations to the Gov and as I understand that ours is to be instald at this place on satterday next I think it would be well for you to Come up and let us make a tryal to git sumthing on foot far his benefit I have talked with several whous opinions air entitled to Credit and all are anceous to attend to the affair and also are ancious that you should Come up I think it should be attended to as soon as possable and I will look for you up on satterday when we will have an oportunity of Consulting for the best— I send by Mr McNeal some books for your little son I should be glad if Mr Pilgram and James could Come up at the same time as the peaches will be getting ripe if the[y] can not Come at that time at any rate by satterday week.

J. H Bell [Rubric]

[Addressed:] J. F. Perry Gulf Perie

Thomas F. McKinney to James F. Perry

Mr James F. Perry

D Sir I have written as many letters as I think will be necessary to effect our purpose and heaven grant our labors may not be in vain I have also written one to the Col and hope they may intercept it

I also write one to Duke presuming you may go there

Thos F. McKinney [Rubric]

Velasco 17 July 1834

Thomas W. Garrett to Alexander Somervell

Rodney, Miss., July 20, 1834.

See Calendar.

Ayuntamiento of Mina to Congress

July 23, 1834.

See Calendar.

William H. Jack to Thomas F McKinney

Austin 24th July. [1834.]

Dr Sir

The mail brought but little information beyond Monclova There they have made a (pronuncimento) by which they declare that the

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acts of the Genl Govt will not be recognized until Congress shall be installed—It seems that Congress and Santa Ana got into collision with each other both became violent. he insisting that they had adjourned and they declaring that the Session would Still continue. Thus things Stood, when they were expelled by an armed force.—As far as I can learn the most respectable States have declared against the President and the general opinion seems to be that he must fall.

Not one word in relation to Austin. Coln Almonte is here; he is intelligent agreeable and apparently candid. He says that Austin will be released soon. That the govt has been grossly imposed on in relation to Texas. That it was Stated in Mexico that we were in a State of open rebellion, and that he was dispatched for the purpose of learning our true Situation that he finds the reports to be worse than false and that his representation will be of the most favorable character.

You will see him before he leaves Texas. Henry Smith is *Gefe Politico.* Chambers has rec[d] the appointment of Judge (Temporary). My own prospects for that office I conceive by no means flattering. But I shall give myself no trouble or uneasiness about it. The people seem to be determined to run your name for Deputy.

Williamson, as I am informed would be glad to get his name in nomination, but it cannot be done.

This whole upper country is exceedingly sickly; tho not many deaths. I feel an intense anxiety to get home to see my wife my children and my best of friends Besides I really feel some little uneasiness about my health. I am well at present but they fall so rapidly around me that it is Somewhat alarming.

I shall not be able to start down before the first of August. Clayton will certainly be hanged tomorrow. I am told he submits to his fate with but little fortitude.

You will find enclosed a little note to Laura and yourself.

WM H JACK [Rubric]

T. F. McKinney

[Addressed:] T. F. McKinney Velasco Care of Mims & Sharp Brazoria who will forward it speedily

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P. W. GRAYSON TO JAMES F. PERRY

At. Bells Monday morning July 25, 1834

D SIR,

I enclose you a letter from Mr. Jack of S. Fellipe to Mr. McKinney—It contains some important information in regard to affairs

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in the interior—An open falling out between S. Anna and Congress— But what I wish to call your attention to in the letter, is that part of it which speaks of Mr. Almonte being in S. Fellipe, and his opinions in regard to Colo Austin— The business of this Gentleman in Texas, as he says himself—was to learn the actual condition of things here, the feelings of the people etc. The Government according to his statement, had been receiving contradictory rumors in relation to Texas for a good while, some representing it preparing for rebellion, and others again contradicting all this— It appears he is well pleased with the appearance of things, and says he will make favorable representations to the Government.— and gives it as *his* opinion that Colo. Austin will soon be released—

This appears to put rather a *new face* upon the subject—so much so, that I have thought, you and others might be inclined to think perhaps, that the trip of Jack and myself might be *unnecessary*— For myself I scarcely know what to think—the distractions in the Interior make all judgment no better than *guessing*— In such a state of things I am *doubtful* of everything, and as much of any good we can do by going on as of any thing else—

If the S. Anna party holds out a while, Almonte as he belongs to it of course, will undoubtedly be able to do a great deal— But if the party goes down, perhaps his influence may go with it— But of this we know nothing, and as I have said, can only guess—

As you are about to incur more *trouble* and *expence* in this business, than any one else I thought it well to put you in possession of this new view of the subject, that you might reflect upon it and conclude as you pleased— It would be well for you I think to hold some talk with the McNeils, and get the benefit of their opinions, as they are pretty well qualified to judge of Mexican affairs,—and by all means see McKinney, whose judgment on the matters would be no less important—

Besides you know he has taken upon himself a good deal of troubles—which he would of course think it well enough to *save*, if there be no real necessity for it—

Whatever you may conclude on down there, I am certain will be satisfactory up here, to Mr. Bell and others—

Do not think that I am getting reluctant or *faint* hearted about the trip, for I assure you I am *cheerfully* disposed to make it if necessary, and would be as ready to give it up, if those who are more interested, in the *financial* matters that relate to it should advise in that way—

Decide on the matter therefore, without the least regard to any feeling of mine particularly for I assure you I am quite *easy* either way—

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I think I can answer for Mr. Young [and] Mr. Jack in the same way—

P W GRAYSON

James F. Perry Peach Point

THOMAS F. MCKINNEY TO JAMES F. PERRY

Velasco July 27 1834

Mr. J. F. PERRY

D SIR a gentleman had special charge as to the delivery of a package brot on board the Empress finding I lived at this place and the Schr would not wait he was compelled to leave them with one of my workmen on the oposite side of the river. I immediately left for the settlements above and thus missed receiving the package which contained the letter directed to you by Col A as I infer from the hand writing—I have been exceedingly ill at Mr Bell's for several days and was only able yesterday morning to be moved after traveling all night by water arrived at home this morning and hasten to forward the letter if it contains any knews as to the Col do let us hear a brief sketch of it

William Jack writes me from San Felipe that Genl Almonte is in that place he finds him intelligent, pleasant, frank and candid he assures him that if Col Austin is not already released that he will unequivocaly be in a very short time says we are a badly slandered people and were reported as being in a state of open rebellion and that he was sent in order to ascertain and report the facts and has and will take such measures as to set all on a fair footing

I am truly yours much exhausted with fatigue and must lie down Only having just arrived at home

T. F. MCKINNEY [Rubric]

AYUNTAMIENTO OF MATAGORDA TO GRAYSON AND JACK

To Citizens PETER W. GRAYSON and SPENCER H JACK

GENTLEMEN We have the honour to enclose you a memorial to the general Congress of the United Mexican States, praying for the liberation of our fellow Citizen and friend Col: Stephen F. Austin from the confinement under which we learn he is placed. the feeling which prompts our memorial we are convinced has a simultaneous existence with the memorials of the Ayuntamientos of other municipalities upon the same subject. And as we beg

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you to consider this letter as your full and ample credentials to the Government on behalf of the authority vested in you by this Body, so we also beg that you will as Gentlemen well known to us, and entitled to every respect and consideration from the Government, use every exertion for the attainment of the object of your mission.

THOS. M. DUKE [Rubric]

Matagorda July 28th 1834 Pres of Ayuntamto Miguel S. Rhoads Fisher [rubric] Secretary

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HENRY AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Brazoria 28 July /34

Mr J F PERRY

MY DEAR SIR My letters by the last arrival give me strong hopes that Stephen will soon be with us—Mr Stone late consul from Veracruz whom I know writes to my friend and old copartner when in Veracruz now consul in New York that he pas'd a day with Santa Ana before he left for Mexico that he spoke without reserve of Texas and Col Austin said the people of Texas had been shamefully villifyd that he was certain they had no intention to revolt—that Col Austin had been cruelly and maliciously treated, that he should liberate him on his arrival and make him all the reperation in his power—that he would see the people of Texas protected in their rights and property and much more to the same purpose,—

On the arrival of the June Packet the Mexican minister then at Philadelphia wrote to the Consul in New York saying he was informed of the intention of the president to liberate Col A and wished to know if he the consul had received by the packet any certain accounts of its having been carried into effect—but the letter by the packet from Dale Parrot & Co were silent about him, altho they had never failed to mention him in former letters, had any evil befallen him it would certainly have been mentioned, the presumption is that he was free and off.

Great excitement existed in the U S on the subject, Meigs says "Brother Forsyth of the Senate used all his influence to bring the influence of the Govt to bear on the subject"—

I want much to come and see you and Cousin Emily, but my daughter Hennrietta is sick and I ought to have been home today—I shall move to *Montpelier* within a week if no new disaster occurs

My best regards to Emily

H AUSTIN [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr. J F Perry Peach Point

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Ayuntamiento of Matagorda to Congress

July 28, 1834.

See Calendar.

Josiah H. Bell to Perry

Mr J F Perry

Sir Permit me to interduce to your acquaintance Col Almarty [Almonte] he will visit your neighborhd you will find him much of a gentleman and I am sure you will be much Pleased with him

July the 29th 1834—

J H Bell [Rubric]

Ayuntamiento of Brazoria to Congress

To the Supreme Govt of the United States of Mexico

The Ayuntamiento of the Jurisdiction of Brazoria of the State of Cuahuila and Texas approaching the Govt. with that high consideration with [which] is due from the subject to the sovereign would most respectfully represent.

That with feelings of the deepest regret and anxiety they have learned that their agent and fellow citizen S. F. Austin has been for a long time under arrest and in a state of most rigorous confinement— when A was first arrested on his return to Texas he requested us to express or feel no anxiety on his account. For relying on the purity of his intentions his established character and his known devoted adherence to the constitution and laws of his adopted country he could not anticipate that his detention would be more than temporary. From that time until very recently we have been totaly ignorant of his true situation. Hence we have been perfectly silent lest in attempting to do good we might possibly do an injury.

But now when our information is such as can be confidently relied on we concieve it to be a duty we owe to ourselves to Austin and to Texas to make a full frank and candid statement of facts with a view to the removal of impressions unfavorable to the character of the people of Texas, and injurious to Austin. The situation of the country before the meeting of the convention which adopted the constitution of which Austin was the bearer was distressing beyond description The Congress of the State was either ignorant of our wants or unable or unwilling to apply the necessary remedy The administration of justice was a mere mockery the rights of the citizens were trampled on with impunity. The person, property, or

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liberty of the subject unprotected, the innocent and unofending were frequently the victims of persecution while the lawless and guilty often passed unpunished. Living at a distance of near 700 miles from the capital of the state having but two members from Texas in Congress, having feelings, views, habits and pursuits entirely different and distinct from the people of Coahuila the voice of our complaints and petition was either unheard or disregarded.

In this state of things it was conceived that unless some remedy could be applied disorganization and ruin would be the inevitable consequences these were the reasons which produced a call of that convention these were the reasons which prompted that convention to form a plan of constitution and these were the reasons which induced Austin at an immense sacrifice to undertake the discharge of the duties imposed on him with a confident hope that he would be able to render effective services to his countrymen. That he has been unsuccessful in his mission is but too true and the consequences to have been of the most unfortunate character

We know not the charges upon which A has been arrested and hence it is impossible to refute them. But if it be true as has been alleged by some that he is suspected of having designs upon the integrity of the Mexican Territory we reply that the allegation is a libel as well upon the people of Texas as upon Austin. These people have never for one single moment entertained such a monstrious idea and A is the last man against whom such a charge could be successfully made. His motto has universally been the constitution and Laws federal and state and one some occasions he has even aroused the feelings of some of his countrymen against him by advising a tame and humiliating submission to the indignities which have been heaped upon us. These are facts too notorious to be question and to doubt them would be evidence of the weakest incredulity. Since A was dispatched to Mexico the most favourable changes have taken place in the political affairs of Texas. The National Congress in answer to our petitions has repealed the obnoxious feature of the Law of the 6th of Apl 1830 and the Govt. of our state having come to a knowledge of our wants and prompted by a spirit of justice and liberality with which its later acts have been characterised has extended its arm of relief and applied the necessary remedy to our wrongs.

The administration of the laws is placed upon a firm and intelligible basis the trial by Jury the bulwark of our liberty is established and the property and life and liberty of the subject is secured for all of which distinguished marks of kindness and liberality we take this public opportunity of tendering our most cordial and heartfelt gratitude both to the Federal and State Govts. In conclusion we most humbly pray that our friend and fellow citizen S. F. Austin

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may be immediately discharged and that he be permitted without further molestation to return to his home and to his friends assuring the Govt. that should an opportunity ever present itself Texas will prove that it is ready and willing to spend its blood and treasure in support of the Mexican Constitution, the Mexican Laws and the Mexican Territory

God and Liberty

July [31?] 1834

EDWIN WALLER
Alcalde
WM. H. WHARTON,
1st. Regidor

WILLIAM BRYAN TO AUSTIN

August 3, 1834.

See Calendar.

GEORGE FISHER TO R. M. WILLIAMSON

Matamoros 5th Augt. 1834

ROBT M. WILLIAMSON Esqr.

MY DEAR SIR. My last respects to you were care of Mr. Meyer, requesting you to do me the favor of forwarding me by said gentleman the 4th vol: of the "Novisimo Febrero," which I lendt to you in 1832 in Anahuac. I have received no answer, nor have I seen since Mr. Meyer, who as yet has not returned; therefore if you have not delivered to him said Book, please to do it to the Bearer Doct. Cameron, or if the Book is not to be had pay him 5$ the price thereof.

The political situation of the Interior is in a dreadful state, and the whole country inveloped in a chaos,—The Bearer of this who is well informed of all that passes around us will explain you many things also a letter I have written to David G. Burnet Esqr at Lynchburg, Duplicate of which I have directed to Mr. Saml. M. Williams in your place via Bejar to the care of Mr John McMullen.—from s^{d} letter you will learn particulars, and meantime I would recommend to the people of Tejas *Union* and mutual forbearance, sacrificing smaller interests for the great *grand* one, and burrying past strifes in eternal oblivion, is the desire of

JORGE FISHER [Rubric]

M. A. BRYAN TO JAMES F. PERRY

San Felipe De Austin August 7th 1834

DEAR FATHER

Inquire of Maj Henrie about a cow we lent him to milk when he lived here and see if he kept it or if Jones got it I see no entry

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of the cow (to nobody) on the books except she is credited to Doct Peebles (whom we got her from) Mrs Lesassiers cloak has never come to hand. I expect it was not put abord of the Keel boat the Doctor has not settled with Splane he put it off as he expected you up I received your letter dated 31 July and was verry sorrey to here that Guy and Mama were indisposed I have wrote to Guy which you will see—I send this by Mr P. Jack, Mr. Spencer Jack has not got back from above I am expecting you daily. it is the opinion of the Doct and in fact all the citizens of this place that it will be an expence and trouble for nothing sending Jack and Grayson to Mexico I am convinced of the fact as to my own part since yesterday when the male came in (brought no letter from Mexico except some for Almonte) there was a letter from Johnson and Ross in Sanantonio or Bexar who states that the Political Chief as well as all the head men and all the Ayuntamientos are disposed to favor his plan or the petition that (they Johnson and Ross representatives of the people) had proposed and Uncle writes that is all that is wanted for the Ayuntamiento of San Antonio to draw up a petition and make a plane statement of facts and it would open the door of his dungeon this combined with the letters Almonte has wrote to Mexico will relase him with out any farther expence or trouble. the Doctor paid the express that was sent up by J. Duke at your request it amounted to twenty three dollars I send you enclosed act. on John Henrie he say Mr Somervill agreed to give him $1.50 pr day while he remained in the store I was sick at the time and consequently no not how long he remained in the store and Mr S. did not tell me how much he was to allow him—you and him can settle I think probably it was about ten days Maj. Henrie is up on the creek at Lewises I do not know when he will go down I loaned Mr Milliby the carpenter whom you had employed three dollars which you can settle with him for I would like for you to come up as there is great need of your assistance for a day or two, and bring a horse for me to go down home with you. If you do not come please send a horse by the first opportunity as I cant get any where on act. of not having a horse I have had the fever but thank God I have recovered my health again I was only confined to my bed 7 or 8 das it was at the time that man was hung therefore I did not see him hung. My respects and love to All the family and beleive me yours as ever sincere etc

M Austin Bryan

N B The Doctor has been up the country 8 or 10 day we are expecting him down every Day, Maj. Burnet the Judge is now giving Almonte a long talk as respects Uncles Imprisonment etc

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etc The memorial from Matagorda was useless as ther was a copy of the original here so there was trouble and expence for nothing

M A Bryan [Rubric]

The Doct. sold the Gentle mule to Groc[e] for 75$ therefore I cant go any where for want of an animal

Mr John M Henrie

In Act. with Perry and Somervell

July	13th	To 2 lbs shot and fish hooks for			50
	29	2 Do	@ 18¾		38
August	10	1 pr Brogans			2. 25
	12	2 lbs shot	@ 18¾		37
	17	1 cake of soap			12
	19	1 lb shot	@ 18¾		19
	20	2 Do	@ 18¾		38
	24	2 Do	@ 18¾		37
	30	2 Do	@ 18¾		38
Sept.	10	2 lbs shot	@ 18¾	37	
		1 shot charger		25	62
		1 Dubl Bla pen knife			88
	15	1 pr sockes			63
	26	1 fur hat		4. 50	
		1-2 lb powder	@ 75	38	
		3 lb shot	@ 18¾	56	
					5. 44
Oct.	16	3 lb shot	@ 18¾		56
	17	1–2 powder	@ 75		38
	19	1 vial Peppermint			19
	29	2 lbs shot	@ 18¾		37
Nov.	8	1–2 lb powder	@ 75		38
	10	Cash			12
	26	1 Bar lead		13	
		¼ lb powder		19	
					31
Dec.	12	1 vial Peppermint			19
	16	1 Do Do			19
1834					
January	11	1 Pocket Comb			13
	14	1¼ lbs sugar	@ 20		25
	16	1¼ do	@ 20		25
	19	2½ lbs sugar	@ 20		50
		Wine etc etc			81
					17. 14

Contra Crt

July 17th By attendance in store last summer 10 days @ 150¢ 15. 00

$2. 14

[Addressed:] Mr. James F Perry Peach Point, Politeness Mr P C. Jack

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The duel between Wharton and Austin [1] has taken place Wharton got his arme broke and badly shattered so much so that it is proble he will loose it. I saw Doct Jones this morning he says he thinks if you make use of . . . it will be all the medicine you will want but if you have a repetition of the fever you ought to take some of the pills he sent you I send by Mr Henry the Ginger and Columbia root which you forgot

J. F. PERRY

P. W. GRAYSON TO JAMES F. PERRY

San Felippe Aug 9 '34

Dr SIR,

I arrived here yesterday morning and expect to leave, on Monday—accompanying Col Almonte We are informed on good authority, that the cholera is in San Antonio—deaths 6 or 7 a day,—it commenced about the 27th last month—We are in hopes it will have abated by the time we get on—

Johnson writes from there, that he will be able to procure a favorable address from the Ayuntamiento.—

I have seen the one from Matagorda,[2] which is a considerable improvement on the first, but not so full as I could have wished—The Liberty Memorial is well written and is *perhaps* very good as to the substance tho' there is a little of it I do not like altogether.[3]

The one from the Colorado, Johnson has with him We shall get it from him at San Antonio where it appears he will remain—

But my main dependence is on Almonte—There is no very important, additional information as to the progress of the Revolution.—4000 Sta Anna men, have marched against San Louis Potosi—Mexico is measurably quiet. We have heard, (to heighten our distresses) that there is even a State Revolution—*Saltillo* against *Monclova.* It seems that the people of the former place have set up a governor of their own, in opposition to the one at Monclova and threaten to storm the place, if the Official papers of all kind, are not given up to them—all is no doubt the work of a licentious mob—What is to come of it I know not of course—as I suppose no one else does—

I will write you from San Antonio

P. W. GRAYSON

Monday Evening

We shall leave this, tomorrow or next day—waiting on Colo Almonte, as Jack and myself are now ready—

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[1] This was John A. Wharton. It seems to have been William T. Austin.
[2] Above, May 17 and July 28, 1834.
[3] Above, May 31, 1834.

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I have had some talk with the Col° on the subject of this State disorder—He laments it but thinks he *understands* the cause and that all will be well soon—Time will tell best.

P. W. G.

[Addressed.] Mr. James F. Perry, Gulf Prairie

W. B. TRAVIS TO JAMES F. PERRY

San Felipe De Austin August 11th 1834

Mr JAS. F. PERRY

DEAR SIR I send you a commission from the court here to take an Inventory of the property belonging to the Estate of John Randon deceased, which is in your neighborhood, and to deliver the same over to Mrs. Susan Randon guardian of the minor heirs of John Randon etc. I presume however the property has been hired for the year. If so Mrs. Randon had better let the negroes remain where they are, taking the obligation of the hirer's to deliver them and pay the hire to her on the 1st of January next.

No news from Col. Austin. Bexar will send a memorial in his favor. Almonte has also written to the same effect.

W. BARRET TRAVIS [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr James F. Perry Near Brazoria Mr. Jack

AUSTIN TO JAMES F. PERRY

Prison of the Acordada City of Mexico 25 Aug. 1834

To JAMES F. PERRY

D^r^ BROTHER, I write you more for the purpose of informing you that I am still in the land of the living, than to communicate any thing agreeable as to my situation.

I presume you are already informed that I arrived in this city on the 13 Feb. last, and was shut up in one of the dungeons of the inquisition where I remained three months in close confinement, *incomunicado*, that is locked up day and night with very little light except candles and not allowed to speak or communicate with any one, not to have books, pen, ink, or paper—The President Genl. Santana put me in communication soon after he resumed the Govt. in May—The treatment I rec^d^ from the vice President Gomez Farias was in the highest degree rigid and marked through out by strong personal feeling which I attribute in part to the result of an interview I had with him the first of October, in which he was highly offended at me because I stated that the affairs of Texas required the prompt attention of Government for the people there had taken the position, *that if the evils which threatened that country with ruin were not remedied by the Govt, the people of Texas would*

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remedy them of themselves without waiting any longer, on the ground that self preservation rendered such a step necessary and would justify it. The vice president construed this into a threat, and a personal insult, and we both parted in anger, and in very great irritation—I wrote the letter of 2ª October to the Ayuntamᵗᵒ—became cool again—persevered in getting the remidies—reconciled the vice president and parted with him on the 10th December in harmony and with the best of feelings and the most sincere respect. The Ayuntamᵗᵒ of Bexar changed the face of things and revived the passion of the vice president by sending my unfortunate letter of 2ª October.

Individuals who were unfriendly to me because I opposed a territory for Texas, and others who were unfriendly to all foreigners, improved this opportunity to inflame the minds of the vice president and his ministers against me, so that on my return to Mexico as a prisoner, he was the most violent and bitter enemy I had. I believe him to be an honest man and a true federal democratic republican in principle, but he believed, or was led by others to believe, that the political situation of Mexico required something like a *Robespierre* system, or reign of terror. No one was executed, but hundreds were banished and imprisoned. Whether this system was the result of the vice president's own inclination, or whether he was led into it by his councellors and friends, I cannot say. Some think it was all his own policy, and others that he was forced into it contrary to his wish, by the power of circumstances, and by the excitements of the day. His administration was unfortunate for the nation, and for the federal party, for no one who has any sence of justice, or of common humanity can approve of an illegal, unconstitutional and arbitrary system of banishment, and imprisonment. The religious prejudices of the people were also alarmed by the measures of that administration to a great degree—hence the reaction that is now operating all over the nation, and which some think will shake the federal system, tho I am not of that opinion, for I do not believe the President Santana has designed to change the system, or to do anything more than to get a Congress together in Janʸ next, with the character and powers of a national convention freely elected by the people in order to reestablish or revive the Constitution, which has been so dreadfully outraged by all parties, that none respect it. A great personal animosity is said to exist between the President Santana and his friends and the vice president Gomez Farias and his friends. I believe there is no harmony between them and much hatred.

But to return to my own affairs, which I presume are much more interesting to you than the family political quarrels of this republic—I remained in the inquisition untill the 15th of June, when the mili-

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tary tribunal to whom my case had been referred decided that they had no jurisdiction over it, and I was removed to this prison, and my case was deliver[d] over to a civil tribunal or *juez de letras* in whose hands it slept, untill the 12[th] of this month, when he also decided that he had no jurisdiction over it, and it was then sent to the federal district Judge who soon dispatched it by deciding that he had no jurisdiction over it, as I did not reside in his district. The matter was then sent to the Supreme Court of the United Mexican States in order for them to decide what court or tribunal ought to try me, and there the case rests at present. So that after eight months, I do not know as yet what court is to investigate my case. I have long since requested to be delivered to the authorities of the State of Coahuila and Texas, and I presume I shall be finally sent to the district court (federal judge) of that State, but when, is quite uncertain for these things move very slowly.

The President Santana is friendly to Texas and to me. Of this I have no doubt. he would have set me at liberty long since, and in fact issued an order to that effect in June, but some statements arrived about that time (as I am told for I have seen nothing) from the State government of Coahuila and Texas against me, which I understand have contributed mainly to keep me in prison so long. It is said that the report of the State Govt. on the subject is founded solely on statements of persons who live in Texas—who those persons are I know not—it is said they are North Americans by birth I have even been told, that if I am not imprisoned for life and totally ruined in property and reputation, it will not be for the want of exertions or industry on the part of some of my countrymen who live in Texas. Whether all this be true or not, I do know not, I am unwilling to believe it. I have also been told that no efforts were left untry[d] during the last winter and spring to prejudice the members of the legislature and State Govt. against me at Monclova—I cannot believe these things—I wish you to inquire of Oliver Jones [1]—he is an honorable man, I am confident he has had no agency in such matters, and I shall rely fully on what he says about them.

Chambers [2] was at Monclova—I have long since been told that he was my enemy—he said that he was not. He has taken upon himself in his pamphlet of April 1833 [3] all the credit (if there be any) of having been the first to discover and propagate the idea in Texas of separating from Coahuila, and the first to call public attention to that point, and to excite public opinion in favor of that measure and of the Convention etc. I was told that he was opposed to my appointment, as the public agent to come to Mexico, on the same

[1] Jones was a member of the State Congress from Texas.
[2] Thomas Jefferson Chambers.
[3] No copy of this important pamphlet is known to exist.

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ground taken by W. H. Wharton and others, which was that I would not use energy enough with the Govt.—that I would be too passive and humble, and not display independence and firmness etc, and also that I was opposed to a State, and would defeat it, and would not obey the instructions, or regard the wishes of the people as expressed by the Convention etc, etc. Now, what I cannot understand is, that these same men, who at that time were violent political fanatics in favor of a State, and of high handed measures with the Govt. and who abused and opposed me, because I was too mild too passive, too luke-warm—the same men who were the first, as they themselves say, to create an excitement in favor of separating Texas from Coahuila, and who in fact contributed very much to involve me and my friends in all this difficulty, and in the labyrinth in which I am entangled, by compelling me, as it were, to yield to public opinion, or what I believed to be, and what I now believe was the public opinion at that time, and which public opinion was first excited by these same men (The fact is that the excitement in the colony at that time in favor of the State placed me in the alternative of yielding to them, or of opposing them by force by means of party divisions, or of leaving the country. I was disposed to adopt the first, or the last of these alternatives rather than the other of organizing a party or creating party divisions in the Colony). That these same men should now attack me, as it is said they have done, because I faithfully, fearlessly, and firmly represented the wishes of the Convention and of my constituents, as these same men said those wishes were when I left there, instead of concealing or counteracting those wishes, as these same men said I would do—That *these same men* should now try to ruin me and perpetuate my imprisonment, and should rejoice and exult at my sufferings, is what I cannot understand, and am unwilling to believe, for it would be the same as to believe that all their show and display of zeal for the public good, their pretended patriotism, had in fact no other definite object but to create confusion, out of which they hoped to derive some benifit, or at least to involve me in difficulty or total ruin. This I cannot believe, altho such a thing was told me—I cannot yet believe it.

I was told before I left the colony, that no matter what I did, or how I acted, some persons there would seek my ruin if they could. I am unwilling to believe that such baseness exists in human nature. That men should err in politics, become convinced of their error, and change their opinions, is a common and natural thing and amounts to nothing at all except a mere error in judgment which we are all liable to, and have all committed during our lives—but, there is a vast difference between an honest error

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in judgment or opinion, and an honest change of that opinion; and a secret or malicious design or plot to ruin another, by weaving a political net around him for that express purpose. Neither the public good nor patriotism can have any influence in such a design—none but a base and corrupt heart could, or would have any hand in such a foul plot. I am unwilling to believe that any persons in Texas are influenced by such low and degrading motives. However time will show. There is an investigating and discriminating power in the public eye, that sooner or later will penetrate the most complicated mysteries, and arrive at the truth, and public opinion will then award justice where it is due. To that eye, and to that opinion, I am ready and willing to submit my actions, my reputation, or my life. In common with my friends at San Felipe, and in other parts of Texas who took a part in the State question, I possibly may have committed the error, which is often committed in all countries, of paying more attention to popular excitements, than they deserved. Both my friends and myself were precipitated into the measures of the Convention, *by the circumstances of the times*, That measure was adopted to avoid greater evils, than those which then afflicted the country, as well as to seek for a redress of existing ones; but whether my friends and myself committed an error or not, on that occasion is not now so important a question, because good, and very great and, permanent good has resulted to Texas, and to the Mexican nation from those measures, and from my exertions and sufferings, and no one can say with truth that he has been injured by us. We have persecuted no one, and used no efforts to undermine or to distroy any one.

Neither S. F. Austin nor one of his friends have made charges before the Government, or before the public against any one, on account of the past transactions. Their object, and their only object, was the public good of Texas, and of the Mexican republic, and not the ruin of this, that, or the other individual. Their object has been accomplished. The public good has been promoted, and no one has been injured or calumniated by them. They have not established news papers to abuse and calumniate a companion who acted with them in those measures,[1] and in consequence of having done so, is incarcerated in a distant dungeon, unable to defend himself or to repel calumny. They have not attempted to reach the ears of the Government by entering the back door of the Government house, and infusing suspicion and poison into the minds of the high authorities for the purpose of perpetuating the imprison-

[1] This is a reference to the Advocate of the People's Rights, established by John A. Wharton. See the editor's "Notes on Early Texas Newspapers," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXI, 139.

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ment of a fellow citizen, and of one too who has labored faithfully and with pure intentions to benefit every body he could, who has in fact devoted the last 13 years to the advancement of Texas and of its inhabitants. They have not attempted to shuffle off any of the responsibility upon the shoulders of others. Their conduct has been open, public, frank, and candid, and marked by good faith, as the conduct of all men is, who labor solely for the public good. They harbour no low, vindictive and malignant feelings of envy or revenge. If they have committed any errors, they were honest ones, and they are free and frank to confess them, without attempting to shake them off upon their *former companions*. In short, the object of S. F. Austin and his friends was the public good of Texas, and of Mexico. They acted in good faith in the whole matter. Their object has been accomplished. The Government have remidied the evils complained of in Texas, and which threatened that country with ruin, and those who last year acted in good faith, and with pure intentions in favor of separating from Coahuila, are now opposed to it, because the reasons which made a seperation necessary no longer exist, and Austin, and his friends will therefore now be the first to oppose such a separation, or any other measures, that tend to disturb the established and regular order of things. They will discountenance all men, whomever they may be, who attempt to attack the Mexican Government, or any of its authorities, by word or deed.

S. F. Austin's motto always has been *Fidelity to Mexico, opposition to violent men or measures*. That motto will continue to be the basis of his political faith, and the rule of his actions. He also owes duties to the citizens of his colony, and to Texas, which he has never shrunk from executing, so far as he could. If proofs are needed to establish this fact, let them be sought for in the last 13 years, and they will be found. His present incarceration and persecutions are proofs. The heaviest responsibilities, the risk of his liberty, *of his all*, were presented to his view on the one hand, and his duty, or what he believed to be his duty to Texas, on the other,—he adopted the latter and did not hesitate to risk the former. And is he to be persecuted, calumniated and abused for having done so, and that too by some of the *same men*, who were the most active, as they have boasted, in precipitating him into the measures which have led to his present entanglements? At one time I am abused for being *too Mexican*, too much the friend of Mexicans, too easily deceived by the Mexicans, too confiding in them, opposed to the separation from Coahuila, and in favor of keeping Texas forever bound to the State of Coahuila and Texas. The people are excited against me to a fury, because I am *too Mexican*. I yield to the popular opinion, am appointed to

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represent that opinion, accept of the appointment in good faith; and truly, firmly and fearlessly represent that opinion, as it was my duty to do as an agent, and for having done so, I am calumniated and abused by the *same men* who, as they say, were the first to excite that popular opinion!! I cannot comprehend these matters.

In my letter to the Ayuntam^to^ of Austin from Monterrey dated 17 January last, and in all my letters written since my return to this city (I wrote you in May, and Oliver Jones and Williams in June) I have earnestly requested of my friends not to suffer themselves to be excited on account of my arrest and imprisonment. I have also advised and recommended the most prompt obedience and submission to the authorities of the State and Genl. Government, and an expression in writing, by some public act of the gratitude of the people for the remidies that have been applied by the State and Genl. Govts, to the many evils that were threatening Texas with ruin. I have advised the people of the colony to discountenance all violent or disorderly politicians or men, and especially all political adventurers and all political fanatics. I now repeat the same advice, and will add to it a rule which if strictly followed will be the means of preserving peace and harmony in Texas, and of advancing its prosperity rapidly. The rule is, *to discountenance in the most unequivocal and efficient manner all persons who are in the habit of speaking or writing in violent or disrespectful terms, or in the language of contempt or defiance of the Mexican people or authorities.*

This rule is a necessary consequence of the motto before stated. I have no doubt that motto will be adopted, and publically avowed and sustained by all my personal friends and I hope it will also be by all the friends of Texas, of good order, and of commonsense. I earnestly recommend that it may be. It will become a sound and distinguishing centre of union and operate as the magic of a name often does, by which unity is given to a party or to a whole community. I do not believe there is any anti-Mexican party in Texas but if there be, the adoption by the people of the motto and rule above stated, will soon detect and mark it, and render its members harmless, for there is so much honesty and sound sense in the mass of the people that a revolutionist need only be known to be put down.

A gasconading and silly letter dated Brazoria 4 May was published in the Bulletin newspaper of New Orleans, and republished in the Telegrafo in this city. It has injured me very much and I presume it was written by some enemy of mine for the express purpose of injuring me. I disapprove of such things very much and thank no man for putting my name into the news papers in such

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equivocal terms. I am a Mexican citizen, I have never failed in my duty as such, and I never will—

I fear the first *pronouncement* by the State Government made at Monclova in June against the President Genl. Santana has had a bad effect in Texas. It was a very precipitate and imprudent step and has produced an answer from Saltillo *quite in character*, that is a counter *pronouncement*. I hope that the authorities of the colony have paid no other attention to either of these two pronouncements, or to any others, than to say officially and in the most respectful terms, that those authorities will recognize and obey the President of the United Mexican States Genl. Antonio Lopez Santana, untill he is *constitutionally* deposed from that high station, which he occupies by the legal vote of the nation; and that those authorities recognize no other mode of deposing a President, except the one prescribed in the general Constitution of the nation, which every citizen has sworn to obey, and which those authorities will obey rigidly etc, etc. I again and again advise Texas to keep clear of the political family quarrels of this republic. A *dead silence* is the best possible course for Texas.

The President Santana has been accused by his enemies of having turned Congress out of doors on the 31 of May, and of having trampled upon the national representation etc. This whole question turns upon the construction of the 71st article of the general constitution, which says that Congress shall close its sessions on the 15th day of April each year, *but may extend the sessions for 30 days more*, if the two houses think proper or if the president requests it. Now, on the 15th day of April of this year the sessions were closed as the above article prescribed, and Congress decided that the session should be extended to 30 days more (exclusive of feast or holy days) as said article prescribed they could do. The said thirty days expired, and Congress attempted to continue the sessions beyond that time. Had they any constitutional power to do so? If they had not, was it, or was it not the duty of the President, under his oath of office, to prevent Congress from doing an unconstitutional act? The whole question turns upon these constitutional points. It will be remembered that the judicial authority have no power to annul an unconstitutional act of Congress, and that the president is bound by his oath of office to prevent any unconstitutional acts from being committed by any person, or by any authority—should it be necessary for Congress to meet after the expiration of the 30 days the constitution Article 110 clause 17 and 116 clause 3 says they may be called in *extra sessions* by the council of government, and the executive and there is no other mode prescribed in the constitution for getting Congress together,

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after the expiration of the 30 days. Men of judgment can easily decide, I think, by examing these constitutional points whether the President, or Congress were in error. I fear these things have not been understood in Texas, and that the people have been excited to take part against the President. What they ought to have done, and ought to do in future, is to take no part at all in such matters and to preserve a *dead silence.* Neither yea nor nay, pro nor con. Stick to the CONSTITUTION and close their eyes and ears against all kinds of Plans, and Pronunciamentos, and against *all inflamatory advice, from all quarters.*

Santana is friendly to Texas and to me. My personal friends have cause to be grateful to him. I know not how you are all getting along in Texas. It is a long time since I have heard from there except indirectly, or by rumors which now and then reach my prison. I have no letters since 15 April—I rec[d] one from you and Emily dated in March. I do not know who are Alcaldes anywhere in Texas—I hear that all is peace and contentment which is the only consolation I have rec[d] to soothe my imprisonment.

