

CORRESPONDENCE WITH MINISTERS TO MEXICO.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING,

*In compliance with a resolution of the House of July, 3, 1867, the official correspondence between the Department of State and Hon. Lewis D. Campbell, late minister to Mexico, and also that with his successor.*

JULY 19, 1867.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

*To the House of Representatives:*

In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 3d instant, requesting me to transmit all the official correspondence between the Department of State and the Hon. Lewis D. Campbell, late minister to Mexico, and also that with his successor, I communicate a report from the Secretary of State, and the papers accompanying it.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, July 11, 1867.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, July 11, 1867.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 3d instant, requesting the President, "if not incompatible with the public interest, to transmit to this house all the official correspondence between the Department of State and the Hon. Lewis D. Campbell, late minister of the United States to the republic of Mexico, from the time of his appointment; also the correspondence of the department with his successor," has the honor to lay before the President the papers mentioned in the subjoined list.

Respectfully submitted:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The PRESIDENT.

*List of Papers.*

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Campbell	May	21, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	May	23, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	May	25, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	October	2, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	October	25, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	November	2, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	November	3, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to the President	November	5, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	November	9, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	November	9, 1866.
Mr. Plumb to Mr. Seward	November	10, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	November	16, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	November	19, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	November	21, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	November	23, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell, (with one enclosure,)	November	23, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	November	30, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	November	30, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	December	1, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, (with one enclosure,)	December	1, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell, (with one enclosure,)	December	6, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	December	8, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	December	12, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, (with four enclosures,)	December	13, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, (with three enclosures,)	December	24, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	December	24, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	December	25, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	December	27, 1866.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	December	29, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, (with four enclosures,)	December	31, 1866.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	January	2, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	January	2, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	January	2, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	January	3, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	January	7, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	January	8, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	January	12, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	January	11, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	January	13, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	January	14, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	January	18, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	January	21, 1867.
Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, (with two enclosures,)	January	30, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, (with one enclosure,)	January	25, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell, (with one enclosure,)	January	26, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell, (with one enclosure,)	January	28, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	January	30, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	January	30, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	February	2, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	February	4, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	February	9, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	March	2, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	March	2, 1867.
Mr. Plumb to Mr. Seward, (with three enclosures,)	March	7, 1867.
Mr. Plumb to Mr. Seward	March	8, 1867.

Mr. Plumb to Mr. Jacobson, (with one enclosure,)	March	11, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	March	12, 1867.
Mr. Plumb to Mr. Seward, (with two enclosures,)	March	13, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	March	18, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, (with two enclosures,)	March	18, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, (with one enclosure,)	March	20, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	March	23, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell, (with one enclosure,)	March	27, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	March	28, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	April	2, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	April	2, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	April	3, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	April	6, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	April	6, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, (with four enclosures,)	April	6, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	April	8, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	April	9, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	April	24, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	April	30, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	May	15, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, (with one enclosure,)	May	15, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, (with one enclosure,)	May	16, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	May	17, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	May	17, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	May	20, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward, (with one enclosure,)	May	21, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	May	22, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	May	25, 1867.
Mr. Plumb to Mr. Seward	May	26, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	May	28, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	May	29, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	May	29, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	May	30, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	May	31, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	June	1, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	June	3, 1867.
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. William H. Seward	June	3, 1867.
Mr. William H. Seward to Mr. F. W. Seward	June	3, 1867.
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. William H. Seward	June	4, 1867.
Mr. William H. Seward to Mr. F. W. Seward	June	4, 1867.
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Campbell	June	5, 1867.
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. William H. Seward	June	5, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	June	6, 1867.
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. William H. Seward	June	6, 1867.
Mr. William H. Seward to Mr. F. W. Seward	June	7, 1867.
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Campbell	June	6, 1867.
Mr. Romero to Mr. F. W. Seward	June	8, 1867.
Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Campbell	June	8, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	June	10, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	June	11, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	June	15, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	June	15, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward	June	16, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	June	15, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell	June	17, 1867.
Mr. Campbell to Mr. F. W. Seward	June	21, 1867.
Mr. William H. Seward to Mr. F. W. Seward	June	21, 1867.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Otterbourg	July	3, 1867.

*Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Campbell.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, May 21, 1866.

SIR: The President having nominated you, and the Senate confirmed your appointment, as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to the republic of Mexico, I transmit herewith your commission in that character.

If you accept the commission you will be pleased to execute the enclosed oath as required by law, and return the same to this department. As it is desirable that you should proceed to your mission without any delay that can be avoided, the department would like to be informed when it will be convenient for you to start.

