

No. 10.

[Document No. 7.]

MEXICAN REPUBLIC, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF THE FREE AND SOVEREIGN STATE OF YUCATAN,
Sisal, June 12, 1867.

MY ESTEEMED COUNTRYMAN AND FRIEND: I wrote to you yesterday from the Virginia by Lieutenant Colonel Mendez, and I presume my letter is now in your hands with the documents it contained. I was awaiting your answer, when Colonel Medina, the military commander of this port, presented himself to me on board, and informed me that you invited me to land. I immediately began to get ready to accept your invitation, and commenced by shaving myself. The captain of the vessel informed me I could not land, as his orders from the commander of the American war steamer were, that I might land on neutral ground, but could have no pretext to set foot on Mexican territory. This caused an altercation between Colonel Medina and the captain of the Virginia, in which threats passed, &c. Finally the captain yielded, and I was allowed to disembark, not without protests, however.

Now I am at your disposal; but I hope I shall soon see you, as this commander has promised me I could. I wish my good intentions may give a happy result; and I do not think Mr. Salazar Ilaregui will be so timid as to reject my generous mediation for the complete re-establishment of peace in this State; but if he persists in an obstinate resistance, an old veteran places himself under your orders, to be sent wherever you think he can be of the greatest service to the nation. In the mean time, I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you and embracing you; till then, I wish you excellent health, and sign myself your affectionate, and faithful friend and servant,

ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA.

General MATIAS PERAZA, *Merida.*MERIDA, *June 21, 1867.*

A true copy:

E. ANCONA, *Secretary.*WASHINGTON, *July 4, 1867.*

A true copy:

IGNO. MARISCAL, *Secretary.**Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.*

[Memorandum.]

WASHINGTON, *July 8, 1867.*

Mr. Romero said that he received on the 4th instant an official communication from General Peraza, governor of Yucatan, dated at Merida on the 21st ultimo, stating he had sent General Santa Anna to Campeche, to be kept there subject to the disposition of the President of the republic. A copy of this communication was sent by Mr. Romero to the department.

General Peraza further states that General Santa Anna landed at Sisal on the 11th ultimo at his (General Peraza's) request, and was not taken out of the Virginia by force, as has been reported. Among the documents sent by General Peraza to Mr. Romero and transmitted by him to the department is a letter from General Santa Anna, dated Sisal, June 12, 1867, saying that he landed at General Peraza's invitation.

It does not appear from those papers how far from the coast the Virginia was lying when she was in the port of Sisal.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, July 13, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor to communicate a copy of a memorandum of this department of yesterday on the subject of proceedings consequent upon the recent visit of Señor Don Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna to Mexico.

I avail myself of the occasion, sir, to offer to you a renewed assurance of my very high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor Don MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.,

Washington, D. C.

[For enclosure see memorandum at end of correspondence.]

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Washington, July 13, 1867.

MR. SECRETARY: With your note of this date I have had the honor to receive a copy of a memorandum of yesterday's date from your department which you were pleased to enclose to me with reference to the matter of the proceedings arising from the visit which Don Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna recently made to the ports of Vera Cruz and Sisal.

I this day transmit a copy of the said memorandum to the government of the Mexican republic, and I do not for a moment doubt that my government will be as much gratified as myself with the determination which, after a mature examination of the case and its incidents, you have adopted in this affair, inasmuch as the said conclusion, in my judgment, is founded on the principles of equity, and is in conformity with the prescriptions of international law.

The sentiments of sympathy towards the republic of Mexico which you are pleased to express at the conclusion of your memorandum, and the course which you therein indicate the government of the United States intends to pursue in its relations with Mexico, will likewise be duly appreciated and reciprocated in the new era of peace and prosperity which the late political events have inaugurated for my country.

It is most satisfactory to me to avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Mr. Secretary, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

[NOTE.—A copy of this memorandum will be found at the end of the correspondence on the subject of which it treats.]

