

I think it my duty to make it known to you, that if you think proper you may denounce the fact to the authorities of Campeachy, who without doubt will act in conformity with the spirit of the treaties made between Mexico and the powers interested in pursuing and punishing that odious traffic. And as it may be considered that the investigation of the serious business, to which this note is confined, may belong to the attributes of the jurisdiction under your worthy charge, I refer it to you that you may at once act in the case as to you may seem fit, it being my duty to inform you, first, that I have enclosed this communication to the governor of Campeachy for the purposes he may judge proper on his part; and, second, that I have ordered the seizure of the vessel referred to, and also the captain and crew, by means of the revenue cutter of Sisal and citizen Nicolas Urcelay, in command of another commissioned cutter.

Liberty and reform!

MERIDA, December 10, 1862.

To the JUDGE OF THE COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE
of the civil and revenue branch of this capital.

A copy:

True copy:

LIBORIO IRIGOYEN.

MERIDA, February 9, 1863.

VISTO BUENO.
IRIGOYEN.
LUIS GUTIERREZ, Secretary.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1863.

ROMERO.

[Translation.]

SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF YUCATAN.—GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF YUCATAN.

THE GENERAL-IN-CHIEF: In a despatch of to-day the first judge of the civil and revenue side in this department tells me what follows: "This court not having advice of the result of the orders which you informed me you had issued for the seizure of the slave steamer which was found at the island Mugerres, I hope you will please to order an officer, with sufficient number of troops, to bring her to Sisal for the purpose that may seem adequate to the case, and to avoid any risk at the point where she is." I send this to you, that, in passing the port of Silam, or any other on the coast, he may there obtain, through the authorities and marine officers, a cutter and ten or twelve seamen, with whom he will go to island Mugerres, and presenting this official note to the guard on board the revenue cutter and to the commissioner, Captain Nicolas Urcelay, they may obey the order which you have given to make sail on the steamer Noc Daquy, to bring her to the port of Sisal with all her crew and whatever belongs to the said vessel, as the persons employed under anterior orders are already notified, which seem to be neglected, for which reason you will give them to understand that they are liable, and if they do not discharge their duty with exactness, will be held responsible for whatever their conduct may give occasion before the citizen judge of first instance referred to, to whom I send copy of this note.

Liberty and reform!

MERIDA December 30, 1862.

In presence of:

Copy:

A copy:

L. IRIGOYEN.

THOMAS QUILCINO,
Citizen, Commanding Battalion.

MERIDA, January 29, 1863.

A. REJON, Secretary.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1863.

ROMERO.

[Translation.]

SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF YUCATAN.

STEAMER WACHUSETT, ISLAND OF MUGERES,

December 29, 1862.

It is stipulated, and agreeable to Admiral Wilkes, commanding the western squadron, and Captain Nicolas Urcelay, of the Mexican troops at this point, that for the better security and protection of the steamer now at this port, and also of the cargo and property aboard of said steamer, that Admiral Wilkes shall take possession of her with a sufficient guard until the Mexican government may decide what is the character of said steamer, and see if she be or not a slaver; and if the government decide that she is, then the steamer shall be delivered to the Mexican government. Also, as there is anchored here the schooner Pepita, connected with the said steamer, it is stipulated for the Mexican government, by Captain Nicolas Urcelay, that the said schooner shall remain at anchor in this port until Admiral Wilkes may return in ten, or fewer, days, or may send a substitute authorized by him.

CHARLES WILKES,

Admiral, Commanding the Squadron of the Western Islands of the North.
NICOLAS URCELAY,
Captain of the National Forces at this place.

MERIDA, February 23, 1863.

A. REJON, Secretary.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1863.

A copy:

A copy:

ROMERO.

No. 5.—Affairs on the frontiers of Mexico.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.....	February 26, 1863.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.....	March 10, 1863.
Same to same, (with one enclosure).....	April 2, 1863.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Corwin, (with two enclosures).....	May 12, 1863.
Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.....	February 4, 1864.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.....	February 9, 1864.
Same to same, (with seven enclosures).....	March 12, 1864.
Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.....	March 15, 1864.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION,

Washington, February 26, 1863.

