

States, that the Prince Maximilian may be spared his life, should it be in danger.

I thus address you because it is my duty to my government, knowing that its courier may not reach you, on account of the uncertainties of the condition of a state of war.

With profound respect, I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

F. A. ROE,

Commander U. S. Navy.

His Excellency President JUAREZ,

Republic of Mexico.

No. 2.] UNITED STATES STEAMER TACONY, (3d rate.)
Sacrificios, Mexico, May 10, 1867.

SIR: I respectfully continue my report from its last date of 30th April.

The imperial commissary, commanding at Vera Cruz, having manifested a desire to hold a conference on board the Tacony with the liberal commanding general, all the preliminaries were arranged.

The imperialist then verbally declined to carry out his own proposition. I was then requested to visit General Benavides, (liberal,) to ascertain what would be the general basis of terms granted, if the city should be turned over to him; and, also, to ask if he would consent to hold a conference. To all this I found him willing and ready to meet at any time we should appoint. Then the British and United States consuls addressed themselves to the imperialist, who replied in writing, a copy of which is enclosed (marked A,) that he would meet on the 6th of May. General Benavides being again notified to hold himself ready, the morning of the 6th came in with a heavy norther and no communication even with Vera Cruz itself could be had. On the 8th, and so soon as the weather allowed us to communicate, the English commanding naval officer visited the United States and British consuls at Vera Cruz, to arrange and appoint a new and near date for the proposed conference. The 9th of May was designated by the consuls to the imperial commissary as the most convenient day, and upon applying to him for his opinion and wish, he again peremptorily refused to hold any conference or meeting whatever, except it might be upon the basis of the removal of the liberal forces three days' march from Vera Cruz, and of course the abandonment of their batteries and investing lines. That declaration was more than tantamount to a refusal to carry out his own desire, although it had caused the English commander and myself a great deal of trouble. I, therefore, in behalf of the English captain and my own, addressed a copy of the enclosed letter (marked B) to General Benavides, together with a copy of a letter to imperial commissary, to the effect that all mediation was at an end with a man who had twice sought it, and who had twice failed to meet it when the time arrived.

I enclose a copy of his reply translated, (marked C.) The "situation," therefore, is *in statu quo*; but General Benavides yesterday sent me word that, in a day or two, he would have heavy batteries and heavy guns planted, and that within eight days the city would be bombarded and in his possession. Warnings and requests have already been given and made to the imperial authorities that serious operations would commence, and an earnest and passionate request preferred to the imperial commander that Mexican families, all women and children, might be permitted to leave the city. The imperial commander refuses to let them go. He has only offered the castle for refuge, where people are already dying like sheep.

This imperialist has verbally declared to the United States and British consuls that he recognizes the imperial authority and government at an end; but that to prevent anarchy, riot, and bloodshed he will not relinquish his position; "some one can come and relieve him of his command!" In one word, this

simply means that the revenues of the city and custom-house are passing into his purse, that he is to hold on to his position until force drives him from it, and that, under the fact of having ships at hand under the castle to take himself and officers and their plunder away at any hour they choose to go, it is a safe and money-making business. There is no nationality here at all. The imperial flag is carried, it is true, but the irresponsible authorities acting now in Vera Cruz are precisely in the light and position of brigands and pirates, who hold the place only *at their own caprice*.

It seems to me clear, sir, that there never was a position or a case where forcible interference by all nationalities could and *should* interfere in behalf of duty and right as here. Imperial orders for custom-house money and revenues are dishonored by imperial authorities here. The English minister has declared to his consul that the imperial government is at an end. The imperial authorities here disavow and ignore the imperial sovereign and orders. All classes wish for this state of things to end.

In the mean time, foreigners of all kinds, and Mexicans and citizens, are at the mercy of an armed brigand, who acknowledges no authority and no government, and who is putting the revenues of the city of Vera Cruz into his purse, and who keeps ships at hand to carry him away at any hour he may be seriously threatened.

I am in good accord with English and French commanders here. We all agree, and yet there is no authority or power for us to do that which humanity and the interests of the world hourly and daily appeal to us to do. It is my belief that if a simple authoritative demand to this imperial brigand, who now acknowledges himself without a master, to surrender his command, were made, it would be done.

Such, sir, is the political and military situation at Vera Cruz. Queretaro is still besieged. The city of Mexico is also besieged, and there can be no hopes of final success or relief for either of the imperial commanders.

In the mean time I am receiving on board of my ship families of United States citizens who are fleeing the country, and putting them on board of vessels sailing away. I am often embarrassed by the presence of families of women and children night and day, but I afford them that protection and assistance which they claim at my hands.

My bread will not last longer than the first of June, and I shall be compelled to buy bread for ten days to hold out with the other portions of rations.

I shall be obliged to leave Vera Cruz by the first of June if I am not relieved, or if I do not receive rations.

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

F. A. ROE,

Commander, Commanding.

