

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

number of French troops in the southern States, co-operating with each other, could accomplish this."

I cannot say that I have given the precise words of General Magruder, as the conversation was somewhat desultory, but I have given the substance, so far as relates to material points. I inquired particularly of General Magruder whether he understood from Marshal Bazaine that the French government would desire to furnish any portion of the French troops, or only in the contingency that the United States should decline to do so. General Magruder replied promptly that his understanding was, that the French government would expect to provide a portion of the troops, only in the event that the United States desired it, or declined furnishing the necessary forces.

I then inquired whether he communicated these facts to me for my own information merely, or whether I had his authority to communicate the same to the Secretary of State. His reply was to this effect: "When I left Mexico I expected to proceed at once to Washington, and communicate these facts to the government in person, but, on arriving here, I learn that, in consequence of the death of Mr. John Van Buren, one of my attorneys, and other causes, I may be delayed for some time in this city. Regarding this information as of importance, I have sought this interview with you, as the envoy of the United States to Mexico, believing that, by communicating it to you, I am accomplishing, practically, as nearly as circumstances will permit, the promise I made to Marshal Bazaine to deliver his verbal message to the President. You are, therefore, at full liberty to make such use of it as you may deem proper."

The foregoing, so far as my recollection serves me, embraces all the essential points of the interview which I thought it proper to accord to General Magruder, in compliance with his request communicated to me by Mr. Miner. From his manner, and the general tenor of his conversation, the impression was left upon my mind that he was sincere, and that he desired in good faith to serve the interests of the government in communicating what he did.

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

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

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

Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward.

No. 3.]

UNITED STATES STEAMER SUSQUEHANNA,
Havana, November 23, 1866.

SIR: The haste of my departure from New York rendered it impossible for me to confer, as it seemed necessary I should, with our consuls to Vera Cruz and the city of Mexico, with reference to the arrangement of some plan by which they could promptly and reliably communicate to me such information as it will be necessary for me to have on arriving upon the coast of Mexico, as to the situation of affairs in the interior.

On reaching here, and finding that the steamer Manhattan, upon which these gentlemen had embarked at New York, had not yet arrived at this port, I thought it proper and desirable to delay here at least until their arrival, in order to confer more fully with them.

The Manhattan reached here on the afternoon of the 19th, and on the 20th I had a full conversation with both Mr. Lane and Mr. Otterbourg, and arranged a system by which they will collect and transmit to me such information as may tend to expedite my efforts to communicate speedily with President Juarez. On the morning of the 21st these gentlemen proceeded to their destination and will probably reach Vera Cruz on the 25th instant.

The steamer on which they go will carry to Vera Cruz the first information of the departure of the mission from the United States, and the lapse of a few days will therefore enable its effect to be felt and information to be collected prior to our arrival, and also to enable Mr. Otterbourg to reach the city of Mexico and communicate with me from there.

From information already communicated to you in my despatch of the 21st, and as derived from other sources, it appears probable that Maximilian will have left the country on or about the 23d instant. On the 22d, also, a steamer will leave Vera Cruz for this port, reaching here about the 27th, and thus bringing information to a very late date. I have therefore thought that a delay here of a few days might be of advantage in throwing light upon the proper course to be pursued, and also, perhaps, in enabling action to be taken on arriving at Vera Cruz without unnecessary delay, which otherwise might be experienced in waiting information from Mr. Otterbourg after his arrival at his post. This course seems to me the more necessary for the reason that under the discretion thrown upon me by your instructions I desire to act with great caution in every step that I may take. As at present advised, the so-called imperial authorities still hold possession of the port of Vera Cruz.

Your instructions do not authorize me to proceed to any place in Mexico "held or occupied at the time of your (my) arrival by enemies of the republic of Mexico."

My present impression is that at the proper time we will decide to sail for Vera Cruz, but to anchor at Green island or Sacrificios, outside the harbor proper, for the purpose of receiving from our consul, Mr. Lane, any information he may have to communicate or that may be received through him from Mr. Otterbourg, or from other sources. This may also afford an opportunity to confer with "the republican government and its agents," if there be such there, and also to "confer informally with any other parties or agents," should it become necessary to do so.

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

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

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

Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.

No. 4.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 23, 1866.

SIR: I give you a copy of a despatch which has just been received from Mr. Bigelow, from which you will learn, as we have learned with surprise, that the French government has postponed its stipulated withdrawal of a detachment from Mexico in November, with a purpose, as is avowed, of withdrawing the whole of the forces at once some time next spring. I give you also a copy of my reply thereto, announcing that this resolution of the French government is unsatisfactory to the President. The same paper will inform you that the President does not think it necessary or advisable to modify your instructions. We are not without confidence in anticipating a satisfactory resolution upon the subject from France.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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

No. 384.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

Paris, November 8, 1866.