Mr. Saulnier to Mr. Seward.

No. 43.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Vera Cruz, June 8, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of one government pouch from Washington—per steamship Virginia via New York, arrived here on the 3d instant—with despatches for Consul Otterbourg, at the city of Mexico, and

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Consul General Chase, at Tampico; those for the city of Mexico have been sent up per extraordinary. On the steamship Virginia there came as passengers General Santa Anna and staff, said staff consisting of his father-in-law, Colonel Vidal, two Prussian officers, and an American interpreter. On the evening of the 3d instant Santa Anna passed from the ship to the castle of San Juan de Uloa. On the 4th the norther blowing, and there being no communication had with the harbor or castle, he, Santa Anna, passed the day there.

On the morning of the 5th Santa Anna was taken from the castle of San Juan de Uloa and placed again on board the Virginia, after the force that was in the castle had been changed.

On the 7th the commanders of the English frigate Jason and the United States steamer Tacony went alongside and on board the Virginia and took Santa Anna out of the Virginia and placed him on board the United States steamer Tacony, then lying off Sacrificios, with orders to the captain of the Virginia to pass by the island of Sacrificios with his ship and receive Santa Anna on board again on his departure from this port.

The object of this action on the part of the commanders, I believe, was to avoid a conflict between the armed force in this city, assurances having been given them that it was the intention of a part of the garrison to make an attempt to have Santa Anna landed here last night.

The situation as regards the military forces inside and outside of this city is in the same belligerent position. No later news from the city of Mexico than that brought down by my courier, viz., up to the 26th ultimo.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

E. H. SAULNIER,

United States Consul.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.,
Washington, D. C.

[Translation.]

TACUBAYA, *May 20, 1867.*

DEAR FRIEND: I am second in command on General Porferio Diaz's staff, and am appointed captain of the post at Vera Cruz. I offer both places to you.

You have already heard of the fall of Queretaro and the capture of Maximilian, who is now being tried by order of the general government; nobody knows what will be his fate; a court-martial will decide that.

We are now besieging Mexico, and by the time you get this we will probably be in the city; it is a labor of but few days, &c.

JOSE MARIA PEREZ.

Mr. ELISHA H. SAULNIER, *Vera Cruz.*

MILICUA, 30.

The court-martial has sentenced Maximilian, Miramon, and Mejia to be shot. They will probably be executed to-morrow or next day.

Mr. Saulnier to Mr. Seward.

No. 44.] CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Vera Cruz, June 12, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that General Santa Anna left here on the 8th instant, on the steamship Virginia, for Sisal and Havana.

The history of his reception here is as follows: He arrived here on the 3d instant, on the steamship Virginia from New York. The same day he landed in the castle of San Juan d'Uloa. The 4th, the wind being strong from the north prevented communication with the harbor or castle. On the 5th, in the morning, he was sent back on board the Virginia.

On the 6th I received an invitation from Santa Anna to visit him on board the Virginia. He entertained me for one hour, representing that, at the solicitation of President Johnson and yourself he came here with the agreement that he would be supported in men and money, and recognized in preference to President Juarez. I reported this interview to Commander F. A. Roe, United States steamer Tacony.

On the 7th instant, it being reported to me through a reliable person that a serious effort would be made to have Santa Anna landed that night, it was resolved by the commanders of the United States steamer Tacony and her Britannic Majesty's ship Jason that Santa Anna should be forthwith invited to pass the night on board the United States steamer Tacony. This resolution was immediately acted upon, and Santa Anna did pass the night of the 7th instant on board the United States steamer Tacony.

On the 8th instant the Virginia left the harbor, passed by Sacrificios and received Santa Anna on board said ship, and proceeded immediately after to sea.

Enclosed, please find the proceedings of a meeting of the officials of this city in reference to the landing here of Santa Anna.

The United States steamer Tacony proceeded to sea immediately after the Virginia left, bound for Pensacola.