You will also inform the department of the State in which you were born, and of that of your residence when appointed.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK W. SEWARD,  
*Acting Secretary.*

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL, Esq., *Washington, D. C.*

*Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 23, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of communication from F. W. Seward, esq., acting Secretary of State, transmitting my commission as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to the republic of Mexico, and to inform the Department of State that I accept the same. I enclose herewith the oath sent me, duly executed, &c.

I was born in the State of Ohio on the 9th day of August, 1811, and have always resided in that State. My present residence is in the city of Hamilton, Ohio.

I shall be ready to proceed to my mission on the first of July next, and sooner if the department desire it.

I am, sir, very truly, yours, &c.,

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, May 25, 1866.

SIR: The commission of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States near the government of the republic of Mexico having been accepted by you in your letter of the 23d instant, I transmit herewith your printed personal instructions in that character, a sealed letter accrediting you to his excellency Don Benito Juarez, the President of the United Mexican States, the usual office copy of the same, and a special passport for yourself and suite.

Your salary will be at the rate of twelve thousand dollars per annum, and will begin on the day of your arrival at your post. You will also be allowed salary at the same rate for such time, not exceeding thirty days, prior to your departure as you may have been detained awaiting instructions, and also for such additional time as you may be necessarily occupied in reaching your post from your place of residence.

You will please inform the department of the date of your departure from your residence, of that of your arrival at the seat of the government of the republic of Mexico, and of your entrance upon your duties there.

A contingent allowance, not exceeding twelve hundred dollars a year without special authority, is also placed to the credit of the legation, the disbursement of which is indicated in the printed instructions.

For your compensation as it falls due quarterly, and for the contingent expenses of the legation, you will draw upon this department.

The department entertains the confidence that your intelligent and zealous attention to the interests of the United States, now confided to your care, will be eminently conducive to the harmony and friendly relations existing between the governments of the two countries.

A trunk containing a supply of stationery for the legation has been prepared, and will be delivered to you when ready to take your departure.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL, Esq., &c., &c., *Washington, D. C.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.*

No. 2.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, October 2, 1866.

SIR: I transmit for your information a communication received at the department from Monterey, Mexico, signed by Mr. Joseph Ulrick, lately appointed consul of the United States to that city, in which is contained a petition of several citizens of the United States, merchants of Monterey, setting forth that the liberal authorities of Monterey had lately subjected them and other American citizens to forced loans, against which they ask the protection of this government. Mr. Ulrick also states that several citizens of the United States are held to service in the Mexican army against their inclination, whose respective terms of service have expired.

These causes will necessitate your early presence at your post; and you are therefore instructed to proceed to Mexico at as early an hour as convenient, where you will at once lend your attention to the proper investigation of the complaints contained in the enclosed documents.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL, Esq., &c., &c., *Hamilton, Ohio.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.*

No. 3.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, October 25, 1866.

SIR: You are aware that a friendly and explicit arrangement exists between this government and the Emperor of France to the effect that he will withdraw his expeditionary military forces from Mexico in three parts, the first of which shall leave Mexico in November next, the second in March next, and the third in November, 1867, and that upon the evacuation being thus completed, the French government will immediately come upon the ground of non-intervention in regard to Mexico which is held by the United States.

Doubts have been entertained and expressed in some quarters upon the question whether the French government will faithfully execute this agreement. No such doubts have been entertained by the President, who has had repeated

and even recent assurances that the complete evacuation of Mexico by the French will be consummated at the periods mentioned, or earlier if compatible with climatical, military, and other conditions.

There are grounds for supposing that two incidental questions have already engaged the attention of the French government, namely:

First. Whether it should not advise the departure of the Prince Maximilian for Austria, to be made before the withdrawal of the French expedition.

Second. Whether it would not be consistent with the climatical, military, and other conditions before mentioned to withdraw the whole expeditionary force at once instead of retiring it in three parts, and at different periods.

No formal communication, however, upon this subject has been made by the French Emperor to the government of the United States. When the subject has been incidentally mentioned, this department, by direction of the President, has replied that the United States await the execution of the agreement for evacuation by the French government at least according to its letter, while they would be gratified if that agreement could be executed with greater promptness and despatch than are stipulated.

Under these circumstances the President expects that within the next month (November) a portion, at least, of the French expeditionary forces will retire from Mexico, and thinks it not improbable that the whole expeditionary force may be withdrawn at or about the same time. Such an event cannot fail to produce a crisis of great political interest in the republic of Mexico. It is important that you be either within the territories of that republic, or in some other place near at hand, so as to assume the exercise of your functions as minister plenipotentiary of the United States to the republic of Mexico.