SIR: The minister of foreign affairs informed me on Thursday last, in reply to a question which certain newspaper rumors prompted me to address him, that it was the purpose of the Emperor to withdraw all his troops from Mexico in the spring, but none before that time. I expressed my surprise and regret at this determination, so distinctly in conflict with the pledges given by his excellency's predecessor, Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, both to you, through the Marquis de Montholon, and also to myself personally. The marquis assigned considerations of a purely military character, overlooking, or underestimating, as it seemed to me, the importance which this change might possibly have upon the relations of France with the United States. My first impulse was to send him a note on the following day, asking for a formal statement of the Emperor's motives of disregarding the stipulations of his foreign minister for a withdrawal of one detachment of his Mexican army during the current month of November. I concluded, however, that it would be more satisfactory to the President that I should see the Emperor himself upon the subject. I accordingly waited upon his Majesty yesterday, at St. Cloud, repeated to him what the Marquis de Moustier had told me, and desired to know what, if anything, could be done by me to anticipate and prevent the discontent which I felt persuaded would be experienced by my country people, if they receive this intelligence without any explanation. I referred to the early meeting of Congress, when any change in our relations, either with France or Mexico, would be likely to come under discussion, and my fear that his Majesty's reasons for postponing the repatriation of the first detachment of his troops might be attributed to motives which our people would be disposed to resent.

The Emperor said that it was true that he had concluded to postpone the recall of any of his troops until spring, but that in doing so he had been influenced by entirely military considerations. At the time he gave the order, the successors of the dissidents, supported as they were by large re-enforcements from the United States, seemed to render any reduction of his force there perilous to those who remained behind.

He accordingly sent a telegram to Marshal Bazaine, who had already embarked a regiment, (eighty-first, I think he said,) but which had fortunately been prevented from sailing by unfavorable winds, directing him to embark no troops until all were ready to come. This despatch, his Majesty said, was not sent in cipher, that no secret might be made of its tenor in the United States. The troops were then disembarked, and returned to Orizaba. His Majesty went on to say that he sent General Castelnau to Mexico about the same time, charged to inform Maximilian that France could not give him another cent of money, nor another man; if he thought he could sustain himself there alone, France would not withdraw her troops faster than had been stipulated for by Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, should such be his desire; but if, on the other hand, he was disposed to abdicate, which was the course his Majesty counselled him to take, General Castelnau was charged to find some government with which to treat for the protection of French interests, and to bring all the army home in the spring.

I asked his Majesty if the President of the United States had been notified of this, or if anything had been done to prepare his mind for the change in his Majesty's policy. He said that he did not know; that M. de Moustier ought to have done so; that, as these events occurred during the interim of a change in the ministry of foreign affairs, it was possible that it had been neglected, though his telegram to Marshal Bazaine was purposely sent in a way to show that there was nothing in his plans to disguise.

I remarked that my government was constantly under the necessity of protesting against acts done in the name of his Majesty, and the effect of such pro-

tests was always to weaken public confidence in the representations which the government had felt itself authorized to make in regard to his Majesty's intentions. I then explained to him again briefly the grave inconveniences liable to result from any unexplained departure from the stipulations already given in his Majesty's name to the world. His Majesty replied that we had the telegraph now, and that any misunderstanding of that sort might be readily rectified.

His Majesty appeared to realize the importance of having an understanding with the President upon the subject, and I left with the impression that he intended to occupy himself with the matter at once.

There is but one sentiment here about the determination of France to wash her hands of Mexico as soon as possible. Nor have I any doubt that the Emperor is acting in entire good faith towards us; but I did not feel sure that the change in his plans upon which I have been commenting would receive so favorable an interpretation in the United States. In view of recent successes gained by the imperialists in Mexico, and in view of the somewhat turbulent state of our politics at home, I feared that the course of the Emperor might possibly awaken suspicions in the United States, which might seriously prejudice the relations of the two countries. To prevent such a calamity, if possible, I thought it my duty to take the precautions of which I have here rendered you an account.

The fact which the Emperor admitted in this conversation, that he had advised Maximilian to abdicate, has prepared me to expect every day the announcement of his abdication, for such advice, in Maximilian's dependent condition, is almost equivalent to an order. That it would be so regarded is, I think, the expectation of the Emperor, and ample preparations for the early repatriation of all the troops have, I believe, already been made by the ministers of war and marine. The Emperor stated that he expected to know the final result of Castelnau's mission towards the end of this month.