I am without any vessel of war at present.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

E. H. SAULNIER,

United States Consul.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Saulnier.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, July 1, 1867.

SIR: Your despatches of the 8th and 12th of June, Nos. 43 and 44, have been received, with the history of the arrival of General Santa Anna at Vera Cruz in the steamer Virginia, his demonstrations made there, and his departure from that port, together with your official proceedings connected with those transactions.

You rightly apprehended that the proceedings of General Santa Anna had no authority from the government of the United States. This government has held no communication with him whatever during his residence in our country. His departure was unknown and unthought of when he appeared in the waters of Mexico.

I refrain from further remarks upon the subject, while awaiting the further development of General Santa Anna's designs.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

E. H. SAULNIER, Esq.,
United States Consul, Vera Cruz.

Commander Roe to Secretary Welles.

No. 96.]

FLAG-SHIP DE SOTO,
Pensacola Bay, June 13, 1867.

SIR: In my letter of yesterday's date I informed the department that I had that day sent down the Yucca with provisions for the Tacony. It was therefore with regret I saw the Tacony coming into this harbor this morning, having but two days' more bread.

I enclose you his report of affairs at Vera Cruz, and have approved of his course towards Santa Anna. He will take in some provisions and return to Vera Cruz as soon as possible, though he thinks that ere this Vera Cruz has surrendered to the liberal forces.

I gave the Yucca instructions to proceed to Laguna to ascertain what might be the difficulty reported to the department by the Secretary of State.

I leave this evening for Hampton Roads.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. S. PALMER,

Rear-Admiral, Commanding North Atlantic Squadron.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

A.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Vera Cruz, June 7, 1867.

DEAR SIR: Yesterday, in company with the English consul, at the request of General Santa Anna, we visited him on board the Virginia. He entertained us with a long discourse as to his plans, viz., that after interviews with President Johnson and Secretary Seward, at their solicitation, he has come here; that they have offered him men and money to sustain him; that Maximilian has offered to deliver the situation of the country to Santa Anna, &c; all of which I believe to be false. I cannot believe our government are disposed to disown Juarez, and take up a man like Santa Anna, who has no party in any part of the country; and neither can I believe our government will give countenance to filibusterism of this nature. We have just had an interview with the imperial commissary here as to his intentions. He declares that Santa Anna shall not land here, and that he is master of the situation here now. Of this I have some doubts. I fear as long as Santa Anna is here we are in danger of a revolution in his favor. I therefore respectfully suggest to you whether it be not prudent to avoid this event; that two or more marines from your ship be placed on board, to the end that this new element of discord may not be permitted to be thrown among us here, or left here to produce more trouble, but that the said ship may take him away with her.

The ship will sail from here to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, but we fear trouble this night.

With much respect, your obedient servant,

E. H. SAULNIER

United States Consul.

Commander F. A. ROE,
United States Steamship Tacony off Sacrificios.

[Confidential—translated.]

B.

CASA MATA, June 8, 1867.

MY DEAR COMMANDER: Last night I received the news from Captain Aynsley that you had removed Santa Anna on board the Tacony, and that he will be re-embarked on board the Virginia at her moment of departure for New Orleans; but I have reflected since that this bad man, who has much cunning, may be able to obtain means to return to Vera Cruz, when it will be possible for no one to prevent the evils which he is capable of committing against humanity. On this account I believe that the most discreet thing would be to retain him at Sacrificios until present affairs are finished, and until I shall have entered Vera Cruz.

Santa Anna has come as a fugitive from justice. You know that he has fled from debts, and that he is at liberty under a bond of thirty thousand dollars, which he laughs at. This conduct is not strange in Santa Anna. He is a man who does not know modesty, and he is a trickster. Well, then, I believe you would do right to secure his person, since he is a fugitive, and hold him pending the action of the tribunals of the United States. You will permit my friendship to give you this indication and advice. Besides, it is in the interests of humanity that we secure this fatal man, who has caused so many evils in the world.