Mr. SECRETARY: The Mexican consul at Crownsville, Texas, and the vice-consul of Mexico at Franklin, New Mexico, have frequently complained to this legation on account of the unjustly depressed and miserable condition in which Mexicans resident in the State of Texas and the Territory of New Mexico are held, whom it is sought to compel to serve in the army of the United States, or in that of the insurgents, or to subject to other undue burdens, in violation of the rights they hold as foreigners.

Having submitted said reports to my government, the secretary for foreign relations of the republic has communicated to me the instructions of the president

on this subject, in which he recommends me to call the attention of the government of the United States to the situation of Mexican citizens resident on the frontier of the United States. He also recommends that I solicit from the government of the United States the issue of decided orders to Colonel West, commander of the expedition sent to Arizona, and to the commander of the forces of the United States in New Mexico, and to that of the expedition which is going to Texas, to act so as to preserve to the Mexicans the consideration and franchises which the universal law of nations and the conventional law between Mexico and the United States guarantee to them.

In thus complying with the instructions I have received from my government, I avail of the opportunity to repeat to you, sir, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

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

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 10, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I have transmitted a translation of your note of the 26th ultimo, respecting the condition of the Mexican citizens on the frontier of the United States, to the Secretary of War, whose reply shall be immediately communicated to you.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 2, 1863.

SIR: Referring to your note of the 26th of February ultimo, inviting the attention of this government to certain alleged hardships to which Mexican citizens residing on the frontier of Texas are subjected, I have the honor to inform you that, having submitted your communication to the Secretary of War, I have received a reply upon the subject, dated the 27th ultimo, a copy of which I herewith enclose, availing myself of this occasion to renew to you the assurances of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, March 27, 1863.

SIR: Your communication of the 10th instant, enclosing the translation of a note from the Mexican chargé d'affaires, calling attention to the situation of Mexican citizens residing on the frontiers, has been duly considered, and I have now the honor to state that this department has no information in relation to the treatment of Mexican citizens in the State of Texas, and can see no remedy for the evils complained of until that State returns to her allegiance or is occupied by the United States troops.

It is very probable that Mexican citizens, as well as citizens of the United States, in New Mexico, were ill-treated by the rebels in their invasion of that Territory, but as the government has made no draft in New Mexico, no person, either citizen or foreign, could be received into the military service of the United States except by voluntary enlistment.

The commanding generals in New Mexico and in Arizona are both intelligent and discreet officers, and, in the absence of any specific charges or evidence, it must be presumed that they have not done or permitted so unauthorized an act as to force Mexican citizens into the military service of the United States.

Officers have been and will be cautioned to carefully respect the rights and property of resident foreigners, who render no aid or assistance to the enemy.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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

Mr. Seward to Mr. Corwin.

No. 74.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 12, 1863.

SIR: In February last, Mr. Romero, chargé d'affaires of Mexico, brought to my attention certain complaints which had been made to him by the Mexican consul at Brownsville, Texas, and the vice-consul at Franklin, New Mexico, of forcible impressments of Mexican citizens, residing in the Territory of New Mexico, into the military service of the United States. The subject was immediately laid before the Secretary of War, whose reply was communicated to Mr. Romero on the 2d of April, and by him, doubtless, transmitted to his government.

The Secretary of War has, by a letter of the 5th instant, received to-day, laid before me a copy of a communication addressed to the general-in-chief by Brigadier General Carlton, commanding in New Mexico, upon the same subject, a copy of which I enclose to you, as Mr. Romero has taken leave of the government and is now *en route* to his home.

You will be pleased to communicate a copy of this document to the Mexican government.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

THOMAS CORWIN, Esq., &c., &c., &c., Mexico.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, D. C., May 5, 1863.

SIR: In connexion with my communication of March 27, in relation to the complaint of the Mexican chargé d'affaires of the impressment into the United States military service of citizens of Mexico, in New Mexico, I have the honor to transmit a copy of a letter on this subject from Brigadier General J. H. Carlton, commanding department of New Mexico.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

The SECRETARY OF STATE, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., April 10, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th ultimo, and to say in reply that, to my knowledge, no citizen of Mexico has been impressed into the military service of the United States within the department of New Mexico.

A copy of your letter has been sent to Brigadier General West, commanding the district of Arizona, within this department, headquarters Hart's Mills, Texas, with these instructions: "I enclose herewith an official copy of a letter from the general-in-chief in relation to a communication made by the Mexican chargé d'affaires, complaining that citizens of Mexico had been impressed into the military service of the United States in New Mexico. You will be careful that no violation of the international rights of Mexican citizens occurs in your district."

