

monarchy, without reflecting that the history of all ages has condemned the principles of absolutism, and that (both) republicanism and monarchy have given to nations prosperity and glory.

For the rest, the government of the United States ought ever to count upon the assurance of finding that reciprocity of ideas and sentiments which the undersigned has had the honor to manifest in this note to the honorable Mr. Nelson.

The undersigned likewise entertains the conviction that his excellency, who so worthily and so acceptably to the government of Chili fulfils the high mission with which he is charged, will continue, as up to the present time, co-operating in the development and increase of the cordiality and harmony which happily exist between the republics of Chili and the United States.

With this motive the undersigned takes pleasure in renewing to the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary the assurances of his high and distinguished consideration, and in subscribing himself his excellency's attentive and obsequious servant,

MANUEL A. TOCORNAL.

The ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY
and MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY of the
United States of North America.

Mr. Thayer to Mr. Seward.

[Extracts.]

No. 26.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,
Alexandria, January 9, 1863.

SIR: An event of apparently grave importance has just come to light, and produces much excitement in this community.

On the morning of the 7th instant four hundred and fifty black soldiers were, by order of the viceroy of Egypt, taken by railway from the fortifications of the barrage, (about 120 miles south of Alexandria,) and at night shipped on board the French transport steamer *La Seine*, for a destination generally understood to be Mexico, with the object of aiding the French Emperor in his military operations against that country. These negroes, with others, departed early yesterday morning; it is stated that they were dressed in zouave uniform and fully armed.

In a letter from Toulon, which appeared in the *Independence Belge* of the 28th ultimo, I am told, it was reported that *La Seine* was about to sail to Alexandria with French troops *en route* for Cochin China, but that it would return with 1,000 negro troops which the viceroy had pledged to the French expedition against Mexico.

Another journal, *La France*, of Paris, confirmed the report of such a promise on the part of his highness.

Since it has become known, the time has been too short to obtain any information from the viceroy, who is at Cairo, and his officers here profess entire ignorance, although the police under them were employed in the work of embarking the troops.

It is well understood that the French Emperor has been anxious to supply the losses which his Mexican army has suffered from climate and disease by the employment of blacks; and the viceroy, I am told, declared a month ago that he was about to send a thousand of his men to some place where their quality might be tested. His highness, it is also known, has always been proud of his army, both black and white, the effectiveness of which, except in repulsing the raids of Bedoins, has not been fairly displayed since the war in the Crimea, where his men certainly distinguished themselves, as compared with other Ottoman troops.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM S. THAYER.

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

Mr. Thayer to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

ALEXANDRIA, *January 12, 1863.*

SIR: The facts in my despatch No. 26 are confirmed, but as I am awaiting explanations from the viceroy, I postpone details until the next mail, which goes in a day or two.

The European consuls general have telegraphed to their governments and are awaiting instructions.

* * * * *

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM S. THAYER.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Thayer to Mr. Seward.

No. 28.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,
Alexandria, January 27, 1863.

SIR: I am informed that some time since the minister of foreign affairs at Paris announced to Lord Cowley the Emperor's wish to procure blacks from Egypt. This report somewhat confirms the surmise in my last despatch that the Emperor had sounded the courts of Europe before taking a step which would violate the rights of the Porte, as suzerain of Egypt. It also partially accounts for the confidence with which, in official quarters here, it was predicted that there would be no protest from the European powers against the offence. In what light the proposed measure was presented to secure in advance such an acquiescence I can only conjecture. If these reports be true, the United States is the only great power which is not hampered from protesting against the Emperor's transaction.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM S. THAYER.

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

No. 15.

Suspension of trade with Matamoros.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, July 11, 1861.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, (with two enclosures,) July 17, 1861.
Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, (with one enclosure,) July 23, 1861.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, (with one enclosure,) July 31, 1861.
Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, August 1, 1861.
Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, (with one enclosure,) September 2, 1861.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, (with one enclosure,) September 7, 1861.
Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, September 10, 1861.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, September 13, 1861.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, July 11, 1861.

MR. SECRETARY: Mr. B. F. Penniman, a merchant of Boston, has addressed himself to this legation, asking whether a vessel, laden with provisions and other

articles of lawful commerce, will be permitted to leave said port, land her cargo in Matamoras, and sell it in that market. Mr. Penniman, who desires to send a vessel to the said port, further states that the honorable Secretary of the Treasury has notified the collector of customs at Boston not to clear any vessel whatever for Matamoras, except under certain conditions, of which I am not advised, and which, however, are not made to apply to the other ports of Mexico.

Although I believe that in the instructions which the Treasury Department may have issued upon this subject the legitimate interests of Mexico have been saved harmless, and the rights which she has acquired under the treaties which bind it to the United States have been preserved intact. I desire, nevertheless, to satisfy myself in this belief by a perusal of said instructions, and to be enabled to inform my government of them, for which purpose I would thank you to have the goodness to ask for and transmit to me a copy of the same.