At all events yourself and Captain Aynsley have saved Vera Cruz from a conflict. Your manly conduct has drawn upon you universal gratitude.

I salute you, my dear commander, and I am always your friend and servant,
R. BENAVIDES.

UNITED STATES STEAMSHIP TACONY, (3d rate.)

Sacrificios, Mexico, June 13, 1867.

SIR: I respectfully continue my report on the events transpiring at this place. On the 20th of May the United States and English consuls came to Sacrificios, and reported to the English captain and myself that the imperial commissary at Vera Cruz had submitted certain terms for the surrender of Vera Cruz to General Benavides, commanding the liberal forces; and that he (the commissary) had requested the two consuls to proceed to the liberal camp to propose them. He moreover requested that the British captain and myself should accompany them. On that day we accordingly visited General Benavides at his headquarters, and the propositions of the imperial commissary were in substance accepted. This was after the reception of the news of the fall of Queretaro and capture of Maximilian. A truce of some three days was agreed upon, and hostilities suspended. At the end of this period, however, the imperial commissary failed to meet General Benavides, and hostilities were once more resumed, the imperial commissary then alleging that he was not satisfied that the news was exact, and that he needed further confirmation of the facts.

Affairs remained then in this position until the 1st of June, when, after repeated solicitations on the part of the commissary to the United States and British consuls for further interviews, these gentlemen, being urgently pressed by the commissary, again visited him. This time he declared that he would accept the propositions of General Benavides, which the consuls had brought back from him in writing; and they were requested to visit General Benavides to notify him of the acceptance of his proffered terms, and of the desire of the imperialist to surrender Vera Cruz, its castle and fortifications. At this time the consuls detected an apprehension lurking in the mind of the imperialist that he had deferred his surrender too long, that the foreign mercenaries and troops

had become discontented, and that fears of a revolution, and consequently that pilage, riot, arson, and robbery and murder, would ensue. Nevertheless he assured the consuls that he yet retained sufficient authority to render a peaceful surrender possible.

Accordingly, these consuls left the English ship-of-war Jason on the morning of the 2d of June with full instructions to arrange for surrender. These gentlemen landed in a boat from the Jason, doubtful now if the generous terms offered by General Benavides would be ratified, inasmuch as it was the *third* time that their good offices had been solicited by the imperialist, and at the last moment evaded by him, after having accomplished his wishes. The fears, well grounded, also, of a general insurrection in the city, and of scenes of horror resulting from it, impelled us all to accede once more and render such good offices as both parties, and the interests of humanity and of our citizens, might ardently demand.

The consuls returned to the Jason about 2 o'clock p. m. (June 2d) with a complete ratification by General Benavides of the original terms proposed by him, and now solicited by the commissary. The two consuls proceeded at once to Vera Cruz, there to report their success to the commissary and await developments. In the mean time General Benavides ceased firing from his batteries, though at sunset the city forts opened upon the besiegers with more than usual captivity.

The terms brought by the two consuls from the liberal camp were accepted by the commissary, who informed the consuls that he would require a little time to win over his officers to his wishes. In the mean time the steamship Virginia arrived, bringing Santa Anna, who forthwith proceeded to the castle of San Juan, then commanded by one of Santa Anna's friends. The following day this commander was removed, and Santa Anna was placed again on board the Virginia, and the commissary notified the two consuls that he would be sent back out of the country in the Virginia. It was said that Santa Anna declared that he brought letters from President Johnson and the United States government authorizing him to assume the charge of affairs in Mexico. He stated also that a squadron of ships was ordered to sustain him, and troops were also on the way to Vera Cruz. This statement of course was not believed, and it was rejected by the consul of the United States. At this juncture my provisions were getting low, but I was most earnestly requested to remain, by the consuls, by the English naval captain, by General Benavides, and also by the commissary. The latter urged that in case of opposition by the foreign troops in Vera Cruz to his effecting a surrender, he would beg the English and United States ships-of-war to move up to support the mutual movement of both the imperialist and liberal commanders.