As no soldiers of any nationality have been impressed into the military service of the United States within this department, that part of the complaint relating to New Mexico falls to the ground of its own weight.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 JAMES H. CARLTON,
 Brigadier General Commanding.

Major General HENRY W. HALLECK,
 General-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT, May 5, 1863.

Official copy :
 ED. R. S. CANBY,
 Brigadier General, A. A. G.

Mr. Romero to Mr Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION,

Washington, February 4, 1864.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United Mexican States, has the honor to call the attention of the Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States of America, to events which have recently taken place on the eastern frontier of Mexico and the United States.

It appears that the arrival of the United States expedition at the city of Brownsville, in the State of Texas, which had, until then, been in the possession of the secessionists, in place of producing the good results which were to be expected, because it was naturally to be supposed that a considerable force sent by this government, and operating under its direct instructions, would be the most complete safeguard of the fundamental principles of the laws of nations and of the stipulations of treaties which connect Mexico with the United States, has gone on producing disturbances and misunderstandings which neither the undersigned nor his government could anticipate or expect.

The undersigned will permit himself to call the attention of the honorable Secretary of State of the United States to a communication, and the menaces contained in it, addressed from Brownsville the 26th of December last by Major General N. J. F. Dana, who commands in chief the United States forces in Texas, to the governor of the State of Tamaulipas, in the Mexican republic, because of a loan which was said to be imposed by the said functionary on various merchants resident at Matamoras, among whom, it is averred, were found some citizens of the United States, which communication has been published by various papers in New York, running along the month of January last past.

The undersigned flatters himself with the belief that the government of the United States is very far from approving the principles of protection which that government has the right to grant to citizens of the United States resident in a foreign country in the mode in which General Dana presents them in the penultimate paragraph of his above-cited communication. The undersigned will abstain at present from comment on the proceedings of the said General Dana in respect to this incident which are related in letters published in the journals of New York from their correspondents in Matamoras, because, besides not be-

ing at present fully proven, in his opinion, in an authentic manner, he awaits instructions from his government.

There has subsequently happened, nevertheless, an incident of such nature that the undersigned considers it to be his duty to denounce it at once to the government of the United States. From the Matamoras correspondence last published in the daily papers of this country it appears that, in consequence of a local disturbance stirred up in that city, on the 12th of January last past, between two military leaders who acknowledge the authority and act under the orders of the Mexican government, General Herron, who commanded accidentally the forces of the United States at Brownsville, thought proper to send into the Mexican territory the 20th Wisconsin regiment, the 10th Iowa, and the 94th Illinois, with a battery, which troops penetrated the city of Matamoras while the disturbance was going on.

The undersigned cannot but consider this step as a flagrant violation of Mexican sovereignty; and it appears to him the less explicable because the honorable Secretary of State, in some instructions which he addressed to General Banks on the 23d November last, and which have lately been published, in relation to the manner in which he should act in difficulties which might arise with Mexico, says to him:

"You will protect citizens of the United States in Texas against all enemies, domestic or foreign, that may be met in that country. You will be on your guard, nevertheless, not to enter Mexican territory unless it be temporarily, and that the step be fully justified by the necessity of protecting the lives of our soldiers against any aggression which may come from the frontier of Mexico."

Well, then, it is certain that no aggression, proceeding from Mexican territory, menaced the lives of the soldiers of General Banks on the happening at Matamoras of the local disorder of which the undersigned has made mention.

Reserving the expectation of instructions from his government on this delicate business that he may then present to the United States government the demands he may be charged with, and ask the amends to which Mexico may have right, he now addresses himself to the honorable Secretary of State, desirous of receiving the explanations Mr. Seward may deem fit to give to him, which shall be transmitted to the Mexican government, in whose mind they will contribute to calm the bad impression which the proceedings of General Herron may have occasioned.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to the honorable William A. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States of America, the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

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

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, February 9, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 4th instant, directing my attention to events which have recently taken place on the eastern frontier of the United States and Mexico.