What may be the proceedings of the Prince Maximilian in the event of a partial or complete evacuation of Mexico, of course, cannot now be certainly foreseen. What may be the proceedings of Mr. Juarez, the President of the republic of Mexico, in the same event, cannot now be definitely anticipated.

We are aware of the existence of several political parties in Mexico other than those at the head of which are President Juarez and Prince Maximilian, who entertain conflicting views concerning the most expedient and proper mode of restoring peace, order, and civil government in that republic. We do not know what may be the proceedings of those parties in the event of the French evacuation.

Finally, it is impossible for us to foresee what may be the proceedings of the Mexican people in case of the happening of the events before alluded to. For these reasons it is impossible to give you specific directions for the conduct of your proceedings in the discharge of the high trust which the government of the United States has confided to you. Much must be left to your discretion, which is to be exercised according to the view you may take of political movements as they shall disclose themselves in the future. There are, however, some principles which, as we think, may be safely laid down in regard to the policy which the government of the United States will expect you to pursue. The first of these is, that as a representative of the United States you are accredited to the republican government of Mexico, of which Mr. Juarez is President. Your communications as such representative will be made to him wherever he may be, and in no event will you officially recognize either the Prince Maximilian, who claims to be emperor, or any other person, chief, or combination, as exercising the executive authority in Mexico, without having first reported to this department and received instructions from the President of the United States.

Secondly. Assuming that the French military and naval commanders shall be engaged in good faith in executing the agreement before mentioned for the evacuation of Mexico, the spirit of the engagement on our part in relation to that event will forbid the United States and their representative from obstructing or embarrassing the departure of the French.

Thirdly. What the government of the United States desires in regard to the future of Mexico is not the conquest of Mexico, or any part of it, or the aggrandizement of the United States by purchases of land or dominion, but, on the other hand, they desire to see the people of Mexico relieved from all foreign military intervention, to the end that they may resume the conduct of their own affairs under the existing republican government, or such other frame of government as, being left in the enjoyment of perfect liberty, they shall determine to adopt in the exercise of their own free will, by their own free act, without dictation from any foreign country, and, of course, without dictation from the United States.

It results as a consequence from these principles that you will enter into no stipulation with the French commanders, or with the Prince Maximilian, or with any other party, which shall have tendency to counteract or oppose the administration of President Juarez, or to hinder or delay the restoration of the authority of the republic. On the other hand, it may possibly happen that the President of the republic of Mexico may desire the good offices of the United States, or even some effective proceedings on our part, to favor and advance the pacification of a country so long destroyed by foreign invasion, combined with civil war, and thus gain time for the re-establishment of national authority upon principles consistent with a republican and domestic system of government; it is possible, moreover, that some disposition might be made of the land and naval forces of the United States, without interfering within the jurisdiction of Mexico, or violating the laws of neutrality, which would be useful in favoring the restoration of law, order, and republican government in that country.

You are authorized to confer upon this subject with the republican government of Mexico, and its agents, and also to confer informally, if you find it necessary, with any other parties or agents, should such an exceptional conference become absolutely necessary, but not otherwise. You will by these means obtain information which will be important to this government, and such information you will convey to this department, with your suggestions and advice as to any proceedings on our part which can be adopted in conformity with the principles I have before laid down.

You will be content with thus referring any important propositions on the subject of reorganization and restoration of the republican government in Mexico as may arise to this department for the information of the President.

The General of the United States possesses already discretionary authority as to the location of the forces of the United States in the vicinity of Mexico. His military experience will enable him to advise you concerning such questions as may arise during the transition stage of Mexico from a military siege by a foreign enemy to a condition of practical self-government. At the same time it will be in his power, being near the scene of action, to issue any orders which may be expedient or necessary for maintaining the obligations resting upon the United States in regard to proceedings upon the borders of Mexico. For these reasons he has been requested and instructed by the President to proceed with you to your destination, and act with you as an adviser recognized by this department in regard to the matters which have herein been discussed. After conferring with him you are at liberty to proceed to the city of Chihuahua, or to such other place in Mexico as may be the residence of President Juarez; or in your discretion you will proceed to any other place in Mexico, not held or occupied at the time of your arrival by enemies of the republic of Mexico, or you will stop at any place in the United States or elsewhere, near the frontier or coast of Mexico, and await there a time to enter any portion of Mexico which shall hereafter be in the occupation of the republican government of Mexico.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

*Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward.*

HAMILTON, OHIO, *November 2, 1866.*

DEAR SIR: After the hitch in regard to Mexican matters occasioned by the question raised by General Grant, I called at the department several times and was informed that you were not in—absent on account of the illness of your much loved daughter. Of course I did not feel like obtruding myself on you under such circumstances.