A telegram has appeared in the London Star and Post, quoting a report circulating in New York on the 6th, that Maximilian had abdicated. As despatches received the 7th made no reference to this report, I presume it was, at least, premature.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

*Secretary of State.**Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.*

No. 5.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 30, 1866.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch (No. 1) of the 19th instant, the contents of which have been read with satisfaction.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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

Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.

No. 6.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 30, 1866.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches Nos. 1 and 2, the 21st and 23d instant, respectively.

Your despatch No. 1, containing an account of your interview with Mr. Magruder, has been submitted to the President.

The department approves of your proceedings mentioned in your No. 2, of the 23d instant, which seems to have been discreet.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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

Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward.

No. 4.] UNITED STATES STEAMER SUSQUEHANNA, AT ANCHOR
OFF VERDE ISLAND, OUTSIDE PORT OF VERA CRUZ,
December 1, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival at this anchorage on the 29th ultimo, having left Havana on the afternoon of the 25th.

Mr. Lane, our consul at this port, was on board with me here during the day, yesterday. From him, and from other sources, I have gained the following information as to the state of affairs at this point, and so far as is known here with regard to the interior.

Maximilian is still at Orizaba. His ministers, it is stated, are now there with him. He has not been in the city of Mexico since his departure from that place the last of October. It is generally understood that the functions of government in the city of Mexico are in the hands of Marshal Bazaine.

At Orizaba, and at this port, the civil power appears, however, still to be exercised by so-called Maximilian authorities. Between these and the French there is evidently some disagreement, particularly with reference to the possession of the custom-house of this port.

No French troops, so far as I can learn, were embarked at this port during the month of November, nor for some time previous. There are but one or two transport vessels now here, and nothing transpiring that is obvious here that indicates any preparation for the immediate withdrawal of any part of the French forces. It is said that they are being withdrawn from the interior, and concentrated on the line from the city of Mexico to this port. From a French source I learn that the number of their troops now in this country is twenty-eight thousand.

It is reported that Miramon and Marquez are with Maximilian at Orizaba, and that the government may be turned over to them as the representatives of the reactionary party.

I am unable to obtain here any definite information as to the movements of President Juarez, but it seems to be the general impression that he is now in the neighborhood of the city of San Louis Potosi. The French forces have been withdrawn from that point, and there remained in that vicinity but a small Maximilian force, which, it is believed, can interpose but little obstacle to the occupation of that place by the forces of President Juarez.

The harbor of Vera Cruz being in full and complete possession of the enemies of the republic of Mexico, I did not deem it proper, acting under your instructions, to land here.

The French expeditionary forces having been concentrated on the line from this city to Mexico, it appears to me that this route is the very last that I should adopt in seeking to establish communication with President Juarez. I should not feel authorized to accept, even if tendered to me, the good offices of those who are and have been for years in the attitude of enemies of the republic, in seeking to reach its President.

I expect to receive positive information from our consul at Tampico, Mr. Chase, as to the situation at that point, by the English steamer, which will be due from that port to-morrow. From all the information I can gather here, that port and the line thence to San Luis Potosi are in the undisturbed possession of the liberals.

From my present information, therefore, it appears that there is no other point on the coast from whence I can more speedily open communication with President Juarez than Tampico, and unless some important fact is developed here within a delay of a few days, changing the aspect of affairs, I shall proceed at once to that port and make an effort to reach the government of the republic at San Luis Potosi, or some other point in the interior in that direction.

My anxiety to open communication with President Juarez as speedily as possible is enhanced by the fact that the condition of affairs may be such as may require some action on the part of Congress during its short session, and early and reliable information, therefore, cannot but be regarded as important by the department.

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

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

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

Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward.

No. 5.] UNITED STATES STEAMER SUSQUEHANNA,
Isla Verde, off Vera Cruz, December 1, 1866.

SIR: I had just finished my despatch No. 3 to you, of this date, when a boat came off to our consul, Mr. Lane, who is still on board, bringing the enclosed proclamation published this morning in Vera Cruz, which I have only time to send you without translation by this mail.

From its tenor it appears that Maximilian has decided to remain in the country. A note from the officer of the consulate to Mr. Lane states that Maximilian left Orizaba, it is supposed for the city of Mexico, last night.

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

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

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

[Enclosure No. 1.—Translation.]

Long live the empire!—Long live the emperor!

VERA CRUZANS: One of the most grateful events for good Mexicans has just occurred to the nation. His majesty the emperor, who has made so many sacrifices for the welfare and happiness of our dear country, has given the best proof of the interest he takes in it.