I avail of this opportunity to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my very distinguished consideration,

M. ROMERO.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 17, 1861.

SIR: Having referred your note of the 11th instant to the Secretary of the Treasury, I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a letter addressed by him on the 19th ultimo to the collector of the customs at Boston, which contains the information you solicit.

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

Señor DON MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, July 16, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, enclosing a translation of a note from Mr. Romero, the Mexican minister, requesting a copy of the instructions given to the collector at Boston in regard to clearing vessels from that port to Matamoras, Mexico. A copy of the only instructions given to the collector at Boston on the subject is herewith transmitted, dated the 19th ultimo.

I am, very respectfully,

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, July 19, 1861.

SIR: I have received the letter of your deputy collector, B. F. Copeland, of the 17th instant, inquiring whether any objection should be made by you to clearing at your port a British vessel with an assorted cargo, mostly provisions for Matamoras, Mexico.

You are authorized to use your own discretion. If you are satisfied the merchandise is not intended for the insurgents you may clear. If not satisfied, you should refuse to grant a clearance. You were notified to this effect by telegraph of the 15th instant.

All official communications should be signed by you as collector.

I am, very respectfully,

Z. GOODRICH, Esq.,
Collector, &c., Boston, Mass.

S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, July 23, 1861.

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 17th instant, with which you were pleased to send me a copy of the instructions communicated by the Treasury Department to the collector of the customs at Boston on the clearance of vessels for Matamoras. At the same time I received a communication from the Mexican consul at New York, of which I annex a copy. In it he informs me that the collector at that port answered the merchant who inquired if he would clear vessels for Matamoras, that he would not give a categorical reply unless the vessels should be laden and ready to sail.

Such proceedings, which, in my judgment, prejudice the mercantile relations of both countries and which are not in conformity with the stipulations of the treaty of commerce, which are obligatory, induce me to address myself anew to you on this subject, to the end that the government of the United States may please to dictate regulations such as the rights and legitimate interests of Mexico require in the present case.

You know, sir, that with respect to commercial advantages, Mexico is, in regard of the United States, on the same footing as any the most favored nations. For this reason, this merchandise, which may be lawfully exported to any port of a foreign nation, may also be exported to Vera Cruz, as well as to Matamoras or other ports of Mexico.

If by reason of especial circumstances, which at this time arise from the geographical position of Matamoras, the government of the United States should deem it convenient to make some exception in respect to that port, it would be necessary, in order to make it effective, to obtain in the first place the consent of the government of Mexico, and meantime, until this is attained, I shall hold it to be my duty to request that no difference shall be made between that port and the others of the Mexican republic.

I have the honor to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

M. ROMERO.

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

[Translation.]

MEXICAN CONSULATE, New York, July 17, 1861.

At different times merchants of this city have approached this office, under my care, inquiring whether I would think it inexpedient to clear a vessel laden with merchandise for the port of Matamoras; and upon asking for the cause of this inquiry, they replied that the collector of the customs at this port had declared "that he will not give any categorical answer whether he will or will not clear a vessel for the said port of Matamoras until she be laden and ready to sail;" and that the parties interested understood this to be a sort of refusal, and were, therefore, not willing to incur the risk of lading their vessel, because after having done so they could not clear her. My reply was, naturally, that this office finds no difficulty in giving the consular clearance to any vessel lawfully seeking it for a Mexican port, such as Matamoras; but that, at the same time, because of the geographical position of said port, and the political state of this country at present, I would not pass any invoice which should include arms, munitions, powder and its components; that this decision was entirely spontaneous with me, and I would submit it to my government for approval, (as I do through your esteemed intervention,) so that for the future the resolution which may be adopted will serve as a rule of conduct.

In consequence of what is stated, and considering that it is a grave injury to trade that doubts of this kind be entertained. I ask your recourse, sir, to the government of the

United States, that it may issue instructions respecting it to the collector of the customs at this port, in order that he may reply decidedly that the Mexican port of Matamoras is not to be considered as comprehended in the blockade of the ports of the rebel States proclaimed by the President of the United States, because, although it is perfectly true that the bar of the Rio Bravo del Norte is at the entrance common to said port and the port of Brownsville, I also know that, by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, concluded between Mexico and the United States, the navigation of that river is neutral.

I reiterate to you, sir, my respect and consideration. God and liberty!

To the CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES
Of the Mexican Legation, Washington.

J. M. DURAN.

A true copy.—July 23, 1861.

ROMERO.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 31, 1861.

SIR: Having submitted your note of the 23d instant to the Secretary of the Treasury, I have the honor to communicate herewith a copy of a letter from him dated yesterday, containing his decision in reference to the subject laid before him, and which, I trust, will be regarded by the Mexican government as another proof of the disposition of the United States to facilitate as much as possible the commercial intercourse between the two countries.

