

saying that they have come upon the thieves, some hundred in number *dividing out the spoils and only twelve or fifteen miles from town*, have had a fight, killed fifteen of the enemy, retaken the goods with all the Mexican equipage, guns, blankets, saddles, &c., and all without any loss on our side; they are returning to town . . . Col. Belknap, the commanding officer here has been very kind to send us dinner and supper, for the sleeping we must ourselves provide, and we have done so, our bed is here on the sala floor, two or three beds in the room are filled with the inmates, our trunks piled up serving as a screen between us and they. William and Capt. Thompson have their bed along with the servants and some visitors or boarders, in the San Juan or the *front passage to this room*, there is no door shut between us, and it is all as *common as one room*, and if I ever have the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Thompson that may be, I shall make her laugh with the scenes of this night.—We have said good bye to land travel and tomorrow shall take a steamboat for Comargo [Camargo].

5, 1813, and served throughout the War of 1812. Remaining in the army he was promoted to captain of 3d Infantry, February 1, 1822. Brevetted major February 1, 1832, for ten years' faithful service in one grade; lieutenant-colonel, March 15, 1842, for general good conduct in the war against Florida Indians; colonel, May 9, 1846, for gallant and distinguished services at the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, Texas, and brigadier-general, February 23, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Buena Vista, Mexico. General Belknap died November 10, 1851.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, June 18, 1846.

Sir:—

AT the request of the President I commend to your favorable consideration the bearer hereof, Colonel James W. Magoffin. Mr. M. is now and has been for some years a resident of Chihuahua and extensively engaged in trade in that and other settlements of Mexico. He is well acquainted with the people of Chihuahua, Santa Fe and intermediate country. He was introduced to the President by Col. Benton as a gentleman of intelligence and most respectable character. The President has had several interviews with him and is favorably impressed with his character, intelligence and disposition to the cause of the United States. His knowledge of the country and the people is such as induces the President to believe he may render important services to you in regard to your military movements in New Mexico. He will leave here for Santa Fe immediately and will probably overtake you before you arrive at that place. Considering his intelligence, his credit with the people and his business capacity, it is believed he will give important information and make arrangements to furnish your troops with abundant supplies in New Mexico. Should you apprehend difficulties of this nature it is recommended to you to avail yourself in this respect



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and others of his services for which he will as a matter of course be entitled to a fair consideration.

Very respectfully,

Your obt. serv.

(Signed) W. L. MARCY,  
SECRETARY OF WAR.

Colonel S. W. Kearny.

Philadelphia, February 21, 1849.

To J. W. MAGOFFIN, Esq.,

Dear Sir:

IF the following statement of such of your important services as came to my personal knowledge during the invasion of New Mexico can serve to elucidate your sacrifices and risks during the war, it gives me pleasure to make it.

I shall not easily forget the pleasure which your company gave me when I preceded the army with a flag, from Bent's Fort to Santa Fe, nor the advantages of your knowledge of the country and its language.

I am strongly impressed with the skill you exhibited not to compromise your old influence over the Mexican General, by an *appearance* of your real connexion with myself (even furnishing an interpreter, rather than appear on the official occasion). At night, however, you accompanied Genl. Armijo to my quarters when, by your aid, we had a secret conference. I then understood the Mexican Governor's real dis-

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inclination to actual resistance, to which, I believe, according to your instructions, you gave important encouragement particularly in neutralizing the contrary influence of the young Colonel Archuletta, by suggesting to his ambition the part of bringing about a pronunciamiento of Western New Mexico in favor of *annexation*; (Genl. Kearny's first proclamation claiming only to the Rio Grande).

I had personal knowledge of the high opinion which the General [Kearny] entertained of your discretion and services; and, that it may well be considered a piece of good fortune, that at the expense of a large bribe, you were suffered to destroy the General's own statement of them only shows how narrowly you escaped with your life, in your further efforts to serve our Government in Chihuahua.

With high respect, sir, I remain,

Your ob. Servant,

(Signed) P. ST. GEORGE COOKE,  
Major 2 Drags.