When I left home to go to Washington, I parted with my family in much distress, because of the dangerous illness of Mrs. Campbell's mother, a very aged woman, and a member of my little family. On Sunday I received information calling me home, and had my trunk packed before receiving a verbal communication from you by Mr. Gutman. Since arriving here I have been confined, myself, by a severe attack, the result of exposure in travelling and overtaking my physical energies in the late political struggle. This much I write by way of explanation.

I am informed by General Sherman, now on his way to St. Louis, that he has been substituted for General Grant in the matter of the Mexican mission, and that in a few days he will join me to proceed to New York. Of course, I must go by Washington to receive my final instructions.

I have not yet had my secretary of legation appointed, and one principal object of this letter is to ask, or at least to recommend, that Edward L. Plumb, esq., of New York, be appointed.

He has been strongly recommended to me by many gentlemen of high character and influence; among others, Mr. Hunter, of your department, spoke of him as a man eminently qualified. From my intercourse with him I am satisfied he is a gentleman. He speaks and writes the French and Spanish languages well, and seems thoroughly informed in regard to Mexican matters. I am satisfied that he would fill the position with satisfaction to the government. If, therefore, there be no serious objection to him, I hope the appointment will be conferred on him. It is proper to say, too, that I have written to the President on this subject.

Mr. Plumb is now in Washington, and if he is to be the secretary, he might be informed of the fact in advance of my arrival, thereby avoiding any unnecessary delay on that account.

I expect Lieutenant General Sherman to join me so soon as he can go to St. Louis, arrange his matters, and return to Cincinnati. I shall be in readiness by the time he makes his trip, and will proceed at once to Washington.

In haste, very truly yours, &c.,

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

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

*Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward.*

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,  
*War Department, November 3.*

[From Hamilton, Ohio, November 3, 1866]

*To the Secretary of State:*

I will start with General Sherman on his return here from St. Louis. Shall I proceed directly to New York, or report myself first to you at Washington?

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

*Mr. Campbell to the President.*

[Telegram.]

UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT.

HAMILTON, Ohio, *November 5, 1866.*

*To the President of the United States and Secretary of State:*

I shall start for New York with General Sherman, unless directed to go by Washington to-day.

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

*Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward.*

[Telegram.]

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT.

[From New York, November 9, 1866.]

Honorable W. H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State:*

Arrived with General Sherman last evening; have received instructions sent here by mail, and by Plumb. I find in them no instructions as to how I am to proceed to Mexico, nor any orders placing any vessel at my disposal.

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL,  
*Metropolitan Hotel.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.*

[By Military Telegraph.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, November 9, 1867.*

To LEWIS D. CAMPBELL,

*Minister to Mexico, Metropolitan Hotel, New York:*

Your telegram of this morning has been received. The United States steamer *Susquehanna*, Commodore James Alden, has been ordered by the Secretary of the Navy to take you, General Sherman, and your respective suites, and also Mr. Plumb, to any place in or near Mexico which you may designate. The vessel is ready, and at your immediate disposal.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

*Mr. Plumb to Mr. Seward.*

NEW YORK, *November 10, 1866.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your personal instructions of the 7th instant, accompanied by my commission and passport as secretary of legation to the republic of Mexico.

The Hon. Lewis D. Campbell, minister to Mexico, and Lieutenant General Sherman arrived in this city late on the 8th instant. I reported that night to the minister, and, as at present advised, our departure for Mexico on board the steamer *Susquehanna* will take place at 2 p. m. to-day.

I am, sir, with the highest respect, your most obedient servant,

E. L. PLUMB.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, Washington.*

*Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.*

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, November 16, 1866.

To LEWIS D. CAMPBELL *Minister to Mexico* :

Mr. D. L. Lane, consul to Vera Cruz, has applied to this department for permission to take passage in the *Susquehanna*. He has been referred to you for your consent, if you deem it expedient and proper. The department has no objection.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

*Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward.*

No. 1.] UNITED STATES STEAMSHIP *SUSQUEHANNA*,  
Havana, November 19, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to advise you that I left my home in Ohio on the 7th instant for New York, in company with Lieutenant General Sherman, and arrived there late in the night of the 8th. The next morning I received through the post office your printed instructions of the 25th ultimo; also a duplicate copy of the same by the hands of Mr. Plumb, the secretary of legation. In the afternoon of the same day I received your telegram informing me that the United States steamer *Susquehanna* had been ordered to take Lieutenant General Sherman and myself, with our suites and the secretary of legation, to Mexico.