Amongst those who have befriended me in my misfortunes I hope that my family and personal friends will never forget Don Victor Blanco, and his brother in Law Don Ramon Musquiz of Bexar.

I sent you duplicate powers of attorney to sell any of my property, and attend to my affairs. I rely on you and S. M. Williams to save my property from the wreck that seems to have been intended for me. I hope you have kept up the Chocolate bayou stock farm and have one hundred cows there by this time at least.

Should I ever return I will make your house my home, untill I can build a house and improve a farm. I will never again take any part whatever in public matters of any kind. On this point my mind is fixed.

Remember me very particularly to H. Austin, send him this letter, also show it to J. H. Bell, to Capt. Wiley Martin, D. G. Burnett and such other of my friends as you think proper. I wish them to know my opinions on these matters, and I wish them and all Texas to adopt and firmly adhere to the motto and rule I have stated in this letter. I have been led into so much difficulty and Texas has been so much jeopardised in its true and permanent interests, by inflamatory men, by political fanatics, political adventurers, would-be-great-men vain talkers, and visionary fools, that I begin to loose confidence in all persons except those who seek their living between the ploughhan[dles]. Show this letter to S. M. Williams—it is strange, but it seems that I am blamed for all he says, or writes, or does. He ought to have nothing more to do with politics or

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public matters, but stick closely and exclusively to commerce. No one can prosper or be happy who has any thing to do with public affairs.

I sent you two miniatures from Monterrey by Peter and Joseph Powel and two books and some seeds which I hope you have received

I am much pleased that you have employed Mr. Pilgrim to teach the children. I hope you will keep him if you need funds to pay him sell some of my land for that purpose. I hope Eliza will continue Stephen with Pilgrim—he can board at your house and be as well attended to, as at home. I am now in tolerable health, but have suffered very much with rheumatism. I feel the effects of the first years of the settlement in Texas. The damp close air of the dungeon in the inquisition and want of exercise brought on the rheumatism.

Remember me to all the old settlers and all others who think me worth inquiring after.

Farewell may heaven bless and preserve you
Your Brother

S. F. AUSTIN

Aug. 26. The above is principally the copy of a letter I wrote you yesterday and sent by mail.[1] This copy is rather more correct than the other—

P. D.—*August 26*—I wish you to show this letter to T. F. McKinney and if he thinks proper, or thinks it will do any good he can inform his friends at Nacogdoches of my opinions. The fact is that public opinion has been disjointed and led astray in all parts of Texas ever since January 1832. McKinney and many others know how much wretchedness the political excitements in Texas have cost me, and how much I dislike all inflamatory politicians. But I could not stem the current—it would have been worse than useless, it would have augmented the evils, to have attempted it. But now the thing is different. The farmers of Texas have been or ought to be, alarmed by the inflamatory events of the last two years and I think they will now adopt the principles of the motto I have always followed and now recommend to all Texas—that is to the honest and sound part of the people—as for the balance, that is, mere demagogues and political fanatics—they will disappear, before *sound public opinion* as the gnatts and mosquitoes do before the rays of a bright and unclouded sun. The farmers need only proclaim with one unanimous voice *Fidelity to Mexico, opposition to violent men or measures*, and all will be peace.

[1] This letter also is in the collection.

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harmony and prosperity in Texas. I hope the State question is totally *dead* and will so remain.

Another important matter is to bury all personal animosities and vindictive feelings—no one has as much just cause as I have to entertain such feelings. I am the only one who has suffered, the only one whose total ruin has been attempted and intended—and I will be the first to forget it all, and even embrace my personal enemies, provided they meet me on the *basis* established in the above motto. I have no object but the good of Texas, and of Mexico and will make any sacrifice to that object.

S. F. AUSTIN

I send this by New Orleans.

AUSTIN TO E. W. GREGORY

[From Williams Papers, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Tex.]

Mexico 26 August 1834

Mr. E. W. GREGORY

DEAR SIR. I enclose you a letter for my brother in law Mr. James F. Perry, of Brazoria which I must beg the favour of you to forward by the first safe opportunity

I am still in confinement but expect a favourable change in my situation soon

The political affairs of this country are all quiet I have no doubt that the political intentions of the President Gen Santa Ana are sound and patriotic, he wishes to get a general congress togather in January next, freely elected by the people, with the powers of a National convention in order to reestablish the Constitution which has been so dreadfully outraged by all parties that none respect it. I do not think he has designs to change the system of Government. At least not in its principal features. He has put a stop to the system of banishment and imprisonment, and recalled all the banished a very just humane and necessary measure.

The past events in Texas have cost me very dear. I was precipitated into them by the excitements and circumstances of the times It is a consolation to me that I am the only one who has suffered by them and that much good has resulted to Texas and also to the Mexican republic from those events. The evils complained of in Texas have been remedied by the government on the one hand and on the other the people of the country have become convinced of the dangers of political excitements and of listening to political fanatics and political adventurers they will consequently be on their guard

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against such dangers in future. My motto always has been *Fidelity to Mexico, opposition to violent men or measures* it is the only sound rule for Texas. I am more convinced of it now than ever, tho I never doubted it notwithstanding it would *seem* as tho I had in one single act and for a moment departed from it, but I never did.

When I left Texas in April 1833 the people there were determined to have a state. As the agent for those people it was my duty to promote that determination but neither the people of Texas nor myself have ever in the least failed in our duty as Mexican Citizens and there never has been any kind of design or plot to separate Texas from the Mexican republic. All the rumors and reports and suspicions that have been circulated about me and about the people of Texas on this subject are uterly false and without the least foundation in truth

S. F. AUSTIN

Mr. S. M. WILLIAMS

I annex a copy of a letter received by Mr. G about a hour ago *in great haste*

Yours HENRY [AUSTIN]

[Addressed:] Mr. S. M. Williams McKinney & Williams Brazoria Texas

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M. A. BRYAN TO J. F. PERRY

September 1, 1834.

See Calendar.

SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS TO JAMES F. PERRY

Mouth of Brasos 3d Septemr. 1834

DEAR SIR.

I enclose for your perusal and the satisfaction of Mrs. Perry the last letter that I have rec^{d} from our friend Col Austin. I wrote to him from Orleans and further authorized him to draw on Beers, St John and Co for *1,000*$ which will last him until we can hear further from him.

I leave here in the steam boat for Columbia. If I had made my journey by Land should have done myself the pleasure of calling on you. I am very anxious to get home and am with esteem y^{r} friend

SAMUEL M WILLIAMS [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Mr. James F Perry At home

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WESTOVER QUALITY CHEESE
FINER DAIRY PRODUCTS

AUSTIN TO SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS

Mexico Sept 7 1834, Prison of the Acordada.

Dr SIR,

My case has been travelling about from one tribunal to another up to the present time at first a military tribunal, then a juez de letras, then to a district judge—thence to the Supreme Court. All the inferior courts decided that they had no jurisdiction over it, and it was sent to the Supreme Court for the purpose of ascertaining what tribunal ought to try it. I have [now] been informed that the Supreme Court has decided that it must be tryed by the district judge of the Federal district, so that I presume I shall now get on a little faster. I have in eight months ascertained what court is to try the matter.

I am of the opinion that my affairs will terminate favourably, and without much more delay. I think I shall be able to get my liberty by giving bail or [security] not to leave this city.

I wrote to my brother in law James F. Perry [on the] 25 of last month. I refer you and my friends to that letter. I have nothing more to add to it, except to repeat the opinion that Texas ought to keep out [of] all kind of political excitements, and act in strict conformity with the motto—*Fidelity to Mexico* and *opposition to violent men or measures.* Also all kind of personalities, ought to be forgotten and buried. I have been more [injured] by them, than any other, and I will be the first to forget them and meet my enemies in harmony on the basis of the motto above stated.

Yesterday I rec[d] your letter dated New Orleans 31 July. I expect I shall have to draw on Beers St John and Co for another thousand dollars, to pay lawyers fees etc, you write me in the above letter that I can draw on them. I sent Perry a power of attorney to sell any of my property he thought proper, and I rely on you and him to save my property from the wreck that seems to have been intended by some persons, for me.

I approve of your determination to devote yourself to commerce. Your family and friends in the United States are well known and have a standing in the com[mercial] world, that enables them to afford you great facilities and advantages as a merchant, and besides this, in that business you can reasonably expect some tranquility and happi[ness] which you, nor no other man, need ever look for in public affairs [or] politics. Let them alone for the rest of your life if you wish for peace and [pros]perity.

Send this to Mr Perry. I am in tolerable health, but have suffered a good deal from rheumatism. The State Govt. have [been] imposed upon and deceived. My friends in Texas might undeceive them if they were disposed to do so. But "out of

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sight out of mind" perhaps applies to me. I know not whether I have friends there, out of my own family. It is reported in this city that I have none and as a proof of it, it is said that a newspaper is bountifully supported in the colony by the great mass of the people for the express purpose of abusing me. This I do not believe nor half of the reports about the efforts of individuals to calumniate and ruin me. I cannot, as yet, have so bad an opinion of human nature. I care nothing about the upper colony[1] except to show that all my conduct in regard to it has been correct, as it has been. I certainly do rely upon my friends in the colony to make some efforts to place the truth of all these matters before the Govt. They ought to remember that I am in a distant prison unable, [by my] situation, to repel calumny, or defend [my]self—and that I am in this prison for having performed what I believed was my duty to my constituents; as a public agent. It ought to be remembered that the duties of constituents, towards their public agents, is not less sacred and [man]datory, than that of the agent to his constituents.

I think you ought to go to Menclova, [and] lay a statement of facts before the state [govern]ment

[Re]member me to Sarah, to Mr Scotts [fam]ily, and to all my old companions and friends—

S. F. Austin [Rubric]

[A letter dated] Brazoria May 4 was published in the New Orleans Bulletin which has in[jured me]. I prefer that my name should be [kept] out of the news papers. All is perfectly quiet in this quarter and I believe all over the nation. The elections are going on in harmony every where.

S. F. Austin

I send this by Mr Comber, a respectable young gentleman of some capital, who thinks of settling somewhere in that country. I recommend him to all my friends

S. F. A.

Election Returns

September 7, 1834.

See Calendar.

Henry Smith to Austin

September 8, 1834.

See Calendar.

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[1] The Robertson colony. See Robertson's statement, July 2, 1834.

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SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS TO JAMES F. PERRY

Sn Felipe 9th Septemr 1834

Mr JAMES F PERRY

DEAR SIR. On my arrival here I found a Mr Bradley here with a note of our friend Col Austin for something upwards of 700$ which has been due some months, and which would have been paid ere this but from the necessity of providing funds for him in Mexico.

After his arrest he wrote to me and requested me to dispose of his property to provide means for him, he has also sent you a letter of attorney for the same purpose. As yet I have not found it necessary to make any sale nor do I believe it will be necessary for I can continue to raise means for all his wants in Mexico, and he has authority to draw for another thousand dollars over and above what he has drawn for, and this note is the only one he has out—

I find that at this place there is no money to be had at the moment. Mr White at Columbia is likewise destitute if you have as much as 500$ by you I wish you would advance, it, and should you require it in the winter I can return it to you, and if you should want in New Orleans I can manage to furnish it to you there, if you have it I should like to hear from you immediately—I can get along with the sum mentioned.

I am happy to state that there is a wonderful reaction in favor of the Col. and altho some what tardily I am proud in the Conviction that his Colonists are disposed to do him justice.

Present me kindly to your family.

SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS [Rubric]

M A Bryan

P. W. GRAYSON TO JAMES F. PERRY

Monclova Sepr 16 34

Dr SIR,

We reached here the day before yesterday. I have found matters still in great disorders—the old Governor abdicated and a new one elected, by a few persons here—Saltilla still holding out with her Governor besides as we understand—; a scene of things that no human being can unravel—

We have no intelligence that can be relied on in regard to Colo Austin,—There is a kind of rumor now, that he has escaped from prison, but I place no confidence in it—

We have delayed here, to get a memorial from the present Governor, soliciting his discharge—We had an audience of his excellency to day, (A very polite, amiable looking old man) and had every

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assurance of his *willingness to cooperate with the Texas Ayuntamientos.*—Padilla introduced us in a very cordial manner, and this evening he has informed us that he had made out the dispatches of the Governor would procure his signature in the morning, and hand then over to us—If the address of the Governor should be as favorable as it is promised to be, it may be of much service—In the morning we shall start on our way

There are various rumors in regard to Santa Annas plans—Some of them *are very unfavorable*—Time will tell which are true—I refer you to my letter of this date to Mr Bell for the fuller account as to these rumors etc—being at the present moment a little pressed for time—

I think now we shall meet with no further delay between this and Mexico—Mr Jack and myself are both in good health and everything considered, in pretty good spirits—

P. W. GRAYSON

P. S. Please say to Mrs. Perry, that *I think* (if my opinion is indeed of any value) that she need entertain no fears for the fate of her brother

P. W. G.

We have received the memorial desired from the Governor and it is *all* we could wish—

P. W. G.

The old man Padilla has been very cordial and zealous—

Sept 17

[Addressdd:] Mr James F. Perry San Fellipe de Austin Texas Care of Doct. Miller San Fellipe

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WILLIAM S. PARROTT TO AUSTIN

Mexico. Sept. 18th 1834

MY Dr SIR

Enclosed you have a statement of your a/c leaving a bal in your favour of $416.94 Capt offutt was advised that we were instructed to pay your bill at the Hotel which he said was well but has never Sent it in

Dr Grant advised me that he had sent money to Saltillo to meet my Dft in your favour and that I might consider it as paid nothing more has been said on the subject and if you return me the Dft I will pay over to Parrott and Co the Amt to your credit. tho the course would derange all my accounts with the Dr, as he has long Since been credited with it

W. S. PARROTT [Rubric]

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[Inclosure]

Stephen F. Austin Esq^{r}.

To Parrott and C^{o}. D^{r}.

1831 [1834?]					
March	31	To	Cash paid for Sundry things per mem^{o}		$ 22. 93
April	22	To	do " for pickles for his aect		1. 50
May	15	To	do " for one Bottle anizette		1.
"	26	To	do " for one D^{o} Brandy		1. 50
June	11	To	do " D^{o} D^{o}		1. 50
"	14	To	do Advanced Padre Muldoon by Wm S Parrott for he was responsible—transferred to our Books		200. 00
"	13	To	Cash—paid his Order in fav^{r} of		50. 00
"	14	To	D^{o} " for one Bottle Brandy 1 50/100 pen knife $2		3. 50
"	20	To	D^{o} " his Order in fav of		6.
"	21	To	D^{o} " for one Bottle Brandy		1. 50
"	25	To	D^{o} " for D^{o} D^{o}		1. 50
"	"	To	D^{o} Lent him per Orders		10.
July	8	To	D^{o} paid his Order in fav^{r} of M^{r} Whiting		100. 84
"	13	To	D^{o} " his D^{o} fav^{r}, of		5.
"	19	To	D^{o} " his D^{o} to Bearer		4.
"	30	To	D^{o} paid Sundry things postage Brandy etc since 19th		7.
					417. 77
Sep	3	To	D^{o} Franking letters to Tampico		1. 50
	12	To	D^{o} 2 Dozen Havanna Segars		1. 00
					$420. 27
1834					C^{r}
June 3rd		By his Bill on New Orleans at 30 days sight		$747. 51	
		Prem: on the same at 12 per Cent		89. 70	
					837. 21
		Balance in favor of S. F. Austin Dollars			416. 21

Nahum Nixon to Williams

September 23, 1834.

See Calendar.

H. Meigs to Austin

New York Sep. 27th 1834

D^{r} Sir

I have endeavored some time ago to inform you not only of my claim but of the measures which I caused to be taken in your behalf, the moment I learned that you was detained a prisoner in Mexico— I lost no time in procuring from our Governt (through my Brother in Law Forsyth (now Secretary of State) and my friend M McLean, then Secy.) the immediate interferance thereof in your behalf.

I trust that it has been useful to you.

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I hope to hear from you with little delay—I wish you well and shall be happy in every honorable way to do you good.

H MEIGS

Colonel Stephen Austin
[Addressed:] Colonel Stephen Austin of Texas

WILLIAM W. HUNTER TO J. F. PERRY

New Madrid, Mo., September 28, 1834.

See Calendar.

[The Austin Papers, October, 1834–December, 1836, are concluded in volume III, published by the University of Texas Press.]

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CALENDAR

1828

Austin to J. H. Bell, January 1, 1828. Suggesting ticket for election of first ayuntamiento of San Felipe.

Richard Ellis to Austin, Tuscumbia, Ala., January 3, 1828. Agriculture depressed by tariff and taxes. Fifty families ready to emigrate to Texas if allowed to introduce their slaves.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, January 7, 1828. Acknowledging receipt of instructions concerning use of stamped paper. (Omitted.)

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, January 7, 1828. Explaining that colonists planted some tobacco out of curiosity, to test fertility of the soil. Did not raise it to sell. Will instruct them not to plant next year.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, January 7, 1828. Has taken steps to elect officers and organize an ayuntamiento.

Austin to J. H. Bell, January 8, 1828. Concerning reservation of land.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, January 12, 1828. Characterization of General Terán. Political news.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, January 15, 1828. Acknowledging announcement that Musquiz has assumed office of political chief. (Omitted.)

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, January 15, 1828. Urging him to hasten the coming of the land commissioner. (Omitted.)

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, January 19, 1828. Disposition of Austin's petition for permit to ship Texas products to Matamoras and Tampico. Rumors of plot to rob army paymaster at Nacogdoches.

Austin to J. H. Bell, January 21, 1828. Difficulty in getting capable men to serve as officers of the ayuntamiento.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, January 22, 1828. Procedure in filing claim to a mine. Hopes Austin will not remove his guiding hand from the ayuntamiento. The colonists' ignorance of Spanish unfortunate. Concerning recall of land commissioner. Political news.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, January 23, 1828. Is ordering Land Commissioner Gaspar Flores to the colony.

Erasmo Seguin to Austin, January 24, 1828. Casual letter. (Omitted.)

Juan Antonio Padilla to Austin, January 26, 1828. Measures desired by Austin temporarily paralyzed in legislature. Political news.

Alexander Yhary to Austin, January 26, 1828. Mexican political news. (Omitted.)

Manuel Ceballos to J. Antonio Padilla, Mexico, January 30, 1828. Explaining delay in acting upon Stephen Richardson's petition for relief.

Alexander Yhary to Austin, Laredo, February 2, 1828. Sending copy of general tariff, and asking for certain papers to be used in Austin's interest with General Terán. (Omitted.)

Peter E. Bean to Austin, February 5, 1828. General political rumor. (Omitted.)

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Austin to Political Chief, February 6, 1828. Acknowledging copy of an order. (Omitted.)

Austin in account with J. C. Peyton, February 6, 1828. Ferriage.

John Gibson to Austin, February 6, 1828. Bill of sale for a slave.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, February 7, 1828. Transmitting instructions concerning expulsion of Spaniards. (Omitted.)

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, February 8, 1828. Austin has nothing to fear from the misrepresentations of George Nixon. Favors authorizing coasting trade between Texas and Matamoros and Tampico. Abortive revolution.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, February 9, 1828. Concerning tobacco smuggling in Texas. Passage of measure favorable to Texas by the legislature.

Austin to Political Chief, February 12, 1828. Reporting marauding by 37 Tahuiases, Wacos, and Comanches.

Austin to Political Chief, February 12, 1828. Reporting election of officers to form the Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, February 19, 1828. Acknowledging Austin's report of robberies committed by Indians. Has forwarded it to the governor.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, February 19, 1828. Acknowledging report of organization of ayuntamiento.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, February 21, 1828. Congratulation on election of capable officers for the ayuntamiento. Employing Comanches to run down American rascals. Smallpox vaccine.

Austin in account with J. C. Peyton, February 22, 1828. Bill and price list.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, February 23, 1828. Reporting on the claim of Stephen Richardson for loss of cargo in Yucatan.

José Maria Viesca to Ramon Musquiz, Saltillo, March 1, 1828. Transmitting resolution of legislature concerning a petition from Austin for permission to export Texas products to other parts of Mexico.

James F. Perry to Stephen F. and James Austin, Potosi, March 2, 1828. Conditions in Missouri. Local political news.

José de las Piedras to Austin, March 4, 1828. Asking Austin to deliver an enclosed letter. (Omitted.)

Austin to Anastacio Bustamante, March 4, 1828. Services of settlers on the Trinity in suppressing the Fredonian rebellion in 1827.

Peter Ellis Bean to Austin, March 5, 1828. Warning Austin of the plans of a band of outlaws.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, March 6, 1828. Instructing Austin to make a change in formal report of local election. (Omitted.)

Thomas F. McKinney to Austin, Nacogdoches, March 14, 1828. Efforts of a disgruntled vagabond to disturb the country. High-handed proceedings of the military commandant, Piedras.

Austin to colonists, March 16, 1828. Notice that the land commissioner has arrived to finish extending titles in the first colony and to begin in the second.

Jared E. Groce to Austin, March 20, 1828. Asking Austin to visit and advise him concerning business. (Omitted.)

Henry S. Brown to Austin, New Orleans, March 21, 1828. There would be great emigration to Texas if status of slavery assured.

Austin to political chief, March 25, 1828. Returning in due-form report of recent election.

José de las Piedras to Austin, March 26, 1828. Asking Austin to forward letters to the governor; soldiers of his garrison wish to settle in Texas when their service expires. (Omitted.)

Silas Fuqua to Austin, March 28, 1828. Expressing satisfaction with Texas and asking for assistance and information. (Omitted.)

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Austin to James F. Perry, March 31, 1828. Concerning family lands in Virginia, New Jersey, and Missouri.

William Robinson to Austin, April 2, 1828. Introducing Thomas Pierce, of England, who wishes to settle in Texas. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, April 3, 1828. Introducing General Terán. Asks Austin for census report of his colony. (Omitted.)

Austin in account of J. H. Polley, April 5, 1828. Price of labor.

William W. Rivers to Austin, April 6, 1828. Announcing his intention of settling in the colony. (Omitted.)

Thomas M. Duke to Ramon Musquiz, April 7, 1828. Reporting colonists tranquil and prosperous. (Omitted.)

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, April 9, 1828. Regretting delay in arrival of application for charter to establish a Masonic Lodge in Texas. The legislature contemplated appointment of regular land commissioner in the colonies. Rumors of disturbances in Texas.

Erasmo Seguin to Austin, April 9, 1828. Asking Austin to be especially cordial to his old friend, General Terán. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, April 17, 1828. (1) Ayuntamiento can petition legislature, but has no power to draw up project of law. He returns the bill for legalizing contracts with servants for the ayuntamiento to change it to form of a memorial; meantime he has sent a copy of present form to the Texas delegates in the legislature. (2) Austin's request for authorization of coasting trade with Mexico granted, but practical benefit defeated by delay in establishing a customhouse at Galveston. (3) Constitutional prohibition of further introduction of slaves greatly against the interest of Texas; but unequal representation in legislature will prevent early relief. (4) Recommends petition by all the ayuntamientos for tariff relief.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, April 22, 1828. Forwarding resolution of legislature for collection of Bastrop's funeral expenses. Austin's reply that he has made the money available.

Joel R. Poinsett to ———, April 22, 1828. Notifying American merchants that Mexican Government has resolved to stop commerce between the United States and Matagorda. (Omitted.)

Samuel C. Hirams to Austin, April 24, 1828. Concerning his land title. (Omitted.)

Thomas M. Duke to Ramon Musquiz, May 2, 1828. Will correct the form of memorial concerning labor contracts. (Omitted.)

Thomas M. Duke to Ramon Musquiz, May 2, 1828. Promising to return report of vital statistics. (Omitted.)

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, May 3, 1828. Sends Austin a form of power of attorney which he is to fill out authorizing Victor Blanco to represent Stephen Richardson in courts of Yucatan. The bill which Austin informed him the ayuntamiento would transmit through the political chief did not arrive, but he has induced the committee on colonization to introduce the bill in the form in which Austin has quoted it. The legislature divided into factions, and the majority have passed an unconstitutional decree, No. 50, which the governor has urged them to withdraw. If they do not, he asks Austin to have the ayuntamiento protest against it and urge repeal. Urges Austin to send second application for charter of Masonic lodge.

Austin to [Ramon Musquiz], May 5, 1828. Describing location of a mine of lead and silver which he has denounced. (Omitted.)

Terán to Austin, May 8, 1828. Introducing applicant for land.

Thomas R. Leaming to Austin, Philadelphia, May 8, 1828. Requests information in order to assist Austin in colonizing Austin's map of Texas.

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Austin to James F. Perry, May 10, 1828. Introducing John Austin, who visits St. Louis.

B. M. Cutter to Austin, Matamoros, May 13, 1828. Asks Austin's assistance in securing land which he has bought. (Omitted.)

J. M. de Beramendi to Austin, May 15, 1828. Application for land. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, May 15, 1828. Notifies Austin of passage of the law recognizing labor contracts. Informs Austin of approval by supreme government of his application for permit to colonize the coast, and asks Austin to reserve two grants of the best land containing 11 leagues for himself and Victor Blanco. Terán plans to make a topographical map of Texas. Political news.

William Rabb and Austin, May 16, 1828. Agreement of Rabb to build water-power grist mill and sawmills on Colorado. (Omitted.)

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, May 17, 1828. Concerning an observation which he has made for latitude and longitude.

José Antonio Navarro to Austin, Saltillo, May 17, 1828. Describing the contest in the legislature over the passage of a law suspending the governor's council. Passage of the law recognizing labor contracts.

Miguel Arciniega to Austin, Saltillo, May 17, 1828. Giving account of the passage of the law legalizing labor contracts.

Robert H. Williams to Austin, May 18, 1828. Offering reward, which he wishes Austin to advertise, for his runaway slave. Austin's notice to the political chief, May 25, 1828. (Omitted.)

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, May [24 about], 1828. Great overflows in all the rivers. Explanation of the rains. Measures necessary for development of Texas: (1) Suspension for six or eight years of the prohibition against introduction of slaves, (2) permission to settle the coast and border reservations, (3) extension of tariff exemption until 1835. Discussion of these measures.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, May 29, 1828. Will answer Austin's letter when he reaches Nacogodoches. Climate trying.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, May 31, 1828. Forwards copy of letter from Texas representative in Congress explaining procedure in registering foreign vessel under Mexican flag.

Form of contract to be signed by master and slaves entering Texas. May —, 1828. (Omitted, but see text for citation.)

Austin to Governor of Coahuila and Texas, June 2, 1828. Applying for contract to settle the coast of Texas. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, June 12, 1828. Sending him copy of decree No. 50 and of the message of the governor and the dictamen of the council declaring the act unconstitutional. Suggests that Austin have the ayuntamiento protest against it.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, June 14, 1828. Complains that Austin has not answered important letters. Asks Austin to obtain a carriage for him to enable him to transport his family to Texas.

Austin to Lorenzo de Zavala, June 24, 1828. Notice has appeared in papers of the United States that Mexican minister at Washington declares that there is no obstacle to collection of debts from colonists in Texas, contracted before emigration. Austin says that almost all the settlers owe debts in United States, which they will pay in time, but suit now would ruin them. Advocates a law forbidding execution prior to 1840 and limiting interest to 10 per cent uncompounded. Says Southern States are jealous of Texas and would like to see its progress checked.

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Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Nacogdoches, June 24, 1828. Comments on climate. Agrees with Austin concerning essential needs of Texas, but it will be very difficult to modify the law concerning slavery.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, June 24, 1828. Observations on the use of a peach-tree switch by natives of East Texas to locate water when they desire to dig a well. Much surprised, but almost convinced.

David Thompson to Austin, Nashville, June 26, 1828. Asking Austin's advice about merchandize to sell in Mexico. (Omitted.)

Gaspar Flores to Austin, June 26, 1828. Reporting that the political chief authorizes Austin to collect fees from the colonists to reimburse him for time and labor spent on public affairs. (Omitted.)

Erasmo Seguin to Austin, June 26, 1828. Concerning advances which be made for Bastrop's funeral expenses. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, June 26, 1828. Sorry that his request for 22 leagues of land in Austin's coast colony has embarrassed him. Withdraws request and asks Austin to suggest 30 or 40 square leagues elsewhere suitable for himself and certain friends. Recognition of Austin's services to the colonists and to the colony.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, June 28, 1828. Answering letters from Austin and promising to try to further certain requests.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, June 30, 1828. Reciting curious observations of the use of "water witches" to determine location of water. Laughed at the superstition for years, but has been forced to suspend judgment.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, June 30, 1828. Acknowledges Terán's observations on climate of Texas. Forwards historical sketch of his colony; begs Terán's opinion concerning collection of debts contracted before immigration; advises him concerning grants of land to settlers who have "squatted" in Texas.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, June 30, 1828. "Points Concerning Austin's Colony in Texas." Following a concise history of the colony, Austin presents the needs of Texas as: (1) Suspension for six or eight years of restrictions on the introduction of slaves by immigrants; (2) extension of tariff exemption until 1835; (3) permission to raise tobacco for export; (4) regulation of coasting trade to permit Texan products in Mexican ports, and to facilitate registration of Texan vessels; (5) protection of colonists against suit for debts contracted before arrival in Texas; (6) separation of Texas from Coahuila and formation of territorial government.

Mrs. E. M. Perry to Austin, Potosi, about July 1, 1828. Local news.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, July 5, 1828. Expressing regret at hardships caused by floods in Texas.

Amos Edwards to Austin, Nacogdoches, July 7, 1828. Roads bad and corn scarce and high. Leaves family at Nacogdoches while he explores and finds place to settle. Holds stock in Nashville Co., and would settle on their grant, but does not believe the company will ever accomplish anything.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Nacogdoches, July 8, 1828. Thanks Austin for sketch of his colony. Will give attention next year to the matter of collecting debts contracted by colonists before immigration. Asks Austin whether he will sell his encyclopedia.

John Austin to Mrs. Emily Perry, July 10, 1828. Apologizes for failure to visit her. (Omitted.)

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, July 12, 1828. Explanation of the form of the contract which the governor has granted Austin for settling the coast. Reasons for reducing the number of families which Austin wished to

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settle. Padilla anxious to leave for Texas, but difficult to find a man to take his place.

Elisha Roberts to Austin, July 18, 1828. Asking Austin to intercede with the grantees of the border reserve to have his title confirmed in east Texas. (Omitted.)

Frost Thorn to Austin, Nacogdoches, July 22, 1828. The law permitting indenture of slaves will greatly promote immigration. Favors colonization of Cherokees and Shawnees, who are good farmers.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, July 23, 1828. Ordering him to arrest four persons on the Trinity whose extradition has been requested by the minister of the United States in Mexico. (Omitted.)

Political Chief [Ramon Musquiz] to Alcalde of San Felipe, July 23, 1828. Instructing him to honor Austin's demand for a force of militia to carry out a commission of the Supreme Government. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, July 24, 1828. Answering Austin's question concerning criminal judicial procedure. Approves Austin's suggestion of a law to protect debtors. Has recommended to the Government the appointment of a man informed in law and government, and speaking English, to assist the ayuntamiento.

Austin to Emily M. Perry, July 24, 1828. Business settlement with Anthony Butler. Progress of his colony, nearly 3,000 inhabitants.

Austin to Manuel Ceballos, July 28, 1828. Petitions for relief from order of National Government forbidding trade with unauthorized ports. This would prevent immigrants from coming to Texas by sea. It is also necessary to import certain foodstuffs and supplies.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, July 29, 1828. Reply to order for arrest of certain criminals sought in the United States.

Austin to Governor of Coahuila and Texas, July 29, 1828. Accepting and interpreting contract to settle a colony on the coast. (Omitted.)

John Sibley to Austin, Natchitoches, July 30, 1828. Political news. Local gossip. Rage for railroad construction.

Samuel Parkman to Austin, Missouri, August 1, 1828. Contemplates emigrating to Texas; asks Austin many questions about the country.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, August 2, 1828. Militia law provides that officers must be native Mexicans. This impossible in his colony, because only two natives reside there, neither of whom can read. Asks instructions.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, August 3, 1828. Notifying him of arrest of two men wanted in the United States, and instructing him to arrest the other two on the Trinity. (Omitted.)

J. G. de los Santos to Austin, August 5, 1828. Transmitting order of political chief for apprehension of Franklin Hardin. (Omitted.)

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Nacogdoches, August 5, 1828. Asks if Rees's Encyclopedia gives a systematic treatment of botany and zoology. Sends Austin a thermometer and asks him to make observations.

Lorenzo de Zavala to Austin, August 6, 1828. Favors Austin's suggestion for protection of debtors.

Thomas M. Duke to Ramon Musquiz, August 6, 1828. Gave necessary orders for militia to assist Austin. (Omitted.)

Gaspar Flores to S. M. Williams, August 7, 1828. Thinks governor will approve appointment of Williams to be secretary of the ayuntamiento. (Omitted.)

José Maria Viesca (governor) to Austin, Saltillo, August 8, 1828. Approves Austin's plan for protection of debtors in the colony, and will urge such a law at next session of the legislature.

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J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, August 9, 1828. Governor will present a bill to the legislature next month for protection of debtors. Governor approves employment of a secretary for the ayuntamiento of San Felipe who knows the two languages. Padilla sends a copy of a model municipal ordinance.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, August 9, 1828. Report of expedition to arrest certain fugitives from justice in the United States. (Omitted.)

Austin to George Orr, August 11, 1828. Passing on to him the order for arrest of certain fugitives wanted in the United States. (Omitted.)

Thomas M. Duke to Ramon Musquiz, August 14, 1828. Transmitting Austin's report on certain arrests. (Omitted.)

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, Matamoros, August 15, 1828. Transmitting report that Spaniards in New Orleans are concerting with Cuba an attack on the coast of Texas.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, Matamoros, August 15, 1828. Instructing him to be prepared with militia to repel Spaniards and Cubans in case of invasion of Texas.

Alexander Yhary to Austin, August 15, 1828. Will forward petition for Masonic charter. (Omitted.)

W. A. Ficklin to Austin, Jackson, La., August 17, 1828. Inquiring what advantages Austin's colony offers a physician.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, August 20, 1828. Replying to Austin's query concerning militia law.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, August 20, 1828. Acknowledging Austin's report of expedition to arrest men wanted in the United States. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, August 21, 1828. Expects to leave shortly for Saltillo and asks what he can do for the colony. (Omitted.)

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, August 22, 1828. Advises Austin how to frame application and argument for inclusion of Galveston Island in his coast colony. Legal questions involved in founding a town.

Austin to ———, August —, 1828. Geographical description of Texas, present population, agricultural statistics, social conditions.

Governor Viesca to the Legislature of Coahuila and Texas, September 2, 1828. Discussing a bill for the protection of debtors.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, September 4, 1828. Will expect letters from Austin at Saltillo. Wants information about land for himself and friends. (Omitted.)

Austin to the President of the Republic, September 8, 1828. Asking privileges for Texas for 10 years: (1) Permission to introduce free of duty all articles for the consumption of his colony; (2) legalization of the port of the Brazos. Suggesting measures to guard against abuse of these privileges and arguing the petition.

Austin's draft of a law to protect debtors, September 8, 1828.

Austin to Governor José Maria Viesca [about September 8, 1828?] Argument for division of Texas into two or three departments or *partidos*.

Governor José Maria Viesca to legislature, September 12, 1828. Pointing out defects in the militia law and suggesting amendments. (Omitted.)

J. M. Balmaceda to Austin, Bexar, September 10, 1828, announcing his election to the legislature, and asking Austin for a light wagon to transport himself and family to Saltillo.

José Candido Arcos to Austin, September 12, 1828. Asking Austin's advice about applying for an empresairo's contract. (Omitted.)

James and John Austin to Minister of War and Marine, September 12, 1828. Application for charter for a vessel to engage in the coasting trade.

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George Orr to Austin, September 14, 1828. Report on expedition to arrest the men wanted in the United States. (Omitted.)