As above stated, on the 3d June, the steamship Virginia from New York arrived, bringing General Santa Anna and four or five persons, whom he called his staff. The ship anchored under the castle, and that same evening he landed at the castle, commanded by an adherent and friend of his. On the 4th the commander and a portion of the garrison were removed. On the 5th Santa Anna himself was removed and placed on board the Virginia. During the 6th conspiracies and plottings were afoot. Persons of Santa Anna's staff visited the shore, and great popular excitement ensued. The imperial commissary feigned sickness, but paid a visit, accompanied by his officers, to Santa Anna. On the 7th the commander of the French corvette Phlegeton came alongside, and manifested some interest in what was going on, and invited me to accompany him in his sail-boat to Vera Cruz. I did so, as such courtesies had been mutually interchanged between the English, French, and myself. On my arrival in Vera Cruz I found the United States consul at the British consulate with several persons, including Captain Aynsley, commanding her Britannic Majesty's ship Jason, senior naval commander here. I found there existed very great excitement

throughout the city. Certain military leaders were forcing the presence of Santa Anna upon the people, and the people were angrily opposed to them. While affairs were being discussed in the British consulate a letter was received and the announcement made to us that a revolution was on the eve of breaking out in favor and against Santa Anna, who represented himself as the emissary of the United States government, appointed to supersede Juarez and all others, and take charge as a chief appointed by the United States in their behalf. I was at this time presented with the accompanying official letter from the United States consul, a copy of which is enclosed, marked A. As affairs were imminent and pressing, and the day drawing to a close, and a boat from the Tacony could not be received under some hours, and as I had no means to send for one, I asked Captain Aynsley to grant me the use of his cutter, which was cheerfully acceded to. Accordingly, in company with Captain Aynsley, I proceeded alongside of the Virginia, with the United States and English colors both flying at the same flag-staff of the boat, and the boat itself placed at my disposition. I accordingly went alongside, removed Mr. Santa Anna from the Virginia, with his interpreter and body-servant, to the boat, and thence on board the Tacony for the night. It is proper here to say that after I arrived on board, and delivering to Santa Anna my cabin, the use of my servants, and my mess, he denied that he had publicly declared that he came in the name of President Johnson and the United States, and only was here as an independent citizen. I informed him that I had the official report of the United States consul, and vouched for by the British consul, that the name of my government had been publicly used and proclaimed ashore as his authority to supersede President Juarez, Maximilian, and everybody else in Mexico; that the United States consul had disavowed any such authority, and that I also could not recognize it, and therefore I had invited him to pass a quiet night on board the Tacony.

On the morning of the 8th the Virginia came down to Sacrificios, bringing the United States consul, and anchored under my port bow, when the consul reported to me that the ship was ready to proceed to sea, and ready to receive Santa Anna on board. I accordingly put him on board the Virginia, and she sailed for New York via Sisal and Havana about 11 o'clock a. m. At 2 p. m. I got under way, following her to sea, and proceeded to Pensacola, short of provisions.

I respectfully enclose a copy of translation of a letter from General Benavides, (marked B,) received on the morning of the 8th, in relation to this filibustering expedition of Santa Anna. It tells the whole story. Revolution was rife, and needed only the flame of this old fire-brand to produce wicked and terrible scenes in Vera Cruz. Moreover, the unblushing use made of the name of the United States government, and of President Johnson, and of their forces, arms, ships, troops, and authority, required me to keep this man quiet, and I therefore sent him out of the country whence he came, to go whither he chose.

The attitude then of Santa Anna was this: On board of an American ship, under the flag of the United States, declaring and fomenting war against a government with whom the United States are in friendly relations, under an assumed authority from the United States, and while he was under the protection and shield of their flag, he prevented the act of the surrender of Vera Cruz after the terms of that surrender had been fully agreed to and accepted by both parties, and this under the declaration that he was under the authority of the United States.

