

from the Government of the United States to that of Mexico,—but even for that he said a different person should have been sent, as he was very obnoxious to the Government and people of Mexico, as he was a man whose character was not appreciated here, and had been expelled from the Country,—I replied that it is not likely that the Government of the United States, was acquainted with these facts, and he might have been selected on account of his having been before in Mexico, but admitting it was wrong for the Government of the United States, to send such a person merely as a bearer of a letter, to the Mexican Government, it was still a display of greater folly on the part of the Mexican Government, to take such precautionary steps as it had done in this case, to send a guard with him from Vera Cruz,—and order him to leave this City at a fixed hour, and not to have communication with any person, as if he had been a Talle[y]rand in Mexico; and the Mexican Government feared, that by some intrigue and a single flourish of his diplomatic powers he might force them to do something against their will, that this was giving him a character which in my humble opinion he never merited,—he agreed with me, and confessed that the Mexican Government had acted foolishly in this affair, and which he said they had also done in many other things, he said his Government had taken an extravagant view of the affair of Texas, that it was his own opinion that Texas was in the same condition that Mexico herself was before the recognition of her independence by Spain and was in all respects as independent and as capable of acting for herself before her annexation to the United States, but it would not do to tell that to some of his countrymen, he said, that he himself did not approve of the violent measures in relation to the church property, that this ought to be undertaken with great caution, and to advance step by step, that it was evident that the clergy were too rich and had too much influence in their political affairs for the good of the people, but that this must be got rid of by degrees,

It appears that the Despatches brought by Colonel Atocha were sent by the Vice President to General Santa Anna, without consulting with or communicating their contents to the Cabinet.

I have the honor [etc.].

3708

*John Black, United States Consul at Mexico City, to James Buchanan, Secretary of State of the United States*¹

[EXTRACTS]

No. 409

MEXICO, March 6, 1847.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that early on Saturday morning the 27th Ultimo, a revolution against this Government, (including the existing

¹ Consular Letters, Mexico, vol. 9. Received May 19.

executive, and legislative powers,) which for this some time past has been talked of, and preparing,—broke out in this City, headed by General Matias de la Peña Y Barragan, who was the Commandant General of this Department under the administration of General Herrera, . . .¹ They commenced firing, on the evening of the 27th and have continued daily at intervals ever since, though very few of the combatants have been killed, the peaceable inhabitants who take no part in the revolution are chiefly the sufferers, as the balls fly in all directions, Such fighting is nothing but a frolic to the combatants, as they keep themselves out of danger, firing from behind thick stone walls, and breast works,—this is the cause of so many revolutions, the non exposure to danger of the combatants if they had but one thoroughgoing revolution, such a one wherein Greek would have to meet with Greek, they would not be so fond of entering into these frolics,

What can foreign nations think of these people, who cannot under any circumstances refrain from indulging themselves in civil wars, and endeavouring to destroy each other, even while more than one half of their country is occupied by a foreign force, and the other half in danger of being taken possession of, while they are more interestedly engaged in devouring each other, in civil broils, their conduct would show, as if they were determined not to be governed by each other, nor suffer themselves to be governed by others, though their conduct to themselves and others is hurrying them to this last mode of being Governed, and if pushed much farther, will leave no alternative to our Country, but to take them under its fatherly protection, by forcing them to submit to the strong arm of its salutary power, Such an event I am fully satisfied would be hailed with joy by a very considerable portion of the thinking part of the population, of all classes, as, they are worn out by a course of fruitless revolutions, in continued succession one upon the heels of another,—

On Monday morning the 1st Instant, this Government received an official communication from General Santa Anna, dated on the battle ground Camp Angostura near Buenavista, February 23^d at Seven O'Clock in the evening, wherein he gives an account of a bloody battle which took place, between the forces under his command, and those under the command of General Taylor, which lasted for two days,—he states the forces under General Taylor to have been from eight to nine thousand, men, but does not give the number of his own forces, the Government here has attempted to palm this affair off on the public, as a victory on the part of the Mexican troops, by the ringing of bells, and displaying to public view two small flags said to have been taken from the enemy as a proof of victory, Santa Anna states, the killed on the part of the enemy to be two thousand, and his own killed and wounded to be one thousand,—Yet notwithstanding the great advantage he has gained in this action over the enemy he confesses that [it] is his intention

¹ This omission gives details, including leading personalities, of the revolution.

to remove his camp, to Agua-Nueva, three leagues distant, for the sake of providing himself with a few biscuit, and a little rice, for the wounded which when done and he, relieves himself of the wounded, he will return to the charge, but I think from his own account of the affair he has got enough of it, and no doubt but he is now on his way (as fast as he can hurry) back to San Luis, and it only now remains to see what course he will take, in relation to affairs, with the United States, Yet whatever this may be, our Government should not slack in any-wise its contemplated operations, until the whole affair is brought to an indisputable conclusion,

The people here are daily expecting to hear of an attack having been made on Vera Cruz,

I have the honor [etc.].

3709

*John Black, United States Consul at Mexico City, to James Buchanan, Secretary of State of the United States*¹

[EXTRACTS]

TAMPICO, April 25, 1847.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a Copy of the order of the Mexican Government for my immediate expulsion from the Republic by the Port of Tampico, . . .²

I shall proceed on to Washington as soon as the state of my health will allow and can procure a conveyance,

I have the honor [etc.].

3710

*José Robira, late Commissioner of Yucatan to the United States, to James Buchanan, Secretary of State of the United States*³

[TRANSLATION]

CAMPECHE, May 12, 1847.

SIR: Availing myself of the authorization to write to you which you were so good as to grant me, I have the satisfaction of informing you that upon my arrival in this city I became convinced with pleasure that public opinion of Yucatan is firmly established in favor of neutrality.

It was in vain that the partisans of Mexico attempted to proclaim in

¹ Consular Letters, Mexico, vol. 9. Received May 19.

² The omitted fifteen pages detail the long delays and uncertainties attending his departure, due to dilatoriness in sending a properly instructed escort. The order was dated March 31. The writer was forced to leave on one day's notice, taking with him the archives of the legation, which the last United States Minister, Wilson Shannon, had left in his charge. He reached Tampico April 18.

³ Other States, vol. 2. Received June 7.