Mills M. Battle in account with J. and J. Austin, September 16, 1828. Bill and price list.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, September 16, 1828. Plans for building gin and other business. Glad Austin is paying more attention to his own interests.

Austin to Manuel Ceballos, September 20, 1828. Discussing at length his memorial to the President of September 8 asking exemption from the tariff regulations and the opening of the port of the Brazos, with permission to engage in coasting trade. Suggests encouragement of trade with Europe, which resents the 1828 tariff of the United States.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, September 20, 1828. Discussing importance of opening coasting trade from Texas to Mexican ports. Opportunity to ship cotton to Europe instead of to New Orleans. Texas can export 500 bales of cotton this year. Political troubles in the United States. Austin thinks protective tariff unwise.

Austin to Anastacio Bustamante, September 20, 1828. Will be able to guard Texas coast against invasion of Spaniards and Cubans. Protests against State militia law as showing lack of confidence in the colonists. Discusses need of costing trade.

Walter C. White to Austin, September 24, 1828. Receipt for note. (Omitted.)

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Nacognoches, September 29, 1828. Observations upon climate; asks loan of the botanical section of Austin's encyclopedia; discussion of Austin's letter concerning ports, coasting trade, and tariff. Thinks tariff not intended to apply to Texas, which by previous laws is exempt.

M. M. Battle to Austin, September 30, 1828. A sight draft to be paid in livestock and cash.

Austin in account with Mills M. Battle. October 1, 1828. For carpentering, labor, and supplies.

Gaspar Flores to Austin, Bexar, October 2, 1828. Announcing early departure for Austin's colony to extend titles to settlers. Election news. (Omitted.)

Austin to minister of relations, October 7, 1828. Amplifying memorial to the President of September 8 concerning coasting trade and tariff exemption for Texas. Good discussion of importance of encouraging agriculture, with economic statistics for Texas.

Austin to Governor Viesca [October 7, 1828]. Asking governor to use influence with legislature to support his petition for opening port of Brazos, granting tariff exemption, and permitting coasting trade.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, Matamoros, October 13, 1828. Agreeing with Austin's suggestion for amendment of the militia law, which he has passed on with indorsement to the governor of the State. Indorses also Austin's desire for liberal coasting trade.

José María Balmaceda to Austin, Bexar, October 16, 1828. Promising to deliver a wagon, which Austin has sent, to Padilla in Saltillo. (Omitted.)

Rafael A. Manchola to Austin, Bexar, October 18, 1828. Asking Austin's suggestions for the welfare of Texas, which he is to represent in the legislature. (Omitted.)

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, October 18, 1828. Political news of State and nation.

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Victor Blanco to Governor Viesca, Saltillo, October 23, 1828. Application for 11 leagues of land in Texas. The governor grants the application. (Omitted.)

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, New Orleans, October 24, 1828.

Austin to Emily M. Perry, October 25, 1828. Business relations with Anthony Butler. Religious belief. Cotton market depressed.

Erasmo Seguin to Austin, Bexar, October 30, 1828. Political comment. Wants to buy cattle to stock a ranch.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, November 1, 1828. Political comment.

Austin to James Whiteside, November 2, 1828. Requesting a loan of $20.

Thomas F. McKinney to Austin, Nacogdoches, November 3, 1828. Relating difficulties with Colonel Piedras, and asking help.

Manuel Ceballos to Austin, Mexico, November 5, 1828. Reporting on various commissions from Austin.

Minister of Relaciones to Austin, Mexico, November 15, 1828. Acknowledging Austin's memorial of October 7, which the President will place before Congress.

Victor Blanco to Austin, Saltillo, November 15, 1828. Thanks Austin for advice concerning location of 11-league grant. Law for protection of debtors. Hopeful that general Government will grant the privileges that Austin desires.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, November 15, 1828. Plans for location of his 11-league grant. Sends copy of governor's message to legislature suggesting amendment of militia law.

Austin to military commandant, November 17, 1828. Acknowledging receipt of packet for Captain Thompson. (Omitted.)

Austin to military commandant at Bexar, November 17, 1828. Transmitting report from a Lipan Indian that Comanches are planning a raid on the settlements.

Alexander Thompson to Austin, November 17, 1828. Applying for a league of land. (Omitted.)

Mathew Brennan to Austin, November 18, 1828. Application for land. (Omitted.)

Fernando Guevara to Austin, November 18, 1828. Application for land. (Omitted.)

William Rabb to Austin, November 24, 1828. Has been compelled to abandon temporarily his settlement on the Colorado. Blames some of the settlers for the Indian troubles.

Antonio Elosua to Austin, November 25, 1828. Thinks Austin's informant concerning hostile designs of Comanches is mistaken.

Antonio Elosua to Austin, November 25, 1828. Asking Austin to return a letter addressed to Captain Thompson and instructing him concerning treatment of a vessel which he had seized. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, November 27, 1828. Thanks Austin for advice in selecting land for which to apply. Used influence at Saltillo to further the law for protection of debtors. Governor's advice concerning procedure in securing legalization of the port of Brazos.

José Antonio Navarro to Austin, Bexar, November 27, 1828. Asking Austin to obtain goods for him.

Juan Vicente Campos to Austin, Saltillo, November 29, 1828. Announcing his election to represent Coahuila and Texas in Congress and assuring Austin of his desire to promote interests of the colonies. (Omitted.)

Antonio Elosua to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe, November 29, 1828. Thanks for warning of Comanche plans. (Omitted.)

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J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, November 29, 1828. Santiago del Valle will succeed him as secretary to the governor, and Padilla will depart for Texas shortly.

Emily M. Perry to J. E. B. Austin, Herculaneum, November 29, 1828. Record of Austin's business with Butler burned. Conditions in Missouri.

Austin to Abner Kuykendall, December 3, 1828. Wishing to buy cows and calves.

Austin and Rufus Stone, December 5, 1828. Agreement concerning exploitation of a mine. (Omitted.)

Alexander Thompson to Austin, Vera Cruz, December 6, 1828. Political news. (Omitted.)

Austin to Thomas M. Duke, December 9, 1828. Filing claim to a mine. (Omitted.)

Austin to Thomas Boatwright, December 10, 1828. Contract of sale. (Omitted.)

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, December 13, 1828. Political news. Departure for Texas delayed.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, San Fernando, Tamaulipas, December 17, 1828. Sending Austin passport for a vessel to engage in coasting trade. Indians in Texas.

David Porter to Austin, Vera Cruz, December 26, 1828. Informing Austin how to secure registry for a vessel. (Omitted.)

Austin in account with William Cooper, December 26, 1828. Bill and price list.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, December 27, 1828. Results of the revolution in Mexico.

Antonio Elosua to Austin, Bexar, December 27, 1828. Forwarding Bustamante's request for information about the vessel for which Austin seeks registry. (Omitted.)

George Tennille in account with J. B. and J. Austin. [December (?), 1828]. Bill and price list.

1829

José Antonio Navarro to Austin, Bexar, January 8, 1829. Much depressed by political situation. Personally attached to Guerrero and Zavala, but regrets disregard of the constitution through which they have succeeded. Asks Austin to buy corn for him in the colonies.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, January 8, 1829. Ayuntamiento of Bexar wants to contract with Ayuntamiento of San Felipe for corn. Rains are delaying correspondence, and fears scarcity of grain. (Omitted.)

Luciano García to Austin, January 8, 1829. Asking Austin to send draft to Virginia. (Omitted.)

Austin to Minister of Relations, January 12, 1829. Forwarding a copy of the memorial already mailed on September 8. (Omitted.)

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, January 12, 1829. Insisting that the land commissioner, Gaspar Flores, must remain in the colony until April to finish his business before assuming office of alcalde of Bexar, to which he has been elected.

Austin to Vicente Campos, representative of Coahuila and Texas in the Federal Congress, January 12, 1829. Refers Campos to his memorial to the Minister of Relations, September 8, 1828, and begs him to work for measures legalizing port of the Brazos, extending tariff exemption and opening coasting trade with Mexican ports.

Austin to ———, January 14, 1829. Receipt for cattle. (Omitted.)

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Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, January 22, 1829. Assuring him of favorable reception for John Austin in his trading venture to Matamoros. Passport for his ship.

Erasmo Seguin to Austin, January 22, 1829. Statement of his account with Austin. (Omitted.)

Ayuntamiento of San Felipe to political chief, January 24, 1829. Militia law not adapted to conditions in Texas. Ask modifications permitting organization of two battalions of infantry instead of one and for organization of a company of light cavalry.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Saltillo, January 24, 1829. Delay in departing for Texas. Legislature is working on a law to protect debtors, and a liberal law is under discussion regulating the raising and selling of tobacco. Regrets that the law excluding slaves from Texas can not yet be repealed, but expresses confidence that this will be done in time.

Austin to Anastacio Bustamante, January 25, 1829. Acknowledging passport for John Austin's vessel, which has already sailed with a cargo of native products to Matamoros. Same to Elosua at Bexar.

Austin to William Selkirk, January 27, 1829. Instructions for surveying.

Thomas White to Austin, Franklin, La., January 31, 1829. Asking information especially about social conditions and character of the colonists. Has heard disturbing reports about conditions on the Sabine border.

Austin in account with Nicholas Clopper & Co., January —, 1829. Price list.

Bauzan to Austin, February 15, 1829. Receipt for cows.

Austin to Commodore David Porter, February 16, 1829. Urging him to apply to government for a grant of land in Texas. Description of the country; population, cattle raising, cotton, opportunities for developing trade with England, which resents tariff of the United States, coasting trade, and foodstuffs.

Austin to Gov. José Maria Viesca, February 16, 1829. Suggestions for the advancement of Coahuila and Texas and of the nation: (1) Promote agriculture; (2) facilitate coasting and foreign trade in agricultural products, thereby keeping at home the metals which are now almost exclusively exchanged for foreign imports. England resents the United States' tariff of 1828, and would make favorable commercial treaty with Mexico, allowing reciprocal privileges to shipping and admitting raw cotton free of duty in its ports in return for a like treatment of coarse fabrics in Mexican ports. Southerners in the United States resent the tariff and would move to Texas and other parts of Mexico and raise cotton if the constitutional prohibition of slavery in Coahuila and Texas were suspended for 10 years. Promotion of agriculture and trade would lead to improvement of roads and waterways. These measures are partly in the State and partly in the Federal jurisdiction, and would create strong ties to bind all parts of Mexico together.

George Orr to Austin, February 18, 1829. Thanking Austin for influence in obtaining grants of land for settlers on the Trinity.

José Antonio Navarro to Austin, Bexar, February 18, 1829. Sending Austin $120 with which to buy goods for him either in New Orleans or in the colony. (Omitted.)

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, February 24, 1829. Political news from Mexico. Sees prospect of amending Federal constitution to permit religious toleration; thinks household worship will cause no trouble now, but wants no Methodist excitement. Plans for an academy at San Felipe.

Edward Dorr et al. to Austin, February 28, 1829. Certifying that George Orr has exercised his authority as alcalde unfairly. (Omitted.)

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John A. Williams to Austin, March 2, 1829. Thanking Austin for assistance in getting land for settlers on the Trinity, and warning him against certain inhabitants of that section.

Green De Witt to Austin, March 3, 1829. Reporting depredations of Indians in his settlement and battle with Tahuacanas. Recommends appointment of Rangers to patrol the frontier.

Austin to W. C. Carr, March 4, 1829. Sends him for record receipts for $2,000 from Anthony Butler on account of Moses Austin's debts. Progress of Texas and difficulties which he has overcome. Personal items. Interpretation of Jackson's election.

Thomas M. Duke to Austin, March 8, 1829. Asks Austin to use influence to secure augumentation of his land. This due to compensation for his sacrifices in the public service. (Omitted.)

David G. Burnet to Austin, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 10, 1829. Recent political unrest in Mexico has deterred many from emigrating to Texas. Comments on Jackson's Cabinet.

Austin to Nathaniel Cox, March 10, 1829. Wants to settle with the Hawkins estate on account of Hawkins's assistance in settling his first colony. Will visit New Orleans if Cox is authorized to settle. Lack of time and money will make visit short.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Matamoros, March 12, 1829. Giving Austin notes for map. Approval of coasting trade.

Josiah H. Bell to Austin, March 13, 1829. People of his section disgusted with disturbances at San Felipe. He thinks the lawyers are to blame. All have confidence in Austin and depend on him to set things right. People will support an academy but don't want it located at San Felipe.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, March 17, 1829. Replying to charges reported by Bell March 14: The alcalde and the ayuntamiento obeying the State law in making certain registrations for the citizens; most of popular uneasiness arises from ignorance of the law and inability of the people to inform themselves because they do not understand Spanish. If the people object to the lawyers, let them settle their difficulties by arbitration and drive the lawyers out of business. He himself knows the laws and is in touch with the acts of the ayuntamiento; he will protect the people.

Peter Ellis Bean to Austin, March 18, 1829. Assuring Austin that reports of Spanish invasion unfounded. Opinion of law to protect debtors.

J. E. B. Austin to Austin, March 18, 1829. Coasting trade. Popular discontent with local government. Popularity of Austin.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, March 23, 1829. Hopes that the colonists will join in a campaign to exterminate the Tahuayases.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, March 23, 1829. Asking him to cooperate with Colonel Elosua in a campaign of extermination against the Tahuayases.

William Morton to Austin, March 25, 1829. People will support an academy, but will not consent to have it in any way under the authority of the ayuntamiento of San Felipe.

Austin to Thomas White, March 31, 1829. Character of the Texan settlers will bear comparison with those in any frontier community. Explains that reports of bad character are spread by persons whom he has expelled from the colony.

J. B. Austin in account with W. B. Nuckols, March —, 1829. Price list.

José Antonio Navarro to Austin, April 2, 1829. Commercial commissions. (Omitted.)

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Erasmo Seguin to Austin, April 2, 1829. Asking instructions about occupation of lands that Austin has granted him. (Omitted.)

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, April 4, 1829. Pointing out errors in the public attitude toward the ayuntamiento, and explaining its duties. Budget, manuscript translation of the laws, "shyster" lawyers.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, April 7, 1829. Concerning a grant of land. Illustrates Austin's methodical nature and some of the complexities of his situation. (Omitted. Printed in full in the editor's Life of Stephen F. Austin, 160–161.)

Austin to Thomas Cox, April 7, 1829. Receipt for a mule. Currency system. (Omitted.)

Commodore David Porter to Austin, Vera Cruz, April 10, 1829. Asking Austin to assist him in getting a grant of land in Texas. (Omitted.)

Erasmo Seguin to Austin, Bexar, April 16, 1829. Instructing Austin to make minor improvements on land which Austin has granted him. Wants to comply with the law with minimum expense. (Omitted.)

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, April 16, 1829. Asks Bell to assist in preparing a list of settlers who have not obtained land titles. Object to show the land commissioner the importance of finishing that task, which his predecessors had generally imposed on Austin. Progress of subscription for the academy.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, April 17, 1829. Agreement to grant land.

Elias R. Wightman to Austin, April 22, 1829. Concerning location of the "New Yorkers." Wants to prove the salubrity of the colony by their health. (Omitted.)

Austin to William H. Wharton, April 24, 1829. An excellent statement of difficulties overcome in founding his settlements and of his vision of their future. The present administration in Mexico favors slavery. Immigration of 500 southern men of character would make Texas. Future of the cotton trade with England in return for "untariffed" English manufacturers.

Charles Douglas to Austin, Vera Cruz, April 25, 1829. Description of the Guazacoalco Valley and views of Mexican policy of prohibiting slavery.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, April 27, 1829. Arrangements concerning land.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, April 30, 1829. Asking exact description of location of a mine. (Omitted.)

J. M. Berramendi to Austin, Bexar, April 30, 1829. "There is such a lack of money, due to the Government's failure to pay troops of Bexar, that merchants have no money to trade with your colony." (Omitted.)

David G. Burnet to Austin, Cincinnati, Ohio, May 4, 1829. Robert Owen's plans for a socialistic colony in Texas. General interest in Texas.

James B. Austin, John Austin, and S. M. Williams in agreement with Austin, concerning a mining claim, May 5, 1829. (Omitted.)

Green De Witt to Ramon Musquiz, May 8, 1829. Reports contraband trade which he has no means to stop. Indians.

Green De Witt to Ramon Musquiz, May 8, 1829. Report of plans for an Indian invasion.

Green De Witt to Ramon Musquiz, May 8, 1829. Report of Indian invasion directed at La Bahia.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, May 13, 1829. Concerning a deed. (Omitted.)

Austin to Mrs. E. M. Peery, May 26, 1829. Texas is tranquil and progresses. Lack of schools.

James B. Austin to Mrs. E. M. Peery, May 26, 1829. Rapid settlement of Texas. Cotton and sugar exports.

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Ramon Musquiz to Austin, May 28, 1829. Has forwarded to the Texan deputies in the legislature, together with strong recommendations of his own, Austin's letter concerning suspension of legal and constitutional exclusion of slaves. Expects assistance from the militia against Indians.

Austin to Commodore David Porter, June 8, 1829. Welcomes Porter's application for a grant of land, which he forwards to the governor. Suggests study of State colonization law. Texas needs admission of slavery and extension of tariff exemption for six years after 1830, when present exemption expires.

Samuel M. Williams to Austin, June 9, 1829. Shipping in Galveston Bay. Doctor Woodbury wants Austin's opinion about security of slaves in Texas. He says that Poinsett is interested in Zavala's contract to settle families in east Texas.

Austin to Secretary of War and Marine, June 10, 1829. Acknowledging thanks of the Secretary for services of the colonists in defending the coast from the Spaniards. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, June 11, 1829. Informing him that he has called on the ayuntamiento of San Felipe for 150 mounted men to serve in a campaign against Tahuacano and Waco Indians.

Ramon Musquiz to Governor of Coahuila and Texas, June 22, 1829. Fears invasion of Texas from the United States.

Martin Allen to Austin, July 5, 1829. Report on militia muster for campaign against Waco Indians. Discussion of Indian population of Texas.

Austin to John Lucius Woodbury, July 6, 1829. Welcoming him as a fellow empresario and describing the natural advantages of Texas. Manufacturing would be profitable—particularly cotton textiles.

Gaspar Flores to Austin, July 9, 1829. Misunderstanding concerning a payment of $40. (Omitted.)

David G. Burnet to Austin, Cincinnati, Ohio, July 18, 1829. Political disturbances in Mexico interrupted his promotion of a company for colonizing Texas.

James F. Perry to Austin, Potosi, Mo., July 19, 1829. Concerning a land claim in Virginia. Economic depression in Missouri.

Ramon Musquiz to Governor of Coahuila and Texas, July 19, 1829. Danger of Spanish invasion. United States increasing garrisons on frontier.

Francisco Ruiz to Austin, Bexar, July 23, 1829. Postponement of campaign against Wacos. Political discussion. Lack of money for soldiers. Anxiety about immigration of Indians from the United States.

Austin to Navarro, July 23, 1829. Sending him a copy of his map. Depressed by the slow development of Texas. Thinks there is danger of its reversion to barbarism, since the Indians being removed by the United States from east of the Mississippi River may overrun it. Thinks the article of the State constitution prohibiting slavery ought to be suspended for 10 years to promote the settlement of the Province. Perhaps the simplest way of doing this would be to repeal Decree No. 18 which puts that article of the constitution into effect.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz and Lorenzo de Zavala, July 23, 1829. Transmitting copies of his map for the Ayuntamiento of Bexar and for the President of Mexico. His purposes in making the map.

Austin's notes on his map of Texas, July 23, 1829. Physical features, danger of being overrun by Indians from the United States, who are now being settled west of the Mississippi. The only salvation of Texas, upon which depends also the security of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Tamaulipas, and Nuevo Leon is to settle

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a dense civilized population in Texas. To encourage settlement should admit slaves. This defended even on humanitarian grounds. Should also open coasting trade and develop commerce with Europe. List of commodities which Texas could export.

Governor Viesca to James Bailey, July 24, 1829. Commission as captain of the militia. (Omitted.)

Patrick and Lindsay Clopper to Austin, July 26, 1829. Complaining of mileage fees charged by officer for serving a writ.

W. Taylor to Austin, Vera Cruz, July 28, 1829. Wants land for settlement in Texas. Asks advice.

Austin to Antonio Elosua, July 29, 1829. Reporting movements of Indians.

Austin to Israel Waters, July 30, 1829. Thanking him for a bottle of rum distilled in Texas. Thinks the manufacture of spirits bound to develop in Texas. Would be opposed to it but for the fact that spirits will be imported if not made in Texas.

Henry Austin to Austin, Matamoros, August 3, 1829. Plans for navigation of Rio Grande. Has laid before Government of the United States a memorial suggesting exchange of its territory west of Rocky Mountains for that between Rio Grande and the United States.

Governor Viesca to Austin, August 6, 1829. Commissioning him colonel in the militia. (Omitted.)

J. E. B. Austin to Emily M. Perry, August 6, 1829. Progress of Texas. Austin aging fast.

Aylett C. Buckner to Austin, August 7, 1829. Suggesting methods of collecting debts due Austin.

William F. Roberts to Austin, Potosi, Mo., August 7, 1829. Concerning collection of a debt. (Omitted.)

Daniel J. Toler and Allen Reynolds to Austin, Matamoros, August 9, 1829. Asking Austin to record a deed. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, August 12, 1829. Correspondence with alcalde and ayuntamiento of San Felipe is retarded by their ignorance of Spanish. Asks Austin, in view of the danger of Spanish invasion, to expedite correspondence.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, August 12, 1829. Asking Austin to assist the ayuntamiento in its correspondence with him. (Omitted.)

Austin and John H. Cummins, August 17, 1829. Agreement concerning a silver mine. (Omitted.)

Austin to Lieut. Zeno Phillips, August 18, 1829. Instructing him to be on guard against landing of Spanish forces on the coast.

H. D. Thompson to Austin, New Orleans, August 19, 1829. Giving account of the illness and death from yellow fever of Austin's brother, James Brown Austin. The Spanish invasion of Mexico.

James Kennerly to Austin, St. Louis, August 24, 1829. Asking information about Texas.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, August 24, 1829. Illicit trading with Indians.

Austin to Henry Austin, August 27, 1829. Compares Brazos River with the Rio Grande. The former navigable six months in the year. Development of Texas; Austin's services to his colonists; his own lack of comfort; plans for a cotton mill in which aliens might buy stock.

Bill and price list, September 4, 1829. Thomas Slaughter in account with John and J. B. Austin.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, September 7, 1829. Introducing his secretary, Joaquin Rumayor. (Omitted.)

Thomas F. McKinney to Austin, Nacogdoches, September 9, 1829. Tranquillity of East Texas. Only unrest due to fact that some of the settlers have

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not obtained titles to the land they occupy. Much resentment against the military commandant; and P. E. Bean causes some dissatisfaction. He is reported to be working for organization of territorial government in Texas. Glad to see the introduction of printing presses.

John Austin to Austin, Brazoria, September 10, 1829. Settlement of estate of J. E. B. Austin. (Omitted.)

Thomas Davis to Ramon Musquiz, September 14, 1829. Critical illness of Austin explains failure of the ayuntamiento to write you by last mail. No one else knows Spanish.

Austin to Henry Austin, September 22, 1829. Warning him not to be deceived by an advertisement of lands in Texas.

David G. Burnet to Austin, Cincinnati, Ohio, September 22, 1829. Power of attorney authorizing Austin to petition for enlargement of Burnet's contract to settle colonists. (Omitted.)

Henry Austin to Austin, Camargo, September 24, 1829. Difficulties of navigating the Rio Grande.

S. Hatch to Austin, September 25, 1829. Application for land. Economic condition of immigrants.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Tampico, September 28, 1829. Acknowledging receipt of Austin's map and describing surrender of the Spanish invaders.

John M. McCalla to Austin, Lexington, Ky., October 6, 1829. Henry Clay, the evil genius of Kentucky. Andrew Jackson.

R. C. Nicholas to Austin, Nashville, Tenn., October 11, 1829. Intention to settle in Texas. Uncertain status of labor deters many, but great interest aroused in Tennessee and Kentucky. Prospect of purchase of Texas by the United States.

Austin to James W. Breedlove, October 12, 1829. Explaining the colonization law and the position of an empresario. Review of his own experiences and of the difficulties of an empresario.

Byrd Lockhart to Austin, October 14, 1829. Asking Austin to assist him in getting land. (Omitted.)

Austin to José Antonio Navarro, October 19, 1829. Apologizing for not answering a letter. Plans for translating and publishing the State laws and State and Federal constitutions. Urges Navarro to select land in his colony.

John Austin to Austin, October 23, 1829. Introducing a settler. Personal business. (Omitted.)

José Maria Viesca to Ramon Musquiz, Saltillo, October 24, 1829. Inquiring whether Austin had been repaid expenses advanced in 1826 in making topographical survey of Galveston Bay. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Governor of Coahuila and Texas, October 25, 1829. Explaining hardships which Guerrero's emancipation decree would inflict on Texas, and urging exemption of the department from its operation.

J. K. Looney to Austin, October 27, 1829. Requesting land. (Omitted.)

John Austin to Austin, October 28, 1829. Trade in mules and horses with New Orleans.

José Antonio Navarro to Austin, Bexar, October 29, 1829. Offer to share 11 leagues of land if Austin will pay the treasury fees for all. Opposition to Guerrero's decree abolishing slavery. Strong representations made to the governor against it, and the political chief has suspended publication in Texas.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, October 29, 1829. Informs Austin of the decree of September 15, emancipating slaves, and asks him to treat it confidentially until result of petitions to the State government is seen.

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Santiago del Valle to Austin, Saltillo, October 31, 1829. Transmitting money to Austin. (Omitted.)

Austin to ——— [about November 1, 1829]. Address on repulse of Spanish invasion. (Omitted.)

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, November 4, 1829. Advice concerning manufacture of salt.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, November 9, 1829. Favorable action of case of Thomas Powell, whose goods were seized by customs officers. Trade and freightage. Tobacco.

Robert Lewis to Austin, Cerralvo, Mexico, November 9, 1829. A dispute with Cameron concerning mines.

Hugh B. Johnston to Austin, November 9, 1829. Danger of Indian war. Much apprehension aroused by migration of Indians from the United States. Hopes Austin can stop the movement.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, November 10, 1829. Introducing Colonel Anthony Butler, who bears letters from President Jackson.

John Durst to Austin, Nacogdoches, November 10, 1829. Asking Austin's advice concerning Guerrero's emancipation decree.

Miguel Arciniega to Austin, Bexar, November 12, 1829. Asking Austin's intervention to obtain for him his prior right to purchase a piece of land belonging to the estate of Baron de Bastrop. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, November 12, 1829. No news from the State capital concerning reception of his representation about Guerrero's emancipation decree, but not discouraged. Agrees with Austin that it is unconstitutional.

José Maria Viesca to Minister of Relaciones, Saltillo, November 14, 1829. Forwards petition from political chief of Texas, Ramon Musquiz, for exemption of Texas from Guerrero's emancipation decree. Adds a memorial of his own to the same end. Agrees need of labor to develop Texas.

John Gates to Austin, November 17, 1829. Assuring Austin of the intention of certain settlers to fulfill their contracts. (Omitted.)

Austin to John Durst, November 17, 1829. Advising memorial to government urging exemption of Texas from the emancipation decree. Argues that it is unconstitutional. Opposition must be temperate but firm. State officials are standing against it.

Teran to Austin, November 20, 1829. Notifying him that Guerrero's emancipation decree does not apply to Texas.

John Austin to Hinton Curtis, November 23, 1829. Receipt for beef.

John Durst to Austin, Nacogdoches, November 24, 1829. Will follow procedure advised by Austin concerning Guerrero's emancipation decree. Character of the local authorities.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Bexar, November 26, 1829. Says that he has written a strong protest against the emancipation decree, which he considers unconstitutional. Others at Bexar opposed to the decree.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, November 26, 1829. Expresses opinion that if Spanish invasion had not failed Guerrero would have sold Texas to United States. Has not heard from State government concerning his memorial on the emancipation decree. Authorizes Austin to translate and print his memorial.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, November 27, 1829. Telling Austin that the governor has supported the memorial for exemption of Texas from emancipation decree.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Bexar, November 27, 1829. Forwards copy of the memorial concerning the emancipation decree addressed by Governor

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Viesca to the President through Minister of Relaciones. Has much hope that Texas will be excepted from the decree. Minister of Relaciones is a Coahuil-Texan and a brother of Governor Viesca.

José Candido de Arcos to Austin, Bexar, November 28, 1829. Misunderstanding concerning cattle trade. (Omitted.)

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, San Antonio, November 30, 1829. All the inhabitants of Bexar support Austin's stand on the rights of his colonists in the matter of slavery. (Omitted.)

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, November 30, 1829. Thanking Austin for information about Texas. Rumors that United States is negotiating for Texas.

Austin to Colonists, November, 1829. Instruction for obtaining titles. Fees.

Robert Kuykendall to Austin, December 2, 1829. Draft on Austin. School.

Felix Robertson to Austin, Nashville, Tenn., December 3, 1829. Introducing P. Bertrand. (Omitted.)

David G. Burnet to Austin, Cincinnati, Ohio, December 4, 1829. Reports concerning negotiations of the United States for purchase of Texas. Speculations in Texas lands.

David G. Burnet to Austin, Louisville, Ky., December 5, 1829. Suggesting a contract with the Mexican Government for exclusive navigation of Brazos and Colorado Rivers with steam.

David G. Burnet and Henry Fullerton [December 5, 1829?]. Form for the grant of land to immigrants in return for fees. Land speculation. (Omitted.)

Thomas J. Pilgrim to Austin, December 11, 1829. Bill for tuition.

John C. Partin to Cooper and Cheeves, December 12, 1829. Partin contracts to lease half of the land which he may receive to Cooper and Cheeves in return for payment by them of all fees on his grant. (Omitted.)

Henry Austin to Austin, Matamoros, December 14, 1829. Accompanying a memoir on Texan boundary. Understands that this started United States to negotiating for Texas. Asks Austin to help him get land in Texas before United States acquires it.

H. H. League to Austin, December 19, 1829. Asking Austin to obtain for him leave of absence from service in the ayuntamiento. His unpopularity makes it inconvenient to serve.

Austin and Anthony Winston, December 19, 1829. Austin agrees to grant lands to certain families which Winston will introduce. Winston agrees to pay fees. (Omitted.)

Shuhael Marsh to Austin, December 20, 1829. Concerning land. (Omitted.)

Luke Lesassier to Austin, December 22, 1829. Concerning land. (Omitted.)

Austin to José Antonio Navarro, December 24, 1829. Thinks Navarro's income as collector of customhouse at Galveston will be small. Future depends on policy of the Government. Late decree concerning slavery retards development. Commerce in the colony.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, December 24, 1829. Transmitting news that the supreme Government has excepted Texas from operation of the emancipation decree. Congratulations.

Anthony Winston to Austin, December 25, 1829. Concerning land. (Omitted.)

John Austin to Austin, December 27, 1829. Urging Austin to take a rest and to collect debts from those owing him. Plans for Mrs. J. E. B. Austin.

James W. Breedlove to Austin, December 28, 1829. Introducing a colonist. (Omitted.)

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, December 29, 1829. Thanks Teran for the exemption of Texas from operation of the emancipation decree. It would

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have ruined the Province. The colonists were quiet and undisturbed, having confidence in the Government.

Austin to James F. Perry, December 31, 1829. Urging him to remove to Texas. Good description of productions and economic condition of Texas.

1830

Austin to Juan Antonio Padilla, January 1, 1830. Asking that lands of first colonists be augmented to a minimum of two leagues for each married man in recognition of their services in establishing permanent settlements, and that time limit for improvements be extended.

Austin to James F. Perry, January 1, 1830. Urging him to move to Texas.

John P. Austin to Austin, New York, January 1, 1830. Prospects of purchase of Texas by the United States. Terms of recognition of land grants.

Edward L. Pettit to Austin, January 2, 1830. Accepting Doctor Hutchinson's draft for $1,000. (Omitted.)

H. H. League to Austin, January 2, 1830. Informing Austin that Nestor Clay is insubordinate and declares that he will not obey the tax law.

Austin and Nathaniel Hutchison, January 2, 1830. Agreement concerning land. (Omitted.)

Robert Kuykendall to Austin, January 3, 1830. Draft on Austin to pay tuition.

Matthew G. White to Austin, January 3, 1830. Asks Austin concerning duties of alcalde. How exclude from the settlement persons expelled from the United States for kidnaping negroes.

Austin to James F. Perry, January 3, 1830. Urging him to move to Texas, and showing advantages of doing so at once.

Eliza M. Austin to Emily Perry, January 6, 1830. Austin's labors. Progress of the colony.

Edward L. Pettit to Austin, January 6, 1830. Rapid immigration. Application for land. (Omitted.)

John M. McCalla to Austin, Frankfort, Ky., January 7, 1830. Introducing David C. Black. (Omitted.)

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, January 9, 1830. Introducing Kinchen Davis, of Alabama, a colonist. (Omitted.)

S. M. Williams to Josiah H. Bell, January 9, 1830. Receipt for four hogs for Austin.

Dexter C. Gunn and David Bucklin to Austin, Damascus, Ohio, January 10, 1830. Inquiring concerning Texas. Six families wish to move.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, January 15, 1830. Land, fees, surveying.

José Justo Liendo to Austin, January 15, 1830. Power of attorney to sell 10 leagues of land which Liendo has acquired from the Government. (Omitted.)

James Whiteside to Austin, January 15, 1830. Receipt for $50, paying board of certain Mexicans.

Austin to James F. Perry, January 16, 1830. Advantages of a prompt removal to Texas.

Gideon Blackburn to Austin, Danville, Ky., January 19, 1830. Wants to establish a settlement of 50 or 100 families and promote "literature and religion." Inquiries concerning Texas.

J[oshua] Child to Austin, Natchez, Miss., January 24, 1830. Suggests a plan for hastening the settlement of Texas. Does not care whether slavery is permitted or not.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, January 24, 1830. Instructions for surveying. Schools.

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R. Stowers to Austin, Monoclova, January 26, 1830. Rumors of negotiations by the United States for purchase of Texas. Bustamante changing the government of Mexico.

Austin in account with John Austin, January 28, 1830. Bill and price list.

Henry Austin to Austin, Matamoros, January 29, 1830. Discussion of transfer of Texas to United States. Mexicans jealous of Texas. Reports of revoluationary movement in Texas caused by Guerrero's emancipation decree.

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, January 30, 1830. Introducing Mr. McQuin [Mr. Queen?]. (Omitted.)

Richard Ellis to Austin, "Alabama," January 30, 1830. Reports of Guerrero's emancipation decree have deterred emigration.

Thomas Barnett to Ramon Musquiz, February 1, 1830. Bemoaning his unfitness for office of alcalde, to which he was elected.

George Fisher to Lorenzo de Zavala, New Orleans, February 10, 1830. Emigration to Texas very rapid and trade between United States and Texas grows daily. Various ports established de facto, but not legalized. Advises Zavala to settle the 500 families of his contract by his own efforts, and neither to sell land nor to form a company for the enterprise.

Thomas F. McKinney to Austin, Nacogdoches, February 13, 1830. Introducing James Bowie. Arrival of Padilla has much improved conditions in East Texas.

Ramon Musquiz to governor, February 14, 1830. Reporting smuggling in Austin's colony. (Omitted.)

Abiel P. Mead to Austin, Essextown, N. Y., February 15, 1830. Six or eight families desire information about conditions for obtaining land. Transportation system.

José Antonio Navarro, Bexar, February 18, 1830. Asks Austin to send him some tobacco seed. Conditions upon which he will sell 7 leagues of land to Richard Royall.

Austin and George Sutherland, February 19, 1830. Agreement concerning settlement of 10 families. (Omitted.)

John W. Faulkner to Austin, Wigginsville, Ala., February 23, 1830. Forty citizens wish information of conditions in Texas.

Austin to Archibald Austin, February 24, 1830. Advantages in Texas for Swiss immigrants.

Austin and James N. Smith, February 26, 1830. Agreement concerning settlement of four families. (Omitted.)

Lewis Moore to Austin, Attakapas, La., February 28, 1830. Introducing his son, who wishes land. (Omitted.)

Thomas H. Borden to Austin, March 1, 1830. Surveying. (Ommitted.)

R. C. Trimble to Austin, St. Mary's Parish, La., March 1, 1830. Asking how an emigrant obtains land in Texas. (Omitted.)

José de las Piedras to Austin, Nacogdoches, March 7, 1830. Asking Austin to apprehend a soldier who has killed a man and deserted. (Omitted.)

José Maria J. Carbajal to Austin, Bethany, Va., March 8, 1830. Many families thinking of moving to Texas and wish to see Austin's map. Carbajal asks Austin's aid in selling copies of the Bible in Spanish. (Omitted.)