I will add that it was the intention of several of the imperial chiefs to take Santa Anna on shore (the night of the 7th;) that a pronunciamiento had been drawn up, by which the city, the forts, and the castle were to be surrendered to him; that the imperial commissary was to go away temporarily, and then return, fully restored to his remunerative office; that this Santa Anna was to create and set up an empire of his own in Mexico. The gaudy and decorated

uniform of this dictator was exhibited in my cabin through the awkwardness of my steward, who was attending him while dressing. The morning of the 8th was to be ushered in with regal honors, and the initiation to power of this man Santa Anna. But in doing so murder and bloodshed, and revolution, in the sacred name of my government would also have been initiated. This profanation has been saved; and Santa Anna is safely, and I trust quietly and happily, at sea. I escorted the Virginia twenty miles to sea, then shaped my course for Pensacola, where I now respectfully report my arrival.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. ROE,
Commander, commanding.

Commodore J. A. WINSLOW,
Commanding Gulf Squadron, Pensacola, Florida.

Mr. Savage to Mr. Seward.

No. 320.] CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Havana, June 17, 1867.

SIR: The despatches from our consul at Vera Cruz, which are herewith transmitted, will no doubt furnish you the particulars relating to the visit of General Santa Anna, ex-President of Mexico, to that port, in the American steamer Virginia, and his subsequent departure in the same ship. On her arrival at Sisal, in Yucatan, at about 3.30 p. m. of the 11th instant, General Santa Anna sent some papers on shore. It is understood that those papers were of an insurrectionary character. Early the next morning the Virginia was surrounded by three Mexican armed schooners, with their guns pointed at her, and boarded by an officer and a file of soldiers, who forcibly took Santa Anna and his secretary, L. Vidal y Rivas, on shore, notwithstanding that both the master of the ship and Santa Anna protested against the act. The master, as he alleges, made known to the officer that General Santa Anna had been placed on board of his ship by Commander Roe, of the United States steamer Tacony, to be conveyed to Havana, or any other port out of Mexico. His allegations were disregarded by the Mexican officials, who threatened to fire into the steamer if she attempted to leave the port with those persons on board. Other parties belonging to the general's suite, who had landed, were ordered to return to the Virginia.

The facts connected with the arrest of Santa Anna and his secretary appear in a protest made and sworn to before me by Captain Deaken, Mr. Austin, the purser, and Mr. Sloan, the first officer of the Virginia, as there was no consul of the United States or of any friendly nation at Sisal. A copy of the protest Captain Deaken takes with him to New York.

I have the honor to be, sir, &c., &c.,

THOS. SAVAGE,
Vice-Consul General.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Savage to Mr. Seward.

No. 323.] CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Havana, June 22, 1867.

SIR: In my despatch No. 320 I reported what occurred at Sisal respecting the forcible abduction of General Santa Anna from the American mail steamer

Virginia. The general's son, Don José Lopez de Santa Anna, paid me a visit on the day before yesterday, and handed me the accompanying communication, with the request that I should lay it before the government of the United States. He manifested a great deal of anxiety and apprehension that his father might be put to death by his captors, or subjected to very harsh treatment. You will notice that the paper bears no date. I have kept a copy of it. Mr. Santa Anna has had the document published in the newspapers of this city.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

THOS. SAVAGE,
Vice-Consul General.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

[Translation.]

To the Consul General of the United States of America at Havana:

The undersigned, a son of General Don Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, has the honor of addressing himself to you to protest energetically against the outrages that have been recently committed in the harbor of Vera Cruz and in the port of Sisal against the person of his father.