It is proper to add that shortly before the receipt of your telegram Commodore Alden called on me and communicated the same information.

We embarked on the *Susquehanna* on the 10th, and arrived here on the 18th. Not having touched at any point since we left New York, we have been subjected to no delay, except for an hour or two off Cape Hatteras on the 13th instant, where, during a gale, Commodore Alden, finding the steamship *King Fisher* from Baltimore, bound for Charleston, in a sinking condition and abandoned, saved the lives of twenty-three persons of her crew who were in imminent peril, under circumstances of great difficulty—a humane achievement most gratifying to us, and highly creditable to the commodore and officers of this ship.

Should I succeed in obtaining information of any interest here in regard to Mexican affairs, I will make it the subject of another communication before leaving this port.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, Washington.*

*Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward.*

[Confidential.]

No. 2.] UNITED STATES STEAMER *SUSQUEHANNA*,  
Havana, November 21, 1866.

Although the facts I am about to relate may, in themselves, be of little importance, in connection with other information they may have a tendency to throw some further light upon the present situation of affairs in Mexico. I therefore deem it proper to communicate them.

The day after my arrival in this port I was informed by Mr. Miner, our consul general here, that an interview with me was desired by General Magruder, late of the so-called confederate army, who, after a residence of many months in Mexico, had arrived here on the 17th instant, directly from the city of Mexico and Vera Cruz. Mr. Miner also stated that he had reason to believe that General Magruder might be able to communicate to me some information of value.

I did not deem it proper to call upon General Magruder in any capacity, or to seek any information from him, yet believed that if any information was voluntarily tendered it became my duty to receive it, from whatever quarter it might come. On yesterday, casually meeting General Magruder at the United States consulate, he requested an interview with me, which I granted, and a lengthy conversation at once took place, relating mainly to the situation of affairs in Mexico. The substance of the information imparted by him is as follows:

He left the city of Mexico about the first of November, prior to which date Maximilian had already left the city and proceeded to Orizaba. It was the general understanding that he had abdicated, or at least had in some measure turned over the government to Marshal Bazaine. Being about to leave the city of Mexico for Washington, leaving his family behind in Mexico, General Magruder called on Marshal Bazaine with a view of ascertaining the true situation of affairs, for the purpose of such provisional arrangements for them and their safety as might be necessary.

During the interview, General Magruder said to Marshal Bazaine, "I presume, in the event of the abdication of Maximilian, your excellency will be the government?" To which he replied, "If such should be the case, I shall only occupy the position for transient purposes."

The following day General Magruder left the city of Mexico for Vera Cruz, Maximilian then being at Orizaba. He observed, on the road down, that the French were strongly fortifying various points, and especially at Puebla, Orizaba, and the passes below, but he was impressed with the belief that these works were rather designed for the safe withdrawal of the French troops than for the continued occupation of the country by them. On his arrival at Vera Cruz he learned, from reliable authority, that Maximilian was about to take his departure, but had temporarily delayed doing so in consequence of the arrival in that city of Miramon and Marquez, the old leaders of the reactionary party.

On the 13th instant General Magruder was informed by the second captain of the Austrian frigate then lying in the harbor of Vera Cruz that that vessel was to take out Maximilian, and that their departure had only been delayed in consequence of the arrival of Miramon and Marquez, but that Maximilian would certainly leave within ten days, which would be prior to the 23d instant.

General Magruder further informed me that, at the close of his interview with Marshal Bazaine, when he was about to bid him adieu, the marshal said to him, "You are about to visit the United States, general?" Reply: "Yes." "You will see the President?" Reply: "I probably shall." "If you do," said Marshal Bazaine, "deliver him this verbal message from me:"

"The moral influence wielded by the government of the United States has destroyed this empire. Upon it, therefore, rests the obligation to see that some government be established and sustained here that shall secure the protection of life and property, and the tranquillity of this people. This, in my judgment, can only be done by furnishing physical aid. The interests of foreigners in this country cannot be left without some protection. Of non-combatants engaged in peaceful pursuits, the larger proportion of whom are French subjects, there are at least thirty thousand; there should be an armed force, properly distributed in the country, temporarily at least, to assist the government that may be established in preserving order and enforcing its decrees. Ten or fifteen thousand United States troops, properly distributed in the northern States, and a similar