Retson Morris to Austin, March 11, 1830. Application for land. (Omitted.)

Amos Edwards to Austin, March 11, 1830. Application for land. Colonial conditions.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, March 12, 1830. Surveying, school, instructions for obtaining land titles.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, March 13, 1830. Instructions for surveying.

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Editorial by Austin in Texas Gazette, March 13, 1830. Concerning Terán's military measures, and the need of official translation of the State laws. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Governor of Texas, Bexar, March 14, 1830. Quoting letter of July 23, 1829, from Austin transmitting his map to the governor. (Omitted.)

Robert Wescott to Austin, Potosi, Mo., March 15, 1830. Hard times in Missouri. Plans for removing to Texas. Asks information about government and other conditions.

William Caruthers to Austin, Lincoln City, Tenn., March 15, 1830. Wants to establish a powder factory in Texas. (Omitted.)

D. W. Smith to Austin, Matamoros, March 18, 1830. Asking Austin to arrest an absconding clerk. (Omitted.)

J. B. Bailey to Austin, March 18, 1830. Application for land. (Omitted.)

Governor José Maria Viesca to Austin, Saltillo, March 18, 1830. Quoting instructions to land commisisoner to extend no titles without consent of empresarios. (Omitted.)

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, Mexico, March 20, 1830. Assuring Austin of his continued interest in the welfare of Texas during his administration as president.

José Valentin Garcia to Austin, March 20, 1830. Inquiring about lost mules. (Omitted.)

Editorial by Austin in Texas Gazette, March 20, 1830. Necessity for official translation of the State laws. (Omitted.)

James F. Perry's diary of journey from Potosi, Mo., to Texas, March 21, 1830–May 8, 1830.

Thomas F. McCaleb to Austin, New Orleans, March 22, 1830. Introducing Henry Morse, of Mississippi. (Omitted.)

José Antonio Navarro to Austin, Bexar, March 24, 1830. Trade in cattle, horses, and mules. (Omitted.)

George Sutherland to Austin, New Orleans, March 26, 1830. Introducing Ephraim Anderson. (Omitted.)

Jo. Thomas to Austin, New Orleans, March 26, 1830. Introducing Asa Brigham. (Omitted.)

Editorial by Austin in Texas Gazette, March 27, 1830. Benefits to be expected from Terán's military plans.

Austin to James F. Perry, March 28, 1830. Urging him to hasten to Texas. Rapid immigration of excellent character.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, March 29, 1830. Settlers disturbed by reports that soldiers are coming to Texas to destroy the new settlements. He has quieted this anxiety by two paragraphs in the Texas Gazette. Fear that Government will sell Texas to the United States is more serious. This should be permitted only on condition that the State should retain control of its vacant lands.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, April 3, 1830. Explaining that alcalde's ignorance of Spanish is the reason for his delay in returning certain reports.

Editorial by Austin in Texas Gazette, April 3, 1830. Friendly disposition of local and State officials toward Texas. (Omitted.)

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, April 4, 1830. Order for survey.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, April 4, 1830. Agreement to give certain lands to Williams.

Edward L. Pettit to Austin, New Orleans, April 5, 1830. Reporting revolutionary conditions in Mexico. A bill has been framed by the Government to stop immigration to Texas.

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Thomas Jefferson Chambers to Austin, Nacogdoches, April 5, 1830. Asking Austin's advice about surveying. (Omitted.)

Thomas F. McCaleb to Austin, Bardstown, Ky., April 6, 1830. Introducing Peter W. Grayson, of Kentucky. (Omitted.)

James F. Perry. Memorandum of account on trip to Texas, April 6, 1830.

James F. Perry in account with Rodgers, Slocum & Co., New Orleans, April 6, 1830. Bill for goods shipped to Texas.

William C. Carpenter to James F. Perry, April 7, 1830. Bill of lading, New Orleans to Texas.

Thomas Carter to Austin, Eatonton, Ga., April 7, 1830. Wants information about Texas. Wants to move with family of 30 (20 being "black servants").

Lucas Alaman to Governor Viesca, Mexico, April 7, 1830. Quoting orders to General Terán to enforce the law of April 6 against further settlement of Americans in Texas.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, April 7, 1830. Instructions for surveying.

Editorial by Austin in Texas Gazette, April 10, 1830. Discussing reciprocal benefits of liberal colonization policy to Mexico and the immigrants.

Francisco Ruiz to Austin, Bexar, April 11, 1830. Asking Austin's assistance for his son who goes to the settlements to trade in cattle and horses. Political news is disagreeable.

Fray Miguel Muro to Austin, Bahia, April 13, 1830. Asks Austin for conveyance for himself and ecclesiastical vessels to San Felipe.

John Austin to Austin, April 13, 1830. Sailing to Tampico. Trade in Texas.

John Austin to Austin, April 15, 1830. Is being delayed by lack of papers which Austin's secretary was to send him.

James F. Perry to schooner *Pocahontas*, April 17, 1830. Freight and passage for New Orleans. (Omitted.)

John C. Walker to Austin, Clinton, La., April 17, 1830. Asking information about Texas. (Omitted.)

Ira Ingram to Austin, April 21, 1830. Application for land. (Omitted.)

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Matamoros, April 24, 1830. Asks Austin's opinion of the law excluding Americans from Texas; also of the organization of territorial government in Texas.

Hugh McGuffin to Austin, April 25, 1830. Thanking Austin for kindness to his son. (Omitted.)

J. Cable to Austin, Natchitoches, April 25, 1830. Embarrassments which have prevented him from moving to Texas. (Omitted.)

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Nacogdoches, April 27, 1830. Reporting his arrest on false charges and asking Austin's help.

Austin and R. R. Royall, April 27, 1830. Agreement for the settlement of four families. (Omitted.)

Maria Antonio Bonsero to Austin, Bexar, April 29, 1830. Offering to sell a league of land. (Omitted.)

Joseph D. Grafton to Austin, St. Genevieve, Mo., May 5, 1830. Inquiring conditions of settlement in Texas.

Isaac Gilbraith to ———, Monterey, Calif., May 6, 1830. Narrative of misfortunes of a fur trapper, 1825–1827. Employee of Ashley and Smith of Rocky Mountain Fur Co. (Omitted.)

William P. Grayson and William Prentiss to J. W. E. Wallace, Natchez, Miss., May 8, 1830. Asking information about Texas. (Omitted.)

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Nacogdoches, May 11, 1830. Asking Austin to pay a draft of $50. (Omitted.)

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J. Antonio Padilla to Gov. José Maria Viesca, Nacogdoches, May 11, 1830. Giving account of his arrest and imprisonment charged with murder. Judicial procedure. (Omitted.)

Nathaniel Cox to Austin. New Orleans, May 11, 1830. Shipping a box of books. (Omitted.)

Thomas J. Chambers to Austin, May 12, 1830. Great alarm in East Texas over rumors that State and Federal Governments plan injury to American settlers. Imprisonment of Padilla, the land commissioner, strengthens suspicions.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, May 13, 1830. Inclosing acknowledgment from Governor Viesca of receipt of Austin's map, which he will forward to federal authorities.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, May 13, 1830. Explaining damage of Austin's map in the mails. Law of April 6, 1830. Plan to establish military detachment on the upper Brazos. Padilla's guilt.

J. A. Padilla to Governor Viesca, Nacogdoches, May 13, 1830. His arrest on charge of murder.

Austin to Mrs. James F. Perry, May 16, 1830. Glad that Perry is coming to Texas. Great field and future for men of education and talent. Removal of bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Moses Austin.

Inscription for tomb of Moses Austin and wife, by Austin, May 16, 1830. Biographical.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, May 17, 1830. Surveying, Indians, land grants.

Austin to President Bustamante, May 17, 1830. Protesting that the law of April 6, stopping immigration into Texas from the United States is retroactive in effect and unconstitutional. It will ruin Texas.

Ira Ingram to Austin, May 18, 1830. Asking for order on John Austin, with which he will pay a bill. (Omitted.)

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, May 18, 1830. Law of April 6, 1830, unjust, unconstitutional, and ruinous to Texas. It violates the faith of Mexico in being retroactive in its application to colonists already on the road to Texas, but not yet arrived. Austin's sole hope is in Terán. Article 10 of the law opens a way for the exemption of Austin's colony from its operation if Terán will so rule. It says that no change shall be made in the "established colonies," and Austin's colony is established. Thinks the inhabitants of Texas would oppose establishment of a territorial government.

Austin to ——— [about May 18, 1830]. Draft of an interpretation of the law of April 6, 1830.

Austin to [Lucas Alaman?], May 18, 1830[?]. Arguing fidelity of Texans, injustice of law of April 6, interpretation that exempts his contracts from its operation.

[May 18, 1830.] Memorandum by Austin on the law of April 6, 1830.

Argument by Austin for repeal of the anti-immigration article of the Law of April 6, 1830.

George Fisher to Austin, May 18, 1830. Has assumed duties as collector of the customhouse at Galveston. Government has not furnished him with copies of regulations exempting colonists from the tariff laws. Asks Austin for information.

George Fisher to Austin, May 18, 1830. Asks Austin to notify local authorities that he is duly qualified as collector of the port of Galveston, and that he will temporarily establish himself at the mouth of the Brazos.

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Thomas Barnett to Austin, May 18, 1830. Circular of the ayuntamiento saying that Fisher had qualified as customs collector.

Austin to Thomas Barnett, May 19, 1830. Acknowledging circular concerning Fisher.

Austin to militia officers, May 19, 1830. Notifying them that Fisher is duly qualified as customs collector.

Austin to George Fisher, May 19, 1830. Assuring him of support of colonists in administering tariff laws.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, May 24, 1830. Suspending the establishment of the customhouse at Galveston, and instructing Fisher to keep him informed about conditions in colonies.

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, May 24, 1830. Introducing the Messrs. Sutherland, immigrants from Alabama.

Henry Austin to Austin, Matamoros, May 27, 1830. Intention of settling in Texas.

Ygnacio de Arizpe to Austin, Saltillo, May 29, 1830. Hopeful of the political outlook. Injuries caused by secret societies. Poinsett.

Austin to Governor Viesca, Bexar, May 31, 1830. Uurging appointment of a commissioner to grant land titles in east Texas, finishing the work interrupted by Padilla's arrest. Nominates Ramon Musquiz or Miguel Arciniega. Discussion of qualifications required.

Austin to Governor Viesca, Bexar, May 31, 1830. Discussing appointment of commissioners to grant land titles in his several colonies. Argues that article 10 of the law of April 6, 1830, exempts his colonies from operation of the law. The exemption should apply also to De Witt's colony.

Archibald Austin to Austin, New York, May 31, 1830. Discussing Swiss emigration to Texas.

Austin to José Antonio Navarro, Bexar, May 31, 1830. Recommending a surveyor for Milam's colony.

Austin to Henry Austin, June 1, 1830. Law of April 6 a capital error because it tends to disaffect colonists who feel strong loyalty to Mexico. They do not want to belong to the United States. The law will not affect Austin's colony, however, where immigration will continue as before. Terán the author of the law.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz [June 2, 1830]. Concerning Henry Austin's application for land.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, June 2, 1830. Asks Austin's advice about moving his family to Texas in the face of Mexico's apparent change of policy.

Henry Austin to Austin, Matamoros, June 3, 1830. Reason to fear that Terán wants to remove Austin from Texas and hold him as a hostage.

James Austin to Francis F. Wells, June 4, 1830. Doctor's bill.

Aniseto Arteaga to Austin, Guadalupe Victoria, June 6, 1830. Notifying Austin that by Terán's orders he is establishing a garrison on the Labaca and may call on Austin for supplies. (Omitted.)

Austin to George Fisher, June 6, 1830. Urges Fisher to use resources to prevent landing of free negroes in Texas who are expelled from Louisiana in accordance with proclamation of the governor of that State.

Thomas J. Chambers to Austin, June 8, 1830. East Texas now tranquil, and unless there is a new exciting cause there will be no trouble.

George Fisher to James W. Breedlove, June 10, 1830. Quoting Austin's letter concerning immigration of free negroes. Measures to prevent their landing in Texas.

William P. Harris to Austin, June 11, 1830. Draft for $40.

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Austin to Colonel José de las Piedras, June 12, 1830. States his interpretation of the law of April 6, 1830, which excludes his colony from its operation. Urges Piedras to cooperate with him in maintaining tranquility.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Matamoros, June 14, 1830. Quoting a letter to Colonel Piedras at Nacogdoches which informs him that the law of April 6, 1830, does not apply to colonies already established.

Austin to Musquiz, June 14, 1830. Reporting tranquility, good prospects for crop, and completion of a sawmill.

Austin to Thomas F. Leaming, June 14, 1830. Reasons for undertaking to colonize Texas, and difficulties encountered. Worked noiselessly to avoid exciting apprehensions of Government. The present law of April 6, 1830, does not apply to his colony. Friends inserted provisions exempting from its operation colonies already established. Desires to remain subject to Mexico, but fears that time may force separation from Mexico, in which case he would favor independence if Texas had sufficient population. Suggests Swiss and German colonists. His map designed as a bait to promote colonization by spreading information about Texas.

Austin to Thomas F. Leaming, June 14, 1830. Instructions to be followed by immigrants coming to his colony. Slavery. Law of April 6, 1830.

Austin to James F. Perry, June 16, 1830. Instructions for shipping goods to Texas. Rumors in Mexico that United States will take Texas by force of arms. Anxious to close his public business and rest.

J. D. Harrison to Austin, June 16, 1830. Disagreement concerning land. (Omitted.)

Austin to Richard Ellis, et al., June 16, 1830. Interpretation of law of April 6, 1830. Law and constitution against slavery will be rigidly enforced. Austin approves of this. Does not want Texas to become a slave country.

Austin to S. Rhoads Fisher, June 17, 1830. Politics of Mexico settling, but no hope of permanent quiet. Policy has apparently changed toward colonization. Reasons for change partly in imprudence of Poinsett and suspicions of the United States. Discussion of colonization of Texas with Swiss and Germans, exclusion of slaves, final independence of Texas if Mexico disintegrates. Suggests that Fisher discuss such topics in Philadelphia papers. Austin emphatically opposed to union with the United States.

Austin and Bartlett Sims, June 19, 1830. Agreement concerning purchase of certain improvements. (Omitted.)

José de las Piedras to Austin, Nacogdoches, June 21, 1830. Agrees with Austin's interpretation of law of April 6, 1830, to this extent: (1) It does not affect contracts which Austin has already filled; (2) it does not exclude from Texas families with whom Austin has already contracted for settlement. He asks Austin to send him a list of such families, so that he can pass them across the frontier without delay. Presumably other immigrants will be stopped.

Thomas McKinney to Austin, Nacogdoches, June 24, 1830. Asks for information of political affairs. Fears that arrest of Padilla will prove to be a great injury to his section.

Joseph Miller to Austin, June 24, 1830. Agreement to deliver 20.000 cypress shingles. (Omitted.)

J. M. Ybarra to Austin, June 26, 1830. Urging election Juan Vicente Campos to be governor. (Omitted.)

Editorial by Austin in Texas Gazette, June 26, 1830. Arguing the beneficial aspects of the law of April 6, 1830. (Omitted.)

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Austin to José de las Piedras, June 28, 1830. Sends Piedras copy of certificate which he is arranging to furnish immigrants under contract to settle in his colony. Slaves must be excluded, but servants can be introduced. With better understanding of the law he thinks it not so bad.

Horatio Alsbury to Austin, Camargo, June 29, 1830. Introducing Don Gaspar Sais. Alarming rumors of the Government's intentions in Texas.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, June 28, 1830. Explains his excitement and distress on first receiving the law of April 6, 1830. Terán's interpretation of the law entirely satisfactory. He has published it in the Texas Gazette, and all are satisfied.

Henry Austin to Austin, Matamoros, July 2, 1830. Good account of Terán's attitude toward Texas. Political news.

Editorial by Austin in Texas Gazette, July 3, 1830. Calming popular apprehension over the law of April 6, 1830.

Austin to James F. Perry, July 4, 1830. Assuring him that Texas affairs are clearing up.

Musquiz to governor, July 4, 1830. Transmitting copy of letter from Austin, and deprecating erroneous impressions concerning loyalty of Austin's settlers.

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, Nacogdoches, July 5, 1830. Seventy days in prison without trial. Wants to sell land to get money to repay $600 to State government, and asks Austin's assistance. Austin is to send him certain books left in Austin's house.

Thomas Barnett to Austin, July 6, 1830. Order of court authorizing Austin to make a certain disposition of land belonging to his brother's estate.

Ramon Musquiz to Samuel M. Williams, Bexar, July 8, 1830. Sending him a letter concerning elections. He addresses Williams thinking Austin is absent. (Omitted.)

Jesse Woodbury to Austin, July 8, 1830. Receipt for $14 with which to buy books. Report on the commission.

Mariano Cosio to Austin, Goliad, July 10, 1830. Asks Austin's assistance in transporting troops from Goliad to Nacogdoches. (Omitted.)

Rafael Chovell to Austin, Guadalupe, July 10, 1830. Asking Austin to subscribe to Gazette for him. (Omitted.)

Article by Austin in Texas Gazette, July 10, 1830. Explaining recent revolution in Mexico and reassuring the Texans. (Omitted.)

Austin to James F. Perry, July 11, 1830. Advising Perry in Philadelphia what goods to buy for store in Texas and giving information about Texas ports. Orders uniform of an infantry colonel. Harmony restored in Texas. Austin's motives in founding Texas.

Austin to José de las Piedras, July 12, 1830. Poinsett's alleged intrigues responsible for much misunderstanding in Mexico of conditions in Texas. Austin is a faithful Mexican citizen and the colonists are satisfied.

Austin to José Antonio Navarro, July 13, 1830. Thinks there will be no difficulty about giving titles to settlers in Milam's colony if they have already arrived. Election will be attended to as Musquiz requests.

Austin to Secretary of Relations, July 13, 1830. Colonists of Texas are loyal to Mexico. Excited by alarming rumors, but are now quieted. "Poinsett has no adherents here."

Austin to Arteaga, July 13, 1830. Promising assistance in preparing quarters for troops on the Lavaca.

Austin to James F. Perry, July 14, 1830. Hostility to Americans in Mexico subsiding. Orders various books. Is to be elected to the legislature.

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Archibald Austin to Austin, New York, July 14, 1830. Efforts to get German and Swiss colonists for Texas.

Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, Mexico, July 14, 1830. Glad that colonists have been quieted by publication of his letter of March 20. Austin to furnish to Terán a list of families under contract to settle in his colony but not yet arrived, so that no obstacle may be placed in the way of their immigration.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Matamoros, July 17, 1830. Transmits to Austin request of Secretary of Relaciones for Texas cotton seed.

Austin to Governor Viesca, July 17, 1830. Recommending George Fisher for augmentation of land. Biographical details.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, July 17, 1830. Urging prompt appointment of commissioners to give titles to settlers in his colonies.

James F. Perry to Austin, Potosi, July 18, 1830. Preparations for removal to Texas. Slaves. Austin's reserve.

William W. Morris to Austin, New York, July 21, 1830. His son Lewis wishes to settle in Texas and wants to buy at least 10,000 acres.

R. W. Wells to James F. Perry, Jefferson, Mo., July 21, 1830. Collection of notes. (Omitted.)

Austin to Terán [about August 1, 1830]. Asking for the form of clearance to be given vessels trading with Tampico. Drouth.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán [about August 1, 1830]. Receipt of copy of the capitulation of Tampico; cooperation with commanders at Bexar in establishing garrison on Brazos; establishment of steam sawmill; suspension of the order establishing customhouse at Galveston. Public opinion quieted by Austin's publications in the Gazette.

James Kerr to Austin, August 5, 1830. Surveying. (Omitted.)

N. Hutchinson to James F. Perry, Booneville, Mo., August 7, 1830. Asks advice about moving to Texas. (Omitted.)

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin, Northumberland, Pa., August 14, 1830. Texan land speculators in the United States. Thinks Texas must be a slave country. Perhaps the "nullifiers" may secede in the hope of uniting with Texas in case of independence.

Sebastian Rodriguez to Austin, August 16, 1830. Thanking Austin for care during illness. (Omitted.)

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin, Northumberland, Pa., August 20, 1830. Reporting speculation in Texas lands.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, August 20, 1830. Instructions for surveying.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, August 20, 1830. In accordance with request is sending cotton seed to the minister of relaciones.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, August 22, 1830. Notifying Austin of his choice as elector.

Austin to Governor Viesca, August 23, 1830. Acknowledging letter telling him that the map for the minister of relaciones was lost in the mail.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin, Northumberland, Pa., August 23, 1830. Does not agree with Austin's desire to exclude slavery from Texas. The Province must draw its population from the South. Southern men will follow sugar and cotton planting, which demands slaves. Suggests free admission of slaves for five years, then rigid exclusion.

Dr. A. Holdenridge to Austin, St. Albans, Vt., August 28, 1830. Introducing S. H. Barlow, who, if pleased with Texas, may be the means of taking hundreds of settlers from Vermont.

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Anastacio Bustamante to Austin, Mexico, August 24, 1830. Glad that Austin's fears are quieted concerning law of April 6, 1830. Anxious to keep Texas contented.

Lucas Alaman to Austin, Mexico, August 25, 1830. The Government recognizes Austin's services for the benefit of the country. Texas will be protected. Suggests extension of education in Spanish language. Articles in Spanish published in the Texas Gazette might arouse interest in the subject.

Henry Austin to Austin, Brazoria, August 25, 1830. Discussion of navigability of Brazos River.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, August 28, 1830. Instructions for surveying.

Benjamin T. Jaques to Elias R. Wightman, August 30, 1830. Surveying.

J. M. J. Carbajal to Austin, Bexar, September 1, 1830. Asking for a loan.

Archibald Austin to Austin, New York, September 5, 1830. European wars. Mexican affairs.

J. W. E. Wallace to Martin Van Buren, September 13, 1830. Asking about his commission as consul in Texas. Shipwrecks on the Texas coast. (Omitted.)

Amos Edwards to Austin, September 15, 1830. Misunderstanding concerning land.

S. Reed to Austin, Matamoros, September 15, 1830. Application for land. (Omitted.)

Robert Wilson to Austin, Matamoros, September 16, 1830. Debates in Parliament concerning Texas aroused fears of American designs on Texas.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, September 17, 1830. Terán has explained that law of April 6, 1830, was intended to affect mainly the scattered inhabitants who settled outside empresarios' grants; that some would be allowed to move within such grants and that others would be expelled. Austin advises decision on individual cases before announcing purpose. Such colonists likely to regard the proceeding as a step to confiscate their improvements. Surprised at the letter which Fisher has written Terán about slave trading and contraband. Not true. Difficulty of keeping tranquil a heterogeneous group, such as that settled in Texas, and Austin is worn out with the labor. Local government could not be worse, but he fears territorial government. Law of April 6, 1830, deters better class of immigration. Fears that Texas is doomed to many years of backwardness. Does not think it would be wise for Texas to unite with United States. Favors independence if separation from Mexico should be necessary.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches, September 18, 1830. Announcing his election to represent Texas in the legislature and asking instructions. Many desire judicial reform with *jueces de letras* and jury trial.

Sumner Bacon to Austin, September 18, 1830. Hoping that toleration for Protestants may be established in Texas. Offers his own services as a Presbyterian minister.

Austin to Lucas Alaman, September 20, 1830. Reviewing some of the difficulties of colonizing Texas. His fidelity to Mexico. Colonists have never faltered in their duty to the Government. Revolutions in Mexico gave Texas every opportunity to rise in insurrection if population had been so inclined, Texas would not be averse to a territorial government administered as in the United States. Intends to try to obtain legislation for establishment of a college in Texas in which Spanish can be taught.

Henry Doyle to Austin, September 21, 1830. Wants to teach school. (Omitted.)

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Matamoros, September 22, 1830. Satisfaction with Austin's election to the legislature.

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Austin to James F. Perry, September 22, 1830. Much biographical matter. Conditions in Texas. Land matters.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe, September 24, 1830. Accompanying a statement of business pending between himself and the ayuntamiento

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe, September 24, 1830. Replying to request for report on battalion of militia.

Editorial by Austin in Texas Gazette, September 25, 1830. Friendly disposition of Government toward Texas. Need of judiciary reform and separation from Coahuila.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe, September 27, 1830. Accompanying certain documents.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe, September 27, 1830. Sending copy of the law establishing San Felipe.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches, September 27, 1830. Asking for report on condition of militia company.

Ayuntamiento of San Felipe to deputies in Legislature, September 27, 1830. Expressing confidence.

Ayuntamiento of San Felipe to Ayuntamiento of Saltillo, September 27, 1830. Declaring its confidence in the Texan deputies to the State legislature whom the Ayuntamiento of Saltillo was seeking to remove by address.

Francis Moore to Austin, September 27, 1830. Concerning land. (Omitted.)

John C. Walker to Austin, Clinton, La., September 30, 1830. Inquiring concerning conditions of settlement in Texas.

Mozea Rousseau to Austin, September —, 1830. Concerning location of land. (Omitted.)

Emily M. Perry to James F. Perry, Potosi, October 3, 1830. Social customs in Missouri.

José M. J. Carbajal to Austin, San Antonio, October 8, 1830. Warning Austin that George Fisher is writing injurious reports concerning Austin to the political chief. (Omitted.)

Chamberlayne Jones to Austin, October 10, 1830. Asks information concerning plans for working a silver mine in which he has bought an interest. The Tennessee colony. (Omitted.)

H. H. League to Austin, October 10, 1830. Asking Austin's assistance in disposing of land to meet debts.

Archibald Austin to Austin, New York, October 10, 1830. Biographical notes. Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co.

James F. Perry's bills for purchases in Philadelphia to stock his store in Texas. See text. (Omitted.)

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, October 13, 1830. Instructions for surveying.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, October 14, 1830. Instructions for surveying.

Austin to Henry Austin, October 14, 1830. Discouraged by confusion in State government. Thinks territorial government for Texas might improve conditions.

Austin to Josiah H. Bell, October 16, 1830. Warning him to enforce regulations concerning character of immigrants.

Austin to Lucas Alaman, October 18, 1830. Giving account of George Fisher's efforts to discredit Austin and his colonists with the Government. Austin's habitual attitude toward political party disagreements.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, October 18, 1830. Asking whether lands in his colony are subject to prior selection by State government to pay its debts to the nation.

Austin to militia, October 18, 1830. Battalion order.

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Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe, October 18, 1830. Advising organization of certain militia districts.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, October 19, 1830. Urging appointment of commissioner to grant land titles. Can not leave for Saltillo until pending land business is settled.

Henry Austin to Austin, October 20, 1830. Pessimistic views of Mexican government. Doubts establishment of tranquillity, and until that is done Austin must hold the helm.

Musquiz to Governor, October 23, 1830. Census report: Agriculture, mines, population, health, Indians, etc.

Mrs. J. E. B. Austin to Austin, October 24, 1830. Personal business.

John Austin to Austin, October 24, 1830. Personal business.

Byrd Lockhart to Austin, October 25, 1830. Surveying. (Omitted.)

James F. Perry to Austin, New York, October 27, 1830. Merchandise for Texas, Galveston Bay, & Texas Land Co. Books and magazines for Austin.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, October 28, 1830. Has forwarded to the Governor Austin's request for a land commissioner. (Omitted.)

Frost Thorn to Austin, Nacogdoches, October 29, 1830. Colonel Piedras inclined to exclude colonists from Texas. Suggests procedure.

Editorial by Austin, October 30, 1830. Explaining refusal of Ayuntamiento of San Felipe to join that of Saltillo in expelling certain deputies from the legislature. (Omitted.)

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe, October 31, 1830. Asking it to apply to governor for appointment of a land commissioner.

John Austin to Austin, November 1, 1830. Concerning settlement of James Austin's estate.

Inventory and appraisement of partnership of John and James Austin, November 1, 1830.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe, November 5, 1830. Assuring it that he will expel certain undesirables from the colony.

Miguel Arciniega et al. to Juan Vicente Campos, Bexar, November 7, 1830. Protest against closing all Texas ports except Galveston. Ask for establishment of customhouses at Goliad, Galveston, and Nacogdoches.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, November 8, 1830. Surveying instructions.

Archibald Austin to Austin, New York, November 11, 1830. Tornel warns Americans against emigration to Texas.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, November 11, 1830. Answering Austin's request for suggestions for legislation.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, November 12, 1830. Surveying instructions.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, New Orleans, November 12, 1830. Asking assistance in making certain collections. (Omitted.)

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, November 12, 1830. Regrets developments concerning George Fisher. Emigration to Texas greater than last year. Mexican politics.

Alexander Thomson to Austin, Tenoxtitlan, November 13, 1830. Informs Austin of the attempt of Piedras to detain his own and four other families at Nacogdoches in obedience to orders from Terán concerning the law of April 6, 1830. Suggests action by Austin.

Austin to M. B. Menard, November 13, 1830. Appointing Menard his agent in Nacogdoches to give immigrants certificates of reception into Austin's colony. Instructions for execution of this commission.

H. H. League to Austin, November 13, 1830. Asking Austin's intervention in behalf of Mrs. League.

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James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, November 22, 1830. Recommending Henry Morse. (Omitted.)

Francisco Ruiz to Austin, Tenoxtitlan, November 22, 1830. Reporting unprovoked attack by an American militiaman on a friendly Indian.

Francisco Ruiz to Austin, Tenoxtitlan, November 22, 1830. Will assist militia in apprehending fugitives.

Francisco Medina to Governor Viesca, Nacogdoches, November 23, 1830. Application for 10 leagues of land. (Omitted.)

John Raney to Austin, November 23, 1830. Illness prevents visit to San Felipe concerning land. (Omitted.)

Ayuntamiento of San Felipe to Austin, November 24, 1830. Asking him to use militia to apprehend criminals who are inciting Indians.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, November 25, 1830. Quoting letter from the governor to Arciniega, appointing him land commissioner for Austin's colonies.

Francisco Ruiz to Austin, Tenoxtitlan, November 26, 1830. Agrees with Austin concerning necessity of settlers to develop the country. Does not care from what country they come. Discouraged about political conditions of Mexico. Asks Austin's help in selecting land.

John Durst to Austin, Nacogdoches, November 27, 1830. Certain families detained by Colonel Piedras. Durst has become their surety, pending their reception by Austin into his colony.

M. B. Menard to Austin, Nacogdoches, November 27, 1830. Colonel Piedras refuses to allow him to act as Austin's agent in Nacogdoches, to give certificates of admission to immigrants.

Austin in account with Asa Mitchell, November 27, 1830. Bill and price list.

Austin to José de las Piedras, November 29, 1830. Interceding for Alexander Thomson and companions. Sure that they did not intend to violate the law, but after emigrating from Tennessee it would ruin them to have to return such a great distance.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, November 30, 1830. Acknowledging letter from governor concerning appointment of land commissioner.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, November 30, 1830. Gives an account of the killing of J. S. Holtham by Seth Ingram and H. H. League. No jail, and uncertain whether the law permits trial. Guarding by militia expensive. Asks instructions. Judicial system defective.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, November 30, 1830. Asking money for expenses to Saltillo to perform duties as representative.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, December 3, 1830. Surveying instructions.

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, December 4, 1830. Inclosing copy of a notice published by Mexican minister to United States concerning the law of April 6, 1830. Suggests explanation by Austin, which he will publish in United States press.

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, December 4, 1830. Introducing James Morgan from North Carolina. (Omitted.)

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe, December 7, 1830. Asks judicial determination of what colonists have fulfilled conditions of settlement in his first contract. This necessary to determine what lands are vacant and subject to allotment to subsequent immigrants.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, December 7, 1830. Reports appointment of Menard in Nacogdoches to give certificates of admission to immigrants. Does not know whether Piedras will recognize them. Thinks immigrants with negroes should be admitted. The law and constitution in Texas make them

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free servants whether they are set free or not. Texas in danger of being overrun by Indians from the United States.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, December 7, 1830. Acknowledging and approving order to collect natural history specimens for museum.

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, December 8, 1830. Introducing Samuel H. Barlow, of Vermont. (Omitted.)

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, December 8, 1830. Introducing Edmund Andrews. (Omitted.)

P. W. Grayson to Austin, December 10, 1830. Application for land. Judicial system.

Wyly Martin to Austin, December 14, 1830. Asking Austin to help him obtain from the Government an additional league of land for a stock farm. (Omitted.)

Austin to Governor Eca y Musquiz, December 14, 1830. Replying to letter from governor asking advice about application of Villaveque & Co. for land in Texas to settle Europeans. Lacks necessary information. Will discuss with governor when he arrives in Saltillo. Has not received any copies of his printed map, but expects some, which he will take with him to Saltillo.

Austin in account with William T. Austin, December 14, 1830. Bill and price list.

Austin to James F. Perry, December 14, 1830. Navigation. Galveston must be the principal port. Legislature.

John P. Austin to Austin, New York, December 16, 1830. Tornel's efforts to prevent emigration to Texas. Formation of Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. Swiss immigrants.

Anthony Dey and George Curtis to Austin, New York, December 16, 1830. Plans of the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co.

Lorenzo de Zavala to Austin, New York, December 17, 1830. Telling Austin of the organization of the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. He is sailing for France to get European settlers.

John P. Austin to Austin, New York, December 18, 1830. Speculations in Texas lands.

Austin in account with G. B. Cotten, December 18, 1830. For printing.

Austin to James F. Perry, December 19, 1830. Instructions for journey to Texas. Must indenture his slaves. Needs Perry to take charge of his personal business.

D. R. Hopkins to Austin, Cantonment Jessup, La., December 20, 1830. Introducing N. D. Labadie.

John P. Austin to Austin, New York, December 20, 1830. Forwarding Austin's uniform coat and Mr. O. Halsted's dyspepsia cure.

José de las Piedras to Austin, Nacogdoches, December 25, 1830. Introducing N. D. Labadie.

Musquiz to José Antonio de la Garza, December 28, 1830. Order for payment of Austin's mileage to legislature.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Bexar, December 28, 1830. Political news. Difficulty of avoiding party entanglements. Certificates for admission of colonists according to law of April 6, 1830.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Bexar, December 29, 1830. Political news. Reconcilement with Nixon. His policy of avoiding political entanglements.

1831

Mary Austin Holly to Austin, January 2, 1831. Biographical.

Anthony Winston to Austin, Tuscumbia, Ala., January 3, 1831. Explaining delay in moving to Texas. (Omitted.)

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Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Rio Grande, January 3, 1831. Instructions concerning land. Political conditions.

John A. Williams to Austin, January 4, 1831. Reviewing political status of the Sabine border and suggesting form of local government—especially courts—that should be established.

Asahel Langworthy to Austin, New York, January 5, 1831. Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. Speculative interest in Texan lands. Offers to become Austin's agent for sales in the United States. Swiss emigration.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Matamoros, January 5, 1831. Has been elected deputy to Congress, but duties hold him to his military post. Disclaims jurisdiction over George Fisher as secretary of ayuntamiento of San Felipe; complaints should go to political chief. Has not heard that Piedras has detained at Nacogdoches any colonists destined to Austin's settlements; those detained were going to the Nashville colony. Governor has promised to recommend establishment of a political chief at Nagodoches and judicial reform.

Anthony Dey and George Curtis to Austin, New York, January 5, 1831. Asking Austin's cooperation with Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. Swiss and German colonists. Sending agent to confer with Austin in Saltillo.

John P. Austin to Austin, New York, January 5, 1831. Desire of Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. to cooperate with Austin. German and Swiss immigration. Interest in Texas land.

Seth Ingram to Austin, January 8, 1831. Reasons why his land grant should be augmented.

John P. Austin to Austin, New York, January 8, 1831. Introducing Colonel Langworthy. (Omitted.)

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Monclova, January 9, 1831. Political news. Instructions about locating land for Mexican officials.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin, January 10, 1831. Official demand tonnage duty at every port which his schooner enters. Fears that Government will stop American immigration even into Austin's colony.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, January 13, 1831. Political news. Father Muldoon, vicar of Texas. Measures to protect colony from misrepresentations of George Fisher.

José Ygnacio de Alcala to José Antonio Navarro, Saltillo, January 22, 1831. Draft in favor of Austin for $40. (Omitted.)

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Bexar, Saltillo, January 22, 1831. Reporting efforts to secure approval for petition to keep ports of Texas open.

Austin to Manuel Carrillo, Saltillo, January 24, 1831. Memorial asking certain reforms for Texas. (1) Repeal of eleventh article of law of April 6, 1830, or its application only to the territory east of the Trinity River; (2) open the ports of Texas for five years for free importation of goods for consumption of the colonists; (3) maintenance and prompt payment of presidial troops in Texas; (4) establishment of a company of cavalry composed of colonists.