When overwhelmed by the natural feelings which were still contending and still are so in his mind in consequence of the ill-health of his august and noble spouse, our beloved sovereign, he thought for a moment that he ought temporarily to abandon the country, to devote himself to fulfilling the sacred duty of offering to his worthy consort the care she so much needs in the delicate condi-

tion in which she is, the emperor sacrifices himself for us, postpones his duties as a man to those which his honor points out to him to be controlling, and, in these critical moments, that the country may pass safely through, he solemnly declares that he will continue at the helm, and will contest without intermission until the last drop of his blood be shed in defence of the nation.

Vera Cruzans! Let us rejoice; let us give thanks to Providence for having saved the integrity of our territory, and with full outpouring of our hearts let us hail the day of the resurrection of our nationality on the eve of its disappearing.

VERA CRUZ, December 1, 1866.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.

No. 7.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 6, 1866.

SIR: I transmit for your information a copy of a telegram of the 3d instant, from Mr. Bigelow at Paris, giving the substance of a note to him from the French minister for foreign affairs in regard to the military occupation of Mexico. From this it appears that the French troops will be withdrawn altogether from Mexico in March next. It does not seem necessary to modify the instructions heretofore sent to you.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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

PARIS, December 3, 1866.

In reply to a verbal communication, the minister for foreign affairs writes me to-day: "The resolutions of the French government are not changed, but, from military considerations, it has thought it ought to substitute a collective evacuation of Mexico for one by divisions; and our force of occupation is to embark in the month of March next." I add that the French government is disposed to have an understanding with the United States, in view of possible events in Mexico.

JOHN BIGELOW.

The SECRETARY OF STATE, Washington.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.

No. 9.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 8, 1866.

SIR: Enclosed you will find the President's commission of J. Ulrich, as consul of the United States at Monterey, which you are instructed to transmit to the minister for foreign affairs, with an application for the usual exequatur. On the receipt of the same you will forward it to Mr. Ulrich to his post of duty.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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

Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.
No. 10.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 12, 1866.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches Nos. 3 and 4, which will be numbered in the records of your legation Nos. 4 and 5, according to despatch No. 6 from the department.

The department approves of the matters contained in your No. 6.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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

Mr. Campbell to Mr. Seward.

No. 6.] BRAZOS SANTIAGO, December 13, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor to advise you, that, not deeming it proper to enter the harbor of Vera Cruz, we left our anchorage off Green island (Isla Verda) on the evening of the 2d instant, and proceeded to Tampico, arriving at the bar off that port on the 4th.

Meeting there the United States gunboat Paul Jones, Captain Fitzhugh commanding, we learned that the port was in possession of the liberals, and under orders from Commodore Alden that vessel conveyed Lieutenant General Sherman and myself and our respective suits across the bar and up to Tampico.

On reaching the town the boats of the officers of the port came off, and we were received and escorted on shore to the American consulate with much attention.

During the evening we received visits from the principal civil and military authorities of the place, which were duly returned by us on the following morning.

Ascertaining that the information received at Vera Cruz, that the forces of the national government were in possession of the city of San Luis Potosi, was incorrect, and that President Juarez was probably still at Chihuahua, we were forced to the conclusion that a speedy communication with him from that point could not be effected.

It was, therefore, deemed best to forward to the minister of foreign affairs, Señor Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada, a communication, copy of which is enclosed herewith, marked No. 1, advising him of our arrival in the country and desire speedily to reach the seat of government of President Juarez; which communication was placed in the hands of General Gomez, the chief military officer of the place, who agreed to forward the same by special courier.

We left Tampico on the afternoon of the 5th instant, and anchored off the bar of this port on the 7th.

Here we learned of the presence of General Sheridan in Brownsville, and had an interview with him on his return from that place in the evening. From General Sheridan we learned that the national forces, under General Escobedo, were in full and complete possession of Matamoras.

On the 8th we proceeded to Brownsville. On the 9th we crossed to Matamoras and had a full and cordial interview with General Escobedo, commanding the national army of the north, and representing the government of the republic on the frontier. From him we learned that President Juarez would probably be in Monterey by the 20th instant. Acting upon this information, I at once determined to proceed to that point. This determination I communicated to Mr. Lerdo de Tejada by a special courier despatched by General Escobedo that night.

A copy of my communication is herewith attached, marked No. 2.

On reaching Brownsville on the evening of the 8th, I received a polite note from General Escobedo, expressing his satisfaction at the arrival of the mission on this frontier. Copy of this note and translation, marked No. 3, are annexed hereto. Copy of my reply, also annexed, is marked No. 4.