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

A.

[Translation.]

VERA CRUZ, May 4, 1867.

GENTLEMEN: In reply to your esteemed note of this date, I beg leave to state to you that on Monday, the 6th instant, at 10 o'clock a. m., I will proceed on board the United States steamer Tacony, with the object of having the conference mentioned in your aforesaid communication.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

D. BUREAU.

FREDERICK LEDWARD AND E. H. SAULNIER,
&c., &c., &c., Vera Cruz.

B.

UNITED STATES STEAMER TACONY,
Vera Cruz, Mexico, May 8, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor to make to you the following statement: That, when I sought you to request an interview on board the Tacony, in presence of the British civil and naval commanders, in conjunction with the United States consul and myself, it was in consequence of a verbal request preferred by the imperial commissary commanding at Vera Cruz, and subsequently from a written one, a copy of which is herewith enclosed.

I feel it incumbent upon me, and am requested by the British naval commander, also, to apologize to you for the trouble caused by the false hopes indulged in by us, of a pacific solution of affairs in Vera Cruz, and which attempts are all rendered abortive by the extraordinary attitude assumed by the imperial commissary. In making these offers of mediation with this commissary, we have acted upon his own personal request, and supposed, most naturally, he was in good earnest. It appears that he was not. In all this matter the British and United States powers here have acted in good faith and in an earnest desire to save loss, and perhaps bloodshed, and to facilitate the ardent desires of both parties.

We consider that bad faith has been displayed by the commissary, and we now leave matters to their own natural solution and to the course of war.

I am advised to address you this communication by the British authorities, and also by the United States consul, and moreover by my own sense of duty.

There is nothing more to expect in the way of a pacific solution of the question by way of mediation or of friendly offers of service.

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

F. A. ROE,

Commander U. S. Navy.

General R. BENAVIDES,

Commanding Investing Forces of Vera Cruz, Army of Mexico.

[Translation.]

CAMP CASA MARTA, May 9, 1867.

SIR: The undersigned, general in chief of the troops operating against the rebels who occupy Vera Cruz, has the honor to receive the note of Mr. F. A. Roe, commander of the United States gunboat Tacony, and has considered its contents, and at the same time he has conveyed it to the knowledge of his government.

The undersigned abandoned to the authority of the worthy officers of the ships-of-war of North America and England the conduct of the agent of the Archduke Maximilian, who maintains an armed resistance in Vera Cruz. Also he congratulates himself upon the elevated sentiments of such naval gentlemen, who officiously, and with the most laudable will, sought to draw into a reasonable path those rebels, endeavoring to avoid the consequences of a decisive operation.

He has also received the document accompanying the note.

The undersigned assures to Commander Roe his distinguished consideration.

R. BENAVIDES,

General in Chief.

Mr. F. A. ROE,

Commanding the U. S. Gunboat Tacony, Sacrificios.

No. 3.

UNITED STATES STEAMER TACONY, (3d rate),
Sacrificios, Mexico, May 13, 1867.

SIR: The commander of the Austrian corvette Elizabeth called upon me yesterday, from Green island, to ask me for news in regard to the despatch of honorable Mr. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, to President Juarez, in behalf of Prince Maximilian; and also to ask me to request General Benavides to permit him to send a courier to the city of Mexico, to ascertain news of his prince.

I gave to the Austrian commander a copy of my letter to President Juarez, of which a copy is also transmitted herewith.

I have been shown, by the commanding officer of the English squadron here, an official despatch from the English minister at Mexico, instructing British authorities here that all diplomatic relations had ceased in the city of Mexico between the imperial authorities here and all the representatives of foreign powers.

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

F. A. ROE, Commander.

Commodore J. A. WINSLOW,

Commanding Gulf Squadron, Pensacola.

No. 4.

UNITED STATES STEAMER TACONY, (3d rate),
Off Sacrificios, Mexico, May 17, 1867.

SIR: I respectfully enclose, herewith, a copy of a correspondence between Mr. E. H. Saulnier, United States consul at Vera Cruz, and myself, in relation to a schooner chartered by the authorities of Vera Cruz; and also in relation to a forced loan proposed to be executed by the imperial commissioner at Vera Cruz upon foreign citizens.

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

F. A. ROE, Commander.

Commodore JOHN A. WINSLOW,

Commanding Gulf Squadron, Pensacola, Florida.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Vera Cruz, May 15, 1867.

SIR: On Sunday last, 12th instant, the American schooner Annie E. Marten, Hugh H. Nicholson, master, left this port for Sisal, under charter with a Spaniard here, to proceed to Sisal for cattle and provisions for this city. Said Spaniard, Antonio Gomez de la Serna, the same that is contractor for the English ship of war, sold his charter to the authorities of this city. Said authorities, I understood, have shipped on said schooner some twenty-one boxes of muskets for Sisal, unknown to me, and perhaps to the master of said schooner. On Monday, the 13th instant, the Spanish steamer from Havana and Sisal arrived here with the intelligence of the capture of Sisal by the forces of the republican government of Mexico. In consequence of said intelligence, the French steamer Sonora was forthwith chartered by the authorities here to go in search of said schooner and bring her back to this port, chartered at the rate of \$20 per hour.