Having no official information upon the subject referred to, I have transmitted a translation of your communication to the Secretary of War for the necessary investigation, after the receipt of which I shall be enabled to reply to your note.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 12, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor, on this occasion, to recur to the note which you addressed to me on the 4th of February last, in which, among other things, you asked for information concerning certain unusual proceedings of General Herron in sending an armed force from Brownsville, in Texas, across the Rio Grande and into the city of Matamoras, on the occasion of disturbance that occurred there on the 12th of January last, between two persons whom you represented as military leaders, each of whom acknowledges the authority and acts under the orders of the Mexican government.

In the aforementioned note you were pleased to express the opinion that the proceeding of General Herron was a flagrant violation of Mexican sovereignty, and quite inconsistent with the orders which had been previously given by this government to Major General Banks, commanding on the Mexican frontier, with reference to the republic of Mexico.

On the 9th of February last I had the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your aforementioned note, and to say that, having no official information upon the subject you had therein presented, I had transmitted it to the Secretary of War with a view to the necessary investigation of the matter. I have since that day received from the Secretary of War certain papers which bear upon the transaction, but have not yet received a full report thereupon. Desirous to act with perfect good faith and reasonable diligence in regard to the complaint you have preferred, I think it not improper to place in your hands, at this time, the papers which are now before me, namely: the report of the transaction of the 12th of January last, made by Major General Banks, together with the documents appended to the same. To these papers I annex an extract from a despatch which was transmitted to the department by L. Pierce, esquire, United States consul at Matamoras, on the 16th of January last. It appears from these papers that the movement of which you complain was made at the instance and with the consent and approval of the Mexican authorities, and was strictly limited to the protection of the United States consul at Matamoras, against apprehended assaults which the Mexican authorities were unable to prevent.

It is my duty further to inform you that the imperial government of France has now asked explanations upon the same subject, upon the ground that the proceeding of General Herron was an intervention in the interest of Mexico and against the army of France.

A copy of the note of the minister of France is herewith submitted. While this government is waiting for the more full and complete report which is necessary, in order to decide upon the conflicting claims of Mexico and France, it will cheerfully receive any information you may think it desirable to furnish to this department.

To guard against misapprehension, I think it proper to say that a complaint, which was presented by you in your aforementioned note against certain proceedings of General Dana, is left out of view in this connexion, because I am awaiting the results of an investigation which has been instituted by the Secretary of War.

I will add that General Banks has again been specially charged to do whatever is practicable to avoid any collision between the forces under his command and either of the belligerents in Mexico, and even to guard, so far as may be

possible, against suffering any occasion to arise for dispute or controversy between his command or the authorities of Texas, and either or both these parties. I avail myself of this occasion to offer to you a renewed assurance of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, February 10, 1864.

SIR: The Secretary of War instructs me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, transmitting a translation of a note addressed to you on the 4th instant by Señor Matias Romero, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United Mexican States, inviting attention to a publication in the New York journals during the month of January last, purporting to be a communication containing menaces addressed from Brownsville on the 26th December by Major General N. T. J. Dana, then commanding the United States forces in Texas, to the governor of Tamaulipas, in the Mexican republic; and also to the Matamoras correspondence, published in the daily papers, in which it is stated that Major General Herron, now commanding the United States forces at Brownsville, had sent troops into the city of Matamoras during local disturbances in that city, in violation of Mexican sovereignty.

In regard to the alleged violation of the Mexican territory by United States forces acting under the orders of Major General Herron, the Secretary instructs me to transmit, for your information, the enclosed copy of a communication, this day received, addressed to the general-in-chief by Major General Banks, commanding the department of the Gulf, and its accompaniments, which present a detailed account of the circumstances under which the temporary presence of the United States troops in Matamoras was deemed imperative for the protection of the United States consulate in that city.

On the subject of the alleged letter of menace addressed by Major General N. T. J. Dana from Brownsville to the governor of Tamaulipas, this department has at present no knowledge. As soon as any information on the subject is received it will be communicated to you.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

ED. R. S. CANBY,
Brigadier General, A. A. G.

The SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, January 25, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to transmit to you copies of despatches received from Major General F. J. Herron, commanding the forces of the United States on the Rio Grande, and giving in detail an account of affairs occurring on the 13th of January. I enclose also a copy of letter of instructions written to General Herron, by which you will see that the despatch of the Secretary of State, with an indorsement of the Secretary of War, was given to him for his guidance before he assumed command. The movement of troops into Matamoras seems to have been necessary to enable the consul to leave the city.