Having spent only a few hours in Tampico, and the same time in Matamoras, it would not be proper for me at this time to attempt to give any detailed information as to the general situation of affairs in the interior of the country; but all the information I have received, both at Tampico and from General Escobedo, appears to be highly favorable to the cause of the republic.

The spirit of the national forces is undoubtedly excellent, but their progress is necessarily slow from the great disadvantages under which they labor from want of means.

On the 12th instant we returned to this point, Brazos Santiago.

Here I take leave of Commodore Alden of the *Susquehanna*, of whose uniform kindness and courtesy to myself and suite I desire to make special mention, and whose promptitude and unceasing vigilance as a naval officer cannot be too highly acknowledged.

Lieutenant General Sherman does not deem it necessary to accompany me to Monterey, and leaves here in the *Susquehanna*.

To-morrow it is my purpose to return to Matamoras, and thence to proceed without delay to Monterey.

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

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

Secretary of State, Washington.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

TAMPICO, December 5, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to advise you, informally, of my arrival at this point, in the character of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from the United States to the republic of Mexico, of which his excellency Don Benito Juarez is President.

Lieutenant General Sherman, of the United States army, accompanies me in my mission.

We arrived here on the 4th instant, in the United States steam frigate *Susquehanna*, Commodore Alden, commanding. On our way here we anchored from noon of the 29th ultimo to the afternoon of the 2d instant at Green island, off the port of Vera Cruz. Finding that port in possession of the enemies of the Mexican republic, we did not enter the harbor, and observing no prospect of a change in affairs there, we came to this port, which we find occupied by the forces of the constitutional government.

For reason which will be obvious to you, I regard it as of importance both to the government of President Juarez and of the United States that I should speedily effect an official communication with him.

The Congress of the United States is now in session, but, under our Constitution, will adjourn on the 4th of next March, and it is not probable that it will meet again until next December. Therefore, as the condition of affairs in Mexico, and the continued occupation of its territory by the French, may, in the judgment of the President, require congressional rather than executive action, it seems to me that I should present my letters of credence without unnecessary delay.

For these reasons, I address you this informal note by courier.

As now advised, I presume that the movements of your government are in this direction; and it has been suggested that President Juarez might, perhaps, establish the seat of government temporarily at this place.

This would greatly facilitate me in communicating official intelligence to my government as to the condition of affairs and the desires of President Juarez.

If, however, the President has no intention of coming here, I desire to be advised as early as possible as to the point in the interior at which, and the time when, I may probably have an opportunity of presenting my credentials.

I shall await information from you on these points at this place, or at Brownsville, Texas, in company with Lieutenant General Sherman and Commodore Alden, and we will detain the *Susquehanna*, and the United States gunboat Paul Jones, until I hear from you.

I am, sir, with great respect, most truly your obedient servant,

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

His Excellency Don SEBASTIAN LERDO DE TEJADA,

Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Mexico.

P. S.—You will please send your reply to me to the care of Franklin Chase, esq., United States consul at this port, and a duplicate copy of the same to me, care "Commanding Officer United States Forces, Brownsville, Texas."

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, December 9, 1866.

SIR: I enclose herewith a copy of a communication, duplicate copies of which I placed in the hands of General Gomez at Tampico, on the 5th instant. He promised to forward them to you by courier. I left Tampico in company with Lieutenant General Sherman on the 5th instant, and arrived here yesterday. To-day we have had an interview with General Escobedo in Matamoras, and I have concluded to proceed to Monterey, for the purpose of writing to President Juarez at that point.

General Sherman will leave me here, and proceed in the United States steam frigate *Susquehanna* to New Orleans, to confer with our government at Washington by telegraph.

For many reasons, not proper to be mentioned herein, I regard it as important to the cause of the republic that I should communicate with President Juarez at Monterey speedily, and I shall go there with the expectation of enjoying that honor at an early day.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL.

His Excellency Don SEBASTIAN LERDO DE TEJADA,

Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Mexico.

[Enclosure No. 3.]

H. MATAMORAS, December 8, de 1866.

El infrascrito general-en-jefe del ejército del norte, y representante del gobierno de Mexico en esta frontera ha sido informado el C. Gral. Francisco Paz de la llegada de S. E. a Brownsville.

Aun que el informe ha sido extra-oficial, he querido apresurarme a manifestar a S. E. mi satisfacion por su llegada a esa ciudad creyendo como creo que su presencia influira grandamente en estrechar las cordiales relaciones que existen