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

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, July 30, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith the note of Mr. Romero, the Mexican minister, in regard to the clearance of vessels for Matamoras, Mexico, enclosed for my consideration in your communication of the 26th instant.

I can perceive no objection to the granting of clearances to vessels destined to Matamoras laden with merchandise of any kind except arms and munitions of war. Owing to the proximity of that port to Brownsville and other ports in Texas, on the Rio Grande, and the facility with which arms and munitions of war may be furnished from that point to the insurgents, it is obvious that one of the chief purposes of the blockade would be likely to be defeated if articles of that description should be freely imported into Matamoras.

But in view of the friendly relations so happily subsisting between the United States and Mexico, and which it is the desire and interest of both countries to maintain unimpaired, the restriction of the commerce of the United States with Mexican ports on the Rio Grande will be confined within the narrowest limits compatible with the maintenance of an effective blockade. No obstacle will, of course, be interposed to commercial intercourse between the United States and Mexican ports not on the Rio Grande.

Instructions to this effect will be given to collectors of the customs.

I am, very respectfully,

S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, August 1, 1861.

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note dated yesterday, in which you were pleased to enclose to me a copy of the communication of the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury of the 30th of July last, touching the clearance of vessels for Matamoras.

I this day transmit a copy of your note, aforementioned, and of the communication accompanying it, to the government of Mexico, for its information and final decision upon this subject.

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

M. ROMERO.

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

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, September 2, 1861.

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a note addressed to this legation, under date of 31st August last past, by the Mexican consul at New York, stating that the custom-house at that port refuses to clear for Matamoras the schooner Alexander, which had been loading for several days, and which was already prepared to sail for her destination, not having on board arms or munitions of war.

Believing that the cause of such proceeding must be that said custom-house had not yet had notice of the resolutions of the Treasury Department of the 31st of July last, which you were pleased to communicate to me in your note of the 31st of the same month, I address myself to you, requesting that you will bring these facts to the knowledge of the honorable Secretary of the Treasury for the results that should ensue.

I avail of this opportunity, sir, to renew to you the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

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

[Translation.]

MEXICAN CONSULATE AT NEW YORK,
New York, August 31, 1861.

To-day Messrs. Schepeler & Co., merchants of this place, presented themselves at this office, showing that the custom-house of this port refused absolutely a clearance for Matamoras to the English schooner Alexander M., which has been loading for several days, and was to-day prepared to sail for her destination. The same gentlemen have stated to me that the cargo referred to consists solely of merchandise for the demands of Mexican trade, and contains nothing contraband of war of any kind.

The house mentioned cleared, on the 19th of the month now ending, the English schooner Brunette for the same port, and the custom-house interposed no hindrance whatever; and as much by reason of this precedent as because they obtained from this consulate the information, respectively, about the notes of the 31st July from the Department of State, and of

the 30th of the same month from that of the treasury, copies of which you sent me with your communication relating to it of the 1st of the present month; for these two reasons, I say, the Messrs. Schepeler & Co. proceeded in loading the vessel to which the respective documents of clearance are now refused. I bring the matter to your knowledge for your correct information, and for the results for which it may make place, with the understanding that it seems very strange that this government, after having given its decision in the notes to which I have referred above, changes it to-day without reason and without cause—without reason, because the American government has not the right to close up a port of a friendly nation, perhaps the only one that has given proofs of friendship under existing circumstances; and without cause, because the two vessels which have sailed for Matamoras, the Brunette and the William R. Kibby, on the 19th and 23th of the month now ending, have not carried any contraband of war, at least with knowledge of this consulate, because I very decidedly stated to the shippers that I would not pass any invoice whatever which contained arms or munitions of war, and the business was in fact so carried out. I ask you to place this statement in the knowledge of the Secretary of State, and be pleased to communicate the result to me.

God and liberty!

J. M. DURAN.

To the CHARGÉ OF THE LEGATION at Washington.

WASHINGTON, September 2, 1861.

True copy:

ROMERO.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, September 7, 1861.

SIR: Having transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury a translation of your note of the 2d instant, and of its enclosure, relating to clearances of vessels from loyal ports of the United States to Matamoras, I have now the honor to communicate to you a copy of his reply, just received, dated the 5th instant.

A careful examination of the whole subject impresses me with the irresistible conviction that the course which the Secretary of the Treasury has been impelled to adopt is absolutely necessary to the public interest.

I sincerely share the regrets which he expresses that the exigencies of our condition should impose the slightest restriction upon commercial intercourse with a friendly nation, but I also anticipate, with much confidence, that the enlightened government of Mexico will not hesitate to appreciate and admit the imperative necessity which dictates the measure resorted to.