Now, what I have to suggest for your consideration is, that in consequence of this flagrant abuse of our flag, and the deception perpetrated by the authorities

of this city, whether you do not consider it your duty to take charge of said schooner, should she return for this port, and place her under your guns at Sacrificios until ample satisfaction can be given by the authorities, or time give us to determine as to the disposition to be made of said vessel.

With much respect, your obedient servant,

E. H. SAULNIER,
United States Consul.

Commander F. A. ROE,
Commanding the U. S. Steamer Tacony, Sacrificios.

UNITED STATES STEAMER TACONY, (3d rate),
Sacrificios, May 16, 1867.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 15th, in relation to the schooner Annie E. Marten, is received, and attentively considered.

When I consider the state of war existing here, and the necessities which are the products of it, and as the master of the schooner chartered his vessel, or sold her services to the authorities of Vera Cruz, I do not see that any one is to blame but himself; certainly it is no worse to carry muskets to an enemy than it would be to carry him cattle or bread and meat, especially if he were undergoing a siege, one of the hardest operations of war.

Moreover, the master, I think, can hardly exonerate himself (if there is blame) by declaring his ignorance of the cargo.

I cannot think it would be proper for me in anywise to interfere with the Marten. Last evening I spoke the Sonora, who reported that she was coming back to Vera Cruz, which one may very easily doubt.

Very truly, yours,

F. A. ROE, *Commander.*

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

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Vera Cruz, May 15, 1867.

SIR: The authorities of this city being about to imitate the example of the notorious General Marquez, the representative of the emperor, or self-styled emperor of Mexico, by levying war taxes on and compelling foreigners by armed force to satisfy their demands for money, I wish to bring to your mind the fact that the authorities in this city, the representatives of a government disowned by the entire diplomatic corps in the city of Mexico, are usurping illegal power in the spoliations being committed by them, and for your reconsideration whether some immediate action in connection with the English commander may not be of great benefit to the interest of our commerce with this city at this present moment.

With much respect, your obedient servant,

E. H. SAULNIER,
United States Consul.

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

UNITED STATES SHIP TACONY, (3d rate),
Sacrificios, May 16, 1867.

SIR: Although the official interview yesterday at the consulate of France, of the French, English, and United States naval commanders, together with the

consular representatives of their respective governments, in the presence of Mr. Bureau, the imperial commissioner commanding Vera Cruz, resulted in a favorable declaration to us, as representatives of foreign powers, and as his promise that no war tax or forced loan should be levied upon foreigners does away with fears for the future, and the question is forever settled, yet I would respectfully advise, that should any attempt be made to levy a war tax, forced loan, or extra duties on goods that have already cleared the custom-house, you should at once protest and refuse to pay such illegal amounts, at the same time informing Mr. Bureau that should force be used, it will be at his own risk and peril, and that I will hold him responsible for the very grave consequences that must follow. However, should it be required that the goods in the custom-house be cleared at once, I am of opinion, that, as there is no bonding in Vera Cruz, the revocation of a privilege granted (as I understand) by the French, during their military occupation of Vera Cruz, cannot be looked upon as an illegal act, and still less in the case of parties who have accepted the 25 per cent. deduction on duties, and the more especially if on the part of the same cargo, order, or commission.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. ROE,
Commander United States Navy.

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

Mr. Naphegyi to Mr. F. W. Seward.

EBBITT HOUSE, July 10, 1867.

Mr. G. Naphegyi presents his compliments to the Hon. Frederick Seward, Assistant Secretary of State, and requests the honor of a brief interview with him.

Mr. Naphegyi would say, that the interview sought has reference to matters other than that upon which he addressed the honorable Secretary of State on the 6th instant.

He feels no uneasiness with regard to the subject of that note; indeed he is satisfied the government had, on its account and motion, anticipated his request by many days, although he had no right to assume as much in an official note.

The interview now sought has reference to matters of such grave importance that Mr. Naphegyi does not feel at liberty to reduce the subject to writing, nor to the verbal explanation of a third party. What he proposes to submit shall, therefore, be of the most confidential nature.

[Memorandum.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 12, 1867.

On the 6th of July, instant, a paper was presented to the Secretary of State, which bears the signature of G. Naphegyi. Mr. Naphegyi describes himself as attorney in fact and confidential agent in the United States of Señor Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, and in that character invites the attention of this department to certain transactions which recently occurred in the gulf of Mexico, "by which," as Mr. Naphegyi says, "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, (meaning Mexico,) and by which, almost immediately thereafter, he was deprived of his personal liberty, and his life itself placed in jeopardy."