N. P. BANKS,
Major General Commanding.

Major General H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

Official copy:

J. C. KELTON, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES ON THE RIO GRANDE,
Brownsville, Texas, January 16, 1864.

GENERAL: I enclose herewith my report in reference to sending troops to the other side of the river for the protection of the United States consulate, and, believing it will interest you, I add some other facts in connexion with the matter.

Upon arriving here I found Serna established as governor of Tamaulipas; but Ruiz, who had been appointed military governor by Juarez, was moving on Matamoras with 600 men. Colonel Cortinas was in command of the Serna forces. Arriving near the town, commissioners from the two parties met and settled the matter in this way: Serna to retire to his rancho, Ruiz to take his seat as governor, the troops of both parties to unite under General Casistran (a Ruiz man) with Cortinas as second in command, and to march against the French at Tampico. Serna at once vacated; Ruiz took his seat; and the troops of both parties were camped in the town. As near as I can learn, the agreement was violated in several particulars by both parties, and considerable feeling was created. On the afternoon of the 12th, about 4 o'clock, Cardenas, an officer of Colonel Cortinas, rode to Governor Ruiz's house and insulted him; was arrested by the guard, carried into a back yard and shot within half an hour. This settled the matter, and, at 8 o'clock the same evening, the parties opened on each other with artillery in the plaza.

The fight continued throughout the night and until 12 o'clock the next day. During the night, at times, the musketry was severe, and I should say 250 shots were fired with artillery. Mr. Pierce was satisfied that an attempt would be made to rob the consulate, and had great apprehension for his family. The governor having officially notified me that he could not protect him, and believing that I could remove him without complicating matters, I sent troops over, feeling satisfied that, under the circumstances, I was only doing my duty.

During the fight the town and the road leading to the ferry were filled with robbers doing a good business, and, had Mr. Pierce attempted to cross without a guard, he would have been robbed if not murdered. Both parties are perfectly satisfied with my action, although Ruiz complains somewhat that I did not aid him, claiming that the Mexican troops once aided the citizens of Brownsville in repelling an attack of this same Cortinas.

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

F. J. HERRON,
Major General Commanding.

C. P. STONE,
Brigadier General, Chief-of-Staff.

Major General N. P. BANKS,
Com'dg Department of the Gulf.

HEADQUARTERS, February 3, 1864.

Official copy:

J. C. KELTON, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES ON THE RIO GRANDE,
Brownsville, Texas, January 15, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to make the following report of circumstances that transpired on the night of the 13th instant.

About 8 o'clock in the evening we were startled by rapid cannonading and musketry firing, evidently going on in the streets of Matamoras, just across the Rio Grande, which continued without cessation, and spreading over the greater portion of the town, until 10 o'clock.

At this hour I received the following communication from Mr. L. Pierce, jr., United States consul at Matamoras:

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Matamoras, Mexico, January 12, 1864—10 o'clock p. m.

GENERAL: A battle is now raging in the streets of this city between the forces of Governor Manuel Ruiz and Colonel Juan N. Cortinas. My person and family are in great danger, as the road between here and the ferry is said to be infested with robbers. I have, also, about one million dollars in specie and a large amount of valuable property under my charge in the consulate, and, from the well-known character of Cortinas and his followers, I fear the city will be plundered. I therefore earnestly request that you will send a sufficient force to protect myself and property, and to transport the money within the limits of the United States at the earliest moment possible.

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

L. PIERCE, JR.,
United States Consul.

Major General F. J. HERRON,
Com'dg United States Forces, Brownsville, Texas.

Within a very few moments the following, from Governor Manuel Ruiz, was handed to me:

MATAMORAS, January 12, 1864—10 o'clock p. m.

SIR: The forces commanded by Colonel Cortinas have attacked my position in this place. As this town is very extensive, I cannot protect or guarantee the United States consulate and the large property of American citizens of different nations living in this town. For this reason I shall endeavor to repulse the enemy, and ask you the favor to send some troops over to guard and protect the said property, which it is impossible for me to protect.

I ask you, general, to take this application of mine in high consideration, and to admit my profound respects.

Your obedient servant,

MANUEL RUIZ, Governor of Tamaulipas.

Major General F. J. HERRON.