It is known from documents that have been published in this city, from private correspondence, and the verbal statements of passengers, that General Santa Anna arrived at the port of Vera Cruz on the 3d instant, on board the steamer Virginia, a vessel under the North American flag; that while the decision of the authorities of that place was pending as to whether he should be permitted or not to disembark, he was carried by force from the Virginia as a prisoner to the war steamer of the United States, Tacony, whose commander not only made, personally, the arrest of General Santa Anna, but compelled him to re-embark upon the Virginia, to be conveyed to Havana or the United States. It is also known that, upon the Virginia touching at Sisal to take in freight, a flotilla of gunboats, said to be in the service of Mr. Juarez, came alongside of the said steamer, and their commander, Gomez, under the threat of firing in case of any resistance, sent fifteen infantrymen, who, with their arms, boarded the steamer, declared General Santa Anna their prisoner, and took him away with them.

It is not the purpose of the undersigned to qualify the act of the capture of his father, executed in sight of his native country by the commanding officer of the Tacony. It has been asserted that said officer sent to his government the explanation of his conduct; and however unjustifiable the same may appear, it will be well to know the foundation upon which he has based it, in order to form a proper judgment. But I cannot ignore the outrage committed off Sisal against the person of General Santa Anna. This gentleman not only, because travelling as he was upon a North American steamer, had the right to rely upon the protection of the flag of the United States, but also that, being obliged by force to transfer himself to the Virginia, he had to be considered as a prisoner of that republic until his freedom should be returned to him, and with that character to be conveyed safe and sound to a place in which there was right to ask of her explanations of her conduct, or, rather, to satisfy him for the abuse committed against him. But to allow General Santa Anna to be taken out of a vessel of the United States by his natural enemies, who will perhaps hasten to sacrifice him to their political hatred; to allow the flag of the stars to be insulted by a horde of pirates, are facts so incredible that, if a prompt and efficient reparation of such outrage is not obtained, the whole world will suspect that they have been permitted or premeditated from a policy hostile to his father.

The undersigned, absent from his country for upwards of eleven years, without having in the least participated in the convulsions that during that time have afflicted her, without affection or hatred to the parties that are disputing power there, does not apply to you, Mr. Consul, influenced by any political interest, but by the noble and legitimate feelings of his filial love of humanity and of justice. I trust, therefore, that you will be pleased to lay this protest before the government of the United States, and entreat that such measures as may be necessary be adopted for the security and rescue of the person of General Santa Anna.

JOSE L. DE SANTA ANNA.

HAVANA, June, 1867.

Mr. Naphegyi to Mr. Seward.

EBBITT HOUSE HOTEL,

Washington City, July 6, 1867.

SIR: The undersigned, attorney in fact and confidential agent in the United States of Don Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, begs permission most respectfully to call the attention of the Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, to certain recent occurrences in the gulf of Mexico, by which the said Señor Santa Anna has been prevented from complying with the expressed wishes of his fellow-citizens with regard to the political affairs of their common country, and by which, almost immediately thereafter, he was deprived of his personal liberty, and his life itself placed in jeopardy. These grave consequences have resulted from an officious interference in the affairs of Señor Santa Anna and of Mexico, on the part of United States agents and officers in those waters, and at Vera Cruz; for such interference was officious inasmuch as it could not have been directed by the government at Washington; finds no justification in law or comity of nations; nor, as the undersigned is fully persuaded, can it possibly meet the sanction of that government or of the American people.

The affair referred to is one of public notoriety, but the undersigned begs leave to transmit herewith certain documents, a perusal of which will afford a history of the occurrences alluded to:

1. Statement and affidavit of the passengers of the Virginia, with regard to the entire transaction.

2. Protest of Captain John Deaken, commander of the Virginia, duly extended before the United States consul general at Havana, with regard to the forcible entry of his ship, and the taking therefrom of the persons of Señor Santa Anna, and of his secretary, Señor Vidal y Rivas, by an armed party of Mexicans, commanded by a Mexican officer and aided by armed vessels displaying the Mexican flag.