Juan Davis Bradburn to José Francisco Madero, January 25, 1831. Telling Madero that his authority as State land commissioner conflicts with the law of April 6, 1830, and with article 4 of the national colonization law of August 18, 1824. (Omitted.)

Blackman Coleman et al. to ———, Haywood County, Tenn., January 25, 1831. Testimonial to character of Ephriam Roddy. (Omitted.)

Austin in account with John Cummings, January 26, 1831. Price of lumber.

José Francisco Madero to Juan Davis Bradburn, January 28, 1831. Explains that his commission does not apply to immigrants who arrived after passage of the law of April 6, 1830, and that the Federal authorities had approved the settlements within the coast and border reserves. (Omitted.)

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Juan Davis Bradburn to Madero, January 29, 1831. Thinks the passage of the law of April 6, 1830, supersedes the permit granted by Federal authorities in 1828 to settlers in the border reserve. Suggests conference to agree on interpretation of the laws. (Omitted.)

José Francisco Madero to Juan Davis Bradburn, February 1, 1831. His Government has every intention of scrupulously observing the law of April 6, 1830, but he is sure that Bradburn's interpretation would give it an ex post facto effect, which he can not admit. (Omitted.)

Ygnacio Dominguez to José Francisco Madero, February 1, 1831. Informs him that he has orders from Bradburn not to permit titles to be granted to settlers in the reserve. Madero replies that he does not recognize Bradburn's authority to alter the constitution by giving an ex post facto operation to the law of April 6, 1830. (Omitted.)

B. Q. Rigg to Austin, Alexandria, La., February 1, 1831. Inquiring whereabouts of Robert Lewis, wanted to stand trial for debt. (Omitted.)

Juan Davis Bradburn to José Francisco Madero, February 3, 1831. Will oppose granting titles to settlers within the reserve until he has orders from his Government. (Omitted.)

Austin to Governor of Coahuila and Texas, February 3, 1831. Advising concerning vacant lands in Texas.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, February 5, 1831. Hopes to obtain judiciary reform. Muldoon. Eleven-league grants of land. Politics.

José Francisco Madero to Juan Davis Bradburn, February 6, 1831. Explains again fully that the law of April 6, 1830, does not affect his commission. If Bradburn insists on using force to compel him to suspend work, of course, he must yield. (Omitted.)

José Francisco Madero to Austin, February 8, 1831. Sends copies of correspondence with Bradburn. Bradburn is coming to-morrow with 30 men to force him to suspend his work. Could oppose superior force, but desires peace. Government will overrule Bradburn. Titles to Austin's colonists east of San Jacinto. Madero's personal enemies in Saltillo.

William S. Parrott to Austin, Mexico, February 9, 1831. Forwarding a letter, and asking Austin's assistance concerning a land grant for the widow Ross. (Omitted.)

Zerata and Soto to James Austin, San Carlos, Tamaulipas, February 15, 1831. Inquiring concerning mares and burros belonging to estate of Luciano Garcia. (Omitted.)

William S. Parrott to Austin, Mexico, February 16, 1831. Asking Austin's advice about applying for contract to settle Europeans instead of Americans in grant of widow Ross.

A. C. Taylor to Austin, Rushville, Ill., February 19, 1831. Asking conditions of settlement in Texas. A number of families wish to move to milder climate.

George Fisher to Governor of Coahuila and Texas, Matamoros, February 19, 1831. Asking for copies of documents to use in his defense against a calumny published in the Texas Gazette of October 23, 1830.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, February 19, 1831. Influence of the Texas Gazette in correcting erroneous opinions concerning Texas in Mexico. Advice for its successor. Texas must hold aloof from parties. His own method of avoiding friction with Mexicans. Threatening situation foreseen; hands off. Muldoon.

Stephen R. Wiggins to Austin, New York, February 22, 1831. Suggests that Austin write him information concerning Texas, which he may use with the many persons asking him about the country. (Omitted.)

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José Maria Viesca to Austin and Williams, February 25, 1831. Grant to settle 800 families of Mexicans and foreigners. Part of the territory granted includes that of the Nashville Co. (Omitted.)

Elias R. Wightman and Joshua Hadley, February 26, 1831. Contract for surveying. (Omitted.)

Austin to Governor Viesca, Saltillo, February 28, 1831. Filing a list of the families settled in his first colony with a certificate from the ayuntamiento of San Felipe of those who have fulfilled the conditions of settlement.

Elias R. Wightman and Matthew Hubert, March 1, 1831. Contract for surveying. (Omitted.)

Henry Austin to Austin, New Orleans, March 4, 1831. Plans to interest capitalists in cotton mills in Texas. His own plans for railroad and a contract to furnish live-oak timber for British Navy.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, March 5, 1831. Concerning a land grant. Danger in the political situation.

Amos Edwards to Austin, March 7, 1831. He furnished the money which enabled Leftwich to get the grant for the Nashville Co. Asks Austin to use influence with the governor to have the grant transferred to him.

Jesse Denson to Anthony ———, March 8, 1831. Concerning a note of S. F. Austin's for 12 cows and calves and 7 yearlings. (Omitted.)

John D. Martin to Austin, Randolph, Tenn., March 8, 1831. Introducing Major Roddy and family. (Omitted.)

Samuel M. Williams to W. D. D[unlap?], March 10, 1831. Acknowledging his appointment as collector at Brazoria and promising to aid him.

Samuel M. Williams to W. D. D[unlap?], March 10, 1831. Supporting his interpretation of the law requiring payment of tonnage duties.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, March 12, 1831. Colonists must not participate in the conflict between Madero and Bradburn over land titles. Feeling in legislature strong against foreigners.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Bexar, Saltillo, March 14, 1831. Efforts to obtain legislation which the ayuntamiento desires.

William Shaler to Henry Austin, Habana, March 15, 1831. Introducing and recommending M. H. Toler, of Virginia. (Omitted.)

Henry Austin to Austin, New Orleans, March 15, 1831. Cotton mills for Texas. Emigrants rapidly filling Austin's contracts. Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. carrying on frenzied speculation, and will attract too much attention to Texas on part of the Government.

William S. Parrott to Austin, Mexico, March 16, 1831. Personal misfortunes; betrayal of trust by Stephen J. Wilson; politics.

Elisha Roberts and Jonas Harrison to José Francisco Madero, March 16, 1831. Great numbers of Indians from the United States are settling among them. They are in destitute condition and settlers fear for their livestock.

Ramon Musquiz to Alcalde of San Felipe de Austin, Bexar, March 16, 1831. Ordering strict observance of the law of April 6, 1830.

Henry Austin to Austin, New Orleans, March 20, 1831. Cotton mills for Texas. Land. Plans for improvement of the country.

H. Toler to Henry Austin, Habana, March 20, 1831. Asks information about Texas—climate, government, conditions for acquiring land, etc. (Omitted.)

Samuel M. Williams to John Austin [March 20, 1831]. Acknowledging appointment as port officer at Brazoria.

Samuel M. Williams to F. W. Johnson, March 20, 1831. Asking him to instruct civil and militia officers to assist collector at Brazoria to collect tonnage duties according to tariff of 1827.

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Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Matamoros, March 21, 1831. Agrees with Austin concerning tonnage duties in Texas ports and will give the necessary orders. Surprised that Austin has made a new colonization contract. Can not fill it with Americans and very expensive to get Europeans. Rivalry of Galveston and Matagorda.

Francis W. Johnson to Austin, March 21, 1831. Report of proceedings of the ayuntamiento. Militia ineffective, and the ayuntamiento is petitioning for permission to organize a company of rangers. Judiciary.

Austin to Lucas Alaman, Saltillo, March 21, 1831. Observation convinces him that Texas can not receive adequate legislation from any legislature while united to Coahuila. Wants Congress to pass a general law for organization of territories. Outlines such a law. Advises repeal of eleventh article of law of April 6, 1830, admission of slaves, open ports, and amendment of tonnage regulations so as to promote coasting trade.

Samuel M. Williams to Austin, March 22, 1831. Conditions in Texas. Newspaper vicissitudes. Austin's difficulties.

William S. Parrott to Austin, Mexico, March 23, 1831. Asks Austin to further wishes of the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co.

José Antonio Mexia to Austin, Mexico, March 23, 1831. Hoping to see Austin soon on business of the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co.

J. Francisco Madero to Austin, March 24, 1831. Wishes Austin to use influence in legislature to obtain for him monopoly of the Trinity River.

Father Miguel Muldoon to Austin, Matamoros, March 28, 1831. Leaving for Texas to-morrow.

Ramon Musquiz to Alcalde of San Felipe de Austin, March 29, 1831. Reports to immigrants who passed Nacogdoches. If not members of Austin's colony, must be expelled. (Omitted.)

Henry Austin to Austin, New Orleans, March 30, 1831. Mexican minister to the United States interprets law of April 6, 1830, to stop all emigration of natives of the United States to Texas. Henry Austin's arrangement with consul at New Orleans to allow passports to Austin's colony. Many disquieting rumors check emigration.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Matamoros, March —, 1831. Father Muldoon departing for Texas. Emigration to Texas continues and patience alone is necessary for its progress. Slavery would hasten progress, but it carries consequent evils. To admit slavery in Texas would entail the privilege for all the coast States.

Ramon Musquiz to Alcalde of San Felipe de Austin, Bexar, April 2, 1831. Transmitting order of governor of March 18: (1) Persons presenting petitions to the government which require stamped paper need expect no attention unless they comply with the law. (2) Immigrants recently arrived or coming from the United States will, while the law of April 6, 1830, is in effect, receive no more land than that prescribed by the colonization law.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, April 2, 1831. Interest in passage of a general law for the government of territories. Slavery. Hold aloof from conflict between Madero and Bradburn. "In these matters say little or nothing, and nothing definite." Law excluding foreigners from retail trade.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Matamoros, April 3, 1831. Father Muldoon left, with escort, for Texas March 31. Has tried to show him that tithes and other revenues effective in other parts of the Republic will not be practicable in Texas and that he must depend upon free-will offerings and land grants. Austin the only empresario who has devoted himself singly to colonization; others have gone into speculation. Terán is now worried by Zavala's sale of his grant to the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co., which has sent to

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Galveston two ship loads of immigrants who can not be admitted. Has forwarded to the Government Austin's arguments concerning admission of slaves and other pressing matters. Thinks ultimately slavery must be admitted in all the coast country, but not until revolutions are over. Must treat all alike—exclude from all or admit to all.

Austin to José Antonio Mexia, Saltillo, April 4, 1831. Foresees difficulties for the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. in settling the coast reserve, since that district is under jurisdiction of the Federal Government. So far as he can prudently do so he will assist the company.

Lucas Alaman to Austin, Mexico, April 6, 1831. Agrees with Austin that it would be best for both Texas and Coahuila to separate, and that until Texas is ready for statehood it should be organized as a Federal territory. Suggests that Austin get the State legislature to indorse the idea, so as to facilitate its adoption by Congress.

Alexander Thomson to Austin, April 9, 1831. Arrived in Texas with his own and eight other families and was told at San Felipe that orders had arrived for exclusion of all Americans.

J. K. Hale to Samuel M. Williams, April 15, 1831. Wishing to exchange land. (Omitted.)

Micah P. Flint to Austin, Alexandria, La., April 15, 1831. Introducing James Ruggles, newspaper man and teacher. Rapid emigration to Texas. (Omitted.)

José Antonio Mexia to Austin, Mexico, April 16, 1831. The Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. not political. Asks Austin to assist Adolpho Decaen, leading 10 European families to Texas.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Bexar, Saltillo, April 16, 1831. Legislature unfriendly to Texan interests.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, April 16, 1831. Government attempting to close Texan ports. Territorial organization could be obtained for Texas. Slavery. Colonization law. Law concerning retail trade. Muldoon. Terán.

D. W. Smith to Austin, Matamoros, April 18, 1831. Thanks Austin for efforts against the bill to prohibit foreigners engaging in retal trade.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, April 18, 1831. Governor hostile to foreigners. Bill against foreigners engagng in retail trade asleep.

Austin to Governor Letona, April 27, 1831. Transmitting petition from settlers in east Texas to be put in possession of land titles.

Legislature of Coahuila and Texas to Congress, April 27, 1831. Protesting against resolution to close all ports except Tampico, Vera Cruz, and Acapulco; and showing ruin of commerce, agriculture, and industry which such action would cause.

Austin on encouragement of commerce and agriculture, April 27, 1831. (1) Protest against closing ports of Matamoros and Matagorda. (2) One cause of backwardness is lack of money and this caused by paying for all imports with gold and silver instead of with agricultural products. (3) Opening ports and promoting trade and agriculture would increase circulation, create foreign and domestc markets, encourage manufacturing and shipping, increase revenues of the customhouses, and strengthen the union.

Bill to establish institute of modern languages, April 30, 1831. Organization and curriculum. (Omitted.)

Austin to ——— [Saltillo, April 30, 1831?]. Essay on the backwardness of Mexico. Fundamental cause is the lack of intelligent public opinion. This to be supplied by public schools, free immigration, absolute liberty of press, and substitution of liberal principles belonging to republican government for the

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old fanatical and intolerant ideas. An example may be found in the United States, which has passed through somewhat the same political experiences as Mexico during colonial period.

Report of committee on industry [April 30, 1831]. Approving application of Henry Pickworth for permit to establish a textile factory.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches, Saltillo, April 30, 1831. Reviewing work of the legislature.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, April 30, 1831. The legislature has done no harm. Hopes of reform in visit to Terán.

Manuel Arciniega to Musquiz, May 4, 1831. Reporting the number of families introduced by Austin toward fulfillment of each of his contracts.

Thomas Kirkham to Austin, Franklin, La., May 6, 1831. His daughter wants place as "tuteress in a female academy." (Omitted.)

Henry S. Tanner to Austin, Philadelphia, May 6, 1831. Introducing Mr. Drummond. (Omitted.)

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, May 8, 1831. Method of handling disturbers in Texas. Errors of empresarios. He alone understood the full purpose of the law of April 6, 1830. Federal Government opposed to the law excluding foreigners from retail trade. Land titles in east Texas.

Ramon Musquiz to alcalde of San Felipe de Austin, Goliad, May 21, 1831. Transmitting order from minister of *relaciones* to report more promptly arrival of foreigners. (Omitted.)

Archibald Austin to Austin, May 22, 1831. Live oak for ship building. Emigration. European news. (See page 772.)

Ramon Musquiz to alcalde of San Felipe, Goliad, May 26, 1831. Green De Witt's contract has expired and governor refuses to extend it because that would be contrary to law of April 6, 1830.

Joseph Philips to Austin, New Orleans, May 30, 1831. Asking Austin the price of white-pine plank in Texas. (Omitted.)

Ezekiel Hays to Manuel de Mier y Terán, New Orleans, May 30, 1831. Patrick Henry Herndon has stolen from him and taken to Texas a slave woman, and he asks relief.

Samuel M. Williams and Thomas Taylor, June 2, 1831. Agreement concerning land. (Omitted.)

Sterling C. Robertson to Austin, June 7, 1831. Asking whether the grant to the Nashville Co. has been transferred to S. M. Williams. Anxious that certain immigrants be not expelled.

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, July 10, 1831. Can not understand field notes of Matthew Hubert.

J. Mariano Guerra to Austin, Matamoros, June 11, 1831. Transmitting note on the *Machero orangia* tree, used in silk culture. Send seeds or plant. (Omitted.)

Elias R. Wightman to Austin, June 12, 1831. Difficulties of a surveyor.

Sylvester Murphy to Austin, June 12, 1831. Arrived from Georgia in February with 50 slaves. Wants land.

Thomas Barnett to Austin, June 15, 1831. Asking Austin to call with Father Muldoon to consummate the marriage contract between Barnett and his wife.

John T. Criswell to Austin, June 18, 1831. With wife and eight children came to Texas from Kentucky via Missouri. Applies for land.

John McLaren to Austin, June 18, 1831. Application for land. (Omitted.)

John Rice Jones to Austin, June 19, 1831. Introducing Dr. A. C. Taylor, who wants land. (Omitted.)

Agustin Martinez de Lejarsa to Austin, Nacogdoches, June 21, 1831. Asking Austin to forward his petition for 6 leagues of land. (Omitted.)

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Ramon Musquiz to alcalde of San Felipe de Austin, Goliad, June 21, 1831. Order the families brought in by Sterling Robertson to remain where they are until the State government decides their case.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin, June 22, 1831. Wants Austin's assistance in acquiring 8 leagues of land. Plans for town of Matagorda. (Omitted.)

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Matamoros, June 30, 1831. Sorry to have missed Austin in Saltillo; wanted to talk over affairs of Texas. Knows nothing about Austin's new contract. The eight Tennessee families may settle in Austin's colony. Other matters.

Archibald Austin to Austin, New York, June 30, 1831. Sending dimensions for sawing live oak for shipbuilders. Wishes to get land in Texas.

Samuel M. Williams to governor, June 30, 1831. Report of tonnage duties collected at Galveston and Brazoria.

Aylett C. Buckner to Austin, July 2, 1831. People are gathering for marriages and christenings by Father Muldoon.

Columbus R. Patton to Austin, Hopkinsville, Ky., July 12, 1831. Intends to move to Texas with stock of goods and some negroes. Wants information. (Omitted.)

John G. Burt to Austin, July 13, 1831. Introducing R. B. Newman and inquiring about Texas. (Omitted.)

J. Doane to John G. Stevenson, New Orleans, July 14, 1831. Bill of lading for goods shipped to James F. Perry. (Omitted.)

William H. Wharton to Austin, July 14, 1831. Wants to buy some land from Austin and to have a general understanding with him.

Austin to Mrs. Mary Austin Holley, July 19, 1831. His labors and responsibilities to settlers; plans for Texas; immigration strong; indented servants. Slavery must be settled positively.

William McFarland to Austin, July 20, 1831. Offering services. (Omitted.)

Austin to Thomas F. Leaming, July 23, 1831. Estimate of leading Mexican statesmen and forecast of election troubles of 1832. Gratitude and obligation to Mexico for generosity and his duty toward his colonists. His methods contrasted with those of other contractors. The plan of the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. Suggestions for publication.

Austin to N. A. Ware, July 24, 1831. Advantages offered by Texas for establishment of cotton mill. Production now 1,000 pounds a year, and will increase. Government will foster colonies already established.

Warren D. C. Hall to Austin, July 26, 1831. Concerning land claims. (Omitted.)

Jesse U. Evans to Austin, July 27, 1831. Report of surveying. (Omitted.)

Sumner Bacon to Austin, July 30, 1831. Explaining his method of preaching, declaring that it is not contrary to Scripture, and that Father Muldoon should not object to it.

Warren D. C. Hall to Austin, July 30, 1831. Concerning land. (Omitted.)

Sylvester Murphy to Austin, July 31, 1831. Concerning land. Thinks he deserves a good selection because he has brought 54 servants. (Omitted.)

Austin in account with S. Sawyer, August 1, 1831. Bill.

Governor Letona to Ramon Musquiz, August 3, 1831. Ordering expulsion of the families introduced by Robertson.

Sylvester Murphy to Austin, August 4, 1831. Land. Major Douglass falsely claims negroes.

J. R. Bedford to Austin, August 5, 1831. Minor difficulties in closing De Witt's contract.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, August 6, 1831. Interceding for the families introduced by Sterling C. Robertson.

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S. R. Miller to Austin, August 7, 1831. Concerning land. (Omitted.)

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, August 11, 1831. Protesting against statement by George Fisher that he is being censured because free negroes are entering Texas.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, August 18, 1831. Suggesting that Austin petition for alteration of the commissioner's instructions for surveying land. Orders to cooperate with Terán in expelling the families introduced by Robertson. Trouble between Americans and soldiers at Tenoxtitlan.

John Caldwell to Austin, August 24, 1831. Land. (Omitted.)

Henry Austin to Austin, August 26, 1831. Insects and heat. Cotton mill

Richard Hawes to Austin, Winchester, Ky., August 29, 1831. John T. Mason acting as agent of the Hawkins estate to have settlement or understanding with Austin.

Joseph Ficklin to Austin, Lexington, Ky., August 29, 1831. Introducing Gen. John T. Mason. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to alcalde of San Felipe de Austin, September 1, 1831. Repeating order for expulsion of the nine families introduced by Robertson.

Ramon Musquiz to alcalde of San Felipe de Austin, September 12, 1831. Austin's contract to introduce 500 families has expired, and the commissioner reports 408 families settled. The remaining 92 families are not to be settled.

Edmund St. John Hawkins to Austin, September 12, 1831. Draft for $20 to pay board bill.

J. Justo de Liendo to Austin, Nacogdoches, September 27, 1831. Concerning draft for $85. (Omitted.)

James F. Perry to Israel McGready, San Felipe, October 1, 1831. Arrived August 14. Opinion of country. Commissions to arrange business in Missouri.

Mary Paxton to Austin, Auburn, Mo., October 3, 1831. Inquiries concerning Texas; freedom of religion; slavery. (Omitted.)

John P. Austin to Austin, New York, October 10, 1831. Acknowledging commission to obtain dress and mantila and dressed dolls. Purchasers of scrip of the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. are suing for recovery of the money. Three schooners in port destined for Austin's colony; another leaving next week. Presents for Mexican ladies.

Thomas Powell to Austin, October 11, 1831. Power of attorney to recover certain commodities sequestrated by Government. (Omitted.)

J. Mariano Guerra to Austin, Matamoros, October 13, 1831. Transmitting query from consul at New Orleans concerning a slave abducted into Texas.

Walter Turnbull to Austin, Pinckneyville, October 13, 1831. Depression in United States. Slave insurrections in Virginia and North Carolina.

Richard Marsh to Austin, New York, October 21, 1831. Inquiring concerning title to some land that he purchased. (Omitted.)

John Teal to Austin, October 29, 1831. Application for land. (Omitted.)

W. H. Tegarden to Austin, Hopkinsville, Ky., November 7, 1831. Introducing Maj. James P. Caldwell. (Omitted.)

George Duty to Austin, November 9, 1831. Bill for hauling brick for house of Anthony Butler.

Austin to Mary Austin Holley, November 14, 1831. Ill for 45 days. Likes idea of publicity for Texas now, though policy the opposite until recently. Partnership with Hawkins. Attitude of settlers toward Austin's relatives.

Henry Austin to Austin, November 15, 1831. Gen. John T. Mason and the Hawkins estate. Mrs. Holley's plans to settle in Texas.

J. B. Bailey to Austin, November 15, 1831. Land. Road building. (Omitted.)

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Austin to Father Miguel Muldoon, November 15, 1831. Messages for Terán. Austin's labors for Texas.

Austin to James F. Perry, November 15, 1831. Navigation and custom duties. Conference with Terán. Forecasts.

Austin to Mary Austin Holley, November 17, 1831. Methods and motives and difficulties in settling Texas. Confidence in justice of Mexican Government. Wishes now to advertise Texas and settle Irish, Scotch, German, Swiss, and French immigrants.

Austin to James F. Perry, November 17, 1831. Advice about home.

James F. Perry to Austin, November 18, 1831. Progress in getting settlers.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Anahuac, November 20, 1831. Regrets Austin's illness and his inability to see him until March. Appreciates Austin's influence in preserving order in Texas; no one could take his place. His deeds speak for themselves, and Austin need not fear false reports concerning his work. Terán must establish customhouse to prevent contraband trade. Fears colonists may misunderstand.

Mozea Rousseau to Austin, November 19, 1831. Order for $70 worth of cows and calves.

Austin to James F. Perry. November 21, 1831. Suggestions for improvement of farm and home.

Margaret Dickinson to Austin, Perry County, Mo., November 23, 1831. Concerning land claims. (Omitted.)

Austin to Thomas H. Benton, November 25, 1831. Recommending W. B. Travis to be United States consul.

Father Muldoon to Austin, Anahuac, November 28, 1831. Terán's dispositions at Anahuac. He complained of "redundancy" of lawyers. His high opinion of Austin. Ecclesiastical matters.

Henry Austin to Austin, November 28, 1831. Terán's visit beneficial. Austin worries too much about "babblers" of little influence; substantial men will take no step in public matters without his approval. Land troubles.

Thomas Davis to S. M. Williams, November 28, 1831. Draft on Austin for two "gentle cows and calves."

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, November 29, 1831. Sending physician's certificate to show his inability to attend opening of the legislature.

Austin's house plans for his sister, November 30, 1831.

Emily M. Perry to James F. Perry, December 1, 1831. Discussion of a house plan drawn by Austin.

Austin to James Hope, December 5, 1831. Conditions on which English immigrants will be received.

Francisco Ruiz to Austin, December 11, 1831. Regrets labor and expense involved in filling Austin's latest contract. Hopes conditions will change so as to make this unnecessary.

William S. Parrott to Austin, Mexico, December 17, 1831. Concerning indebtedness of S. J. Wilson to him.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, December 20, 1831. Acknowledging receipt of certificate of illness, which he has forwarded to the governor. (Omitted.)

Miguel Arciniega to ———, December 22, 1831. Report of families to whom he has granted titles. (Omitted.)

Austin to Mary Austin Holley, December 22, 1831. Certificate of reception as a colonist and passport to United States.

Austin to Emily M. Perry, December 23, 1831. Mrs. Holley. Shipping.

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Austin to Mary Austin Holley, December 25, 1831. Suggesting publications concerning Texas.

Austin to James F. Perry, [December] 27, 1831. Advising settlement at Peach Point. Importance of cheerful spirits. Progress of Texas.

Austin to Mary Austin Holley, December 29, 1831. His dreams and ambitions for Texas. Conception of his task and how he has carried it out. Country now hampered by suspicions of the Government, but expects to change that. Opposed to separation from Mexico; lack of proper means for independence, and union with United States objectionable.

Austin to ——— [December 29, 1831?]. Attitude toward separation from Mexico and union with United States.

Austin to John Davis Bradburn, December 30, 1831. Protest against policy of Government in hampering trade; asks explanation. Caution necessary.

Austin to emigrants from Europe, December —, 1831. Description of Texas—geography, climate, productions, government—and advantages which it offers to European immigrants. (Omitted. See title in text. Published in Southwestern Historical Quarterly, October, 1924.)

1832

Austin to Mary Austin Holley, January 4, 1832. Trouble at Brazoria carried him beyond himself. Texas must remain united with Mexico as a State with right to legislate for itself.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, January 8, 1832. Fisher's customhouse regulations caused trouble at Brazoria. Now settled. Hopes Terán will assist him with new contract to settle 800 families.

George A. Nixon to Austin, January 9, 1832. Application for land. (Omitted.)

Austin to James A. E. Phelps, January 12, 1832. Certificate that he has cultivated land and that failure to remove family to Texas should not forfeit land.

James Small to Austin, January 13, 1832. Bill for attending a sick Mexican.

Austin to Mary Austin Holley, January 14, 1832. Compares colonization of Texas with farmer clearing land, planting seed, and harvesting crop. Government imposes too many restrictions and people are excited and turbulent about customs regulations, but all this will pass when Texas is a State.

James Cummins and Samuel Hoit to Austin, January 16, 1832. Recommending E. D. Downer. (Omitted.)

Governor José Maria Letona to Austin, Saltillo, January 21, 1832. Transmitting resolution of the Legislature urging Austin to attend the session.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin, January 22, 1832. Asks advice about collecting debts. Schools.

Juan Davis Bradburn to Austin, January 24, 1832. Fixing a rendezvous to discuss public affairs.

Ben R. Milam to Austin, Washington, Ark., January 26, 1832. Introducing David Roberts, visiting Texas to reclaim certain negroes abducted from Arkansas.

John P. Austin to Austin, New York, January 27, 1832. Acknowledging letter from Austin concerning Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co.

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, Matamoros, January 27, 1832. Answering warmly Austin's letter of January 8. His partiality for Texas has almost destroyed his influence with the government. Austin and his colonists do not seem to appreciate the consideration shown them. Dispositions for the future: (1) Tonnage duties evaded by vessels in the Brazos shall be paid by owners of the goods that they landed. (2) If any of the vessels implicated in the trouble in December return to a Texas port, they shall be seized and held until

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those who wounded the soldier are surrendered for trial. (3) The customs officer destined for the Brazos shall reside at Brazoria.

Austin to Mary Austin Holley, January 30, 1832. Introducing José Maria Carbajal. Mexicans of Bexar uniformly friendly to Austin.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin, February 2, 1832. Land. Collections.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin, February 2, 1832. Difficulties of getting settled.

Austin to Manuel de Mier y Terán, February 5, 1832. Tumult at Brazoria in December caused by Fisher's impracticable order requiring vessels landing in the Brazos to sail to Anahuac to pay tonnage duties. Trouble could have been avoided by allowing the business to be transacted at the mouth of the Brazos. He advised suspension of the order to restore tranquillity. Realizes that he compromised himself in doing so, but motive was to restore order, which is now done. Every inhabitant of Texas who has anything to lose, or a grain of common sense, is opposed to separation from Mexico. Advises removal of George Fisher from customhouse at Anahuac, and hopes that Terán will suspend any move until he sees him.

Austin to James F. Perry, February 10, 1832. Santa Ana leading revolution in Mexico. Hopes to keep peace in Texas.

Sylvester Murphy to Austin, February 10, 1832. Land. (Omitted.)

John Woodruff to Austin, February 11, 1832. Land. (Omitted.)

Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin to Federal Government, February 18, 1832. Petition for (1) extension of tariff exemption for five years; (2) removal of George Fisher from customhouse at Anahuac and appointment of a Mexican; (3) repeal of the eleventh article of the law of April 6, 1830, so as to permit immigration from the United States; (4) granting titles to settlers in East Texas.

Elias R. Wightman to ———, February 18, 1832. Instructions for planting.

Austin to Mary Austin Holley, February 19, 1832. The troubles of Brazoria in December. His attitude misrepresented. Revolution in Mexico.

Austin in account with Perry & Hunter, March 1, 1832. Prices.

Michael Muldoon to Mary Elizabeth Bryan, March 5, 1832. Certificate of baptism.

Austin to James F. Perry, March 6, 1832. Leaving instructions on departure for Saltillo.

James Clark to Austin, Rushville, Ill., March 14, 1832. Introducing Thomas Christian and asking for information about Texas.

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans, March 14, 1832. Introducing Mr. Martin. (Omitted.)

José Antonio de la Garza to Austin, Bexar, March 21, 1832. Passport to attend legislature as deputy.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Bexar, March 21, 1832. Politics. Mexican attitude toward the colonies. Bowie. Authorities interested in the two cannon at Brazoria. Must avoid imprudence there. Union with Mexico the best course for Texas. Retail law. Land.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, New Orleans, March 22, 1832. Concerning settlement with the Hawkins heirs.

Israel McGready to James F. Perry, Potosi, Mo., March 26, 1832. Reporting settlement of certain business for Perry. (Omitted.)

Thomas F. Leaming to Austin, Philadelphia, April 7, 1832. Tanner's terms for permitting use of Austin's map in Mrs. Holley's "Texas." (Omitted.)

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, April 9, 1832. Retail law passed over governor's opposition. Political conditions prevent relief to settlers in east Texas. Prudence and moderation, however, will bring relief in the end.

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Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, April 12, 1832. Anthony Butler going to Texas. Austin's debt to him. Moderation, patience, and fidelity to Mexico the proper course for Texas. Tariff.

Branch T. Archer to Austin, April 22, 1832. Asking Austin's help at Saltillo in obtaining grant to improve navigation of the Brazos and collect tolls.

Smith and Stillman to Austin, Matamoros, April 23, 1832. Reporting on certain business of Henry Austin's. (Omitted.)

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, April 28, 1832. New colonization law passed. Texans must be mere spectators in national politics. Nothing to fear if all are patient and quiet.

Henry Morse to James F. Perry, May 6, 1832. Concerning use of a mule. (Omitted.)

Austin to Henry Austin, Saltillo, May 8, 1832. Has cordial letters from Mexican statesmen. Thinks bar to immigration from the United States may be repealed.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Saltillo, May 8, 1832. Instructions for locating three tracts of land, including present city of Austin.

Josiah H. Bell to ———, May 17, 1832. Horse trading.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Victoria, May 23, 1832. Instructing him to locate certain grants including the present city of Austin.

Juan Martin de Beramendi to governor, Bexar, May 23, 1832. Application for himself and associates for the privilege during 14 years to fish, trap beaver, and otter, and take pearls in the territory occupied by the Comanches. In return for this will establish a mission and try to civilize the Indians.

José M. J. Carbajal to Austin, Bexar, June 4, 1832. Asking Austin for proceedings of Congress since 1824. (Omitted.)

Mary Austin Holley to Austin [New Orleans], June 8, 1832. Delay in publication of her "Texas." Estimate of Austin. Influence against slavery.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Matamoros, June 15, 1832. Tariff politics. Terán against foreigners, but favors repeal of law of April 6, 1830. Smuggling. Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co.

Austin to Horatio Chriesman, Matamoros, June 19, 1832. Advice for keeping Texas out of trouble.

Austin to Domingo Ugartechea, Matamoros, June 19, 1832. Difficult situation in Texas. Some just cause for complaint, but complainers are represented as rebels and agitators. Thinks Government is now more favorable to Texas than it has been since 1830. Some tariff reform necessary.

Austin to Ugartechea, Matamoros, June 20, 1832. Has heard of trouble at Anahuac, caused by Bradburn's arresting certain citizens. Duty of citizens to obey the law and the constitution and to prevent in legal and constitutional ways their violation by others. Hopes for prudent action.

Austin to James F. Perry, Matamoros, June 20, 1832. Texan affairs moving satisfactorily in Mexico.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Matamoros, June 20, 1832. Advice for restoring order in Texas.

Austin to [Edward Livingston?], Matamoros, June 24, 1832. General description of Texas; population; political condition. People do not want to separate from Mexico. This partly due to suspicions of the United States aroused by Poinsett. Looking to the time when Texas may be a separate state of the Mexican Republic, he wants Livingston's opinion of a law providing that debts shall not be secured by property and coercively collected. Most of his colonists have suffered severely from the credit system, which such laws would abolish. Sees many disadvantages and difficult points.

Draft of a law to abolish security for debt, June 24, 1832.

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Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, on the march, June 25, 1832. Reports of trouble at Anahuac. "You and I alone understand Texas and can regulate its affairs, but not time to attend to it."

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Austin, June 25, 1832. Asking him to use his influence to cheek excitement in Texas until he can carry out certain orders.

Austin to James H. and William W. Allsbury, Matamoros, June 26, 1832. Certificate of citizenship. (Omitted.)

Austin to Terán, Matamoros, June 27, 1832. Thanks for extension of tariff exemption. Sorry to see some useful articles not excepted from duty, while whisky is admitted free. Suggests removal of George Fisher from post of customs collector. Texans will not submit to military rule, but can govern the Province by law and the constitution without a single soldier. Militia has not organized for fear of giving rise to false rumors. Law of April 6, 1830, should be repealed. Bradburn at Anahuac tactless and troublesome. Mexico needs to reduce army and adopt religious toleration.

Austin to James F. Perry, Matamoros, June 29, 1832. Revolution.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, Matamoros, June 29, 1832. Inclosing copy of letter to Ugartechea giving his opinion on needs of Texas. Revolution.

Austin to Domingo Ugartechea, Matamoros, June 29, 1832. Troubles of Texas due to aggressions of military against the civil power and will not be cured until the military authorities reverse their actions and proceed according to constitution and laws. Changes in administration ordered by Terán may help.

James W. Parker to Austin, June 29, 1832. Wants to settle 25 families from Arkansas. Some of them Baptists and would like freedom of worship. (Omitted.)

Manuel de Mier y Terán to Domingo Ugartechea et al., June 29, 1832 Orders affecting Texas.

Austin to ———, Matamoros [July 1, 1832]. The revolution at Matamoros.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Matamoros, July 1, 1832. The Santa Anna revolution. Advice for avoiding conflict in Texas. Fidelity to Mexico.

Austin to [Domingo Ugartechea?], Matamoros, July 2, 1832. Describing the revolution at Matamoros. Expects early adjustment. Urges Ugartechea to cooperate with John Austin.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Matamoros, July 2, 1832. Instructions for extricating Texas from difficulties.

Convention between Santanistas and Bustamantistas, July 6, 1832. Guerra and Mexia unite forces to suppress insurgent movement reported from Texas. (Omitted.)

Austin to Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, Matamoros, July 6, 1832. Regards Santa Anna's movement as that of constitutional federal democracy against aristocracy. The same contest has been waged in the United States, and democracy triumphed. Absolute freedom of the press the agent of democracy. Education of Mexican population a fundamental necessity for success of democratic principles. Troubles in Texas have been caused by resistance of the inhabitants to unconstitutional measures. The colonists do not desire separation from Mexico and will never attempt to separate unless faced with absolute ruin. Suggestions for betterment of conditions.