I had, immediately after the firing commenced, despatched an officer (Colonel Black, 37th Illinois infantry) to the United States consulate with instructions to inform me at once of the condition of affairs, and hearing from him, also, that the road was infested with robbers who were taking advantage of the fighting to rob and murder, and that the family of the consul could not get away without a guard, and the legal governor, recognized by President Juarez, having informed, officially, that he could not protect him, I deemed it not inconsistent with my instructions to send a small force into the city of Matamoras for the purpose of removing the family of Mr. Pierce and the specie to this side of the river. I therefore ordered Colonel Henry Bertram, 20th Wisconsin infantry, to send forty men to take charge of the ferry, to put one regiment under arms, and call at my headquarters for further orders. Upon reporting, I instructed him to take four companies of his regiment across the river and proceed to the United States consulate and there make proper disposition of his force to protect the United States consul and his property, and to remove them, at the earliest possible time, to this side of the river; instructing him at the same time, in the most positive manner, not to interfere in the fight.

I then replied to Governor Ruiz as follows:

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES ON THE RIO GRANDE,
Brownsville, Texas, January 12, 1864—10½ o'clock p. m.

SIR: Your note dated Matamoras, 10 o'clock p. m., is at hand. Mr. Pierce, the United States consul, wrote at 10 o'clock, urging me to send a force to protect the United States consulate, and at his request I despatched Colonel Bertram with a small force to the consul's house to protect him in moving to this side of the river.

The troops have positive instructions not to interfere with either persons or property, and to take no part in the fight. They will protect the consulate until safely removed.

Regretting exceedingly the troubles which surround you, and with the hope that you may soon quiet matters,

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

F. J. HERRON,

Major General, Commanding.

Governor MANUEL RUIZ.

At the same time I wrote Mr. Pierce, informing him of the instructions given to Colonel Bertram, and requesting him to prepare for removal at once. I also sent the following notification to Governor Ruiz, sending a similar one to Colonel Cortinas:

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES ON THE RIO GRANDE,
Brownsville, Texas, January 12, 1864—10½ o'clock p. m.

SIR: I have the honor to state, that owing to a battle now raging in the streets of Matamoras, between your troops and those of Colonel Cortinas, and the danger existing to the person and family of Mr. Pierce, United States consul, I have ordered Colonel Bertram with four companies of United States troops to proceed to the house of Mr. Pierce, at his request, for the sole and only purpose of conveying them within the territory of the United States. The danger from assassins and robbers on the road between here and your city seems imperatively to demand this course, which I take reluctantly, with every assurance to you that I shall commit no hostile acts upon Mexican territory, nor interfere in any manner with the fight now going on in your city. I have intrusted Mr. Pierce to remove as quickly as possible, that I may withdraw the troops.

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

F. J. HERRON,

Major General, Commanding.

Governor MANUEL RUIZ.

Colonel Bertram proceeded without delay to the other side of the river, marching by the shortest route to the consulate, and placing his troops within the yard which is attached to the house, and such arrangements were then made as would prevent any possibility of interference by our men.

At 11½ o'clock I received the following note from Colonel Bertram :

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Matamoras, January 12, 1864—12.30 o'clock p. m.

GENERAL: I have arrived at the consul's house, and I was sure he was very happy to see us. I marched the shortest route, the firing having stopped as soon as we appeared in the streets. The consul thinks Cortinas is gaining ground. I await further instructions.

Very respectfully,

H. BERTRAM, Colonel, Commanding.

Major General F. J. HERRON,
Commanding United States Forces.

To which I replied as follows :

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES ON RIO GRANDE,
Brownsville, Texas, January 12, 1864.

COLONEL: Your note from the consulate is at hand. You will remain in your position, giving the consul sufficient time to remove his family and the valuables in the consulate to this side. Again let me state that you will interfere in no way with the fight, but keep your men at their posts for the duty assigned them. Send a good officer with the troops at the ferry, and issue the most positive orders prohibiting straggling from the ranks or interference of any nature whatever with either person or property. Should a stray shot come near, or even strike one of your men, that will not be considered a sufficient reason for your firing. I have notified both Ruiz and Cortinas of your presence in Matamoras, and the purpose. Should you see either of the persons named, state fully what your instructions are.

Your mission is a delicate one. Be extremely careful.
Respectfully,

F. J. HERRON,
Major General, Commanding.

Colonel H. BERTRAM.

