

Tampico, May 26th 1858.

My Dear Son,

I wrote to you here last evening informing you that Sastra, and others had intended to make you their agent in Washington, to prosecute their claims against the Mexican Government for the robberies and damages of their goods per St. Sisson by Garza while in his hands at the Bar. I think you will require a Power of Attorney to enable you to appoint an Attorney to act in the matter, holding the awards always subject to your orders.

In the examination of the papers you will see a portion of the work I have performed, as every paper has been made in accordance with my suggestion. Every merchant concerned in the Sisson cargo, seemed eager to comply with my suggestions. Edmund A. Claupen and George Betting whom I appointed to take an account of the cargo, and to appraise the damage, as also to ascertain the extent of the robberies, performed their part well and as their appraisements have been corroborated by the Collector and Controller of the Customs, there can be no question as to fairness of the claim. The departure of Garza from Tampico, has been the means of breaking up the marauding band under Berbesena at Hueyula, and yesterday we were blessed with the arrival of a Mail from Mexico. On the west coast there

large constitutional forces in hostile array
against the Government of Yucatan, and
Bodasuri has still a large force near
San Luis Petari. Ocallo was about to march
from Mexico to join Miramon at San Luis
Petari but the movements of Mexican troops
are slow, that doubts are entertained that
Ocallo will not reach in time to save
that City. The affairs of this country are
really deplorable, and unless it comes
speedily under the protection of the U.S. it
will soon sink into the uttermost
abyss of ruin. These revolutionary wars
are fast approaching to wars of extermination,
and as they have already commenced
murdering each other in cold blood, they
will soon be induced to perform the
same operation on foreigners. Stimulated
by plunder all foreigners ~~will~~ will soon
be looked upon as their legitimate
prey. Had Gargu succeeded in capturing
this place its ~~entire~~ streets would have
been flooded with human gore.

Three of Santa Anna's General are now
here, and I am of the opinion that they
are intriguing with Moseno for a "pronunciamento"
in favor of that old scoundrel, and as
Moseno is a miserable tool they may succeed
in their object, as soon as Mejia leaves
the place. I have given a hint of this to Mr
Cass and you may strengthen my report
with that gentleman.

Gossip - You will doubtless be surprised
to learn that our colleagues Mr & Mrs James
partook of a ~~last day~~ dinner given to
~~and~~ in celebration of the Queen of England
birth day on the 24th Instant, on the part
of Mr & Mrs Colly. No Englishmen were
invited, excepting Doctor Scott Esq. Vice and
meatth, in some instances, brings virtue
to their feet. Cumberlege is quite enraged
with his French colleague, and I heard
that he has given the rounds of all the French
Shoes and shops, describing the learned
life a certain Lady has led, and mentioning
by name, the numerous predecessors of
Mr S. He expatiated largely on the deplorable
state of the present occupant of that
Lady's state affections, and wondered in
a tone of horror that persons of a high
sense of propriety should, or could, descend
to such low conditions as to dine with
a x x x x and a x x x x !!! The Bar is announced
to be held this morning which gives me the
opportunity of writing you. I sent you all
the Jamaica Newspapers published here since your
departure knowing under the extremely painful
and stormy circumstances with which ^{you} left,
how exceedingly anxious you must feel about
the safety of your House and family. I returned
to the Fulton, but the Bar had become so rough
as to render it impracticable to enter that night,
and I could discern the smoke of the guns

from "Andonogri" which were pouring their
aids against the City until it was quiescent
at last. I did not then approach to the City, but
I landing had the satisfaction to know
that all were safe at home, but on reaching
me, I was startled on learning the number
of grenades and shot that were fired at
the House, many of which lodged within
a few feet of it. I hope Mr. Packer accompanied
you to Washington. I received ^{his} last letter
and perused it with much regret. I have
not as yet rec^d. any thing from his successor,
but by the next Packet I may obtain his favor
in re. Col. Cumberlege has just called in & put me
in possession of attⁿ a letter from Mr. Telford in reply to
some suggestions which I officially made to Col. C. in the
early part of your difficulties. You will thus perceive that
my opinions are not always lost. Had Captain Packer seen
this letter, he would doubtless have pursued a different
course. This extract is only a part of what was
said ^{in the} letter, in approval of my conduct during
Mexico 28th April last. ~~Yours~~

We are now enjoying a sort of saddening tranquillity.
No visitors from the interior - no sales of merchandise
nor any of the life like stirring scenes which
form the happiness of a City, to be met
with here. Dull monotony pervades every street
and every countenance bears the impress of
despondency. Such is the portrait of Saucipe
for the present moment, and without a
foreign remedy no improvement can be
expected. Ever your devoted Husband
Franklin