J. Mariano Guerra to Austin, July 7, 1832. Urging him to cooperate with Mexia in restoring order in Texas. (Omitted.)

José Antonio Mexia to Austin, Matamoros, July 8, 1832. Requesting Austin to accompany his expedition to Texas to assist in restoring order. (Omitted.)

Austin to José Antonio Mexia, Matamoros, July 9, 1832. Will accompany Mexia to Texas. Convinced that the colonists have no designs on the integrity

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of Mexican territory, but that they are resisting unconstitutional acts of the military.

Austin to Gov. J. M. de Letona, Matamoros, July 9, 1832. Texans have suffered much from unconstitutional measures of the military. Much of the trouble due to arbitrary character of Bradburn. Terán recognized this and on June 25 ordered Bradburn to surrender post to Ugartechea. He is going to Texas with Mexia to help restore order. Territory of Mexico is in no danger because colonists do not desire separation.

Austin to J. Mariano Guerra, Matamoros, July 10, 1832. Review of events in Texas to show that inhabitants are resisting unconstitutional measures. It is not to their interest and they do not want to secede from Mexico.

James F. Perry to Isreal McGready, July 12, 1832. Personal business in Missouri. Recent disturbances in Texas. Laws administered as well as in Missouri in territorial days. (Omitted.)

James F. Perry to Ferguson, Jones, and Campbell, July 12, 1832. Commerce. Cotton raising. Recent disturbances. (Omitted.)

José Antonio Mexia to John Austin, Brazoria, July 16, 1832. Informing Austin of the object of his expedition. Will unite with Texans if their object is to support the Santa Anna movement. Austin replies with account of Bradburn's military aggressions. Citizens are upholding the constitution and laws and cooperating with Santa Anna.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, Brazoria, July 18, 1832. Urging him to have ayuntamientos of Texas adopt resolutions adhering to Santa Anna and explaining that troubles of Texas due to military aggressions of the aristocratic party.

Proceedings of public meeting at Brazoria, July 18, 1832. Resolutions declaring adherence to Santa Anna. (Omitted.)

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Brazoria, July 19, 1832. All must now unite in support of Santa Anna and the Liberals. Bradburn precipitated the clash in Texas. Williams must not take to heart popular disapproval of his pacific policy.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Brazoria, July 22, 1832. Instructing him to provide transportation and supplies for Mexican troops.

J. M. Woodson to Austin, July 23, 1832. Introducing Mr. Yancey, of Virginia. (Omitted.)

John Austin to José Antonio Mexia, Brazoria, July 23, 1832. Acknowledging information Señor Duclor has declared for Santa Anna and is continued in office as collector of the customhouse at Brazoria. (Omitted.)

W. C. Whitaker to Austin, Clinton, Miss., July 25, 1832. Asking about political conditions in Texas.

Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches to inhabitants of Ais, July 28, 1832. Asking assistance to oust Colonel Piedras, reciting his arbitrary acts, and declaring for Santa Anna. (Omitted.)

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, July 28, 1832. Explaining why his colonists declared for Santa Anna—primarily because he represents the liberal, republican, and constitutional party. Previous troubles due to Bradburn and Fisher. No one desires separation from Mexico; convinced, on the other hand, that that would ruin Texas. All wish to form a separate state of the Mexican federation. For this population is needed, and therefore the eleventh article of the law of April 6, 1830, must be repealed. Hopes that Bexar will declare for Santa Anna and petition for reforms.

Austin to his constituents, July —, 1832. Part of a speech on recent movements in Texas and Mexico. (Omitted.)

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James Whitesides to Anthony Butler, August 2, 1832. Butler's business interests in Texas. Political conditions.

Henry Morse to James F. Perry, August 5, 1832. Details of military movements.

Mariano Villalobos to Samuel M. Williams, San Luis Potosi, August 7, 1832. Describing a battle for the city. (Omitted.)

James Bowie to Austin, August 8, 1832. Announcing expulsion of Piedras's garrison from Nacogdoches.

N. M. Henderson to Austin, Rodney, Miss., August 8, 1832. Inquiring conditions in Texas. (Omitted.)

Horatio Chriesman to Austin, August 9, 1832. Transmitting copy of a declaration by Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches for Santa Anna. (Omitted.)

Austin to José de las Piedras, August 12, 1832. Urging him to declare for Santa Anna, explaining attitude of colonists, giving him the news of recent movements in Texas and Mexico, and upbraiding him for stirring Indians against the colonists.

Austin to Jesse Grimes, August 13, 1832. Prepare militia for march against Piedras at Nacogdoches.

Ebel Milton et al. to Austin, August 13, 1832. Reporting murder of H. Read by Indians, and asking assistance for a campaign.

William Barton to Austin, August 14, 1832. Asking extension on a note. (Omitted.)

Austin in account with Perry & Hunter, August 13, 1832. Prices.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, August 15, 1832. Reciting events which have prevented him from going to Saltillo to attend the Legislature. Texans have defended themselves from military abuses, but do not desire separation from Mexico.

Francisco Ruiz to Austin, August 15, 1832. Has used influence to prevent Indians rising. Fears declaration for Santa Anna, and believes that Bexar will so declare.

Horatio Chriesman to Austin, August 16, 1832. Concerning supplies for Piedras's troops.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, August 17, 1832. Quoting letter to governor concerning scattered foreigners outside empresario grants.

Francisco Ruiz to Austin, August 18, 1832. Indians.

John P. Coles to Austin, August 18, 1832. Fears that abandonment of Tenoxtitlan by Colonel Ruiz will expose his settlement to Indians, who are threatening.

Morgan and Reed to Austin, August 19, 1832. Declining to charter schooner to transport troops to Tampico. (Omitted.)

Austin to Antonio Elosua, August 21, 1832. All Texas has declared for Santa Anna except Bexar. Very desirable for Bexar to do so, because united front necessary to protect the country from Indians. Texans driven to participate in national party contest by military abuses of Bradburn.

Gavino Arango to Austin, August 21, 1832. Receipt for supplies valued at 17 pesos 4 reales, for twelfth battalion. (Omitted.)

William Berry to Austin, Milford, Pa., August 22, 1832. Inquiring about son who sailed from New York. (Omitted.)

Francis Smith to Austin, Tenoxtitlan; August 22, 1832. Troops abandoning the place and going to Bexar. Much danger from Indians.

Thomas G. Western et al. to Austin, Goliad, August 24, 1832. Approve declaration for Santa Anna. (Omitted.)

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John P. Coles to Austin, August 24, 1832. Settlers on upper Brazos organizing for protection from Indians. Need civil officer, and Coles suggests appointment by Austin.

J. M. Lopez to Joseph Urban, August 24, 1832. Receipt for supplies for the twelfth battalion, $125. (Omitted.)

Thomas G. Western et al. to Austin, Goliad, August 25, 1832. Military commandant refuses to declare for Sata Anna, but civil authorities are ready to do so.

Samuel Stamps to Austin, Monticello, Miss., August 28, 1832. Inquiring about certain men indebted to him. (Omitted.)

Frost Thorn to Austin, Nacogdoches, August 28, 1832. Describing futile efforts to induce Piedras to declare for Santa Anna. Tranquilizing the Cherokees.

José Antonio de la Garza to Austin, Bexar, August 28, 1832. Acknowledging receipt of Austin's excuse for not attending the legislature. Agrees with Austin concerning many abuses suffered in Texas.

William Hardin to Austin, August 29, 1832. Complaining of bad treatment by men about Harrisburg. (Omitted.)

William Hardin to Austin, Trinity, August 29, 1832. Troubles about land title. (Omitted.)

Antonio Elosua to Austin, Bexar, August 30, 1832. Informing him that the civil and military authorities at Bexar have declared for Santa Anna.

J. M. Lopez to Bowman, August 30, 1832. Receipt for $46 worth of supplies for twelfth battalion. (Omitted.)

J. M. Lopez to Austin, September 1, 1832. Draft on custom house at Brazoria for $12, 4 reales. (Omitted.)

James Whitesides to Austin, September 4, 1832. Draft for $100 in cows, calves, and merchandise.

Miguel Muldoon to Public, September 4, 1832. Defending character of Texans and explaining why he left Texas.

J. M. Lopez to Benjamin Beason, September 4, 1832. Receipt for supplies for twelfth battalion, $16. (Omitted.)

J. M. Lopez to Benjamin Beason, September 4, 1832. Receipt for supplies for twelfth battalion, $17. (Omitted.)

Fernando de Leon to Austin, September 7, 1832. Concerning certain American criminals settled in his colony.

Leander H. McNeill to Austin, Nashville, Tenn., September 10, 1832. Introducing Gen. Sam Houston.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, Labaca, September 10, 1832. Asking for loan. (Omitted.)

José Antonio de la Garza to Austin, Bexar, September 12, 1832. Outrages committed by American criminals in De Leon's colony.

Austin to ——— Martin, September 14, 1832. Statement of settlement with heirs of J. H. Hawkins.

R. Hawes to Austin [about September 14, 1832]. Concerning settlement of the Hawkins estate.

Moses Austin Bryan to Austin, Saltillo, September 23, 1832. Dr. James Grant of Parras has elected two deputies to the legislature from there in favor of Texas and foreigners.

Austin to James F. Perry, September 27, 1832. Closing his business with the Hawkins estate. Advice about location of a farm.

Francisco M. Duclor to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin, September 27, 1832. Clerks have all left him, and unable longer to collect duties, he is leav-

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ing for Tampico to give report of his office. Leaves list of official debts which he asks the ayuntamiento to look after.

Austin to ———, October 2, 1832. Concerning character of George Fisher. See copy in Fisher to Austin, April 16, 1833.

J. G. Wright to Austin, Harrisburgh, October 3, 1832. The alcalde mistrusts him and attacks his reputation as a physician. Wants advice how to proceed.

Francisco Medina to Austin, Goliad, October 5, 1832. Has had to leave six men in hospital. Wants them sent on to Matamoros when they recover. (Omitted.)

Jonas Harrison to governor, October 6, 1832. Petition for land titles in east Texas. (Omitted.)

Austin to Elias R. Wightman, October 8, 1832. Concerning selection of lots in Matagorda.

Austin to public, October 9, 1832. Notice that the land commissioner is coming from Bexar to give titles to land.

Austin to Gen. William H. Ashley, [at St. Louis, Mo.], October 10, 1832. Describing recent events in Texas. Texas wants to be a state of Mexican confederation. Annexation to United States undesirable unless on terms agreeable to all parties. Conditions may bring independence.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, October 10, 1832. Has transmitted to governor Austin's official letter of September 20 resigning office of colonel of the battalion of San Felipe.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, October 11, 1832. Sympathizes with the objects of the recent convention at San Felipe, but its procedure was illegal. Hopes Austin will keep the ayuntamiento in hand. The affairs of Texas in great need of attention of the general Government. He is a citizen of Texas and keenly interested in all that affects it.

Joel R. Poinsett to Austin, Charleston, S. C., October 14, 1832. Comment on Mexican affairs—Pakenham can not blame him for them now. His disgust with the nullifiers and efforts to thwart them.

Austin to Musquiz, October 15, 1832. Asking whether there are any funds to credit of Thomas Powell.

Adam Beatty to Austin, Washington, Ky., October 16, 1832. Asking Austin to keep an eye on his son. (Omitted.)

John Austin to Austin, October 17, 1832. Land titles. (Omitted.)

Robert Crittenden to Austin, Little Rock, October 18, 1832. Introducing Mr. Allen, of Kentucky. (Omitted.)

Memorandum of cattle collected for Austin, October 20, 1832.

John P. Sheldon to Austin, Detroit, Mich., October 22, 1832. Comment on Texan affairs. Delay in emigration.

Anthony Butler to Austin, October 22, 1832. Draft on Austin for $50.

Ramon Musquiz to Austin, Bexar, October 23, 1832. Concerning sale of certain articles for public treasury. (Omitted.)

John P. Austin to Austin, New York, October 25, 1832. Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co.

John T. Mason to Austin, New York, October 25, 1832. Plans of the Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. Will cooperate fully with Austin. Approves recent movements in Texas.

Elizabeth Dooley to Austin, Fayette County [Arkansas?], November 1, 1832. Inquiring terms of settlement in Texas. (Omitted.)

R. R. Royall to Austin, November 2, 1832. Drafts. (Omitted.)

Anthony Butler to Austin, November 3, 1832. Draft for $50.

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J. M. Evans to Austin, November 4, 1832. Asking delay in payment of a note. (Omitted.)

Austin to James F. Perry, November 4, 1832. Instructions for locating land.

Austin to Emily M. Perry, November 5, 1832. Settlement with Hawkins estate. Cheerful confidence in progress of Texas.

Thomas M. Blake to Austin, November 6, 1832. Land. (Omitted.)

Anthony Butler to Austin, November 6, 1832. Draft for $21.87½.

John P. Sheldon to Austin, Detroit, Mich., November 7, 1832. Ten or twenty families can be made up here for emigration to Texas.

Smith and Stillman, Matamoros, November 12, 1832. Account of money advanced. (Omitted.)

John Stryker to Austin, November 12, 1832. Transmitting articles left by Austin on his departure. (Omitted.)

John P. Sheldon to Austin, Detroit, Mich., November 12, 1832. Introducing Le Roy and Comstock, who are the advance guard of an "emigrating party" of 15 or 20 families who will go to Texas next season.

Archibald Austin to Austin, New York, November 13, 1832. Introducing Miss McManos, who visits Texas to arrange for immigration of Europeans.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin, November 14, 1832. Explaining necessity for absence in the United States. (Omitted.)

Anthony Butler to Austin, November 14, 1832. Draft for $14.45.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, November 15, 1832. Thinks it impolitic to publish Musquiz's address to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe concerning the convention. Thinks convention has done some good in quieting excitement. Outlook for Mexico dark.

J. M. Lopez to James Bowie, November 16, 1832. Receipt for $74, 5 reales, value of wagon and other supplies for the Twelfth Battalion. (Omitted.)

William P. Harris to Austin, November 17, 1832. Receipt for notes. (Omitted.)

Austin to James F. Perry, November 17, 1832. Intends going to United States in April. Man hung for murdering negro.

Israel McCready to James F. Perry, Potosi, Mo., November 17, 1832. Reporting on Perry's business. (Omitted.)

George Tennille to Austin, November 20, 1832. Recommending Thomas Fletcher. (Omitted.)

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, November 20, 1832. Has been unable to verify list of the scattered families outside empresario contracts. Suggests that they may be settled in the new grant made to himself and Williams.

Ira Ingram et al. to public, November 20, 1832. Call for convention to meet January 14, 1832, to frame criminal code.

W. McFarland to Austin, November 22, 1832. Thinks people of Texas must rely on themselves.

Silas Dinsmore to Austin, November 28, 1832. Shipping at Matagorda. (Omitted.)

Perry & Hunter to Austin, November 29, 1832. Cattle collections.

Anthony Butler to Austin, November 30, 1832. Order for $38.

Jonas Harrison to Austin, November 30, 1832. People of east Texas will gladly unite with San Felipe and Bexar to form provincial government for Texas as part of Mexican Confederation. No man of sense wants to separate from Mexico.

Austin to Ramon Musquiz, Goliad, November 30, 1832. Suggests that the ayuntamiento of Bexar draw up memorial asking for reforms.

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Asa Hoxey to Robert M. Williamson, Montgomery, Ala., December 2, 1832. Emigration to Texas. Nullification in South Carolina.

Henry Morse to Austin, December 2, 1832. Land. (Omitted.)

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Bexar, December 6, 1832. Describing procedure leading to a strong petition for redress of grievances and reforms for Texas.

Jonas Harrison to Austin, December 8, 1832. Inhabitants of east Texas approve the plan of organizing local government subject to Mexico. Do not want independence or union with the United States. Need a practical, working constitution with principles of common law and trial by jury. New convention should contain only two delegates from each district, and their expenses should be paid. His own expenses to last convention exceeded his income for a year.

William J. Russell to Austin, December 11, 1832. Land. (Omitted.)

Andrew Scott to Austin, Scotia, Ark., December 11, 1832. Introducing James W. Robinson.

Elias R. Wightman to Austin, December 17, 1832. Surprised at Austin's success in "harmonizing such a heterogeneous mass."

John A. Williams to Austin, December 18, 1832. Does not agree with Austin's idea of the necessity for local organization. People of his district of east Texas much opposed. Convention of October illegal and most unfortunate.

A. C. Ainsworth to Austin, Montgomery, Ala., December 19, 1832. Represents a number of planters in making certain inquiries concerning Texas.

Thomas G. Western to Austin, Goliad, December 21, 1832. Political chief's visit disappointing. He does not seem as strong for the cause as Austin represented.

Thomas M. Duke to Austin, December 22, 1832. Agrees with Austin's ideas of future policy.

J. M. Pennington to Perry and Hunter, December 24, 1832. Note for $72.24 payable in gentle cows and calves. (Omitted.)

D. W. Anthony to Austin, December 26, 1832. Discussing policy to be followed in seeking reform. His editorial policy.

Hansen Allsbury to Austin, Augusta, Me., December 29, 1832. Asking Austin's intervention in assisting his mother.

1833

James Ramage to Austin, Brazoria, January 2, 1833. Assuring Austin of interest in his colony. (Omitted.)

James F. Perry to Ferguson, Jones & Campbell, January 4, 1833. Mercantile business. (Omitted.)

W. S. Brown to James F. Perry, McNeel's Landing, January 8, 1833. Bill of lading. (Omitted.)

José Antonio de la Garza to Austin, Bexar, January 10, 1833. Wishes to buy tobacco and cottonseed. (Omitted.)

Ramon Musquiz to Governor of Coahuila and Texas, Bexar, January 10, 1833. Transmitting memorial from Ayuntamiento of Bexar asking certain reforms in local administration to remedy intolerable situation and prevent resort to revolution.

Samuel M. Williams to E. St. John Hawkins, January 15, 1833. Bill for stamped paper and services.

W. S. Parrott to Austin, Mexico, January 16, 1833. Mexican politics. Interest in remaining restrictions on immigration into Texas.

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Sylvanus Hatch to Austin, January 17, 1833. Inquiring means of collecting debt. (Omitted.)

Thomas G. Western to Austin, Goliad, January 19, 1833. Transmitting copy of memorial to legislature for reform.

Ira Ingram to Austin, Matagorda, January 20, 1833. Defending a letter which he wrote protesting against abuses in collection of customs.

Austin to James F. Perry, January 20, 1833. Anxious to sell land to pay pressing debts. Intends to "wash hands of politics."

D. W. Anthony to Austin, Brazoria, January 20, 1833. Discussing popular excitement and differing with Austin concerning the best method of allaying it.

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, January 20, 1833. Merchandise. (Omitted.)

James Whiteside to Austin, January 21, 1833. Concerning land. (Omitted.)

Thomas Powell to Austin, New Orleans, January 21, 1833. Asking his intervention in settlement of claims. (Omitted.)

Sterling McNeel to Austin, January 25, 1833. Request for deeds. (Omitted.)

D. W. Anthony to Austin, January 25, 1833. Explaining his editorial policy.

Austin to Emily M. Perry, January 26, 1833. Sending fruit trees.

Austin to Emily M. Perry, January 26, 1833. Payment of old debts. His estimate of his work: "The settlers of this colony will never forget me nor be long ungrateful to me."

G. Edwards to Austin, Attica, Ohio, February 1, 1833. Represents many neighbors in asking climate, production, soil, terms of acquiring land.

James F. Perry to Israel McGready, February 3, 1833. Approval of his acts as attorney in Missouri. (Omitted.)

D. W. Anthony to Austin, February 3, 1833. Introducing his brother. Printing the Bexar remonstrance.

D. W. Anthony to Austin, February 4, 1833. Concerning land for Patrick Green.

William H. Skerrett to Austin, Chillicothe [Ohio], February 4, 1833. Asking Austin to assist him in settling business in Texas.

Oliver P. Jackson to Austin, New Orleans, February 10, 1833. Asking information about Texas, and prospects for practice of law.

Charles W. Webber to Austin, Columbia, Tenn., February 15, 1833. Biographical. Introducing William K. Hill.

——— to Austin, New York, February 20, 1833. Introducing Henry B. Prentiss, who represents a company with agricultural and commercial interests in Texas and Mexico. (Omitted.)

Austin to James F. Perry, February 24, 1833. Concerning purchase of a slave for $600.

Ramon Musquiz to Alcalde of San Felipe de Austin, February 26, 1833. Concerning election of ayuntamiento of Brazoria.

John D. Martin to Austin, Memphis [Tennessee], March 2, 1833. Watching progress of events in Texas and expects to settle there. (Omitted.)

W. S. Brown to James F. Perry, New Orleans, March 2, 1833. Bill of lading. (Omitted.)

Austin in account with McKinstry and Austin, March 3, 1833. Bill for purchases and advances.

Austin in account with Perry and Hunter, March 22, 1833. Bill.

John G. Rowland to James F. Perry, New Orleans, March 22, 1833. Bill of lading. (Omitted.)

T. J. Winston to Austin, March 24, 1833. Purchase of a steer. (Omitted.)

W. S. Parrott to Austin, Mexico, March 25, 1833. Asks assistance in arrest of a forger. (Omitted.)

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José Antonio Mexia to Austin, Mexico, March 27, 1833. Informs Austin that he was elected to senate from Mexico and will further the interests of Texas.

R. R. Royall to Samuel M. Williams, April 1, 1833. Introducing a colonist. (Omitted.)

Outline of address to convention by Austin, April 1, 1833.

Address of central committee to convention, April 1, 1833. Reciting reasons for separation of Coahuila and Texas.

Austin's draft of portion of constitution of 1833. April 1, 1833. (Omitted.)

Wyatt Hanks to Austin, April 2, 1833. Giving reasons for not attending the convention.

Austin to Nathaniel Cox, April 2, 1833. Gratified at Cox's approval of his settlement with the Hawkins heirs. Thinks Texas will be separated from Coahuila.

Oliver Jones and John A. Wharton, April 3, 1833. Agreement to submit to a board of honor the subject of dispute between Wyly Martin and Thomas F. McKinney. (Omitted.)

Resolutions of the convention against the African slave trade, April 4, 1833.

Samuel C. Hirams to Austin, April 10, 1833. Certificate for Hugh B. Prentiss. (Omitted.)

The convention to Congress, April 13, 1833. Arguing for the separation of Coahuila and Texas.

Notes by Austin for memorial on repeal of restrictions on immigration, April 13, 1833.

Convention to Congress, April 13, 1833. Petition for repeal of restrictions on immigration to Texas.

Austin's instructions from the convention, April 13, 1833. Present a petition for organization of Texas as a State. Oppose territorial organization. Authorized to accept minor modifications of proposed constitution.

George Fisher to Austin, Monclova, April 16, 1833. Upbraids Austin for injuring him with authorities and declares that he could have ruined Austin's colony by divulging certain information which he has. Inclosures: (1) Mexia to Austin, Mexico, March 11, 1833, urging reconciliation with Fisher, who has proved friendship for Texas; (2) copy of a letter written by W. Keene, of Mexico, to Mangino inclosing copy of a postscript written by Austin to a correspondent in Matamoros October 4, 1832, impugning Fisher's good faith; (3) Fisher's comment on Austin's note.

John Brown to Austin, April 17, 1833. Receipt for $101 for hire of wagon and three yoke of oxen to transport baggage of Twelfth Battalion from Brazos to Victoria. Witnessed by James Bowie.

Austin to James F. and Emily Perry, April 19, 1833. Business memoranda and instructions. Desire to found an academy. Debt to Anthony Butler paid. Eleven-league grants.

Austin to Henry Austin, April 19, 1833. Approves application for organization of Texas as a State, and thinks must proceed to organize anyway if petition is refused. Report that Government is sending army to Texas to keep it from revolting from Mexico. This very objectionable.

Austin to Mrs. Mary Austin Holley, April 20, 1833. Texas petitions for organization as a State. People do not want to separate from Mexico, but anything preferable to present conditions.

Austin to James F. Perry, April 20, 1833. Memoranda. Eleven-league grants. Historic tomahawk. Hopes for State government.

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Austin to J. Francisco Madero, about April 20, 1833. The Texans would be content with two reforms in the judiciary system—*jueces de letras* and trial by jury.

Austin to James F. Perry, April 21, 1833. Parting memoranda.

Austin to James F. Perry, April 22, 1833. His intentions to obtain repeal of the law of April 6, 1830, and to get permission for Texas to adopt a constitution.

P. P. Borden to Austin, April 30, 1833. Bill for blacksmith's work. (Omitted.)

Austin to political chief, Bexar, May 3, 1833. Describing cholera at mouth of Brazos.

Austin to Luke Lesassier, Bexar, May 6, 1833. People of Bexar wish seat of State government transferred to Bexar, but will not formally petition for it. Will not join in petition for separate State organization.

Political chief to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin, Bexar, May 9, 1833. Declining to second the petition for separation of Coahuila and Texas. The convention besides violating the law regulating petitions did not represent public opinion.

Political chief to Col. Antonio Elosua, Bexar, May 9, 1833. Colonists tried to get Bexar, Goliad, and Nacogdoches to join them in convention to petition for separation from Coahuila, but they declined. Austin now at Bexar trying to get citizens to approve the petition which the convention adopted. Citizens indorse the desire for separation and establishment of a local government, but disapprove of the method of procedure.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Bexar, May 9, 1833. Inhabitants agree substantially with sentiments of convention, but will not support the petition. Gin for Seguin.

Political chief to Governor of Coahuila and Texas, Bexar, May 19, 1833. Sends inclosures showing attitude of Mexican settlements toward convention. Efforts of authorities at Bexar to prevent approval of petition which Austin bears to Mexico.

Political chief to Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches, Bexar, May 23, 1833. Transmits copy of reply to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe refusing to indorse petition for separation from Coahuila. (Omitted.)

Austin to Gen. Vicente Filisola, Matamoros, May 24, 1833. Corrects false rumors concerning desire of Texas to secede from Mexico. Local government entirely inadequate, especially in judicial branch, and Texans want separate State government in order to correct this situation. Perhaps method of procedure by convention was an error but Texans united in desire for remedy.

Ayuntamiento of Gonzales to political chief, May 27, 1833. In adopting the petition for separation of Coahuila and Texas had no intention of violating the law. Retract everything that does contravene the law.

Austin to Filisola, Matamoros, May 30, 1833. Argument for right of Texas under Federal constitution and laws to apply for State government, and repeats that no one desires separation from Mexico. Learns that Congress will adjourn before he can reach Mexico, so asks Filisola to forward copy of his petitions, while he returns for the present to Texas.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches, Matamoros, May 30, 1833. Conditions in Mexico tranquil and attitude toward Texas considerate. Customhouses to be reestablished to stop contraband tobacco trade. Austin has assured authorities that people will support the Government.

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Austin to Wily Martin, Matamoros, May 30, 1833. Many alarming rumors in Mexico concerning intention of Texans to revolt. He has dissipated most of the uneasiness. Customhouses must be reestablished and Austin has pledged people to support the collector. Has changed attitude toward slavery. Texas must be a slave country. Hopes for State organization with consent of Coahuila.

Austin to John Austin, Matamoros, May 31, 1833. Urging Texans to support Fisher as collector of customs.

Austin to Oliver Jones et al., Matamoros, May 31, 1833. Advising support of George Fisher as customs collector.

Austin to McNeil and Woodson et al., Matamoros, May 31, 1833. Advising support of George Fisher as collector of customs.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Matamoros, May 31, 1833. Reporting conditions of his journey. George Fisher returning to Texas as tariff officer. Instructions concerning land at foot of the mountains.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Matamoros, May 31, 1833. Warning against speculation. Robertson colony.

Ayuntamiento of Gonzales to political chief, June 22, 1833. Retracting support of petition for separation of Coahuila and Texas.

Austin to Minister of Relations, Jalapa, July 11, 1833. Detained at Jalapa by military commandant because passport not visaed at Vera Cruz. Explains mission.

Austin in account with McKinstry and Austin, July 15, 1833.

John P. Coles to Anthony Butler, July 15, 1833. Austin's influence in Texas will be dead if he fails through lack of sufficient effort to obtain the reforms petitioned for by the convention of April, 1833.

Samuel Crawford in account with James F. Perry, July 20, 1833.

Austin to central committee Mexico, July 24, 1833. Reporting incidents of journey. Officials friendly and he hopes for success. Advises organization of State government if petition is denied.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, July 30, 1833. Hopes for success, but favors organization as a State without consent of Congress if consent is refused. Rumors of cholera in Texas.

Austin to Minister of Relations, Mexico, August 1, 1833. Transmits copy of provisional constitution adopted by Texan convention. Asks acknowledgement of receipt of memorial forwarded through General Filisola arguing for State organization.

Austin to Minister of Relations, Mexico, August 1, 1833. Argument supporting claims of Texas to separate statehood. Separation from Mexico would be a calamity, but continued union with Coahuila would be worse.

Austin to Minister of Relations, Mexico, August 2, 1833. Transmitting argument for separating Texas from Coahuila.

Austin to John Austin, Mexico, August 6, 1833. Thinks State organization will be granted Texas. Must be a State either of Mexico or of the United States. Cholera epidemic.

Austin to Minister of Relations, Mexico, August 12, 1833. Transmitting and discussing the petition for repeal of the law of April 6, 1830, adopted by Texan convention.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Mexico, August 14, 1833. Hopeful that reforms will be granted Texas. Mail system. Premonitory symptoms of cholera.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Mexico, August 21, 1833. Averted cholera attack. Reforms for Texas when Congress reconvenes. Robertson colony

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troubles. Instructions for locating a land grant where Austin wished to establish an academy. Warns against speculation. Has suffered much abuse; willing to surrender the lead to others.

Austin in account with Washington Hotel, Mexico, August 22, 1833. Bill.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Mexico, August 28, 1833. "All is melancholy with death and civil war." Government hopes to dam Americans out of Texas by immigration of Poles and Germans—"as well try to dam the Mississippi with straw."

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Mexico, September 5, 1833. Various reforms will be made in Texas. Instructions for locating land.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Mexico, September 11, 1833. Reforms. Cholera. Land.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, September 11, 1833. Report on prospects for Texas. Cholera in Mexico.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, October 2, 1833. Distress over losses from cholera in Texas. Despondent over disorders and revolutions in Mexico.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Bexar, Mexico, October 2, 1833. Believes that Congress will refuse to establish State government in Texas. Urges Ayuntamiento take lead in organizing without congressional permit.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, October 23, 1833. Congress favorable to repeal of restrictions on immigration from the United States. State organization still unsettled and little hope of success.

W. S. Parrott in account with Austin, Mexico, October 23, 1833. United States exchange.

James F. Perry to Austin, October 26, 1833. Conditions in Texas during Austin's absence—flood, cholera, malaria.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of Nacogdoches, Mexico, October 30, 1833. Reporting repeal of eleventh article of law of April 6, 1830, and other reforms for Texas.

Austin in account with Washington Hotel, Mexico, October 31, 1833. Bill.

Ayuntamiento of Bexar to Austin, October 31, 1833. Refusing to lead in organizing State government of Texas.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Mexico, November 5, 1833. Law of April 6, 1830, amended. Santa Anna favorable to Texas. Quarrel with Farias. Danger that Texas will be organized as a territory. Willingness to sacrifice self for Texas.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Antonio, Mexico, November 18, 1833. Conditions for Texas more promising. Article 11 of law of April 6, 1830, repealed; but result of present revolution doubtful, and he reiterates advice to form a provisional State government in Texas.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Mexico, November 26, 1833. Preparing to return to Texas. Reforms obtained. Political conditions.

Carlos Garcia to Austin, Mexico, December 7, 1833. Reporting action on petition of Texans. Reform of judiciary system, repeal of restrictions on immigration, other questions referred to appropriate departments.

Austin in account with Washington Hotel, Mexico, December 9, 1833. Bill.

Perry and Somervell in account with various New Orleans firms, December 9–12, 1833.

1834

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Monterey, January 12, 1834. Announcing arrest for urging organization of State government in Texas. Has opposed annexation of Texas to the United States, but has told Mexican statesmen that they should either reform local abuses in Texas or sell the Province to the

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United States. Warns against excitement over his arrest. His attitude toward the convention of 1833. Attitude toward territorial government for Texas; toward statehood.

Seeds of the Mexican cypress tree and instructions for planting them.

Austin to Rafael Llanos, Monterey, January 14, 1834. Announcing arrest, explaining his purposes in Texas, and showing need of reform.

Austin to James F. Perry, Monterey, January 14, 1834. Announcing arrest, discussing past policies, and advising tranquillity.

Austin to D. W. Smith, Monterey, January 15, 1834. Making arrangement for money while a prisoner.

Austin to George Fisher, Monterey, January 15, 1834. Announcing arrest. Policy in Texan affairs.

Austin to James F. Perry, Monterey, January 16, 1834. Remain quiet and "let me perish if such is to be my fate." Government would grant territorial organization to Texas if the ayuntamientos asked for it, but there should be no more conventions. General instructions for management of Austin's affairs.

Austin to Ayuntamiento of San Felipe, Monterey, January 17, 1834. Announcing arrest and advising tranquillity.

Austin to Juan Nepomuceno Seguin, Monterey, January 17, 1834. Reciting causes of his arrest, explaining why he wrote the letter of October 2, 1833, to Ayuntamiento of Bexar, and advising tranquillity. Reforms made since October.

Austin to Peter and Joseph Powell, Monterey, January 18, 1834. Discussing his arrest and advising quiet in Texas.

Austin to Peter and Joseph Powell, Monterey, January 18, 1834. Asking them to deliver two miniatures of Austin to his sister.

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, January 22, 1834. Merchandise. (Omitted.)

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, January 23, 1834. Commerce and transportation. (Omitted.)

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, February 1, 1834. Excitement over report of Austin's arrest.

John Irwin to ——— Chapman, February 1, 1834. Concerning draft drawn in Austin's favor.

Susan W. Maxwell to James F. Perry, Spring Mills, February 9, 1834. Inquiring about her husband. (Omitted.)

John Rowland to James F. Perry, New Orleans, February 18, 1834. Waybill. (Omitted.)

Edmund Andrews to James F. Perry, February 22, 1834. Commerce.

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, February 26, 1834. Concerning letter from Austin. (Omitted.)

"Extract of a letter from Texas," Brazoria, March 7, 1834. Summary of letter from Austin to Perry, January 14. (Omitted.)

F. W. Johnson to R. M. Williamson, March 10, 1834. Surveys on the western frontier. Agitation caused by Sterling C. Robertson.

Samuel M. Williams to Governor Viesca [about April 1, 1834]. Contesting claims of Sterling C. Robertson.

James Morgan and Nancy Ann Morgan, April 28, 1834. Labor contract. Evasion of antislavery provision of the constitution. (Omitted.)

Austin to James F. Perry, May 10, 1834. Describing prison and his imprisonment *incomunicado*. Observations on his past policy in Texas.

Austin's prison journal. See note in text.

James F. Perry to Father Miguel Muldoon, May 13, 1834. Asking him to deliver an accompanying letter to Austin. (Omitted.)

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James F. Perry to Austin, May 13, 1834. Anxiety for Austin. Conditions in Texas.

Ayuntamiento of Matagorda to Congress, May 17, 1834. Petition for separation of Texas and Coahuila and for release of Austin. (Omitted.)

Ayuntamiento of Matagorda to governor, May 18, 1834. Suggesting correction of the boundaries of the municipality. (Omitted.)

Henry F. Spear to Austin, Dedham, May 28, 1834. Asks information about compensation for Mexican service in 1812. (Omitted.)

H. Meigs to Austin, New York, May 30, 1834. Inclosing letter from Louis McLane showing that United States has intervened in Austin's behalf.

James Ladd to Austin, Dover, N. H., May 30, 1834. Inquiring about his son. Asks information about Texas. Thinks many will emigrate from the United States. (Omitted.)

Austin to Oliver Jones, Mexico, May 30, 1834. Suggests that ayuntamientos of Texas thank State and Federal governments for recent relief measures and petition for his own release.

Ayuntamiento of Liberty, May 31, 1834. Memorial in behalf of Austin. (Omitted.)

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Mexico, June 3, 1834. Suggesting memorial to government by the ayuntamientos expressing gratitude for reforms and faithful allegiance.

Oliver Jones to James F. Perry, Santa Rosa, June 10, 1834. Reporting news from Austin. Robertson's colony.

Concerning Robertson's colony, July 2, 1834. Circular by Sterling C. Robertson, showing return of his grant, and abusing Austin. (Omitted.)

Josiah H. Bell to James F. Perry, July 15, 1834. Suggesting action by the ayuntamiento in Austin's behalf.

Thomas F. McKinney to James F. Perry, July 17, 1834. Efforts in behalf of Austin.

Thomas W. Garrett to Alexander Somervell, Rodney, Miss., July 20, 1834. Inquiring concerning Texas. (Omitted.)