At 12½ o'clock I received the following from Colonel Bertram :

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Matamoras, January 12—12.30 o'clock.

GENERAL: I have received your letter. Your instructions are strictly obeyed, and I have sent the most stringent orders to Lieutenant Colonel Langlin not to allow anything to be done that could be construed into a violation of your orders. Commissions from both Ruiz and Cortinas's parties have been here to inquire into the object of our coming over. I told them what my instructions were, and both parties went away satisfied. The consul says he has about one million in specie in his possession, and that he cannot possibly remove it or his family until morning. I have not been able to learn positively which party is gaining. Ruiz still holds the plaza, and I think will hold it until morning.

Respectfully,

H. BERTRAM, Colonel, Commanding.

Major General HERRON,
Commanding United States Forces.

The fighting ceased for an hour after the appearance of my troops; but learning that there was to be no interference, both parties went at it again, taking care, however, to keep some distance from the United States consulate.

Matters continued so until daylight, when I sent a sufficient number of wagons to remove the family of Mr. Pierce and property from the consulate.

At 7 o'clock a. m. of the 15th they were safely landed on this side and the troops withdrew. The fighting in the morning was carried on bitterly until 12 o'clock, when the Ruiz party retreated and were scattered in every direction. The casualties on both sides were about 50 killed and 100 wounded. Among the killed was Ex-Governor Alvino Lopez, a prominent Ruiz man.

Governor Ruiz's forces numbered 800 men and 4 pieces of artillery, while Cortinas's force was 600 men and 6 pieces of artillery, and the town during the fight with lawless bands plundering, &c.

Colonel Cortinas has already announced himself as governor of Tamaulipas, while Governor Ruiz, General Rojas, and some other prominent officers escaped and crossed to this side, and are now here refugees.

I have in this report given merely the facts in detail, and will not enter into any argument in justification of my course.

Notified by the governor of the State that he could not protect the United States consulate, and with an appeal from the consul directly for protection for his family and property, I felt that it was unquestionably my duty to furnish a sufficient guard to remove him from the city, taking, at the same time, every precaution to prevent collision with either of the factions. I might here state that the English consul remained during the night at the United States consulate, under our protection.

I enclose as portion of the report letters* from General Ruiz and Colonel Cortinas, the former claiming to be governor, appointed and recognized by Juarez, and complaining that I did not help him, and the latter expresses his approval of the neutrality I observed.

In conclusion, I would say that Colonel H. Bertram, of the 20th Wisconsin infantry, who commanded the troops that crossed over, performed the delicate mission in an admirable manner, and proved himself of more than ordinary judgment. The officers and soldiers are entitled to thanks for their conduct.

I have the honor to be, general, with great respect, your obedient servant,
F. J. HERRON, Major General.

Brigadier General C. P. STONE,
Chief of Staff, New Orleans.

FEBRUARY 4, 1864.

Official copy :

J. C. KELTON, A. A. G.

[Extract.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Matamoras, January 16, 1864.

SIR: * * * * *
During the night of the 12th, finding that robbing was being carried on in some parts of the town, and I having about a million of dollars in specie under my charge, at 10½ p. m. I applied to Major General Herron, commanding the forces on the Rio Grande, for sufficient men to protect our property from thieves and robbers, and he immediately crossed over a large force, who remained by us until morning, when I sent all the money to Brownsville, and the troops retired.

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

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

L. PIERCE, JR., Consul.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF FRANCE IN THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, March 11, 1864.

SIR: According to the information which has reached the Emperor's government, three regiments of the federal army have lately been sent to Matamoras under pretext of protecting the consul of the United States at that point, and have there re-established the Juarists, by driving out therefrom General Cortinas, who had pronounced against it. This news, the official confirmation of which, however, it had not received, has fixed the attention of the Emperor's government. Such a fact would constitute a violation of the neutrality on which the assurances of the Cabinet at Washington have authorized it to rely on its part in regard to Mexico, and would also be entirely opposed to the instructions addressed by the Department of State to General Banks, who has been directed to favor neither of the two parties, and not to enter the Mexican territory even to protect the

American consuls and citizens there. I therefore deem it my duty, sir, to point it out to you, and would be infinitely obliged if you could furnish me with explanations on this subject.

Be pleased to accept, sir, the assurances of my high consideration,

L. DE GEOFROY.

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

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, March 15, 1864.