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

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor DON MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, September 5, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3d instant, inviting my attention to the translation of a note, dated the 2d instant, from Mr. Romero, Mexican chargé d'affaires, upon the subject of clearances to vessels bound to Matamoras.

Having been informed, before the receipt of your communication, of the great increase of shipments to Matamoras, much beyond, it is believed, any legitimate demand in that portion of Mexico, and believing that whatever might be their ostensible destination, they were, in fact, intended for the insurgents in Texas, I directed the collector at New York to grant no more clearances for Matamoras without my special directions to that effect. This restriction I propose to make general.

I sincerely participate with you in the regret that the present condition of affairs in that section of the United States contiguous to Mexico renders it necessary to place a partial and temporary restriction over our trade with a friendly and neighboring nation. While, however, the injury which may be thus inflicted on the legitimate trade of Mexico must be slight,

the continuance of commercial intercourse with Matamoras might be seriously detrimental to the United States in the contest she is now waging to restore her rightful authority in the insurgent States. The Mexican authorities, it is believed, cannot fail to perceive, and to appreciate in a liberal spirit, the necessity of this measure in the present exigency of our national affairs, although it may seem to wear an unfriendly aspect.

I am, very respectfully,

S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Romeo to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, September 10, 1861.

MR. SECRETARY: I have had the honor to receive the note you were pleased to address to me under date of 7th instant, communicating to me the decision of the honorable Secretary of the Treasury, in relation to having ordered the suspension of the clearance of vessels from ports of the United States not under blockade, to Matamoras.

I confess, sir, that the note of the honorable Secretary of the Treasury of the 5th instant, of which you did me the favor to send me a copy, and which contains the reasons which caused that measure, has given me a painful impression.

I hold myself entirely absolved from exception in confining myself to showing the obligation which the government of the United States lies under to grant clearances of vessels from the recognized ports of this country for any port in Mexico, provided such clearances are given to the ports of any other nation. To exclude Matamoras from this right is equivalent to its partial blockade, which I do not consider the government of the United States is authorized to do in the state of peace in which we happily find ourselves.

Without prejudice to my giving an immediate report to my government of this decision of the United States, and reserving the right to act according to what may be resolved upon in Mexico upon this business, I believe it to be my duty to make some corrections of the representations which determined the action of the Treasury Department; these explanations, looked upon in a friendly manner, are, to my understanding, sufficient to determine the revocation of that measure.

Since the last demarcation of boundaries made between Mexico and the United States placed Matamoras on the dividing line, the commerce of that port has greatly increased. Now it receives not only the articles required for the consumption of the city, but many others with which it supplies Tamaulipas and other neighboring states.

Nearly one-half of the articles imported in the Mexican republic during the last six years have come in over the frontier, being brought from the United States, although, until this time, the greater part of such importations have been clandestine. The two principal places of deposit were Matamoras, which received the goods from New Orleans and Paso del Norte in Chihuahua, which received them from St. Louis, Missouri. In consequence of the blockade of the former, and of the interruption of communication between the latter with the seceding States, this great traffic on the frontier has been suspended, and for the purpose of re-establishing and following it up in a regular and lawful manner the merchants of Matamoras sent their orders to the merchants of New York and Boston.

How, then, should it cause astonishment that, when the honorable Secretary

of the Treasury permitted the clearance of vessels for Matamoras, after a complete paralysis of several months, two vessels sailed from New York, with a few days only between, and a third should be getting ready for departure?

The injury, then, which will result to Mexico from the suspension of its lawful trade is not so slight as Mr. Chase believes. The merchants of Matamoras, who find the markets of the United States closed to them, will seek what they want in Europe, and then the injury will reach also the *bona fide* commerce of this country.

I beg you, sir, to have the goodness to communicate this note to Mr. Chase, as I have no doubt from his acknowledged enlightenment, that he will find in these explanations motives which justify the revocation of that direction.

I avail of this opportunity to repeat to you, sir, the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

Hon. WM. H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 13, 1861.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 10th instant, replying to mine of the 7th, relative to the suspension of clearances for Matamoras.

After a careful perusal of your note, I am constrained to admit that I do not perceive the analogy you suggest between the measure adopted by this government for its own safety and the blockade of a port of a friendly power. There is unquestionable room for doubt as to the *bona fide* character of the traffic carried on between Matamoras and the frontier of the insurgent State of Texas, and this government would be derelict to the first principle of national existence if it failed to make the consideration of its own safety and integrity one of paramount importance.

Under these circumstances, the order for the suspension of clearances for Matamoras cannot, at this juncture, be rescinded; and it is confidently believed, indeed it cannot be doubted, that the enlightened government of Mexico will, upon mature deliberation, not only justify, but approve the measure.

A copy of this note, as well as of your own, to which it is a reply, will be transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury.

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

WM. H. SEWARD.

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