Ayuntamiento of Mina to Federal Congress, July 23, 1834. Address reviewing history of settlement of Texas, declaring loyalty of settlers and asking for release of Austin. (Omitted.)

William H. Jack to Thomas F. McKinney, July 24, 1834. Mexican politics, Almonte's inspection of Texas, local politics, unhealthful condition of the country.

Peter W. Grayson to James F. Perry, July 25, 1834. Concerning his mission to Mexico in behalf of Austin.

Thomas F. McKinney to James F. Perry, July 27, 1834. Forwarding letter from Austin.

Ayuntamiento of Matagorda to Peter W. Grayson and Spencer H. Jack, July 27, 1834. Authority to move for liberation of Austin.

Henry Austin to James F. Perry, July 28, 1834. Reports from Mexico that Santa Anna will release Austin. Forsyth's pressure for same purpose in Washington.

Ayuntamiento of Matagorda to Congress, July 28, 1834. Memorial in behalf of Austin. (Omitted.)

Josiah H. Bell to James F. Perry, July 29, 1834. Introducing Almonte.

Ayuntamiento of Brazoria to Congress, July 31, 1834. Memorial in behalf of Austin.

William Bryan to Austin, August 3, 1834. Application for land. (Omitted.)

George Fisher to R. M. Williamson, Matamoros, August 5, 1834. Asking return of a book. Political news.

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M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, August 7, 1834. Favorable rumors concerning Austin. Commercial accounts. Duel between Austin [Henry?] and Wharton.

P. W. Grayson to James F. Perry, August 9, 1834. Discussing mission to Mexico in Austin's behalf. Political confusion.

W. B. Travis to James F. Perry, August 11, 1834. Certain probate business. Slavery.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, August 25, 1834. Account of imprisonment, discussion of political conditions in Mexico, his past policy in Texas, advice for future.

Austin to E. W. Gregory, Mexico, August 26, 1834. Loyalty to Mexico. Political news. Santa Anna.

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, September 1, 1834. Claims being pressed against Austin. (Omitted.)

Samuel M. Williams to James F. Perry, September 3, 1834. Copy of letter from Austin.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Mexico, September 7, 1834. Account of his imprisonment. Advises Williams to keep out of politics. Robertson colony.

Election returns, September 7, 1834. Election of Austin to represent his district in State congress. (Omitted.)

Henry Smith to Austin, September 8, 1834. Notifying him of his election to the State congress.

Samuel M. Williams to James F. Perry, September 9, 1834. Austin's debts. Wonderful reaction in Austin's favor.

P. W. Grayson to James F. Perry, Monclova, September 16, 1834. State political confusion. Governor cooperating with the Texas ayuntamientos in behalf of Austin.

William S. Parrott to Austin, Mexico, September 18, 1834. Statement of account.

Nahum Nixon to Samuel M. Williams, September 23, 1834. Application for land. (Omitted.)

H. Meigs to Austin, New York, September 27, 1834. Informing Austin of his efforts to secure his release.

William W. Hunter to James F. Perry, New Madrid, September 28, 1834. (Omitted.)

[The documents listed in the remainder of this calendar are published in Volume III of The Austin Papers, issued by the University of Texas Press.]

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, October 6, 1834. Instructing Perry to take charge of his business.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, October 6, 1834. Judicial procedure in Mexico. The charge against him seems to be that he designed to separate Texas from Mexico and annex it to the United States. This is false. Reported in Mexico that the Texans have abandoned him and that Almonte's report will be hostile. Investigation of Texas by the Government may convince it that Texas should be granted reforms or that it should be transferred to the United States. The ayuntamientos should petition for his release.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, October 6, 1834. Judicial procedure. Enemies in Texas and in Mexico, and the causes of the enmity. Services to Texas. Santa Anna.

Ferguson, Jones & Co. to James F. Perry, Philadelphia, October 7, 1834. Statement of account. Sorry Perry is going out of business. Hard "Jackson" times for past year. (Omitted.)

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Austin to George Fisher, Mexico, October 15, 1834. Thanking Fisher for favors and asking him to report to Perry arrival of Grayson and Jack with memorials in his behalf.

Austin to Thomas F. McKinney, Mexico, October 18, 1834. Deeply grateful for mission of Grayson and Jack in his behalf. Asks destruction of a letter written October 6. Robertson colony.

Edmund Andrews to James F. Perry, October 23, 1834. Concerning collection of insurance. (Omitted.)

Joseph B. Heard to James F. Perry, Boston, October 24, 1834. Asking whereabouts of Samuel Maxwell. (Omitted.)

J. P. Borden to P. P. and Gail Borden, Goliad, October 25, 1834. Description of the town.

Edmund Andrews to James F. Perry, October 26, 1834. Concerning collection of insurance.

Central committee to the public, October 28, 1834. Opposing a call issued by Political Chief Henry Smith to form a State government. (Omitted.)

Samuel M. Williams to Austin, October 29, 1834. Rejoicing at revulsion in Austin's favor. Local political differences.

James B. Miller to James F. Perry, October 31, 1834. Asking him to supervise the printing of the central committee's address to the public.

Thomas F. McKinney to James F. Perry, November 4, 1834. Inclosing draft of reply to "demagogues and scoundrels."

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, November 6, 1834. Almonte's report on Texas has created favorable feeling for Austin. Reflections on his past policies. Faults of North American character.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, November 6, 1834. Business instructions. Irresponsible publications from Texas injure him. Wishes harmony in Texas.

Election returns, November 8, 1834. Brazoria vote for and against holding provisional congress at Bexar on November 15.

W. H. Wharton to the public, November 9, 1834. Denouncing Austin's letter of August 25, 1834.

Henry Austin to James F. Perry, November 14, 1834. Incloses copy of address which he drafted. Thinks unnecessary now to circulate it.

Henry Austin to James F. Perry, November 24, 1834. Jackson has been assured that Austin will not be harmed.

P. W. Grayson, memorandum of conversation, November —, 1834. Concerning Austin's part in insurrection of 1832.

Austin to Thomas F. McKinney, Mexico, December 2, 1834. Advice concerning State politics.

Gail Borden, jr., to John P. Coles, December 2, 1834. Surveying. (Omitted.)

James F. Perry to Susan Maxwell, December 3, 1834. Reply to inquiry concerning her husband. (Omitted.)

E. R. Wightman in account with W. S. Whiteside, December 5, 1834. Bill and price list.

James F. Perry to Austin, December 7, 1834. Local political movements in Texas. Austin's enemies.

J. B. Miller to James F. Perry, December 10, 1834. Boarding school.

W. S. Parrott to James F. Perry, Mexico, December 24, 1834. Prospect of Austin's release on bail.

Ramón Músquiz to [Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin?], Bexar, December 26, 1834. Nominees whom Bexar is supporting for State elections. Suggests election of Williams to represent Department of Brazos in State Congress.

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J. B. Guerra to Austin, December 30, 1834. Receipt for $240, payment for stamped paper used in preparing Austin's case for court.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, December 31, 1834. Released on bond December 25. Favorable changes in situation of Texas. Political conditions.

1835

Samuel M. Williams to James F. Perry, January 7, 1835. Political movements. Robertson Colony.

William B. Bridgers to Gail Borden, jr., January 9, 1835. Application for land.

Elisha Flack to Gail Borden, jr., January 10, 1835. Surveying.

G. B. Jameson to Gail Borden, jr., January 11, 1835. Land.

John M. Austin to Austin, Montpelier, Vt., January 14, 1835. Claiming kinship.

Samuel M. Williams to James F. Perry, January 14, 1835. Business notes. Going to Monclova and will not forget Austin's enemies and his own.

James F. Perry to Lastraps and Desmare, January 15, 1835. Loss of goods on vessel. Insurance. Cotton Crop.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Mexico, January 21, 1835. Expects to leave in two or three weeks. Wants to remain only a short time in Texas.

Military commandant to his superior, Bexar, January 27, 1835. Concerning movement of soldiers to prevent smuggling.

J. M. Gutierrez de Estrada to ———, Mexico, January 25, 1835. Wants copy of land laws of the United States. Wishes to repeal restrictions against purchase of land by aliens.

Samuel M. Williams to N. J. Dobie, January 27, 1835. Land.

Baker and Borden to James F. Perry, January 29, 1835. Asking assistance in establishing a press at San Felipe.

David Silcriggs to Gail Borden, jr., January 29, 1835. Asking him to choose a town lot.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, February 6, 1835. Publication of his pamphlet has created good feeling. Trouble with Anthony Butler. Plans for the future.

Andrew Ponton to Gail Borden, jr., February 13, 1835. Concerning land titles.

James F. Perry to Joseph B. Heard, February 15, 1835. Answering query concerning whereabouts of Mr. Maxwell.

John Rice Jones to James F. Perry, February 15, 1835. Wishes to sell his Missouri negroes.

W. Cave to Gail Borden, jr., February 17, 1835. Report on surveying.

Ayuntamiento of Mina to Samuel M. Williams, February 25, 1835. Asking for public documents belonging to the jurisdiction of that ayuntamiento.

Ferguson and Hall to James F. Perry, Philadelphia, February 27, 1835. Announcing change of firm name. Sending papers for Austin.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, March 4, 1835. Improvements for Texas. Mail routes and roads. Officials friendly.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, March 10, 1835. Still detained by delay in passing amnesty law. Plans for furthering commercial advancement of Texas. Tariff exemption and trade with Chihuahua. Policy for Texas, past and future.

John Gordon to John P. Borden, March 16, 1835. Wants position to manage newspaper.

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Reason Mercer to Gail Borden, jr., March 17, 1835. Land.

G. B. Jameson to Gail Borden, jr., March 22, 1835. Land.

Ira R. Lewis to Gail Borden, jr., March 23, 1835. Land.

George M. Patrick to Gail Borden, jr., March 23, 1835. Asking for field notes.

Thomas H. Brenan to Austin, March 23, 1835. Asking help getting titles for settlers on the Trinity River.

Political chief to military commandant, Bexar, March 23, 1835. Informed that colonists will not recognize customs collector, nor pay duties, and that they are arming even children to prevent troops being stationed among them. In past month 250 families introduced into department of Nacogdoches and 10,000 souls in Nacogdoches and in Austin's colonies combined.

Henry Meigs to Austin, New York, March 26, 1835. Forsyth says nothing injurious to you reported [by Anthony Butler].

Military commandant to superior, Bexar, March 28, 1835. Has subscribed for the newspaper issued at Brazoria. Does not trust the political chief at Bexar because he favors separation of Coahuila and Texas.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, March 28, 1835. Instructing him not to sell certain lands.

W. Barret Travis to Gail Borden, jr., March 28, 1835. Concerning land claims.

W. W. Hunter to James F. Perry, New Orleans, March 28, 1835. Flatboat trade from Missouri. Texas items.

Bartlett Sims to Gail Borden, jr., March 30, 1835. Surveying.

Austin to George Fisher, Mexico, March 30, 1835. Sending copy of his exposition. Affairs in Mexico.

Samuel M. Williams to Austin, Monclova, March 31, 1835. Governor and legislature will petition for release of Austin. Robertson colony business. Two thousand persons immigrated into Texas in January and February.

Samuel M. Williams to James F. Perry, Monclova, April 1, 1835. Giving news of Austin.

Austin to Samuel M. Williams, Mexico, April 1, 1835. Civil war threatened. Texas must not participate. Instructions concerning fees claimed by Government in first colony.

Joshua Nelson to Austin, April 2, 1835. Introducing Dr. Amos Pollard and A. C. Holmes.

H. L. Cooke to Gail Borden, jr., April 2, 1835. Petition for land.

Military commandant of Texas to his superior, Bexar, April 4, 1835. Will try to prevent from going into effect the decree selling Texas land. Needs money and supplies for Indian war.

Martin Perfecto de Cos to military commandant of Texas, Saltillo, April 4, 1835. Instructing him to keep informed of movements of the colonists.

Henry Austin to Gail Borden, jr., April 8, 1835. Instructions to issue title to a colonist. Austin to pay all fees and receive half the land.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Gail Borden, jr., April 9, 1835. Concerning land which he wants to "clear out" of the office on shares.

Domingo de Ugartechea to Martin Perfecto de Cos, Bexar, April 13, 1835. Reporting steps taken to observe movements of colonists. Needs money.

John Rice Jones to Baker and Bordens, April 14, 1835. Claiming commission for subscriptions to the Telegraph and Texas Register.

Domingo de Ugartechea to Captain Antonio Tenorio, Bexar, April 14, 1835. Asking for full report on state of public opinion in east Texas.

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Frank W. Johnson to Gail Bordon, jr., Monclova, April 15, 1835. Political disturbances. Help wanted from Texas. Memorials in favor of Austin.

Elias R. Wightman to Gail Borden, jr., April 17, 1835. Surveying orders.

Bartlett Sims to Gail Borden, jr., April 20, 1835. Land surveys.

Susan W. Maxwell to James F. Perry, Boston, April 20, 1835. Concerning disappearance of her husband and instructions for disposition of effects.

Domingo de Ugartechea to Martin Perfecto de Cos, Bexar, April 20, 1835. Wagons which he sent to Copano to transport baggage of Battalion of Morelos detained at great cost by delayed arrival of troops. When may he expect them?

Domingo de Ugartechea to Martin Perfecto de Cos, Bexar, April 20, 1835. Inclosing letters from Tenorio at Anahuac showing need of reinforcements and supplies.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Gail Borden, jr., April 21, 1835. Concerning land on which he is paying fees for share in the land.

Samuel M. Williams to Austin, Monclova, April 22, 1835. Cotton speculation. Application for bank charter. Thinks no fees will be claimed by State on lands in Austin's first colony. Improvements at mouth of Brazos.

Thomas J. Tone to Gail Borden, jr., April 24, 1835. Land.

Ira R. Lewis to Gail Borden, jr., April 25, 1835. Introducing Mr. Clement, of Mobile.

James Burleson to Gail Borden, jr., April 25, 1835. Land.

William K. Wilson to Samuel M. Williams, April 26, 1835. Desiring land.

Domingo de Ugartechea to Cos, Bexar, April 27, 1835. Governor has asked for 200 militia to sustain the government. Much uneasiness in the colonies. Wants reinforcements.

Joseph Kuykendall to James F. Perry, April 28, 1835. Acknowledging a note and offering to pay in cattle.

Henry Austin to Gail Borden, jr., April 28, 1834. Paying fees on certain land for share of the land.

H. Meigs to Austin, New York, May 2, 1835. Conceals what Austin writes from all except the President and John Forsyth. Will leave no fair means untried to serve you.

William Hardin to Gail Borden, jr., May 4, 1835. Land transfer.

Henry Austin to James F. Perry, May 5, 1835. Efforts of land speculators at Monclova to prevent repeal of sales to them. Will create uneasiness in United States and check immigration.

James F. Perry to Austin, May 5, 1835. General conditions in Texas. Williams's land speculations at Monclova.

Henry Austin to Gail Borden, jr., May 8, 1835. Land on which he pays fees for a share.

Henry Austin to Gail Borden, jr., May 8, 1835. Land for David S. Richardson on which he pays fees and gets a share.

Henry Austin to Gail Borden, jr., May 9, 1835. Land for William Frampton on which he pays fees and gets share.

G. B. Jameson to Gail Borden, jr., May 11, 1835. Land surveys and titles.

William W. Lewis to D. Comfert, Clinton, Miss., May 12, 1835. Agreement concerning land.

Israel McCready to James F. Perry, Potosi, Mo., May 11, 1835. Business and social letter.

Henry Austin to Gail Borden, jr., May 11, 1835. Land for A. J. Worthly on which he pays fees and gets a share.

Thomas J. Gazley to Gail Borden, jr., May 11, 1835. Disputed land claim.

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Austin to Miller and Grayson, Mexico, May 13, 1835. Amnesty law promulgated, but his bail bonds not yet canceled. Santa Anna friendly to Texas.

Fayette Copeland to Gail Borden, jr., May 16, 1835. Concerning a land title.

W. C. White to Gail Borden, jr., May 17, 1835. Introducing P. T. Phillips, who desires land.

Jesse Bartlett to Gail Borden, jr., May 20, 1835. Surveys.

Charles D. Sayre to James F. Perry, May 21, 1835. Appointing Perry executor of his estate and listing property.

Jared E. Groce, jr., to Gail Borden, jr., May 22, 1835. Land.

Thomas J. Gazley to Gail Borden, jr., May 25, 1835. Land.

Ira R. Lewis to Gail Borden, jr., May 30, 1835. Introducing gentlemen from Mississippi who want land.

James Kerr to Gail Borden, jr., June 3, 1835. Subscribing to the Telegraph. Opposition to land speculations at Monclova.

Philip Dimmitt to Samuel M. Williams, June 4, 1835. Land titles.

James F. Caldwell to Gail Borden, jr., June 10, 1835. Land titles.

J. Gordon to Baker and Bordens, June 12, 1835. Concerning employment as a printer.

Henry McDowell to Gail Borden, jr., New Orleans, June 14, 1835. Wants copy for a map of Texas more accurate than any yet out.

J. G. McNeil to James F. Perry [about June 22, 1835]. Land speculators trying to raise a storm. Must be stopped.

Henry Austin to James F. Perry, June 24, 1835. Efforts being made to involve us in immediate revolution.

Bartlett Sims to Gail Borden, jr., June 25, 1835. Land.

Philip Dimmitt to Samuel M. Williams, June 26, 1835. Land titles. Austin has left Mexico.

Judicial decree, June 26, 1835. Declaring that the amnesty law covers Austin's case, and releasing him from bail.

J. B. Miller to public, July 1, 1835. Orders organization of militia and election of three delegates from each municipality to consult with him on August 1.

Edward Gritten to Colonel Ugartechea, Gonzales, July 5, 1835. Gonzales and Mina do not support the radical measures of San Felipe. Sane portion of Texas desires peace.

Benjamin R. Milam to Francis W. Johnson, Punto Lampazos, July 5, 1835. Recounting political disturbances in Monclova.

Edward Gritten to Colonel Ugartechea, Gonzales, July 6, 1835. Colonists much excited by rumors, but sane part of the people do not wish a breach with Mexico. Assure them that the troops are not intended to attack them and they can restore order themselves.

Edward Gritten to Colonel Ugartechea, Gonzales, July 7, 1835. Sending resolutions of Columbia disapproving the attack on Anahuac. Desire for peace.

Edward Gritten to Colonel Ugartechea, Gonzales, July 9, 1835. People peacefully disposed and regaining tranquility, but would not submit to occupation of Texas by more troops than needed to guard customhouse and repel Indians. Would rather do this work themselves.

Thomas M. Blake to Gail Borden, jr., July 10, 1835. Land.

Edward Gritten to Colonel Ugartechea, Gonzales, July 11, 1835. Party left San Felipe to attack Anahuac. All parties seem to be uniting on call of a convention.

Austin's passport, July 11, 1835. To leave Mexico and go to Texas by most convenient route.

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Martin Perfecto de Cos to ayuntamientos of Texas, July 12, 1835. Irresponsible men are stimulating discord in Texas. Purpose of sending troops to Texas.

Daniel Ayers to Gail Borden, jr., July 12, 1835. Land.

H. J. Offutt to Austin, Mexico, July 12, 1835. Giving Austin money for payment on Texas lands.

Austin in account with Washington Hotel, Mexico, July 12, 1835.

Austin to James F. Perry, Mexico, July 13, 1835. Leaving next week by Vera Cruz or Tampico. Tranquility in Mexico.

Edward Gritten to Colonel Ugartechea, San Felipe, July 17, 1835. Great desire for peace, but invasion will be the signal for union of all Texans. Nothing needed to restore tranquility but to refrain from bringing in troops.

John Y. Wallace to Gail Borden, jr., July 18, 1835. Land.

Asa Brigham to J. A. Wharton, et al., July 19, 1835. Strong for Federal form of Government but wants no war with Mexico.

S. Dooley to Gail Borden, jr., July 22, 1835. Land.

Daniel Ayers to Gail Borden, jr., July 22, 1835. Land.

Isham Philips to Gail Borden, jr., July 23, 1835. Land.

Court-martial of Tomás García for desertion, July 20, 1835.

Trustees of Galveston Bay & Texas Land Co. to Santa Anna, New York, July 25, 1835. Petition for extension of contract to settle 1,200 families.

Charles Nesser to Gail Borden, jr., July 27, 1835. Land.

Jefferson George to Gail Borden, jr., July 27, 1835. Land.

Asa Brigham to James F. Perry, July 29, 1835. Instructions as member of Ayuntamiento of Columbia.

W. B. Travis to Ugartechea, July 31, 1835. Apology for attack on Anahuac.

Thomas Jefferson Chambers to Ira R. Lewis, July 31, 1835. Judiciary. Quieting the war party.

Austin to Mrs. Harry Austin Holley, New Orleans, August 1, 1835. Texas must become a slave State and ultimately ought to belong to the United States. Desires a great immigration.

Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cos to Ayuntamiento of Columbia. Matamoros, August 1, 1835. Asks surrender of leading agitators.

James Kerr to Ira R. Lewis, August 3, 1835. Describing action of a meeting at San Felipe and plans for restoration of tranquillity.

Edward Gritten to James F. Perry, Bexar, August 4, 1835. Assuring him of Austin's welfare.

J. H. Money to Gail Borden, jr., August 6, 1835. Land.

Wyly Martin to Ayuntamiento of Columbia, August 10, 1835. Transmitting Colonel Ugartechea's order for arrest of certain colonists and of Zavala.

Minister of Relations to Ayuntamiento of Gonzales, Mexico, August 12, 1835. Acknowledging loyal resolutions and promising attention to needs of Texas.

Daniel Yeamans to Gail Borden, jr., August 15, 1835. Land.

Benjamin F. Smith to James F. Perry, August 15, 1835. Thinks convention necessary for union, but opposed to convention at present.

General Cos to Colonel Ugartechea. Translation dated August 15, 1835. Order for arrest of Zavala.

Meeting at Columbia, August 15, 1835. Call for convention.

Resolutions of Nacogdoches meeting, August 15, 1835. Statement of grievances.

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Austin in account with Hotchkiss & Co., New Orleans, August 19, 1835. Book purchases.

D. C. Barrett to citizens of Mina, Bexar, August 23, 1835. Political advice. Means of reconciliation with Mexico.

John Dix to James F. Perry, August 28, 1835. Payment for a horse.

Horatio Allsbury to the public, August 28, 1835. Mexican designs against Texas.

Colonel Ugartechea to Alcalde of Columbia, Bexar, August 29, 1835. Urging him to prevent trade in arms and ammunition with Indians.

H. Meigs to Austin, New York, September 1, 1835. Congratulating him on release. Public opinion in United States insists on Austin's safety.

John Rice Jones, jr., to ———, September 1, 1835. Political gossip and resolutions adopted by a meeting at San Felipe on August 26.

J. Antonio Padilla to Barrett and Gritten, Bexar, September 2, 1835. Suggestions for procedure of Texans, in case of military occupation of Texas.

Colonel Ugartechea to political chief of Department of Brazos, Bexar, September 3, 1835. Instructing him to suspend land grants.

John R. Jones, jr., to M. A. Bryan, September 3, 1835. Borrowing a Spanish book.

Benjamin F. Smith et al., to Austin, September 4, 1835. Inviting Austin to a dinner commemorating his return.

Wyly Martin et al. to Austin, September 5, 1835. Arranging escort of honor to accompany him into San Felipe. Note by Gail Borden on joy of the people at Austin's return.

F. W. Johnson to Austin, September 5, 1835. Considers Austin's return opportune. Unity necessary for safety of Texas and Austin alone can effect it. Invites him to meeting at San Felipe September 12. Note by Gail Borden, jr.

Inhabitants of Lavaca and Navidad to Austin, September 8, 1835. Welcome on return from Mexico.

Austin to people of Texas, September 8, 1835. Reporting conditions in Mexico; Santa Anna's determination to abolish the Federal system; and necessity of convention in Texas to enable Texans to determine on their attitude toward the change.

Bartlett Sims to F. W. Johnson, September 9, 1835. Land.

Austin to James F. Perry, September 11, 1835. Asking for supplies to furnish bachelor quarters.

Governor to political chief of Department of the Brazos, Saltillo, September 12, 1835. Notifying him of extension of the colonization contracts of Bernardo Gonzales and Vicente Filisoa.

San Felipe meeting, September 12, 1835. Resolutions on state of the country, indorsing consultation, and appointing committee of safety.

Austin to James F. Perry, September 14, 1835. Elated over prospect for union and harmony. Reasons for consultation.

Thomas G. Western to Austin, September 16, 1835. Congratulating him on return.

D. C. Barrett to Austin, September 17, 1835. Opinion concerning Robertson's colony.

J. W. Fannin, jr., to David Mills, September 18, 1835. Plan to attack Mexican vessel.

Austin to P. W. Grayson, September 19, 1835. War inevitable. The crisis developed much earlier than he expected.

Austin to Columbia committee, September 19, 1835. Reconciliation hopeless. Advises preparation for resistance.

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Austin to W. D. C. Hall, September 19, 1835. War inevitable. Suggests raising a volunteer company.

Austin to Columbia committee, September 21, 1835. Informing it of measures for war.

Austin to the people, September 21, 1835. Instructions for organization and movement.

Martin Allen to James F. Allen, September 22, 1835. Suggesting a land settlement. Austin narrowly escaped death by accident.

Asa Brigham to James F. Perry, September 22, 1835. Calling meeting of ayuntamiento.

D. T. Fitchett to James F. Perry, September 22, 1835. Movement of Mexican troops.

W. B. Travis to Austin, September 22, 1835. Wishes him to settle uncertainty about meeting place of convention. Destiny of Texas in Austin's hands.

Committee of San Augustine to committee of San Felipe, September 22, 1835. Favor convention at Washington, with seven uninstructed delegates. Advise negotiations for peace with Indians.

Eli Mercer to Austin, September 23, 1835. The people believe that Austin can manage their affairs better than they could for themselves.

William P. Harris and John W. Moore to Austin, September 23, 1835. Organizing for resistance.

Zacharie & Co., to Austin, New Orleans, September 23, 1835. Asking Austin to help collect for W. S. Parrott from Dr. James Grant.

James Whiteside to S. H. Jack, September 25, 1835. Concerning a draft on Austin.

Gonzales committee of safety to ———, September 25, 1835. Asking assistance in holding a cannon which Colonel Ugartechea demands.

Resolutions of committee of Matagorda, September 26, 1835. Indorsing address of the San Felipe committee of September 19.

Austin to Thomas F. McKinney, September 26, 1835. Reasons for favoring war. Urges union and harmony.

L. F. Linn to W. C. Carr, St. Louis, September 28, 1835. Testimonial to Austin's character.

Austin to the people of Texas, September 29, 1835. Indorsing refusal of Gonzales to surrender cannon.

H. Meigs to Austin, New York, September 29, 1835. United States looking to your cause with great interest.

T. S. Saul to Captain Hoxie, September 29, 1835. People moving from Gonzales in expectation of war.

Austin to James F. Perry, September 30, 1835. Must maintain his bachelor establishment. "The formation of a government (perhaps of a nation) is to be sketched out." Order for supplies.

Matagorda committee to Austin, September 30, 1835. Approve Austin's advice. Movements of a Mexican vessel trying to land munitions.

Matagorda Committee Resolutions, September 30, 1835. Approving certain plans and recommending precautions against a slave insurrection.

Jesse Bartlett to Gail Borden, jr., September 30, 1835. Surveying.

Edward Gritten to Ira R. Lewis, Bexar, October 1, 1835. Concerning demand for cannon at Gonzales. Colonists must be united to win.

J. B. Chance to Austin, October 1, 1835. Receipt.

Austin to A. J. Harris, October 1, 1835. Forwarding certain copies calling for formation of a central executive committee.

William S. Fisher to Austin, October 3, 1835. Military movements at Gonzales.

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Austin to the people, October 3, 1835. Showing that war in defense of constitutional rights is inevitable.

Austin to James Kerr and John Alley, San Felipe, October 3, 1835. Volunteers concentrating at Gonzales. Some still refuse to believe that Cos is in Texas. Plans for campaign.

Colonel Ugartechea to Austin, Bexar, October 4, 1835. Urging him to use his influence to quiet the colonists and induce them to surrender the cannon at Gonzales.

Edward Gritten to Alcalde of Gonzales, Bexar, October 4, 1835. Introducing a courier with letters to Austin from Colonel Ugartechea.

Thomas F. McKinney to James F. Perry, October 4, 1835. Efforts to safeguard elections to consultation.

Austin to committees of Nacogdoches and San Augustine, October 4, 1835. Suggesting that muskets and volunteers be obtained in the United States. Object to drive Mexicans from Texas.

Austin to committee of Harrisburgh, October 4, 1835. A combined effort would free Texas of military despots, and the government would be unable to send other forces to Texas.

Austin recommends establishment of post-office department, October 4, 1835.

Election returns, Brazoria, October 5, 1835. Delegates to consultation.

P. W. Grayson, et al., to Austin, Gonzales, October 6, 1835. Urging him to join the army.

Austin to David G. Burnet, San Felipe, October 5, 1835. Urging unity. Beginning of movement for independence, but can not announce it.

Josiah H. Bell to Austin, October 6, 1835. Fears invasion by sea, in which case coast would be defenseless and exposed to slave insurrection.

Thomas J. Pilgrim to Austin, October 6, 1835. Fears invasion by sea and slave insurrection.

Drs. William P. Smith, Thomas P. Gazley, et al., to J. H. Moore, October 7, 1835. Offering medical service to army.

Urgartechea to Alcalde of Gonzales, Bexar, October 8, 1835. Assuring him that troops have no hostile intention. Cos arrived yesterday.

José Antonio Mexia to Austin, New Orleans, October 8, 1835. Introducing Father Alpuche, who goes to Texas "to breathe the soft air of liberty."

J. Antonio Padilla to Austin, October 8, 1835. Joins Texas forces. Can not live under military yoke.

G. M. Collinsworth to Austin, October 8, 1835. Attacking Goliad.

Gail Borden, jr., to Austin, October 8, 1835. Notifying him of election to the consultation.

Permanent council to people of Texas, October 8, 1835. Describing the crisis.

Austin to permanent council, October 8, 1835. Instructions for collecting cannon and powder and lead.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 9, 1835. Efforts of the permanent council to fill his orders.

A. W. Radcliff to Lorenzo de Zavala, October 10, 1835. Offering to discharge any commissions in New York.

Gail Borden, jr., to Thomas F. McKinney, October 10, 1835. Transmitting Austin's order for munitions.

Austin to members of consultation, October 10, 1835. Transmitting resolutions of the army asking that meeting of the consultation be delayed until November 1.

James Kerr to council of war at Gonzales, October 10, 1835. Reporting capture of Goliad. Other movements.

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Gail Borden, jr., to Austin, October 10, 1835. Efforts to fill his orders. Difficulty of publishing Telegraph and Texas Register because printers want to join the army.

George Antonio Nixon to Austin, Nacogdoches, October 10, 1835. East Texas uniting to join you. Money sent to United States for arms and munitions. Efforts to win support of Mexican residents.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 10, 1835. Efforts to fill orders for cannon and munitions.

Bartlett Sims to Dr. Robert Peebles, October 10, 1835. Land.

P. W. Grayson to Austin, October 11, 1835. Notifying him of his election to command the "volunteer army of Texas."

Austin to San Felipe committee, October 11, 1835. Movement of army. Asking for reinforcements.

John J. Linn to P. W. Grayson, October 11, 1835. Suggesting parole for Mexican prisoners.

McKinney & Williams to Gray, October 11, 1835. Announcing arrival of vessels with cannon and munitions.

James Kerr to ———, October 11, 1835. Capture of Goliad.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, October 12, 1835. Importance of occupying Goliad.

Eli Mercer to Austin, October 12, 1835. Advises fighting from "the bush." Avoid open fighting.

Election report, October 12, 1835. B. J. White chosen to represent Goliad in council of war at Gonzales.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, October 13, 1835. Glad Austin is elected commander.

William H. Jack to Austin, October 13, 1835. Glad of Austin's election to command. Opposes risking battle with odds against us.

Father José María Alpuche to Austin, October 13, 1835. Offers services. Has news from Mexico too important to write.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 13, 1835. Munitions on the road traveling 15 miles a day.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 13, 1835. Report of supplies and munitions.

Benjamin F. Smith to Austin, October 13, 1835. Military condition of Goliad.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 13, 1835. Notifying him that Nacogdoches has elected Sam Houston to command forces of east Texas.

Benjamin Fort Smith to Austin, October 14, 1835. Great difficulty in getting men to stay and hold Goliad. Militia cannot be depended on to do garrison duty. Only their honor restrains them, and that in many cases "but a cobweb."

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 14, 1835. Stores and munitions on the way. Important to maintain permanent council.

R. R. Royall to public, October 15, 1835. Passport for Deaf Smith, a scout.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, Goliad, October 15, 1835. Announcing his succession to command of the post. Suggesting capture of Lipantitlan. Sending certain Mexican volunteers to Austin.

A. R. McNair to James F. Perry, New Orleans, October 15, 1835. Introducing a volunteer. Would join himself, but is disabled by yellow fever.

C. B. Stewart to Austin, October 15, 1835. Recommending Deaf Smith, who thinks he can induce Mexican cavalry at San Antonio to desert.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 16, 1835. Members elected to consultation are hard to hold. Want to return home. Advises meeting as soon as possible. Indian policy.

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R. R. Royall to Austin, October 16, 1835. Necessity of arresting John A. Williams with company of 58 to aid the enemy. Lacks authority.

John J. Linn to Austin, October 17, 1835. General attitude of the western coast country.

B. J. White to Austin, October 17, 1835. Confusion at Goliad. Slave rising on the Brazos. Indians.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 17, 1835. Acknowledging arrival of three officers captured at Goliad.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 18, 1835. Activities of the permanent council. Rangers. Negotiation with Indians. Supplies and reinforcements.

Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cos to Austin, Bexar, October 18, 1835. Declining to receive a commissioner under a white flag. Insists that Texan forces must disband and communicate with him in form of petition.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 19, 1835. Concerning arrest of Williams, a Tory. Consultation.

Peter J. Menard to R. R. Royall, October 19, 1835. Advising arrest of John A. Williams and John M. Smith, Tories.

J. W. Collins to Austin, New Orleans, October 20, 1835. Introducing Robert C. Morris, a trained soldier.

J. A. Nixon to Austin, Nacogdoches, October 20, 1835. Movement of volunteers. Supplies. Mexicans don't understand "the business."

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, October 20, 1835. Information obtained from a deserter from Bexar. Conditions in interior of Mexico.

George Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, October 20, 1835. Mexican liberals looking to Texas to save federal system. He and Mexia trying to fit out an expedition against Tampico or Matamoros.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 20, 1835. Transmitting letter from Nacogdoches showing efforts to forward supplies and men.

L. R. Kenny to Austin, New Orleans, October 20, 1835. Urging firmness and union and offering services.

James Ramage to Austin, New Orleans, October 21, 1835. Great activity in behalf of Texas. Important to declare for constitution of 1824.

J. M. Guerra to General Cos, Matamoros, October 21, 1835. Notifying him of military supplies.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 21, 1835. Pressing problem of finding revenue to meet demands made on permanent council. Zavala advises tariff.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, Goliad, October 21, 1835. Sending information derived from a Mexican from Bexar.

Thomas F. McKinney to James F. Perry, October 22, 1835. Returning a boy.

Bowie and Fannin to Austin, October 22, 1835. Reporting situation of Bexar.

Austin to the army, October 23, 1835. Address.

Bowie and Fannin to Austin, October 23, 1835. Reporting a reconnaissance of the missions below Bexar.

Bowie and Fannin to Austin, October 24, 1835. Reporting a skirmish, asking for supplies, and suggesting a plan of operations.

Bowie and Fannin to Austin, October 24, 1835. Anticipating attack, ask reinforcement.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, Goliad, October 25, 1835. Answering Austin's orders for supplies. Local conditions.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 25, 1835. Work of the permanent council.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 25, 1835. Efforts to forward large cannon.

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Austin to permanent council, Camp Salado, October 25, 1835. Memorandum of procedure for the consultation.

McKinney and Williams to Royall and Borden, October 26, 1835. Recommending use of privateers.

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, October 26, 1835. Opposition of army to return of members of consultation.

Austin to permanent council, Camp Salado, October 26, 1835. Plans for campaign, and need of reinforcements.

Edward Andrews to R. R. Royall, October 27, 1835. Supplies.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, October 27, 1835. Karankawa Indians stopped from destruction of cattle. Has made a flag, which he describes.

James F. Perry to Austin, October 27, 1835. Cheering news from the United States.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 27, 1835. Assistance from United States. Activities of the permanent council.