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to inform you that I have this day received the note from your department dated 12th instant, with which you were pleased to send me copies of various documents which the Secretary of War had communicated to you relative to events which happened at Matamoras on the 12th of January last, as also an extract from the communication upon the same acts addressed to your department by the consul of the United States at that city, and copy of the note in which the minister of France at this capital complains of the passage of the forces under General Herron into Mexican territory.

From the documents transmitted by the Secretary of War, it seems that the presence of such force in the city of Matamoras was requested by the governor of the State of Tamaulipas, Don Manuel Ruiz. In awaiting the more complete information which you are pleased to announce, I shall not again touch on this matter, in my correspondence with your department, so long as I am without the instructions which I have sought from my government on this point.

I will have the pleasure of transmitting to you the explanations and reports which may be in my power on this subject, thus observing the intimation you give me in your said note.

With this occasion, it is gratifying to me to renew to you, sir, the protestation of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

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

No. 6.—*Claims of United States citizens against Mexico.*

Mr. Romero to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Republic, October 23, 1862.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, February 26, 1863, (with enclosures.)

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, March 9, 1863.

Mr. Romero to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs.

[Translation.]

No. 340.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, October 23, 1862.

At a conference which I had this day with Mr. Seward, I read to him a translation which I had prepared of the note which you addressed me, under No. 332, dated September 27 last past, in relation to the claims of the mint, which the minister of the United States, residing in your capital, had presented to the supreme government. Having con-

cluded my reading, I stated to Mr. Seward that I had to make some explanations of details not referred to in your note.

Mr. Seward said to me that there was no necessity for my giving him such explanations; that what he had heard was sufficient for him to say that this government desired that the just claims which the loyal citizens of the United States have against foreign countries should be duly acknowledged and paid; but that, with reference to Mexico, the President, in view of the actual state of affairs in Mexico, did not propose either to exact urgently the payment of such claims, or to use force to obtain it, and that the policy of the United States in that respect had been indicated in the answer which this government gave to the allied powers against Mexico, upon being invited by them to take part in the alliance, which document is known to you.

He also stated to me that the only instructions which this government has communicated to Mr. Corwin upon the claims, which have already been published, (the first of the documents annexed to the message of the President of the 14th of April last upon the present condition of Mexico,) were so liberal and conciliatory that they would assuredly be satisfactory to the government of the Republic; that this government was entirely satisfied by the reading which I had just made to him of the good faith of the government of Mexico.

Mr. Seward asked me whether I proposed to send him said note. I answered in the affirmative. He replied, Very well; if I shall have occasion to say anything more or different upon the subject I will ask a further interview with you. We will leave it to rest under that understanding, which you may communicate to your government.

The minute of this note has been submitted to Mr. Seward, to see whether he found our conference to-day to have been faithfully recorded, and it has appeared to him correct.

I reiterate to you the assurances of my very distinguished consideration. God, liberty and reform.

M. ROMERO.

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Mexico.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF MEXICO,

Washington, February 26, 1863.

MR. SECRETARY: In conformity with what I said to you at our interview to-day, I have the honor to send you copies of some notes exchanged between the legation of the United States in Mexico and the government of the republic respecting the nationality of Don Ignacio de Loperena, who pretends to be a citizen of the United States for the purpose of eluding the duties imposed on him in his character as a Mexican.

The certificate of the consul of the United States at Cadiz presented by Loperena seems insufficient to prove the nationality of this person, for the reasons you will see in the notes of Mr. Fuente. Mr. Corwin had, besides, intimated in his confidential note to Mr. Fuente his apprehension that the certificate was false. Loperena is a native of the State of Chiapas, in Mexico, and has never been out of the republic for five years, so that he cannot have been naturalized in the United States, because, in accordance with section third of the act of Congress of the 14th of April, 1802, entitled "An act to establish a uniform rule of naturalization and to repeal the acts heretofore passed on that subject," which is still in force, it is necessary for a foreigner who is to be naturalized that he shall have resided five years in the United States; and Loperena cannot have resided such term in this country for the reason that he has not been absent from Mexico, because he went away for the first time at the close of 1858, in company with Mr. Forsyth, who was minister of the United States to Mexico, and from that time till this five years have not passed away, besides which, he has returned some time since to the republic, and has been residing as heretofore at the capital.