3. Affidavit of Captain Deaken, establishing the fact, that at the time of the invasion of his ship she was at anchor more than a marine league from Sisal, being thus upon the high seas, and the act complained of thus coming within the definition of piracy.

4. The proclamation of Señor Santa Anna, which refutes and explodes utterly the statement which has reached the ears, as the undersigned is informed and believes, of the honorable Secretary of State, to the effect that Señor Santa Anna pretended to have had the specific authority of the President of the United States for his procedure at Vera Cruz. That proclamation, be it fully noted, was put forth not until Señor Santa Anna was formally invited by those in command at Vera Cruz—being the imperialists—to restore the republic. Could the government of the United States, its agents and officers at Vera Cruz, or in those waters, object to that?

It will be observed that Señor Santa Anna, having been made a prisoner by the commander of the United States steamer Tacony, was still a prisoner to the United States, on board of a mail steamer of that nation, and was not in or near the port of Sisal with his own volition, nor had he gone or intended to go thither with any views of variance with the well known policy of the honorable Secretary of State towards Mexico. But, in any case, the undersigned respectfully submits that it will scarcely be maintained that Señor Santa Anna has not the right to sustain a policy of his own country. Be that as it may, at the time of his unlawful seizure he was under duress, and an unwilling passenger on board the Virginia, the commander of which vessel was ordered to land him at New York, and not to land him on Mexican soil. The invasion of the Virginia was the equivalent, and was in effect the boarding by violence of a ship constructively in commission by the United States, and as the offence was committed on the high seas, there can be no milder term for it than that already used, namely, piracy. Be the temporary character of the Virginia what it may have been, she was at all events a vessel sailing under the United States flag, belonging to citizens of the United States, and engaged in a lawful voyage. To borrow the text of Earl Russell in a recent memorable case, (the Trent,) "it thus appears that certain individuals have been forcibly taken from on board a British [an American] vessel, the ship of a neutral power, while such vessel was pursuing a lawful and innocent voyage—an act of violence which was an affront to the British [the American] flag and a violation of international law." Señor Santa Anna was violating no law of the United States; was not compromising the neutrality of that government; his expedition (if it may be so termed) was one of peace and good will, and deserved the applause and support of all honorable men. The port of Sisal (so-called) is an open roadstead not embraced by any headlands, and vessels anchor at from two to seven miles from the shore according to their draught of water. A ship of the class of the Virginia would cast anchor at from three and a half to four and a half miles distant from the guns of the fort and beyond their reach, which is rendered patent by the fact that it was necessary to make a naval attack upon her. She was, therefore, unquestionably upon the high seas, although the undersigned is aware some Mexicans believe, or affect to believe, the gulf of Mexico to be a Mexican lake—the expression *Seno Mexicano* (Mexican bosom) contributing to that unwholesome delusion.

It may not be out of place, or in bad taste, to refer to certain large pecuniary interests which citizens of the United States have in the safety of Señor Santa Anna—being loyal parties, his creditors, who have advanced the funds necessary to meet his heavy expenses during a somewhat protracted residence in this country. This consideration should, however, weigh as nought in comparison with the serious international wrong resulting from, to use a mild expression, the violation of the safe-conduct of the United States.

The liberal government (so-called) of Mexico, elevated by recent temporary successes, and drunk with the gore of distinguished victims, are capable at any moment of sacrificing Señor Santa Anna to their blind fury—the more especially as he has been placed in their power by a government to which the said liberal government owes its continued existence. His age, his infirmities, his distinguished services to the republic, the fact that his recent mission had for its object the restoration of the republican form of government which he established near half a century ago, would be of no avail in pleading for justice and humanity. And it may here be added that, but for the intermeddling of the United States consul at Vera Cruz, and of the commander of the Tacony, the life of the ill-starred Prince Maximilian might have been saved!

In conclusion, the undersigned appeals, in the sacred names of honor, justice, and the rights of hospitality, for the immediate interposition of the government of the United States in behalf of Señor Santa Anna, and of his kinsman and