Austin to the consultation, October 28, 1835. Reporting Battle of Concepcion.

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, October 28, 1835. Describing the Battle of Concepcion.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 28, 1835. Circumstances have compelled the permanent council to assume large responsibility. Asks indorsement from members of the consultation in the army.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 28, 1835. Encouraged by reports from the front.

Resolution of permanent council, October 28, 1835. Reporting obstructionists to the commander in cheif.

List of stores sent to army, Goliad, October 28, 1835.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, October 28, 1835. Additional stores.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Austin, October 29, 1835. Sending a letter from Gomez Farias.

R. R. Royall to Austin, October 29, 1835. Encouraging news from the United States.

Silas Dinsmore to Perry and McNeil, October 30, 1835. The *Lavaca* suitable for landing supplies.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, Goliad, October 30, 1835. Lack of discipline. Volunteers anxious to go to Bexar and some refuse to remain at Goliad. Military movements. Supplies.

R. R. Royall to volunteers at Bexar, October 31, 1835. Urging them to remain in the field and promising stores and munitions.

George Huff to Austin, October 31, 1835. Wants escort for artillery.

Austin to Bowie and Fannin, Bexar, October 31, 1835. Instructions and discussion. Plans for desertion of Mexican troops.

Bowie and Fannin to Austin, November 1, 1835. Report of a reconnaissance.

Austin to Bowie and Fannin, Bexar, November 1, 1835. Military plans.

Gail Borden, jr., to Austin, November 1, 1835. Consultation taking steps to raise money. Expense of publishing the Telegraph. Encouraging news from United States.

Minutes of council of war, November 2, 1835. Voting not to storm Bexar.

Austin to Bowie and Fannin, Bexar, November 2, 1835. Giving result of a council of war and suggesting plan of investment.

James W. Fannin to Austin, Bexar, November 2, 1835. Reporting result of a council of war.

Austin to Bowie and Fannin, Bexar, November 2, 1835. Ordering them to join his division.

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John Fisher to Austin, Gonzales, November 3, 1835. Reporting excesses of volunteers from east Texas.

Austin to president of consultation, Bexar, November 3, 1835. Urging dispatch of supplies, organization of regular army, and appointment of a commander of high standing and recognized military ability.

Austin to president of consultation, November 4, 1835. Repeating request for reinforcements. Success of present force great in face of handicaps. Need discipline and experienced commander.

L. Smither to Austin, Gonzales, November 4, 1835. Injuries and mistreatment suffered from volunteers from the East.

L. Smither to Austin, Gonzales, November 4, 1835. Same subject.

Gail Borden, jr., to Austin, November 5, 1835. Procedure of consultation. Suspending land business. Newspaper.

Austin to president of consultation, Bexar, November 5, 1835. Advises letters of marque, organization of regular army, expedition from New Orleans against Matamoros. Send no more whisky to camp.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, November 6, 1835. Preparations to receive volunteers from New Orleans.

W. B. Travis to Austin, November 6, 1835. Resignation as captain of cavalry.

F. W. Johnson et al., November 6, 1835. Protest against allowing Mexicans to gather corn.

Austin to captains of companies, November 7, 1835. Order to elect a major.

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, November 7, 1835. Desertion has nearly stopped. Austin has had trouble with aspiring men.

John P. Austin to Austin, New York, November 8, 1835. General interest throughout the United States and disposition to aid Texas. Meeting in New York. Land interest.

William H. Wharton to Austin, November 8, 1835. Resignation as judge advocate general.

Austin to president of consultation, Bexar, November 8, 1835. Army will remain at Bexar. Austin hopes for appointment of competent commander.

Austin to president of consultation, Bexar, November 8, 1835. Urging organization of civil government and establishment of army.

Proclamation of Austin, November 10, 1835. Announcing close investment of Bexar.

Gov. Agustin Viesca to Austin, Goliad, November 11, 1835. Escaped prison in Mexico. Texas alone defending Federal constitution of 1824. Wants to cooperate and disprove charge that Texas is fighting for independence.

John J. Linn to Austin, Goliad, November 11, 1835. Advises removal of Dimmitt from command because not tactful with Mexicans. Reception of governor cool.

Philip Dimmitt to citizens of Goliad, November 12, 1835. Putting town under martial law.

Edward Burleson to Austin, November 12, 1835. Report on execution of orders.

Thomas G. Western to Austin, November 13, 1835. Tyranny of Dimmitt at Goliad.

Roberto Galan to Austin, Goliad, November 13, 1835. Dimmitt's mistreatment of civil inhabitants.

Philip Dimmitt to Austin, Goliad, November 13, 1835. His refusal to receive the governor officially produced insubordination. General conditions.

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Philip Dimmitt to Austin, November 14, 1835. Liberals in the interior cool toward Texas. Advises march on Matamoros.

Austin to J. W. Fannin, jr., Bexar, November 14, 1835. Instructions.

Henry Meigs to Austin, New York, November 15, 1835. Government of the United States can not yet interfere in your behalf, but public opinion strong for Texas.

Henry Meigs to Austin, New York, November 15, 1835. Sent your letter concerning Indians to Washington.

Ira Ingram to Austin, Goliad, November 15, 1835. Asking to be transferred to another post.

Austin to Antonio de la Garza, November 16, 1835. Refusing to let civilians take corn and beans into Bexar.

Austin to Philip Dimmitt, November 18, 1835. Removing him from command at Goliad for failure in respect to Governor Viesca.

Address to inhabitants of Bexar [about November 18], 1835. Explaining object of the Texans. Supporting Federal system.

W. D. C. Hall to Austin, November 18, 1835. Resigning as adjutant and inspector general.

Austin to Col. José María Gonzales, November 18, 1835. Regretting Dimmitt's attitude at Goliad. Inviting assistance.

Austin to ———, November 18, 1835. Supporting Federal system. Regrets Dimmitt's coolness at Goliad. Need of local government.

Austin to Governor Agustin Viesca, November 18, 1835. Welcome. Texas needs local government.

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, Bexar, November 18, 1835. Military situation. Austin tired of commanding militia.

John J. Schuler et al. to Austin, Carlisle, Pa., November 19, 1835. Company of 50 to 70 would go to Texas if expenses could be paid.

Robert Collins to Austin, Macon, Ga., November 20, 1835. Meeting of Texan sympathizers. Subscriptions and volunteers.

Robert Westcott to James F. Perry, Philadelphia, November 21, 1835. Introducing Stephen Decatur Hurst, of military training.

Austin to James F. Perry, November 22, 1835. Estimate of the army before Bexar. Plans for future.

H. Meigs to Austin, New York, November 22, 1835. Reply of Forsyth to Austin's letter concerning Indians.

William Hall to Austin, November 23, 1835. Supplies for the army.

William H. Wharton to Branch T. Archer, November 26, 1835. Declining mission to United States because he believes nothing short of a declaration of independence by the Texans will get aid from the United States.

Henry Meigs to Austin, New York, November 27, 1835. Public opinion doing much for Texas. Subscription to Telegraph and Texas Register.

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, November 30, 1835. Austin resigned command of the army. Conditions at Bexar.

Austin to provisional government December 2, 1835. Stating Mexican designs on Texas and recommending a new convention to decide unambiguously on adhesion to liberal party or upon independence.

D. C. Barrett to Austin, December 3, 1835. Asking Austin's opinion concerning the calling of another convention.

Austin to D. C. Barrett, December 3, 1835. Strong statement of reasons for calling a new convention.

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Austin to James F. Perry, December 4, 1835. Preparation to go to New Orleans.

B. R. Milam and Edward Burleson to provisional government, December 6, 1835. Announcing beginning of assault on Bexar.

James P. Caldwell to Austin, December 8, 1835. Austin erred in appointment of staff. Army insubordinate.

Governor Smith to Austin et al., December 9, 1835. Instructions.

Wyatt Hanks to Austin, December 9, 1835. Asks advice about creation of corps of cavalry.

Austin to the Mexican Liberals, December 11, 1835. Explaining objects of the Texans.

Provisional government to Austin, December 11, 1835. Expressing appreciation of his services.

Austin to provisional government, December 11, 1835. Thanking it for resolutions and advising organization of State government under Mexican Federal constitution of 1824.

M. A. Bryan to James F. Perry, December 12, 1835. Fears Austin can not stand the cold in the North.

Austin to provisional government, Columbia, December 14, 1835. Plans for cooperation with Mexican Liberals. Important to abide by declaration of November 7 and make no move toward independence.

Austin to Thomas F. McKinney, December 16, 1835. Popular attitude toward Mexican Liberals too intolerant.

Henry Austin to Austin, December 15, 1835. Asking Austin to help him raise money in the United States.

H. J. Offutt to Austin, Mexico, December 15, 1835. Instructions concerning surveying in Texas.

Henry Smith to Austin et al., December 17, 1835. Instructions to buy no outfit for Mexicans.

Thomas F. McKinney to Austin, December 17, 1835. Expressing violent opposition to independence.

G. W. Lovelace to Austin, December 18, 1835. Asking payment of a note.

Henry Smith to Austin et al., December 20, 1835. Introducing Charles E. Hawkins for position in the navy.

Asa Brigham to James F. Perry, December 20, 1835. Notifying him of election to the Ayuntamiento of Columbia.

John W. Dorsey to Austin, Liberty, Md., December 22, 1835. Asking pay of surgeon in Texas army.

Austin to F. W. Johnson et al., December 22, 1835. Urging strict adherence to the Mexican Federal union. Independence would entail maintenance of standing army.

Austin to provisional government, Velasco, December 22, 1835. Urging organization of government in conformity with declaration of November 7. Importance of keeping confidence of Mexican Liberals.

Anson Jones to James F. Perry, December 24, 1835. Accepting a patient.

Austin to James F. Perry, December 25, 1835. Business instructions. Has confidence in S. M. Williams.

Austin to R. R. Royall, December 25, 1835. Bitterly opposing methods used by Wharton and others to promote independence.

M. A. Bryan to J. F. Perry, December 30, 1835. Making certified copies of Austin's land titles.

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1836

Austin to Gen. Sam Houston, New Orleans, January 7, 1836. Advising and giving reasons for declaration of independence.

Austin to R. R. Royall and S. Rhoads Fisher, New Orleans, January 7, 1835. Advising declaration of independence.

Austin to Henry Austin, New Orleans, January 7, 1836. Favoring declaration of independence and explaining apparent inconsistency.

A. Huston to Austin, Archer, and Wharton, New Orleans, January 10, 1836. Request for military stores.

Austin, Archer, and Wharton to Henry Smith, New Orleans, January 10, 1836. Announcing loan to Texas secured by public land and advising early declaration of independence.

Austin, Archer, and Wharton to Smith, New Orleans, January 10, 1836. Reporting the appointment of commander for schooner *Liberty*.

George R. Robertson to United States Legation at Mexico, Tampico, January 14, 1836. Concerning trial and execution of captured men.

A. J. Yates to Austin, Archer, and Wharton, New Orleans, January 14, 1836. Asking authority to purchase a steamboat for Texas.

Austin and Wharton to Smith, New Orleans, January 14, 1836. Copy of instructions to William Bryan, general agent for Texas.

Austin, Archer, and Wharton to Edward Hall, New Orleans, January 14, 1836. Appointing him purchasing agent for Texas.

Austin to Thomas F. McKinney, New Orleans, January 16, 1836. Advises declaration of independence.

Austin to D. C. Barrett, New Orleans, January 17, 1836. Advising declaration of independence and giving reasons.

Austin to Gail Borden, jr., New Orleans, January 18, 1836. Opinion in United States insists on independence. Drawing for a flag.

Austin to James F. Perry, New Orleans, January 18, 1836. Necessary to declare independence. Loans effected.

William W. Lea to William H. Wharton, Eaton, Tenn., January 18, 1836. Proposals to raise corps of volunteers.

J. E. Savage to Austin, Archer, and Wharton, New Orleans, January 18, 1836. Proposal to bring emigrants from England to support Texan struggle in return for land.

Austin and Archer to T. D. Owings, New Orleans, January 18, 1836. Accepting offer of a regiment of volunteers, and explaining objects of the Texans.

Austin and Archer to Smith, New Orleans, January 20, 1836. Report of work of the commission. Urging declaration of independence.

Austin to Thomas F. McKinney. New Orleans. January 21, 1836. Loans effected. Urges independence and harmony at home.

W. Richardson to Austin, New Orleans, January 21, 1836. Order for medical supplies.

Financial statement of Austin, Archer, and Wharton. January 21, 1836.

Austin and Archer to William Bryan, New Orleans, January 21, 1836. Authorizing him to honor draft of A. J. Yates for $5,000.

Austin, Archer, and Wharton to A. J. Yates, New Orleans, January 22, 1836. Authority to negotiate loan in New York or Boston.

A. C. Allen to William Bryan, New Orleans, January 22, 1836. Contract of sale of Schooner *Brutus*.

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Bank of Orleans to Austin, Archer, and Wharton, January 22, 1836. Concerning deposits.

Austin to J. M. Wolfe, New Orleans, January 22, 1836. Appointing him to negotiate loans for Texas.

Austin and Archer to Gov. Henry Smith, January 24, 1836. Authorize Colonel Owings to draw in payment of supplies for volunteers.

Austin and Archer to William Bryan, New Orleans, January 24, 1836. Ordering him to furnish supplies to Colonel Owings.

Henry L. Webb to Austin, Archer, and Wharton, Caledonia, Ill. February 1, 1836. Will raise two companies of volunteers.

S. Rhoads Fisher to Gail Borden, jr., February 9, 1836. Recommending D. D. Baker for commission of major.

Austin to T. D. Owings, Nashville, February 12, 1836. Explaining bounty offer to volunteers. Attitude of Tennessee toward Texas.

R. C. Hancock to Austin, Archer, and Wharton, February 13, 1836. Introducing "emigrants."

Austin to Henry Austin, Nashville, February 14, 1836. Great enthusiasm for independence of Texas.

H. J. Offutt to Austin, Mexico, February 15, 1836. Movements of Mexicans against Texas.

Thomas F. McKinney to Austin, New Orleans, February 22, 1836. Can not follow Austin in support of independence. Has lost all confidence in him.

A. Hotchkiss to Thomas H. Avery, March 2, 1836. Introducing Lewis and Chambers who go to the United States in interest of Texas.

Austin to James F. Perry, Louisville, March 4, 1836. Harmony of the commissioners. Popular opinion friendly in United States.

Henry Austin to James F. Perry, March 5, 1836. Advising Perry to send his family to New Orleans. Fear of negroes and Indians. Military plans.

Austin, Archer, and Wharton to William Bryan, Washington, March 31, 1836. Plans for raising funds.

Austin to J. M. Wolfe, Washington, March 31, 1836. Instructions for raising sympathy for Texas.

Henry Austin to Asa Brigham and J. S. D. Byrom [New Orleans], March 31, 1836. Neglect of its financial agents by the government. Naval policy.

A. J. Yates to Austin, Archer, and Wharton, Washington, April 1, 1836. Reporting purchase of steamboat.

Austin, Archer, and Wharton to Stewart Sewell [about April 1, 1836]. Appointing him Texan agent for Philadelphia.

Austin, Archer, and Wharton, Washington, April 5, 1836. Agreement authorizing each other to negotiate loans separately.

William H. Wharton to Austin, Washington, April 6, 1836. Party at Mr. Calhoun's.

Archer, Austin, and Wharton to Texan government, Washington, April 6, 1836. Complaining of lack of official information and authority.

William H. Wharton to Austin, Washington, April 7, 1836. Reporting news from Texas.

James F. Perry to Austin, April 8, 1836. Fleeing before Mexican army.

Austin to Nicholas Biddle, Philadelphia, April 9, 1836. Proposal for loan on Texan bonds.

Draft of letter to Nicholas Biddle, Philadelphia, April 9, 1836. Concerning Texan loan.

Austin and Wharton to American Hotel, New York, April 11, 1836. Bill.

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Robert T. Conrad to Austin, Philadelphia, April 12, 1836. Sympathy for Texas.

R. M. Johnson to Austin, Washington, April 14, 1836. Does not know where to get money for Texas.

Austin to Andrew Jackson, et al, New York, April 15, 1836. Asking for a loan for Texas from surplus revenue of the United States.

Henry F. Evans to Austin, Snow Hill, Md., April 17, 1836. Offering military service.

W. P. Smith et al to Austin, Philadelphia, April 20, 1836. Inviting him to meet with Texas committee of the city.

Proceedings of meeting at Lexington, Ky., April 20, 1836.

Proposals for a loan to Texas, New York, April 20, 1836.

Mary Austin Holley to Austin, April 21, 1836. Describing Texas meeting at Lexington, Ky.

Henry Goold Shannon to Gen. Vital Fernandez, Matamoros, April 22, 1836. Reporting movements from United States to Texas.

M. R. Wiggington to Colonel Lewis, Louisville, April 22, 1836. Volunteers for Texas.

Austin, Archer, and Wharton to A. J. Yates, New York, April 23, 1836. Suspending purchase of steamboat.

A. J. Yates to Austin, Archer, and Wharton, N. Y., April 23, 1836. Statement of expenses.

Austin to William Bryan, New York, April 24, 1836. Complaining of utter neglect of Texan government to communicate with commissioners.

William Bryan to Andrew Mitchell, New Orleans, April 27, 1836. Receipt for brass cannon.

Subscriptions to a Texan loan, New York, April —, 1836.

John Leadbetter to Austin, Archer, and Wharton, Philadelphia, May 2, 1836. Sending a contribution for Texas.

City Hotel to Austin, New York, May 3, 1836. Bill.

Zacharie & Co. to Austin, New Orleans, May 5, 1836. Selling 11 leagues of land in Texas for Father Muldoon.

John Martin Duffield to Austin, Wheeling, May 5, 1836. Information from Texas.

Lucas Van Buskirk to Austin, Seneca Falls, May 5, 1836. Asking how a company of "emigrants" can reach Texas from New York.

E. B. Birdsall to Austin, Fort Wood, N. Y., May 9, 1836. Send Austin proceedings of a pro-Texas meeting at Seneca Falls.

Austin and Wharton to A. J. Yates, New York, May 9, 1836. Appointing him to accept donations and to enlist "emigrants" for Texas.

A. J. Yates to Austin, Albany, May 10, 1836. Wanting certain documents.

A. J. Yates to Austin, Schenectady, May 14, 1836. Good meeting at Albany, but strong counter current due to Van Buren politics. Could send 2,000 "emigrants" to Texas on certain conditions.

Austin and Wharton to James Treat, Washington, May 16, 1836. Reporting capture of Santa Anna. Stop negotiation for loan.

J. L. Joseph to Austin, New York, May 18, 1836. Easy to get loan in New York.

William Austin to Austin, Lowell, Mass.. May 18. 1836. Suggests diversion on west coast of Mexico. Asks terms for well-manned privateer. People of New England will support Texas when they understand that it is struggling for republican government and religious toleration.

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[Samuel Swartwout?] to Austin, Archer, and Wharton, New York [about May 30, 1836]. Offering muskets.

Association for relief of Texan sufferers, New York, May 24, 1836. Donations

Austin, Archer, and Wharton to subscribers to a loan in New York, May 24, 1836. Receipt for $10,000.

Austin, Archer, and Wharton, May 24, 1836. Statement of funds received in New York.

William H. Wharton to Austin, Washington, May 28, 1836. Shocked to hear that Houston opposes annexation. Anxious to get home and talk to him before opinions become fixed. Present Senate favorable to annexation and so is Jackson.

William H. Jack to Austin, May 29, 1836. Recalling him from the United States.

James Hamilton to Austin, Charleston, May 31, 1836. Introducing Bernard E. Bee.

Mary Austin Holley to Austin, Lexington, June 1, 1836. Invites Austin to come and [encourage?] "emigrants." His flag painted on silk; 400 or 500 men ready to go to Texas.

John M. McCalla to Austin, Lexington, June 1, 1836. Introducing Major Grooms.

Joseph Ficklin to Austin, Lexington, June 2, 1836. Commending Major Grooms.

William H. Wharton to Austin, Washington, June 2, 1836. Account of a visit to Jackson.

A. J. Yates to Austin, Schenectady, June 3, 1836. Failure to hold meeting at Troy. War stores.

Joseph Ficklin to Austin, Lexington, June 4, 1836. Introducing two "emigrants."

Edwin Bryant to Austin, Lexington, June 5, 1836. Executive committee has fitted out Colonel Wilson's force.

Thomas Jefferson Chambers to Ira R. Lewis, Nashville, June 10, 1836. Concerning a negotiation.

Austin to David G. Burnet, New Orleans, June 10, 1836. Believes the United States will recognize Texas if officially informed of conditions.

A. de O. Santangelo to Austin, New Orleans, June 11, 1836. Receipt for subscription to Correo Atlantico.

R. Salmon to Austin, New Orleans, June 16, 1836. Reciting his work for two years past in furthering interest of western New York in Texas. Many settlers wish to emigrate and want land.

J. Delaup to Austin, New Orleans, June 16, 1836. Receipt for subscription to the Bee.

J. W. Collins to Austin, June 17, 1836. Bill.

List of supplies for Austin, New Orleans, June 18, 1836.

James Maga & Co., to Austin, New Orleans, June 18, 1836. Bill.

William Bryan to Austin, New Orleans, June 20, 1836. Texan finances.

Robert Peebles to Austin, New Orleans, June 23, 1836. Mexican news.

——— to Memucan Hunt, New Orleans, June 23, 1836. Urging him to hasten enlistments for Texas.

R. Semple to Austin, Williamsburg, June 26, 1836. Concerning a company of "emigrants."

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Austin to Henry Austin, June 27, 1836. Wants all who bear his name to remain in Texas pending the final struggle with Mexico. Requests copy of treaty with Santa Anna after San Jacinto.

James Hamilton to Austin, Charleston, June 28, 1836. Great interest of the South in cause of Texas. Will urge recognition on Forsyth and Van Buren.

William Bryan to Austin, New Orleans, June 28, 1836. Distress caused him by President Burnet's appointment of Toby and brother to represent Texas.

Joshua Nelson to J. W. E. Wallace, July 2, 1836. Enlisting for three months in Texan army.

Austin to David G. Burnet, July 2, 1836. Plans of Santa Anna to secure mediation of President Jackson. Advises discreet treatment of the army to avoid friction with Houston.

——— to ———, Lexington, July 3, 1836. Congress will act favorably on Texas next session. Advice to keep Santa Anna a prisoner.

William S. Archer to Austin, Elk Hill, Va., July 4, 1836. Replying to invitation to emigrate to Texas.

David G. Burnet to Austin, Velasco, July 4, 1836. Inviting Austin to conference.

Austin to President Jackson, Columbia, July 4, 1836. Suggesting that Jackson give Texas guaranty that Santa Anna will strive for recognition of Texas by Mexico if released. Santa Anna anxious to do so, but only Jackson's guaranty will induce Texans to release him.

Austin to General Gaines, July 4, 1836. Urging Gaines to occupy Nacogdoches to quiet the Indians and to guarantee fulfillment of the treaty of Velasco by Santa Anna.

Santa Anna to Austin, July 5, 1836. Sending a duplicate of his letter to President Jackson.

John T. Mason to Austin, New Orleans, July 5, 1836. Resenting report that he is author of Edward's History of Texas.

George Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, July 7, 1836. People opposed to release of Santa Anna. The Correo Atlantico.

S. B. Dickinson to Austin, Fayette, Miss., July 8, 1836. Advising how to obtain military and political aid for Texas.

Austin to M. B. Lamar, July 8, 1836. Discussing the problem of Santa Anna's release.

Samuel Swartwout to Austin, New York, July 9, 1836. Hopes Austin will prevent release of Santa Anna. Credit of Texas low, and loan can only be made on basis of land.

Austin's memorandum, July 10, 1836. Concerning letters to Jackson and Gaines and advice to Burnet.

John A. Wharton to Austin, July 10, 1836. Asking for an appointment to see him.

William Bryan to Austin, Archer, and Wharton, New Orleans, July 11, 1836. Asking for land in Texas. Credit injured by Texas cabinet.

George Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, July 11, 1836. Thinks Jackson about to declare war on Mexico.

A. de O. Santangelo to Austin, New Orleans, July 12, 1836. Value of a newspaper published in Spanish to the Texan cause. Wants help in maintaining the Correo Atlantico.

W. P. Hill to Austin, Hartford, Conn., July 15, 1836. Explaining cancellation of his authority to negotiate a half million dollar loan to Texas.

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John A. Rogers to Austin, East Tennessee, July 17, 1836. Texas will be filled with volunteers if Mexicans invade again.

J. B. Chance to Austin, July 17, 1836. Concerning payment for surveying.

James W. Breedlove to Austin, New Orleans. Introducing Henry M. Morfit.

George L. Hammekin to Austin, New Orleans, July 18, 1836. News from Mexico.

George L. Hammekin to Austin, New Orleans, July 18, 1836. Application for land. Plans to introduce French grape growers.

Memorandum by Austin, July 20, 1836. Conversation with Archer and William H. Wharton, who urged him to become candidate for presidency.

Archer, Austin, and Wharton to Burnet, July 21, 1836. Report of their mission to the United States.

William Bryan to Austin, New Orleans, July 23, 1836. Embarrassments caused by action of the Texan government.

B. T. Archer to John T. Mason, July 23, 1836. Concerning authorship of Edward's History of Texas.

Austin to Gen. E. P. Gaines, July 27, 1836. Explaining motives of his letter to President Jackson, July 4. His devotion to Texas. Criticized for advising release of Santa Anna.

James Ramage to Austin, New Orleans, July 27, 1836. Texas free of danger from Mexico. International aspect of the situation.

George Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, July 28, 1836. Giving encouraging reports from Mexico.

John P. Austin to Austin, New York, July 29, 1836. Conditions in Mexico. Texas dinner in New York. Reports of statements of Senator Preston concerning Texas.

James Treat to Austin, New York, July 30, 1836. Concerning Texan loan in New York.

George Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, July 30, 1836. Mexican news. Asks for Texan consulship at New Orleans.

J. W. E. Wallace to Thomas J. Rusk, July —, 1836. Reporting Indian depredations.

John Merry to Austin, August 3, 1836. Wanting to buy land.

Gen. E. P. Gaines to Austin, Camp Sabine, August 4, 1836. No authority to guarantee treaty of Velasco. Would use good offices if requested by Mexican and Texan military commanders jointly.

George Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, August 4, 1836. Personal items about Fisher. Desire for appointment in Texan service.

James W. Breedlove to B. T. Archer, New Orleans, August 4, 1836. Hoping that Austin will be elected president.

George Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, August 5, 1836. Opposed to releasing Santa Anna. Suggests plan for conquest of Matamoros and northeastern States.

Austin to Thomas J. Rusk, August 9, 1836. Explaining his attitude toward Santa Anna's release and disclaiming interest in Williams's land speculations.

George Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, August 13, 1836. Opposition in United States to Texan blockade of Matamoros. Asking aid for the Correo Atlantico.

Austin to W. S. Archer, August 15, 1836. Offering Archer the office of secretary of state if he is elected president of Texas. Wants his influence to work for annexation.

A. de O. Santangelo to Austin, New Orleans, August 15, 1836. Announcing suspension of the Correo Atlantico and discussing the mission of the paper.

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Gail Borden, jr., to Austin, August 15, 1836. Telling Austin that people think he was implicated in land speculations.

Austin to Gail Borden, jr., August (20?), 1836. Denies implication in land speculations; reviews past services for Texas. Became candidate by request and in hope of serving the country. Personally indifferent whether elected or not.

W. L. Hodge to Austin, New Orleans, August 22, 1836. Asking about William Hemphill of Philadelphia.

George Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, August 23, 1836. Services of the Correo Atlantico.

Samuel Ellis to Austin, New York, August 23, 1836. Texas credit in the United States low. Speculation has spoiled sale for land.

William McNair to Austin, New York, August 24, 1836. Asking information about his brother.

Samuel M. Williams to Austin, New Orleans, August 29, 1836. Declaring keen regard for Austin's good name, denying that he has done anything to tarnish it, and suggesting that Austin's enemies are gaining his confidence to ruin him.

T. J. Green to Austin and Henry Smith, August 29, 1836. Suggesting appointments in case of election of either.

Robert Triplett to Austin, August 31, 1836. Misunderstanding concerning first loans to Texas.

Joseph Ficklin to Austin, Lexington, Ky., August —, 1836. Popular attitude toward Texas despondent. Confidence in Houston. Santa Anna must not be killed.

Austin to James F. Perry, September 2, 1836. Thinks he will not be elected president. Instructs Perry to build him an office where he can wind up the land business.

James Morgan to Samuel Swartwout, September 5, 1836. Presenting him with Santa Anna's tent in recognition of services to Texas.

Edmund Andrews to Austin, September 8, 1836. The body politic "only right by accident."

William Henry Austin to Austin, Montgomery, September 9, 1836. Explaining why he has not gone to Texas.

Mary R. Harrison to Austin, North Bend, Ohio, September 13, 1836. Concerning a land claim.

William Hill to Austin, September 17, 1836. Asking loan of Vatel's Laws of Nations.

Edmund Andrews to Austin, September 17, 1836. Sending supplies.

Gail Borden, jr., to Austin, September 19, 1836. Concerning the land business.

Zacheus Hamlin to Austin, New Orleans, September 21, 1836. A citizen of Massachusetts, he wishes to settle in Texas. Political advice.

Thomas W. Ward to Austin, New Orleans, September 24, 1836. Introducing Zacheus Hamlin.

William Stafford to Austin, Grand Gulf, Miss., September 28, 1836. His misfortunes in Texas.

George P. Digges to Austin, September 28, 1836. Reporting mission to General Gaines.

John Dillon to Austin, Zanesville, Ohio, October 4, 1836. Inquiring concerning iron works in Texas.

Thomas M. Duke to Austin, October 5, 1836. Asking for an office of "trust or profit."

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William C. Preston to Austin, South Carolina, October 6, 1836. Introducing Benjamin Johnston.

Henry Austin to Austin, New Orleans, October 7, 1836. Low credit of Texas.

Henry Austin to Austin, New Orleans, October 10, 1836. Suggesting compromise with Texas creditors. Texas in English Parliament. Financial crisis in the United States.

Israel McGready to James F. Perry, Potosi, Mo., October 11, 1836. Perry's business in Missouri.

Austin to S. M. Williams, October 12, 1836. Heartbroken because can not accept Williams's explanation of land speculations.

Thomas O. Meaux to Austin, October 14, 1836. Concerning the first Texas loan in New Orleans.

George L. Kinnard to Austin, Indianapolis, October 17, 1836. Wishing Texas well.

Samuel Swartwout to Austin, New York, October 19, 1836. Introducing H. W. Robinson.

Nathaniel Cox to Austin, New Orleans, October 20, 1836. Concerning land and slaves of the J. H. Hawkins estate.

S. H. Everett to Austin, October 21, 1836. Asking for copies of all Austin's contracts with Mexican State and Federal Governments.

Austin to S. H. Everett, October 22, 1836. Engaged on report of his land business, which will take much time and labor.

Austin to James F. Perry, October 25, 1836. Santa Anna's visit to Washington. Expects annexation.

Fairfax Catlett to Austin, October 27, 1836. Seeking appointment in state department.

William B. Lewis to (Austin?), Washington, October 27, 1836. Giving Jackson's views on release of Santa Anna.

George C. Childress to Austin, Louisville, October 28, 1836. Expects Jackson soon to recognize Texas.

Sam Houston to Austin, October 28, 1836. Announcing confirmation of his appointment as secretary of state.

Austin to Joseph Ficklin, October 30, 1836. Conditions in Texas. Explaining why no more volunteers are needed.

Austin to Houston, October 31, 1836. Accepting appointment to state department.

P. W. Grayson to Austin, Louisville, November 3, 1836. Thinks Jackson will delay recognition of Texas. Embarrassment caused by close relation between recognition and annexation. Thinks best way would be for United States to quiet the Mexican claim.

Santa Anna to Austin, November 5, 1836. Explaining why he desires to visit Washington if released by the Texans.

Samuel Swartwout to Austin, November 7, 1836. Advising sale of Texan land for any price it will bring to pay debts of the government.

Austin to Henry Meigs, November 7, 1836. Suggesting method of negotiation with Santa Anna to quiet the Mexican claim to Texas and make way for annexation.

James Collinsworth to Austin, November 8, 1836. Satisfied that annexation may take place at once.

Austin to Señor Paduani, November 8, 1836. Receipt for a letter addressed to Santa Anna.

Austin to James F. Perry, November 11, 1836. Suggesting certain investments.

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William Hoyle to Austin, Philadelphia, November 18, 1836. Hopes to settle in Texas.

George Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, November 18, 1836. Sending his family to Texas.

Austin to Thomas O. Meaux and James W. Breedlove, November 19, 1836. Assuring them of the government's intention to act liberally in settlement of the first loan.

Austin to Thomas H. Benton, November 19, 1836. Terms on which Texas wishes annexation.

Austin to Toby & Bro., November 19, 1836. Order for $5,000 for William H. Wharton.

Austin to William H. Wharton, November 19, 1836. Authorizing draft.

Austin to Thomas Toby & Bro., November 19, 1836. Order for supplies.

Sam Houston to Andrew Jackson, November 20, 1836. Release of Santa Anna. Annexation.

Austin to President Houston, November 21, 1836. Recommending translation and publication of Filisola's report of the Mexican campaign in Texas.

Mary Austin Holley to Austin, Lexington, November 22, 1836. Suggesting lobby in Washington to work for annexation of Texas.

Austin to Thomas H. Benton, November 25, 1836. Santa Anna's visit to Washington.

Austin to G. W. Hockley and B. E. Bee, November 25, 1836. Instructions for conduct in Washington.

James Cochran to Austin, November 25, 1836. Bill.

George B. Kinstry to Austin, November 25, 1836. Bill of sale to a negro.

Austin and Barnard E. Bee, November 25, 1836. Contract for sale of land.

William H. Wharton to Austin, New Orleans, November 28, 1836. Mission to United States. Financial difficulty.

J. W. Ros & Bro. to Austin, New Orleans, November 28, 1836. Financial conditions.

Daniel E. Colton to Austin, November 29, 1836. Concerning land title.

Geographical notes by Austin, November 30, 1836.

William H. Wharton to Austin, New Orleans, November 30, 1836. Finances Public opinion would approve liberation of Santa Anna. African slave trade must be crushed.

George Fisher to Austin, New Orleans, December 1, 1836. Mexican Government subsidizes the Echo of Louisiana. Texas should support the Correo Atlantico as a counter.

William H. Wharton to Austin, New Orleans, December 1, 1836. Recommending George Fisher for consulship.

Austin's draft of treasury notes (about December 1, 1836).

Draft of proclamation against slave trade, about December 1, 1836.

Austin to James F. Perry, December 2, 1836. Provision for education of nephews. Slavery.

Austin to M. B. Lamar, December 5, 1836. Details of his relations with Robertson's Colony.

R. Salmon to Austin, December 7, 1836. His services to Texas in New York. Wants land for twenty colonists.

James Morgan to Austin, December 7, 1836. Sending him some oranges grown on his place.

Austin, Archer et al., December 13, 1836. Forming the Texas Railroad, Navigation & Banking Co.

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George W. Poe to Austin, December 10, 1836. Suggestng issue of treasury notes.

Austin to Merle & Co., December 13, 1836. Certain drafts.

Austin to Parish, Gasquet & Co., December 13, 1836. Concerning drafts.

Austin to John P. Austin, December 12, 1836. Arranging certain payments.

Austin to William H. Wharton, December 14, 1836. Authorizing him to draw on treasury department for salary.

Austin to Henry Smith, December 14, 1836. Instructing him to honor Wharton's drafts for salary.

Austin to Fairfax Catlett, December 14, 1836. Authorizing him to draw for salary.

David G. Burnet to Austin, December 15, 1836. Land.

Sam Houston to the public, December 15, 1836. Recalling all special commissioners from the United States.

William W. Alsbury to Austin, December 17, 1836. Sending him seeds and cuttings.

Austin to James F. Perry, December 18, 1836. Value of shrubbery. Sends seeds and plants.

William G. Hill to Austin, December 20, 1836. Asking his support for an office.

Stock certificate, December 20, 1836. Texas Railroad, Navigation & Banking Co.

George W. Poe to ———, December 28, 1836. Order for military funeral for Austin.

Elias R. Wightman (December 31, 1836). Disposition concerning Austin's land holdings.

Barnard E. Bee to Austin, Lexington, January 1, 1837. Santa Anna's progress toward Washington.

Mary Austin Holley to Austin, Lexington, January 14, 1837. Account of the passage of resolutions by the Kentucky Senate requesting recognition of Texan independence.

Mirabeau B. Lamar to Gail Borden, jr., January 20, 1837. Tribute to Austin. Asks help in collecting material for a biography of Austin.

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